

ST. PETER'S
SHARED CHURCH
CHERTSEY

VISION FOR THE FUTURE 2007 - 2011

It is with thankfulness to God for his faithfulness in the past and with anticipation and trust in His provision for the future that the Church Council offers the church this Vision for the next five years. The Church Council, leadership team and working groups have consulted widely across the church over the period of a year. The Church Council adopted this document in November 2006.

As the Church Council has reviewed the developments which have taken place since 'Vision for the Future' 2000, it has been greatly encouraged to see that virtually all of the proposals set out at that time have been achieved. However, as it looks back on past achievements and moves forward into the next phase of the church's life it is aware of the need to be totally dependent upon God, rooting ourselves as a church in prayer and constantly open to the Holy Spirit's leading.

As Vicar/Minister of this church and benefice I warmly commend this document to the church.

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the father through him.'

Colossians 3 : 17

In Christ,

TIM HILLIER

Introduction to Vision 2007-11

1. Process - The Church Council met for a 'Study Day' on September 17th 2005 in order to begin a year's process of discerning a vision for St. Peter's Shared Church for the next five years. The day was led by Canon Chris Neal, one of the co-authors of 'Missionary Shaped Church', a report commissioned by the General Synod of the Church of England and recommended to the whole church. The day involved an over- view of many of the cultural shifts within the UK and their implications for the church.

Following this meeting, the church council gave over a full SCC meeting on September 19th 2005 to discuss and respond in small groups to the study day. It also commented upon both the present and future priorities for the church as it looked ahead to the next five years.

1a. The SCC made the following analysis of the church at present:

'This church is welcoming and accessible. It is growing, friendly and has a large inner group of people committed to serving God in Chertsey. The church has a good reputation in the town. It caters well for all ages but could still further connect and show the light of Jesus in the wider community. The preaching and teaching are good and lively at all levels. It is already an example of an 'emerging church'. Existing community work is good, particularly outreach through youth worker, schools, toddlers groups, and where the elderly are concerned, Songs of Praise, and Coffee Break. The church has strong leadership and has a clear eye on the future. The church is 'on the move'. People love God and each other although we remain financially challenged.'

1b. Looking at the future, the SCC made the following broad recommendations:

'The church needs to use the gifts of the whole Christian community more effectively. Continue to be rooted in Christ - prayerful, loving and forgiving, seeking to be holy and always with an eye on converting people to Christ. We need to continue to sustain our present numerical growth. We should always question contentment and instigate action. Discover ways of implementing new ideas without longwinded procedures. More concerted prayer for the town and community. Be open and willing to look constantly at new ways of proclaiming an unchanging gospel in a rapidly changing culture'.

Following the SCC's work, a small sub group met to oversee the vision process in order to determine areas to be covered. Following this, individuals with specific responsibilities within the

church were consulted, and in turn consulted their teams, in order to make specific recommendations of the SCC's overall recommendations. The ministry team also met for a day to work on specific areas for the church's ongoing vision.

2. Looking back - Vision for the Future 2000 - 2005

However, before introducing the Church's vision for the next five years it would be appropriate to look back to our last vision document, 'Vision for the Future' published in March 2000 following the appointment of the new vicar, and looking ahead to 2005.

It is extremely encouraging to look back at that document's proposals to appreciate that we have implemented virtually all of them and much more besides. A full copy of 'Vision for the Future 2000' can be obtained from the church office.

i. Church Growth

The document of March 2000 highlighted, statistically, the decline in the UK church and sought, within local context, to provide a vision for growth. Despite the loss of over 80 people from the church since 2000, largely through death or moving away, we have seen a steady growth in membership and attendance over that period. Our electoral roll was 145 in 2000 and has increased to 220 by 2006.

4.

