



Kingston
Methodist
Church

Annual Report

2008 / 2009

Journey with Jesus

Our vision is to be a vibrant and growing church, winning disciples for Jesus Christ, who undertake a journey of faith towards spiritual maturity within a worshipping community.

Minister's Report

“The sign of God’s leading is that we find ourselves in places where we never planned to go.”

I once saw that on a church banner, but for me it sums up this past year well! When I agreed in November 2007 to be Superintendent of the Kingston-on-Thames circuit, it was on the condition that I would have pastoral charge of only one church - Surbiton Hill. But the Lord (and the Methodist Connexion) had other ideas, and so we’ve had this merry adventure together as I’ve had pastoral care for Kingston as well since September!

Though the work load has been more than I bargained for, I have really enjoyed working with the fine folk of Kingston Methodist. Kingston’s congregation is full of hard-working, energetic, happy people! Many have difficulties in their lives. Many struggle. But when we come together to worship on Sunday, I know the Lord is smiling down on our time of praise and fellowship. It’s not just the children that make Kingston special, though we are certainly blessed with a large number of little ones! Kingston Methodist is a congregation that does away with pretence and embraces one and all with the love of Jesus.

And it’s not just on Sunday morning, either. Sunday evening and all through the week, there are big and small groups gathering for prayer and Bible study, for fellowship and Reflections, for Boys’ Brigade and basketball, for Playbox and cricket, for Rainbows and Brownies and Guides and Badminton! Liz (as Pastoral Assistant) is out visiting people in their homes; Dorothy (as Evangelism Enabler) is interacting with young mums and community folk and whoever shows up down at the pub, all the while coming up with new ideas to get the rest of us involved. The Music Group is practising songs for Sunday. Alan and Roy are doing the DIY jobs on the premises, and Mary is making cups of tea and scrubbing down the kitchen. Young mums and grandmas are juggling babies and conversations. Sunday School leaders are dreaming up ways for the children to learn more about Jesus on Sunday morning. Stewards are putting together countless rotas for who-does-what... (often doing a lot of it themselves!). At various times, magazines and notice sheets are being put together, charity fundraisers and fairs and concerts are being organised, flowers are being arranged, collections are being counted, and agendas and minutes of meetings are being recorded. Pastoral visitors are keeping up with the “poorly” folk, and Thelma’s keeping track of all the “outside” folk who find a warm welcome as they come to use our premises for their own activities. This is a small glimpse of how Kingston Methodist is Journeying with Jesus. Read the rest of this Annual Report to get even more examples!

A prime example of Kingston’s warm welcome came along with the heavy snow of early February and our first experience of Nightshelter. Shirley had kept the idea of opening our premises to Kingston’s homeless firmly on our agenda for several months... and for the four Monday nights of February we had a lovely time with our

guests! A huge thanks to the dozens of folk who contributed food and bedding and clothes and time and energy (and sleepless nights!) to the project. Kingston Methodist shared Jesus' love, and we found ourselves blessed in the process.

I've enjoyed working with the Church Leadership Team and the Church Council and the various committees on a wide range of issues. Together we've worked through some important issues about how and when we worship, how we identify and use our various gifts, how we deal sensitively with the needs of various parts of our worshipping community, and where we feel God is leading our congregation for the future. We will continue to explore these issues at our Church Away Day in June as we do our "Healthy Church Audit". I'm looking forward to that!

Come September, I might just be able to return to the "original" plan - being Superintendent with pastoral care of only one church - Surbiton Hill. With that will come a certain sense of relief from the overwhelming work load, but I know I will also be grieving the loss of "my" church at Kingston. Yes, I know it's God's church, and it's "your" church, but for this year, it has also been "mine". I know I leave it in capable hands - not only those of Angela Shier-Jones, who will be your "minister with pastoral care" - but in God's capable hands, and in the angelic hands that make up the congregation of Kingston Methodist! Blessings on you all, and many thanks for welcoming me in and sharing with me the adventure of the past year.

Much love,

Bonni-Belle

KINGSTON METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

presented to the General Church Meeting - Sunday 26 April 2008

WORSHIP

Sunday School

If you have been around after morning service you will know we have a lively bunch of children in the Church. Alison looks after the 3-5's, Val and I the 6-10's and Nigel the older group. In reality there is a bit of a gap about 10. There are of course many other attractions on Sunday mornings, especially for boys. It isn't easy preparing sessions week after week and I thank the staff for their dedication. Thanks too to the other adults who help out as necessary.

We are looking at a new set of teaching material, 'Seasons of the Spirit' which is based on the lectionary used by the Methodist Church.

How to keep an appropriate atmosphere during Communion Services is also the subject of debate when some of the children are getting restless: but it is a good problem to have!

