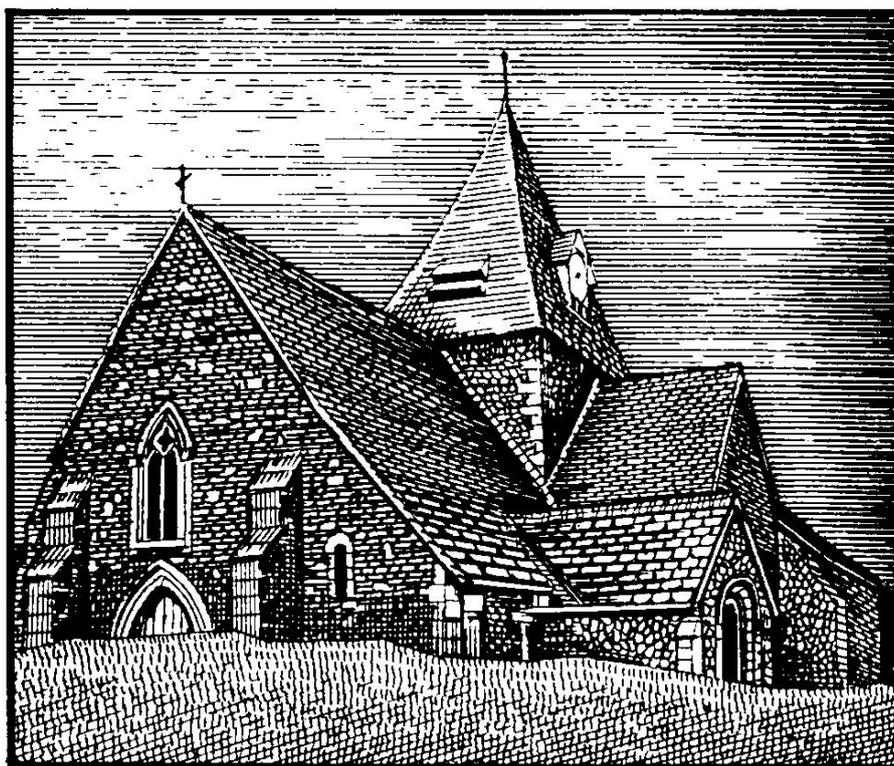


**THE PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH  
DITCHLING**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

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## INTRODUCTION

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It is with a spirit of considerable thankfulness that I commend this report of the Parochial Church Council for 2005 to all members of the church. As with previous years 2005 has been a time of great energy and growth. Our life together has been productive and positive and through the grace of Almighty God much good work has been done. We can see from the following pages how the Spirit has moved us and God has blessed us in our work.

The Annual Report, although filled with many facts and figures is far from a sterile presentation of what has been done. Looking through the pages you can see how much effort and commitment has been shown by so many people. Generosity of time, talents and money have graced our life together and there is much to be thankful for. We have, as always, sought to provide in this report a full a picture as possible of our life as a community of people of faith.

In itself, the Report, produced with such care and attention is a reflection of all that we have done and yet the work of producing this report has been carried out by only a few of our number. In thankfulness for their hard work and skill in putting this report together and ensuring that all our fellowship have been able to read these pages I must make a special note of thanks to Richard Allen and Graham Sharpless who have faced this monumental challenge with care and humour.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council I commend this Annual Report for 2005 to you in the hope that you will feel encouraged by the life of our community of faith.

Please do read this Report carefully and prayerfully prior to attending our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which shall take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11.15am in Church following the Parish Eucharist.

**Father Jason Clarke**  
**Vicar**  
**Chairman of the PCC**

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## PARISH OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES 2005

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Vicar:	<b>Father Jason Clarke</b>
Churchwardens:	<b>Jenny Bell</b> <b>Pam Allen (until November 2005)</b>
Licensed Reader:	<b>Richard Allen</b>
Hon. Treasurer:	<b>Robin Williamson</b>
Hon. Sec. Church Fund:	<b>Audrey Day</b>
Hon. Secretary of PCC:	<b>Richard Allen</b>
Chairman Friends of St Margaret's:	<b>Mike Burr</b>
Organist:	<b>Nick Hancock</b>
Assistant Organist:	<b>John Sandford</b>
Lay Ministers of Communion:	<b>Richard Allen, Jasper Bell,</b> <b>Howell Davies, Geoffrey Heath,</b> <b>Murray Paine, Roderick Webb.</b>
Chief Sidesman:	<b>Ivor Blomfield</b>
Evensong Sidesman:	<b>Daphne Grainger</b>
Head server:	<b>Tony Coomber</b>
Co-ordinator of Readers:	<b>Richard Allen</b>
Sunday School:	<b>Kathy Clarke, Sue Corrigan</b>
Weekly Service Sheet:	<b>Pam Gaskin</b>
Flower Guild:	<b>Bridget Blomfield</b>
Church Cleaning Rota:	<b>Jenny Bell</b>
Sanctuary Linen:	<b>Jonn Grinstead</b>
Brass Cleaning:	<b>Margaret Jones</b>
Silver Cleaning:	<b>Pam Allen</b>
Electoral Roll Officer:	<b>Daphne Grainger</b>
Baptism Roll Officer:	<b>Margaret Jones</b>
Bell ringing:	<b>David Cragg</b>
Editors of 'Beacon':	<b>Nick and Nicki Upton</b>
100 Club:	<b>Pam Gaskin</b>
Frugal Lunch:	<b>Pam Burr</b>
Women's Fellowship:	<b>Eileen Keeling &amp; Pam Burr</b>
PCC Rep to Village Association:	<b>Murray Paine</b>
PCC Rep on Village Hall Committee:	<b>Martin Craven</b>
Foundation Governors of St Margaret's School:	<b>Father Jason, Margaret Moore,</b> <b>Nan Crofton</b>

