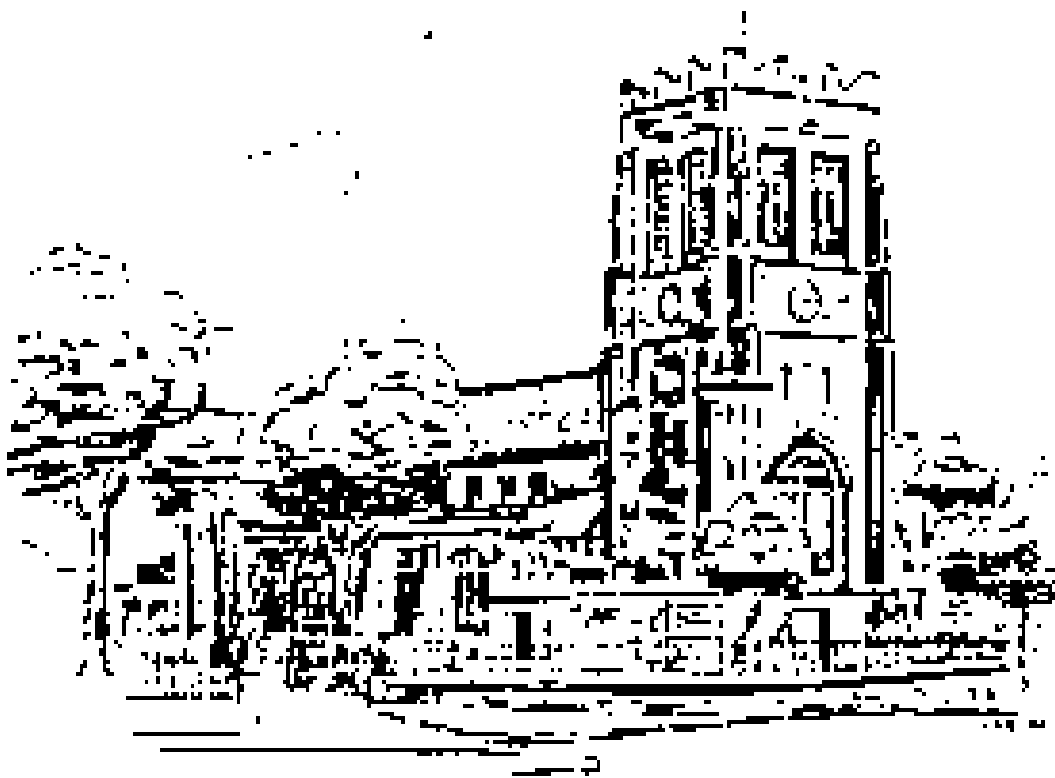


# Parish Church of St. Peter Newton in Makerfield



**Annual Report  
2008**



This report  
was presented  
at the  
Annual Church Meeting  
held in church  
on  
Monday, 20th April 2009  
at  
7:30 pm

**Parish Church of St. Peter**  
**Church Street, Newton le Willows WA12 9SR**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2008**

| <b>2005 - 2008</b> | <b>2006 -2009</b> | <b>2007 - 2010</b> | <b>2008 - 2011</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs A Wallace      | Mrs A Stockton    | Mr I Greensmith    | Tom Abram          |
| Mrs I Coulthard    | Mrs J Lunam       | Audrey Roe         | Mark Webster       |
| Mrs J Davies       | (vacant)          | Mrs A Hamnett      | George Boulton     |
| Mrs C Boulton      | Mrs J Traverse    | Mrs S Brammeier    | Dorothy Hilton     |
|                    | Miss C Traverse   | Mrs K Saile        | Alice Ellam        |

**Ex Officio Members 2008:**

|                    |             |                               |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Team Rector        |             | Reverend Canon Joan Matthews  |
| Wardens            |             | Mr W Irving, Mr J Higham      |
| Deputy Warden      |             | Mr A Waterworth               |
| Readers            |             | Mrs A Myers, Mrs D Matthews   |
| Reader in Training |             | Mr J Higham                   |
| Deanery Synod Reps | 2008 – 2011 | Mr P Brammeier, Mr D Ashworth |

**Honorary Members 2008**

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Treasurer | Mrs M Tod    |
| Secretary | Mrs C Tither |

**PCC Standing Committee 2008:**

Revd Canon Matthews  
Mr W Irving  
Mr J Higham  
Mrs M Tod  
Mrs C Tither  
Mr G Boulton