Alan Bennett

Music Group

The music group has, as most people know, stepped into the gap created when Kevin and Jayne Etchells left us for pastures new, way down the M3. At this point I would like to pay a tribute to Kevin for all his hard work and gentle leadership of the group for several years. Not only did he lead the music group, he played the piano for the remaining morning services, and the organ in the evenings when Eddie was away.

So, a group that played once a month suddenly found itself agreeing to play every week. That had a significant effect on the members, in that it meant not only playing in church every week, but trying to make sure it had a week-night practice, as well. These practices have proved difficult to arrange, because of the various commitments and/or work-shifts of its members. This applies as well, to some extent, to the weekly "line-up". However, in one form or another, the music group has led the music for the morning service throughout the year under review.

We are on the lookout for a permanent pianist, but are very grateful for the help we receive from both within KMC (Liz and Christine) and outside it, most particularly from Sheila Hurton, a member of Surbiton Hill and our “allotted” Circuit Steward. She has become our most frequent visiting pianist and we very much enjoy having her with us when she is able to do so. We were also grateful for the brief period “Sue” was with us, sadly over all too soon, as she moved into a Hall of Residence to be closer to the School of Music in London.

Finally, you may have noticed two new faces in the music group, though one tends to be tucked away at the back. Ben Mundeke and his cousin Winnie are gradually building up a repertoire to join us, Ben to play the drums when Steve is not available, Winnie to join the singing line-up. We mention them particularly, and welcome them warmly, because they are young, enthusiastic, and they bring the average age of the music group down considerably!

Maggie East

LEARNING AND CARING

Pastoral Assistant Report

I have now been in this post for around nine months, and it has been an interesting and varied time. Most of all, it has confirmed my belief in the importance of Pastoral Care as I have visited people in all sorts of different circumstances and places, and shared in their joys, sadness, or anxieties with both those who are established in their faith, and those new to our Church, who are just setting out on their Christian journey. All of it has been and continues to be a tremendous privilege and it is a great joy to support Bonni-Belle, our Minister, Christine Gibb, our Pastoral Secretary, and our Pastoral Team in this part of my work, and I am grateful to the Church for giving me this opportunity. I should also like to thank the Church for your support in enabling me to develop my Pastoral skills in the 12 week Day Release Course I attended in the autumn, and I am hoping (and intending!) to put what I learned there to good use!

On the ‘Learning and Nurture’ side of my role, I was pleased to represent our Church on the Circuit Membership Course, which I think proved to be an exciting voyage of discovery for all who attended, and it was a great delight to support Joanne Honeybone in this, and to hear her testimony at her Reception into Membership at the Circuit Service. I have also been involved with Bonni-Belle in leading two Emmaus Courses, in the autumn and during Lent, and it was good to welcome members of other churches in the Circuit to these, which broadened our discussion. Following the letter I circulated in January, a number of people have expressed the wish to meet for Bible Study during the week, and, as I write this, I am in the process of putting this into action, and I hope these groups will be underway very soon.

Finally, I am grateful to you all for your support in my role as your Pastoral Assistant. Please do keep my work in your prayers, and please let me know of any pastoral needs or areas of concern where I may be able to offer support. I am here for you!

Liz Stuart

Reflection

Every other Tuesday a group of us meet for Reflection. Since Tony left, we have had different people leading, including Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard, Rev David Bennett, Rev Donald Finnan and Dorothy Innes whose singing we much enjoyed. We have a very good social ending to the session with refreshments and plenty of chatter as we catch up on things. Thank you to all who have shared their experiences with us.

If you are free alternate Tuesday mornings at 11.15 am, we would love you to come and join us in this fellowship.

Mary Ansell

First Steps

Last year we explained what we do, as First Step Secretaries. As a general comment on what we do, we're pleased to say there is little to add, in that we continue to have infant baptisms - four since last year's Report.

Occasionally these come from outside KMC, but mostly they are from within our own church family. It continues to be a joy and a pleasure to make our pre- and post-baptismal visits to these families, and to welcome so many little ones into our church family. We continue to encourage those from outside our worshipping community to join us, so that we can help them fulfil the promises they make at the baptism of their child/ren.

Carol Gumbrell
Maggie East

Crèche

The crèche goes from strength to strength, as those of the morning congregation will know! The three years that the little ones spend with us in the crèche seem to pass so very quickly, but just when it seems we're about to lose a large batch of our "babes" to Sunday School, and that the numbers in the crèche might suffer as a result, the mothers are kind enough to provide us with a new group! Furthermore, we continue to welcome new parents into the crèche area, and try to help and encourage them to find friends within our church family.

My thanks to Dorothy for her help in the crèche, and to Thelma, who continues to enjoy a bit of baby-contact while awaiting any further welcoming duties that might present themselves.