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## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE PCC 2005-6

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The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

**Membership:** members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Members may be co-opted by the PCC. During the past year the following served as members of the PCC:

<b>Incumbent (Chairman):</b>	Father Jason Clarke	
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Pam Allen (until November 2005) Jenny Bell (Vice-Chairman)	
<b>Licensed Reader:</b>	Richard Allen	
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Pam Allen, Pam Burr, Rachel Williamson	
<b>Elected members:</b>	Sylvia Bain (2005-8) Martin Craven (2004-7) Pam Gaskin (2003-6) Margaret Moore ( 2005-8) Nicolette Upton (2003-6) Robin Williamson (2003-6)	Ian Berrill (2005-8) Audrey Day (2005-8) Diana Martin (2005-8) Murray Paine(2003-6) Judy Walker (2004-7)
<b>Standing Committee:</b>	Father Jason, Pam Allen, Jenny Bell, Robin Williamson	

### Review of the Year

The PCC met seven times in 2005 and the average attendance was 13.

#### Principal Matters discussed by the PCC:

- Reports and recommendations from sub-committees.
- Annual Budget, fundraising and financial arrangements.
- Maintenance and future development of churchyard including wildflower area.
- Fabric works: Phase 1 South Elevation Stage 1.
- Fabric: Capital and maintenance projects and financial arrangements with Friends of St Margaret's.
- Future plans for South Transept and South Aisle including grant from Sacred Sussex for enhanced provision for visitors.
- Donations and Gifts.
- Movement of grand piano to Vicarage and purchase of replacement keyboard.
- Generosity to St Margaret's of the Turner Dumbrell Foundation.
- Appointment of the new head teacher at St Margaret's School.
- Parish Contribution to the Deanery Budget.
- Diocesan Questionnaire on services provided to parishes by the Diocese.
- The opening of the church website.
- The Sunday School.
- The timing of the Wednesday Morning Eucharist.
- Health and Safety Issues: provision for the disabled, asbestos, white lines.
- Future for the parishes of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston.
- Procedure to be followed when Father Jason leaves the parish.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE 2005

**Electoral Roll:** The roll was revised in 2005.

- Total number on the Electoral Roll 2005/6 = **178** (2004/5 = 160; 2003/4 = 157)
- Number non-resident in parish = **56** (2004/5 = 49; 2003/4 = 42)

### Attendance/Communicants

	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Sundays at 8.00 am</b> Average Communicants	-	19	17	<b>17</b>
<b>Sundays at 9.45 am</b> Average Communicants:	55	56	54	<b>59</b>
<b>Sundays at 9.45 am</b> Average Attendance:	63	67	66	<b>71</b>

<b>First Sunday in month at 9.45 am</b>	<b>Over 16</b>	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Average attendance in 2005:	68.5	11.9	<b>80.4</b>

<b>Average attendance &amp; communicants</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Evensong</b> (attendance):	30	35	23	<b>20</b>
Wednesday mornings (communicants):	9	10	9	<b>9</b>
Saints' Days (communicants):	8	4	6	<b>6</b>

**Morning and Evening Prayer are said from Tuesday to Friday:**

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of Morning Services	191	188	192	<b>207</b>
Average Attendance at Morning Services	3	3	4	<b>4</b>
Number of Evening Services	100	100	144	<b>122</b>
Average Attendance at Evening Services	1	1	1.5	<b>1.3</b>

### Dumbrells Court, Christmas and Easter Eucharists

	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Dumbrells Court Monthly Eucharist</b> (Ave):	9	10	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Easter 2005:</b> From Maundy Thursday Eucharist to the Parish Eucharist on Easter Day	254	253	200	<b>193</b>
<b>Christmas 2005:</b> Children's Carol Service on Christmas Eve to the Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day:	-	674	570	<b>666</b>
<b>Number of Eucharists:</b>	214	242	216	<b>194</b>
<b>Number of Non-Eucharistic Services:</b>	419	317	404	<b>396</b>

### Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Baptisms:</b>	16	10	14	<b>15</b>
<b>Weddings/Blessings:</b>	9	15	9	<b>18</b>
<b>Funerals/Thanksgivings:</b>	13	19	19	<b>10</b>

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## CONTENTS REPORT

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### **Report of the Churchwardens on the Contents of the Church as at 31 December 2005**

The Inventory has been checked. During the year the following additions and acquisitions were made:

- Gold Chasuble and Stole.
- Visitors Book.
- Celviano Keyboard.
- Home Communion Set.
- Prayer Board.
- 2 Processional candle holders in wood.
- 10 small and 2 large bibles.

**Jenny Bell and Pam Allen**

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## FABRIC REPORT

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### **Report of the PCC on the Fabric of the Church as at 31 December 2005**

On 8th November Phase 1 Stage 1 work commenced on the south wall of the church to prevent damp penetrating the building.

At the beginning of December work on the retaining wall round the flag pole commenced but was hit by the frosts, and will have to be redone when the frosts are over.

The boiler and fire extinguishers have been serviced, and so has the clock.

All gutters were cleared in February and August by Graham Buxton.

