

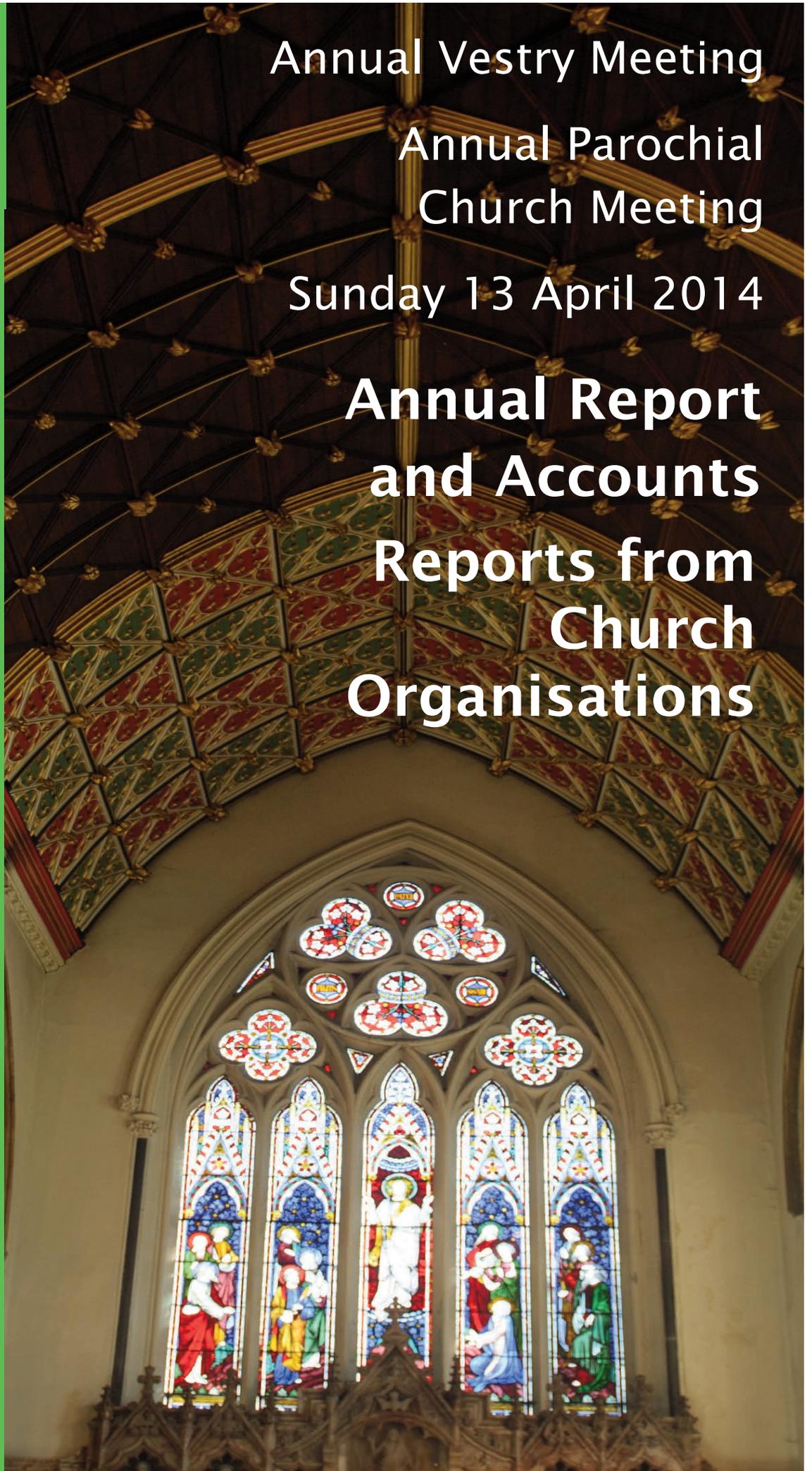


# All Saints Oakham

Annual Vestry Meeting  
Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting

Sunday 13 April 2014

**Annual Report  
and Accounts  
Reports from  
Church  
Organisations**



Photography by

Deans Street Photography — cover & page 6

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## Annual Vestry Meeting 2014

A meeting of Oakham parishioners will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 13 April 2014 in All Saints Church for the election of Churchwardens.

### Agenda

- 1 Prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 28 April 2013
- 4 Election of Churchwardens
- 5 Election of Deputy Churchwardens

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2014

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of members of the Church Electoral Roll will then follow

### Agenda

- 1 Presentation of the new Electoral Roll
- 2 Minutes of meeting of 28 April 2013
- 3a Election of Deanery Synod members
- 3b Election of PCC members
- 4 Finance: to receive Church Accounts and appoint an Examiner
- 5 Vicar's Report
- 6 PCC Secretary's Report and reports from other church groups (see booklet)
- 7 Deanery Synod Report
- 8 Election of Sidespersons
- 9 Other matters  
(any items should have been notified, where possible, to the chairman or secretary in advance)

## Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2013

**28 April 2013 at 11:15am**

**Present:** Canon L T Francis-Dehqani (Chair), 85 Parishioners.

The Meeting began with prayer.

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Bush, Mr & Mrs Corton, Mrs C Drye, Mr & Mrs Denny, Mr & Mrs Hall and Mr & Mrs Williamson.

**Minutes:** Proposed (J Pearce) and seconded (P May) that the Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 1st April 2012 were a true and accurate record of that meeting. Carried nem con.

**Election of Churchwardens:** Having been correctly nominated and seconded Margaret Pattinson and Alison Long were duly elected as Churchwardens for Oakham All Saints' Parish Church.

**Election of Deputy Churchwardens:** The Chairman asked that with the permission of the Meeting the election of Deputy Churchwardens should be considered by the PCC at its next meeting. This was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:25am.

# Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2013

28 April 2013 at 11:25am

**Present:** Canon L T Francis-Dehqani (Chair), 85 Parishioners.

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Bush, Mr & Mrs Corton, Mrs C Drye, Mr & Mrs Denny, Mr & Mrs Hall and Mr & Mrs Williamson.

**New Electoral Roll:** This was presented by the Electoral Officer Richard Davies. The new roll currently contained 293 names; this figure included 45 new members. There were still some people to be canvassed, and together with retired clergy the final total should be around 320. Richard Davies, who compiles the roll with the Stewardship Secretary, was thanked for his hard work. Proposed (R Davies), seconded (G Woods), the new roll was accepted by the meeting.

**Minutes:** Proposed (P Hill), seconded (S Bruce), that the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 1st April 2012 were a true and accurate record of that meeting. Carried nem con.

**Election of PCC Members:** Having been duly proposed and seconded the following were elected to the PCC until the APCM in 2016: Dr Jane Ince, Mrs Pat Munro and Mrs Soo White.

**Treasury Team's Report:** The Treasurer (Peter Hill) highlighted some points from the Financial review and Annual Accounts which were published in the Annual Report Booklet. Whilst the Stewardship Campaign had been successful, there were only limited funds available for maintenance and repair. We were grateful for some donations and grants, and especially thankful for £12,000 from the Friends of All Saints to enable the retiling of the central nave aisle to take place.

In response to a query from Mr Linford it was confirmed that HSBC applied bank charges to all cheques, both received and paid out. A review by our Insurers resulted in a sizeable premium increase, the first for several years. The Quinquennial Review had been received recently, and revealed nothing of an urgent nature which required attention.

The Vicar thanked the Treasury Team for all their work, and underlined the need to continue to concentrate on our finances. The PCC reviewed the current situation at every meeting. Whilst it was felt that a triennial Stewardship Renewal Campaign was reasonable, it was also important that regular givers should try to review more frequently.

Proposed by J King and seconded by P Hill that the Accounts be accepted as a true statement of the financial position of the church. Carried nem con.

**Appointment of an Independent Examiner:** With his agreement Mr Trevor Hughes was reappointed to this position.

**Vicar's Report:** The Annual Report booklet contained a detailed account from the Vicar of the developments which had taken place over the last seven years. The important role played by the parish in both the Deanery and the Diocese was highlighted. The establishment of the fully staffed clergy team had given a different dimension to the work of the team in the benefice. There was budget provision for the planned appointment of a Youth Intern later in the year, all that was needed now was accommodation to be arranged.

**PCC Planning Project:** Whilst the formulation of a "Growth Action Plan", (GAP), was in vogue, the PCC had attempted to avoid a "tick-box" exercise during the discussions/opinions collected from the congregation. As a result broad general issues had been highlighted as future priorities: Communications, Pastoral Care, Children & Youth Work, Worship and Space. The identification of these areas has gone a long way to producing our GAP. The intention now is to set up small working groups to review the priority areas and recommend future actions for their development.

The need for more leaders to assist with the children at Sunday School was emphasised. The choir also needed support and encouragement. It was important to create and sustain a culture encouraging 'contribution' to the life of the parish, not 'doing more'.

**Thanks:** Margaret Pattinson (Churchwarden) thanked the Vicar for all that had been achieved during the past year, especially for the unseen work, time and energy in what had been a very challenging year. These thanks were given on behalf of the whole congregation.

The Vicar recorded formal thanks to Stan Bruce (Churchwarden) who was retiring after five years in post. He had been a great support to the Vicar at all times. In reply Stan thanked the Vicar for his kind words, and said it had been a privilege to serve as Warden.

**Other Reports:** The PCC Secretary's Report and other Reports had been issued previously as part of the Annual Report Booklet.

The Deanery Synod Lay Chair brought the meeting's attention to the Deanery Synod Report, with a reminder that the question of Women in the Episcopate was still unresolved. Oakham PCC had voted in favour, as had eleven of thirteen PCCs in the Deanery. Elected members in the Diocesan Synod had voted against.

**Election of Sidespersons:** The following list had been submitted by Lyn Everitt for appointment as sidespersons for 2013-2014: Audrey Austen, Richard Blythin, Stan Bruce, Kathryn Collinson, Andy Compton, Dennis Corton, Richard Davies, Richard Day, Gerry Duffy, Lyn Everitt, Rebecca Falconer, Ken Gilman, Peter Hill, Jane Ince, Joan Jervis, Ron Jervis, Stephan Johnson, Peter Kinal, Stuart Long, Jack Pearce, Sue Reilly, Brian Rose, Elizabeth Smith, Ron Streeter, Michael Timms, John Tomalin, Marilyn Tomalin, Alex Uff, Jackie Vecqueray, Mike Vecqueray, Brenda Weatherhogg and Patrick Wilson.

Lyn Everitt was stepping down as Head Sidesperson and her replacement is Andy Compton. Lyn was thanked by the Vicar for her hard work and organisational skills in ensuring the smooth working of the team.