Maggie East

Afternoon Bible Study Group

This group has continued to meet during the year on alternate Thursdays from 1.30 - 3.00 pm in the Harwood Room until Lent 2009. We have just finished a very interesting study of the Parables of Jesus (see the current church magazine). Over the last couple of years our numbers have dropped due to ill-health and death, so we have decided that the group cannot meet in its present form. Hopefully there will be new opportunities for groups forming after Easter.

Christine Gibb

Prayer Circle

Although our group is small, we continue to meet every week to pray for our Church, and for areas of particular need within our community. We believe that prayer changes things and that while individual prayer is valuable, meeting with others and sharing our concerns adds an extra, indefinable dimension, and certainly over the past few years we have seen answers to prayer in the growth of our Church family, both spiritually and numerically. We would be pleased to welcome any who would like to join us on a Wednesday evening at 6.45 pm, or, if this is not a convenient time for others who would like to meet together for prayer, to consider other possible days or times that might be more suitable. Finally, if there are concerns that you would like us to pray for, please do let me know, with the assurance that anything passed on will remain confidential within the group.

Liz Stuart

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain still is a very valuable asset to the life of the church and we praise God for the way in which prayers have been answered. Requests for prayer come through to me or Liz Stuart, via individuals or through the vestry. These requests are then sent by email or telephone to the people who have promised to pray for these concerns.

Please remember that we need you to contact us with requests for prayer (not just for people who are sick, but for other concerns as well). Please telephone me on 8549 0899 or send an email to: christine@mi42.clara.co.uk or to lizstuartLP@aol.com: or pass on a message on Sunday (preferably in writing).

If you feel you can pray in your own home for these concerns please contact me. Prayer does change things. We need you to be part of it.

Christine Gibb

Pastoral Committee

The pastoral committee has met twice since the last GCM. We give thanks for the lives of Joyce Stokes, Margaret McBride, Hilda Beedham and Dora Pratt, who have died since our last GCM.

We rejoice that that during this last year we have received into membership Sarah Drane, Mike Stockbridge, Stephen Dawson, John and Jockebed Okaga, and Joanne Honeybone; and also through transfer Dorothy Innes and Mervyn Dela Cruz. Our membership is 83 at the moment, but we hope to transfer some more people into membership on 24th May.

Our congregation is continually changing with many people moving out of the area and others coming in. We try as far as possible to have a pastoral visitor for every church member and regular worshipper. But also during the year we have developed our work of welcoming, caring and learning in our church. Thelma and her helpers are making sure that people are welcomed at the door on a Sunday; Dorothy as our Evangelism Enabler is making contact with many people and setting up meals for the newer worshippers in the church; and Liz, our Pastoral Assistant, has done a lot of follow-up visits of new-comers and others who need visits, as well as coordinating and leading Emmaus courses. We hope that new groups will be formed in the near future so that we can all grow in our discipleship.

Christine Gibb

Oasis

Oasis has continued to meet each Wednesday morning at 9.30 in the Harwood room. We have a good group of regular members but new members are always welcome, with or without children.

For those who do not know what we are about - we follow The Upper Room devotional guide which includes a little bible study and a lot of sharing, support and friendship and hopefully help in each other's spiritual growth. We have also had a speaker who comes the first Wednesday of every month to talk about their own faith and background. We would all like to thank Christine for leading our group each week and Dorothy for stepping in when needed and organising the speakers. Their support, friendship and advice are invaluable. We look forward to our continued learning and welcoming new members over the next year.

Alison Ritchie

SERVICE

Evangelism Enabler Report

It is amazing how quickly the last eight months have passed and I feel very privileged to be part of Kingston Methodist Church. I hope in writing this report it will give you a clearer idea of what I have been doing and what we have achieved in that time.

I believe that developing our relationships with God and with each other is paramount in helping us to reach out to those in our community. To improve my understanding of our church, I have met with different focus groups e.g. those that have recently come to worship with us, young couples, parents with crèche-age children, Boys' and Girls' Brigade officers and helpers, the Leadership Team and some of our senior family. As well as focus groups, I have also met with several of our church family individually. This has helped to gain a greater and wider understanding of where we are as a church and has identified our strengths and areas for improvement.

To help us to integrate newcomers, I have worked with the Leadership Team to begin to develop the Welcome Team so that those entering our doors find a friendly welcome and contact details are taken if the person wishes. Newcomers are invited to our get-to-know-you lunch. Our first lunch was held in January and was a great success. The next is set for May. Helping people become part of our church family and to feel wanted and cared for is an important part of helping our church to grow in numbers.

