Services for April 2^{nd} 10.00am Rev Ann Henman Holy Communion 'Olivet to Calvary' 6.00pm Aylesbury Methodist Church 10.00am Mr David Neville 9^{th} Junior Church Joint service at the Baptist 6.00pm Church 13^{th} Rev Keith Edwards 8.00pm Holy Communion 10.00am Service at the Baptist Church 14th 10.00am Mr Richard Maguire 16^{th} All Age Worship 10.00am Rev Helen Kirk 23^{rd} **Junior Church** 10.00am Rt Rev Andrew Shergold 30th



Tea and coffee are served after the morning service. Please join us in the Hall.

Prínces Rísborough Methodist Church

'The Messenger' Apríl 2017



This magazine comes to you with the good wishes of the Church

Princes Risborough Methodist Church Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough Buckinghamshire.

Minister: Rev. Keith Edwards
Tel: 01296 423363
Superintendent Minister: Rev. Helen Kirk

Tel: 01296 488963

Circuit Website: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Steward contact: Mr Mike Pullen Tel: 01844 343188 email: mhpullen@waitrose.com

Magazine Editor: Mr Peter Willett, Tel: 01844 343487 email: pandbw@waitrose.com

Material for the May Messenger to the Editor by Sunday 9th April at the latest please.

This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church.

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Rotas for April

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
2 nd	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs C Palmer
9 th am	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs C Palmer	Mrs C Palmer Mr M Pullen	Mr J Needham
9 th pm	Baptist Church			
13 th	Mrs M Stevens			
16 th	Miss M Dore	Mr J Drake Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs B Oates
23 rd	Mrs C Palmer	Mrs M Stevens Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens Mrs V Haydon	Mrs V Spires Lane
30 th	Mrs M Judd	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Miss P Scott

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting	
1/2 Mr & Mrs D Robbins		SPRING CLEAN		
8/9	Miss P Scott	SPRING	G CLEAN	
15/16	Tuesday Fellowship	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham	
22/23	Mrs S Hunnisett	Mrs B Palmer	Mr B Palmer	
29/30	Mrs B Willett	Miss M Dore	Mr K smith	



If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (01844 343246), or one of the Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap them in when they distribute after the service. We could always do with more than is provided so if anyone has any suitable paper please leave that in the vestry or the vase cupboard.

Diary Dates for April

1st Spring cleaning

2nd Retiring collection; 'One Can Trust'

2nd Olivet to Calvary

6th Christian Aid Lunch

8th Spring cleaning

9th Fairtrade stall

9th Joint evening service at the Baptist Church

10th Bereavement Drop-in

13th Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service

14th Good Friday service at the Baptist Church

14th Good Friday CTR Procession of Witness

16th Sunrise Service

16th Later Group meet

18th Tuesday Fellowship

22nd Lighthouse quiz

23rd Cake and Plant stall in aid of our Charity – 'One Can Trust'

27th Salt

Every Monday Silent prayers
Every Tuesday Crafty Sew & Sews

Future Dates

2nd and 9th May Methodist Women in Britain event

5th May CA Clothes Show

7th May Dedication of Apple Trees

10th May Organ Recital AMC

14th May Christian Aid Service at our Church at 6pm.

27th June Church Forum at 8pm at Church

29&30th June, 1st July PR Music Society - The Gipsy Baron 16th July Church BBQ in garden following Church Service.

Weekly Church Notices: Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone (01844 344935) or e-mail - maureenjudd@maureenjudd.plus.com with any information regarding weekly notices by noon on Friday.

Maureen Judd

**Maureen Judd

Rest Day—Rev. Keith Edwards' 'day off' is a Wednesday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

Dear Friends,



We are now in the time of Lent which began on 1st March which was Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for reflecting on Jesus' ministry journey and how his love for us led him to the cross.

I was reading about the passion of Jesus the other day and especially the passage in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Someone noticed that in these 25 words is reflected the whole of the Gospel. The word son is the 13th word and preceding it are 12 words concerning God and after it are 12 words concerning humanity. Jesus is the centre and is the link or the bridge between God and us.