**Final Prayer:** There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 12.35 pm.

# Vicar's Annual Report

*Canon Lee T Francis-Dehqani — Team Rector and Vicar of Oakham*

This is the tenth Annual Report I have written as your Parish Priest. They have all generally taken the same format. I offer this year's report in a spirit of profound thankfulness for every blessing in ministering here; it is a joy and a privilege.

## Worship

It is encouraging to report that the number of people worshipping at Sunday services is strong averaging 215 adults and 27 children. This is greatly swelled when there are baptisms, civic services or around the major festivals.

**Seasonal Service Booklets.** Much work has gone into the production of these new booklets. We began rolling these out in Lent 2014 and they will be finished by Christmas 2014. They are the culmination of a lot of reflection and trial use over some years. When combined with the weekly produced pewsheets we have a means of more flexible and seasonal worship pattern.

**Daily Services.** Oakham Parish Church has an honourable tradition of Daily Worship and I remain committed to it. We offer weekday Communion services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (J&A), Thursdays and Fridays. Numbers at J&A are particularly strong (averaging about 18) and the BCP Friday has a very faithful following. I am grateful to team colleagues and retired clergy who help staff these. In addition we have Morning and Evening Prayer said Monday-Friday. These services are the bedrock of our worshipping life, supporting the parish with prayer and giving opportunities for reflection in a busy day. Please consider joining us.

**Team Services.** It has been our pattern to join together on fifth Sundays for Team Services. These services have been greatly enhanced by Laudamus our Team Choir. Holy Week and Easter has been a focus for worshipping together. We need to remember that these are important times to support each other, worshipping and praying together. I am grateful to all those who travel to worship in other churches for these events

There are so many people to thank including **Mr Kevin Slingsby** the Director of Music, the choir, vergers, bellringers, readers, intercessors, sidespersons, servers, flower guild and many others. All of you contribute



in so many different ways to the faithful worship that we offer.

## Pastoral Care

There are two distinct areas of pastoral care that make up the ongoing pastoral work of the Parish.

**(a) Occasional Offices.** In 2013 at Oakham we had:

34 baptisms and 4 Confirmation. This is a considerable engagement with our local community and represents a large amount of work on behalf of the clergy and also the team of post baptism visitors;

17 weddings and 1 wedding blessing. This number, when combined with the 26 held elsewhere in the Team, represents a wonderful opportunity to engage with couples as they prepare for marriage. I personally lead Wedding Preparation Sessions on two Saturdays each year which seem to be appreciated. Each wedding couple is also seen individually by the officiating clergy person. It is very rewarding work;

40 funerals with all the associated planning and pastoral follow up. Funerals are shared between the Team. In 2013 I officiated at 16, Dominic at 13 and Hildred at 6. Readers or retired clergy took an additional 5;

## (b) Ongoing Pastoral Care

Revd Hildred Crowther continues to work very effectively in the coordination of this type of pastoral care. I particularly commend the ongoing monthly bereavement support that Hildred has been offering. The Pastoral Forum, is way of organizing this aspect of pastoral work and requests for Home Communion or visits to the housebound should go through Hildred.

I remain deeply grateful to the other members of the Ministry Team, Retired Clergy and members of the Pastoral Forum for their support and assistance in the delivery of pastoral care.

## Adult Education

We continued our ecumenical pattern of Lent groups in 2013 they have been very well supported. I am grateful to Mrs Gail Rudge who has taken on the administration of these groups. In the autumn 2013 we prepared 4 candidates for Confirmation by the Bishop of Brixworth in November.

Elsewhere in this document you can read reports from various Bible and Study groups which offer opportunities for fellowship and prayer. A new group on the Creed was led by the

curate and Mrs Jenni Duffy led a course based at Ashwell. The *Christian Meditation Group* continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays at St John and St Anne Chapel .

## Children & Young People

As always I am greatly encouraged by the ongoing Children's work which is reported elsewhere in the Annual Reports. We need to recognise the large amount of hard work that this represents. I am particularly grateful to all who teach and lead Sunday School. It is **essential** that we recruit more leaders if we are to continue to nurture our youngest children.

We will soon start preparations sessions to admit children to first communion on Sunday 22nd June The practice of admitting children to communion before confirmation is now well established and has increased numbers of children at Communion Services. It is an honour to prepare them and an excitement to present them. This year will allow us to show the positive outworkings of this new process of Christian initiation as at least three of our ASK young people will be confirmed at the same service. These young people have been admitted to Communion, been faithful in their attendance at Sunday Services and youth nurture groups. In addition they have been given permission to administer the chalice by the Bishop.

Our Pram Service continues to be a strongly welcoming place for new parents as is our Tiny Tots Group both of which meet midweek.

For the first time in this last year we have participated in the Diocesan Youth Intern Scheme and Miss Jess Thompson has began a year long placement with us in September 2013. It has been a privilege to get to know Jess and from the work she has done it ought to be possible to develop more youth work in future years. The PCC will need to consider whether to apply for a further placement next year.

## Team Development & Ministerial Supervision

*(see separate Ministry Team Report)*

Team Ministries are nowhere near as fashionable or successful as they once were. It is true that some Teams have suffered from an overemphasis

on internal structure at the expense of working for growth. At the same time Clergy isolation and small individual parishes can benefit from an overarching structure that releases them for ministry and mission.

I came here in 2004 with a brief to build a cohesive growing team of parishes. I believe we have done much to counter some of the criticism of Team working. Yes it is not always easy, relationships can be difficult, meetings can proliferate, the centre can sometimes dominate, but the benefits of mutual encouragement and joint working outweigh these (to my mind at least).

It is a pleasure as well as a time-consuming responsibility to supervise and oversee such a wide team. Recent clergy sick leave has been difficult and taken me away from Oakham which I regret. I firmly believe that working together is both effective and a witness of the community that God calls us to.

A particular encouragement has been a new Vocations Group, currently with six members where we have been exploring the various ways God calls people to ministry.

## Finances

The Financial Reports which are presented to the APCM represent an enormous amount of work on behalf of so many people. I am very pleased to report that All Saints Oakham paid its full share of £87,015. Unfortunately for the first time in some years once of our villages was not able to meet its Share with a consequent Team underpayment of £3,000. We

are used to full payment of the share, but should recognize what a hard job it is to ensure that this happens.

The main reason Oakham able to meet our Parish Share and other financial obligations is because of the long and committed practice of Stewardship. We will have a Stewardship Campaign in Autumn 2014 and we need to identify new people to help us plan and deliver this.

I am very grateful to our Treasury Team of **Mr Peter Hill, Mr John King** and **Canon Michael Wilson**.

## Finally

I have much to be thankful for in my work and ministry at Oakham, mostly due to the great team of people I have working with me. At the risk of missing someone out, I would identify:

All Team Members for their insights and support;

**Revd Hildred Crowther** for her selfless commitment to the Team and her wise pastoral sense;

**Revd Dr Dominic Coad** for his new insights and his example of how we can all grow into new roles;

The Churchwardens **Mrs Margaret Pattinson** and **Mrs Alison Long** for their tireless work for the Parish and their personal support;

**Mrs Janine Weaver**, our Administrator, for her cheerful attention to the many enquiries and business of the Team office;

My family **Guli, Gabriel, Eleanor** and **Simeon** who all share with me the pleasures and frustrations of Vicarage life.



# Ministry Team

*Canon Lee T Francis-Dehqani –  
Team Rector, Chair Ministry Team*

One of the chief reasons for forming a Team Ministry of 10 parishes is to allow licensed ministers to work across the differing parishes. The central structures are the means for offering mutual ministerial support.

Currently the Ministry Team is made up of

- Canon Lee T Francis-Dehqani** (Team Rector since 2004)
- Rev Hildred Crowther** (Assistant Priest since 2008)
- Revd Audrey Atkinson** (Team Vicar since 2011)
- Revd Janet Tebby** (Team Vicar since 2012)
- Revd Dr Dominic Coad** (Curate since 2012)
- Mr Vyv Wainwright** (Reader since 2000)
- Mr Alan Rudge** (Reader since 2007)
- Mr David Pattinson** (Reader since 2008)
- Mrs Gail Rudge** (Licensed Evangelist since 2003)
- Mrs Jenni Duffy** (Licensed Evangelist since 2012)
- Mrs Madeleine Morris** (Lay Pastoral Minister since 2003)

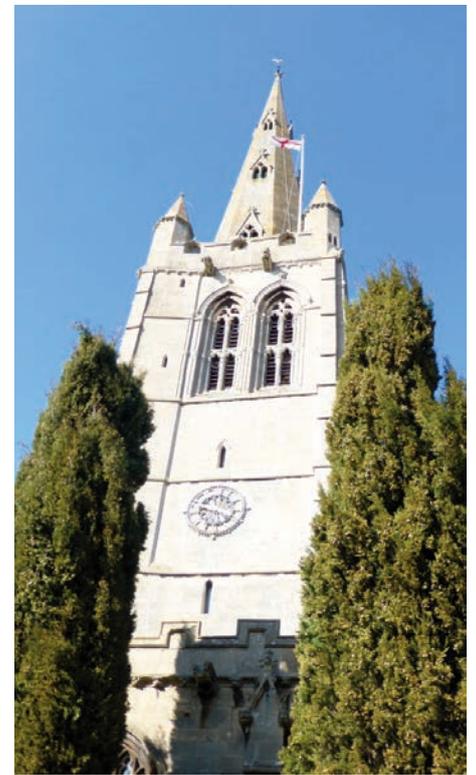
Each team member has differing responsibilities in differing parishes and we could not provide the breadth of services and study opportunities without their help and support.

2013 saw some changes:

**Mrs Debbie Marsh** who had been a Reader in the Team since 2003 was accepted to train for ordained ministry. Since September she has been studying at Westcott House, Cambridge. We owe Debbie a real debt of gratitude for all the work in the Team, especially her innovative work in Parish Nursing and helping to found the weekly Drop in Centre.

**Revd Dr Dominic Coad** was ordained priest on 29 June 2013 in a wonderful service at Peterborough Cathedral. The following day he presided at Holy Communion for the first time at Oakham Parish Church. I have greatly enjoyed and benefitted from Dominic's early ministry as a priest.

The Ministry Team meets weekly for Holy Communion Thursdays at 9am. This is a new later time and anyone is welcome, it is a good way of showing your prayerful support of our work. In addition the full Team meets monthly for planning and support. In May we are to have an Away Day looking at our forthcoming priorities. I am grateful to all my colleagues for their generous offerings of the time and expertise, which make the Team such an exciting place to work.



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## Youth Intern

*Jess Thompson*

Currently I am working in many different areas of church life, including Pram Service, Tiny Tots and the Rutland Foodbank. I have also organised one off events including a light night party and a film night.