It has been shown that growing churches are ones where people are enabled to use their God-given gifts. Church members are happiest when using their gifts and least happy when doing tasks for which they are not gifted. To help us to recognise our own gifts, we have begun gift workshops with our Leadership Team and Church Council members. This will help us to discover how we can each best serve God using the gifts that he has given us. The next step is to complete the gifts workshops for the whole congregation.

Getting to know the area and the community that we are reaching is a crucial part of my work. As a parent I have been able to get alongside the other mums at Playbox and the toddler groups and it has been really lovely to see two of our Playbox families come to our Sunday service and become valued friends. I have prayer-walked the area and visited most of the local pubs. I now regularly go to the Honest Cabbage pub and am building up links and developing relationships, gently speaking about the church and faith when appropriate.

Through the newcomer focus group I was able to gain insight into what it feels like to come through our doors for the first time and also insight from a totally unchurched background. Through this knowledge I have been able to make suggestions to Bonni-Belle and the Leadership Team about areas where we could improve our worship, e.g. reducing church jargon, no assumption of knowledge of the Lord's Prayer or the

Grace, a guide for newcomers to services. Projecting as much of the service as possible onto the screen makes things easier to follow for those new to the church. We have been developing the letter sent to preachers to help them have a clearer understanding of our worshipping congregation.

I am at present developing a welcome pack for newcomers that will give them a wider view of who and what we are as a church; this will be completed by June.

Please continue to pray that we hear God's voice as we seek to serve one another and the people he leads us to.

Yours in Christ
Dorothy Innes

Action For Children

(previously known as NCH and National Children's Home)

Summary of fundraising for Action for Children for the year ending 31st March 2009

House to house collection	976.00
Christmas effort including: Carol singing, Christmas collections, and donations	2350.00
Boxes	446.00
Store Collection	272.00
Action for Children Sunday	75.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£4119.00</u>

Many thanks to all who have helped in raising this grand total. Our next event will be House to House collecting in June around some of the streets in Kingston. Please see Derek Gumbrell or myself if you can help.

Action for Children Sunday this year is on 12th July, when we will be celebrating their 140th birthday.

Christine Gibb

Christian Aid

We have once again been involved with fundraising for Christian Aid, as part of a group of churches forming Kingston Christian Aid.

KMC took part in Christian Aid week 2008 with a church lunch, house-to-house collections and the market stall in the market place. Again we benefited from donations of plants from the KMC Plant and Produce Sale.

Our church raised over £1500, which included £1266 for the house-to-house collection and £341 for the church lunch, which was simply bread and soup, and was well attended. The market stall raised £270 with the other churches. We run the stall on a rota with the other churches.

2008 was rounded off when a group of carol singers braved the cold to perform carols in the town centre last December. Together we raised £150.

In total over the year Kingston Christian Aid raised over £13000, a total to be proud of.

Thanks to everyone for their efforts. I look forward to more fundraising in 2009!

Charlotte Jenner



14th Kingston & Merton Company Boys' Brigade

The BB here at KMC continues to play a major part in the life of the Church. Many of our boys are from families who regularly worship with us.

Our numbers are very good at the moment with 16 Anchor Boys (5-8yrs); Junior Section has 13 boys (8-11yrs); the Company and Senior Section has 15. These figures show growth on last year, so we must be doing something right!

We continue to strive to offer the boys a safe, friendly environment in which they can be "themselves". We offer a varied programme of activities suitable to their age to challenge them and help them develop all manner of life skills. This is done in an effort to equip them to meet the challenges that society has to offer (or throw at them) as they become young adults - constantly reminding them of the love of God and sharing the Good News as best as we are able.

There is nothing quite like a Friday evening at BB and if you have not experienced it yet then you are missing out on something rather special. Perhaps you could come and visit us and see for yourself what we actually do!

The Junior Section is soon to go on their holiday, which is to the Scripture Union site near Bridgewater in Somerset - a truly beautiful location in the middle of nowhere.

The Company had a very successful camp in Charmouth last year with, from memory, very little rain. This year we are returning to Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. There will be around 80 on site and I have talked Dorothy and the boys into coming. I think it was the offer of a fully air-conditioned tent that clinched it!

As many of you already know, I will be retiring as Captain and from BB in May 2011. If the BB is to remain here at KMC we need to build for the future. This is not a “put off today what we can do tomorrow”. This requires urgent attention.

Barry Mudie, Captain

6th Kingston Guides



Since Easter 2008 we have had a varied and busy year. We have been to Richmond Park, worked on activities such as the Peace, Party, Flights of Fancy and Chocolate Go For Its, held Mexican, cruise ship and Olympic theme nights and a fashion show. We wrote our own pantomime, went ice skating at Hampton Court Palace, made Christmas decorations, and ended the year with a meal at Pizza Hut. After Christmas, we went to see Cinderella at Wimbledon theatre, and have been working on “Change the world” which is a charity-awareness and fundraising topic in connection with our Centenary year next year. The girls chose the “Help the Hospice” option and we had a speaker from the Shooting Stars Children’s Hospice to tell us of their wonderful work.