**Jenny Bell and Pam Allen**

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## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS 2005

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### **Baptisms**

We welcomed the following into Christ's Church:

<b>Emily Anne Coates</b>	<b>Charlie Callum Foster-Smart</b>
<b>Peyton Mitchell Blair Ifill</b>	<b>Felix Rocque Craven</b>
<b>Jessie Kay Berrill</b>	<b>Charles David Richardson</b>
<b>Emilie Victoria Shoubridge</b>	<b>Emily Jane Cragg</b>
<b>William Alfred George Lawson</b>	<b>Liya Esmee Nayapar Hutchful</b>
<b>Isabella Violet Madigan</b>	<b>Grace Emma McIntosh</b>
<b>Thomas George Llewellyn Lloyd</b>	<b>Jamie Sebastian Beck</b>
<b>Yasmin May Moallemi</b>	

**There were no Confirmations during 2005**

### **Weddings and Blessings**

**Christopher Mark Stafford and Anna Claire Jenkins**  
**Benjamin Kevin Glossop and Suzanne Elizabeth Rutherford**  
**Andrew Mark Herriott and Eleanor Sarah Mackay**  
**John Bruce Coburn and Rebecca Jolly**  
**Jolyon James Meredith and Jane Elizabeth Reeve**  
**Paul Leslie Brown and Helen Julie Bertram**  
**Justin Charles Robert Webb and Sarah Helen Putnam**  
**David James Prestwich and Anna Marie Goodsell**  
**Giles Henri Darby and Lucy Rhiannon Castle**  
**Justin Paul Stacey and Sarah Jane Gorrell**  
**Adrian Philip Collier Wright and Sarah Anne Westley**  
**Simon John Thetford and Natalie Ruth Fforde**  
**Andrew Mark Decarriers Wilkinson and Francesca Annie Fouraker**  
**Thomas James Christensen and Katie Suzanne Hine**  
**Simon John Gotsell and Kirstie Alexandra Starkey**

**Jeremy and Livia Haynes**  
**Colin and Suzie Marshall**  
**Martin and Caroline Ford**

### **Funerals**

We record with sadness the names of those who departed this life during 2005.

<b>Phyllis Morling</b>	<b>Ronald Smith</b>	<b>Thomas Sadler</b>
<b>John Tidmarsh</b>	<b>Nancy Keely</b>	<b>Leonard Gavins-Taylor</b>
<b>James Hutcheson</b>	<b>John Ibbett</b>	<b>Vincent Waterhouse</b>
<b>Lucinda Apsee (Yeldham)</b>	<b>Jane Hill</b>	<b>Peter Harris</b>
<b>James Tubb</b>		<b>John Wickens</b>

Services of thanksgiving were also held in St Margaret's for

**Vi Sibley and Brian Meakins.**

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## FINANCE

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### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Members of the PCC are responsible for ensuring that appropriate accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the PCC, are maintained. Ensuring that financial statements which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year are prepared and that these statements comply with the Church Accounting regulations 1997, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Charities, issued in October 1995 by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. The PCC are also responsible for safeguarding their assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring the PCC fulfils its financial responsibilities, meeting budgets where possible and spending money wisely.

The members were: Father Jason Clarke (Chairman), Robin Williamson (Hon Treasurer), Pam Allen, Audrey Day, Judith Walker.

The Committee met bi-monthly. Matters considered by the Committee included the following:

- A regular check on income and expenditure.
- Revision of the Budget for 2005.
- Gift Aid envelopes.
- Allocation of donations and bequests.
- Book of Remembrance from Ralph's Bounty.
- Fees for videoing weddings.
- Recommendation to the PCC of the financing of Phase1 Stage1 of the restoration of the south transept of the church as presented by the Chairman.
- Agreement between PCC and Friends of St Margaret's.
- Repair of the retaining wall of the area of the flagpole and funding by the Friends of St Margaret's.
- Professional fees in respect of building works.
- Removal of asbestos and funding of this by the Friends of St Margaret's.
- Half yearly maintenance checking of church fabric.
- Yew hedge trellis to east of church.
- Change of churchyard gardening service.
- Costs of access ramps and handrail.
- New Notice Board.
- Approach to Church Energy Purchasing Group.
- Funding of South Aisle development and Car Park.
- Draft Budget 2006.
- Computerised accounts.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2005**

It is important to note that the healthy looking surplus in the General Fund for 2005 is the result of generous donations made towards the PCC's commitment to a share of the budget cost of Phase1 Stage1 of the restoration of the south elevation of the church. The work on the church was not completed before the end of 2005 as expected and so the Abergavenny Project Fund will have to meet the PCC's share of the cost, approximately £13,763, in 2006, thus considerably reducing the General Fund.

That said, it is pleasing to note that our contribution of £28,358 for 2005 towards the provision of a ministry to this Parish has been met. This rises to £28,500 in 2006. To meet this commitment and to pay our basic recurrent costs by direct debit our monthly outgoings are in the region of £3,500. Our income from our church service collections that are not designated for others and the income from parishioners' regular Gift Aid donations together average £2,450 per month.

The shortfall and other expenses that are not paid for by direct debit are met by whatever else we receive in donations that are not ear-marked for specific projects or purchases.

We are fortunate in the generous support that we receive from the *Turner Dumbrell Foundation* towards our general expenses and to the *Friends of St Margaret's* in helping to meet the cost of the maintenance of the fabric of the church. Other donors that are to be thanked are the *Littler Foundation*, *St George's Retreat* and those generous individuals who would prefer to remain anonymous.

