**CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13**

2012 was the year of the Olympics and we remember the excitement as the torch passed through Ormskirk. It may not be our parish but it is certainly our town.

For 2012 represents a marker when we moved from concentrating on our parish as such to aiming to serve Ormskirk, initially through street pastors and now with debt advice and a food bank. This shift is reflected in our church’s strap line – we now aim to share Jesus beginning with everyone in our community rather than everyone in our parish.

To this end church members have become very much involved in Ormskirk Churches’ Together, with Pete Chalk taking over from the highly effective Beryl Mackenzie (of Cottage Lane Mission) as secretary. Geoff Fallows became our church representative in order to serve with the highly successful Park Praise this June.

Our own church ministries continue to prosper, especially now that we are beginning to get the feel of our new Ministry Centre. We thank God for Nick Walkden appointed as volunteer co-coordinator while Cafe Vista goes from strength to strength, having celebrated its second anniversary.

Established ministries, such as Toddlers and Re:vive, continue to prosper using the Ministry Centre, with the Mothers' Union, Wives group and Men Alive helping to serve our church community. The Splashdown holiday club was a great success as part of our Easter celebrations.

This year we had a most effective Lent course, launched at a well-attended session of MAPP (monthly all together prayer and praise) on Ash Wednesday. The new Men’s breakfast continues to draw in men from outside the church family while Alpha had two highly successful launches with converted bank robber Darrell Tunningley and Mark Chester, family officer with Liverpool Football Club.

Alpha, in particular, is highly labour intensive – and so a big thank you who help make this happen, week by week.

Church members took the initiative to organise two successful evenings in the Ministry Centre, Christmas craft evening mainly for ladies and the men’s pud evening.

Times away were important for spiritual refreshments. Folk from Christ Church were able to take part in New Word Alive, New Wine and Soul Survivor with a church party being organised in great haste to take advantage of last-minute availability at Rydal Hall in the Lake District. Thank you to all those who handled the administration.

This Annual Meeting Millie Casey and Alan Thompson stand down as warden and PCC treasurer respectively. I thank God for their wonderful support, their commitment and their hard work, often behind the scenes. We also said thank you to June Nicholl who retired in September as our invaluable and highly reliable church organist. We were delighted when Jonathan Lock was licensed as reader at a wonderful service at Liverpool Cathedral.

On the subject of people, we congratulate Janet Roberts and Mark Stanford, who have served at Christ Church as colleagues, on their appointments as vicar of St Nicholas, Blundellsands and of Holy Trinity, Formby.

2012 was also the year when our church school was awarded the highest possible recognition from OFSTED. Our congratulations to Barbara Stevens and her staff.

On a personal note I joined the Bishop’s council as one of the clergy representatives for the Warrington Archdeaconry while at the same time being elected to the Vacancy in See committee, which has responsibilities in the appointment of a new Bishop.

WE continue to support our mission partners, Andrew and Maria Leake – northern Argentina. It was great to meet up with Pam Sephton and Andrew Gordon before their move from Thailand to Cambodia.

Along with Jacqui we had a wonderful visit to Christ Church, in Charlottesville, Virginia – a church specifically chosen as a link church by Bishop Shannon, the Bishop of Virginia, who opened our Ministry Centre in 2010. We rely on the Holy Spirit to develop this link further. I am hoping that the associate rector, Dave Johnson, will be able to visit us next summer.

Finally, we thank God for those church members who are now sharing fully in the resurrection victory of Jesus. So we thank God for Stella Fisher, Eleanor Dennison, Dorothy Meredith, John Reedy and

James Fazakerley – each bringing to Christ Church their own special gifts and blessings.

***In all this we give God the glory.***

We praise God for all that is passed;

we trust him for all that is to come

In his victory

**Ross Moughtin**

**Wardens Report**

This year Milly Casey and Stephen Marsh have continued as wardens; this will be Milly’s final annual report before stepping down. Ann Roberts has continued as deputy warden, and Jaime Craig has also joined the team as deputy warden. We are all enormously grateful to all those who offer their assistance in the many day to day activities that take place around the Church and Ministry Centre, as well as those who assist in the smooth running of services each Sunday. The audio-visual team, welcomers, sidespeople, flower arrangers and coffee team are totally reliable and reflect an important component of Christ Church, where so many people wish to serve in so many different ways.