Local guiding events we attended were a District party to celebrate 25 years of Forward House, our local headquarters in North Kingston, and the Division Thinking Day celebration, also at Forward House.

We had a stall at the church Plant and Produce sale last May, and sold home made sweets at the Christmas Fair. We have also been carol singing at Kingston railway station in aid of Action for Children, and decorated Harvest and Christmas windows for the church.

We are looking forward to lots of special Centenary events, starting with a big county-wide launch party in September.

Jackie Junemann, Captain



6th Kingston Rainbows

Last year all Rainbows around the world celebrated their 21st birthday; Kingston District celebrated this by holding a big birthday party, with games and craft activities, a sing song and plenty of food.

We also made masks for Halloween, coasters for Father's day, money banks for Christmas and heart cushions for Mother's Day. To sell at the Church Christmas fair we made hanging decorations. We baked and decorated biscuits, made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and chocolate nests for Easter.

We have also started on the Rainbow Roundabout Global adventure by learning about Australia, making animal masks and singing songs.

Numbers are currently 10.

6th Kingston

Brownies

In the past year we have worked for and gained our Entertainers and Toymakers badges.

We made coasters for Father's day, reindeer, penguin and angel money banks for Christmas and cushions for Mother's day.

This year's pack holiday took place at Walton Firs Scout Campsite and the theme was based on Beatrix Potter.

We decorated the church window for Harvest and Christmas. We raised £414.00 for Action for Children by carol singing at Kingston Train Station and we also decorated hanging decorations which we sold at the Church Christmas fair. We also made our annual pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and chocolate nests for Easter.

Numbers are currently 20.

Ursula Williams

Fairfield Playbox Playgroup

We have had another good year. Our staff team remains committed and hardworking - which is good as we have had to get to grips with the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the new statutory framework for all Early Years Providers, which was introduced in September last year.

Early Years education is very high on the priority list of the current government. Research has shown something that most people working in Early Years probably already suspected - that children who have attended good quality provision for the under fives (including nurseries, childminders and playgroups) are shown to do significantly better in later schooling than children who haven't. A great deal of money is being put into improving quality of provision for the under fives and their parents, including various grants for playgroups, such as "Inclusion Grants" which we have accessed on several occasions in order to provide an extra member of staff to support a child with special needs. We also had a grant of £500 to buy ICT equipment such as digital cameras (one for the staff to use and one for the children), a digital photo frame to display our photos, a photo printer and a CD player for the children to use. There is also a grant we could apply for to enable us to develop an outside play area.

The main part of the EYFS that is different for Playbox is that all activities at playgroup have to be "planned around the individual needs and interests of the child, and informed by the use of ongoing observational assessment". Each child has a "key worker" who makes observations which are written up each week and individual plans are made for each child to enable them to develop in all areas. These are discussed at a weekly 'Planning Meeting'. We have always done this in an informal way but we now have to show evidence that we are doing it more formally. Every member of staff has between 3 and 7 children who are their "key children" (depending on how many days they work). In order to pay the staff for the extra hours they have to work, we will need to put up the playgroup fees in September.

We are very fortunate to have the financial support of the church - and the practical support from lots of church members, including our volunteers who work with us - Mary Ansell, Ann Summerfield, Christine Gibb and Shirley Lecky. With their help the ratio of adults to children is maintained without having to pay for an extra member of staff, thereby keeping the cost down. Several playgroups like ours have had to close due to financial pressure and lack of good qualified staff. Which brings me back to our great staff team - almost all of them are now qualified to at least level 2 and two more are going to begin level 3 qualifications in Childcare in September or January. One member of staff is also hoping to start a post-graduate course to get her Early Years Professional Status. Thanks to them and to your support we hope the playgroup will continue for many more years.

Julie Carroll



JMA - Junior Mission for All

Last year I gave a potted history of how JMA started over 170 years ago in Wandsworth and became an integral part of the Methodist Church's missionary work (if anyone would like full details, please let me know). Suffice to say JMA is still thriving today, but the needs it serves are still immense.

So what is the aim of JMA? The JMA promise says it all: "I promise to learn, pray and serve in the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ." We have a small but dedicated JMA team in Chloe, Cameron, Charis, Julie and Remi, who serve by regularly collecting money from members of our congregation - but it's not restricted - anyone can join their list or give any spare pennies they have! Many thanks to our collectors and to everyone who supports them. Thanks too, to Edna for her unstinting help and support.