All of these things have been great experiences for me as I feel that I have mixed with a whole range of people from the Oakham community. This has been great, even as I wander around the town people will say hi and they recognise me from the activities I have been involved in at All Saints which doesn't really happen in Doncaster so that has been lovely!

There is also a girls group running called GIFT (Girls in Faith Together) which I lead. It runs every other week and is held in a building belonging to the Foodbank called 'The Shed'. There are a few young women who consistently attend every session which I feel is a great thing as it means I can get to know them, pray for, and with them, and hopefully disciple them into growing into being amazing women for God!

Looking ahead myself and Dominic are looking at holding a sleepover in Church on Maundy Thursday. Hopefully this will be an event where members of ASK will attend but also

others, either from the young people that attend GIFT but also their friends as well. There will be various different activities such as the Passover meal and then various prayer stations throughout the evening, so we can help keep watch until midnight!

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## Electoral Roll

*Richard Davies –  
Electoral Roll Officer*

This time last year, in March 2013, 187 members had re-enrolled.

Since then another 119 members have enrolled so that **the total on the electoral roll in March 2014 now stands at 306.**

There are 278 residents and 28 non-residents.

Four members have died during the year.

The roll is compiled with the help of the Stewardship secretary.

# Licensed Evangelist

## Jenni Duffy

The last nineteen months have been filled with many different experiences as I have learned about and adapted to my role as your Licensed Evangelist.

I have enjoyed assisting at the many baptisms we have had and find particular pleasure in watching the babies' reactions when the first drops of water land on their heads. Thank you to all who have helped during the baptism services, it is lovely to be able to offer a warm welcome to the families – some of whom are entering our church for the very first time. Particular thanks must go to the team of baptism visitors, ably organised by Jackie Vecqueray.

The Travelling Nativity once again made the rounds and was hosted by 71 families (a few had to have it during the week after Christmas.) Two of the wise men didn't return after their travels and so Joyce Halliday very kindly knitted replacements, thank you Joyce! Thank you also to the many other knitters who produced such lovely sheep for the families to keep. If you would like to see the various ways families

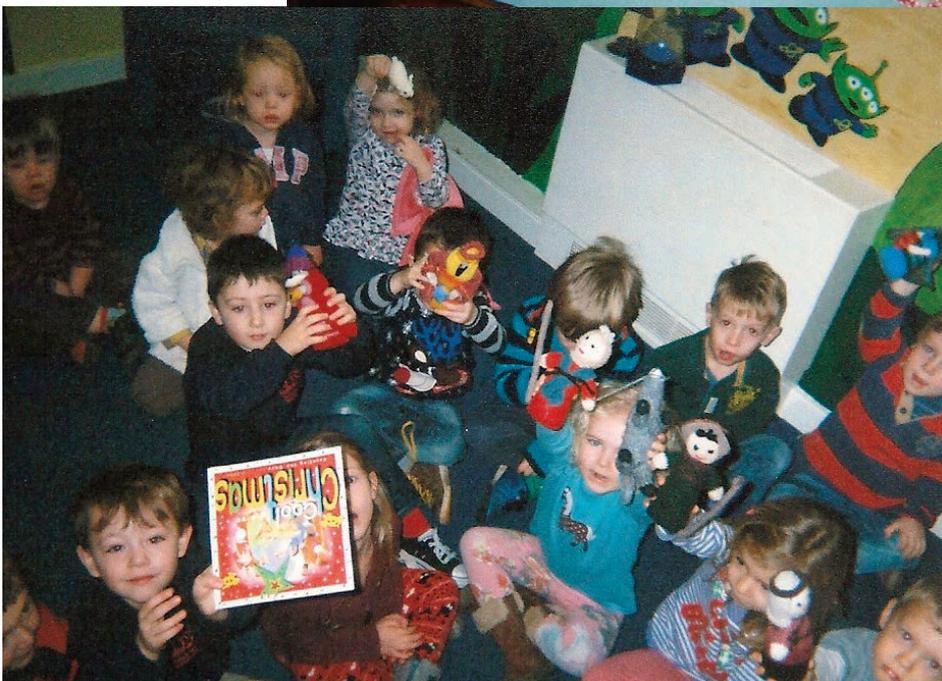


displayed the nativity sets, there are photographs in the children's area. My thanks to Pamela Woods, Denise McDonald and Viv Ufton for their help in co-ordinating the 3 sets.

In January I ran a course on the basics of Christianity called 'Seeds of Faith'. I was assisted by David Brewin and am very

grateful for his help and support. The course covered topics such as the Bible, praying, the Creeds, Jesus, the Trinity and the Eucharist and we ended the final session with a shared meal together.

Evangelism continues to be done in church and when we're out and about, it happens during organised, set activities and during the weekly shop at Tesco or when we stop to chat on the High Street or meet friends for lunch. Chance encounters or planned meetings, these all offer us opportunities to share the Good News and to further God's Kingdom – let us pray that we use every one of them well.



*The Travelling Nativity on its travels*

# Communications Working Group

*Kevin Slingsby*

At this time last year the PCC undertook an extensive consultation looking at the strengths and weaknesses of our church life, and one of the main areas identified as needing improvement was the area of communications in all its aspects. As a result I was asked to set up a working group to look at this, and to identify ways we could improve our communications and to begin to implement them.

A group was set up, with Victor Hall, Beryl Kirtland, Stuart Long, David Dyer, Millie Long and John Tomalin and myself, and as well as considering in general WHAT we need to communicate and WHY, we initially identified areas for attention as the pewsheet; the magazine; noticeboards; the website; logo and house style; orders of service; radio & newspapers.

Our main means of printed communication (both to members of the church community and to the wider local community) are the Weekly Pewsheet and the monthly magazine Good News, both of which we felt did an inadequate job in the way that they promoted our work and life as a church.

The Pewsheet often did not have enough space for all the notices, and tended to be dominated by Oakham notices, and was not particularly attractive. Furthermore, when we were using a separate hymn sheet there was an extra piece of paper to give out. A new style Pewsheet was trialled from the summer, including all notices, readings and hymns – this has been developed over the following months, and is now in regular pro-

duction at Oakham. We are now about to trial a villages edition for the rest of the Team.

The Pewsheet is always given out with the Service Booklet every Sunday, and we have worked with the Worship Forum in the production of new Service Booklets using the same house style, so that now the sidesmen only have to give out two things on a Sunday morning – the Service Booklet and the Pewsheet.

We will start to review the magazine in more detail once the Pewsheet has settled down, but some of the issues are that it needs to reflect us as a worshipping community better rather than just being a noticeboard or recording trivial details about past events; it needs more consistently even coverage of the Team parishes; and it needs to be distributed to the whole Team, not just the southern parishes as now.

The noticeboards outside the church are an important means of communication to the wider community, and these need to reflect not only semi-permanent contact information and service details, but should also show other events and be updated on a

regular basis. We are pleased that plans for new noticeboards are now progressing through the channels of planning permission etc, and we have a plan in place for the regular updating once they are installed.

We felt the need for better cohesion and corporate image within the Team, and to that end we commissioned a new Team logo, which is now being used increasingly across the parishes.

Another important vehicle of communication is the website. This has developed over the last few years as a Google site, and is beginning to tire a little – we are currently planning a brand new website for the Team, which will be launched during 2014.

New members and visitors to our Church need to know what is going on, and we are currently looking to produce a new 'Welcome Pack' which will give them the information they need, and we hope to produce this in the coming few months.

If anyone has any comments about the work that we are doing, or feels that they could contribute in any way, please do have a word with me.



*Laudamus at Teigh – Trinity Sunday 2013*

# Music

## *Kevin Slingsby, Director of Music*

I discussed last year the need to keep abreast with developments in hymnody to help keep our worship both relevant and refreshing, and talked about the variety of hymn books that are available today. We have now purchased a set of music copies of the newly published 'Ancient and Modern' (2013) for the choir, as most of the hymns we use are contained in it, but took the decision not to aim to buy congregational copies, but to print the hymns for the morning service on a more regular basis – with the new style pewsheet introduced during the year, the hymns are now included within it every week, which means that we can easily incorporate hymns from a wide variety of sources.

I am grateful to the members of the choir who give of their time to rehearse and sing on Sundays, but as ever, the choir remains thin in numbers, and members often cannot attend every week for very good reasons – a few more people on each part would make a tremendous difference to what we do, and would enhance our worship greatly. Please do consider whether you might be one of those people with a good voice who could help make that difference, and have a word with me if you would like to discuss it further.

We continue to join together with the other parishes as the Team Choir, Laudamus, for special Team occasions, including Fifth Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Carol Services, and we are able to tackle more substantial repertoire on those occasions. Memorable in 2013 were the Good Friday Liturgy, Patronal and Harvest evensong at Teigh, Revd Dominic Coad's first mass, the Advent Carol Service, and Carol Services at Oakham, Whissendine and Market Overton. I am very pleased that a new choir has started at Langham, and their members also join Laudamus events. I am very grateful to Margaret Foot for her work and enthusiasm in starting and developing this.

The music group has continued to play at Family Services, and it has been pleasing to have Lucy Collison and Bethany Davis join us on violin, and on a good day we now boast three violins, flute, cello and piano, but if there are any other budding musicians out there who would like to join us please do have a word with me. As with the choir, it was good that for the Team service at Whissendine in September we were able to join with musicians who play at Langham to lead the worship with an augmented music group.



*Laudamus at Teigh – Trinity Sunday 2013*

I am grateful as ever to the many people who support and encourage the music in many ways – the Worship Forum, the Team Rector and the other clergy, the Laudamus planning

committee, and those who assist with organ playing – with a special mention for Paul Butler for his unstinting and excellent support during the year.



## Worship Forum

*Canon Lee T Francis-Dehqani – Chairman*

The Worship Forum aims are to reflect on the worship pattern offered at All Saints and act as a reference group for the vicar in developing service provision. It is chaired by the vicar and its membership includes the Church wardens, The Director of Music and representatives of the Ministry Team and PCC.

Every year we review the major feasts of Christmas and Easter, looking at what works and what might be different. In addition we formulate a plan for Team Services based around fifth Sunday provision. In this respect we are helpfully assisted by the *Laudamus* planning committee.

The major task of this year has been to revise our current worship booklets. PCC received a report on this in January and agreed the production of new seasonal booklets beginning in Lent 2014. The quality of production and the new house style should mean that they will serve us well for many years to come.

We always are open to new members joining this Forum and anyone interested should make themselves known to the Vicar or Wardens. Parishioners are encouraged to continue to make their views on worship known through the Forum or the PCC to which it reports.



*The first batch of new Service Books*

## Bell Ringers

*Louis Totaro – Tower Captain*

2013 has been another fulfilling year for the Oakham team with wedding ringing running into double figures. In fact, in addition to accommodating similar numbers of visiting ringers, we have certainly seen an upward trend in the number of weddings and the requests for bells in recent years.

