

REPORTS

for

2005 / 2006

to

THE

ANNUAL

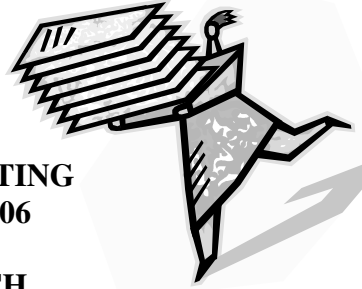
CHURCH

MEETING

on

26th Nov. 2006

# A G E N D A



## GENERAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2006

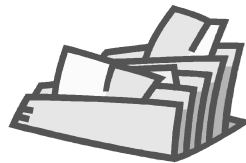
### 12 NOON FAITH LUNCH

12.45 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING (Chaired by Rev. David Watson).

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes
  3. Matters Arising
  4. Treasurer's Report
  5. Formal presentation of Reports (issued with the November Ambo)
  6. Questions arising from Reports
  7. Election of Officers-
    - **Church Stewards** (4 vacancies)
    - **Elected reps** to Church Council
    - **Project for Church Giving** (plus selection process for projects).
- NB The Service Team have agreed to recommend to the church AGM that chosen church projects are supported for one year only. Whilst it is appreciated that a charity needs the 'comfort' of long-term income; this would be at the expense of other worthy causes. We want to maximise those organisations individuals wish us to reach and this also helps to sustain 'givers interest'.**
8. 150 years celebrations
  9. Date of next meeting
  10. Closing devotions/Remembrances and Communion.

# Previous AGM

## SUMMARY OF Church AGM held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005



The proceedings commenced with a Faith Lunch at 12.45 p.m. and the meeting was divided into two parts.

### Part A

Our Guest speaker, Mr. Peter Shore, spoke of the continuing work of the Friendship Clinic, Nepal, which had been the Church Project for the year 2004/2005.

### Part B

There were 70 members present and 6 apologies as detailed in the Minute Book. A crèche for the children was also provided. The Superintendent Minister, Rev. David Watson, chaired the meeting and led opening Devotions.

The meeting took the follow format – Apologies for absence, Adoption of Minutes, Matters Arising and Treasurer's Report delivered by Bernard. Bernard thanked from Chair for his work as Treasurer.

**Adoption of Reports** as presented with November's Ambo.

**Matters highlighted** from Reports.

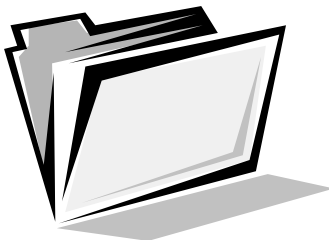
- Pastoral - Parenting course.
- Jane Lilley Concert a success.
- Learning Nurture and Mission - Prayer Trail had been appreciated, suggestion that a visitor's book might be a useful addition for future events.
- 17 people involved in Prayer Chain. Possibility of telephone ministry being considered. Church Library now in place.
- Service Team – Church Project – considerable discussion ensued as to procedure to be adopted for choosing topics, and recommendation made that a gap of 3 years should lapse before project is resubmitted for further consideration. This was carried.
- Refreshment proceeds from Town Shopping evening to be channelled towards Church Project (Mildmay). Note made that our charitable giving had exceeded £15,000 during 2005.
- Trevor spoke on subject of Christian Aid.
- Helen spoke about SMASH.

- Resources. Thanks extended to Bernard and property stewards. Criticism levelled at this group but after much discussion **emphasis made that members must look at plans of any contemplated alteration to premises when on display if they want to make a comment. Resources do not make decisions. Church Council as Managing Trustees make these.**
- Breakfast Praise – response and attendance very good.
- Stop Off. Discussion took place and matters raised referred to Church Council for discussion as to way forward.
- Youth clubs working satisfactorily.
- Men's Fellowship – room for more men.
- NCH thanks extended from Chair for work done by Carol and Marilyn.
- SCENES thanks to Martin for producing Ambo, weekly notices and Reports.
- Appreciation for Mini Bus expressed.
- Stewards and Youth Church leader/teachers needed.
- Thanks extended to our Minister and Church Stewards by Jim on behalf of Church.
- Weekend Away.
- War Memorial plaque – referred to Resources.
- Website - reminder of its existence.
- Thanks from Chair to Kathy for her work in kitchen and to everyone who worked for the Church both in an official and unofficial capacity.