Our JMA donations have been down on last year (£372), but watch out for further efforts to raise money for JMA projects - for example the senior Sunday School will be holding a cake sale soon. Our JMA service this year will be held on Sunday 19 July where we will recognise our young team's efforts, and this will be followed by a lunch in aid of JMA funds, so book your seat now to avoid disappointment! Where does the money go? £1 out of every £5 is used for 'Mission in Britain' and the remaining £4 for work with children and families in other parts of the World Church.

But it's not just about collecting money - it's about learning and praying too. For example, the recent JMA magazine (copies in the crèche area) encouraged us to take action to stem the tide of climate change through water and energy-saving ideas. There are illustrations too of a project in Tonga which helped build flood defences so that families could move back to reclaimed land after the salt from the sea had ruined their homes, their soil and crops.

So if you would like to help in the work of JMA in any way, I'd love to talk to you.

Val Hayden

The Leprosy Mission (TLM)

Thank you to the faithful donors who made it possible to send £213 to TLM this year. Approximately £46 will be added to this amount by Gift Aid. The Mission can provide a completely effective cure, and continue to support patients, their families and communities long after their treatment has ended. Programmes include vocational training, education, case detection, rehabilitation and reintegrating people into their communities. TLM excels in treating people as individuals, identifying their unique needs and giving the appropriate help and support to meet those needs. More than a medical cure, TLM can give independence, dignity and self-respect to the most marginalised people across the world.

Unfortunately, stigma still prevails, leading to misunderstanding and exclusion which prevents people from seeking treatment when they first suspect they have leprosy. If not treated early enough, these patients are likely to develop debilitating and irreversible disabilities and future complications. With our help, The Leprosy Mission is changing this situation.

More donors would be more than welcome.

Derek Hockham

Queen Victoria Seamen's Mission

Many thanks to everyone who made donations in the last year. £200 was sent to the Mission this year.

Jennie Widdowson

REST AND RECREATION

Badminton

We still meet regularly on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm but numbers have been lower than ideal. New members/visitors welcome.

Please see Alan Bennett for more information.

Alan Bennett

Kingston Methodist Cricket Club



I write this on the eve of the 2009 season, our 106th. After a week of unbroken sunshine, it's bound to be raining for the first few weeks of the season!!

After an extensive net session this close season, the team is raring to step out on to the lush grass of the Surrey countryside and play some fun, friendly cricket.

Overview of Season 2008

Once again, Alan Clatworthy provided a fantastic, challenging fixture list, with some new names on the card, including the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and our now yearly game against the Star Club from Mumbai.

If you look at the stats, our 105th season, and the first under my captaincy, wasn't one of our best. Of the 19 games we actually played, we won 9 and lost 10, the worst number of defeats in a year since 1979, with 5 of those 9 wins coming before the end of the football season.

It all started off so well, 5 wins from 5 at the start of the season with Dave Harry scoring 315 out of his eventual 728 runs in 4 of those 5, including a century against Morden Corinthians.

Our tour was once again a great success, not least due to the competitive fixtures that Alan managed to arrange. In some sense the tour encapsulated the entire season. We were very thin on the ground in terms of numbers due to injuries, work commitments, weddings etc, so instead of picking a side, those who were available, played.

On several occasions throughout the season we had to call upon all our resources to fulfil fixtures, including a work colleague of my wife and a 9 year old son of one of our members. Things were so bad that on two occasions we had to cancel games due to lack of numbers. This is always disappointing, but with an ageing side these are things we as a club are going to have to cope with unless we are able to attract new members to the club.

On the positive side, Iain Alexander and Alex Routledge, both with church links, played a number of games last season bringing a welcome injection of youth into the side. Hopefully they will continue to participate and draw new members to the club.

I was ably supported by Dave Harry as vice captain, he stood in on a number of occasions when I was unable to play. Special mention must also go to Richard Driver who does the day to day running of the team.

The key statistics and trophy winners from last season are as follows.

Batting

Trophy winner:	Dave Harry	average of 72.8
Most Runs:	Dave Harry	728
Most 50's	Dave Harry	6
100's	Dave Harry (106 not out & 100 not out), Michael Hayden (101 not out), Alex Ritchie (107 not out)	

Bowling

Trophy winner:	Alan Clatworthy	average of 15.20 runs per wicket
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Most wickets: David Griffiths 21
Best Bowling: David Griffiths 7 for 16

Fielding

Trophy Winner: Steve Harry
Most catches: Dave Cutts 10

(The fielding trophy is a committee vote for the best fielder over the season, not necessarily the most catches)

Most Improved Player *(for the player that has improved the most since the previous season)*

David Griffiths

Chairman's Trophy *(for all round contribution to the Club during the year)*

Richard Driver

There is still a strong Christian element within the club with ten of the members being regular church goers, and there is still a very strong link to Kingston Methodist with Alex Ritchie, Tom and Dave Hayden, Alan Clatworthy, Nigel Spalding, Jason Soanes, Iain Alexander, Alex Routledge and Matthew Taylor all playing last season.

