

THE MINISTER'S REPORT

Of Downs Barn / Neath Hill
Ecumenical Congregation 1985

For the Annual Church Meeting
on the 13th April 1986

Has 1985 been the year of the down escalator? we have certainly been going up, but the amount of effort seems disproportionate to the progress we have made. Like children on the London underground we seem to have been going up the down escalator. Children have the advantage of youth, stamina, a sense of fun, a lack of pride, willingness to fail, unaffected joy, and gifts too rare in adults, It was surely for such gifts as these that Jesus offered them the kingdom. Looking around we have been blessed with considerable childlikeness, as well as too much childishness,

The highlights of 1985 were probably different for each one of us. The Three Hours conducted by Graham. The May weekend must count for all those who were privileged to go, the generosity of the Church of England Diocese which enabled building work to start, the erection of that great cross overlooking our estates, the large number (proportionately) of new faces that we have greeted and got to know as fellow disciples of Jesus,

The sadnesses have been shared by many, Dorothy Russell died peacefully after Easter and a few of us children had shared communion with her and sung of our Easter hope a few days earlier. New disciples have followed Jesus no more or from a greater distance; and some of long standing find it more difficult,

The progress that has been made is perhaps in the greater efforts to ensure that the work of the fellowship is shared by as many people as possible. This arose partly from the reassessment of Peter's licence and the clear demand for better delegation. There is still a long way to go, But the more we share the more we can accomplish,

1985 must stand of the year of the cross - the cross we carry, the cross at whose foot we place our burdens, the cross which symbolises God and man united, and which beckons forward to an unknown Easter, will T936 be the year of the stable and the birth?

Responding to the call of God in Worship, Study & Prayer

Worship Our weekly worship pattern 10 on most Sundays and 9:30 (NH) and 11 on the 4th Sunday has been maintained but the irregularity creates problems for occasional worshippers and the forgetful, The 11 o'clock is normally an infant baptism, Graham and Bridget have taken an greater share of responsibility for the 9:30 and although there have been a number of occasional new worshippers there are few signs of growth, 10 on Sundays has been a Joy with many new faces: we seem to face the down escalator problem - we can identify many new worshippers but the total number seems to remain unchanged, and hardly anyone has left! 5:30 at Carpenters is very up and down, meeting a real need for those living nearby but not attracting new people into the common room of the sheltered housing,

Study & Prayer See the report from Graham later, and the attempt at a "prayer tree" list so that we can remember one another before God deliberately. ,

Music David Britton and the music group have a great gift to us all, They meet most weeks to practice for Sunday and their contribution is greatly valued, Pam plays occasionally and this is much appreciated, Numbers have not grown as much as we would have hoped, and we are still therefore limited as to what is possible, we sang the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday and that was lovely,

God's call to be a perfect community of persons ~ our life together

Celebrations at Downs barn have a style of their own; Sunday lunches together, harvest supper, Christmas party, But also evening trips to old local churches and this year the first of the church weekends at at Brides Castle in Pembrokeshire when 26 of us including some with severe handicaps shared a weekend together,

Children and The Quest During the year we attempted a programme for 12 & 33 year olds, After a time of preparation 5 were admitted to communion on the basis of a simple temporary promise, and a scheme of study was started, It has not proved very successful as the group was too small and the inevitable absentees made continuity difficult. Graham Kidman and a group of lay people worked very hard at this and upon this foundation we must build further,

Sharing with the uncommitted

Leaflets, Christmas card, Christian Aid (as a witness?) we do not have sufficient poster type publicity. The number of responses after the erection of the cross indicate that we are not sufficiently known. However young families beat a path to our door requesting "Christening". As our policy becomes better known some now ask for a dedication, most attend the preparation group and perhaps 50% opt for a Baptism; hopefully these times will yield fruit in later years. Plans were laid in 1985 for groups for couples getting married, based on experiments made by Julian Reindorp and the Marriage Guidance Council,

Removing Obstacles to Growth

we need to consider this area more carefully. The discussion about delegation and the increase in sharing of our common work is a first step,

Responding to the needs of our neighbours

As a community we have done very little, Christian Aid collection,,and the giving of a tenth of our congregational income are a start, individuals are committed to many caring agencies from Amnesty International to Age Concern from Church Missionary Society to DIAL MK,

MAINTENANCE

Membership with 84 adult names on our full list of members and associates it is difficult to see why our Sunday numbers rarely go above 50, Please note that "membership" lists are notoriously difficult to compile, Our financial contributions for clergy salary is based on the number of "members", the C.o.E. charge to the whole parish {for salaries) is based on C.o.E. electoral roll, so care must be taken to make those lists accurate, However for our own purposes we need a list that includes all associated with the fellowship here,

Of the 84 38 worship almost every week, 22 worship at least once a month, 24 occasionally. A number of children join us each week 6 are communicants.

