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# WBC Annual Report 2005

## **Vision & Direction** – Paul Merton

Knowing where we are going as the Lord's people is crucial to the work of God in the world. The famous "without vision the people perish" phrase from Proverbs 29 really underlines the absolute necessity of seeing our destination.

Having sought the Lord for renewed vision in 2004, 2005 saw us understanding what it means to be called to be a 'missionary church'. One notable further revelation was that the Lord is calling us to be "a light on a hill".

However, the really significant feature of 2005 was the way in which the Lord spoke to us about how to realise this vision. We thank God for the way He showed us His plan and strategy for the next 3 years. Thanks again to the many of us who contributed to "God's Plan for Westgate".

During the year, the Leadership Team continued to consider 'The Way Forward' as a standing item on their meeting agendas. They will continue to do this and to seek God for further vision and direction in 2006. Let's all also keep listening for the Lord's direction. After all, we are promised in Isaiah 30v21, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it.""

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM** – Angela Wilson (Deacon's Co-ordinator)

We began 2005 with the election of a new Leadership team following the decision made to review the way in which we would best serve the church. This resulted in the election of a team of 11 Deacons, together with 4 'ex-officio' members, but no Elders (see details on inside front cover).

Throughout the year we continued working towards clarifying God's Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008 and doing our best to implement it.

We recognised the need to spend even more time together studying the Scriptures and in prayer and have had some great times doing these things, including 2 'away days' and some special times when we met purely to pray for specific issues and for the church more generally.

Sadly Jan McCuin (July) and Sandra Wheatley (December) have both felt unable to carry on as part of the team for personal reasons and we will miss them both. Ruth Rees is taking 2006 out as maternity leave but we hope she will rejoin the team in 2007 and we are delighted to welcome Hazlene Bess and Ross Smith to the team following their election in December 2005.

Please continue praying for us as we seek God's guidance, wisdom and strength to fulfil His purposes for us as we lead the church.

**The following reports are arranged in sections reflecting our agreed Action and Support Team structures (see inside back page).**

## WORSHIP

*planning and implementing high quality, attractive, genuine worship times when people will be able to worship an awesome God and will meet the living Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

### **WORSHIP** - Paul Merton

This team continued to meet once a term throughout 2005. The team supports the Pastor and two of the Leadership Team in their responsibility of overseeing our worship. It comprises our Worship Leaders, music team co-ordinators, sound system team co-ordinator, and projection system co-ordinators.

The team continued to organise the music teams and Worship Leaders who lead us on Sundays, co-ordinating things with the sound and vision teams too. Another task is supporting the people within these teams. Whilst another task is considering the development of our worship as a church and considering ideas and feedback from us all.

A few years ago we agreed a vision statement for our times of worship: "We aim to create a Holy Spirit-inspired opportunity for people to engage with God and give Him their adoration". In 2005, our 3-year church strategy committed us to "planning and implementing high quality, attractive, genuine worship times when people will be able to worship an awesome God and will meet the living Christ." This is the aim and function of this team, so please pray for us as we serve the church to this end.

We say a big 'thank you' to each member of the teams for all they do to make our times of Sunday worship consistently honouring to the Lord.

One new development to mention in 2005 was the refocusing of our Sunday evening worship times onto the Lord's Supper with prayers for healing; onto contemporary worship which is particularly relevant to young people; onto praying together as a church family, and onto bring the Gospel to our international friends and contacts. These 'for us all but especially for people in particular situations' times have enriched our worship and developed our ability to share Christ.

Another highlight of 2005 was the truly extraordinary 'Praise Day' with Matou Samuel in September.

Please also pray especially in this New Year for an increase in our adoration of our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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### **Prayer Ministry Support Group.**

The main disappointment over the year has been the continued lack of numbers at our Midweek Church Prayer Nights. It is hoped that the alternative Wednesday night programme, arranged by the Leadership, will have a better response & that prayer will be an integral part of these evenings.

The occasions when Prayer Nights have been held on Sundays have attracted more people and these have been rewarding.

We are particularly grateful to those House Groups who have been willing to lead these nights and any others who would like to do this should have a word with Brian. (It's the Third Sunday in the month.)

We are proposing change to the Prayer Diary, For a trial period it will be published weekly so that topics offered for prayer can be as up to date as possible. Please see

Janet, Carol, Dorothy or Brian if there are things you would like included, or answers to prayer you would like us to know about.

We have a very full Church programme ahead of us. Its fruitfulness, or otherwise, will depend a great deal on us praying over it.

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### **Music Team 1** - Rick Woolfall

During 2005 we have been Naomi and Bryony, singing, Rick on the piano/organ, Stew playing drums, Ross on guitar, and Duncan on guitar or saxophone. We've often been assisted by members from other teams, and it's good that everybody can work together.

The different flavours of evening service which have been running this year (youth, prayer, international etc.) have meant a reduced requirement for music in the evening. A spin off for us, when this occurs, is more rehearsal time to devote to the morning service - which means we really can do it justice, and that is more satisfying for everybody.

A focus for prayer this coming year would be our own availability. We're all busy people and with so many competing needs, it can be hard to keep dates free - even if arranged a long time in advance. Please ask that God would continue to work to provide sufficient musical support for his worship, Sunday by Sunday. Let's also thank him for what we have; it is a luxury, which few churches enjoy to the level that we do.

### **Music Team 2** - Ann Sudworth

Ruffine Apudu, Sarah Pulsford, Jan McCuin, Sandra Wheatley, Andy Forster, Ann Sudworth, Stan Sudworth.

As a team we continue to provide musical support to those leading worship and to facilitate worship on Sundays.

We are a mixed bunch with different levels of expertise in playing instruments and singing, but we all have a heart for worship and a willingness to serve God and to glorify Him with the gifts and talents we have.

### **Music Team 3** – Carmen Boothe

Members: Sarah Forster, Gill Rees, Christian Lombe, Stewart Garry, Caroline Daly, Nathan Toseland, Paul Merton and Carmen Boothe.

2005 has been a good year for us. We feel that God has brought us closer together and has blessed us in our efforts to serve him. We have facilitated worship under the direction of a variety of

worship leaders and felt privileged to be a part of the extended Praise and Worship event organised by our African brothers and sisters. It was a new experience for many. We hope that the worship at Westgate will be taken to a new level in 2006. 'Not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit'. (Zechariah 4:6)

Pray for us as we continue to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord'!

