

In This Issue...

Diary for May	2
The quality of our work	4
Christ Church First School.....	5
Noticeboard.....	6
A tale of two pots.....	7
The God of 'sense'	8
Joscelynes' prayer news	9
Puzzle corner	9
Church Housing Trust.....	10
Lunch with Bishop Biju.....	11
Crossword	12
PCC News.....	13
Finance Report	14
Streets of Prayer	15
Taken on Trust.....	15
From the Registers.....	16
A real eye-opener	Back

Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the June magazine to the editor by Friday 19th May

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place while this edition is in print - so we'll bring you the reports next month.

Ed.

Cover Story

The level crossing between Station Road and Mount Road is not a very 'residential' scene, but it's still part of the Parish - and the fact that the barriers are raised fits rather well with the theme of the Easter season!

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website: www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc

Parish Office email: christchurchcentre@pgen.net

Magazine contributions: christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

May**2006**

Tu	2	12.30 pm	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School
We	3	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union – Speaker Eva McNulty
		6.30pm	Explore – Teenage Enquirers Group
		8.00 pm	Reader's Meeting in the Centre
Th	4	1.20 pm	Assembly at Christ Church Middle School
Fr	5	1.10 pm	Assembly at Alleynes School Yr 11
		7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	6	8.30 am	Prayers in church followed by
		9.00 am	Breakfast in the Centre
			Northern Men's Convention in Manchester

Su 7 Easter 4**9.15 am Parish Communion**

Sermon Text: Col 1: 15 - 23 God's word & the Da Vinci Code (ii) *Did Nicea reinvent Jesus?*

10.30 am After the service **Mothers' Union Cake & Produce Stall in the Centre** in aid of MU projects both overseas and at home

6.00 pm Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:1-16 "What to be"

Mo	8	9.00 am	Prayers for schools and young people - in Church
		6.30 pm	Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square
		7.30 pm	Standing Committee

Tu 9 10.30 am Holy Communion in church

12.30 pm Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School

We	10	7.30 pm	Stone Deanery Meeting in the Centre – Speaker, The Very Rev Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield
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Fr	12	7.30 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
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Su 14 Easter 5**9.15 am Morning Prayer**

Sermon text: John 2:1 - 11 God's word & the Da Vinci Code (iii) *Was Mary married to Jesus?*

6.00 pm Holy Communion at St John's Oulton

Sermon text: Matthew 5: 17-30 "The Law"

Mo	15	9.00 am	Prayers for schools and young people - in Church
		6.30 pm	Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square
Tu	16	12.30 pm	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School

*Behold how good and how lovely it is
When brothers live together in unity.*

Psalm 133:1

Th	18	1.20 pm	Assembly at Christ Church Middle School
Fr	19	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	20	10.00 am- 4.00 pm	Plant Sale at 32 Redwood Avenue (see page 6)

Su 21 Easter 6

9.15 am Parish Communion

Sermon text: Luke 24: 28 - 49 God's word & the Da Vinci Code (iv) *Who edited the Bible?*

6.00 pm Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton

Sermon text: Matthew 5:31-42 "Oaths"

Mo	22	9.00 am 6.30 pm	Prayers for schools and young people - in Church Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square
Tu	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
We	24	6.30 pm 7.30 pm	Explore – Teenage Enquirers Group in the Centre PCC Meeting
Th	25	1.20 pm 7.30 pm	Assembly at Christ Church Middle School Ascension Day Service at Moddershall

Su 28 Easter 7

9.15 am Family Service

Sermon text: Romans 10: 11 - 17 God's word & the Da Vinci Code (v) *Life changing word*

6.00 pm Holy Communion at St John's Oulton

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:43 - 6:4 "Charity"

The following Activities take place every week in the Centre during school term time:

Monday Toddlers

9.30 am

Friday Little Fishes

11.00 am

Activities for children and young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday (except on the fourth Sunday of the month, which is family service):

Climbers 3-7 years

Explorers 7-11 years

Pathfinders 11-14 years

All children are welcome



4

The quality of our work will be revealed.

The Texan builder had laid a fantastic foundation for the missionary's house in Africa. He gave some basic brick laying instructions and then said: "It's over to you!" I'd never built a wall before, but was a volunteer team member helping to build a house (assuming others would do the skilful stuff). Using irregular hand-made bricks we knew that the walls only stood up because the foundation was established before we started!