During the year Peter a Janet Brinsmead, Sheila Hayley, Henry Bullen, Mr a Mrs Langton and Per, Leslie and Denise Adams, Joy and Robert Finch, Ray and Irene Gallanders, Ron and Elaine Murch, Tim and Daphne Mulcahy have joined us, Pauline wigglesworth is the only person who no longer worships at all,

In 1985 there were 15 infant baptisms and Darren wWlley and Charline Milne were baptised as young people, 20 infants were dedicated. 35 funerals were conducted, 15 marriages and 3 services of blessing after civil marriage were conducted. No marriages of divorced people were conducted this year,

In addition to the banns for the above marriages a further as banns were called,

The Building work commenced on the 22nd September 1985 after the customary cliff hanger, The lowest tenderer had withdrawn his tender (Willmots) and the second tender was £50,000 higher from Joseph Drivers of Tring, Negotiations and the generosity of the Diocese allowed us to sign a much pruned contract, we are promised completion for the 23rd September 1986. But the bad winter has caused delays and the later dedication date (29th November) may yet be too soon, The erection of the cross on the 8th September was a great boost and a wonderful sign. An immediate response with new faces the next Sunday morning,

Fund raising has been low profile with hard effort by a few people, Doriel's cards, Iris's whist, Ashley & Christine's Sponsored Disco, Edith's stall at Middleton Hall Bazaar, Linda's at Brooksward, Peter's consultancy fees, David Britton's printing and Gwen's printing printing. Personal donations and other efforts and donations are recorded in the accounts, we need £30,000 in the bank by the time the contract is completed as an absolute minimum, At year end we had nearly £23,000, at 1st April we had nearly £26,000, we might make it. But then we shall be needing all sorts for fitting out.

A recent development (Easter 85) is that the Roman Catholics might share in the use of the building. Many of us are extremely thrilled they are to hold a referendum to see what their laity think,

Thanks It is increasingly difficult to express thanks as more and more of us are sharing in the tasks, Iris and Roger as wardens for their love and their work, Edith as Secretary, Linda as Treasurer helped by Trudy, audited by David Britton, Graham D licensed as Lay Reader at moving service in September, Graham and Bridget for so much help at Brooksward, and in the study group. David Wills for the study group, Graham K whose work as a Methodist lay preacher goes beyond our own congregation, The music group (David, Elsie, Pam, Freda, Andrea), Roger who sets out and clears up most Sundays, Edith for occasional surprise cakes like Mothering Sunday, and collages and banners, Sarah, Charline, Deborah for taking over the creche, Denise Adams for taking on the birthday list, Gwen and Bridget for representing us on various committees. And what we cannot see, and will never know, the unseen prayer of love of one for another,

Stantonbury Parish Print continues to expand and fills Gwen and Stephen's time to the full. It continues to supply us with a variety of free printing and an annual payment to the building fund. It tries to avoid commercial printing and concentrates on community and church work locally and elsewhere,

Personal I am deeply grateful to you all for your love and support in a year that has been very difficult for us as a family, I was delighted that the congregation advised the Bishop to renew my licence for a further 5 years, The job allows me to be priest, minister, preacher, teacher, counsellor and friend, a person to the community, team vicar in the parish, ecumenical team leader, to serve on a CMS committee and to chair the Community workshop Trust. To print once in a while and to wander around the Holy Land and sleep under the stars on Mount Sinai, And I get paid for doing it, Praise God, My thanks to you, Gwen and the children.

Peter

THE WIDER PARISH

Beyond Downs Barn and Neath Hill Ecumenical Congregation lies the greater Ecumenical Parish of Stantonbury to which we belong, not only by sending two of our representatives to the Ecumenical Council meetings but with whom we share a quota system for the financial assessment towards our minister's stipend, (Still heavily subsidised by the church commissioners.) We are jointly responsible for the heritage of our older buildings as for the new building going up on Downs Barn, we are often pleased to use St Andrews, St Laurences or St James for weddings or funerals. We have been grateful for gifts from St Andrews and New Bradwell for our building fund, as Bradwell congregation were grateful for our small contribution to their Chapel renovation fund,

We shall only grow together by meeting together, praying and studying together and opportunities for this come occasionally - we need to take advantage of such events for our mutual enrichment,