Date of next meeting – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Meeting closed at 3.15 p.m. followed by an epilogue, remembrances of those called to higher service during 2005 and Communion.

Full copies of the Minutes can be obtained from Janet on request.



## REPORTS in Alphabetical Order

### BFG – Big Friendly Group



BFG is still meeting on the first Sunday of each month and we try to vary the venue between each of our homes. There is no formal structure to the evening just a chat over a cup of coffee and plan a few activities when we can.

We have enjoyed our Christmas meal at the Joliffe, a New Years Eve party, and a cycle ride from Bradford-on-Avon, as well as one on the Norton-Radstock Greenway. We also spent a lovely sunny afternoon at Victoria Park where we had a picnic and games and enjoyed the sunshine - fortunately not rained off as it ended the previous year. In a more practical role we prepared the refreshments and lunches for the St. Georges Day Fayre.

Once again we organised the Christmas Bazaar, building on our experiences from the previous year and developing it as we went. Although a huge amount of work for everyone within the Church (and especially Cathy who organises us all) we do feel it is both financially successful, a great way for the Church members to work as a team and a wonderful way to bring members of the public into the centre.

Together with some extra people we have also been helping to lead the early part of the service once a month, which has been great fun, and we hope brings a different style of worship that can work with the more traditional aspects.

We are always planning activities for the future and anyone who would like to join us is very welcome.

*Sarah.*

### BREAKFAST PRAISE

Breakfast Praise has now entered its fourth year and is still bringing in a good number of people, both adult and children, across the full age range. Earlier in the year we were in the wonderful position that new people, from the fringes or outside the church, were coming every month. Sadly, this dropped off over the summer, but we are beginning to build again.



The remit for Breakfast Praise is to provide a family worship, where the children can be free to be themselves, and where parents can relax without feeling that they have to keep them quiet all the time. It is a place where the children can learn to know Jesus as their friend, in an environment of warm and modern worship. Hopefully, in such a place, they can also learn that in the church they are accepted, loved and valued, just as they are. Although there have been criticisms of it's "depth", it is an important first step for children and people new to the church, which will hopefully lead to them moving on in faith through other forms of worship.

*Jill.*

## CAMEO

Cameo has held a number of “Get-Togethers” during the year, the most popular being the skittles evening at Midsomer Norton Cricket Club in March. Over forty people of all ages attended and enjoyed both the skittles and the Bring and Share supper. The carol session after service on December 11<sup>th</sup> was also a favourite and the Mince Pies, Apple Cake and Hot Punch were well received.



Informal evenings at the centre with supper, board games, whist and beetle were well attended.

Less summer events were arranged than in previous years, due to a very small committee being overstretched. Denise, Ethne and Marjorie would very much appreciate offers of help in the future. Celia is not able to continue on the committee, due to school and home commitments and we thank her for her hard work, particularly when setting about large amounts of washing up at events like the Harvest Supper.

The Harvest Supper and Barn Dance, for a second year running, attracted good numbers and were so much enjoyed that we have been asked to hold another Barn Dance during the coming year. This has been arranged for March 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Service Team.

*Marjorie.*

## CHOIR

The choir continues to contribute regularly to the worship of the church through the singing of introits/extroits, anthems on the feast days such as Christmas, Harvest and certain anniversaries, and occasionally by ‘special request’.



Two carols were prepared and sung at the annual Carol Service; and the Circuit Choir played a major part in the moving Good Friday evening meditation, organised by our circuit Ministers.

We have been pleased to welcome new members: Randall, and more recently John, both of whom are also organists. Simon has arranged two ‘singing for pleasure’ workshops this year. So, if you have always wanted to try out your voice before committing yourself to regular practice, why not contact either our choir director, Margaret, or Simon for further details? Don’t hide your light – or your voice - under a bushel!

*Elizabeth.*

## DEB8+

Deb8 (debate) has been through quite a transitional year, with a couple of its families having time off to have children!!

For most of the year we were down to 4 or 5 members, but we are delighted that it has re-grown to 8 in total. We have had a new member recently join us, and we are working our way through the book of Revelation at the moment. The Bible Study takes place fortnightly, and in the intervening weeks, some of us meet together to pray for the life of the church and other things on our hearts. We have a very relaxed attitude in our housegroup, and would love to welcome new members who would like to join us.



*Jill.*

## GUILD

We have started our new sessions well, and have been pleased to welcome new members. We are gradually getting used to our new home - the small hall – and working out the best way to use it.



