



## **Team Donation Presentation Night**

**Penketh Methodist Church,**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007, 7.30pm.**

On Monday evening 3 Team Members received a generous donation from The Methodist Network totalling a fantastic amount of £770.00.

During April 2006, Mrs Maureen Higginson, a dedicated member of Latchford Methodist Church, nominated Cheshire Search & Rescue Team as a 'Charity of the Year'. Mrs Higginson heard about the Team after her Grand-daughter and family joined the Team back in January 2004.

Mrs Higginson nominated Cheshire Search & Rescue Team and very quickly we'd heard the fantastic news that we had been accepted along with St. Josephs Family Centre, Warrington. After 18 months of fundraising within various Methodist Churches, as a Network, they had managed to raise over £1500.00.

The evening began with introductions and a service by the Chairperson, Joan Ellis of the Methodist Network. Mrs Higginson presented the cheques after a speech which we can only describe as 'heart-warming, reflective and straight from the heart'. Following the presentation we stayed and listened to another presentation by Doctor Janet Stott, Stockton Heath Methodist Church concerning the 'Charity of the Year' for 2007-2008., Tula Orphanage in Russia.

Tula Orphanage is home to 77 children. The building is in an appalling condition and the conditions the children live in can never be described. They aim to make the place 'a home' for children to grow up in and feel secured and loved, these small things we often take for granted. The toilets were concrete stands with a hole in the middle and there were 6 for 77 children, most of the children apparently went outside to relieve themselves. With no central heating, no kitchen and few windows; life was becoming desperately unbearable for these children, especially considering in winter when temperatures dropped to -40c.

As you can imagine there wasn't a dry eye in the hall.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all Team Members at Cheshire Search & Rescue Team, by saying, we wish everyone success in making the dream possible for these children to be loved within a safe and secure home.

We thank everyone within the Methodist Network for supporting Cheshire Search & Rescue Team; it will be a night we will not forget for many years to come.