Practice nights on Tuesdays remain well attended and I am happy to report that we have been maintaining a good standard of ringing. We have attracted two new learners to our camp: Diane Young and Chris Clark, both residents of Oakham. We wish them both the very best of luck and hopefully look forward to seeing them on Sunday mornings too.

We have a number of ringers who visit us regularly each week from around the area and I am most grateful of their continued support. I would however encourage anyone local to come and have a go if they are interested. Our practice night is held every Tuesday 7:30pm–9:00pm and our Sunday morning ringing commences at 9:55am.

Our peal of bells remain in a ringable

condition but I envisage that greater maintenance will be needed over the course of the next few years as parts will undoubtedly need refurbishment or replacement and certainly an inspection and work on the frame will need attending to within the next 5 years.

Campanology (Bellringing) can be and is a stimulating and fulfilling pastime for those who take part in this practice, but perhaps most people forget the underlying purpose of ringing. In this 'digital', high speed and pressurised world of commitments we now live in, people have even less time now to appreciate others around us and the environment we live in and perhaps most importantly, Gods 'message' which can get lost in all this 'noise'. When you hear the bells on Sunday, spare a thought for us

ringers, about what ringing is and its purpose... to call the community to worship and to rejoice and proclaim God's message.

## Good News Van

*Catriona Drye*

This is a mobile library which has a large variety of Christian books including biographies, novels, books on prayer study, CDs and books for the seasons of the Christian year. We also have a good selection of children's books. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month alternately at 25, Willow Crescent or St John & St Anne South Street at 7:30pm.

Any new people will be very welcome.

# Pastoral Forum

*Rev. Hildred Crowther – Assistant Priest..*

The Pastoral Forum, which I chair, continues to meet every other month and we're delighted to have been joined by Jenni Duffy & our curate Revd Dr. Dominic Coad who became members of the Forum last year. We are still very dependent on you, the members of our congregation, to keep us informed of any change in your personal circumstances that prevents you from coming to church to receive your communion.

Our team clergy, and our lay volunteers, always enjoy the privilege of bringing the Reserved Sacrament (the host which has been consecrated at the Communion service) to those of you who are temporarily or permanently housebound. However, when we haven't known of your need, it's not so enjoyable to be told off for not having done so, so PLEASE let us know if you would like us to do this for you. In a congregation as large as ours it's impossible for us to know that you're not there & we rely on you to take this responsibility for yourself. It's also very helpful to us if others in the congregation recognise someone's need for this & let us know. We'd far rather be told twice than not at all. You can speak to any member of the clergy or any member of the Pastoral Forum. (see on) In addition, if you feel able to come to church but are not able to come to the altar rail, please let a Church Warden or sides-

person know so that your communion can be brought to you in your pew.

The **Come & Chat Bereavement Group** has been running for over a year and we now meet in All Saints' Church Hall rather than at the Methodist Church. It has been extensively advertised & invitations are given out to the next of kin at all funeral visits. In liaison with Dr. Sian Cheverton, invitations are now also given to next of kin when a patient of the Oakham Medical Practice dies. Despite all our efforts, uptake is very disappointing but I am indebted to our faithful team of volunteers who continue to support this venture and have agreed to continue to do so for the present. If uptake has not improved by next year we may have to reconsider.

Forum members have been enthusiastic in reinstating the Sunday afternoon tea parties which are held in

church. Two were held over the winter and were enjoyed by all who attended. Grateful thanks are due to those who volunteered to help, especially the young people of the ASK group who not only baked cakes but helped on the day. Three more tea parties are planned to take place over the summer on 11th May, 6th July and 14th September. Please keep an eye on the Pewsheets for further details and feel free to bring anyone you know who might enjoy coming

At the end of last year Gill Bruce decided that the time was right for her to retire from the Pastoral Forum. She has served for several years & we are grateful to her.

My grateful thanks for their continued support to Denise McDonald, Pamela Woods, Monica Compton, Jenny Duffy and Dominic Coad.



*Confirmands with the Bishop of Brixworth – November 2013*

## Sidesmen

*Andy Compton*

This year we have had a consistent and well practiced team of sidesmen who have given sterling service throughout the year including at civic ceremonies held at All Saints (please see the minutes of last year's APCM on page 5 for the full list). I am grateful to all our sidesmen for their commitment of time and the seamless way in which they have discharged their duties. I look forward to continuing working with the team in the coming year.

A reminder to the congregation, sidesmen are present at each service to provide help to any member of the congregation in need of assistance in the service. If you have a requirement for large print reading material, communion in situ or any other matter, please do let the sidesmen know and we will be happy to help.

# Sunday School

*Jane Ince*

Our Sunday School sessions are held in the church hall every Sunday through term time except during Family Service (usually the third Sunday of the month). The Sunday School numbers continue to grow and we currently have about twenty children that attend our Sunday School sessions regularly. The children range in age from four to eleven years old and we try to cater for them all in the activities that we provide.

We are still using the lectionary based Roots scheme, which gives us a web resource to draw on as well as a bi-monthly magazine of ideas and suggestions.

We have had another busy year. The children thoroughly enjoyed putting together the annual Nativity in December and many of them had another great day out at the Pantomime in Peterborough. For a number of reasons the annual church barbeque couldn't take place last summer but we are already starting to organise the 2014 barbeque. We hope very much that this will take place on June 22nd after the Confirmation and First Communion service.

I am incredibly grateful to all the leaders and helpers that give up their time so willingly not just on Sundays but also in the days before, as they prepare the material for the children to use. The children thoroughly enjoy the



*Sunday School Nativity – December 2013*

sessions and take great pride in showing their learning off to the congregation. Although our sessions are just forty five minutes in length, this may be the only time in a child's week where they have the chance to talk about God and explore some of the stories and ideas that us adults may know so well and take for granted.

Despite the fact that we have gained both new leaders and helpers this year we are always looking out for more people to join the team. If you feel you can help in any way please let me know. Any contribution, however infrequent, would be gratefully received. The children in our Church family are an amazing bunch of characters, and it's a great privilege to spend time with them.

# Tiny Tots

*Denise McDonald & Alice Clarke*

As everyone who works with children and young people is well aware, the year does not begin in January. It begins in September. This is both a sad and a happy time. It is sad because we no longer see those who have grown up and passed on to the next stage and happy because we welcome some newcomers, often quite small and taking their first steps in a new experience.

We operate very much as a drop-in centre. Some families come virtually every week, some occasionally, and some try us and decide that what we offer is not for them. But we must be doing something right since most Thursdays the church is a full, happy place and nobody could call it quiet!

It is particularly pleasing when new members tell us that they found out about our meetings by talking to existing members. For new mothers the opportunity to meet friends, discuss experiences and pass on ideas offers real and valuable support. Our mothers, grandmothers and carers are all very welcoming and it is they who make the group work. We have been very lucky to have Jess Thompson helping us whenever she can spare the time. She has rapidly become a central member of the team.

With very young children, it would probably not matter if we repeated our programme each year. Inevitably the main themes do not change since they follow the pattern of the year, but we try regularly to introduce fresh elements and activities for fear of becoming stale. We also try to include a wide variety of materials and textures in the craft work although we are of course limited by the children's level of manual dexterity. We are always willing to borrow somebody else's



ideas and equally happy if somebody wants to take up something we have developed!

Father Christmas, even busier than usual, managed to fit us in again and brought an elf who was a great help in handing out presents! Our Spring Toddle Waddle raised a splendid £536.25 (including £91.25 Gift Aid) for the Meningitis Trust – a particularly appropriate charity for young children. Our last session, the Teddy Bears' Picnic, was an outstanding success, since for once we had a warm sunny day and were able to operate outside.

# Pram and Toddler Services

*Jenni Duffy*

In May this year we will have been around for 14 years, we have seen many families through our doors and it is such a joy to see them at various services during the year and catch up with their news. At the last Crib Service I had one of our older Pram Service children very excitedly showing me that she was now taller than me! Not difficult, I admit, but exciting for her nonetheless. We were very pleased to be awarded a gold star with certificate and given the title: 'One of the Best' Toddler groups in the Rutland area by Netmums.com for 2013.



After a slow start this year, our register now has 33 children on it and we have had between 6 and 11 children per session over the last 6 weeks with their respective adults. There has been one new baby born just before Christmas and we were so pleased that his mum and dad agreed to let Troy be baby Jesus in the Sunday School Nativity tableau. In addition to this we have had 4 baptisms - 5 if you count the dad who was baptized in the same service as his son!

Our annual picnic was held at the Vicarage again - thank you Lee. We had

a few drops of rain but that didn't spoil the fun. This year we have done a lot of activities with food, feeding the 5000, celebrating pancake Tuesday and making chocolate sandwiches for our lesson on Jesus' parable of the yeast.

New faces on our staff rota include: Edward Sowter, Jess Thompson, our youth intern, and Oakham school pupils, Amelia and Emily, who help us as part of their community service. We are also very pleased to welcome Liz McCarthy who will be joining our team after Easter. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved for keeping our group running smoothly and sharing their gifts and time so generously. We still require a pianist to play every other Monday afternoon - so if you think that could be you please get in touch with me on [jenni@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:jenni@oakhamteam.org.uk).

As always, visitors to our services are most welcome. We would love to have you join in our praise and worship and if you are a child at heart and enjoy a bit of creative mess - come and see what we get up to in our craft slot!

Pram Service has now joined Facebook - like our page (**Oakham Pram and Toddler Services**) and you will receive updates and other exciting news.

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## ASK (All Saints Kids)

*Guli Francis-Dehqani*

Over the past year All Saints Kids (ASK) has continued to meet, usually once a month during the Sunday morning service, and with occasional additional activities at other times. ASK has now been going for about 4 years and though numbers are small, the young people are growing in faith and in relationship with each other and the church community. Originally set up to cater for those aged 10-15, we found that there was a gap of about 3 years before any other children were ready to join. During this time ASK had transformed to become a group more suitable to the age of its members who are now for the main part 14 and 15. Sessions this year have included Scriptural Reasoning, Contemplative Prayer and Making Choices. A real highlight was a candle lit Candlemas supper which took place in Whissendine Church and included some table top prayers as well as listening to the faith journey of a couple of members of the congregation who were invited to share their stories. The young people have also got together to bake cakes and help with the Sunday afternoon tea parties in church. Several of them are beginning Confirmation Preparation classes and a number will be confirmed in June. ASK members also show their commitment to the church through regular serving and helping to lead Sunday School. They are a delightful group and it is a privilege to watch them develop and mature. We are as always grateful to any members of the congregation willing to do a session.