The Covenant Service and Agape at St Augustines on January 13th and the United Service "Recipes for Justice" at St Andrews were two such events, together with the Borough wide One world week event in October with an excellent sermon by the Rev Myra Blyth. The Lent Course of Study on the Beatitudes was another valuable learning experience for all who took part. It is supportive to know that members of all our Christian congregations are out on the streets collecting for Christian Aid in May, and we were glad that members of other congregations came and shared in the inauguration of our building project with the planting of the cross in September,

One of our members, Graham Kidman, as well as our own minister, Peter, serves the wider borough as a Methodist Local Preacher on the plan. A few of our people are bellringers. We have welcomed other of Peter's colleagues to take services including David Byrne, and Julian Reindorp,

There were also times to celebrate together whether it be the Service of Commissioning of Stephen Norrish at the Christian Foundation, or with St James on their 125th anniversary at which one of members assisted in the choir,

We do have a combined parish magazine which attempts to keep us informed and in communication with each other - which you may or may not read - you are free to send contributions to it if you wish - but only together can we build up our common life in the Body of Christ,

Gwen Green

THE WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

The group enjoyed a range of different types of meeting, from reflections on Bible passages, the sharing of experiences and praying for others, to joining in the Lent Course at Christ Church and attending the 'Jesus' film at Newport Pagnell, There was a memorable summer outing to Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington: evening prayer in a beautiful Georgian church and refreshments in a nearby hostelry, we welcomed newcomers, Andrew and Russell, and Fiona while she was community service volunteers at Neath Hill,

Graham Deans

TREASURER'S REPORT"

Last year was more "steady as she goes" than "full steam ahead" and Downs Barn Church did stay economically "afloat", However, of the money acquired towards the building fund only £875.56 was raised by fund-raising efforts. As convenor of the fund raising committee, the treasurer must take some responsibility for this. It is hoped that some projects held in abeyance till the fine weather can now be embarked upon. But someone who has a bright idea is asked to either go right ahead, or bring it to the aforementioned committee, As far as weekly income is concerned the first quarter of 1986 has not been encouraging, we have averaged £67.09 per week, which as can be seen from our 1986 budget (£82.02 p.w.) shown on the accounts sheet, falls short of requirements. Once again it is asked that all of us question whether our commitment to the church is truly reflected in our giving.

Linda Goodwin

DWNS BARN & NEATH HILL ECUMENICAL CONGREGATION 1985 ACCOUNTS**BUILDING FUND**

1984	Income	1985	1984	Expenditure	1986
3750	Balance brought forward	6300.70			
334	Interest	2574.48		nil	
	Bell fund	380.00			
695	Personal Giving	937.76			
881	SPP Printing	1000.00			
	DB Printing	253.00			
37	Sale of Cards	102			
154	Whist Drives	138			
406	Sponsored Disco (Walk)	104			
	Bazaar & Raffle	201.66			
	DBCS Account	350.00			
	Brooksward fete stall	30.30			
	St Andrews	300.00			
	Harvest Auction	20.00			
	New Bradwell Meth	25.00			
S	chool Concert	47.60			
	Carol Singing	22.30			
	Linford Letter	50.00			
44	Transfer from Main a/c			Balance forward	12856.80
6301	TDTAL	12856.80		TOTAL	12856.80

BUILDING FUND

11000	Interest Free Loan	11000
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MAIN FUND

1984	Income	1985	1984	Expenditure	1986
500	Covenant Tax rebate	334.20	1640	Ministry paid via	2000
37	Bank Interest	2574.48	335	Rent	351.30
1143	Envelope collection	1336.38	20	Church councils	113
1075	Cash Collection	1812.886	69	Sundries	333.79
				Donations	
			50	CMS	60.00
				MMS	60.00
				Christian Fdn	60.00
				Samaritans	60.00
					60.00
					60.00
			100	Famine inAfrica	360.00
			50	Dial MK	
			50	Cot Death Research	
			50	Friends of Lotus	
			10	Brooksward Middle	
			10	Downs Barn First	
			44	Transfer to Building Fund	
	Contra donation			Cocntra Donations	
1	ChristianAid	289.01		Christian Aid	289.01
472	Ethiopia		472		
			326	Surplus this year	357.53
3227		3804.63	3227		3804.63