It's a familiar passage and most of us will know it, even "off by heart". But I wonder how many of us live it, experience it, feel it. The "it" being God's love. We know it exists, the bible tells us God is love, but do we feel that love?

Ephesians 3:17-19 says "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

God's love is 4-dimensional, long, wide, deep and high. It is a love that is long enough to last forever; God will never stop loving you. It is a love that is wide enough to be everywhere, no matter where we find ourselves God is always there. It is a love that is deep enough to see us through stress, pressure, difficulties – all that life throws at us. And it is a love that is so high that it can overlook our mistakes - God always forgives. In life we are given the opportunity to experience God's love in so many ways, to feel his constant love for us, and in no more significant way than through what Jesus did for us and continues to do for us at Easter time.

So I pray that your knowledge of God will be surpassed by your experience of his love during Lent and at Easter this year.

Grace and peace to you - Keith

Church News

Junior Church

The dates for **Junior Church** are **9**th **and 23**rd **April**, with Easter Day being an All Age Service. There will be an Easter egg hunt for children after the service.

Fran McMullan

Birthdays



Robinson Trout will be 13 on 4th April. We wish you a very happy day.

The Later Group



The Later Group meet at our church on the third Sunday evening of the

month. Our next meeting will be Easter Day 16th April, 6-8pm.

We welcome a number of 11-17 year olds, with an average of 14 each session. There are various activities including table-football and snooker.

For more information please contact our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com; Rev. James Tomkins (St. Dunstan's Church) jamestomkins@btinternet.com or Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

Fairtrade Stall

The stall in March took £38.50; many thanks to all who were able to support it. The next stall will be after the service on **9**th **April.**

Judith Gerrard

Transport to Church

If you require transport to or from any of the Sunday services or other events please speak to a Steward.

United Service -

with St. Mary's Parish Church and the Baptist Church.

These services are held either in our Church, The Baptist Church or St. Mary's Church. We are grateful to the ministers for leading these services.

The next service will be held at The Baptist Church at 6pm on **Sunday 9**th **April.**

Whitechapel Mission

I drove to Whitechapel with the goods we collected from the reverse advent calendars which were gratefully received. I also took the opportunity of emptying the storage shed and adding the contents to the delivery. We now have lots of room to continue collecting clothing (particularly underwear) together with toiletries for Whitechapel.

Barbara Oates

32nd Annual Organ concert Aylesbury Methodist Church on 10th May 2017.

Piers Maxim, Director of Music at Malvern Priory, and President of the Aylesbury Festival Choir will be the recitalist at this Organ concert, which will start at 7.30pm.



Tickets cost £12.00, but £10.00 if booked in advance. These can be purchased from the AMC office or direct from Derrick Matthews (01296 488076). Students have free entry to this concert.

Smíle ...

'The face of Jesus'

The teacher asked the little girl what she was drawing and she replied that it was the face of Jesus. The teacher said, "Nobody knows what he looks like." The girl replied, "They will when I've finished."

Smíle again ...

'Still Sunday!'

During a very long and boring sermon, a small boy's distinct voice was heard to say, "Mummy, is it still Sunday?"

Submitted by Joyce Gilyead.

Princes Risborough Music Society

Princes Risborough Music Society is a friendly
Society of about 60 members. Rehearsals are at
Princes Risborough Secondary School on Tuesday
evenings at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact
the Membership Secretary on 01844 344083.

The Summer Concert will be held on 29th & 30th June and 1st July, at 7.30 pm at Longwick Village Hall. We will be performing a concert version of "the Gypsy Baron" by Johann Strauss.

Tickets will be available from The Risborough Cook Shop, Art and Office, Information Centre or Choir Members and online at www.princesrisboroughmusicsociety.com. Tickets are priced at £12 If you need transport the Community Bus will be running- please contact 07941963097

Fundraising

Easyfundraising



Easy Fundraising does exactly what it says – it raises funds for a good cause (e.g. Princes Risborough Methodist Church) with minimal extra effort required on your part.