Our programme is very varied and is covering the four sections of the Guild. Something for everyone!

Financially we are doing well. Apart from our annual amount to Church Funds we also support the Nigeria Health Appeal and a child through Vision Aid regularly. Other donations are made during the session, mainly charities supported by speakers.

Remember, the Guild is open to all. No restrictions of age or male or female. Give us a try.

*Jean.*

## HOLCOMBE GROUP

The group is grateful for the continued support of the Midsomer Norton Church Council and the wider church family. It has been especially helpful to have Cathy take over the role of Treasurer for the Holcombe funds.



Members and friends continue to worship at Midsomer Norton on all but the fourth Sunday each month, when they worship at Holcombe parish church. They also meet for 'Quiet Time' (an informal Bible study, prayer, meditation time) on the fourth Tuesday each month, at the Methodist Schoolroom in the village.

Numbers attending have been steady, with the occasional 'new face' from pastoral and youth club contacts.

The partnership with Holcombe Youth Club has brought significant benefits with regard to maintenance of the property. Outside: car parking spaces have been created and a sloped path now gives wheelchair access to the Schoolroom. The building itself has been re-pointed, had double-glazed windows fitted and bargeboards and gutters, etc replaced. Inside only the main room remains to be refurbished; and that work will be completed by mid-November. Most of the indoor work has been funded by grants made to the Youth Club by the Somerset Aggregate Levy Fund.

The refurbishment of the building is to be celebrated with a Christmas party and carols service on 14 December. If as many come as last year it will be standing room only.

Looking ahead, work continues to explore the possibility of powering the Schoolroom by a photo-voltaic solar energy system. Such a system would not only provide electricity for the building, but would allow surplus power generated to be sold back to the local electricity supplier (EDF).

The next two years will be crucial for the Methodist work in Holcombe. We have a good 'mission base' from which to work and build on existing partnerships, but a 'Fresh Expression' is needed to revitalize the Church's mission in the village; and that will require additional human resources.

*Mike – Volunteer Lay Worker .*

## **JAM CLUB (Jesus And Me)**

At the end of the academic year 2005/6 we had 15 members and it is hoped 12 of these will move onto the Monday Club in September.



We have held a variety of theme evenings involving crafts, games and outings to Radstock Park, the Zany Zone and Swimming. We also held a sponsored walk around the school field in aid of Barnardos and Horse World, when £58 was raised. An excellent effort for 5 and 6 year olds.

*Janet.*

## **LEARNING, NURTURE & EVANGELISM TEAM/GROUP**

This report will focus on one current concern only, since most of the group's projects were outlined in the October *Ambo* (Page 11 – 'I want to help but...').

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, we organised an open meeting on L N & E to which we invited members of the Church Council, Pastoral Visitors, etc. to help us find out what people's needs really are and how best to meet them. The attendance was disappointing but those who were



there had, I believe, a stimulating and helpful evening; the L N & E group was able to draw the conclusion that many different types of regular groups for 'learning and nurture' were needed:

A '**Basic Faith**' course which can help those who haven't grown up with a church background and can double as a Church Membership course.

A regular '**Devotional**' group to encourage us with Bible reading and prayer.

An '**In-depth**' Bible Study Group.

A '**Christian living and Discipleship** group (applying our faith).

A '**New Theology**' Group.

Two suggestions were made by the 4<sup>th</sup> October meeting regarding the use of Sunday as opposed to weekday/night meetings:

Perhaps once a month, the Sunday evening service could include some group discussion as well as worship.

How about an 'All-Age Sunday School' once a month? (cf. USA & Australian church practice?). 9.30am Groups, (10.20am?) 10.30am Coffee/chat & 10.45am Worship.

It is hoped we can discuss these matters with a larger number during our General Church Meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Please think about this prayerfully and bring your thoughts.

*Dianne (for the Group).*

## MONDAY CLUBS

### Years 3-5

The Monday Club, to follow on from JAM Club, had a good first year. There were fourteen members regularly attending and a group of nine leaders offering one or two evenings per month.



The themes and activities were varied, with craft and social games evenings being particularly popular. We made jewellery and cards and did some cooking and arranged to drive remote controlled cars.

The summer programme was a contrast to the winter programme, with swimming, games and treasure hunts forming a major part of the activities.

At the beginning of a new year and a move up of older children from the JAM Club, the numbers have now increased to 18 members aged 7-10 years.