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## **MINISTRY –**

*giving all those who are part of the church family the opportunities to discover and develop their God-given gifts and help them find ways of expressing themselves in service to others.*

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Administration** – Angela Wilson

As ever this has been a busy year for us all and much of the work of administration support has been shared by several people. My thanks to all those who have helped so faithfully in many ways.

Westgate continues to be used as a resource for a large number of local and national groups requiring premises from which to publicise their work and offer training to many people. It is a great opportunity for us to have a positive impact on these influential professional bodies and Christian organisations alike who we serve in this practical way as well as to use our building and support our work with additional rental income.

Much of the administrative work of the church is done to support our many areas of ministry and it is a thrill each day to experience the many different ways the church is able to serve both those who are already and those who are 'not yet' Christians .

I look forward to 2006 and to the development of more effective ways of witness and support as we develop and implement God's strategy and seek to be a real 'light on the hill' for Him.

#### **Lighting** - Alan Haswell

2005 started with somewhat of a flourish with the new format of evening services giving us a new challenge especially in the youth services. But with the onslaught of summer and "Natural lighting" we took a little break. The year though was not without some challenges. Shelly and Gary Watson's wedding and Bubbles, Ron Wilson's Purple light from the Baptistry, How many colours we can use to highlight the Cross.

Towards the end of 2005 saw the purchase of our first intelligent lighting or as they are known in technical terms "Wobbly Lights". Also, the first challenge of 2006 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the use of the oldest lighting effect a Mirror Ball! So, let us see what the rest of the year may bring

#### **Multi-media** - Janet Webster, Donald Daly

The multimedia team continues to run with a small team of operators:- Donald Daly, Andy Forster, Joan Lidgate, Carol Taylor and Janet Webster. The multimedia generally ran smoothly during the services over the last year, due to our increasing familiarity with the software and equipment. We would be happy to welcome new people to our team so if you are interested, please speak to Donald or Janet.

#### **P.A.** - Simon Lloyd

This year has seen changes first of all in team membership and it has been sad to see both Ron Aynsley standing down after 16 years and James Garry as he has gone to university. So it has been great to be joined first by Linda Mutunga and at the end of the year by Andy Foster. So with Alan Haswell, Lewis Schofield and myself we currently have a team of 5 with backup support from Richard Taylor and Ron Aynsley in emergency.

During the year heavy rain led to flooding that damaged the mixer desk as well as other equipment, so we had to hire in an alternative mixer until ours was repaired. We are struggling with stage wiring problems that we are hoping to replace with flexible, rather than inflexible, wire during the coming year.

Please pray for our work in supporting the services etc and for at least one other person to join the team.

### **Westgate News** - Simon Lloyd

I am delighted to report that 6 editions have been produced this year, particularly as this has included contributions from different people leaving me very little to write. So first I want to thank all those who have contributed articles when I have asked for them and the small team who have edited each edition. In particular thanks to Angela for printing off each edition.

During the year we have expanded from 4 to 6 pages. I can see the time coming when that could grow to 8. While I appreciate all the articles people provide, I could always do with more; so if you would like to send me a brief personal testimony, an interesting article or something else we could include, please contact me.

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## **MINISTRY SUPPORT**

### **Caretaking & Cleaning** – Angela Wilson

Keeping our building clean and tidy is a huge job. Each week every room in the building is used many times and for many purposes. This results in a heavy work-load for our caretaker and cleaner (both part-time). On their behalf, I would ask everyone to be considerate of them and not expect them to do things which we could do ourselves e.g. please leave any room you use as clean and tidy as it was when you entered it; report any damage or breakdown of equipment (accidental or otherwise) to the church office so that things can be repaired or replaced as soon as possible and make every effort to consider other users. My thanks to Alan Haswell, Ann Horn, Mick Graves and to Janet Wilkinson, who took over from Mick towards the end of the year, for their willingness, cheerfulness and flexibility as they serve us.

### **Duty Rotas** - Angela Wilson and Irene Baxter

A significant number of people from the congregation are involved in various areas of ministry support as they regularly serve us in different ways. These are such important jobs in making our services run smoothly and we are very grateful to all those who serve in these ways. It would be even better if more people would volunteer for at least one of the rotas so that the work could be shared further. We need : - men for car watch, pairs or families to serve refreshments after the morning service, friendly people for door stewards, crèche carers, Bible readers etc. Whatever your gift we can find a place for you to serve, please just let us know.

### **Flowers** – Ann Horn

Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

We said farewell in 2005 to Frances Gilbert and Alice Weir, faithful providers of flowers for many years, but our loss was God's gain and we rejoice because they are safe and happy with him. I am greatly encouraged by the willingness of others to take over those spaces on the rota for buying flowers.

I am thrilled to bits to welcome new arrangers to the list. To all the arrangers and donors I say thank you for your willingness to serve God in this way. It is a wonderful testimony of God's love and grace.

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## **PASTORAL**

### **Pastoral Overview** – Paul Merton

In introducing the reports that follow, I want to start by paying tribute to the loving care expressed in the church in 2005.

In Romans 13v8 Paul writes, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another". In many different ways this mutual care was given and received.

In addition, care was also given by those who have a special ministry in this area. We warmly thank and pay tribute to the care of Ann, as Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator, and to her team of Pastoral Carers. Also to our Leaders; Small Group leaders; Youth Leaders and Nathan, our Student Youth Pastor; our Young Church Team; and those who especially care for our elderly loved ones.

In the course of the year, Abel Rees stood down as Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator, and we thank him again here for his wisdom, diligence, and love given to us and his team whilst exercising this ministry.

During 2005, the Lord brought together for us a 3-year church strategy. This was agreed together in June. As part of this our aim for the care of each other is set as "providing a safe, encouraging place for people to develop and grow, and where everyone is welcome". As Pastor, I am glad to observe that so many of us are trying to contribute to this through our love, support and care of others.

In 2006, we will continue to aim to love each other more and more so that the goal of Christian maturity is reached. For pastoral care is not just about meeting needs. It is also about helping each other to "press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us" (Phil 3:12).

### **Pastoral Care Team.** - Ann Sudworth

I took over as coordinator of the pastoral care group at the church meeting in September. It was a decision I took after much thought, prayer and throwing out many fleeces ! I feel it's an awesome task to follow someone as capable and wise as Abel and hope and pray that I can build on his original vision for pastoral care for all those attending WBC. I would like to thank Jan for all her hard work when she took on the coordinators role as a temporary measure when Abel stepped down.