Attendance at weekly services has remained strong, and has been particularly high at some key services including Remembrance, several of the Christmas services, and also over the Easter period. It is clear that the community feel connected to us, and that people feel comfortable to attend at these key times even if they do not come to church regularly throughout the year. This is a very positive reflection not just on the services that are offered, and the volunteer teams who assist in services, but also on the welcoming nature of the wider congregation where there is clearly an understanding of the importance of making “new faces” feel welcome.

In Autumn of 2012 we were able to celebrate Ross’s twenty years of service as Vicar at Christ Church, Aughton. Thank you to all those who were involved in the preparations beforehand – allowing us to “hijack” the few minutes immediately after the service in order to make a presentation and read a letter of recognition from Bishop James.

The Ministry Centre continues to be a wonderful success in reaching out to our community. New visitors to the centre continue to be impressed by the quality of the building. New signage appears to have raised awareness of the Ministry Centre and Cafe Vista even further. We are aware of some small on-going technical issues in the Ministry Centre which Josh Johnson, Graham Stewart and others are working hard to keep on top of. We are also conscious of the need to maintain the internal décor to a high standard, and will be considering this over the next few months. In terms of finance, the Café Vista activities and room bookings make a significant contribution to our overall finances. We are therefore indebted to all the volunteers who support the activities in the Ministry Centre, particularly those in the café who maintain such a high level of professional commitment to their voluntary roles.

The main Church building is now due for its quinqennial inspection and report. This will be carried out by Paul Baines, the architect who designed the Ministry Centre. We pray for God’s guidance as we care for this precious building, and consider the needs of all who use it.

The Church’s finances have been under some strain recently, but we trust in God’s provision as we continue to monitor the financial situation carefully. We are extremely grateful to Alan Thompson for all his hard work as PCC Treasurer. Alan’s period of office is about to end, and we pray for a smooth transition when we formally appoint a new PCC Treasurer.

**Stephen Marsh and Milly Casey**

PCC Secretary’s Report 2012

Last year we welcomed the following newly elected members to the PCC: Charlotte Chappell, Jo Frackleton, John Raynor and Matthew Wilson.

John Shaw (Ministry Centre Steering Group) and Jaime Craig were co-opted as PCC members.

The work of the Council this year has been focused on the 5 key values of Christ Church:

Bible teaching and prayer

To share the gospel with everyone – beginning in our community

Finance is a means to glorify God, never an end in itself

Learning to take risks and to be imaginative

Ethos of volunteering

Subjects discussed in depth at the monthly meetings have included: -

* Review of the 2020 consultation: key values and opportunities.
* Feedback from the Vicar’s visit to Charlottesville, Virginia.
* Management of church finances.
* Main issues facing Christ Church in 2013
* Future direction of Youth Work

At most meetings, sub-committee reports are presented from Fabric, Fellowship, Finance, Ministry Team, the Ministry Centre and Deanery Synod.

If you would like to read the minutes of any PCC meeting, a copy is kept in a file in the library corner, or you can obtain a copy from me.

**Laurence Abernethy, PCC Secretary**

**April 2013**

**Deanery Synod**

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings since the last AGM, these were held at Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe, St. James Westhead and St. Paul’s, Skelmersdale.

At Bickerstaffe in June, the main presentation was given by Bethany Nugent about the Church Urban Fund (CUF). This is a fund which was founded in 1987 and now has an annual grant making budget of about £1 million. The CUF aim is to support activities in the most deprived urban areas of the UK, and it particularly supports churches who are reaching out to their local community. A video was shown to illustrate some CUF activities in London, followed by discussion of what our Deanery could do to help the fund. When thanking Bethany, the Area Dean also explained that plans were underway to establish a debt counselling service for our community.

In the remainder of the meeting information about Deanery Mission Plan, and the number of clergy posts was shared. The current funding allows for thirteen clergy, plus extra funding for two other posts.