### Year 6 onwards

In September, we were able to form a second Monday Club, for the older group which has eleven members at present. This is run like a more traditional Youth Club, with social games and crafts and monthly themed evenings. Recently, we did tie-dyeing, jewellery and pottery which were all very successful.

There are three teams of leaders and four receptionists, working on a rotational basis.

We are planning to go Ten Pin Bowling in November and both clubs will meet together for a skittles evening on the final evening before Christmas.

*Marjorie.*

## MINIBUS SERVICE

The minibus is still proving to be an asset for those who find difficulty in attending church under their own steam!



We usually have a full bus including 2 wheelchairs, and passengers appear to enjoy the opportunity to have a chat on route. August gave us the first opportunity to use the new Community bus, which has many improvements on the old bus, albeit a little smaller when seats are removed for wheelchairs.

We continue to have good support from the existing driver and escorts, but would welcome new helpers.

*Carol.*

## NCH

We continue to support this charity with Home Boxes, retiring collections and Sponsored walks etc.



We have seen a pretty good year so far and hope to try new fundraising ideas next year.

*Marilyn & Carol.*

## NETWORK

I am writing a separate report for Network this year. As you know this organisation is the umbrella covering all ladies who attend Church or any of its activities.



2007 is the twentieth anniversary of Network, and there will be special events taking place throughout the country. Please look on the Noticeboard in the Hall for details as they arise.

As usual we have supported Church, Circuit, Bath Section and District Events.

This has mainly been by members of Women's Fellowship. It would be lovely to see some others joining in. Four of us went to the Day Conference held at Yate. This was a new venture. Four days were held throughout the country instead of a residential Conference. This proved popular, as more people were able to attend. Next year, ours, for the South West, will be held in Taunton.

This year we have raised £1,117.62 towards Network Funds. This goes into the General Overseas Missions Account, and then Network get a proportion of the amount they raised back to use on their projects at home and overseas. £909.56 was raised through the Easter Offering and Boxes. Many thanks to all who contribute in this way. £121.50 was raised by Women's Fellowship at their 3 meetings and Bring & Buy stalls. £86.56 was raised for the Bristol District Project - Blindaid Africa - through the quiz and project jar put out at our meetings.

We are still looking for a replacement for Mary Ford, as Circuit Secretary. If you know of anyone who might be interested I would be delighted to know.

*Jean.*

## **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

**W**e are a small group who meet every Wednesday during term time, between 1.00pm and 2.30pm. The children have lots of small toys, puzzles, books, dolls, sit and rides, bikes, a small trampoline and lots of other things to play with, while the grown-ups have a chat and a sit down, sometimes. Children and adults have a drink, squash, tea, coffee, biscuits and in a bid to be more health conscious raisins and sultanas.



This last year we have had a Christmas service and a party with a special visitor and presents for all, everyone had a great time. During July we have our summer outing to Avon Valley Country Park; although a little damp a good time was had by all. We finished the year with a teddy bear's picnic and said good bye to some of our older friends who were starting school.

Our numbers are small and consistent but we would love some new members to share in the fun and friendship. I would like to thank Connie Lane who regularly comes week in week out and keeps us all motivated and organised. We would struggle to run without her and all the tea ladies who turn up every week to make our drinks and clear up afterwards THANK YOU.

So if you are bored or in need of a coffee on a Wednesday pop in and see us.

*Charlene.*

## PASTORAL VISITORS

Pastoral Visitors meet twice a year, in May and October. The last meeting was on 26<sup>th</sup> October.



Current membership stands at 198. Sadly, over the past year we have lost 4 members and 2 adherents through death; but we are very pleased to welcome 6 new members. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those who are no longer with us.

Our new Church Directory is now completed and I would like to thank Sheila for all her hard work in compiling this. Copies are available to anyone, providing your details are in the directory. The Data Protection Act does not allow it to be available for general distribution.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank our pastoral Visitors for their continuing work in the Christian caring of the Church, and ask you all to keep them, and their work, in your prayers.

*Una.*

## RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Introduction

The Resources Committee has been looking after the church fabric, its contents and maintenance and advising the Church Council on subjects to do with the financial and physical well being of the church and its property.



### Property Management

With the completion of the quinquennial (5 yearly) building inspection we have been considering its implications with respect to the budgetary situation and routine maintenance programs as well as continuing to carry out the planned maintenance and repairs that have already been scheduled.