**SIDES PERSONS**

|                 |               |                |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Mr I Baddley    | Mrs S Baddley | Mrs C Boulton  | Mr J Brammeier  |
| Mrs I Coulthard | Mr R Dorling  | Mrs E Edwards  | Miss A Ellam    |
| Mrs E Henry     | Mr N Hewitt   | Mr G Hutton    | Mr I Greensmith |
| Mr J Jopson     | Mrs J Klavins | Mr C. Matthews | Mrs M Miller    |
| Mrs J Rigby     | Mr E Rimmer   | Mrs A Roe      | Mr R Saile      |
| Mrs B Smith     | Mr H Stockton | Mr M Taylor    | Mr N Taylor     |
| Mrs J Williams  | Mrs K Wright  | Mr V Young     |                 |

**Sides persons Emeritus:** Mr V Walton, Mrs E Goodban, Mrs O Thomas  
**Correspondence Addresses:**

Mrs C. Tither (secretary),  
83 The Parchments,  
Newton le Willows, WA12 0DX

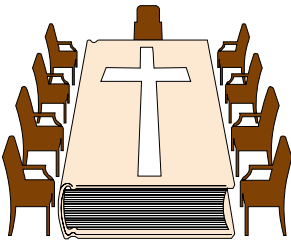
Reverend Canon J. Matthews  
8 The Parchments  
Newton le Willows WA12 0DY

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Team Rector  
Readers  
Wardens  
Deputy Wardens  
Deanery Synod Reps  
Hon Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
Bankers  
Auditor  
Church Architect  
Legal Adviser  
Verger  
Electoral Roll Secretary  
Organist & Choir Master  
Servers  
Child Protection Officer  
Sunday School Co-ordinator  
Mothers' Union Branch Leader  
Magazine Editor  
Magazine Secretary & Treasurer  
Sacristans  
Flower Guild Co-ordinator  
Bookstall Organiser  
Annexe/Church Booking Secretary  
Hall Booking Secretary  
Bell Ringing Master  
Guides Captain  
Brownie Leader  
Rainbow Guider  
Keys Fellowship Leader  
St. Peter's School Head Teacher

Reverend Canon Joan Matthews  
Mrs D Matthews, Mrs A Myers  
Mr W Irving, Mr J Higham  
Mr A Waterworth  
Mr P Brammeier, Mr D Ashworth  
Mrs C Tither  
Mrs M Tod  
NatWest, Church Street, St. Helens  
Mr R Tully  
Mr W Schafer  
Diocese  
Mr R Parfrey  
Mrs J Parfrey  
Mr E Matthews  
Mr P Parfrey, Mr W Irving, Joshua Hankey  
Mrs S Brammeier  
Mrs S Brammeier  
Mrs H Mottram  
Mr T Peake  
Mrs J Burman  
Mrs A Stockton, Mrs J Lunam  
Mrs J Mariott  
Mrs B Smith  
Mr J. Higham  
Mrs S Bowden  
Mr T Fox  
Ms T Turley  
Ms T Turley  
Ms A Martin  
Mrs S Jopson  
Mrs B Flitcroft

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2008



The Parochial Church Council consists of 27 members in total - 15 elected, 10 ex-officio plus the honorary treasurer and secretary. Each year at the Annual Church Meeting, five elected members retire after having served for three years and five new members are elected for a three-year term. Four Deanery Synod representatives are elected every three years and these, along with the Vicar, Readers, Wardens and Deputy Wardens are ex-officio members.

The Church Council was a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission but plans have been put into place to register with the charity commission for the next financial year. The principal function of the PCC is to co-operate with the ministry in promoting the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. During 2008, the PCC met on 6 occasions with an average attendance of 17 members and the finance committee met 7 times.

In 2008 it was reported that there are 217 people on the electoral register. Sadly, a number of the congregation were lost to us this year. Dr. John Bentley and Irene Pilling had both been loyal and valued members of the choir for many years and other regular worshippers include Vera Birtwell, Harry Tarbuck, Arthur Read and Malcolm Thompson.



The Newton Team was established in January and the Council members were elected at each church's ACM with an initial meeting being held in September. The role of the Team Council is to formulate common policies to ensure consistency within all team churches and to consult on matters of common concern without undermining the role of each church's PCC. Team services have taken place during 2008 and more are planned for 2009.

Joan has continued to divide her time between St. Peter's and St. John's. She has been helped considerably by Canon Woodhouse. Reverend Heaton, Dorothy Matthews and also Audrey Myers, who was given permission to officiate after her retirement. There have been several joint services between the two churches for special festivals etc. which seem to have worked well. Lesley McCluskey's retirement from Emmanuel Church in November has naturally added to Joan's workload and so the recent appointments of curate and vicar to the team are most welcome.