In a time when some churches struggle to pay their Parish Share, it was explained that if Churches do default then the shortfall would be offset by reducing the Deanery Mission Opportunity Fund. Fortunately no Churches within the Deanery are in this situation, so our Deanery Mission Opportunity Fund remains healthy.

Synod were informed that the decision to appoint a Youth and Young Adults Minister for our Deanery had been ratified by the Diocese, and that interviews would be taking place in late June.

The main presentation at the October meeting in Westhead focussed on giving. Steve Pierce from St. James house gave a presentation titled “Giving Dangerously”. The thrust of the presentation was that giving generously in a Christian spirit is vital. One key aspect in explaining the importance of giving is to consider the outcomes in people’s lives that result from generous giving. We all recognise that there are “bills that have to be paid”, in order to maintain a Church. However if the sole objective of giving is to meet those bills, then the giving lacks a spiritual direction. If people think about how others who are less fortunate than ourselves can benefit from giving to the church then the giving will have a more secure Christian foundation, and giving can also be linked in with Christian teaching. This can also help to overcome a natural embarrassment that many people feel when discussing giving to the Church.

In the second half of the meeting information was given from General Synod. The voting mechanism for the forthcoming meeting in November was explained – this is when the vote on Women Bishops would be made. There was also recognition that “Fresh Expressions” are part of Anglicanism, with a report being commissioned on how to integrate Fresh Expressions further. New Eucharistic Prayers have also been passed – particularly for services where many children are present. Feedback from Diocesan Synod indicated a structural deficit in their budget, which would be tackled by reducing the number of lay posts from 26 to 21 full time equivalents.

In February, at St. Pauls, Skelmersdale, Ben Dyer the new Youth and Young Adults Minister was Commissioned in an act of worship led by Peter Bradley, Archdeacon of Warrington.

In the “business” section of the meeting the General Synod vote on Women Bishops was discussed, and under “any other business” Burscough St. Johns PCC presented a letter to the Deanery Synod expressing their disappointment regarding the outcome of the vote. They raised two questions – one regarding the requirement of a two-thirds majority, and a second regarding whether General Synod representatives are mandated to vote as individuals, or if they should vote to reflect the body they represent.

Ormskirk Parish Church proposed that there should be a greater amount of discretion introduced into the fees structure for Weddings and Funerals. A new fees structure has recently been introduced which is fixed. This means that individual churches are unable to incorporate any fee element in order to maintain buildings, organs and church grounds. Clearly different churches cost different amounts to operate, and surely this ought to be reflected in the fees that they charge. A proposal was put forward to be presented to General Synod and Archbishops Council requesting that the fees structure be reconsidered.

**Stephen Marsh**

**House Groups & Alpha**

We currently have 9 groups meeting from Monday to Wednesday evenings with two daytime groups on a Monday and Friday. Most meet weekly with a small number meeting fortnightly and meetings are held in people’s homes or at the Ministry Centre. Groups vary in numbers and ages and most use the “4 W” structure. (Welcome, Worship, Word, Witness) Our aim is to provide a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for those wishing to grow as disciples in Christ, or even to just meet with Christian friends on a regular basis.

Ross produces weekly study notes for use by most of the groups in the “Word” section of the meetings based on the theme of the week from the Sunday’s sermons, whilst one or two groups follow their own Bible study material. We appreciate all the tireless work of the House Group Leaders in preparing and leading the groups – Peter Bootle, Rikki Abernethy, Liz Chalk, Jaime & Fiona Craig, Phil Weston, Milly Casey & Laurence Abernethy, Audrey Laird and Jacqui Moughtin & Lisa Cowen Carr with the current Beta Group.

The House Groups often gather together for the MAPP service on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, led by Jaime & Fiona Craig’s House Group although this gathering is certainly not limited to House Groups only – please feel free to attend.

During Lent this year all of the groups embarked on a 6 week Lent Course called “Transformed by the Presence of Jesus” stepping in to the shoes of characters who encountered Jesus personally and seeking to learn and grow through these encounters. Many groups welcomed new people during the Lent study and it’s pleasing to see that some of these people have continued to attend.

On the 4 occasions each year when there is a 5th Sunday in the month, one of the House Groups leads the Intercessionary prayer at the 10.45 service.