The apostle Paul wrote: *'For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ'* (1 Cor 3v11). Jesus' death and resurrection are the foundation of the gospel message of salvation to be proclaimed to the world. The details are in the Holy Bible which records Jesus' teaching and that of his Apostles so that subsequent generations of Christian disciples can continue to fulfil the mandate. It is the gospel message which is powerful and so we are to be faithful witnesses to the same truth, however much society may change.

What we do with the gospel message is also important, because the quality of our work will one day be shown up for what it really is: *'If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown up for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work'* (1 Cor 3v12-13). The Apostle Paul's words remind us that our methods should be determined by the gospel. God cares about how we spread the gospel and whether we are doing it in a way that follows his steer. The line 'if it brings people in then that must be good' has to be weighed up in the light of this. In fact, our church meetings, leadership structures, handling of finances, decision making and discipleship courses must grow out of the gospel.



So, as the newly formed Parochial Church Council meet for the first time it will need the prayerful support of those it represents so that we develop our churches as gospel churches. The church is to be gospel centred in terms of its message and gospel inspired in terms of its pattern of life. Only then will we build in accordance with God's eternal purposes, only then will God be brought glory, praise and honour.

Paul Kingman

Christ Church First School News

The approach of Easter is now marked not only by the beginning of Lent but also by the arrival of Education Sunday - traditionally 9 weeks before Easter. However this year it fell during the half term holiday, so we moved our Education Sunday to February 26th! Our choir children really enjoyed taking part during morning service and school staff, parents and supporters appreciated the warm welcome.



Closely following this, we performed at the Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, taking part in 'Celebrating Music'-an event sponsored by the Staffordshire Newsletter. We also took part in the Stone Music Unit biennial concert at the Victoria Hall in Hanley. Our music performed here was largely from the Musicals and the children thoroughly enjoyed preparing for it. The excitement for these children at performing in such an awe-inspiring venue has to be seen to be believed!

During our Thursday morning Worship we have welcomed parents to share this special time as each class has had a turn to lead the Worship and Prayer. Year 4 told us about Jesus' first visit to the Temple and through their excellent acting and movement, conveyed the anguish felt by his parents when they discovered that he had failed to return with them and their relief as they discovered him listening and learning in the Temple. Year 3 explained the importance of foods and rituals found in celebrations within various cultures and religions, giving meaning to celebrations which we may only know by name. Children in Year 2 led us back in time to the Holy Land at the time of Jesus and took us through a typical day in a village such as Nazareth. The children learned a lot from the startling contrast to life today. Year 1 children treated us to an interpretation of the Creation story, through narration, music and movement. Their interpretation showed a great maturity. Lastly, Reception children reminded us of the awe and wonder of God's creation as they enacted the story of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle-narrating, acting and providing their own musical accompaniment as only 4 and 5 year olds can! These times of worship led by the children are always eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by parents and children alike and always leave us something to reflect on.

During Lent we are supporting the Bishop of Lichfield's Appeal "In the Margins". Some young people, through no fault of their own find themselves living "in the margins" of society. We are aiming to collect money each week through focussing on and giving thanks for our "healthy minds, healthy bodies" and celebrating the things which we need to remain healthy- namely water, food, families, exercise and education. This will culminate with our Easter service on Friday April 7th at 2.00 pm as we welcome the Assistant Bishop of Lichfield, Rev. David Bentley to share with us the wonderful promise of Easter and to receive our gifts to be used to help people in places as diverse as Tanzania, Moscow, Stoke and Shrewsbury.

Janet Booth

Noticeboard

Thank You

The Flower Guild were very appreciative of the generous donations given towards the purchase of Easter Flowers. Thank you once again.

Marylyn

Plant Sale

Jack and Barbara Sutcliffe will be holding their annual Plant Sale on

Sat May 20th
10 am - 4 pm

at **32 Redwood Avenue** -in aid of Youth Work, Christian Aid, Somalia and the Clifford Project.

Quiet Days

JOURNEYING WITH JULIAN

An opportunity to learn more about Julian of Norwich.

The day will be led by Ellen Minor, a former Warden of Associates for the Order of St. Julian, and will be held at St. Mary's Abbey, Colwich, **Wednesday 10th May, 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.**

A QUIET DAY AT DOROTHY CLIVE GARDENS

Led by a team of Franciscan Third Order Members and it will be focusing on Awareness and the Beauty of . God's Creation. **Saturday 3rd June, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.** Cost £9.00 (includes entry to the garden). Bring own packed lunch, tea and coffee provided.