Not to be forgotten are the sacrifices made by those helping to raise funds through the 100 Club, the 'Beacon' magazine and the activities arranged by the Fund Raising Committee. The last group were significantly assisted by many in the village to raise funds at the St Margaret's Fair. We thank all who give so generously.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

During my examination nothing has come to my attention that would give me reasonable cause to believe that the PCC has, in any material respect, failed to:

1. Keep proper accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 (S.41).
2. Prepare accounts which accord with those records and comply with the Act and Church Accounting regulations.

Furthermore, no matter has arisen to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed: **B. A. Turner, FCA**

Dated: **January 2006**

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**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, DITCHLING  
CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2005**

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**STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2005**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	£	£
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	27,374	25,296
Surplus/ Deficit at the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December	9,685	(1,269)
Transfer of Abergavenny Fund from Restricted Funds	-	3,347
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>37,059</b>	<b>27,374</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
HSBC Current 'Treasurer' Account	4,377	6,628
HSBC 'Business Money Manager' Account	1,110	1,090
HSBC Organ Fund	557	547
CBF Account - Deposit Fund	9,398	8,930
CBF Vicar & Churchwardens Fund	7,145	6,832
CBF Abergavenny Projects Fund	14,472	3,347
	<b>37,059</b>	<b>27,374</b>

**Notes:**

1. The bank balances are shown after deducting unrepresented cheques (£1,240 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 and £1,001 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005).
2. The Abergavenny Projects Investment Fund with 1055.87 shares at 1494.93 per share as at 23rd December 2005 had a value of £15,785.

Signed: **R. J. Williamson, Hon. Treasurer**Dated: **January 2006**

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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2005**

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**GENERAL FUNDS**

**RECEIPTS**

	See notes on page 11	2005 £	2004 £
Gift Aid Giving		22,423	20,386
Tax Recovered -Gift Aid		7,460	5,669
VAT Recovered on church repairs		-	133
Collections	(1)	9,526	9,114
Weddings & Funerals	(2)	2,053	2,367
Donations	(3)	23,930	15,146
100 Club	(4)	642	642
'Beacon' Sales	(5)	821	697
Fund Raising	(6)	2,846	1,803
Interest Income		831	766
Insurance claims		-	899
Miscellaneous		115	227
<b>Total</b>		<b>70,647</b>	<b>57,849</b>

**PAYMENTS**

Charitable Giving	(7)	2,598	3,032
Diocese/ Deanery Levies		370	-
Parish Contribution		28,359	25,782
Vicarage Expenses		4,751	2,998
Vicar & Clergy Expenses		2,524	2,475
Church Running Costs	(8)	7,580	7,918
Church Furniture & Vestments	(9)	3,325	796
Churchyard Expenses	(10)	4,927	3,600
Church Fabric	(11)	4,385	8,448
Literature/Printing	(12)	1,958	3,431
Miscellaneous		185	638
<b>Total</b>		<b>60,962</b>	<b>59,118</b>

**Receipts over payments 2005:- £9,685**

**Deficit 2004 (£1,269)**

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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GENERAL FUND 2005**


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The numbers refer to those on the Receipts and Payments Account on page 10.

**RECEIPTS**

				£
<b>(1) Collections</b>	General church collections	6,989		
	Designated collections	2,537		<b>9,526</b>
<b>(2) Weddings &amp; Funerals</b>	Gross Fees		7,290	
	<b>Less</b> Fees to Diocese	2,167		
	Choirs, Bells & Organists	3,070	5,237	<b>2,053</b>
<b>(3) Donations</b>				
General Donations	Turner-Dumbrell Foundation	5,000		
	Little Foundation	200		
	St George's Retreat	1,200		
	Others	<u>1,713</u>	8,113	
Designated Donations	Anonymous	3,079		
	Ditchling Parish Council	<u>300</u>	3,379	
Projects Fund	Turner-Dumbrell	6,960		
	Friends of St Margaret's	1,278		
	Anonymous	4,000		
	Summer Ball	<u>200</u>	12,438	<b>23,930</b>
<b>(4) 100 Club</b>	Gross Revenue	1,200		
	Payments	558		<b>642</b>
<b>(5) 'Beacon'</b>	Gross Sales	1,172		
	Costs	351		<b>821</b>
<b>(6) Fund Raising</b>	Gross Revenue	3,382		
	Costs	536		<b>2,846</b>

## St Margaret's Ditchling Annual Report 2006

### PAYMENTS

			£
(7) <b>Charitable Giving</b>	Donation by PCC	200	
	From designated collections	2,398	<b>2,598</b>
(8) <b>Church Running Costs</b>	Altar & Services	945	
	Heating & Lighting, Fire Safety	1,550	
	Cleaning	540	
	Organ & Clock	733	
	Organists	3,690	
	Sunday School	122	<b>7,580</b>
(9) <b>Church Furniture &amp; Vestments</b>	Chasuble & stole - donation	631	
	Notice Board - donation	1,151	
	Communion Set - donation	504	
	Candlesticks - donation	660	
	Fire extinguishers & stand	319	
	Moving piano to vicarage	60	<b>3,325</b>
(10) <b>Churchyard Expenses</b>	Blue Star maintenance	3,300	
	Yew hedge	957	
	Wall repair (Philcox)	294	
	Handrail	376	<b>4,927</b>
(11) <b>Church Fabric</b>	Repairs/Maintenance	440	
	Architect & Professional Services	2,706	
	Phase 1 Stage1	93	
	Asbestos Check	1,146	<b>4,385</b>
(12) <b>Literature &amp; Printing</b>	Bookstall & printed matter	660	
	Stationery	556	
	Office Equipment	742	<b>1,958</b>