There are some possible changes in the way that pastoral care is delivered within WBC and the progress of this will be outlined at the church meeting.

By the beginning of 2005 we had all completed a pastoral care course run by the BU which stimulated us to think about guidelines for good, safe practice. Following on from this Paul Tiffin and Paul Merton, with some input from the pastoral carers, produced a set of guidelines for boundary setting, care and good practice for use within the pastoral care team, which we have adopted.

I would like to thank all those who are, and have been on the pastoral care team within the last year and have given their time to help and support those in need and to

encourage Christian growth within the fellowship by visiting, letters, chats in church or telephone calls. I also would like to thank them for the support they have all given me since I took on the role.

Team members.:- Norma Dial, Shelagh Garry, Naomi Gazzard, Ruth Higgins, Fiona Le Geyt, Joan Lidgate, Christian Lombe, Danson Mutunga, Sarah Pulsford, Nathan Toseland (Youth)

### **Student Youth Pastor** – Nathan Toseland

Over the past year I seem to have had experiences outside measure and experienced God in so many rich and diverse settings. Amongst the highlights I continue to take joy in learning developing through the CYM course and am pleased at the amount of work that has come and passed throughout the year. I qualified as a professionally recognised youth and community worker in June 2005. My time with young people has been wonderfully challenging and stimulating and I never cease to be amazed by their honesty and inspiration for all things creative and Godly. It has been great to be part of the team establishing the Youth Klub and to have the chance to learn and develop through the youth services. Particularly this year I enjoyed the chance of spending time with our friends down at WERS and all the new experiences that brought. At the start of this next year the main focus of my efforts will be with pulling our NE1 project together making sure that we do the opportunity justice, as well as trying to help us build on the ministries that we already have in existence. I also have the challenge of pulling a dissertation together as the last step towards completing my degree.

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## **MISSION**

*taking God's light out into the community and opening the doors of the Church in ways which make those outside want to come in and find out more about the God we worship and serve*

### **'Evangelism'** - Paul Merton

Evangelism, understood as that part of mission which is about the communication of the Gospel with an accompanying invitation to follow Christ, remains a top priority for us.

Over the year, God has continued to develop in us an understanding of the strategies He wants us to use to share and be 'good news'. This includes a major emphasis on reaching those who live around our church building by helping, visiting, and building friendships with them so that we create with the Holy Spirit 'God-moments' when we can speak the Gospel into their lives at a time when they are really listening.

The Gospel was also regularly communicated in our times of Sunday worship. Also, there was some 'fruit' harvested as several people committed themselves to Christ and publicly expressed this by being baptised.

During 2005 some in the church were very active in personal evangelism among their family, friends, neighbours, and work colleagues – something which is regularly encouraged in the Sunday teaching ministry of the church.

At the end of the year, God led us to a new lifestyle-evangelism training called "Blowing Your Cover". This will be a major emphasis in the early part of 2006. Please pray that this and other things over the course of the year will be touched by God's anointing so that we are even better equipped to lead others to our Saviour.

## **HUB Manager's Report - Joan Davison**

2005 has been a year of significant change. We have said farewell to Becky Polito and seen the implementation of a new management structure with Westgate Baptist Church now standing independent of their original partnership with Spurgeon's Child Care. Becky continues to support the work of The Hub on a consultancy basis and maintains a passion for the social action taking place in the Arthur's Hill community. We wish her every blessing in her new employment.

We have also seen a number of the services come to an end:

- Basic Skills
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- ITC (Information Technology Class)
- Drummed Up
- AMSA (Asian Mothers Support Association)

As with other Hub activities these groups were established in response to an identified need in the local community. Social change, government policy and the natural life span of the group are some of the contributors to this situation. As ever it has been a pleasure and privilege to play host to such a wide range of services.

The Hub is committed to equal opportunities and non-discrimination. We continue to offer our service and support to all who arrive at our door. Staff members have attended relevant training opportunities during the year. Staff and volunteers are committed to good practice, we now have in excess of forty volunteers working towards the Hub's mission, 'to strengthen, support and help families in the Arthur's Hill Area'.

There are fifteen regular planned opportunities reaching over 280 people weekly to learn, build relationships and share the good news in the life of the Hub. (excluding worship times) Numerous community activities have been held here and we are continuing to build on our reputation for hospitality and accessibility to the community. As a result of these events a number of people from the locality, residents and colleagues felt able to attend our Christmas services. We have seen an increase in young people now able to attend young church and relationships with their families are developing, and there has been an increase in the number of people receiving one to one pastoral care and support.

Networking is integral to the development of The Hub

- We have maintained our good links with other agencies and regularly attend the Arthur's Hill Workers Meetings which started up in September. At the last meeting 18 different agencies who work in the area attended the meeting.
- West End Refugee Service continues to work in partnership with the Hub and I believe that we have strengthened our relationship with all who support and attend the group.
- Footsteps Nursery is now well established and we look forward to working with them in the future. The local community and many of our visitors have benefited from the facilities that they are able to provide. They have continued to offer employment to people who live in the locality and support the work of other agencies in and around the Arthur's Hill community.
- Sure Start continues to work on a regular basis and together we are able to ensure consistency and quality to the families who live and work in the area.

At first sight it would appear that the service users have very little say in how the provision is developed, run or how finances are allocated. During these past months I have been encouraged by the quality of work that is apparent. Our volunteers work in a manner that is person centred and as a result of this are constantly discussing service provision with those who attend the groups and respond to their ideas and expectations wherever possible. In the absence of the Steering Group I see no reason why we should not be able to extend this practice and invite individuals to be part of the decision making at group level. I believe this is the way forward if we are to be fully inclusive in our ministry.

It has been amazing to witness the growth of our Youth Work in the last 12 months. The numbers increase weekly and we now have over 75 young people attending out of school sessions on a weekly basis. While Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have long been established in the community of Arthur's Hill, and continue to be supported by a small, but thankfully, steadfast team, I feel that the fellowship should be encouraged by the opportunities and relationships that have grown out of KidzKlub and YouthKlub. It is vital that we continue to reflect on our practice and seek opportunities to include all young people in all areas of the work taking place.

The Family Fun Day was again a roaring success, attended by over 500 people. We expect that with the development of the Westgate Foyer, due to open January 2006, we will see an increase in the numbers attending this year.