If you are interested in booking or want more details of either event, please contact The John Young Foundation at 131-141 North Walls, Stafford, ST16 3AD; Tel. **01785 258428** '

SUMMER PRAISE at Stafford Castle

Sunday 2nd July
4 pm to 5 pm (approx)

This promises to be an exciting event, making use of the auditorium provided for drama at the castle.

Note the date, and keep a lookout for further information.

FAIRTRADE

Our sale of goods in **May** will be on **Sunday 28th** in the Centre, following the morning service.



Guarantees a **better deal** for Third World Producers

8

A Tale of Two Pots

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."



Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them

SO, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

Lol Barnes

The God of 'Sense'

Jesus,
That word, your name, it brings to me
Excruciating joy and pain
So subtly infused together -
That word, your name.

When I awake to yet another day,
I praise you for your grace and goodness.
You show your love in many many ways,
And will continue so to do for all my days.

And when I think of you, My Lord,
Such beauty scarce can I conceive.
I realise that all I have is yours -
In generosity you gave me what I need.

You give me **senses** to engage with life.
Please let me use them all to know you
better -
To know your love, your mercy and your
grace,
That I may help to make your world a
Godly place.

When I **taste** you in the bread and wine,
I once again remember life so fine,
You bought for me
At such immeasurable cost.

As I read your word each day, O Lord,
Please let me **hear** you speak to me so
clear -
Not what I want to hear, but what you say,
To point my life more clearly on your way.

I long to draw much closer to you Lord,
To **touch** you and from you receive.
In body, mind and spirit; - let me live,
Life in abundance that you long to give.

My sense of **smell** reminds me too,
Of good yet simple things which come
from you -
Roast dinners, cut glass and Branston
pickle.
Jesus, keep me firm and true, and not so
fickle.

When one day I see you face to face
I'll **see** the maker of the universe -
Of macro- and of micro-scopic all.
Outside my comprehension such design
and power.

At end of day and as I go to sleep,
I thank you Jesus for the day that's past,
For all the incidents that make you real
To me, and once again confirm I'm in your
hands.

David Rowlands

Not The Authorised Version . . .

Here are some more answers given by children in a test on the Bible:

In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

When Mary heard she was the Mother of Jesus she sang the Magna Carta.

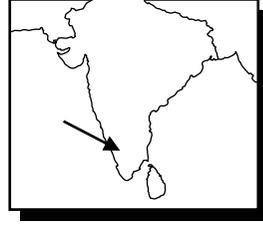


10

The Epistels were the wives of the Apostles.

Joscelynes' Prayer News

Our roles have evolved since our arrival; Dominic's new areas of responsibility include, looking after web sites for the school and alumni, as well as working on database for the alumni. Clare is teaching Design and Technology, an area she is not experienced!



- ✝ Praise God that Erica is making good friends as she plays with different children on site. Please pray for the general safety on the site as we do get concerned at times for Erica's and other peoples' safety.
- ✝ Praise God that the boat is now sold so a big financial pressure has been lifted.
- ✝ Clare has reached the end of a particularly busy time in the school calendar. Displaying work, talking to parents and attending extra activities in parent's week. Pray that she balances her time for the remainder of the term.
- ✝ Pray for the work Dominic is doing in the computer department and that he works well with the other team members. Pray that changes being made in the computer department are in God's plan.

Su Doku

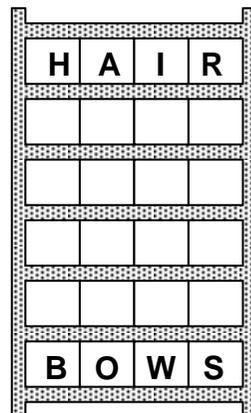
Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3X3 square contains the digits 1 - 9

		2			9			5
	3			2				4
		5	1		4			7
				7				8
6	5		3					
		7	5	6		9		1
				1		6		2
7	2		8					
3				5				8

Solutions on page 15

Word Ladder

Change one letter at a time making a new word on each rung.



Who are . . . Church Housing Trust?