In 1999, one of the Bishops described St. Peter's as a 'grey' church. The age profile of the church has become very much younger with steady growth in numbers of new families and younger people. The major town-wide mission 'Chertsey Alive' took place in 2003, along with Michael Green, and led by St. Peter's. Alpha has continued to thrive and now includes Youth Alpha. Alpha has been a major contributor to church growth.

ii. Staffing

The document looked to continuing our appointment of a 'training curate' and the appointment, possibly, of a Locally Ordained Minister. Both of these proposals have materialised. In addition, we have also benefited from the ministry of Trevor Parkin in his retired capacity. In 2007, we will also benefit from the ministry of a Non-Stipendiary Curate although much of his time will be spent in Lyne. Two new pastoral assistants and a Lay Reader have been trained since 2000, and a third will begin training in 2007. We have sponsored three candidates for ordained ministry in the last five years.

'Vision for the Future' looked to a time when a youth worker might be appointed. This was achieved more quickly than anticipated - within two years.

The appointment of a part time Music Director also took place in 2002. This was not part of the 'Vision for the Future' but quickly became a priority in order to carry out the proposed developments in music and worship.

iii. Patterns of Worship

'Vision for the Future' proposed considerable changes to our 10am morning worship pattern from one which was largely traditional in character to a 'mixed economy'. The exact proposals were modified after discussion in 2000 to include two relatively formal communion services and two or three informal services per month. The proposal to form a music group in addition to the choir began to materialise in 2001.

Evening Service patterns have become more informal with the introduction of a monthly healing service.

The document stressed the need to encourage more people to join home groups. During this five-year period, the number of home groups has increased from three to seven in addition to a new daytime group for young mums.

The introduction of some form of mid-week worship was highlighted in 'Vision for the Future' and is now taking place.

iv. Songs of Praise

A service for older members of the wider Chertsey Community. This was suggested in the vision document and, beginning in 2000, has continued to thrive.

In addition, a weekly 'Coffee Break' was launched in 2003 and provides another important ministry provision for older people. This is now packed out each week and has been an additional growth 'node' for the church.

v. Penton Park Church

This church plant was in its infancy in 2000. It has continued to develop and, in line with 'vision proposals', now has its own Church Council.

vi. United Benefice

'Vision for the Future' mentioned the possibility of the Parish of Lyne coming under the umbrella of the Vicar of Chertsey following the decline within that parish. The United Benefice was in fact formed in spring 2004, and a House for Duty Priest appointed.

5.

vii. Finances

In line with proposals, the finances of the Anglican Church and United Free Church were combined to form a Shared Church account in late 2000. Funds from the UFC reserve were also transferred into a Shared Church reserve fund in 2003. For the first time, the SCC agreed to tithe 10% of the church's income in 2000 as proposed in the vision. This has continued and a series of eight recipient organisations were chosen to represent local, national and international needs.

viii. Reordering

This is the only area in the vision statement in which little progress was made until 2006. However, it is hoped that redecorating and new lighting will take place in 2007.

3. Church and Community

We recognise that our links with the local community are good. In addition to occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals) through which we minister to thousands of people annually we offer a wide range of ministries to the community from our work with toddlers, children and youth through to our extensive ministry to the older members of our community. Individuals also have roles within many areas of the local community. Our links with local organisations are strong - i.e. Chertsey Society, Rotary Club, Combined Charities. Our relationship with the local press has been carefully nurtured in the recent past and bears fruit in terms of publicity and comment on a regular basis.

In the last two years we have developed our work with nursing homes through the home groups as well as ministry team members leading services at The Grange, Abbey Chase and Floral House. Our team of Pastoral Assistants visits widely across the parish.

We wish to continue to develop our good relationship with local schools and in particular, Stepgates School, our newly affiliated Church of England School. Close nurturing of this link led to discussions with the head teacher, staff, governors, parents, diocese and bishops throughout 2004/5 and led to formal affiliation in January 2006.

We need to continue to contact those moving to new homes in Chertsey with our welcome leaflet and to do so more systematically and extensively. Attempts to minister to the business community have been made in recent years but with limited success.

The major aim in terms of community involvement in the next five years will be the development of Counselling Services based at St. Peter's. We have two people currently in training and one new member of staff already qualified. An application from the Big Lottery Fund to build a counselling room and to refurbish the existing hall and kitchen will be submitted in December 2006.

The vicar continues his trusteeship of eight local organisations and charitable trusts as well as being a governor and company director of Sir William Perkins School.

Two new pastoral assistants have been trained in the last two years and a third begins her training in February 2007.