### DONATIONS TO CHARITIES 2005

	£
The Children's Society	945
Royal British Legion	301
St Peter & St James Hospice	841
Miscellaneous (incl. Disaster Relief)	511
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,598</b>

**STATEMENT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS AS AT 31  
DECEMBER 2005**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	£	£
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	9,771	12,342
Surplus (Deficit) for year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December	455	(3,072)
Increase (Decrease) in value of investments	825	501
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>9,771</b>
 <b>Represented by:</b>		
Chancel Fund (592 CBF Income Shares)	6,569	5,684
Accumulated Income	4,482	4,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>9,771</b>

**Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2005**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	£	£
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Chancel Fund	455	358
Abergavenny fund	4	89
Smith Fund	-	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>458</b>
 <b>Payments:</b>		
Abergavenny to Church Funds	4	3,347
Smith fund to Church Fund	-	183
<b>Total Receipts less Payments/(Payments less Receipts)</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>(3,072)</b>

**NOTES**

1. In 2004 two Small Trusts formerly held by the Diocese were transferred into the control of the PCC on the authority of the Charity Commission as follows:

	£	
Abergavenny Fund	2,989	into CBF Church of England Investment Fund
+ Accumulated Income	358	Accumulation Shares as the Abergavenny Projects Fund
	<u>3,347</u>	
Smith Fund (Ralph's Bounty)	172	into PCC's HSBC Current (Treasurer's) Account
+ Income	11	
	<u>183</u>	

2. £4 interest from the Abergavenny Fund received in 2005 after the transfer of funds from the Small Trusts in 2004 was paid into the HSBC Current Account.
3. The only remaining Restricted Fund held by the Diocese is the Chancel Fund.

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## ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

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Although not forming a part of the audited accounts, in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993, reference must be made to the St Margaret's School House Trust Fund. The Trust was established at the time of the sale of the old school premises in 1986. The Trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens. Payments are made from the accumulated income only to Ditchling (St Margaret's Primary School) and St Margaret's Sunday School.

As at December 31 2005 the capital investments (held in CBF Investment and Fixed Interest Funds administered by the CBF) and accumulated income (held in CCLA deposit and Current account) amounted to £94,420.

**Fr Jason**

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## HURST DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

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The Hurst Deanery Synod meets every three months and we are represented by three members of the laity as well as Fr Jason who is also a member of the Deanery Synod Standing Committee. Over the course of 2005 we were represented by Pam Burr, Pam Allen and Rachel Williamson.

2005 was, as ever, a busy year for the Deanery. One of the biggest issues being faced was the need to continue to raise the level of financial support from the parishes to cover the costs of providing ministry and a share of the central Diocesan costs. Much time was given over to the way in which Quota payments were set and this was a challenging issue as some churches pay far more than their own costs whilst others struggle to make even a minimum payment. The Deanery task was to ensure that costs were faced as fairly as possible and that we accept our unity as the family of Christ in this place and support one another accordingly. Our parish quota was set at £28,500 for 2006. Representing only a small increase on the payment for 2005 with a further £378 added as Deanery Levies.

Other than finance the Deanery has looked at youth & children's work and many other areas of church life.

The Deanery is an increasingly significant part of the local church and our involvement is crucial to our life as a parish. I would like to thank most deeply all those who have served on the Synod in 2005.

**Fr Jason**

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

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The trust's finances have yet again continued to improve, so that at the end of 2005 total assets were valued at £144,000. However, from now on we anticipate that larger calls will be made upon our funds than hitherto as the PCC implements the church fabric plan which they approved in the middle of the year. The plan can now be accessed through the parish web site for external funders to download. For those of a computer persuasion, it can be viewed on: <http://www.stmargaretsditchling.org>.

Last year we made a commitment in principle to the PCC of a grant of £30,000 towards the fabric plan's first phase building work. Within this we have so far agreed to provide the following help:-

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Grant towards Stage 1 of Phase I building works<br>(south face refurbishment, contract in progress ) | £6,129 |
| 2. Repairs to wall around flag pole area  | £1,548 |
| 3. Removal of asbestos in boiler room   | £2,450 |

We continue to urge the PCC to seek external grants for at least half the cost of the fabric plan since, as reported last year, the total cost of repairs could be around £300,000 which is well in excess of our own dedicated funds.

Lawrence Pepler, who was one of our founding trustees, died just before our last annual meeting after a long fight against cancer. He is sadly missed and I should like to pay tribute to his memory for all the hard work he put into supporting the trust's work since its inception.

### **Legacies and in-memorium gifts**

The generosity of families and friends wishing to mark the passing of a loved one forms an important part of our income. This year we received gifts in memory of the following people and we should like to record our grateful thanks to the families and friends of those thus remembered:-

**Hilary Bourne and Lawrence Pepler**

**Dr Mike Burr,  
Chairman of Trustees**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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The Sunday School has maintained its regular pattern of meetings throughout 2005 and has achieved a considerable success in involving the children in learning the faith. We have had a faithful and committed group of children who have engaged with all our activities (whatever their ages!) and a good time has been had by all. One of the great joys has been the way that our regular children have always welcomed new faces and made them feel comfortable and valued.

I would like to thank Sue Corrigan who has worked with me as well as Margaret Moore, Jan Sharpless and Nancy Strafford for their help and input.

We have ended 2005 by looking to the future and Margaret Moore has agreed to take on the role of co-ordinating the work we have begun. A new format has been devised and the Sunday School has become the 'Children's Church' and will now be meeting on the first Sunday of each month as a part of the Family Eucharist. We firmly believe that this plays to our strengths and that the future for our work with children is looking very bright indeed. Many new helpers have now volunteered to assist with the teaching and so the workload will be more evenly spread.