St. Peter's Day School has continued to maintain links with the church. Jean Parfrey and Alma Young retired from the governing body after many years of loyal service and Amanda Hamnett resigned due to work commitments. The PCC appointed Lucinda Duffy, Karen Hankey and Robert Wilson as school foundation governors in their place. The children visited church for Easter worship, St Peter's Day, Harvest and a Carol Concert.



Two classes of children from St. Peter's school led a wonderful Sunday Service during the Patronal Festival. Junior children have attended Wednesday morning communion services in church once each half term. Canon Joan has led assemblies and conducted confirmation classes in school. At a service of confirmation in February, Bishop Frank confirmed 45 children and 6 adults.



Children are an important part of church life at St. Peter's. Sharon Brammeier, along with her growing team of teachers and helpers do a wonderful job engaging the children in many and varied tasks in all the age groups. The number of children attending Sunday School this year became so great that they couldn't all be accommodated in the annexe. As a result of that, the finance committee explored ways of providing extra accommodation for them. On their recommendation, the PCC agreed to refurbish the warden's vestry areas in the summer to relocate the office and create a meeting room for the older children in Sunday School. This is also used as a waiting/meeting area at other times. The Tower Group, catering for post-confirmation children, continued so that older children could spend some time out of the service for lively discussion about the week's theme. The children enjoyed Good Friday and Harvest activity mornings, performed a nativity play during the Christingle Service and attended the annual Children's Epiphany Service at Liverpool Cathedral in their costumes. The Children's Corner was furnished with beautiful story baskets containing Bible story toys and books for the under 3's to use with their parents during the service. Pew bags were also renewed and filled with new resources.



The Scouting organisations of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continue to meet each week during term time and all groups take an active part in the monthly Family Service. Please see the reviews at the end of this report for details of their activities throughout the year.



Thanks to the dedication of Sandra Jopson and her helpers, Keys Fellowship Youth Group with around 15 members meet in the annexe most weeks during term time for fun activities. They have enjoyed organised trips to the cinema, skiing and strawberry picking. A barbecue was held for children confirmed in 2008 and a Christmas Party was organised by two of the members. The group supported the Church Flower Festival by decorating a window. To raise funds for church, the group organised a Lent Project and hosted a Body Shop Party. Their monthly Fair Trade stall sold over £1000 of products. These products are also used extensively by church groups and served after Sunday morning communion.



St. Peter's branch of the Mothers' Union will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009 and preparations are already underway for that event in August. The branch leader is Honor Mottram and during the year a variety of events and speakers have been organised for their monthly meetings. Members ensure that contact is maintained for at least three years with the families of children who have been baptised at St. Peter's to encourage them to come to church or enrol their children in Sunday School. They also organise a parent and toddler group (MUPAT's) each Wednesday afternoon in the annexe meeting room, which provides a venue for young mums to meet together with their pre-school children. St Peter's Mums' Group also meet monthly in the annexe meeting room for various organised events.



The wardens, with Albert's help have ensured that the building and fabric of the church has been well maintained. The Verger, Roy Parfrey (often helped by Jean), keeps the gardens looking beautiful too. Roy also gave much of his time to help with the vestry refurbishment by, amongst other things, altering all the doors after the carpet had been laid. Annual servicing of the heating boilers, loop system and alarm took place. Portable electrical appliances were tested, the organ was tuned

and a fuse box was replaced. Thieves targeted the lead on the porch roof again and this was replaced by substitute material, courtesy of the insurance company. Smart water has since been applied to items deemed to be at risk of theft. PCC were made aware of some trees in the grounds that were in a dangerous state and arranged for them to be felled. The Finance committee conducted an annual tour of the premises to identify any risks and provide details for a rolling programme of repairs and maintenance.

As is evident from the annual accounts accompanying this report, that income through gift aid donations and other planned giving is down on 2007. Fees received for weddings and funerals were also considerably less while most expenditure items have increased and, indeed, gas and electricity bills have more than doubled! The PCC are very grateful to our Treasurer, Michelle Tod, for her meticulous work and careful stewardship of funds on their behalf.



Finance committee meetings towards the end of the year focussed on making some preparations for a Giving in Grace programme. However in light of the global economic downturn, it was decided to shelve this initiative for the foreseeable future. It is therefore vital that we continue to generate funds by other means. Fund raising events for church funds in 2008 included: concerts, car boot sales, aromatherapy sessions, the annual Christmas Fair, sales of Christmas cakes, cosmetics and calendars. Unfortunately the amount raised wasn't sufficient to ensure that the amount of money spent was not more than the amount of income received. Fundraising also continued for other charities such as CMS, Christian Aid, The Children's Society, NSPCC, McMillan Nurses, Royal British Legion, World Vision, The Leprosy Mission and Farm Africa.