4. The ongoing development of the United Benefice

In May 2004, the parish of Lyne and Longcross joined the parish of Chertsey to form a United Benefice under one Vicar. This followed the retirement of the vicar of Lyne and Longcross and the decision by bishops and archdeacons that the size of the Lyne and Longcross parish no longer justifies a vicar of its own.

6.

Having appointed Lucy Clare as House for Duty Priest, much of the life of Lyne and Longcross has run separately from Chertsey. Each parish has a different theological background and tradition and it has been important to respect those differences.

The benefice has come together on three occasions each year for United Benefice services on Sunday evenings.

As Vicar of Lyne and Longcross, Tim has worked with the PCC in setting its first Five Year Vision, which is now complete and due to be published at the end of 2006. A baptism preparation team has been set up with the help of the Chertsey team, as has a marriage preparation course.

In July 2007, we will be appointing Laurence Gamlin, a Church Army Officer and Evangelist who has recently worked as a church development consultant for CPAS. He is joining the benefice team for four years as a curate in training (NSM.). It is the vicar's aim that Laurence will offer his considerable experience and skills to Lyne and Longcross in particular and give much needed support to Lucy Clare and Tim in developing the life and ministry of this

part of the benefice. It is hoped he will offer up to three Sundays a month to Lyne and at least one evening a week.

Laurence has a particular interest and experience in the area of 'New Expressions of Church' and will have much to offer the whole benefice and deanery in this respect. This has been acknowledged in the 2006 Runnymede Deanery Mission plan.

5. St. Peter's Shared Church - the Ecumenical Dimension

St. Peter's is a Local Ecumenical Partnership although the church is arguably 'post-denominational'. Of the original members of the United Free Church of Chertsey, only eight now remain. However, in the last five years, just under a hundred new people have joined the church, all of whom now have 'Shared Membership'. The church is more accurately described now as ecumenically 'United' rather than 'Shared'.

The leadership team is committed to leading a church which is rooted in scripture, open to the Holy Spirit's leading and seeking to be 'organic' in the way in which its development grows from the local culture in which it ministers. Whilst retaining two communion services on Sunday mornings, which are 'nominally' Anglican and Methodist (referred to as Service A and B), we deliberately do not stress the denominational roots.

As a church which is led by an ordained Anglican team, we aim to continue our links with the Methodist church by inviting Methodist ministers and Local Preachers to join our team once a month (4th Sunday evening) and by members of our team preaching in the wider circuit from time to time. Tim (recognised and regarded as a Methodist and URC Minister) attends a small number of staff and business meetings within the Methodist Circuit and if possible URC each year in addition to Deanery and Diocesan responsibilities. The SCC has elected four representatives to sit on appropriate bodies of our parent denominations - Anglican, Methodist and URC.

No further developments are planned from an ecumenical point of view. We will continue to pay a nominal sum of money to the URC and Methodist Churches from the Shared Church Account each year.

In the coming year we urgently need to update our Shared Church Constitution as our growth and development ecumenically has greatly exceeded our original remit.

7.

6. General comments and proposals from the Ministry Team on the Worshipping Life of the church.

(This section flows out of a Ministry Team "Day Away" in the summer of 2006.)

There is an awareness that the worshipping life of St. Peter's has made major strides in recent years (see section 2). The team is united in its commitment to diversity in patterns of worship, which is seen to be a real strength of this church. This diversity should be made more widely known. It is perceived by newcomers of all ages and traditions as a real strength.

There is a desire to develop opportunities for the exercising of spiritual gifts within some of our regular acts of worship. The team is committed to developing high standards in all areas of the worshipping life at St. Peter's, whether in terms of preaching, music, reading or the leading of prayers.

There is concern that those members undertaking public reading and praying should be given adequate guidance and training in these ministries.

There is a desire to offer sermon outlines at main services to encourage congregations to engage more fully with preaching and teaching, with suggestions for follow-up reading, reflection and prayer.

We would like to see more extended times of sung worship both in morning and evening services and to use silence more than we do currently.

There is a serious desire by the whole team to move towards the use of Power Point in projecting hymns, songs and liturgy but awareness that these may need to be tied in with the wider project of relighting, decorating and associated fund raising.