# Churches Together in Oakham and District

*Patrick Wilson*

Meetings of the Churches Together Committee were held in March, September and November, 2013, and in January 2014, with the Revd Russell Parker (Methodist Church) and (later) Revd Lee Francis-Dehqani in the Chair.

A Prayer Breakfast, to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in the Victoria Hall on 18th January, 2014, which was attended by upwards of eighty people. The speaker was the Revd. John Jamieson, the Chaplain at Kendrew Barracks.

Other CTO involvements included:

Christian Corner and service details in the Rutland Times. Sadly several people appear to have forgotten the date for their contribution so that an article did not appear every week;

Lent lunches. Responsibility for these was taken, a week at a time, by different churches;

Weekly Prayer Meeting and short service, on Wednesdays at 12.00 pm, in the Congregational Church – greater support would be welcomed for these;

Support for the Drop-in Centre in the Congregational Church Hall. Although additional help is always welcome, it is pleasing to record that more than 40 volunteers, representing all the churches, help with this project. However, there remains a shortage of helpers with the catering and if this cannot be remedied the future of the Centre looks uncertain. An appeal was made to church leaders at the CTO Committee meeting, but this has produced no significant result;

Publicity for Christmas Services;

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with the Prayer Breakfast on in January substituting for the Unity Service of previous years;

Annual Pulpit Exchange during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;

Good Friday Walk of Witness;

Lent House Groups and Palm Sunday Joint Worship;

Christian Aid Collection;

Women's World Day of Prayer;

Rutland Memorial Hospital Carol Service;

Support for the Rutland Food Bank.

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## Diocesan Synod

*John Tomalin & Yvette Nicolle-Anderiesz – Diocesan Synod Representatives*

Two meetings were held in 2013. Full details of all Synod activity, including Bishop Donald's addresses can be found at <http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/finance-and-administration/synods>

### 16 March

#### **Bishop Stopford School, Kettering**

In his Presidential address +Donald set out his vision for growth in the diocese – "We're not in the business of static church or dying church. We're in the business of building the kingdom. To do that you need to build the church."

He welcomed an upsurge in the number of ordinands but went on to stress that care and support for new clergy is needed, particularly for those in their first incumbency. +Donald went on to say that he is trying to modify the culture in the diocese so that people have a clear view of what the bishop and the diocese thinks is important in terms of priorities for parishes and clergy. Not to create parishes that are clones of each other but to encourage each parish to have its own life, vision, and way of doing things, contributing to all and cooperating with others for everyone's mutual benefit.

Synod also had a presentation on 'Greater Responsibility for School Standards' and the changing landscape following the Chadwick report. The diocese has 101 primary and 3 secondary schools. Wit Archdeacon

Christine Allsopp's retirement +John will become chair of the Diocesan Board of Education

Gary Johnson (Safeguarding Officer) stated that safeguarding raised strong views and emotions and possibly painful memories. He outlined the C of E report Protecting God's Children and our obligations under it. He stressed that parishes carefully select and train all who have responsibility for children in line with good safeguarding practices.

There was a presentation from Hannah Page, Chair of the C of E National Youth Council (CEYC) and the work they are doing to integrate young people(16-25) into church life.

### 7 September

#### **The Malcolm Arnold Academy, Northampton**

+Donald announced his admission to the House of Lords commenting that the church is in the community and society and should be involved. He saw himself as a representative of all faiths in this capacity and outlined the extent of his likely involvement and impact on the diocese.

The 2012 Annual Accounts and Re-

port by the Diocesan Board of Finance were adopted.

The proposed diocesan budget for 2014 was debated, and the situation forecast for 2015. This included the proposed de-coupling of insurance from the Parish share together with the proposed increases to fund the growth in clergy numbers in the diocese. After some debate this was passed.

The Warden of Launde Abbey, Revd Alison Christian outlined the programme for 2014/15 and the role of the Abbey in the life of Leicester and Peterborough dioceses

Casual vacancies had arisen in both houses of General Synod due to the retirement and relocation of the Archdeacon of Northampton and her husband. Lay members of Diocesan Synod had the opportunity to meet with candidates. Subsequently Liz Holdsworth was elected by the laity and Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani was elected unopposed by the House of Clergy.

A motion from Higham Deanery Synod proposing the raising of the age for ASA calculations for Parish Share from 16 to 21 was rejected. Worship was led by the Peterborough Deanery.

# Deanery Synod

## John Tomalin – Lay Chair, Rutland Deanery

There were four meetings in 2013-14.

### 16 May

#### St John the Evangelist, Empingham

The speaker was Canon Liz Holdsworth, Coordinator of Adult Education and Ministry Training, who said that God invites each of us to become his child and offer us a lifelong journey with him. It is hoped that the training offered will help on that journey. She outlined the range of training available for lay people most of which are open to all. Details are on the Diocesan web site <http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/adult-education-and-training/adult-education-and-training>

Chancel Repair Liability to be undertaken by all PCCs continued and any liability registered. If not PCCs could be held negligent.

It was noted that there was a proposal to set up a food bank in Oakham. Volunteers were needed.

### 4 July

#### Deanery Eucharist at St Peter, Empingham

The eucharist was presided over by

Revd David Nicol and the preacher was Dame Mary Tanner, President of the World Council of Churches

### 29 September

#### St Mary the Virgin, Manton

The speaker was Dr Frances Clemson who spoke on 'The Practice of Scriptural Interfaith, Engagement and Reasoning'. She described how a gathering of people of different faiths discussed short passages from their sacred texts and its significance of it for their religion. The objectives were fourfold; to go deeper into one's own faith, the faiths of others, the understanding of the common good and the relationship and friendship with others committed to interreligious understanding and engagement.

It was noted that there were two vacancies in the deanery at Barrowden and at Empingham (House for Duty). These have been subsequently filled, at Barrowden by Revd Mark Battison to be licensed on 5 April 2014 and by Revd John Taylor at Empingham on 5 January 2014 at Wing.

The first indications of the 2014 parish share and the decoupling of in-

surance were received. A 7.3% increase was indicated but savings in the insurance may be available by not insuring to 100% and increasing the excess. As the full implication became known the full implications were discussed at Diocesan Synod and at a Deanery meeting 3 October at Lantham church. The meeting was addressed by a representative from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and Mr Graham Cuthbert (Deputy Diocesan Secretary). There followed detailed discussion between the Rural Dean, parish representatives and the diocese.

### 7 November

#### All Saints, Oakham

The speaker was Revd David Nicol. He spoke of his approach and experience in forming Mission Plans in a previous diocese. This was intended to be a preparation for working on the Rutland Mission Plan in 2014.

### 11 January

#### Oakham C of E School

+Donald addressed the deanery, together with representatives from adjoining deaneries on his vision for growth in the diocese. Approximately 150 people were present to hear the Bishop talk about increasing the number of clergy and lay ministers to help the growth in church attendance. This was the justification for the increase in parish share, together with £7m input from the diocese, to stimulate growth and with growth would come increasing giving.

### 27 February

#### St Nicholas, Cottesmore

The Rural Dean gave a brief introduction to the Deanery Mission Plan before small group discussions took place on 'what growth would look like', 'what growth have you seen', 'how can you grow your parish?' and 'how can the Deanery help?' Further work would take place in 2014 to produce a draft plan for circulation to all parishes before presenting the plan to deanery synod in September.



## Church Hall

*Peter Kinal*

I am pleased to report another successful year for the Church Hall. Both regular and occasional bookings have held up well, with regular bookings now approaching full capacity. Consequently it has been possible, once again, to transfer some funds (£3,000 this year) to the PCC.

Maintenance costs have been covered, with Stephan, our cleaner and maintenance man, being able to undertake much of the work himself, without the need to call in professional assistance. However, one of the Dimplex wall heaters inconveniently broke down during one of the colder weeks of the winter, and this has now been replaced.

Mrs Munro kindly arranged for an inventory of the cutlery stock. Inevitably, after several years of usage

there were some deficiencies, which have now been made up.

Three meetings of the Church Hall Committee were held during the year, each one benefitting from some excellent tea, cakes or scones at the beginning, kindly provided by one or other of the members. My thanks are due to all members of the Committee; but especially to our Treasurer, John Denny, who has continued to deal with our accounts most efficiently, despite not always being in the best of health.

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## Home Groups

Home Groups are an integral part of church life here in Oakham. The leaders of the three groups led by members of All Saints have submitted the following reports:

### **25 Willow Crescent Bible Study Group**

*Catriona Drye.*

We meet at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. We are a small group and would welcome any newcomers. We have a good time discovering new things to help us in our daily Christian journey; encouraging each other on the way.

### **19 Ashwell Road Home Group**

*Stan and Gill Bruce*

The group has continued to meet twice monthly during the past year, generally on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Our studies have centred on the Book of Hebrews, which has proved both challenging and encouraging, with its emphasis on the uniqueness of Jesus – particularly in his role as our Great High Priest.

We were sorry to lose Rita Fryer who with her husband Michael has moved to Bristol to be near her daughter, and are pleased to hear that they have settled well in their new home.

Each time we meet, we try to include a brief focus on some aspect of Christian mission at home or abroad,

so it was a special pleasure to have the opportunity to hear from Julian and Caroline Lott about their work in Malawi. On another occasion it was encouraging to hear from Millie Long and Bradley Duffy about their experiences of the Christian camp they had attended in the summer. And of course we continue to receive regular updates about the work of Send A Cow whom we support with money raised from coffee contributions.

For our summer outing last year we enjoyed fascinating visits to Lyveden New Bield and the Triangular Lodge, culminating in a barbecue at Dog Kennel Cottage courtesy of John and Marilyn Tomalin. Early in the New Year we enjoyed a social evening together, and recently we went as a group to see the Saltmine Theatre Company's excellent production of the life of converted slave trader and hymn writer, John Newton, entitled *Amazing Grace*.

### **6 Peterborough Avenue Fellowship Group**

*Patrick and Marjorie Wilson*

Apart from breaks during Lent (for the Lent groups) and over the Summer holiday period, this home group has

## Stewardship

*Gordon Woods*

Stewardship is thanking God for his goodness by making regular gifts to the church.

There are two main ways:

(1) By a bankers order via the Diocese who return it monthly plus an income tax refund, called Gift Aid.

(2) By weekly numbered envelopes which are put in the offertory. Again if you are a tax payer then it can be 'Gift Aided' which adds 25% to the donation.

140 people\* gave by method 1. (In 2005 there were 85 donors.) Over 80% of money is received by this route. \*may be an individual or a couple.

47 people\* gave by method 2, about three quarters are gift aided. (In 2005 there were 70.) This decrease is because people prefer the convenience of method 1 or they die or move.