As we enter the New Year I am conscious that something spiritual is happening. The work of The Hub is changing. I am excited when I look forward to the next 12 months. I feel that God wants us to be set alight by his spirit so that he can be living and active in all of our lives. Each of us is unique and God's purpose for us varies from person to person. The Lord will be using the same words to speak to each of us but the Holy Spirit will interpret the words differently for each person. I would encourage you to share His wisdom either with my self or a member of the Hub Management Committee. My door is always open and we would welcome your thoughts and prayers.

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## **INTERNATIONAL**

**Hubbub** – Joan Forrest

*"At my English class we had to write about a holiday. I have never had a holiday so I wrote about the lovely day we had to Holy Island and all the green fields we saw and the friends we had."*

This was said by an African lady who comes to Hubbub and it reflects some of the light that we are able to bring into the painful lives of some of the asylum seekers in the area. We had three trips this summer with wonderful weather and for two of them we enjoyed the warm and generous hospitality of the U.R.C. Churches in Glenridding and North Northumberland.

Our weekly group is well attended with the services of an advice worker and willing volunteers and the provision of hot snacks and drinks, though attendances range from as low as 10 people to almost 100. We are looking to find someone to beat Geoff at table-tennis. Our Christmas party was a huge success and we were able to distribute gifts and sweets to about 50 people.

## **Hub International** - Diane & Richard Taylor

The year was profoundly affected by the absence of David and Caroline Whitton because of David's ill health – they are much missed for their contribution, especially in leadership and direction. The programme continued, but the work is harder for all involved, with fewer helpers this year.

International Teas continue, but have seen a drop in attendance, and also a change in the folks coming, with less from China, and more from Africa – an enjoyable challenge. With the Evening Service now becoming an extension of the Tea, many more have stayed on – a great encouragement, but it would be even better to share with more from the Church family!

Events this year were the usual mixture of fun and chaos: the Kurdish Night in the spring, the trip to Cragside in the summer, the African Night in the autumn, and finally the Christmas Party. These have been, and always are, lovely times together – why not join us sometimes?

Bible Studies continue from time to time for a few people – the Gospel is displayed in all we do.

A big *thank you* to everyone who has helped and been involved in so many ways – take heart and keep smiling!

Please pray that the future will become clearer, that more helpers will step forward, that more of our international friends will join us, that we all can share in Jesus' love, that we can help and befriend.

## **Language Classes** – Diane Taylor

The language classes have been going well this year despite the predicted drop in attendance during the summer months and the period of Ramadan.

The morning classes have reached to eleven students coming from India, Bangladesh, China, Syria, Eastern Europe Africa and South America. The afternoon ladies class has had up to fourteen attending. These are mainly Arabic speakers whose husbands are studying at the university. Most of them have had babies whilst in England so the services of the crèche have been invaluable.

It has been sad to say good bye to students who have returned home and with whom we have built up good friendships. We have also been sad to lose Isabel, Heather and Geoff who have faithfully served the language classes for a long period. We thank you for all your hard work. Thankfully, God has provided Gillian Haxwell and Urszula Piotrowska to help us.

It has been really good to see a few members of the classes coming to Hub International events and also to the Christmas services.

The students are a delight to teach. There is a tremendous cultural exchange in the classes. It is lovely to see the students treating us as friends and we have sometimes been able to help them in practical matters and have even prayed with one male student.

The classes, however, can be very challenging to plan for, as we never know how many will be attending. Also, new members with no language will want to join us when the rest of the group is well established in the basics of English.

### **Items for Prayer**

1 For imaginative and careful planning for the classes and for adaptability when teaching support, for various reasons is low, and new members arrive unexpectedly.

- 2 That we can develop further good friendships with the students and show them the love of Jesus.
  - 3 Pray that even more students will attend more of the Hub International events.
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## **YOUNG PEOPLE**

**KidzKlub** – Jim & Shelagh Garry.

What a year! This has been a huge encouragement to the team and should be for the church. We have seen a large number of children throughout the year with an average attendance now in the mid 30's. The programme is a mix of pantomime, messy games, worship, learning memory verses and teaching with a strong emphasis on application. It is a process we are engaged in but we have good relationships now and have

seen a difference over the year and on occasions have been surprised and delighted watching them applying what they've learned. We have been particularly encouraged by the number of children wanting to pray at the end of each session; so much so that we have now decided to split into small groups so that each child has an opportunity to pray! As a team we know and have experienced that prayer is vital and that God answers in remarkable ways particularly when we pray specifically.

Apart from the Friday sessions members of the team also visit the children at home on a weekly basis as often as possible. This has proved invaluable in terms of relationship building, understanding the children and the needs of the families and insights for prayer. Practical help has also been given to parents and children on occasions. We have so many stories we could share and would be happy to speak to anyone especially to anyone who would like to commit to praying for the children. It's great fun and a real encouragement to be part of this work.....anyone interested in joining us???

**73<sup>rd</sup> Newcastle Beavers, Cubs & Scouts** – Amanda Sudworth & Norman Dixon

We started the year ever short of leaders, March was a crisis point when Chris Hudson took some time out due to ill health. He was a great loss to the group, especially for his enthusiasm and menus at camps will never be the same again!

This year the team became that of Norman Dixon and Amanda Sudworth, they have kept the group running by very hard work and lots of determination. It has been fantastic to have Norman on the team again and the group grows from strength to strength.

Amanda now runs Beavers & Cubs and Norman runs Scouts, we have the support of two dedicated parents, Amanda Kappen and Tom McDine. Numbers are good and we have between 15 & 20 children each week, there is lots of laughter and fun as well as working hard towards gaining their badges. The cubs and Amanda enjoyed a good weekend at Dilston for their annual District Cub camp in September and enjoyed meeting and developing friendships with people from other groups in Northumberland.

This year we have welcomed two new Group Scout leaders, Joan Davidson and Richard Taylor who have given, and continue to give, the children and leaders valuable support. We also have to mention Ruth Higgins who is our excellent Treasurer and Brian Lidgate who is the group's chairman, without their input the group could not literally function.

Our aim for 2006 is to continue to challenge the children in Scouting and to provide a christen witness to them and their families. Also that we maintain and develop the strong links that we have as a group with the children and their families.