7. Music Ministry

Our aim: 'To help all at St. Peter's to express our love and thankfulness in praise to our great God, and to draw other people, through our worship, to come to know the love of the Father, the saving work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in and through their lives'.

Our existing music is drawn from a variety of sources and traditions and ranges from traditional hymns to contemporary songs and choruses. Contemporary music comes from sources as widespread as Spring Harvest, Iona, and Taizé as well as more contemplative worship produced by Margaret Rizza. Christ in Quiet is a valued evening and includes chants or songs from above sources.

In all that we do we need to be aware of the words we sing. We need to fully express our faith in our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as the richness of the gospel. We need to avoid the tendency so prevalent today, of watering down the fullness of the Gospel into easy devotional sound bites.

7a. Music Group

There are currently (in 2006) 16 people who contribute to the Music Group. Over the next five years we have the following aims:

i. To fully give of ourselves in offering and leading of worship and as a true expression of our love and commitment to God

ii. To maintain a spirit-led and sensitive music ministry

8.

iii. To seek always to improve musically

iv. To enable different instruments to take the lead with more harmony and descants by singers

in order to provide a more varied texture

v. To maintain good and prayerful relationships in the group, which will reflect in the way we play and sing

Maybe, there could be music groups with different emphasis: perhaps one fairly classical and reflective with flute, classical guitar etc. and one guitar based with bass guitar, guitars and drums.

7b. The Choir

There are currently 11 choir members. Over the next five years we have the following aims:

i. To maintain good and prayerful relationships in the group, which will reflect in the way we sing

ii. To sing well and to continue to enrich the Communion Services including new items and arrangements

iii. To be numerically stronger and in particular become more reliable in singing for weddings as we have a moral obligation to those getting married to provide a full choir for which they have paid; also to extend our repertoire of the music we sing during signing of registers.

iv. To offer engaged couples a more discerning choice of wedding hymns, as we are concerned that, with greater unfamiliarity with Christian music, the situation can only get worse (this is a pastoral area the clergy team needs to look at carefully in preparing couples for marriage)

v. Because of various commitments it is inevitable that numbers are sometimes low. We need to build up the choir membership, with more young people and more men!

vi. No group can survive for long without a regular input of younger members. We want to be open to the Spirit so that the choir and its music ministry can develop fully to serve in God's way in the future.

7c. Both Music Group and Choir

We praise God for the increasingly good relationships between the choir and music group. We aim to be a prayerful group of people, learning together and appreciating each other's ministries.

With many of our musicians leading busy lives, we hope to see more overlapping of the two groups. This is already taking place with some younger members moving effortlessly from one group to another. This has also happened when members of the music group have stepped in to assist with the music at weddings when it was not possible to gather a full choir.

7d. Cool Kids

This delightful group of young people aged 7-12 meets on Friday evenings before Choir or Music Group Practice. Our aim now and for the next five years is:

i. To have fun and experience the joy of music and offering our gifts to God in helping to lead worship

ii. To nurture these young people as future leaders in the church

9.

iii. To become sufficiently proficient in playing instruments to occasionally lead a song in our morning service or help in a Youth 4 Youth service, and in so doing draw closer into the reality of God

iv. To occasionally sing with the choir or music group by way of introduction to their future ministry

7f. Use of organ

We should continue to use the organ in much of what we do. Very often this is the sole instrument - communion services, wedding and funerals for instance. The organ will also remain an important part of the music group.

7g. Practical issues

We look forward to the updating of the sound system and the use of projected words of hymns and songs. This will:

i. Free us from being book bound

ii. Give flexibility in offering a range of liturgies/service patterns

iii. Be of use in music as well as providing bullet points for sermons and headings for readings and prayers

iv. Enable us to project encouraging scripture or thought provoking pictures on entering worship

8. Youth and Children

(Section written by Marie Adams, Youth and Children's Worker)

Five-Year Vision for Youth and Children's Ministry at St. Peter's Church

I feel it is important to split into two areas: children's (0-10) and teenagers (11-18), as each area has its own needs and goals.