BALANCE SHEET

FUNDS			Assets and Liabilities		
MAIN FUND			Current Accountt		
466	Balance at 1st Jan 1985	791.91		Calance at 31st Dec 1985	nil
326	Surplus for 1985	357.53			
792		1149.44			
			517	High Interest account	
			11068	Balance at 31st Dec 1985	18466.98 3
	BUILDING FUND		732	Investment Account	
3570	Balance at 31st Dec 84	6300.70		Building Fund Deposit Ac	
2551	Income this year	6176.10			
6301		12476.80	500	NAt Savings Inv ac	1332.93
			5000	Nat Savings Bond	5000.00
	BELL FUND				
	Income this tea	380.00	500	Income tAx owed to us	500
				Money to be paid in	403.65
			-524	Less cheques to be presented	-697.32
			-11000	Interest Free Loans	-11000
7092	TOTAL	14006.24	7093	TOTAL	1408.24

BUDGETS

1984	Income1	1985	1986	1984	Expenditure	1985	1986
500	Tax Rebate	600	635	1500	Ministry	2400	3500
100	Interest	100		400	Rent	500	600
2400	Collecxtions	3300	4265	300	Sundries	300	400
	Sundries	100	100	500	Reserves	500	100

300 Tythed Donations 400 500

3000 TOTAL 4100 5000 3000 TOTAL 4100 5000

19986 First three months

Income Building Fund

Building Fund Interest 381.39
 SPP 1500.00
 Loan 250.00
 DB printing 562.00
 Other 378.55

3071.94

Main AccountIncome 872.22

MEMBERS LIST made up to 24th March 1986

	Surnames	First Name	No	Street	Estate	Postcode	Tele	Tradn
Communicant Members								
1	Aldous	George	2	Noble Close	Pennyland	MK15 8AF	607592	c.e.
2	Aldous	Doriel	2	Noble Close	Pennyland	MK15 8AF	607592	c.e.
3	Argue	Alan	15	Turners Mews	Neath Hill		660426	c.e.
4	Aveling	Helen	4	Turners Mews	Neath Hill		665091	c.e.
5	Baker	Andrea	18	Colesbourne Drive	Downhead Park		665842	c.e.
6	Baker	Fred	29	Bowyers Mews	Neath Hill		679494	c.e.
7	Barnes	Ernest	1	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill	MK14 6JP	661482	c.e.
8	Bates	Alice	4	Cordwainers Court	Neath Hill		660077	c.e.
9	Boydell	Dick	2	Fletchers Mews	Neath Hill		676140	ecum
10	Brinsmead	Peter	6	Fairford Crescent	Downhead Park	MK15 9AG	675111	c.e.
11	Britton	David	23	Burnett	Stantonbury	MK14 6AJ	317509	c.e.
12	Coggins	Ashley	33	Cantle Avenue	Downs Barn		679179	ecum
13	Beaver	Mildred	30	Marigold Place	Conniburrow		604936	c.e.
14	Bell	Doreen	6	Farrier Place	Downs Barn	Mk14 7PJ	662486	scot
15	Cross	Hilary	43	Stonecrop Place	Conniburrow			c.e.
16	Cross	Alison	43	Stonecrop Place	Conniburrow			c.e.
17	Cross	Bob	43	Stonecrop Place	Conniburrow		661477	c.e.
18	Cross	Edith	43	Stonecrop Place	Conniburrow		661477	c.e.
19	Coggins	Christine	33	Cantle Avenue	Downs Barn		679179	ecum
20	Hurlock	Bessie	103	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn			c.e.
21	Davies	Elaine	9	Coachmaker Court	Neath Hill		661221	c.e.
22	Davies	Graham	45	Tower Drive	Neath Hill		666553	c.e.
22	Davies	Pam	45	Tower Drive	Neath Hill		666553	c.e.
24	Day	Gill	62	Bayard Avenue	Downs Barn	MK14 7LN	663019	c.e.
25	Day	Les	62	Bayard Avenue	Downs Barn	MK14 7LN	663019	c.e.
26	Deans	Graham	19	Gilders Mews	Neath Hill		678898	c.e.
27	Dwyer	Emily	8	Bryerly House	Downs Barn			c.e.
28	Eppstein	Jane	12	Founders Mews	Neath Hill	MK14 6HT	660425	c.e.
29	Gillatly	Elzabeth	33	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill			presb
30	Goodwin	Roger	49	Chapman Avenue	Downs Barn	MK14 7PG	663039	ecum
31	Goodwin	Linda	49	Chapman Avenue	Downs Barn	MK14 7PG	663039	ecum
32	Gorman	Esme	64b	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn		607174	bapt
33	Green	Gwen	44	Farrier Place	Downs Barn	MK14 7PL	663346	c.e.
34	Green	Peter	44	Farrier Place	Downs Barn	MK14 7PL	663346	c.e.
35	Maybrey	David	145	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn	MK14 7QD	667143	c.e.
36	Maybrey	Fiona	145	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn	MK14 7QD	667143	c.e.
37	Johnson	Elsie	1	Florin Close	Pennyland		676716	ecum
38	Jones	Gwen	8	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill		662722	ecum
39	Kidman	Graham	6	Angle Close	Pennyland		776131	meth
40	Warren	Eric	80a	Mullen Avenue	Downs Barn		670012	c.e.
41	Moore	Daisy	24	Byerly Hosue	Downs barn			meth
42	Nadal	Brian	24	Lacey Drive	Bolbeck Park		664078	c.e.
43	Nadal	Jane	24	Lacey Drive	Bolbeck Park		664078	c.e.
44	Newman	Fred	28	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill			c.e.
45	Newman	Brian	6	Martin Close	Neath Hill			c.e.