### **73<sup>rd</sup> Newcastle Scout Group – postscript.** Richard Taylor & Joan Davison

Amanda and Norman's report is rightly enthusiastic and forward looking, but we must mention the near heart-break around last Easter when Chris Hudson's need to step down brought the likelihood of closure of the Group.

Happily that was not to be, but the distress of the time brought out a new appreciation by parents and children alike of the value of the Group to them. We still have a lot to do – growth takes continuing hard work and commitment. We need to continue reflecting on our practice and to discover new opportunities to include all young people in all areas of youth work. Please pray for us all for clarity of vision, for greater effort and success in bringing the Gospel to all in the Group, and for plans as yet not fully formed for development in the Group Leadership.

### **YouthKlub** – Nathan Toseland

In the past three months we have already experienced relative success with this new service. Over the course of the three months including a number of weeks break for Christmas we have had contact with 37 young people between the ages of 11 and 16.

Each week we have been able to communicate the gospel to them often through modern parables and stories and are now settling in to building long term relationships with the young people. There has still not been a week where we have not had at least one new young person come to try us out and we feel richly blessed by God within this work. Each week we had anywhere between 15 and 22 young people and are continuing to develop a loyal clientele. Within the next year we hope to develop on the service we are providing including making the most of summer and good weather activities and day trips. We also have the challenge of finding new leaders as Andy and Stacey Forster step back with the arrival of their new child. We hope and pray that God will continue to help us build and establish and bless this work through Jesus and for His kingdom.

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## **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **Baby PEEP at the Hub** Tues 10-11.30am (Term time only) – Gwen Harvey

Baby PEEP is for parents and babies under one. It's friendly, free and fun. PEEP is about adults and children playing, talking, listening and singing together and sharing books.

- We share stories, songs and rhymes
- We lend books and play packs
- We help parents and carers with babies and children's early learning
- We offer suggestions about things to do with your baby at home.

In the last 12 months we have enjoyed group outings to the Library and Nuns Moor Park.

### **Baby Socials** Friday 1-3pm – Heather Armstrong

This is a social time for parents and carers and babies from birth to 1 year old. The group is well attended and is a valuable resource to those who live in the area providing help and training on health and education related issues and safety around the home.

For more information contact SureStart Westgate on 2727824.

### **CHAT Shop** – Ron Wilson

In January 1992 the CHAT Shop (Churches Acting Together in Arthur's Hill) opened its doors for the first time. Since then, there have been many changes and, sadly, a waning of the initial enthusiasm and ownership demonstrated by Westgate and our three partner churches for 'the Church being more obviously in the community ... seen as the church on the street corner, with our feet firmly on the ground, right in amongst the community.'

The reasons probably lie as much with the CHAT Shop as with the churches – as much with poor communication as with disinterest or lack of available resources (human and financial).

This is something the Trustees are striving to remedy. As the CHAT Shop's Report for 2004/5 records, 'The last year has seen no great new initiative at the CHAT Shop. Instead the Trustees have spent the year monitoring and consolidating the projects as well as reflecting on our core identity and activity. This has been a necessary phase in the life of the Trust, which has seen considerable expansion in the last couple of years.'

If you would like to know more about the CHAT Shop, the services it provides, or how you might be involved, please speak to Paul or to me.

### **Holiday at Home** - Geoff Coulson

**The Hopes and Plans for 2005** - to continue to provide opportunities for entertainment and activities for the elderly in the community in a friendly and welcoming setting.

**Three** successful one-day events were held – 2 in the church buildings and one outing to Kielder which included a country tour. Unfortunately this was one event short of the original plan due to a shortfall and a delay in the provision of funding. For the in-church days we were entertained by the Swarland Singers and conjuror, Eric Cutler, who provided excellent entertainment. For the Christmas Lunch we were again delightfully entertained by the young children of Westgate Primary School singing Christmas songs.

**Thanks** must be given that these activities were obviously enjoyed and much appreciation was shown by all who attended.

**Attendance** averaged at 48 with a total of 68 different persons attending one or more events - slightly up on last year.

**Thanks** are given for the dedication of the team of helpers (most of who fall into the category of elderly themselves!!) – in particular to the helpers in the kitchen, to the entertainers both from within the church and outside agencies and also to the city council for the funding which covered most of the costs.

**Plans for 2006** are still in the melting pot largely due to the need for more helpers.

**THIS IS VERY MUCH A WORTHWHILE MINISTRY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND I URGE MEMBERS TO CONSIDER JOINING THE TEAM.**

**Prayers** for this year are for new helpers to relieve the present team, new ideas and initiatives for increasing the outreach to the elderly and continued financial provision.

### **Keep Fit** - (Wednesday 10-11am) – Irene Baxter

We are led by Julia who is a qualified teacher and keeps us going for the full hour, but we have time for chat and giggles too. We have a nucleus of 8 ladies but there is still plenty of room for anyone else who would like to join. Age is no barrier – 20 or 80 – you are always welcome. Come and join us. It is our duty to look after our bodies they are temples of the Holy Spirit.

### Luncheon Club – Brian Lidgate

This particular service has continued as before with little change except that we have lost a couple of our regulars due to the death of Allan Reed & the fact that Alan Veitch has had to spend a lot of time in hospital.

Attendance ranges from 18 to 22 each week & we have enjoyed a varied menu thanks to the skill of the six cooks.

Unfortunately Barbara Coulson has had to drop out of the rota and we are going to miss her chicken, sausage & mushroom casserole. We thank Barbara for her years of service. She followed in her mother's footsteps as she was one of the original cooks when the service was first set up.

It means, of course, that we are now short of a cook and anyone who would like to consider taking up this role should talk to one of those already involved.

We would also be happy to welcome anyone who would like to drop in from time to time to chat to the customers & help serve the meals.

### Parent and Toddlers – Charity Brown, Joan Davison, Shelagh Garry, Isabel Kidd & Edna Smith

Another good year! We had a bit of a crisis earlier in the year as we had so many families coming it was really too hectic and potentially unsafe. Under advice we have now limited numbers and have a waiting list. As families have moved on with the children going to nursery we have filled their places with a significant number coming from our Baby Peep group; a lovely example of the holistic care we offer as a church!

Sessions run much as ever but having attended the first National Conference of Parent and Toddler Associations we have new ideas to develop the sessions. We ended the year with the children and mums taking part in an interactive nativity story and

the mums coming to our second Christmas meal. Both of these were very well received and several of the families came to the candlelit carol service.