During the last 12 months, one new group was formed from the Alpha courses that were held Sept – Dec and Feb – April. It starts off as a Beta Group after completing Alpha and then follows several growth courses before embarking on Ross’ material as a house group.

Alpha has been very successful over the last year helping many people to make a step of faith in particular with people from outside church. New people find it a really welcoming environment to explore their questions and beliefs and in the majority of situations it leads to a commitment to Christ.

The course requires a mammoth amount of help and organising and we are extremely grateful for all the work put in by Jacqui and the helpers, for those who promote the course, for those who prepare the food and to all the House Group members and their leaders for their serving and washing up.

The House Groups & Alpha promote an open door policy. They are always open and willing to embrace new members at any time, please consult Ross, Jacqui or myself and carefully consider if you would like to join a group.

**Geoff Fallows**

**Christ Church Youth Ministry Annual Report - April 2013**

**RE:VIVE**

Re:vive, our Sunday morning Youth Congregation, is at the heart of the youth ministry at Christ Church. The aim of Re:vive is to encourage young people to develop a passion for worshipping God, helping them grow in their relationship with God, becoming true disciples, as well as creating a strong sense of community, where the young people can help support and encourage each other as they learn more about being followers of Jesus, and begin to serve God using their gifts. It has been good to see a number of new young people starting to attend, who got to know us through Re:ality. The service on a Sunday begins at 11am and finishes at around 12.30pm, and includes teaching, prayer ministry, and

worship led by the Re:vive band. During the last year our themes for the teaching at Re:vive have included “Evangelism”, “The Psalms”, “The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew Chapters 6 and 7)”, “The Holy Spirit”, “Being the Body of Christ”, “The Bible: God’s Word”, and we had a special guest speaker Tim Alford, who was the lead singer from the band Dweeb, and now works for the Forty Three Trust. It has also been encouraging to have several of the young people speak at Re:vive in the last year. At Park Praise in June, the Re:vive band led the worship time on the bandstand, and did very well. Other members of Re:vive ran Face Painting and bracelet making stalls,and we also had a team who spent the day collecting all the rubbish from around the park. We also did a Flashmob dance in the park, with some children from Xplore as well as young people from Re:ality and Re:fuel. We are continuing to have lunch together after Re:vive on the first Sunday of each month.The Re:vive lunch is a good for the young people to spend time together getting to know each other better. We had another sleep-over in the Ministry Centre on Easter Saturday this year, followed by an Easter Sunrise service on Gaw Hill at 6.50am, which went very well, apart from the freezing conditions (-5C). It was an amazing sunrise, with 19 people attending, with Liam Brocken and Aimee Ellis leading the worship on Gaw Hill. We are disappointed that a number of the young people who had been very regular members of Re:vive for several years suddenly left without giving any notice. This has caused problems in Re:vive, particularly for the Re:vive band, which this time last year was a good size, but is now just two or three young people, led by Aimee Ellis, who is only in school year 10. When young people stop coming it has a knock on effect to others who are their friends, who then also stop coming. We are working hard to try and help and encourage those who have been affected by their friends leaving, to come back to church.

The Re:vive prayer meeting continue to take place on Monday evenings in the Ministry Centre, where the young people can come together to pray for each other, the youth ministry and the mission of the Church.

**RE:FUEL**

The original aim of Re:fuel was to help the young people from Re:vive learn more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. During this last year we have continued to see more young people from Re:ality starting to attend, who don’t have any church background, and less young people from church families, and so the ministry of Re:fuel is continuing to be focused on sharing the Gospel, helping the young people understand what the christian faith is all about and encouraging them to make the decision to become true followers of Jesus. It has been very encouraging during the last year to see so

many young people attended from non-church families, but we are also trying to encourage more young people from church families attend. As well as helping the young people discover more about what being a Christian is all about, we also play games such as Unihoc and Dodgeball, and have quizzes, competitions and fun things to do during the first half of the evening. We then split the young people into age related groups for the teaching time, and get them discussing the subjects we look at in those small groups. The average attendance at Re:fuel is about 25 to 30.