If you wish to know how the Club is doing week in week out, then the results are written on the fixture card on the notice board near the Upper Hall stairs, or you can ask a player on Sunday, or look at our website at www.thekmcc.com, which includes match reports, results, statistics, club history, etc. Please have a look.

We are always looking for new members to strengthen our squad. If this appeals to you, please contact one of the playing church members or take a look at the website. Saying yes doesn't commit you to every Saturday; it would be nice to hear from you.

In summary, we still have a strong squad, capable of winning every time step on the field. The problem we have as a squad is the commitments we have away from cricket and the nagging injuries that come with the ageing process!!

Please come along and watch us, even for a short time. Kingston Grammar is a nice ground near the river at Hampton Court. See you there.

Michael Hayden, Captain

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Property Report

Since the 2007 quinquennial report we have been monitoring the cracks which the surveyor thought might be subsidence, but little change is evident.

The Avenue Road doors were replaced as the original mechanisms were life expired. I am still looking for someone to plan and construct a new ramp to the main hall doors.

Quotes are being sought for redecoration of the upper hall (last done 18-20 years ago) and for some external painting. The crèche is also due for a repaint: if sufficient volunteers are available we could tackle that in house (but what colour??).

One of the boilers needed a new control during the winter. I remind everyone that the buried central heating pipes are ageing and the control system inadequate: replacement will be expensive.

We are currently looking at ideas for a 'quiet' room and other improvements using the vestibule area of the Church.

Room bookings remain at a reasonable level - thanks to Thelma for organising the booking system and collecting the fees.

Car Park abuse remains a major problem, to which there is no easy solution.

Thanks go to Roy and Martin for help with property maintenance and security, and to Pat for regular cleaning of the kitchens.

Alan Bennett

Finance Report for year ending August 2008

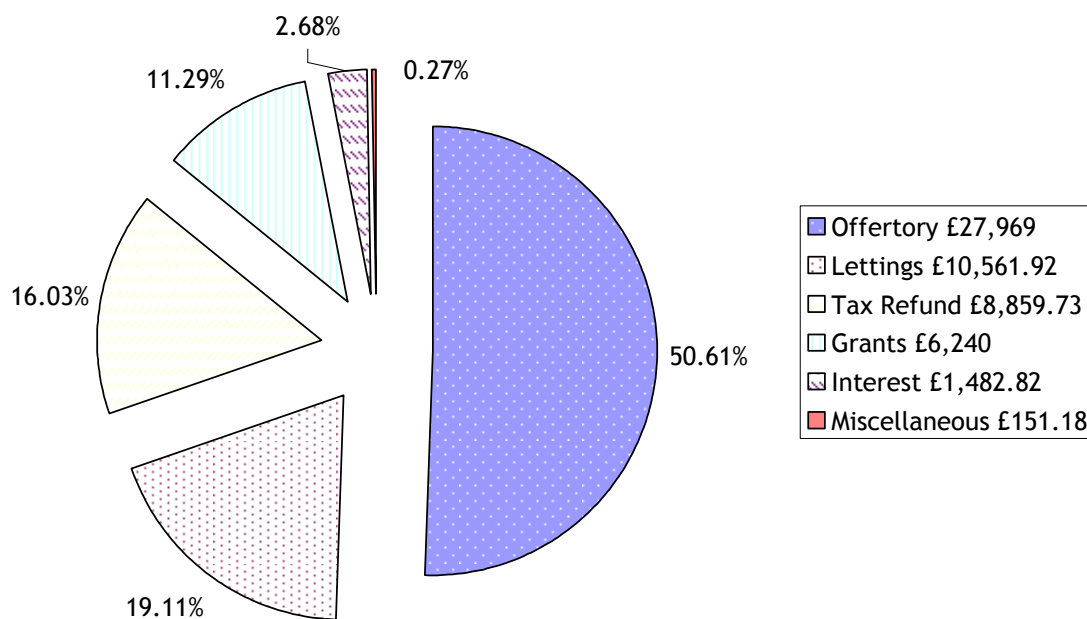
The Finance report produced for last year's General Church Meeting showed a deficit to August 2007 of just over £3,000, primarily due to higher than anticipated expenditure on our property.

This year I am pleased to be able say that, as expected, the situation has turned around and we are showing a surplus of income over expenditure.