We have also overseen the completion of the link and the improvements to the church.

The extension of the experimental sound insulation fitted to the hall is still under consideration and any feedback would be gratefully received on what has already been installed.

### The Church Centre

The centre continues to be used by church members and outside hirers for the purposes of church business and facilities for the local community including the popular Farmer's Market.

The church facilities are also regularly used by our neighbours, Midsomer Norton Primary School.

This continued use means that there is a continuing cleaning and maintaining

requirement within the Centre.

The Resources Committee continues to extend their grateful thanks to all those who assist in the efficient and smooth running of the Church Centre on a day to day basis.

As I am sure those who have been in the church recently are aware, the sound system is in the process of being upgraded in many respects which includes the recording of services for those who cannot attend, and there is work being done in the vicinity of the organ due to the floor subsiding.

### **Finance**

Please see the treasurer's report for details.

### **Conclusion**

Again may I thank the members of the Resources Committee, and as ever, especially Sarah our minute secretary, for their help and co-operation during the past year and as a committee we look forward to supporting the future work of our church and its fabric.

*Alastair, Secretary.*

## **SCENES – Supporting Church Editors in N E Somerset**

This year ended better than it started. We had 3 meetings September, January and April. Often there have been only four of us meeting in the Small Hall, when our usual format is to serve coffee and start a prayer, discuss each others magazines and any others that come into our possession. This enables us to learn both good and bad points from various publications. A discussion then ensues relating to any matters individuals raise regarding the process of publication.

However in January a new person came along, namely Linda B, the new editor for St. John's M N. After introductions, David S. and I related details of the ACE Award's Ceremony to which we had been in London, with a general discussion regarding the feedback of comments about our publications from the competition, including Dave N from St. Nicholas, Radstock who had entered. Finally we discussed the various other magazines taken to the ceremony that we brought back with us.

In April, again at M N, we had 6 new folk turn up, taking the meeting to a total of 11. Two were from Compton Martin (Anglican) - Helen and Tina, two from Hengrove, Bristol (Anglican) - Samuel and Karen, and Malcolm and Derek who produce our Circuit Link. Much of that evening was spent on introductions, finding at what level of expertise each was, (Helen had just done her first Newsletter as no-one else would do the job!), and finding out where the next meeting could help each other.

Helen invited us to Compton Martin for our September 2006 meeting asking



for guidance on how best to use the new Publisher programme she'd bought and how to go about setting up each publication. As usual we ended the meeting by saying the Grace together.

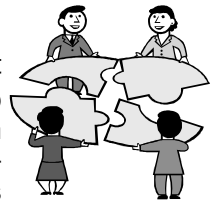
The main problem for any group is attracting new members. The problem for ACE, SCENES and all local editor groups, is knowing where to go or how to contact other church editors. We often have to rely on word of mouth or contacting editors from magazines passed to us. I recently made contact with an editor in Taunton, who has just been made chair of Bath & Wells Diocese Communications Group and *'is looking for ways of supporting those involved in communication at parish level'*. He advises he is in contact with several editors so can pass on information – an offer I am currently taking up.

Finally, in respect of our own magazine, *The Ambo*, I am looking at the possibility of producing a cover with colour photo/print as I feel we are now being left behind in the initial look of the magazine. More of that as information is gleaned. In the meantime thank you all for your support and contributions to what is YOUR magazine – I only put it together.

*Martin.*

## SERVICE TEAM

Church Project – Full details of the last Church Project 2005/6 can be found in back issues of *The Ambo*. Suffice it to say the 'Mildmay' year was another wonderful success story in outreach fund-raising. With a target of £3,000 we again comfortably eclipsed that figure with over £5,200! Steve Small has written in grateful thanks for 'this impressive fundraising effort .... Significantly more than I had anticipated a year ago'. Steve led our morning service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October as a round-off of the 'year'.



We are now well into our 2006/7 Church Project in support of 'Bibles for Children'. Again, we have set our target for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 at £3,000, (endorsed by Church Council). Once again we are off to a 'flying start' thanks to a number of contributions; significantly Martin's Sponsored Cycle Ride in September + Pop-In monies etc. We are already over £1,100 of which £940 has been forwarded to c/o Ted Hudson.

Fund-raising ideas are being forwarded, and with the accent on the 'fun' of fund-raising, another of the popular Barn Dances will hopefully take place in March. All ideas for future events will be gratefully received by the Service Team.