I would like to end my report by thanking the children for their enthusiasm and wishing them and the new Children's Church every blessing for the future.

**Kathy Clarke**

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## FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

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A new Fabric Committee was formed in 2005 under the Chairmanship of Father Jason Clark. Members are Pam Gaskin (Secretary), Jenny Bell, Ian Berrill, John Ferdinando, Andrew Martin and Murray Paine.

- Phase 1 Stage 1 work commenced on 8th November and finished in January 2006.
- Phase 1 Stage 2 - concerned with the re-pointing of the West Street wall - is proving difficult to move forward because of the disruption to West Street. The work on the retaining wall round the flag pole area was carried out in December/January but will have to be redone later as severe frosts damaged the materials used. The Friends of St Margaret's Trust has generously agreed to cover the cost of this work.
- The removal of the Asbestos in the Boiler Room area and the East Wall of the churchyard is due to be done in February 2006 and the Friends of St. Margaret's Trust has generously agreed to cover the cost of this work.
- Other matters such as the problem of storage in the Sacristy and Vestry, damp in the Aumbry in the Abergavenny Chapel, Underlay for the altar step for those with tender knees, have been looked into and Andrew Martin did an excellent job painting white lines on the steps from the Vestry to the Sacristy making them much safer.

The Architect drew up plans for the removal of pews from the South Aisle, a car park to the north of the church in Church Lane, and a ramp from the Abergavenny Chapel into the south Aisle, as funding had been forthcoming from Sacred Sussex Interreg IIIA for 25% of the cost of these works. For various reasons these plans were not passed by the PCC in September, but were referred back to the sub-committees.

**Jenny Bell**

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## CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE

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This year has been a busy one for the Churchyard Committee. We met six times and have welcomed Dee Grainger as a new Committee member. Mike Burr has resigned.

During the year a new Guard Rail was installed just above the steps to the green and a Yew Hedge was planted along the east boundary wall of the churchyard - both advised by our Architect for Health and Safety reasons. The trellis on the east boundary wall which had collapsed was replaced at the same time by Andrew Martin. A new Notice Board was installed at the West Street steps and is due to be painted a rich mahogany as advised by our Architect. New Contractors were appointed for Churchyard Maintenance and the churchyard has been mown throughout the year and the pathways kept clear for access. The trees along the road to the Museum were pollarded in the Spring. The plaques in the present area for the interment of ashes are being kept clear of encroaching grass by two volunteers.

The plans for the Wildflower Conservation Area project were displayed in the Church for information and comments, all of which were favourable, so the Wildflower Area commences in January 2006 and will be reviewed at the end of the year. A board explaining the project is in place in the churchyard and the new Contractors for Churchyard Maintenance are experienced in the management of this type of project. We are indebted to Sheila Preston for all her work and guidance in mounting the exhibition in the Church and the plans for this project.

As the present area for interment of ashes is now closed, plans are going ahead for a Garden of Remembrance. The PCC has approved the area at the East end of the churchyard for this and a design from the Architect is being prepared. Because of this the waste flower area has now been moved down towards West Street under the cherry tree.

Plans are being made to clear the old shed site to the north west of the Church, near the Museum, for a "Drop-Off" area, primarily for the disabled, but these plans have some way to go. The corner of the flint wall in this area was repaired.

The retaining wall round the flag-pole area, which had become extremely unsightly and possibly dangerous, has been renovated by Cathedral Works as they were doing work on the south side of the church in November/December. The Trustees of The Friends of St. Margaret's Church have kindly agreed to pay for this urgent work.

**Jenny Bell**

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## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

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2005 proved to be a very busy year socially. We aimed to appeal to all members of the church congregation and the village community by producing a varied programme of events.

Shepherd's pie, a variety of sweets and a table quiz were enjoyed by all who gathered for the popular Mothering Sunday Lunch. We were delighted with the attendance at 'A June Celebration' of early English music by The Pastores Ensemble. After a cloudy start the sun shone for the second St. Margaret's Fair on the green. It was good to see so many village organisations participating in what proved to be a very successful event. Fiona Hughes and Jonn Grinsted did sterling work organising refreshments and the sandwich-making conveyor belt! Thanks to Jenny and Howard Corney's generosity we enjoyed a BBQ at Court Garden's Farm and also to the Strafford family for all their help on the day. Another big thank you to Laura Eaton for introducing her ex pupil soprano, Phillippa Laye who entertained us with a varied repertoire of arias and songs. The annual pet service followed by coffee and cookies goes from strength to strength. Finally, what would we do without Richard Allen? Once again he enthralled us with his talk 'Restoration and Rolls' on the restoration of our church in July 1864. This was followed by soup and rolls.

A big thank you also to all those who have helped at individual events and to Jack Grinsted for volunteering to design and print any posters and tickets. The committee has again worked very hard, particularly during the build up to the fair, and I would like to thank Pam Allen, Tony Allen, Sylvia Bain, Jonn Grinsted, Diana Martin, Catharine Robinson, Maisie Smith, Nancy Strafford and particularly Father Jason for their support, help and encouragement during the year. We have raised **£2,206** for church funds.

**Pam Burr**

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## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

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The Outreach Committee met four times in 2005. The members of the Committee are: Father Jason (Chairman), Daphne Grainger, Margaret Moore, Elizabeth Sweeney, Nicki Upton, Rachel Williamson and Pam and Richard Allen.