The community used the church extensively throughout the year for various events. These included St. Peter's School, Newton High School, Wargrave House Special School, Mill Green Special School and The Music Rooms. Council Park Rangers used the facilities for Willow Park events and the annexe meeting room has been used as a polling station for local elections. Age Concern meets weekly in the annexe as does a local Bridge Club.



The PCC are keen to ensure that the church reaches out to the local community. As a result, activity mornings and a mini flower festival were held at Easter and Harvest when the church was open over the weekend for visitors. The church is also open outside of normal worship times for private prayer twice per week. The church choir joined local councillors and community on the High Street outside of church to lead Carols around the Christmas tree. Before Easter and Christmas, houses in the parish received invitation leaflets giving details of services and concerts taking place in church over those periods. Large numbers of people, many of which are part of the local community, visit St. Peter's Church week by week for regular communion services, group meetings, concerts or special services such as weddings, funerals or baptisms. These are valuable opportunities to share God's love with the wider community.



A large team of people, too many to mention individually, work very hard each week in and around the church. Most of this work goes unnoticed but it is **all** valued and appreciated. The PCC is thankful for those people who contribute to the work and worship at St Peter's in whatever capacity. They are also thankful to Joan who continues to encourage us to use and develop our gifts in God's service.

***"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success." (Henry Ford)***

Carol Tither - PCC Secretary

This report was approved at the PCC meeting held on Monday, 16th March 2009.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

# STATISTICS



| Average Church Attendance (age 16 and over) | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|------|------|
| 8:00 am                                     | 11   | 11   |
| 9.30 am                                     | 125  | 118  |
| Midweek                                     | 10   | 20   |
| Baptisms                                    | 141  | 151  |

| Average Church Attendance (under 16) | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| 9:30 am                              | 39   | 39   |

| Number of Special Services | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Baptisms                   | 29   | 42   |
| Weddings                   | 25   | 11   |
| Funerals                   | 24   | 20   |
| Burial of ashes            | 13   | 8    |
| Confirmations              | 21   | 51   |



## 1<sup>ST</sup> Newton St Peter's Rainbows.

Rainbows are the youngest members of Girl Guiding UK. There are 10 members aged from 5-7 years. Meeting weekly with their two leaders, Andrea Dormouse and Andrea Badger assisted by two young leaders: Jessica and Katie, activities include good news, crafts, games, songs, stories. Rainbows complete badges called roundabouts, choosing activities from the four programme areas of look, learn, laugh and love. When Rainbows prepare for Brownies they complete the Pot of Gold badge.

In 2008 Rainbows celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. For this we completed the Olivia's favourite's badge, which was a special roundabout badge. We decorated a church window for the flower festival based on the theme of our 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. We also planted sunflowers to celebrate the occasion. In summer we held a teddy bears picnic in the church garden and ended the year with a Christmas fancy dress party.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Newton-le-Willows St Peter's Brownies

2008 was an exciting year for the Brownies. Our first visit out was to the Methodist Church Hall in Earlestown to celebrate Thinking Day. There were a number of Brownie units present and we all had a enjoyable time learning about the crafts and culture of other countries including China, Russia and Uzbekistan. The Brownies particularly enjoyed dressing up in a variety of national costumes. The next trip was to see the Gang Show in St Helens. It was fantastic and the Brownies thoroughly enjoyed every sketch.

In May we took the Brownies to Scammonden Water for a pack holiday weekend. The setting was beautiful and we all enjoyed a long walk around the lake, stopping for a packed lunch near the church on the opposite shore to the holiday accommodation.

Over the autumn term we prepared angels for the Church window. We worked in collaboration with the Guides, Rainbows and the Young Leader to create a masterpiece. Everyone remarked on how delightful the window was. It had a real impact and impressed many people.