However, the broad overall vision is: to see every child and teenager in Chertsey having the chance to hear and the opportunity to respond to the gospel within the next five years.

This is no small task. It requires the church as a whole to see Youth and Children's Ministry as a top priority; it's time to get committed in our outlook. Today's kids and teenagers are going in the opposite direction of church and it's going to take a lot of vision and passion to turn that around. The reality we face looks bleak but I believe the church can achieve much if it gets behind what God wants to do which I believe is to commit to forming relationships with young people that will help them embrace the gospel as it is lived out in front of them.

8a. Children

It is important to get the balance between in-house and outreach; in-house being the parts of the ministry primarily aimed at "churched" kids and outreach being the evangelistic side of ministry aimed at "non-churched" kids.

At the moment we have the following set up.

10.

I feel I need to explain the target groups in order to explain the long- and short-term goals. We have 4 main target groups:

- * Community kids and teens who live in the area
- * Congregation- kids and teens who pop in to special services or events (holiday clubs, Christmas)
- * Committed kids and teens who attend church groups and have made some sort of commitment to faith, either through confirmation or simply personal
- * Core kids and teens who are "going for God", have made a personal commitment and are growing in their faith

My aims to help fulfil the overall vision are:

- i. Having a team of six adult Co-ordinators, each in charge of one area of the Children's and Teenager's Ministry that I can work alongside in helping them to develop their areas.
- ii. I need to put in place a more strategic recruiting system of new leaders. As the ministry grows more leaders are needed and this is a top priority.

Hopefully, having these co-ordinator roles and more leaders will allow us to expand the ministry.

As far as the children's side of ministry goes I feel encouraged by its development but feel we need to explore new ways of "doing children's church". I have made contact with a children's worker who is involved in just this and I feel it is something worth looking into with the possibility of trying something new in the way of format over the next few years.

11.

8b. Teenagers

As for the teenagers' side of ministry I feel we need more in-house and outreach. I would like to see the following developments happen over the next five years:

- i. A united youth service between the three churches in Chertsey at least once a term. This would provide our core and committed teenagers to participate in ministry, our congregation teenagers to receive, and our community teenagers to try out (dip their toes in the water) something that's not what they expect of the church.
- ii. A week away at Soul Survivor for our committed and core teenagers in the summer.
- iii. An evangelistic course of some sort, possibly youth alpha or a course called Quest that runs at least twice a year, attached to the Hub Night Café.
- iv. The Sunday night youth group, which has ten members, growing and splitting into cell groups that alternate fortnightly between worship and the word, and social events.

To summarize, the Youth and Children's Ministry at St. Peter's is definitely moving in a positive direction long-term, though it needs to increase its efforts in reaching out to non-Christian young people and also to commit in our journeying with our Christian young people. This requires more leaders willing to get involved in this exciting area of ministry and the church to view it as an absolute priority.

9. Mission and Evangelism

The leadership acknowledges this to be central to our existence as a church. All areas of development in the life of the church are to be viewed in terms of their effectiveness in drawing people to Christ and serving in his name. If a church is "mission shaped", then it is by nature, evangelistic. It is arguable, therefore, that a separate section is unnecessary. However, there are particular areas, which may be viewed as specifically evangelistic.

9a. The Alpha Course

Alpha has been the single most significant entry point for the church since Alpha courses were introduced ten years ago. In recent years, its effectiveness in reaching the 'unchurched' has developed year after year, with current courses consisting largely of those with no church links at all. There is now a rolling Alpha programme for adults, a successful Youth Alpha Course, and plans to introduce an Alpha course for older people following on Friday lunchtimes from January 2007. In talking with new Alpha members, and many newcomers generally, the importance of the large banner outside the church as a vital tool in attracting newcomers has become clear.

In recent years, some of our home groups have been formed from the graduates of particular Alpha courses.

We plan to continue to use and develop the Alpha Programme in the coming years.

10. Home Groups

In 2000, there were three home groups meeting (Abbey, Meadhurst and Weymead). By 2006, the number has increased to seven and includes a range of age groups. The number of people taking part in home groups is now approximately 82. Whilst this is a fairly high percentage in terms of the wider Anglican or Methodist church, we aim to encourage a much larger percentage of the church people to benefit from all that home groups offer.