In addition 6 people give a cheque once per year.

There were 12 new donors last year by method 1, partly balanced by a loss of 3 people through death or relocation.

If you give by method 1 you may choose to pass on the offertory bag without further giving. Your gift is most appreciated, whatever the method. Please inform me if you wish to change method or to start. My phone number is 01572 755371. No-one else in Oakham except the donor and me know how much you give.

Thank you!

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continued to meet fortnightly and to flourish.

It has been pleasing to have meetings that have been led by several different members. For example we took a series on some Old Testament characters (Joshua, Jephthah, Deborah and Barak, Gideon) each one being tackled by a different member of the group. As well as this, two of our members gave short talks on heroes of the Christian faith: Edith Cavell and Eric Liddell.

In addition we have studied the Letter to the Philippians, and the Patriarchs.

# Fabric

## *Vyv Wainwright – Benefice Surveyor*

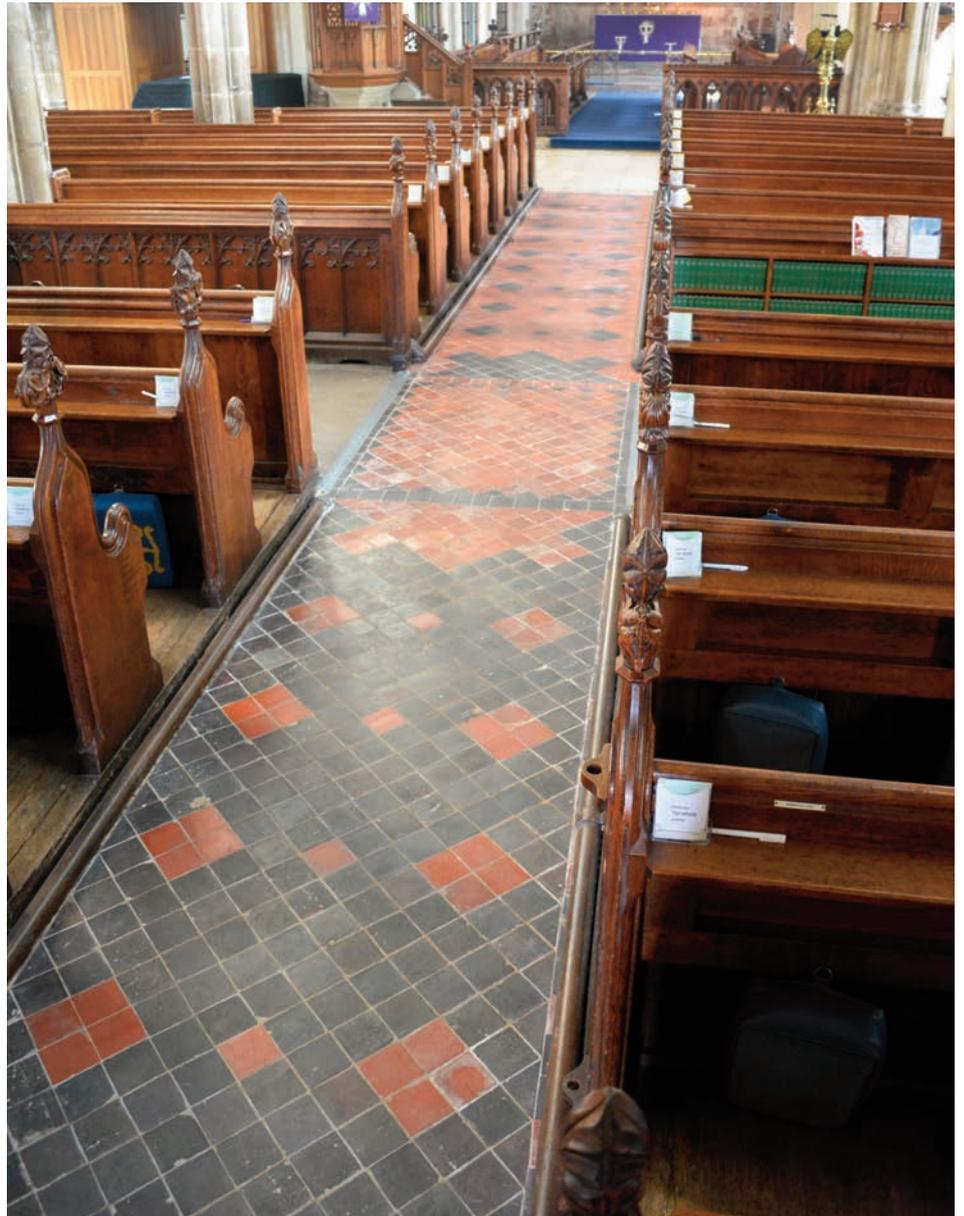
Yet again another busy year!

We have been repairing and relaying the 19th century quarry tile floor most of this year and as I write this report hopefully the works will be complete. It has not been an easy task as there have been a few setbacks on the way but at long last we have reached the tower. For those of you interested in construction Limecrete, which bonds the floor tiles, takes 15 -20 days to dry (unlike concrete), hence the no-go areas. Our thanks go to Mike Berry for all his skilled work and for sourcing the reclaimed materials to revive the Gilbert-Scott legacy.

The Quinquennial Report identified various works needed around the church. We are working our way through the urgent issues many of which have been completed, just a few left. Aspire have just finished repairs to the lightning conductor which were required as part of the Quinquennial Report recommendations and very reassuring in the light of Teigh's experience last year.

Will Bland has replaced all the light bulbs on the chandeliers with eco bulbs, helping reduce our carbon footprint and our electricity bills. Many thanks for his time and effort – you really need a good head for heights for that job.

Once again we have had our share of central heating boiler incidents. For the longer standing members of the congregation, this is a never ending story. Since its installation we have experienced a number of break-downs, the majority of these are caused by the damp and inadequate ventilation in the subterranean boiler house, which causes components to rust and fail. Many of us are too well aware that this year the boiler failed on the Sunday before Christmas. Despite spending the majority of Monday contacting central heating engineers (17 firms and counting) – which you can imagine didn't go down well at home. I had to resort to contacting British Gas. After several false starts and run-ins with their call handling team an engineer arrived on Christmas Eve from the Didcot depot at 8:45pm. After an hour and half he pronounced he could not repair the boiler and advised me that we needed to improve the ventilation to the boiler room.



*The completed tiling in the Nave*

After the Christmas and New Year Holiday Parsons (our regular heating firm) came to visit and they managed re-start the boiler. However we mutually agreed that something has to be done. One option that has been explored is 'tanking' the boiler room but there's no guarantee this will sort the problems out for good. Following a site meeting with our Architect we have mutually suggested to the PCC that by far the best solution is to move the boiler into the church. This will be very costly but grant funding is being explored. Watch this space.

The Church signs need replacing but we need conservation approval from Rutland County Council and a Diocesan Faculty before they can be made and

erected, the applications are in hand.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of those members of the congregation, who together with the PCC, have scratched heads, searched cupboards, changed light bulbs and so much more. I think particular thanks are due to Des Cook for looking after the central heating controls. He and I have compared notes and nursing the boiler is one of the most time-consuming challenges we both face.

This year has been tough to say the least and as you might expect there is still a lot to do. Work with historic buildings takes considerable patience but the results are really worthwhile. Your support is much appreciated.

# Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings

*Margaret Pattinson*

The Quinquennial Inspection conducted in April 2013 reported as follows “The church is generally in very good order and has been well cared for. Some high level maintenance is now needed along with repairs to damaged rainwater goods.

The parish should plan to re-lead the remaining windows which are in poor condition – and to treat all of each window rather than a piecemeal approach. The roofs are generally sound but the older lead must be monitored and may need minor repairs. Plans should be made to re-lead the N Nave aisle roof and carry out repairs to the N Nave Clerestory. “As always there is an extensive list of items to keep us busy until the next Quinquennial.

As well as the items mentioned above, some areas remain problematic. The boiler has not been as well behaved as we would like, and we have shivered on one or two Sundays. Our thanks then to Des Cook, who has found that he not only took on responsibility for regulating the timer, but also discussions with our boiler firm. We have been investigating two main options for resolving the problem, which is damp infecting the electrical circuits; either building an internal wall in the boiler room - expensive; or new bitumen style lining - fairly new and untried technology, but much cheaper. We are currently taking advice from several quarters, in particular, the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC). Hopefully, whatever solution is adopted, next winter should see us “warm and cosy”.

A recent survey of our electrics and lighting has described it as ‘In poor order due to age.’ We may well find ourselves having to look at new electrics and a lighting scheme, inevitably, at significant expense. Re-decoration of the church at the same time would make economic sense, given the high cost of scaffolding.

We have experienced some difficulty with the speakers and induction loop system. Richard Morris and Kevin Slingsby have put in some hours on these items, which we hope are working much better. However, a new sound system may well be necessary ‘in the not too distant future.’ Watch - or rather listen – to this space.

Phase 1 of the new tiling in the nave floor has been substantially completed, although ‘loose ends’ have proved elusive to tie up! We are grateful to the Friends for their considerable financial support, together with a grant from Rutland Historic Churches Trust. Phase 2 - the renovation of the South-North aisle tiling - will come under consideration.

With the further support of the Friends, we have commissioned new notice boards which should provide much clearer and smarter signage.

The annual check of the contents of the church against the inventory in the Terrier has been completed, re-

vealing no major discrepancies.

The sacristy has benefitted from a new stoup (holy water font), courtesy of the estate of the late Joan Carlyle. We are grateful for this addition.

I would like to express our thanks to Vyv Wainwright, who continues to spearhead and coordinate many of the Fabric initiatives. It is no easy task keeping everybody happy!

Our thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to keep the church and churchyard in great condition, and supporting a building where worship is warm, beautiful and enjoyable. So thank you to John Tomalin and team in the churchyard; vergers; cleaners ably lead by David Kirtland; brass cleaners; flower arrangers; sidespersons and welcomers; hospitality teams; security and visitors teams.

This year, I would like to single out Shirley Tovey who, for many years, has managed the distribution of the parish magazines, but who has taken “well earned retirement”. Shirley - our thanks. Whilst succeeding Shirley is a formidable task, if anyone feels this is a role they could take on, then we would be very grateful.

Finally my thanks to you all for your support through the year. Our aim will be to continue to make All Saints a warm, friendly and lively place to worship God, and serve the world.

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## Flower Guild

*Edwina King*

The Flower Guild, as usual, has continued to decorate the Church at Festivals with the lovely flower arrangements, not to mention the high altar pedestals which are replaced on a fortnightly basis.