The team would like to thank Ann Ellacott for her service over the years and hope to see her return at some point in the future. A big thank you too to Alison Merton who came up trumps with the meal again!! And for all those who have supported the group throughout the year.

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### **PRACTICAL SUPPORT**

Over the year we have continued to support overseas and home mission through our regular giving to people and organisations both within the Baptist family and those working with other organisations. We supported **BMS World Mission, Baptist Home Mission, CHAT Shop, Steve & Pauline Davidson (now working in Manchester for OMS International), Jan McCuin (Navigators), Mark Surey (in his ministry to Jews).**

Other organisations have been supported on a more occasional basis e.g. **WERS (West End Refuge Service), Christian Aid, Mercy Ships, Farm Crisis Network, Scripture Union** and Naomi on her **Mercy Ships Challenge.**

We continue to provide help by way of **basic food parcels** and other practical help to needy people who come to the church during the week and our **Agape Fund** is used to help members of the congregation who may have specific needs. These are funded by voluntary donations from members of the church.

## **Social Action** - Sarah Haswell

There was a time when MPH meant miles per hour, now it could also stand for Make Poverty History.

2005 saw the rise of the white band – the symbol of Make Poverty History. Just to remind you Make Poverty History is the bringing together of campaigning for more and better aid, trade justice and debt relief.

As a church and as individuals we supported the many events that went on locally and not so locally –including the launch at a public meeting at Newcastle University, the rally at the Angel of the North, the march in Edinburgh were just some of these.

At church we had a display to promote fair trade fortnight, a rich man/ poor man meal – hilariously funny but with a real message – congratulations to the young people who organised this.

We gave money to many projects to benefit others – such as the Africa Mercy Ship, we supported church members on both long term and short term assignments.

For Christmas we encouraged use of the Communal Christmas card – saving paper and raising money. Many of us also gave each other alternative Christmas gifts such as goats and fruit trees.

We also resourced ourselves to evangelise others both locally and further afield. And also campaigned on other social issues such as items to be included in parliamentary legislation. And I myself was privileged to attend the Faithworks Conference in Eastbourne in November. There will be an opportunity for others to attend a more local event in March – watch out for information in the notices!

May we be encouraged in 2006 to build on these relying on the Lord for direction and strength?

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## **DISCIPLESHIP**

*continuing and developing activities which lead us to be better disciples of Christ in an environment where everyone can be nurtured and grow in their personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ.*

### **YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **Youth Support Team Report** – Nathan Toseland

As a team we have the purpose of looking forward and finding new ways of communicating the gospel and helping to initiate and build on existing services. In many senses there has never been a bigger year for the youth support team. There are now more services than ever under the umbrella of the youth support team. Within the past twelve months we have seen the development of the KidzKlub and the Youth Klub and as a result of both there are around 100 children and young people that at some point within the year have heard the gospel and in many cases still continue to hear the gospel. During the year the young people have continued to benefit from the services of IXTH hour and Harvest as well as been able to attend the youth services on a monthly basis. In the coming year we look forward to the NE1 event which I'm sure for all of us will be a most challenging and life changing event. We will also be looking to build on success of the event and entwining the influx of new young people in to new services and building them into existing ones.

## **Crèche** - Alison Merton

The crèche provides care for our youngest children.

It is run on a rota system by volunteers who love spending time with the very young children, and is available every Sunday morning (except for all-age services) after the opening time of worship.

Numbers of children using the crèche during 2005 typically ranged from 3 to 7. During the summer we go and play in the garden, and the rest of the time we play in Room 2.

Those who serve in the crèche do so to bless the children with a fun time with their little friends, and their parents with time to worship and learn in peace!

## **Young Church** – Jonathan Harness

**Aim:** To assist parents in teaching and discipling children and young people. To evangelise to the same so that they may accept the Lord as their personal saviour.

**Volunteers:** 10 Leaders, 8 Assistants.  
Urgent requirement for 1 Assistant

**Children:** Attendance each week varies, but averages about 6 in the youngest group (age 3-5), 12 in the middle group (years 1-5) and 12 in the older group (Years 6 - 8). The middle group is smaller this year due to a large cohort moving up to the upper group.

**Points for praise:** Generally the children are attentive and enjoy the sessions. There are now sufficient leaders and assistants that we can ensure that there are 2 responsible adults for each group running. The Outing in the summer to Plessey Woods was excellent and helped integrate the children of families regularly attending church with children from the local community. Other activities this year have included: a training day for the leaders, Craft Day, All Age Carols and Christmas Party.

**Points for prayer:** Developmentally, the age range of the middle group remains too wide and could do with splitting into two groups. Leader numbers and space are currently limiting factors to resolving this issue. The need for leaders continues to be an issue.

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## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **Afternoon Group** – Dorothy Brown

We are a group of 8 'retired' people who are committed to meeting on alternate Tuesday afternoons at the church. Our times together are spent in discussion of topical issues as we seek to relate them to the Bible teaching and then to apply them to our lives. We support each other in practical ways and in prayer.

During the year we have enjoyed celebrating birthdays and at Christmas went out for a special Christmas meal together.

We would welcome new members who would like to join us.

### **Coast Housegroup** – Lewis & Helen Schofield

We continued to grow together and have received many answers to prayer over the last year. Our studies have focused on Mark's Gospel and Becoming a Contagious Christian by Bill Hybels.

The highlight of the year was Naomi's trip to Sierra Leone. We all worked together to raise money for her trip, and supported her in her mission through prayer. We were greatly encouraged in our faith as we listened to how God had worked through her. We will miss Naomi greatly as she follows God's calling in her life by moving to Metro Church.

### **Denton Burn House Group** – Ron Wilson

Ours truly is a small group. More often than not, at our meetings there will be six or seven of us; if everyone could come there would be ten of us. Yet, at our Christmas social evening there were twelve adults and four children – a real cause for celebration and that we really had.

We covered a variety of studies over the course of the year. A turning point was our studies in Romans – we soon realised that it wasn't for us as a Group, (Paul's theology was just too dense, so were we!) and we are now happily attuned to a pattern of meetings based around sharing, prayer and discussion stimulated by our individual daily readings and by the NOOMA series of DVDs (each one of which is less than fifteen minutes long and is designed to offer a new format for getting across Christian perspectives.)

We meet on alternate Thursday evenings, at our house, and anyone who would like to come along on an occasional or regular basis will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

### **French English Bilingual Group** - Christian Kankienza Lombe.

We would like first of all to thank our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ for this opportunity to write this report.