After much discussion, the Service Team recommend to the AGM: *That chosen Church Projects should be supported for one year only. Whilst it is appreciated that a charitable body prefers 'comfort' of long-term income, this would be at the expense of the number of other worthy causes which could be supported*

over time. We want to maximize the number of organisations individuals wish us to help and this we believe, in turn, refreshes givers' interest. The AGM to vote on this important issue. (Note the 2005 AGM voted that any chosen cause cannot be supported as a Church Project again until a space of 3 years has elapsed.

Other matters:

The new community mini-bus is now in use locally, in blue livery this time. The logos of user organisations are carried on the vehicle, including our own. (We supported the community bus as a church project 3 years ago).

The Town Community Shopping Evening takes place Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Our usual mix of charity stalls/refreshments/church sanctuary will be open for all visitors. Help with servery arrangements is greatly appreciated.

Concern has been expressed of signs of Norton-Radstock being a 'deprived area' – at the expense of e.g. Bath. Manufacturing industry is in decline with resultant redundancy and disruption to family life a serious matter. Church Council is looking at ways the church (our church) might interact more in the community as a source of spiritual support. Our minister has met with Shaun Woodward – Minister for creative industry and tourism, at a recent forum on this important community issue.

*John.*

## **STOP - OFF**

It is coming up to the ten years since Stop-Off began and most of the original helpers are still with us today. Sincere thanks to you all, and to those who have joined us 'on the way'. It is particularly helpful to the teams that we now have some who come in most weeks to help with the washing-up and clearing away. This comes as a great relief to those who are feeling a bit tired by then, thank you.



It was decided at a meeting of Team Leaders recently, to increase the prices of the meals this year. I think this is only the third time in 10 years; (if only the cost of living and Council Tax could have done the same!!).

Cyril informs me that at our Christmas Meal last year we were able to donate a record £438.65 to the Church Project. Thanks to all who helped. Also, £9,200 was given to the Church towards its maintenance.

In conclusion, a warm welcome to Church Friends to come along on Tuesdays to sample the food, and to enjoy the company. Also to any helpers who would like to assist.

*Fred.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

This report together with the detailed accounts are to be found in a separate booklet issued with this report booklet.



## WHIST CLUB

Once again we are small in numbers – between 12-16; but all who come enjoy the game and company.

If you would like a game of Whist, or know of anyone, please let us know. We meet each Friday at 2pm in the Small Hall.



*Fred.*

## WIVES' GROUP

We would like to report the last year at Wives' has been a pleasing and successful one. The last AGM returned the same committee, who arranged a varied and interesting programme of speakers and demonstrations, interspersed with an afternoon meeting being held in the garden of one of our members, a quiz, and an evening meal out. All, including the Annual Carol Service at Paulton, have been well supported. Many of us, along with some husbands, attended the Women's Fellowship Christmas Dinner.



We support many causes through the year as a majority of our speakers accept a donation towards a favourite charity or cause, even if not the subject on which they are speaking – to which end, also, we have kept a box for the Mildmay Hospital on our meeting table, and that culminated in a small donation.

At the June AGM, chaired by Rev. Jill, the committee was again returned + one new member.

We looked forward to a successful Coffee Evening at the home of Ann & Rex for group funds, and also enjoyed an evening garden visit, which has become an annual event, all before the Summer break.

*Helen.*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It is interesting to note that our average attendance - 34 – is the same as when the Fellowship was formed over 40 years ago. Not many similar groups can say this, when the tendency is for them to have to close through lack of leaders. Unfortunately unless we encourage younger ladies to join us this could happen here. We are now the only Women's Fellowship in the Circuit.



Our new session has started very well and we have welcomed new members. We have our usual range of speakers and do-it-yourself afternoons, including 4 meetings when we think of Network and have Bring & Buy stalls towards their funds.

I would like to thank Brenda Short and Flora Simpson and members of the Committee for their hard work and support. The fact that many of our members help in different ways eases the load and makes for the smooth running of the Fellowship. Thank you all.

We had an excellent time with Irene Sayer last June. She is a lovely lady with much to tell and a great way of telling it. Unfortunately the Saturday event was not very well supported, and I was sorry some of the groups arranged were not needed. However, those that did come thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and found the day worthwhile. We were able to give Irene £100 to take to Chile when she went in July. She needed the money to buy a wood-burning stove.

Rev. Ruth Farrant will be taking our Anniversary Service in June next year.