12.

In September 2006, the daytime group 'Mum's the Word' was also set up. This caters for young mums.

A range of materials has been used in home groups over the years, ranging from biblical studies through to evangelism and life style issues.

In the last two years, home groups have taken part in the leading of services in retirement homes (Abbey Chase and The Grange) on a monthly basis. They have also been involved in prayer walks within the town and in the leading of evening services.

11. Songs of Praise

This service continues to be effective in ministering to older members from the wider parish, most of whom have no other regular contact with the church. Through worship and fellowship (afternoon tea is provided after each service) a distinctive community has been built up over recent years in which faith is nurtured and pastoral needs met. This regularly attracts 50+ people with a contact figure of 70+. We plan to continue to develop this monthly service.

12. Coffee Break

This venture has surprised everyone involved by its success from a numerical point of view, and in its capacity to form a much-valued community. Over the last three years over 50 people, many with no previous links with the church, have been drawn into the orbit of St. Peter's. With a good number of helpers this will, as stated above, feed into a lunchtime Alpha group in the spring of 2007.

13. St. Peter's Football Club

The club has been established for many years and continues to compete in the Southern Christian League. The club has always had an evangelistic role and provides opportunities to draw young men into the orbit of the Christian Community. An increasing number of men from within the worshipping life of church are now playing in the team. The annual Football Praise and Dinner is a significant evangelistic opportunity.

As this report goes to press we give thanks for the life of John Dunster whose enthusiasm and passion for the football club has been at the very heart of this area of the church's ministry.

14. Communication

In recent years, the church has invested a great deal of thought, energy and resources into improving the quality of communication at many levels, whether in terms of notice sheets, Newslink or notice boards. A look at material produced as recently as five years ago shows an enormous development and improvement. The Archdeacon's Visitation Report commented upon the high quality of publicity material and notice boards. Much of this development has been undertaken by the church office, especially the administrator. The monthly notice board is also produced with flair by a member of the congregation.

With the quality of reproduction/publicity in the wider world improving every year, the church cannot afford to skimp in the area of publicity.

An area for particular development is the church website. The site is to be completely redesigned by the end of 2006. In addition to coverage of the church's life and mission, we also hope to be able to 'stream' particular sermons and teaching series after the event. Our existing website is visited by over 3000 people a year.

13.

15. Finances

The Diocese of Guildford figures show planned giving at St. Peter's Church to be 20% above average for the diocese, which in turn is the wealthiest diocese in the country. Chertsey by contrast, is as a town towards the bottom of the league table in terms of relative prosperity in Surrey. We can seriously celebrate the growth in planned giving over the past five years and a very generous congregation!

For decades, St. Peter's was unable to pay its Parish Share to the Guildford Diocese. Since 2000 the church has paid its parish share in full every year without exception. We have also tithed 10% of our income every year since 2000. This has also been a time when Parish Share has increased at a higher rate than at any time in history. We can celebrate this achievement!

By 2006, our payment to the Diocese is £64,000 per year. This figure has doubled since 2000. We also pay nominal sums to the URC and Methodist Church.

Despite year-on-year increases in numbers joining our planned giving scheme, we are constantly faced with the need to pass deficit budgets at the beginning of each year. This is an ongoing concern. Our expenditure is tightly monitored at all times.

Whilst our congregations and membership are growing steadily, the average age of our members is falling considerably. This is a positive trend and 'bucks' national trends. However,

older members tend to have a higher level of expendable income than younger ones who are paying extremely high mortgages and have higher levels of family expenses. As older members die or move away, their level of giving (per person) is not replicated by newer, younger members joining the church.

15a. Suggested methods of increasing income

In the coming five years we need to continue our existing policies by:

- i. Continuing our regular teaching on planned giving
- ii. Targeting new members on a regular basis
- iii. Encouraging the leaving of legacies more directly
- iv. Continuing to maximise hall use
- v. Continuing to apply for grants where possible
- vi. Using the Christmas period more effectively to maximise occasional giving

We hope for a small reduction in Parish Share in 2007 owing to changes in the means by which Parish Share is collected. As training curates will be funded entirely by the Diocese from 2007 this will also provide some relief.