The work of Church Housing Trust means that daily many people in England who are homeless receive the help and support that they desperately need. This work is very close to the heart of God - Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me into your homes, naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me" (*Matthew 25:35*). By tackling the longer-term issues that perpetuate homelessness, rather than providing quick fixes, the Trust offers new beginnings for homeless people of all ages.

There is no one reason for homelessness. It may be due to family conflict and breakdown, mental health problems, erratic school attendance and difficulties with learning. Many homeless people have spent much of their lives in care or in the Armed Services. Once people become street homeless it is all too easy for them to be drawn into crime and addiction. Most of us have people around to help us cope with problems or get through the hard times. Without such support it is very easy to give up, to depend on alcohol and drugs and very hard to find the will to pull yourself together.

Church Housing Trust's goal is to enable homeless people to gain self respect and independence and find a home, a job and settle in the community. They support over 70 projects, including hostels, move-on housing, foyers, day centres, winter shelters, women's refuges and mother and baby projects. This work relies entirely on voluntary donations. Donors' money helps with rehabilitation, education, training and resettlement of the homeless and can be used for anything ranging from toiletries and clean clothing for new arrivals at hostels, to the installation and equipment of training rooms, and resettlement packs of basic furnishings for people who are ready to move on into their own accommodation. Christmas is often a lonely time for the homeless and some of the money is spent on presents and a nourishing meal.

Together with the churches and people who support and pray for their work the Trust is able to give homeless people a fresh start. For those so severely disadvantaged and excluded, the work also serves as a reminder that wider society does still care and has not forgotten them.



To learn more about the Church Housing Trust visit their website at www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk

Lunch with the Bishop of Mumbai

Mumbai - it is impossible to describe the sights, smells and intensity of an overpopulated reclaimed coastal city with extremes of poverty and wealth, Bollywood and street families side by side, the humid heat and the dirt and dust, all mingled together to make a frenetic, heaving place of 17 million people.

We were there to visit our son, who is working in Mumbai but as well as joining him to watch part of the England-India test match we also had the chance to meet up with the Bishop of Mumbai, Biju Ghavit who we often pray for and mention in the magazine.

The transport system in Mumbai is totally inadequate, the rush hour never stops, with horns blaring at midnight and streams of mini auto rickshaws being pushed up the hill to save diesel. Driving can be compared to the cartoon series, the whacky races, and the need to put complete faith in a stranger to drive you through the surrounding chaos is a good sermon illustration about complete trust when all around you tells the complete opposite. Beggars and hawkers, thrust their hands through the taxi windows whenever the traffic crawls to a halt, cows and pedestrians weave or meander through the traffic.

In the midst of it all stands the Cathedral church, where Biju Ghavit is the bishop. The white cathedral with its bell tower and clock, built in 1745 tells of the history of lives given in service to the Empire and to the call of God. However the cathedral is more than a history lesson and is a living church with a growing ministry serving the city with hospitals, hostels for widows, refuges for abandoned children and practical help for communities when the floods came in August last year.

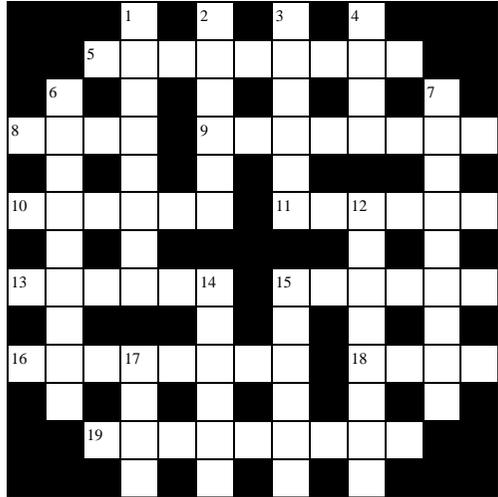
We shared lunch with Biju, who told us of how the number of churches in his diocese had doubled from 40 parishes to 80 in his 8 years as Bishop, with many of the new churches planted in rural communities. The church of South India is an ecumenical group of churches that worships using the Anglican liturgy but is somewhat simplified in the church plants.

The bishop is retiring this July so it was probably the last opportunity to meet with him and share greetings from Christchurch. Like many clergy he has no home to go to on retirement and will have to give up his car and driver but hopes to stay at first with his daughter, who works in a bank and visit his son who in contrast works in Bollywood. He sent his best wishes to Christchurch and was appreciative of the prayers for his ministry in such a lively city.