The remainder of the term was taken up with Christmas crafts. This is one of the most popular elements of the Brownie year. The Brownies made cards with the encaustic irons, they made decoupage cards and tree decorations with Compact Discs. The finale to the year was a party for the whole district. The Guiders worked extremely hard to put on a very lively Christmas Party with lots of new games. Brownies enjoyed hot dogs and plenty of party food. The fancy dress competition was a particularly successful activity with everyone joining in the festivities.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Newton (St Peter's) Guides

Each year the Guides follow a programme that provides fun and challenging opportunities for the girls. We have a balanced and varied programme which includes activities covering five zones: healthy lifestyles, global awareness, skills and relationships, celebrating diversity and discovery. At the weekly meetings the Guides work towards Go For Its!, interest badges and challenge badges. In 2008 the Guides gained the Active Response and Science badges and different patrols completed the Chocolate, Healthy Eating, Passion 4 fashion and Party Go For Its! The Guides also have the opportunity to join in with activities outside of the normal weekly meetings and the following are the highlights from 2008:

March was a busy month for the Guides; we held our annual Spring Fayre and raised more than £400 for unit funds and were "Shipwrecked on Easter Island" when we went on holiday to Lytham. During our long weekend away we completed the Traditions of Guiding badge, visited the Sandcastle in Blackpool and did lots of crafts and cooking. Also in March, one of the Guiders attended the British Red Cross Basic First Aid Course which refreshed their first aid skills.

In June, St Peter's Church held a Flower Festival and the Guides assisted in making a beautiful display for the Church window.

In July, the Guides went on Guide Camp to Scarisbrik, near Southport. The theme was "I'm a Guide get me out of here!" and the Guides enjoyed their bush tucker trials each evening! During the camp we went on a day trip to Southport and the Guides enjoyed their visit to Splashworld in the morning, we all then ate ice cream in a hail storm on the beach (!) before shopping for the rest of the afternoon. The Guides also gained their Outdoor Cook badge, learnt new camp skills and took part in a wide game.

In September, St Peter's Church celebrated Harvest Festival and the Guides made a themed display for the Church window. The theme was "Give Poverty the Boot" so there were plenty of wellie boots on show!

In October, the Guides joined the Division on a trip to the NEC Arena for the Big Gig 2008. This was a fantastic concert, with many popular bands including the Sugar Babes, the Hoosiers, Scouting for Girls and the Saturdays making an appearance.

Also in October, one of the Guiders joined other Guiders from the County at the County weekend at Waddow Guide Training Centre.

In November the Guides went climbing at the North West Face climbing centre in Warrington and ran a chocolate tombola at the Church Christmas Fayre.

Finally, the Guides finished off the year with a Christmas party.

## 21<sup>st</sup> St. Helens (Newton le Willows) Scout Group

2008 has been a very busy year for our group. All sections have continued to grow and we now have around 80 young members with ages ranging from 5¾ through to 15 years.



Our youngest section, the beavers, has learned about people from other countries and cultures, enjoying several food taster sessions. They have also learned how to be healthy through eating healthy foods and taking regular exercise. The colony enjoyed an Olympic themed summer fun day and a day trip to Gulliver's World. They have also helped to raise money for Marie Curie, while at the same time learning about daffodil bulbs.



The middle section is the cubs and they range in age from 8 to 10½ years. Their meetings are always lively with lots of fun team games being played, helping them to learn how to play fair. The pack enjoyed their annual bonfire night party with fireworks. Cubs also got fitter by completing their athlete badge. The annual district cub camp was very popular and of course the theme was the Olympics with some alternative water sports, just in case they were not wet enough from the rain!



The scout troop have learnt about photography and DIY. They also held a cooking-on-a-budget competition between the patrols. Thankfully, all leaders have now recovered! Of course the real fun of scouting is getting outdoors and this year was no exception with the scouts taking part in cycling, walking and climbing. As always, the District chariot race in October was a must for most in the troop; three teams completed the course and some still have the bruises to prove it!

Several times each year, all sections meet. Many overcame stiff muscles and blisters to raise money for the scout hut refurbishment to complete a sponsored walk from Newton to Billinge. They also enjoyed a party in the summer with lots of games, dancing and sausage rolls. Each section provided entertainment at Christmas during the fund-raising social evening.

Scouting is enjoyed at many levels, either within the individual sections right through to internationally. Our beavers, cub and scouts have taken part in annual St. Helens District events including the swimming gala, cross country and cyclocross. All these events combine having fun, learning new skills, meeting new people and making friends for life. Another annual event enjoyed by many from the group is the Gang Show at the Theatre Royal in St. Helens. Many hours of hard work is put into learning new songs, dances, sketches and making costumes. All are exhilarated by their performances at such a large venue. Some of the scouts then went on to perform in SIAD08 (Show In A Day) in Crewe which is open to all North West Gang Show members over 11 years old.

Part of being a uniformed organisation is recognising the past and the sacrifices people have made for us. For this reason, it is always a privilege to parade at St. Peter's monthly family services, Earlestown's Remembrance Day service and the St. George's Day parade in St. Helens.

During 2009, the group will celebrate 80 years of there being a scout hut on the Birley Street site and hope that we will be able to bring together scouts, past and present, to share their experiences.