**RE:ALITY**

Re:ality is our Thursday evening open youth club. The aim of Re:ality is to provide a safe place for the young people to come to and bring their friends, and for us to help them discover more about the christian faith, and be a stepping stone towards coming to Re:fuel and Re:vive. Re:ality is also an opportunity for the older members of Re:vive to get involved in serving and reaching out to others. The number attending during the last year has continued to increase, with new young people coming each week. In the last few months the numbers each week have started to go above 70. There is a good

number of young people coming from school years 7 to 10. We have had a lot of very positive comments from parents regarding Re:ality during the past year.

We have pool tables, games consoles, and air hockey tables for the young people to play on, as well as a dance floor and we also do karaoke most weeks. The Re:ality Check room, where the young people can go and ask questions about Christianity has become increasingly popular, which is very encouraging, and it has been great to see more young people from Re:ality starting to come to Re:vive and Re:fuel. We have continued to put on special theme nights including: “Doctor Who Night”; “BAD Hair Night”, “Fancy Dress Night”, “Easter Special Night” and again “Re:ality’s Got Talent Night”, which has been a great opportunity for the young people to get involved. We have also been continuing to run Re:ality on occasional Fridays for West Lancs Community High School, who bring along a number of their students, who all have special needs, as a way of rewarding them for doing well in school. Due to the lack of 6th Formers currently attending Re:vive we are struggling to have enough people to help run the Re:ality bars, and clear up when we finish. We are very grateful to Helen Fallows, Jane Simpson and Julia Maxted who come and help each week with the bars and kitchen.

**MAD**

The MAD Group meets on Sunday evenings and is for the young people in school year 11 and over. The numbers attending during the last year have continued to stay quite low due to very few year 11’s and 6th Formers attending Re:vive at the moment. One of the aims of Re:vive is to help prepare the young people who will be going to university in the next few years, to stay strong in their faith, and learn how to cope with the pressure and temptations that Christian students face at university. At MAD we study the Bible, as well as looking at some of the issues people struggle with Christianity. MAD is also a place for support and encouragement. We would really encourage those young people in year 11 and 6th form to come to MAD as it is a place where they really grow deeper in their faith. What we have found in the past is that most of those who don’t attend the MAD Group soon stop attending church and stop growing in their faith.

**DROP ZONE**

On Tuesday afternoons at our house we have been continuing to run Drop Zone, a place for young people to come to after school to meet up with others from Re:vive for a time to hang out together, play games, and eat lots of toast!

**THE NOISE**

On the May Bank holiday weekend last year a few members of RE:VIVE took part in the national NOISE event, organised by Soul Survivor. The NOISE is an opportunity for young people to demonstrate God’s love to their community in practical ways. Most of our time was spent clearing large amounts of rubbish again from the footpath between the bus station and the train station. We also went into Coronation Park and collected as much rubbish as we could.

**SOUL SURVIVOR**

A good number of young people attended Soul Survivor last summer, several going for the first time. The weather was very mixed, with heavy rain for the first few days, followed by a mini heat wave, with the temperature in the Big Top over 30C! We had a good time again, with great teaching and times of worship.

We are very grateful to Caroline Thomas, Max and Alex Lyon, and Tim Kennedy for their help working with the young people.

***Jonathan Edwards***

***Youth Pastor, April 2013***

**Christ Church Children’s Ministry Report**

**CRECHE**

Our Sunday morning groups have continued to work through our aims for children’s ministry, with the crèche providing relevant teaching as well as an opportunity to reach out to families especially on baptismal Sundays. This group is run by a small but dedicated team.

**MINI XPLORE**

Mini Xplore has been running now for the last year and is a group for children aged 3 to reception age.They have the same teaching as main Xplore but aimed at there younger understanding. It seems to be enjoyed by all attending with an average of 8 -10 children attending. The group has an excellent team who work on a rota basis.

**XPLORE**

Xplore is for primary school aged children from year 1 to 6. We have a small loyal team who run this group , which we have increased from 3 to 4 helpers but sadly at the end of next term will go back to just 3 helpers. Attendance of children has dropped this year with an average of 15 children attending each week. We have been looking at the 10 commandments and the life of Moses as well as Luke’s Gospel and people Jesus met. We had two christmas parties with junior aged children on a Friday evening and crèche, and infants have and there party on the Saturday.