## **St Margaret's Ditchling Annual Report 2006**

The Committee continues to encourage close links with the School and the development of the monthly Sunday School. The inclusion of the Prayer Diary in the Beacon was welcomed and a new Prayer Board, made by Elizabeth Sweeney is to be placed in the Church. Daphne Grainger's generous gift of a Visitors' Book has shown that we receive visitors from all over the world and their comments show how much they appreciate our Church. At key points in the Church, notices for visitors explain in very simple terms how the Church is used for worship. Our contact with the outside world has been further enhanced by the opening of the church web-site under the management of Graham Sharpless. After careful research, it was decided that it would not be effective in time and cost to provide postcards for sale in the church.

The main thrust of the work of Outreach has been towards improving provision for the disabled. Margaret Moore has been the inspiration behind providing information and advice for the Committee and she also designed and produced a leaflet to help disabled visitors to the Church. Recommendations for a ramp for those in wheelchairs have been passed to the Fabric Committee. Thanks to Andrew Martin, improved access has been made to the facilities in the Vestry and he has also kindly undertaken to paint white lines on the steps at various points on the church site. Large print Bibles and hymn sheets are now available for those with impaired vision.

A second major development for Outreach has been to produce a better system of care for members of our congregation. It is important that we know when there is illness or difficulty in getting to church and the PCC is presently considering ways in which such a proposed system of pastoral care and communication can be introduced.

Finally, the Committee has spent some time considering the advantages and disadvantages of St Margaret's becoming a Fair Trade Parish. It has been decided that the policy of the parish towards this issue should be considered again when our new incumbent is in post.

**Richard Allen**

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## **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WEBSITE**

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The St Margaret's Church website, [www.stmargaretsditchling.org](http://www.stmargaretsditchling.org), first went live in May 2005. Its purpose is to provide information about the Church and its activities, including a calendar of services and events, information about the church, who's who and plans for the church fabric. Photographs of two Church events, the Summer Fair and Barbecue were added to the website in July and August.

Between May and December 2005 nearly 5,000 pages have been accessed by about 1,000 visitors. Two of the most visited pages are the home page and church calendar. The website will be developed further in 2006 and it is expected that the number of visitors will grow.

**Graham Sharpless**

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## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

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Once again Women's Fellowship has had another full and interesting year with meetings well attended.

Early in the year Father Jason kindly officiated at our house communion in Brenda Steptoe's home. This annual occasion is very special to us.

Joan Styles arranged an enjoyable trip to Arundel for the Cathedral Flower Festival celebrating Corpus Christi. A carpet of flowers was laid down the centre aisle and stunning arrangements decorated the cathedral.

We have enjoyed a variety of talks during the year. Hilary Thraves from the friends of Chernobyl gave us a vivid insight into the lives of those caught up in the aftermath of the nuclear disaster. Her presentation highlighted how easy it is to forget those who continue to suffer the after effects from tragic events that are no longer headline news. Sue Reid, with the support of Belinda Brittain, both members of Women's Fellowship, gave a fascinating introduction into the life, faith and works of Thomas Hardy. Villager Leslie Davidson presented a lively and enthusiastic talk about his years spent in Borneo, where he was sent as a young man to develop the palm oil plantations in the jungle. Jean Morley, another village resident, described the re-building of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, a church with a thriving congregation helping many needy people in the community, and how money was raised for the project.

Charles Boughton-Leigh from the Haywards Heath branch explained the work of Age Concern and the support and wide range of activities available in the community. We also enjoyed an evening looking at members' childhood photos, some accompanied by short biographical sketches.

We always enjoy our summer and Christmas social gatherings, this year kindly hosted by Margaret and Heath Houston and Jenny and Graham Beck. Thanks are also due to all members who have offered their homes for our monthly meetings. Our numbers have grown and meetings are often a squeeze (or cosy!)

During the year we have raised £267 for our chosen charity St Peter and St James Hospice and supported the social events organised by the church.

**Pam Burr and Eileen Keeling**

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## THE FLOWER GUILD

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Members of the Flower Guild have arranged the flowers in the church throughout the year, including the festivals - Easter, Patronal, Harvest and Christmas.

When requested, and when possible, the flowers were also arranged for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms, and the fees for these were added to the Guild's funds.

We have continued to send the Harvest Festival produce to St. Peter and St. James's Hospice (as in the last few years). This is always gratefully appreciated.

**Bridget Blomfield**

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## MUSIC AT ST MARGARET'S 2005

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Musical highlights of the year for the Choir included John Stainer's *Crucifixion* – a work notorious for being often sloppily sung - on Palm Sunday. The work was sung with real conviction and dramatic intensity, and I hope shed new light for some on what the Victorians could achieve! Some members attended a Choir Festival organised by the

## St Margaret's Ditchling Annual Report 2006

Royal School of Church Music, introducing anthems which have been useful subsequently.

We stayed just cool enough for the open air service in July sunshine at Westmeston, but in August had the sadness of the funeral of my predecessor Vincent Waterhouse. This was attended by many notable organists and dignitaries from the RSCM, a fine tribute to his work as their secretary over many years.

On Remembrance Day we repeated our liturgical setting of Faure's *Requiem*, aided by friends from the Jubilee Choir and Sussex Chorus, and fine soloists in Roger Floyd and Lynn Deacon. The Carol Service included some carols extremely demanding for both organist and singers, in contrast to the simplicity of those in my first carol service here in 2004. Next year may be a happy medium between the two...