We would like to give a warm welcome to Flic’ Brewster who became a member just before Christmas. While mentioning new members, may I appeal for anyone who is able and willing to do high altar pedestals to please contact me on 01572 722796. We are struggling to get people to come forward and if you are only able to do the pedestals once or maybe twice a year it would be a big help. The money for the flowers can be claimed from the Flower Guild treas-

urer so no one needs to worry about the expense. Also, if any one would like to be on the reserve list, doing flowers at Festivals, I should be more than grateful to hear from you, as there are occasions when members for one reason or another are unable to decorate their window sills.

Unfortunately, last year, Joan Plester retired from doing her annual coffee morning, which was our main fund raising event for flowers. I am sure every member of the Flower Guild

would like to say a big thank you to her and her husband and all her friends who helped to make it such a success. It goes without saying it must have taken a great deal of effort for everyone involved.

Thank you must also go to Betty Tidd for continuing to maintain our financial records.

New members are always welcome, so if you think you would like to get involved please give me a call.

# Walking Group

## *Dennis Corton*

The group has now celebrated 4 years since its formation in April 2010. During that time we have welcomed many new walkers and have retained a nucleus of stalwarts.

We have been able to find a different walk most months with a number of different leaders. They include Gordon Woods, Stan Bruce, Paul Butler, Joan Cooper and Dennis Corton

The walks take place on the fourth Thursday of each month and vary between five and seven miles. They were centred on the following areas-

'Mount Rutland'

Braunston

Lyddington

Foxton Locks

Clipsham

Somerby

Greetham

Hambleton

Exton

Ridlington



*Grand Union Canal in the sun (above) and Hambleton Peninsula in the rain (below)*



Our lunches are always jovial affairs. During the winter months we dine at cosy hostelries or on one occasion we enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of Langham Church to boost their funds. In the summer months we eat al fresco with our own picnics and on New Years day a 'Bring and Share Lunch' was organised by Sally Corton.

We are always very conscious of the weather but we have been incredibly lucky and the wet weather gear has seldom been used, perhaps with the exception of News Years day! During the walks there is always lots of chatter, topical conversation, and good natured banter along with enjoyment of the rolling countryside and appreciation of the old villages with all their charm, character and history.

Details of the walks are published each month in the Pewsheet for two Sundays prior to the event. New members are always most welcome, simply turn up at the appropriate start point suitably attired (with a packed lunch from April to September).

We look forward to you joining us.

# Healing Prayer Group

## *Patrick Wilson*

The Healing Prayer Group has continued to meet for prayer and Bible study on the third Thursday evening of each month. On first Wednesdays of each month, at 12.00 pm, there has been a short service for healing and prayer, with laying on of hands if requested.

Membership of the group has been fairly small and new members are always welcome.

Several members attended a half-day course on the healing ministry at Launde Abbey in March 2014.

It is to be hoped that the Ministry Team will be able to arrange one or two services in the morning or the evening on a Sunday, at which prayer and the laying on of hands will be offered.

# Concerts Society

## Kevin Slingsby

The regular programme of lunchtime concerts at All Saints has continued during the year, and we are grateful to Peter Davis and his colleagues and the pupils at Oakham School for giving us such a variety of excellent performances during term-time. During the school holidays we have been fortunate to engage the services of many talented musicians – some

regular contributors and some performing for us for the first time, including some 'home-grown' talent such as Gabriel Francis-Dehqani ('cello) and Georgina Baker (soprano). We have a good regular core audience at these concerts, and if you haven't already you should give them a try – a short (20-30 minutes) and inspiring oasis in the middle of the day (1:30pm) every Wednesday throughout the year except immediately after Christmas.

We also continue to promote our regular Bank Holiday Organ Recitals, in 2013 given by Peter Siepmann (Easter), David Humphreys (May Day), Daniel Moulton (Spring) and Ivan Linford (Summer). We are extremely lucky to have such a splendid organ in All Saints (visiting recitalists invariably sing its praises for its excellence in tone, touch and versatility), and there is no better way to spend the late morning (11:15am) on a Bank Holiday Monday than to enjoy a varied and accessible programme of organ music followed by a convivial lunch in the Church Hall afterwards.

For four years now we have promoted a celebrity evening organ recital as part of the Oakham Festival during June, but the performance by Robert Quinney this year surely rates as the best we have had. I can truly say that I felt this was the most inspiring performance I have heard from our splendid instrument. Although the Oakham Festival will not be happening in 2014, we will still be holding our annual recital, this year given by Tom Bell on Wednesday 25 June.

Also during the Oakham Festival, we welcomed another visit by the Cantus Choir and Orchestra, directed by Alwyn Pollard, for something rather different – the first Oakham Comedy Prom. Taking inspiration in a slightly dubious way from the similarly named event in the Royal Albert Hall the previous summer, we were entertained by such various acts as Mozart's Horn Concerto played on the hosepipe, Vivaldi's Gloria to the sight of 'Gloria' vacuuming up the nave and Haydn's Toy Symphony with real live toys to name but a few, spectacularly compered by Marc Slater. The

planned sequel in 2014 has been postponed as Cantus will be rather busy performing Bach's St John Passion (definitely 'something completely different...') in April 2014, but maybe watch this space in 2015...

In March we welcomed the Rutland Choral Society for their annual Spring concert, in August we enjoyed a visit from the early music consort Mean Time as part of their summer tour, and in December we were treated to a spectacular recital by Richard Coxon (tenor) accompanied by Fraser Graham (piano).

Although some concerts are expensive, overall we reckon to make a surplus over the year, and in addition to a regular annual contribution to the church funds we aim to use such funds to improve the provision for future concerts and music generally – over recent years we have helped to fund projector and screen, staging, flood lighting, wine glasses, much of which is useful for the church community generally as well as for concerts.

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# Mothers' Union

## Pamela Woods

The Mothers' Union has continued in the past year, with the present membership of 30.

One member has moved to Uppingham, others have moved away and some have left. We were pleased that we have one member transferred from Uppingham. We still have two men but only one indoor member. The Corporate Communion services held once a month at St John & St. Anne are well supported and the average attendance at meetings last year was about 15, visitors are always welcome to join us.

The AGM taken by Meg Dyer, took place in January after an enjoyable lunch for members and visitors. We joined with other members in the Deanery for the Deanery Festival held at Uppingham church taken by Jill Cannings, the branch leader. Once again we joined with others in the Deanery for the Quiet Morning in

October, lead by the Revd. Helen Raiment followed by an enjoyable lunch. The joint outing with The Friends of All Saints was to The Horological Institute and then on to Southwell Minster with the chance to visit the Workhouse, and a special exhibition featuring items from the Queen's Coronation. Finally, after tea, we attended evensong with the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral the guest preacher!

Meetings in the past year have been varied and included an afternoon of music and poems on the theme of "Home". We were pleased to welcome John Haden to one meeting when he told of his life and work in schools and churches in Uganda. Two Communion services taken by Revd Janet Tebby in Lent and Revd Dominic Coad in Ad-

vent. We were very pleased to hear Janet's life journey illustrated with music, a mini *Desert Island Discs*. Michael Covington returned to talk about life at Launde Abbey and one of our own members spoke on 'Six of the Best'. Last but not least a stand-in speaker, Sara Ridley inspired members with her talk on the MU theme "Help us Grow".

Knitting continues steadily with the annual sheep needed for the travelling Advent Cribs and the Easter chicks to sell, mostly through the Burley Road School. Money from these sales goes to MU supported work throughout the world. Also we produce many Trauma Teddies over the year. These are given to the Northampton Police for use in emergencies involving children.

# Fairtrade

*Denise McDonald*

2013 was, once again another good year for Fairtrade and the Traidcraft stall, trolley, stand, shop – call it what you will! Sales amounted to a healthy £3202.94. This averages out at £266.91 per calendar month.

The figure also includes sales of the Real Easter Egg. The Real Easter Egg is the only egg of millions sold each year which not only tells the Easter Story but is also Fairtrade. Last year members of the congregation were very supportive in buying the egg and I hope the sales will continue to increase as people become more aware of the campaign.

The figures also include purchases from the Christmas catalogue of both gifts and cards. Last year was the 5th year running that I had offered the ordering service (with free home delivery included!); this has proved to be very popular.

Once again the stall had a presence at the four Lent lunches held in the Church Hall. It was as ever very ably manned by John Ansley from the Methodist Church – my thanks as ever to him. Over the 4 Fridays sales totalled £185.56, averaging an amazing £46.39 per week!



As we supported the Food Bank last year with our Harvest gifts some people bought a Fairtrade item for this which was wonderful, helping producers abroad and folk closer to home.

I would also like to record my thanks to Araminta Mathias and Carol Scothern who so kindly ran the stall for me for a few weeks last Autumn on Sunday mornings.

Last year I visited St John The Evangelist at Ryhall and the congregation not only purchased items from the stall but ordered from the catalogue too.



To sum up a few facts and figures about the state of Fairtrade in the UK today. 78% of consumers recognise the Fairtrade mark, 44% of bagged sugar sold in the UK is Fairtrade certified, 25% of all roast and ground retail coffee in the UK is Fairtrade certified and 1 in 3 bananas sold in the UK is fairtrade!

All of the above could not of course happen without the support of all the people who regularly buy from the catalogue and at the various stalls throughout the year – MANY MANY thanks to you all – your support really does make a huge difference to the lives of the producers. In the words of Traidcraft 'Transforming Trade Transforming Lives'.

# Catering Committee

*Marilyn Tomalin*

The Catering Committee – Churchwarden Margaret Pattinson, Gill Bruce, Rebecca Falconer, Araminta Matthias, Jackie Vecqueray, Jill Welsh, Pamela Woods and myself – coordinate various events during the year where refreshments are requested.

During 2013 many of us enjoyed a Summer Picnic in the grounds of the Church, a Harvest Lunch in the Victoria Hall (220+), and occasions after Church and Town Services to provide

light refreshments.

We are extremely grateful to all who so willingly give of their time and talents to support each occasion and trust that you will continue to do so

during 2014. Note that the Harvest Lunch is held every two years, and there will be a Safari Supper during June or July to enjoy instead; watch the pew notices for advance information about that.

# Rutland Foodbank

## *Revd Dr Dominic Coad*

Rutland Foodbank opened in September 2013 as an ecumenical response by local churches to a perceived need in our county. I was involved from the beginning, serving on the steering group and managing the distribution centre, and many of our volunteers are from the All Saint's congregation.

The Foodbank works by providing three days of emergency food for people who find that they don't have enough food and do not have the means to buy more. Clients exchange a red voucher for a food parcel.

Food is collected from around the county, sorted and stored, before being taken to one of distribution centres. A wide variety of frontline care and service providers are asked to be red voucher holders. They are briefed on the criteria for accepting a client and given red vouchers to issue. Clients approach these voucher holders, receive a voucher and then come to the distribution centre.