We started meeting on 23rd April 2005 with 7 people, sometimes the number dropped to 3 or 4 people, but with God's help we kept meeting. After 6 months with God's help we were regularly about 12 people so we decided to create a team to organise the work.

This team meet monthly at Heather Morton's house but we have decided to meet at Church from January 2006. We also created a small group of intercessors to support our Saturday's Meeting work, the Church's programme, Church Members, and those in the local community. We meet at Ruffine's flat every Thursday at 7.30. We would like also to move this meeting to the Church.

On 23rd July 2005 we organised our first event called "**FELLOWSHIP DAY**" which went very well by the grace of the Lord, which was organised by British, Congolese, Nigerian, Cameroon and Chinese people.

To expand our work we changed rooms and are meeting now in the Nursery. We thank our Lord because we began 2006 with 17 people and are blessed by the worship, prayer and teaching.

We would like to ask the Church to keep praying for us. Again many thanks to God and His Church.

May God bless His people.

**Kenton Housegroup** – Simon Lloyd

This year has seen some changes in our housegroup. Early this year Simon Lloyd started to share the leadership of the group with Richard Hillary as we have continued meeting in each others homes. This has worked out well as Richard took on a placement at Jarrow that included involvement on Wednesday evenings and hasn't been able to come to our autumn meetings.

We have two families who can't leave home so we go to them to keep them included and are very grateful for their hospitality.

Our meetings have involved studies in Romans, in daily discipleship, in piloting church membership classes and we are currently studying Ephesians. In addition we welcome the focus on housegroups giving pastoral care to each other. We had great fun together one Sunday before Christmas playing a variety of games and simply relaxing together.

**Kirton Avenue Small Group** - Steve and Heather Begarnie

Our group has grown and changed a lot over the year. There are twenty of us! Ardis and Mark are away at university so we don't see much of them and we also miss Barbara who finds it hard to come. It is good getting to know one another and sharing in the ups and downs of life. We are very international with five people from Congo, one from Cameroon and two from India. Prayers are shared in other languages and translation takes place to try to make sure everyone can be part of discussion.

This year we completed studies in The Sermon on the Mount and then read "Too Busy Not to Pray" by Bill Hybels. This was very practical and helpful. We have seen wonderful answers to prayer and wait with faith to see God answering more prayers for ourselves and those around us in the coming year.

**Merton's Housegroup** – Paul & Alison Merton

There are up to 12 people in this small group meeting on Wednesday evenings at the Manse.

Our aims for 2005 continued to be to deepen our relationships with each other and to spur each other in our understanding of God and His ways.

These goals were sought primarily through Bible studies and prayer times, and through fun and relaxation over food, particularly at the Small Group Sunday lunches.

The highlights of the year were the loving care expressed to each other and our study of the life of Moses.

We give thanks to God for His love among us and pray for further growth in fellowship and biblical understanding over 2006. We also pray for new leaders to emerge as Paul & Alison step down from this role.

**Sydney Grove House Group** – Joan & Brian Lidgate

One or two changes have taken place over the year. James Garry is now away at university and we miss him and his contribution to our gatherings. We will continue to keep in touch. Our place of meeting has switched between Sarah Pulsford's and Rick's because of Sarah's French evening class which is on a Wednesday.

Because of the decision at a Church Meeting that we needed to focus more on discipleship, we have spent a large part of the year following a series of studies on Christian Disciplines from the Life Builder series of books. These have proved useful and have provided thoughtful and helpful discussion.

We have also enjoyed social events from time to time. Most of these have centred on eating.

For our contribution to the joint August meetings we organised a pleasant walk along the banks of the Tyne from Newburn to Wylam and enjoyed refreshments at the Stockley's afterwards

We look forward in the New Year to deepening our level of fellowship further and, hopefully, growing in number.

### **Weebles Housegroup** – Jim & Shelagh Garry

The Weeble housegroup continues to experience the truth of our group verse .Micah 7v8 ( ...though I have fallen, I will rise again) and through all our ups and downs we continue to try to support and care for one another. We are at capacity in terms of numbers with 13 members all of whom attend regularly. Over the past year we have studied a variety of material finishing the year with a publication from the 'Geared For Growth' bible study series. Entitled "Men Of Courage" it concentrated on Elijah and Elisha. We have decided to study another book from the series this time on Worldwide Evangelism. This we hope will compliment the Blowing Your Cover course which we are to do as a church in February.

We have also been encouraged by our participation in KidzKlub, which grew out of the 40 Days of Purpose study we did as a fellowship. All the group are committed to pray for this venture and a significant number are actively involved in the running of the Klub.

### **Whickham Small Group** – Heather Forster

The Whickham Small Group has been on the move! We have moved venue, increased in numbers, discovered new talents and even managed to struggle with Jeremiahs lessons on the consequences of disobedience to God.

Although I've now moved "over the river", we've kept the group south of the Tyne and 11 of us now meet at Jonathan and Lynne's on Thursday nights at 7.30pm. Their hospitality has been very generous and even extended throughout the summer break with wonderful meals cooked by Jonathan for those of us who wanted to meet informally. . We also have Gill to thank for our other social outings to the theatre, cinema and meals out.

The group has tried to keep that closeness of family care and concern which enables all of us to share our joys and worries openly, assured of acceptance and love. So whether we're deeply engrossed in Bible study and prayer, exploring our gifts in craft work or hospitality, or even filling in forms for church, everyone can express their true feelings and know they are valued.

### **Wingrove House Group** - Danson & Mbithe Mutunga

Members: 11 members; 2 new members about to join the group, 1 non-attending member

Venue: 103 Wingrove Road

Day and time of meetings: Wednesdays from 8 pm

We are currently studying "An ordinary day with Jesus".

The group has enjoyed these series of studies especially as a way of going "Back to the Basics", on Life as a Christian, from quiet times to the supermarket!

The group has grown closer together as a family in the past year, and we continue to nurture each other and to be there for one another at all times for spiritual, emotional and physical needs.

Although we regularly follow structured bible studies, on some days we have felt the need to just meet and fellowship together in worship, prayer and sharing. We find these unstructured days very uplifting.