Jan Butterworth

Clues Across

- 5 Accountant (articled) with artist on side, at Lichfield perhaps. (9)
- 8 Sounds like Oscar's gone crazy! (4)
- 9 Accident could be a major bore. (8)
- 10 They show which way the wind blows, in both senses! (6)
- 11 Background noise unchanging when first leaves number. (6)
- 13 First lady receives good scripture lesson in sorrow. (13)
- 15 Concerning the sound of bells, they are up in arms. (6)
- 16 Drawback? (8)
- 18 Air large cask, to a point. (4)
- 19 Vicar and ruler go to Holy City as it were before. (9)



Clues Down

- 1 Produced by a worker - a craftsman, perhaps. (8)
- 2 Sounds like you could tuck into them - or take them away! (6)
- 3 Sailed around with principles. (6)
- 4 The going Pat found hard. (4)
- 6 Died, burst into confusion and became upset. (9)
- 7 Rocks slope apart in opposition about railway. (9)
- 12 Personal goal, a doctor has it on a charge! (8)
- 14 Let down without direction finder but over the moon! (6)
- 15 Artist's meal is just one vegetable! (6)
- 17 Stagger at the sound of truth. (4)

CHAIN GANG

Find a word to link each pair of words.

Take - Match

Half - Bomb

Ice - Cheese

French - Needle

Mint - Boat

PCC News

- **Jacqueline Abrahams** has offered to take on the role of PCC Secretary when Cecilia Wilding steps down in May 2006.
- There is to be a special meeting of the new PCC on Saturday 1st July 2006, 9.30am-11.30am to work on our **Mission Action Plan**. They will look at the youth and children's work initially as there has been a lot of movement in this area in the past year, and then progress to other areas at a later date.
- The **church accounts** were approved for presentation at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Wednesday 26th April 2006.
- There is to be a special day on May 7th 2006 when we will be invited to **review our giving**. Our financial position as a church will have been laid out at the APCM.
- The Financial Task Group has been asked to budget this year for an upgrade of the **sound system** in the church.
- A number of ideas have been put forward for the use of the large **bequest** received for use in the Centre. It is planned that the carpet will be replaced in the Easter holidays. Otherwise, we are making the use of the money a matter for prayer.
- The PCC approved the **Reader Contracts** for our six Readers - Dave Bell, John Butterworth, Margaret Massey, Dave Rowlands, Mike Thompson and Cecilia Wilding - for a further five years,

The PCC met on Monday 20th March 2006 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

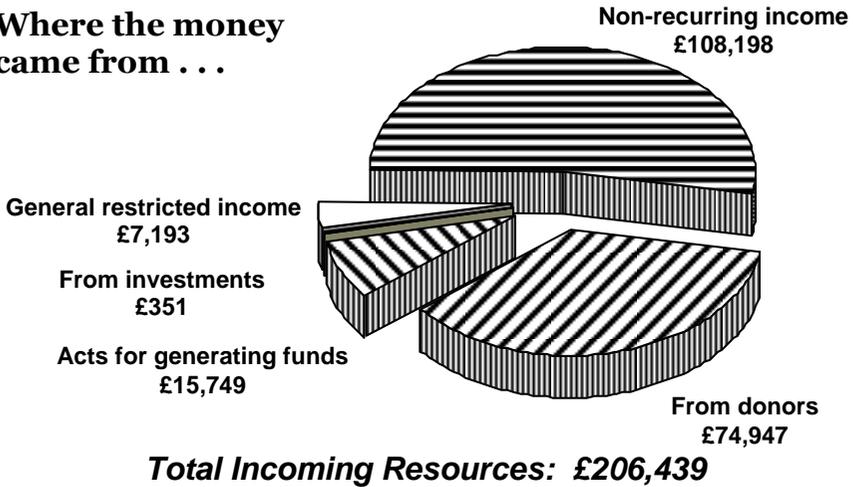
The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday, 24th May 2006.