16. Building and Plant

The SCC is aware that a building of the size and history of St. Peter's is a mixed blessing. Whilst some churches are responsible for modern, functional buildings with limited upkeep, others such as ourselves have a building rooted in history and requiring constant upkeep.

The property committee believes that a minimum of £2,000 needs to be set aside for day-to-day repairs and upkeep but acknowledges that to carry out repairs and long-term projects will require very significant sums of money from time to time.

14.

At present, projected costs for repair and redecoration of the main building will cost in the region of £150,000 with significant, but smaller amounts being needed for the remainder of the plant.

Whilst the local church can reasonably be expected to fund day-to-day ministry costs, it is questionable whether it can reasonably be expected to finance the upkeep of an historical building of the age and size it has inherited.

The SCC has established (in 2006) a working group to seek community funding especially geared at redecorating and relighting the church. The group aims to obtain funds from the local community and local businesses, and from charitable trusts further afield. A brochure is nearing completion at the time of writing this document, with an appeal being launched in December 2006. It is hoped that the church will be in a position to begin work in 2007.

In addition, the SCC voted to allow an application to the Big Lottery Fund for £150,000 to

provide a new kitchen in the hall, build a new counselling room and redecorate completely. The application will be submitted in December 2006.

17. Social life of the church

As churches grow and change, the need to encourage integration grows also.

St. Peter's has a membership of 220 people with many more worshipping during the course of a given month. The worshipping life is divided into seven different congregations, four on Sunday, one on Friday morning, Songs of Praise and mid-week worship. There is surprisingly little 'crossover' between these congregations and yet all rightly see themselves as part of St. Peter's. Add to this a steady stream of newcomers, particularly to our 10am service, along with children and young people, and there will always be a need to provide events at which integration can take place.

This need for integration is a widely recognised and discussed issue across middle- sized/larger churches such as ourselves, which are growing and have several congregations.

Compared with the majority of established churches we have a high percentage of members in home groups, which in itself aids integration (over 80 people now belong to one of the seven home groups).

Occasional social events at The Abbey draw people from various worshipping groups. Agape suppers, barn dances, firework parties and specialist weeknight activities, including the German and Spanish groups etc. aim to do the same. Spring Harvest also draws together members from various worshipping groups. Our current social organiser has done well to set up events on both the larger and smaller scale but wants to stand down to focus on other areas of church life.

An ongoing series of social events is desirable for the reasons outlined above. However, we along with most other organisations at this time (Christian and non- Christian), are faced with the issue of people working longer hours and with increasingly limited amounts of leisure time. Understandably, individuals are often unwilling to commit to events when pressure on time, especially family time, is so great. With our main 10am Sunday congregation becoming increasingly younger, this latter issue will become more and more significant for our church.

As we move into a new social era, we need to be aware of what is widely seen across our culture as increasing fragmentation in all areas - a so-called 'post modern' phenomenon. However, we need to seek, whenever possible, to provide as many opportunities as possible for the wider 'Body of Christ' to meet as a body both to worship and to socialise.

15.

18. Penton Park Church

This church plant was founded in December 1996 and is based in the Community Centre at Penton Park. The church has gone through several phases since the initial 'plant congregation' provided the foundation.

The church began with one monthly service and has slowly developed to a 'three Sundays a month' pattern. It was the aim of the leadership team to introduce weekly services by July 2006. However, the decision to provide monthly ministry input at Lyne by members of the St. Peter's

preaching team has delayed this move.

A Church Council was set up in 2001 and continues to oversee the church.

In the next five years, Christine Pattinson (LOM) will take on an increasing level of leadership. It is aimed that Alpha will be reintroduced to Penton Park, as well as an indigenous home group. Christine's vision is to encourage more and more people on the park to have their hearts touched by the message of the gospel through witness, commitment and service. It is hoped that in the next year a new home group will be set up at Penton Park.

The decision by the park owners to place a minimum age of 50 for residents will preclude any developments in the area of children's work.

Penton Park's first 'home grown' Pastoral Assistant will be licensed by the Bishop of Dorking in November 2006 following a year's training with Guildford Diocese.