**SPLASHDOWN**

This event was unable to take place this year due to school holidays being set at difficult time to run the event. This year a special Good Friday family event was held . The afternoon started with a choice of excellent crafts to choose from or Games to play, then refreshments where served in the cafe and then an family celebration with songs, video, upfront games and an ester message. Over 140 people attended.

**TODDLERS**

We run the group on a Tuesday morning in term time from 10 am until 11.30 am. Setting up for Toddlers begins on a Monday afternoon due to the large amount of work that is needed in getting everything ready for this ministry. We divide the hall into four areas, each with different toys and activities for children of different ages. The average number attending each weeks is around 75 children plus adult carers, and our highest attendance so far on one day was 90 children plus their carers. We have a dedicated team of helpers, which has increased recently, to help with the huge number of people that attend and serve the large number of refreshments that are provided. We continue to seek to build relationships with the people who come to the Toddler Group and look for opportunities reach out and demonstrate God’s love to them. We have a number of volunteers but with the morning being so busy we are always in need of more help.

**TWINS CLUB**

Twins club is a new addition to our toddlers group. It originally was run by Moorgate nursery, but they were no longer able to run this service so I was approached and asked if we could run this service. It runs fortnightly, on a Monday afternoon and a small group of parents/grandparents with twins meet to play and chat and support each other.

***Rachel Edwards***

***Children and Family Ministry Coordinator April 2013.***

**CHRIST CHURCH .MOTHERS' UNION - 2012**

Christ Church Mothers' Union had a variety of speakers in the past year on the following topics:-

Meditation on Psalm 137

Great Romances of the Bible

Stained glass windows in Maghull Churches

Work of the charity 'Samaritans Purse'.

Jesus - Lord or Legend?

Work of the Chaplain at Risley Prison

Talk on 'Does God Speak?

Work of the Street Pastors

We were pleased to welcome Bishop Susan Ellyn Goff, Suffragan Bishop for our link Diocese of Virginia, who gave a brief talk on the hope to create a link with Christ Church Charlottesville, Virginia, in her Diocese.

The M.U. Banner was presented on Mothering Sunday. Members attended a Lady Day Service at Melling Church and the Wave of Prayer Service in May. We also attended St. Michael's Church, Aughton, for the Women's World Day of Prayer. Members also joined others at St. Paul's Skelmersdale for a Meditation on the 23rd Psalm.

Deanery Events

The M.U. Deanery Festival was held at Christ Church, Aughton

A Fun & Fellowship Teaparty was held at Melling Tithebarn Harvest Hot Pot and Jubilee Celebration Lunch at Rainford.

Carol Service at St. Thomas's Church, Lydiate.

Diocesan

Members attended the Thanksgiving Service at Liverpool Cathedral for the work and service of Diocesan President, Margaret Houghton, who retired after 6 years.

Outings

Visit to St. Mary's Church, Grassendale, for the Flower & Arts Festival on the theme of the Olympics 2012.

A Lunch was enjoyed at the Ladygreen Garden Centre.

Social

A summer Tea party and Bring and Buy was held in June.

Christmas Party plus invited guests

At Christ Church

Members decorated a window for the Harvest Festival and provided a jam, cakes and miscellaneous stall at the Christmas Fair.

Members also contributed in others ways to various Charities.

**Audrey Laird, Branch Leader**

**Men’s Ministry AGM report 2012-13**

Our third year of men’s breakfasts has proved successful, with over thirty men a month consistently coming to enjoy a full English breakfast and hear an engaging speaker. Over the past year we have appreciated talks from a variety of speakers, covering topics such as “Discipleship in the Digital Age”; “Was Jesus God?” and “Taste and See that the Lord is Good!” We were also able to host a popular general knowledge quiz in September, and a multimedia sports quiz January. Both these events attracted a number of un-churched men so included a brief presentation of the Gospel and an invitation to the Alpha Course. We also attended two inspiring men’s conferences in Manchester this year – the *Northern Men’s Conven*tion in May, and one in January hosted by *Christian Vision for Men*. As ever, my thanks to our team of men’s breakfast chefs and ‘washer-uppers’ for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past year. We look forward to future breakfasts and conferences in the year ahead, and hope to participate in evangelistic curry nights being organised by Ormskirk Christian Fellowship.