*Jean.*

## **WORLDWIDE WARES – (TRAIDCRAFT)**

For 12 years Elizabeth and I have been selling fairly traded goods at the Friday Pop In and in recent years we have been given the opportunity to set up our stall on the last Sunday of each month in the Link building. We have also been invited to sell our Fairtrade goods at the Network weekend, Christian Aid mini market and we have been asked to supply goods to individuals so that they can promote Fairtrade in their workplace. We also help other churches in Timsbury, High Littleton and Peasedown to promote Fairtrade by regularly supplying them with goods for sale.



We order the goods direct from Traidcraft in Gateshead and receive 10% discount (on most goods, not all). The money we receive from our sales is ploughed back into buying more stock. Eventually, when we have surplus funds we make a donation to charity. It is our policy to donate to a charity working towards helping people in need in the developing world. This year we sent a cheque for £200 to Mercy Ships.

Our sales for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006 totalled £4,159.33. Our total expenses were £3,975.87.

At the moment we have Christmas cards from Traidcraft and Tearfund on sale so why not come over to the stall and have a browse.

Elizabeth and I would like to thank our treasurer, Rod, who prepares our accounts for audit each year and thank you to all our supporters who like us want to do something to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

*Lorraine.*

## **WORSHIP GROUP**

The Worship Group has continued to deal with matters connected with the provision and conduct of services. A Worship Consultation for all who wished to attend was held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We were pleased that Cathy and Jane offered to join the group as a result of that meeting.



Regular duties include: arranging preachers for services under the heading of L As (Local Arrangements). Sandra Barwise, Phil Hewitt, Michael Hucker and Joy and Chris have visited as a result of invitations. Other services have also been conducted by Jean and members of the Guild, Madge, Marian and Marjorie, making plans for regular festivals like Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Individual Prayer Cards to place in the chairs have been agreed upon and are now being printed and laminated.

Joan, Simon and Denise are helping to plan the commencement of services on the fourth Sunday. In preparation for this, Simon has held three singing workshops at 3 o'clock on the second Sunday of the month. About ten people have attended, but more people who enjoy singing would be welcomed. The Monday Club and the music group took part in the morning service on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We were pleased to welcome the Rev. Peter Pomery, (former minister) to conduct the Church Anniversary in July. We intend to ask Marilyn Tricker to come next year.

A request for the availability of Prayer Ministry after worship was received from the Evangelism, Learning and Nurture Group. A small number of representatives have been asked to discuss and decide upon details.

The Worship Consultation recommended that we should set up more youth work in the circuit. After discussion, it was decided a circuit youth group should meet monthly on Sunday evenings and that a circuit Prayer and Praise type service should be held once a month in various churches. These recommendations have been passed on to the circuit staff for discussion.

The decision about the purchase of new song books for the choir is ongoing. One option is to buy the full music copy of Mission Praise for the choir and obtain the words of Part Four for use on the screen as the condition of the words only copies for use by the congregation is still good.

Please let us know if you have items for discussion by the Worship Group. We will be glad to add them to our agenda.

*Marjorie.*

# YOUTH CHURCH

This year our numbers have remained constant, around the 50 mark, ranging in age from a few months to 17 year olds.



We have been sorry to say goodbye to Sarah this year. The Children and Leaders of youth Church say a huge thank you to Sarah for all her help and wish her well in her local preacher's studies and services.

We have continued our format this year of:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| First Sunday  | Youth Church                            |
| Second Sunday | Breakfast Praise followed by Activities |
| Third Sunday  | All Together Worship                    |
| Fourth Sunday | Youth church                            |

We have enjoyed the new starts to some services and thank all those people involved in their preparation.

Lastly, but by no means least, a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who help our young people in any way.

We are now in urgent need of people to help with the Junior Section of Youth Church - each week or just once a month.

*Helen.*

The following is a list of activities also part of the Church life for which no reports were received:

- Hearing & Repair Clinic
- Men's Fellowship
- Pop-In
- SMASH
- Social Club for Hard of Hearing
- Thursday Afternoon Bible Group
- Tuesday Housegroup

If you are interested in any aspects of the above groups, please ask at Reception where further details can be given or the 'group leader' contacted.

MIDSOMER  
NORTON  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

*MISSION STATEMENT*

*Our mission is to reflect God's  
love in everything we do so  
that others may be encouraged  
to come to faith in Christ.*

