

**St Mark's Church
Congregational Meeting
4 May 2008**

26 People attended the meeting which opened with prayers.

Charlie thanked members of the Leadership Team for their continued hard work in ensuring the growth of our Church, and commented on the vital roll the Leadership Team and all the volunteers play in the smooth running of Church activities.

Leadership Appointments:

Mike Cooper would hold the position of senior Leadership Team member. The remaining members to be Linda Parry, Laura Farthing, Morag Stewart, Deliah Shepherd, Avril Williams and Ian Farthing as Church Treasurer. The Congregational meeting unanimously supported these appointments.

Church Council Members:

Nominations were accepted for the following members of the Church Council; Janet Ibberson, John Day, Janet Day, Mike Elliott, Audrey Elliott, Wendy Waters.

The updated Terrier and Inventory were presented to the membership and approved.

The meeting was advised that the full Church membership listing had been updated. This was a very important Church record, and included a breakdown of the congregations of both Partnership Churches, the numbers Confirmed into both Churches and details of denominations. The records were available for inspection.

Ian Farthing gave a detailed review of the Church finances for 2006/07. Sunday offerings were up 7% and on budget. The number of people taking out standing orders had increased. Letting income from the Church premises had increased by 13%, and thanks were expressed to Wendy and the team of volunteers for all their hard work in making the happen.

In respect to costs, utility expenses had risen by 53% against a background of increasing gas and electricity prices. Ongoing energy savings were being made to limit the impact of these increased charges.

An objective had been set to maintain £40,000 - £45,000 in reserves, currently the reserves were £30,000.

Ian thanked John Day, who continued to look after the Church Yard accounts. The current balance was £6,075. The first Gift Aid claim of £4,755 (covering Apr 07 to Dec07) had been received.

The balance on the Preschool account was £20,410, including reserves.

The Clubhouse account was £5,370. Funding from Social Services for Clubhouse would run through to Sept 2008, but there were serious concerns regarding funding beyond this point.

Linda Parry gave a detailed review of the past year and all the achievements including the development and founding of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. Thanks were recorded for the hard work of those involved in all the Church groups, and particularly to the strong leadership and commitment shown by our ministers, Charlie, Joan and Sam. The full report is also attached.

The meeting closed with The Grace.