As always I am indebted to all the members of the choir, who are patient and uncomplaining, and who between them look after all the tasks a choirmaster could possibly delegate! My grateful thanks go to deputising organists Kate Belfield and Felicity Amor, and, new to us last year, Nick Houghton for taking on so much. But very special thanks to Father Jason for all his support and encouragement, and to the indefatigable John Sandford who has accompanied some really difficult stuff, and taken many choir practices, and played (I suspect) more services than I have in what has been a very full year.

**Nick Hancock**

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## ST MARGARETS JUNIOR CHOIR

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In my 2004 report, I looked forward to the New Year with confidence, believing that the junior choir had 'come of age'. My initial impression is that 2005 was a difficult year, for a variety of reasons. My chief concern is that attendances at practices have been particularly disappointing. This has meant that, on more than one occasion, Margaret and I have had to abandon plans for the Sunday service due to lack of numbers. In a musical sense, I feel the choir have not really moved on from this time last year.

However, to help me take a more objective look at the year gone by, I decided to look at the mission statement I put together at the start of 2004. The purpose of the mission statement was to point out that, by being a member of the choir or percussion group, the children were following a tradition that has been practiced in Ditchling for many centuries, that of local people giving their time and talents in an act of worship. I reproduce this below to remind all of us connected with the junior choir what we can achieve if each of us actively embraces these principles.

### **What we will provide**

- A friendly, caring environment in which ideas can flourish and where mistakes are regarded as positive learning experiences.
- A commitment to deal honestly and fairly with all junior members.
- The opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential.

### **What we expect from you**

- To be respectful in the house of God.
- To actively listen to those placed in charge of you.
- To be regular in attendance.

- To inform the leaders if you are unable to attend an event, especially if you have previously indicated your availability.
- To be a team player, helping others who are younger or less experienced than yourself.
- To give of your best and have fun!

I believe that the new policy of accommodating the children within the main choir stalls will make the children feel more involved in the family services and that this will give them greater confidence and a true sense of fellowship. Also, the decision to have just one practice a month (from two) will remove uncertainty over practice nights and, hopefully, lead to more regular patterns of attendance. 2006 can be a very exciting year!

Finally, my thanks, as always, to Margaret Moore for her administrative support and also for keeping my spirits up when I have felt a little despondent.

**John Sandford**

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## **THE DITCHLING BEACON SEPT 2004-SEPT 2005**

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Distribution continues to rise modestly and now stands at 260 copies per month. Of this 17 copies are provided free within the parish and c17 are sold from the Church Stall, the proceeds of which are collected from the honesty box and are not included in the Beacon accounts.

After careful consideration regarding the main objective of the Beacon, which is about helping to put St Margaret's at the centre of our village community and not about profit and fundraising, it was decided to keep the magazine price at 25p. Income was £951 which included £280 from advertisements and £19 from donations. Expenses were £351 including £168 donated to charity in lieu of Schering Health Care Ltd printing charges. (This was divided equally between St Peter & St James Hospice and St Patrick's Trust in Brighton).

We are grateful for the continued support of Scherings and our many contributors and distributors in the village.

**Nick & Nicki Upton**

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## **BELLRINGERS' REPORT**

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The bellringers have rung throughout the year for weekly Sunday services, at Christmas, on Remembrance Sunday and for weddings. In April we rang the bells following the funeral of Iris Ivinson in celebration of her life.

We opened the tower in July as part of the St Margaret's Fair, showing visitors the ringing chamber and, for those who wished, a look at the bells themselves. This brought two new ringers, Karen Pritty and Janet Cragg, who now join us to ring on Sundays. We now have fourteen regular bellringers.

We also took part in St Martin's Fair at Westmeston, demonstrating the art of change ringing on the portable bell frame made and set up by George Francis, an enthusiast from Warnham. On the Sunday we rang these bells for the joint parish service.

We enjoyed our usual bell-ringers' supper in The Bull in December and rang at midnight to welcome in 2006. We practice on Tuesday evenings when we have welcomed interested visitors and ringers from other towers. Most recently we were pleased when Lucy Rickard joined us for a practice evening and found she still had the touch nine years after leaving to go to university!

**David Cragg, Tower Captain**

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## **CONCLUSION**

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My dear friends,

After reading the wealth of information contained within this report I am sure that you will agree that a tremendous amount of work has been done in 2005. It was a remarkable year seeing us move ever onward in our journey to be the centre of life for our local community. Bonds have been strengthened, new faces have swelled our numbers, substantial sums have been raised, fabric works have begun. Truly there is much to be thankful for.

I would like to formally thank everyone involved in the production of this report, all those who have contributed articles and those who have assisted in its production and distribution. This represents a considerable commitment and it has all been done with inspiring efficiency. So thank you one and all.

In reflecting on the year now ended I am very conscious of the pleasure and pride I have found as being the vicar of this parish.

This will be my final annual report and I would like to end by thanking you all for having risen to every challenge, worked so hard to make the most of every opportunity and given so graciously of your many talents to aid and strengthen the work of God in this place. St Margaret's is a very special church and I think you will agree with me that in the past five years we have grown spiritually as well as in every other way. This is, at the end of the day, what we are really about - making the love of God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, known to those amongst whom we live.

I leave the parish with a heavy yet also joyful heart and certainly with a sense of thanksgiving. I am sure that a new chapter is about to begin in which great things will be done.

I would like to thank you for all the kindness and support you have shown to myself and my whole family we shall be taking treasured memories with us when we leave.

May God bless you and watch over you now and always.

**Fr Jason**