### **Youth Housegroup**

**MEETS:** Alternate Wednesdays at the Beltons' abode, 7:30 – 8:45

**LEADERS:** Tim & Sarah Belton, Sarah Forster

**YOUTH:** 4 girls - Sarah Taylor, Heidi Whitton, Neethu Varghese, Alex Aynsley  
6 boys - Tito Mutunga, Matthew Simupande, Neil Carribine, Jon Merton,  
James Merton, Stewart Garry  
*(Numbers are now at a healthy maximum)*

**2005:** Studied – Planning and preparation of prayer night  
'Calling Out' J. John on evangelism  
Relationships, Sex & Marriage  
Other Key events – Attended Youth Event at Durham Cathedral (Feb)  
Lead WBC Prayer night (Mar)  
'IXTH Hour' regularly  
Some of group visited 'Harvest'

**PRAISE GOD FOR:** Commitment to the group amidst other time pressures  
Genuine care, friendship, deepened spiritual maturity  
Support from parents  
Alex joining us towards the end of the year

**ASK GOD FOR:** His spirit to reign over and through the group  
For us all to move forward in our relationships with Jesus

**PLANS FOR 2006:** Get involved in 'Blowing Your Cover'  
Attend NE1 Summer Mission  
More opportunities for the youth to lead us in some sessions

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[**SATELLITE GROUPS** – new initiatives for 2006 include 're-fuel' (alternate Wednesdays) - Baptismal, Discipleship, Marriage, Membership prep., 'Specials' etc.]

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## **FELLOWSHIP –**

*providing a safe, encouraging place for people to develop and grow,  
and where everyone is welcome*

### **WIDER CHURCH LINKS**

#### **Churches Together in Fenham** - Joan Lidgate.

We continue our membership of Churches Together in Fenham with the same minimal support from our membership for the various joint activities and services arranged over the past year. Those attending these events have been blessed by being part of them and are getting to know people from other Churches. Over the year the Rev. Canon Joan Dotchin from St. James and St. Basils has been noticeably enthusiastic in organising and leading these events.

There was an excellent response to the Asian Earthquake Appeal, held at J's & B's. Support was given by school groups and other faith groups. The sum of £2,300 was raised and 110 bags of blankets and warm clothes and a donation of £50 towards transport were given.

At each joint service, it has been agreed that a retiring collection for a charity will be taken. This year that charity is to be West End Refugee Service.

Please look out for information about joint events, which will be publicised in our weekly notice sheets e.g. Joint Away Day/Day of Prayer, 13th May 2006, U. R. C. St. Cuthbert's Centre on Holy Island.

#### **Northern Baptist Association Report** – Ron Wilson

The major event of 2005 was the 23 churches of the Independent Methodist Connexion within our area becoming 'provisional Union Churches' within the NBA and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. There is, however, a lot of work still to be done before full integration can be achieved by the end of 2009.

The Independent Methodists are a warm and welcoming people, truly committed in every sense, and there's a lot we can learn from them.

The joint act of celebration at New Silksworth Church in Sunderland in May was attended by over 200 Baptists and Independent Methodists. It was truly inspirational – due in no small measure to the worship led by Paul and others from Westgate.

It's good that folk from Westgate are playing an active part in the life of the Association – particularly in leading worship and preaching in churches throughout the Association. It would, however, be even better if more folk attended Association events, particularly the Spring and Autumn Assemblies, and all the more so as the Association's focus these next 18 months is on Mission. Please look out for details and make sure you read 'Around the NBA' each time it is published.

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### Men's Ministry 2005 - Steve Begarnie

2005 has been a good year for getting to know each other who regularly worship at WRC as well as providing help and encouragement for men passing through, for example some African asylum seekers. A core group of about 6 men have helped to maintain the group's momentum even on cold wintry evenings. This has resulted in further knitting together of minds and experiences that help the men in the fellowship support one another more effectively. Thanks to these folk who have also helped create our new spring 2006 programme which will be advertised through the church bulletin. Many of these future events will be built on the successes of last year such as fish'n'chips at Tynemouth, a Roman evening with Richard Hillary and tractor driving at the Lloyd's farm. However, there is a sense that we are ready to start discussion based events, especially about faith matters.

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## RESOURCES

*Enthusiastically committing all we can of our time, energy and money (our giving) as our response to sound Biblical teaching and the challenge God gives us to serve him in the church and in the world*

## FINANCE

During this past year there has been a major review of the way in which we handle our Finances. This has become necessary for several reasons, mainly because of new legal requirements for accounting by charitable organisations, including churches, and also because of the increased amount of work required as we expand our work and include the Hub funding in our accounts which can no longer be handled by one person.

As a result new procedures will be taking effect in 2006. Such procedures will involve a new team working on the finances at WBC with individuals taking specific responsibilities for the various sections of this new procedure.

We are grateful for a number of people for all the work they have done to this end and in particular to Ken Brown, Dave Carribine, Ernie Dunn, Howard Farnhill and Dennis Taylor,.

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## PREMISES REPORT – Ron Wilson

Hopefully without being over-burdensome, the following figures give a good overview of the work carried out over the year :

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| • Redecoration of the Annexe & corridors        | £2200 |
| • Repairs & improvements to the heating systems | £2000 |
| • Electrical repairs & replacement fittings     | £ 850 |
| • Quinquennial Review of church & manse         | £ 550 |

• Manse repairs & servicing	£ 350
• Miscellaneous	£ 600
• TOTAL	£6550

To this should be added two sums carried forward :

• Towards the Boiler Replacement Fund	£2000
• Towards equalisation of Redecoration costs	£1300

Overall, we are talking about an under-spend of £3150 on our budget for the year, but outstanding is payment on completion of the repairs to the Baptistry (to cost £3000, including VAT) and some fairly minor charges for roof repairs (after some £2500 is met by an Insurance claim). We hope this coming year to recoup some of the VAT we've paid on repairs.

Again, my thanks to all who have helped in any way – and particularly to Alan Haswell, for the work he has undertaken. If anyone would like more information, please see me.

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### **Membership Statistics - (provisional)**

**Total Membership Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 - 129**  
(includes 22 non-attending members)

Additions

following baptism	2
by application/transfer	11

**Total Additions 13**

Deletions

by death	3
to other churches	
by transfer (Baptist)	2
other	2

**Total Deletions 7**

**Total Members Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 135**  
(revision of members list still to take place)

[ N.B. There were 7 baptisms during 2005]

*Thank you for taking the time to read these reports.  
Please make use of them as a guide to your prayers during the year.*