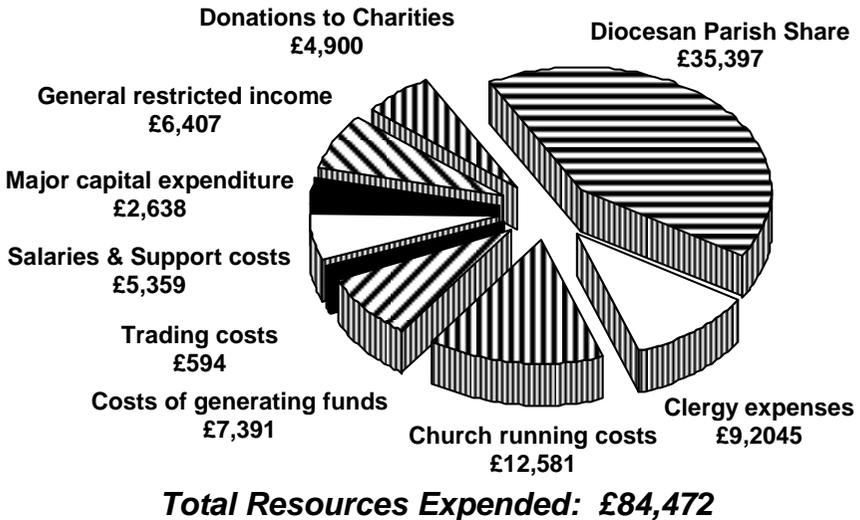
Financial Report - Year ending Dec 2005

Here is a quick overview of the Parish income and expenditure for the last year (all figures rounded to the nearest pound).

Where the money came from . . .



. . . and where it went:



Thanks to a very large (and unexpected!) legacy, you will see that our income for the year has greatly exceeded our expenditure. Copies of the full accounts are available in church or from the Office.

Streets of Prayer

Please pray this month for all the people living in these streets in our Parish.



7th May
 The Avenue
 Trent Road
 Tunley Street
 Trinity Drive

14th May
 Airdale Grove
 Airdale Road
 Airdale Spinney
 Cross Street
 Lotus Court

21st May
 Nicholls Lane
 Old Road
 Old Road Close
 Oulton Cross

28th May
 Oulton Road
 Oulton Mews
 Princes Street
 Queens Square
 York Street

Taken on Trust

Did you hear about the postman who was jailed after he admitted hoarding 13,819 postal items, saying he took them home because his mailbag was too heavy? The thought of a postman taking letters and packages home for his own use shocks us - they don't belong to him! To use a biblical term, a postman is a steward, he is given the responsibility of taking care of something that belongs to someone else. St Paul tells us the most important trait of a steward - "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2 NIV).

Perhaps we need to reflect that we are all stewards. Everything we have in our possession is not really ours. It belongs to God and He has given it to us to take care of for him. God intends us to use what we have to help those who are in need, to further His work, to allow His glory to shine.

Puzzle Solutions

Crossword



Sudoku

4	7	2	6	8	9	3	1	5
1	3	6	7	2	5	8	4	9
8	9	5	1	3	4	2	6	7
9	1	3	4	7	2	5	8	6
6	5	8	3	9	1	7	2	4
2	4	7	5	6	8	9	3	1
5	8	4	9	1	3	6	7	2
7	2	9	8	4	6	1	5	3
3	6	1	2	5	7	4	9	8

Chain Gang

- Take/AWAY/Match
- Half/TIME/Bomb
- Ice/CREAM/Cheese
- French/KNITTING/Needle
- Mint/SAUCE/Boat

Word Ladder

One solution is:
 HAIR, HAIL, BAIL, BOIL, BOWL, BOWS



Weddings

8th April

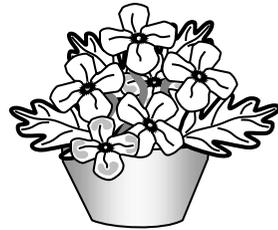
Charles Edward Owston & Charlotte Marie Rich

Sidespersons for May

	9.15 am	6.00 pm
7th	J. Cooper, T. MacFarlane A. West, S. Hallam	<i>Oulton</i>
14th	C. Wilding, D. Wilson M. Holden, G. Holden	<i>Oulton</i>
21st	T. Lockett, A. Greer B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson	<i>Oulton</i>
28th	P. Hipkiss, P. Tunstall J. Rowlands, V. Ledward	<i>Oulton</i>

Flower Rota for May

7th	Mrs M. Massey
14th	Mrs M. Hutchinson
21st	Mrs G. Martin
28th	Mrs B. Thornicroft



Thank You

“Thank You” to everyone who helped to decorate our church for Easter. Especial thanks to the school children for those lovely banners, they really helped to remind us what a great message Easter holds for us.