If you (or other family members if you do not do internet shopping) would like to join the eight of us currently registered, then go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and

register – selecting Princes
Risborough Methodist Church as
the cause you support. Then all
you need to remember is that
when you want to do online
shopping you first of all log on to
the easyfundraising website, and
then find the retailer you want.

Try it! It's easy and worthwhile!

'One Can Trust'

Our Church box goes to the Food- bank HQ in High Wycombe, before distribution. A list of needs is on the box in the church hall.

Marilyn Dore

Tuesday Fellowship

Thank you to David & Diana Robbins, who at our February meeting talked to us about 'Memories'; reminding us about how we retain our memories over many years. They also gave us a quiz where we had to identify Television Theme tunes played to us, some going back many years. Not many of us did very well in this quiz with our memories!!!

Our next meeting is **18th April** at 2pm at the Church when Jean Orford, a member of Christchurch Thame Worship Group will be coming to talk to us. We would love you to join us at our meetings..

Pam Scott

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection after the service on **2**nd **April** for our charity, One Can Trust.

SALT

Everyone is welcome to this small, informal group. Come along and share lively discussion on a variety of subjects with some bible study thrown in for good measure!

We will meet on Thursday, **27**th **April** at 7.30 for Bible Study & Fellowship at the home of Maureen Judd.

For more information please speak to Maureen Judd, Victoria Haydon or Joe Needham.

Victoria Haydon

Cake and Plant Stall

Please try to contribute something, or support this stall after the service on **23**rd **April**. It will be to raise extra funds for 'One Can Trust', the current charity we support through our retiring collections. But this is a good opportunity for us to really boost our donation in a fairly painless way.

All contributions of cakes and other comestibles, plants, and indeed anything else which might sell like brica-brac will be very welcome in the hall on the day. If you want anything collected beforehand please contact Judith on 01494 449732. Then we will need someone to assist with the serving, and lots of customers to buy the goods so that everything is sold!

Pam Scott

Bereavement Drop in

This group offers a welcome to those struggling with grief. We share together, drink tea or coffee, talk about experiences or just listen.

Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through. We meet on the second Monday of the month, $\mathbf{10}^{th}$ April, in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, between 3 and 4 o'clock. Everyone is welcome, of any faith, or no faith at all. Further details from Rose Williams 01844 274225.



The next Christian Aid Lunch is on Thursday **6**th **April** at the Baptist Church.

Christian Aid Clothes Show

Chinnor Christian Aid group is hosting this event on Friday **5th May** in the Chinnor Village Hall.

They seek donations of top quality 'as new' items – day and evening wear, special occasion outfits. Designer labels/items with price label/tag still attached will be particularly appreciated. Shoes, accessories and coat-hangers, particularly plastic or wooden, also welcome. Ladies', men's and children's clothing all accepted as long as they are in good condition. All items collected. Please contact Jackie on 01844 355953 or 07973 740338 or Lyn on 01844 352888.

Methodist Women in Britain

On Tuesday 2nd May at 2.30pm there is to be a Methodist Women in Britain meeting at Little Chalfont Methodist Church for people from Aylesbury Vale, High Wycombe and Amersham Circuits. The speaker is to be Claire Welch from 'All We Can' (Formerly Methodist relief and Development). All are welcome to attend. I intend to go so if anyone requires transport please let me know.

Pam Scott

Methodist Women in Britain District Day

Tuesday **9**th **May** 10.30am – 3.00pm at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable LU6 3SN – 'A Baby in Bethlehem' Led by Rev. Nicola Jones.

Further details on poster in the Church Porch.

Pam Scott

Silent Prayers

at St. Dunstan's Church Hall on Monday evenings at 8pm

We need silence to help us get a perspective on our lives; to hear the still, small voice of God, and refresh our inner being. All are welcome.