19. Church Office/Administration (Jackie Loveridge/Angela Boast)

The church office is situated in the Hall. It is rather isolated. However, it is a place of frequent visitation and in the future, while there is no particular advantage in moving the office, it would be good to make it more 'welcoming', with more adequate surface space and equipment. Better storage facilities elsewhere in the hall could be made available to stop the office becoming a 'cupboard'! (There is much kept 'safe' in the office by other users of the hall).

From the office all wedding, baptism, funeral and church hall booking administration is undertaken. Also weekly Notices, monthly Newslink, service sheets and publicity/info are produced. Pastoral enquiries are covered by the ministry team on Monday evenings 7.30-8pm and otherwise when office is open : Mon/Wed/Fri 10.30am - 4pm and Tues 9am-1pm. Busy weeks are balanced by quieter periods. Peter Whisker and David Lillicrap oversee the computer which has recently gone 'broadband' and while David has also recently upgraded the system it remains basic and a new computer with scanner would enable better communication with both ministry team and church members. It would be helpful to be able to produce more dynamic publicity. This would in the future necessitate some form of adequate computer instruction as currently knowledge is at best basic.

This Vision document was unanimously approved and adopted by the Shared Church Council at their meeting of Monday 20th November 2006.

16.

Whilst the Vision document needs to be read as a whole in order to appreciate overall

development there are some specific aims which can be drawn from the report.

Church and Community

- * Training of a further Pastoral Assistant in 2007
- * Focus on developing our new link with our newly affiliated school at Stepgates
- * Systematic contact with newcomers to the town with welcoming leaflet to all new homes
- * Establishment of counselling services by 2008

Wider Benefice

- * Appointment of a new curate at Lyne
- * Assist the Parish of Lyne and Longcross in developing new expressions of church (see separate document for Lyne and Longcross)

Ecumenical

- * Update the official Sharing Agreement as required by parent denominations

Worshipping Life

- * Provide regular courses for those reading and praying in public
- * Provision of sermon notes for each main service
- * Introduction of Power Point for Sunday worship both for music and liturgy
- * Develop still further extended times of sung worship in both morning and evening services
- * Establish strong midweek worship

Music

- * Maintain and continue to develop a Spirit led, sensitive music ministry
- * Possibly develop the music group into two sections: Classical and reflective (eg flute and guitar) and more contemporary, with guitar, bass and drums
- * Seek to make the choir numerically stronger (more young people and men)
- * Weddings - seek to be more reliable (numerically) and offer advice to couples on hymns/music
- * Nurture young people to become future leaders through 'Cool Kidz' and other means

Youth and Children

- * Every child and young person in Chertsey to have the chance to hear and respond to the gospel within the next five years
- * A team of six adult co-ordinators, each in charge of one area of ministry
- * Put in place a strategic recruiting system for new leaders
- * A united Youth Service between the three Chertsey Churches once a term
- * Organise a week each year for young people to attend 'Soul Survivor'
- * An evangelistic course (possibly Quest) to be linked with The Hub
- * Cell groups to be formed from Sunday night Youth Group

Mission and Evangelism

- * Alpha Course - to continue on a 'rolling' basis
- * Home Groups:
 - * Continue to form new home groups as each Alpha course finishes
 - * Encourage a large percentage of the church to become part of our home group structure
- * Continue development of ministry to the elderly - see specific sections

17.

Communication

- * Website to be re-designed by the end of 2006
- * Dynamic publicity

Finance

- * Continue to tithe 10% of the church's income
- * Increase annual planned giving

Building and Plant

- * Raise £110,000 to re-decorate and re-light church
- * Raise £100,000 for remedial repairs to interior
- * Raise £150,000 from a specific grant application to re-develop hall and kitchen and build a counselling room

Social

- * Provide a wide range of social activities for building up and encouraging integration of congregations

Penton Park

- * Establish a home group structure
- * Fully utilise newly trained curate and pastoral assistant
- * Increase service regularity to a weekly structure
- * Make inroads for the gospel across the Park

Church Administration

- * Work to better equip office in terms of surface and cupboard space
- * Dynamic publicity

5YEARVISION2007-11