**Phil Weston, Curate.**

**Men Alive 2011-12**

“Men Alive” meets the fourth Tuesday of each Month at 7.30pm in the Ministry Centre. In September Canon Gordon Greenwood leads the group with the help of a small faithful team.

This year The Revd. Jeremy Thomas spoke about “Life after Christ Church” It is obvious the Lord is blessing him and Sue in their busy ministry in Ashton.

Dr John Horsley spoke to us about “Life behind the wire” he shared with us his experience of serving as a Commander in Afghanistan, this was really enlightening.

The Revd. Cuthbert Jackson who was ordained last year led us in some reflections as we entered Advent.

In February Andrew Lea and Dave Mutch spoke about the work of Street Pastors and how it has developed in the town.

Mike Anderson came to us in March and spoke about being a Torch Bearer for the Olympic Games and for the Lord, this was a brilliant evening enjoyed by all who came.

Our annual trip out took us as far as St. Cuthberts Halsall for a guided tour of this ancient building and then to the Saracens Head for a meal.

In May The Revd. Kim Goh is coming to speak to us about his life, he was a Triad gangster!

We have enjoyed a varied programme and the numbers although not large remain around twenty each month, most churches would give anything to have that many men!

As Leader of the group I would like to thank Bill Evans for his support as Treasurer and Stewart Jackson who organises the catering, ably assisted by Alan Arthur, and a huge thank you to all the regulars who help to make “Men Alive” the happy meeting it is.

One last plug, if you are a man and would like to join us you would be made very welcome indeed.

**Gordon Greenwood.**

**Ministry Centre Report**

We thank God for a fruitful year in terms of centre use and smooth operation.

Nick Walkden has been with us now a year and is happy in his role working with a wonderful team of around 80 volunteers who serve God in diverse ways in and through the building.

A big thank you needs to be said to all who serve in the cafe and those who work with toddlers and the children's ministry, the youth and the luncheon club. Also those who serve God through the numerous groups including the Mens and Ladies groups, Alpha courses and their follow on groups. The Parenting course was hosted here along with Ormskirk Churches Together events such as Street Pastors, Debt advice and the Food bank. We also enjoyed the festive season here with the Christmas fair, special youth events and meals and the centre functioned as a hub for hosting the Pearl of Africa Choir.

Regular bookings are taken from U3A, WI, Lancashire County Council (including as a polling station) and West Lancs Volunteers Services. We've also hosted tea parties and CCA children's parties. The centre is also becoming popular for other church away days and other inter church training events such as UCCF. Centre occupancy can be high with multiple groups regularly vying for car parking space!

On a practical level we have made progress with management of the heating system, employing a local company who have serviced and rectified some long standing issues with regard to overheating. This summer we will consider any needs for air conditioning going forward.

Thank you once again to all those who serve God in and through the centre as well as the volunteer office staff and those who've given of their time, talents and resources to keep things working well.

**Nick Walkden and John Shaw**

**LUNCHEON CLUB**

Luncheon Club continues to meet on Wednesday with a membership of about 48. We provide a well-balanced three course meal that is very popular and still costs just £3.00.

It is run by Pauline Welsh and her daughter Julie Gregory as Julie Edwards left us due to work commitments. Sheila Huyton and Margery Berry have joined the team together with Bill Evans who helps Pete to push the wheel chairs from Hillcroft.

We enjoyed our annual day trip to Llandudno in May and later in the month we had a lovely Sunday afternoon tea followed by “Songs of Praise” in church. There was a new outing in the autumn - a trip to Blackpool lights complete with fish and chips!

We celebrated the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee with an extravagant street party in the Ministry Centre. It was so successful that our members requested Christmas lunch in the Ministry Centre instead of going out to eat.

We would like to thank the Luncheon Club members for treating the team to a meal at Left Bank recently. If you would like to join us on Wednesdays for a meal or as a volunteer you will be made very welcome.

**Pauline Welsh**