Each meeting lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. More details from Revd James Tomkins 01844 275944 or jamestomkins@btinternet.com.

When the magazine editor at Southwell Methodist Church moved away, I offered, with great trepidation, to give it a go, but my greatest worry was what I would put in our magazine to fill up the pages. To be successful I knew I had to emulate Barbara's example and make it a newsy magazine that people actually looked forward to receiving each month. I need not have been anxious; somehow or other we always manage to 'go to print' on time. Moreover, to my surprise, I find I actually ENJOY doing it!

Thank you Barbara for being my 'Magazine Editor' example and inspiration; you have done a wonderful job. I hope you enjoy your 'media' retirement and spending more time with your family. I look forward to receiving the (life after April) Messenger."

Peter Willett

Visit to Harris Manchester College Oxford

When the Rev. Dr. Ralph Waller was a preacher at our church some time ago, he gave us a general invitation to visit Harris Manchester College, with the suggestion that he could organise a tour of the college and a lecture about what they do.

Vic Baker has been following up this invitation, and he has had the following reply from Rev Dr Ralph Waller:

"Thank you for coming back to me. I think that the best date for us will be Wednesday 12th July. May I suggest that you arrive at about 2.15 pm and I will arrange a tour of the College, a lecture, and tea and get you on the way back home by 4.30 pm."

This sounds like an interesting afternoon out, but Vic needs to know what level of support it would receive from church members before obtaining the cost of hiring a coach and making all the necessary arrangements, including publicity etc, for this outing.

To help him, Vic would appreciate a quick response from church members to register their interest. His phone number is 01844 690264

A tribute to Barbara

Barbara must be very pleased with a job well done, and she can now hang up her editors' hat in the knowledge that she has kept this church and its activities in the forefront of peoples' minds which can only be described as a 'flagship' publication, and the envy of many other churches. There's an old adage that you only ask busy people to do things, and Barbara fits that adage, but despite that and the vagaries of a computer with a mind of its own, every edition is full of interesting articles.

Normally each month I post six copies of the Messenger to Aylesbury Methodist Church, but I hand delivered the March edition. The staff in the office said they appreciate receiving them and accepted this batch with enthusiasm.

A number of other people have contacted me with comments of appreciation and good wishes for a happy retirement including Roger and Linda Reynolds, John and Vicky Green, and Michael and Joyce Gilyead.

Joyce writes saying; "When people move away and wonder what is happening in the life of Princes Risborough Methodist Church; the changes and challenges that are being made, and news of people; your esteemed editor has always provided this information. Even after leaving 22 years ago, every time the Messenger arrives, we don't put it on one side to be "read later" but it is eagerly grasped and immediately perused. Thank you Barbara for all the hours you must have spent in producing such a splendid magazine with its easy-to-read format full of news, views and humour. We wish you a long and happy retirement."

Vicky has written to say; "Barbara's 'Goodbye' in the December/January Messenger was written with her usual wit and contained the startling fact of her 'temporary' editorship, as she describes it, has lasted for almost 30 years! Most other church magazines we have seen are little more than a diary of events, but Barbara has taken the humble church magazine and turned it into a much loved publication. I always enjoyed 'a good entertaining read', and since moving to Southwell, as soon as the Messenger arrives, I immediately make a drink and sit back to enjoy news of 'Risborough' friends. It closes the gap between our locations and transports us back to memories of our time there. I treasure the fact that it always contains lots of 'funnies' and Barbara's ability to make people smile and sometimes laugh out loud (Evening Classes for Men was a classic) is priceless.

Pat Stewart

Some of you will remember Pat, who used to worship with us, and was a near neighbour of Geoff Bending and Maureen Judd.

She had recently been a resident at Icknield Court and sadly died in February after a short illness. Some of us were able to go the funeral on 16th March.