46	Newman	Jasie	6	Martin Close	Neath Hill				c.e.
47	Norcott	Lillian	14	Innholders court	Neath Hill	MK14	6JN	660797	c.e.
48	Older	Mary	27	Bowyers mews	Neath Hill			674081	c.e.
49	Powell	Alan	38	Longcross	Pennyland			606300	c.e.
50	Powell	Trudy	38	Longcross	Pennyland			606300	c.e.
51	Taylor	Iris	25	Brownbaker	Neath Hill	Mk14	6JH	662762	c.e.
52	Warren	Judith	1	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill	MK14	6JP	661482	c.e.
53	Williams	Janet	6	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill			606298	meth
54	Williams	Bridget	19	Gilders Mews	Neath Hill			678898	bapt
55	Wills	David	40	Marhjoram Place	Conniburrow	MK14	7AQ	662941	c.e.
56	Wilson	Joan	19	Byerly Place	Downs Barn			670367	c.e.

CE Electoral Roll only

1	Bayley	Sheila		BUOA Chapman Avenue	Downs Barn				c.e.
2	Bryant	Doreen	38	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn			676231	c.e.
3	Bullen	Herny		BUPA Chapman Avenue	Downs Barn				c.e.

Occasional communicant

1	Amos	Anglie	80	Cantle Avenue	Downs Barn				c.e.
2	Eppstein	Mike	12	Founders Mews	Neath Hill	MK14	6HT	660425	rc
3	Langton	Ann-Marie	14	Colesbourne Drive	Downhead Park				luth
4	Langton	-	14	Colesbourne Drive	Downhead Park				c.e.
5	McSkelly	Liz	24	Longcross	Pennyland				c.e.
6	McMillan	-	12	Brownbaker	Neath Hill				presb
7	Per		14	Colesbourne Drive	Downhead Park				luth
8	Williams	Cindy	36	Currier Drive	Neath Hill				c.e.

Regular Non-Communicants

1	Adams	Denise	142	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn				
2	Adams	Leslie	142	Downs Barn Blvd	Downs Barn				
3	Brinsmead	Janet	6	Fairford Crescent	Downhead Park	MK15	9AG	675111	c.e.
4	Finch	Joy		Martingale Place	Downs Barn				bapt
5	Finch	Robert		Martingale Place	Downs Barn				
6	Gallanders	Irene	68	Colebourne Drive	Pennyland				
7	Gallanders	Ray	68	Colebourne Drive	Pennyland				
8	Johnson	Pam	16	Bowyers N=Mews	Neath Hill				
9	Murch	Elain	8	Byerly Place	Downs Barn				
10	Murch	Ron	8	Byerly Place	Downs Barn				
11	Rose	Anne	25	Kirtlington	Downhead Park				

Occasional

1	Cavanagh	Di	31	Sterling Close	Pennyland			6768076	
2	Cavanagh	Danny	31	Sterling Close	Pennyland			6768076	
3	Carpenter	Tricia			Downhead Park				
4	Davies	Brian	9	Coachmaker Court	Neath Hill			661221	c.e.
5	Mulcahy	Rim	31	Glazier Drive	Neath Hill				
6	Mulcahy	Daphne	31	Glazier Drive	Neath Hill				

Deceased or Ceased to Worship

1	Prior	lose	15	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill				bapt
2	Wigglesworth	Pauline	22	Quinton Avenue	Bradwell				ecum
3	Russell	Dorothy	15	Carpenters Court	Neath Hill				c.e.

Numbers of members	56
Number on CE Electoral Roll only	3
Occasional Communicants	8
Number of Regular	11
Number of Occasional	6
Number of Names OnList	84
Recently Deceased, moved away or ceased	3