The financial year 2007-2008 showed a net increase in funds, excluding collections, (previous year in brackets) of £11,786.54 resulting in end of year balances of £30,893.55 (£23,261.18) in the General Account and £10,070.03 (£9,070.03) in the Property Reserve Fund. KMC also has in excess of £41,000 (£37,000), primarily from bequests and interest thereon, held centrally with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

As most people will realise, our income primarily comes from three sources: giving from the congregation, property lets, and tax rebates on gift aided giving. We also received significant grants from the Circuit in respect of work carried out over two financial years.

Income Summary



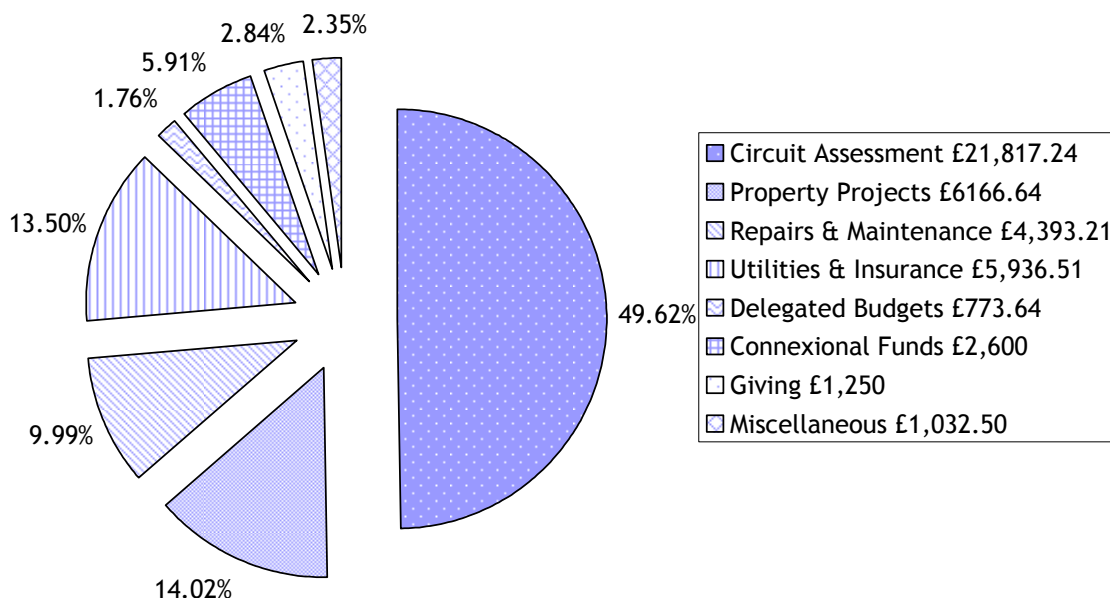
Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Bennett for his work in managing the lettings and Thelma Merrifield for her work as Gift Aid Secretary in ensuring that a large proportion of our “collection” is now made by standing order and is eligible for a Gift Aid tax rebate.

In 2007-2008 Kingston’s expenses came to approximately £47,500. This was inflated by the cost of the replacement side doors, of the other expenditure approximately:

- 57% - paid as Circuit Assessment
- 16% - taken up by Gas, Electricity, Insurance etc.
- 12% - Repairs and Renewals
- 7% - given to the Methodist Church Fund
- 3% - support internal worship-related activity
- 3% - was given to other charitable causes
- 2% - other miscellaneous

The graph below includes the external doors.

Expense Summary



One of the problems of reporting to this meeting is the time lag; we are, after all, already half-way through this financial year, so, perhaps a few forward looking points might be useful.

- We are expecting a significant increase in our Gas and Electricity costs for the current year.
- Although supported by the Circuit and the District 2008-9 is the first full year in which we will be carrying the cost of our Lay Worker.
- The property team has recommended that the upper hall be re-decorated, including some essential “making good”, 3 estimates are being obtained but it is already clear that whichever firm is selected to carry out the work the costs will be sizeable.
- The Church centrally is not immune from the “Credit Crunch” and is facing a large deficit in its pension fund, Circuit (and Ministerial) contributions to the fund are being increased from September 2009 and Circuit contributions will rise again in 2010. The circuit income from the Fernhill Manse has shielded Circuit Assessments from the first increase but is unlikely to be able to do the same for subsequent increases.
- Church Council has asked a small working group to investigate a multi-purpose redevelopment of the back, as you sit in it, of the Church.

In conclusion then, KMC is currently in a relatively healthy financial position but, given the above, there is no room for complacency. The Leadership Team will shortly be preparing a budget for 2009-2010 and will also be reviewing the level of reserves we hold.

The budget and an updated Reserves Policy will be presented to and discussed by Church Council later in the year.

Correction

In response to a question raised at Church Council.

The figures for lettings and offertory in 2006-2007 were over and understated respectively by approximately £2,500.

Robin Alexander