Maurice Saunders

Maurice was associated with Naphill Methodist Church, and had been resident at Icknield Court for several years as his health declined in his 90s. He was not known to the congregation here due to his lack of mobility, but he was mentally very alert and loved to receive the Messenger and talk about current issues. He celebrated his 100th birthday in November when he enjoyed the fuss made of him, but sadly he died in February and the funeral was on 23rd March.





SPRING CLEANING Calling all 'Volunteers!'

Three Saturdays have been designated for our grand spring clean-up/maintenance around the church, which started on 25th March. If you were not able to help then, there is the opportunity to help on 1st and/or 8th April. We'll be working between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

There is a list of suggested tasks, including cleaning, painting, cupboard sorting and outside maintenance. It would also be good to have someone to provide coffee and munchies!

We have every confidence that 'Many Hands Make Light Work' with the added bonus of bonding and fellowship!

Chris Palmer

ROPE (Relief of Oppressed People Everywhere)

The February 2017 Newsletter from ROPE is now on display in the Church Porch. It features several examples of how this organisation is helping vulnerable children in many parts of the world.

On the back page it tells of the success of their "Lifeline Christmas Appeal" that raised £18.372 and how this money was spent. If you would like to financially support the work of ROPE, please see the inside back page for details of their "Lifeline Gifts for Easter", giving examples of how your gifts will be used.

Please pass used postage stamps (with a border of %") to Judith Gerrard for this charity.

I am conscious that such material lies around in the porch probably untouched, so I urge you to have a look at this newsletter.

Peter Willett

News from the Messenger production team

After over 30 years of loyal service as editor, Barbara Oates' resignation was reluctantly accepted at the recent Church Forum. The church expressed its gratitude for everything that Barbara has done in this role, and wished her well in her retirement.



I'm not sure when I was appointed as a sub-editor, but I was reluctant to become editor to replace Barbara, unless there were people willing to take on some of my existing roles. This seems to have happened now, and I am happy to be appointed as editor, which will be ratified in a years' time.

The quality of the magazine is enhanced by being proof-read, to ensure the accuracy of its information, and to avoid spelling and grammatical errors. Barbara has used Marilyn Dore and me to do this job, and I'm pleased that Margaret Stevens has agreed to take my place.

On speaking to Neville Trout, he has agreed to edit the Messenger on the occasions when I cannot. I'm hoping that, if he is willing, he will be officially appointed sub-editor at next years' Church Forum.

For the last ten years I have been collecting the Messengers from the printers and initially distributing them to the Pastoral visitors, placing copies in the towns' churches and library, and posting around a dozen to past members. I am pleased that Pam Scott has volunteered to take over from me.

Peter Willett, editor

Crafty Sew & Sews

We meet each Tuesday in St. Dunstan's Church Hall 1.30 to 4.pm. Join us and learn new skills and share knowledge. Bring your own work – Cross Stitch/ Tapestry/Knitting etc. £1 per session.

Organisers: Janet East 01844 345028 Pam Scott 01844 346857.

"View from the Vestry"



After many, many years of faithful service, Willie Richmond has reluctantly resigned from being a steward through his health problems. He has been on thrice weekly dialysis since the autumn, and has been in hospital several times with health complications.

Vestry Notes

In their turn, members attending the recent Church Forum reluctantly accepted his resignation, acknowledging the valuable contribution Willie has made to the life of this church. We are pleased to say that Christine Palmer agreed to become a steward, an appointment enthusiastically endorsed by Church Forum, which also brings the team up to full strength again. By virtue of his length of service as a steward Mike has now assumed the role of "Contact" steward.

Producing the weekly notices is another job Willie has faithfully done for a number of years until quite recently, when Maureen Judd agreed to stand in for him. We are pleased to say that Maureen will now officially take over producing the notices, and we thank her for doing this job.

From the stewards; Mike, Maureen, Marilyn, Judith and Chris.



Lighthouse

A reminder of items needed for this year's Lighthouse Week.

Donations may be stored at Church.

- Old tights/pop socks
- Socks (for puppets)
- Large plastic yoghurt pots
- Wallpaper (table covers so the pattern doesn't matter)
- Buttons
- Used birthday or special occasion cards
- Small plastic plant pots

There will be a fund-raising Quiz on **22**nd **April** at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm (prompt). The Quizmaster will be Jamie Carter. You are asked to make up tables of eight and bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Cost £5.00

There will be a raffle and offers of raffle or any other prizes would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact Jamie 01844 273286 or Fran McMullan 01844.

Easter events.

Thursday, 13th April.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service, starting at 8.00pm, led by Rev Keith Edwards.



Friday, 14th April.

There will be a Good Friday service at the Baptist Church starting at 10.00am to which we are invited.

For the CTR Procession of witness and short service, we will meet at our own church ready to process to the main meeting point so that we arrive there by 11.00am. At the time of going to print the exact location for the service is unknown, so the time we leave our church is unknown too. This information will be publicised in the weekly notice sheets.

Sunday, 16th April.

Easter Day sunrise service 6.10 am.

As in the past, Churches Together in Risborough will be holding a short 'sunrise' service at the top of Whiteleaf Cross, which will be led by Revd James Tomkins. Please meet in the Whiteleaf Cross car park at 6.00 am. This will be followed by a bacon sandwich and hot drink.

Our Easter Sunday service at 10.00am will be led by Mr Richard Maguire.

Easter Offering 2017

The money raised through the Easter Offering goes into the World Mission Fund which supports God's Mission in 65 Partner Churches outside Britain and Ireland through: Mission Partners, Nationals in Mission appointments, Scholarship and leadership training and other grant giving.

Easter Offering Gift Aid envelopes are available for your gifts. Please give generously to provide the necessary resources so that God's love may be shared in practical ways throughout the world. Please will you return these via the Church collection at Easter or via your Pastoral visitor by the end of April.

Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving, your prayerful support and interest.

Pam Scott



Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit

OLIVET TO CALVARY

J H MAUNDER



An act of worship for Congregation and Choir recalling some of the incidents in the last days of the Saviour's life on earth.

Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the Choir of Tring Parish Church and friends from other local churches and choirs under the direction of Cliff Brown

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

Aylesbury Methodist Church Sunday 2nd April 2017@ 6.00 pm

(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on Sunday 9th April @ 6.30 pm)

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.

Princes Centre Update, March 2017

We look forward to Revd. David Williams' returning from his sabbatical, which included his epic climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. Recently the trustees carried out a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the organisation, and analysed the Annual Management Report and planning for this year. Plans for this year include staff pension options, customer surveys, continuing work with GP surgeries to ensure that people are made aware of the services we offer, a review of the staffing structure and contracts, fundraising suggestions, and 5- year anniversary activities.

Continuing professional development. Over the last year two members of staff have successfully gained certified professional qualifications. Kim, our manager, reports that we have an extremely flexible and helpful team who create a very positive atmosphere at the Centre.

Expansion. An outreach centre has been established in Tring.

Transport. We now have a new mini bus and a 'new' car for transporting clients both here and at our outreach centre in Tring. We now have a new logo of our own and the new website is soon to be launched.

Past improvements. Many areas at the Centre have been decorated. There's a new carpet in the lower hall and new blinds in the hall and downstairs rooms. Some roof repairs have taken place with the guttering and fascias being replaced around the upper hall. The upper garden patio has been re-laid and some pathways have been levelled. Work has started on overhauling the rear garden using a Tesco grant.

Future improvements. There are plans to up-grade the upper cloakroom areas; completely refurbishing the clients' toilets and providing further public toilets in the upper corridor, thus enhancing the prospects of increased community use. We also hope to replace the porch outside the lower hall with a stronger structure to take the weight of new doors required to provide increased security, which will provide independent access especially for wheelchair users.

Donations. We are grateful for the recent donations from Marks and Spencer, from Banjovi Revival CD sales, through 'My Donate' giving, from generous residents and from regular giving through standing orders.

We hope you'll agree that all this indicates a very healthy organisation.

Maggie Wooster