Whilst their food is packed the clients are offered tea as well as a friendly ear. Those who wish to often find it helpful to speak with someone who has time to listen. We emphasise the importance of a non-judgemental response and, where appropriate, try to point them towards other services in Rutland that may be able to help them.

Whilst the steering group were uncertain of how many people might use a Foodbank we had heard from officers within the council and social services that they were concerned about how impending welfare cuts might affect the poorest members of our communities.

We set our minds finding a location, collecting, sorting and storing food, and building networks that would allow us to reach potential clients. We launched on 23 September and were excited to discover that we had three people waiting for us to open the door! Since then we have fed over 300 adults and children. We have met a variety of wonderful people, many working hard in difficult circumstances, and, we hope, given them a little hospitality and warmth – as well as a way of putting food on the table.

In addition to the regular food parcels we also gave out more than 200 Christmas hampers, which contained a few of the small luxuries that some households will struggle to afford at Christmas. These were distributed



*Christmas Hampers ready for distribution*

from All Saints, from under the Christmas tree, and our guests were invited to stay for mulled apple juice and mice pies. It was moving to see how touched many people were by this small act of generosity at Christmas.

I believe that the Foodbank is an important addition to the life of our church. It has become one of our most significant mission activities as we seek to respond to the biblical imperative to feed the hungry and comfort those in need. It also connects us

as individuals and as a church to those in need, people who often – though not always – come from social backgrounds which are under-represented in our congregation. This connection with others is essential not just for our mission but also for our own spiritual growth and the glory we seek to give to God. Foodbank gives us the opportunity to share Christ's love but also to see Christ at work in the lives of others and so discover him in new ways.

# Friends of All Saints

*Beryl Kirtland, Chairman*

2013 was a special year as we celebrated twenty years since the launch of The Friends of All Saints Church.

Twenty years on many visits to places of interest have taken place, interesting speakers have been listened to, the Shrovetide Party is an annual success, the Tide Dinner takes place as near to All Saints Day as possible and much friendship has been shared. And so it was in 2013.

The Shrovetide Party quizzes had an appropriate 20 year theme. Sadly it was to be the last year that Sheila Hardy was with us to help with the food preparation. She will be missed and remembered.

Luck was with us when the visit to Leicester Cathedral was planned for in the interim the world's attention had been drawn to the site with the discovery of the remains of Richard III. By the time of our visit we



*Leicester Cathedral & Richard III exhibition (above & right)*

The annual outing of The Mothers' Union and The Friends was to Southwell. Prior to arriving we also visited The Clock Museum at Upton, open only five days each year. With little idea what to expect we were thoroughly engaged with what we saw. Some also visited the National Trust's atmospheric Workhouse. In the Cathedral was a stunning exhibition of embroidery. Another cream tea and sung even-song with The Very Revd. Charles Taylor giving the sermon ended an interesting and fulfilling day.

Our lunch and talk was on Mary Sumner Day when Pamela Woods was to have given the talk. Pamela being unexpectedly indisposed, The Revd. Audrey Atkinson stepped into the breach and did a magnificent job of presenting Pamela's talk. A home cooked two course lunch with much home grown produce followed.

A full coach made a September visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, a place of remembrance and contemplation but also of celebration of those who gave so much that we can enjoy our lives and the beauty that surrounds us. Through the 150 acre site, over 200 memorials, the Millennium Chapel, the daily Two Minute Silence, the Visitor Centre with exhibits, restaurant and shop everyone was impressed and moved by all they saw and did.

Canon Philip Spence gave a light-hearted talk at the Tide Lunch again held at the Harbour Restaurant at



*The Dean of Peterborough joins us for the celebrations*

were able to see the new exhibition celebrating the discovery after the most excellent guided tour of the Cathedral. To round off afternoon tea was taken at the adjacent café, a good British tradition for St George's Day.

On Saturday evening of 11 May members and guests of The Friends gathered in church to share time with friends old and new with drinks and canapés. A large display of past photographs and memorabilia was on display together with a time line. The Reverend Charles Taylor, Dean of Peterborough Cathedral spoke. Morgan Overton and Kevin Slingsby provided music on piano and organ. Richard Adams produced one of his popular slideshows. The theme of friends and friendship was continued at the 10:30am service on Sunday through Lee's sermon, the Sunday School's illustrations and the sharing of a large cake.



Whitwell. A scenic venue adds to the good food and shared friendship at this annual event.

The outing inclusive of all ages with a goody bag for the children is becoming for The Friends as traditional as the pantomime itself. This year Cinderella ensured good fun was had by all. "Oh, yes, it was".

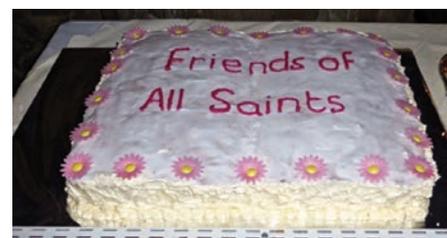
£12,000 has been contributed towards Phase 1 of the restoration of the tiled Nave floor. It has been agreed that The Friends will fund the new noticeboards which we understand are on their way.

Without the help of the Committee and other people along the way these

events which add so much to the important fellowship of the church would not take place. I thank them all.

Over the years many things have changed but what have not changed are the friendships shared and the subscription which remains at £5.

The new programme is out and I hope you will all find something interesting and enjoyable.



# **Section 2: Annual Report for the Charities Commission**

## **All Saints' Church Oakham – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

### **Administrative Information**

All Saints' Church is situated in Church Street, Oakham, Rutland. It is the central church of the Oakham Team Ministry, a group of parishes within the Deanery of Rutland in the Diocese of Peterborough, of the Church of England.

A Pastoral Scheme approved by the Church Commissioners established the Team Ministry with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

Bankers are HSBC at 1 High Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The independent Examiner of Accounts is Mr Neil Lowther. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is charity no. 1129880.

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 or commenced serving during 2013 until the date of this report was approved are:

Incumbent	Revd Canon L T Francis-Dehqani, (Chairman)
Assistant Priest	Revd H A Crowther
Curate	Revd Dr D Coad
Wardens	Mr R S Bruce (to April 2013), Mrs A Long (from April 2013) and Mrs M Pattinson
Readers/Parish Evangelist	Mrs D L Marsh (to Sept 2013), Mr AV Wainwright, Mr D Pattinson and Mrs J Duffy
Representatives on Diocesan & Deanery Synods	Mr G T Woods, Mr J Tomalin, Mrs M Tomalin, Mrs Y Nicolle-Anderiesz, Mr D R Cook, Mr K P Andrews and Mrs K E Goodwin
Elected Members	Ms H Durham (to April 2013), Mr D Corton (to April 2013), Mrs A Venning, Mr M G Vecqueray, Mrs M Davis, Mr S Long, Dr S Cheverton, Mrs H Bush, Mr J King, Mr P J Kinal, Dr J Ince (from April 2013), Mrs S White (from April 2013), Mrs P Munro (from April 2013), Mr K Slingsby (co-opted from May 2013), Mr P S Hill (Treasurer) and Mr D J Ufton (Secretary)

### **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, All church attendees are encouraged to join the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC or Deanery Synod. The Standing Committee is made up of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer, secretary and two or three PCC appointed members. The Standing Committee meets about two weeks ahead of each PCC meeting. In addition the PCC receives reports from forums or groups which oversee worship, pastoral care, communications and children and young people in the parish. A qualified PCC member has been appointed with responsibility for oversight of the Church fabric, and gives regular updates to the PCC on areas of work requiring attention.

### **Objectives and activities**

All Saints' PCC has responsibility for working with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Lee Francis-Dehqani, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for All Saints' Church Hall, Oakham.

## **Achievements and performance**

Church Attendance: In December 2013 there were 309 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. Five names were added during the year and twenty three were removed either through death, moving away from the parish, or not renewing membership of the Roll in March 2013. The average weekly church attendance, counted during October, was 215 adults and 20 children, with these numbers increasing during festivals.

## **Review of the year - PCC Secretary's Report**

During the year the Parochial Church Council met on six occasions, with an average attendance of 19 members. Normally meetings are held every alternate month. During 2012 an additional meeting was held in early May to review the strengths and weaknesses of our church life. Following the period of consultation and discussion the final report was published in April 2013 as part of the APCM booklet. As a result both the Worship and Pastoral forums have been refreshed with new members. The newly established Communications Working Group continues a review of all printed communications, including pew notices, service booklets, church web site and a Team Ministry logo.

The Standing Committee membership is made up of the incumbent, churchwardens and deputy warden, secretary and treasurer, with the addition of PCC members Mr D R Cook and Ms H Durham (both to April 2013), and Mrs P Munro and Mr K P Andrews (both from April 2013). The Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. Prior to each PCC meeting members received an up to date financial report, and the treasurer commented as required on any specific aspects which required to be brought to the PCC's attention. From time to time other documents and reports as necessary were given to PCC members prior to the meeting date. These documents could, for example, deal with specific church fabric issues, wedding and funeral fees or Deanery Synod activities.

Fabric issues occupied much discussion at PCC meetings, and as in the previous year progress was hampered by the lack of the substantial funding required for a number of important projects. The Friends of All Saints had been able to provide £12,000 towards the cost of £19,000 for the first phase of nave floor refurbishment, and the Friends also committed to the provision of money to replace the external notice boards in the churchyard. Damp in the boiler house still needed a solution. The Quinquennial Review took place during the year, and the PCC was able to plan future actions following receipt of the report. The interior lighting of the Church was recognised as being in need of repair and upgrade. There had been written confirmation from Peterborough Diocesan Registry that there is no land against which Oakham PCC needs to register liability for chancel repairs. Changes to the Diocesan policy to decouple the links between the Parish Share and EIG insurance premium were discussed. As mentioned above, all PCC members were kept fully informed of the financial details of expenditure versus income and budget and every opportunity was taken to answer questions from PCC members.

The revised Policy and Procedure Document for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, which followed the model policy issued by the Diocese, was approved by the PCC. Other items during the year included the launch of the NADFAS Church Trail and the decision to rearrange the method of serving coffee and biscuits after the main Sunday morning service.

The minutes of the latest PCC meeting are displayed on the notice-board by the north door, and remain there until the following meeting some two months later.

**Derek Ufton (PCC Secretary), February 2014**

## **Risk Management**

Major risks have been identified, and where found procedures are in place to manage those risks.

## Financial Review

In 2013, total Receipts were £165,848 and are detailed in the financial statements. £93,095 was spent to provide Christian Ministry from All Saints Church including the contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The net result for 2013 was a surplus of £3,790 (2012 surplus of £12,718).

### **In the General Fund:**

the focus of income generation is through Stewardship. This resulted in total gifts, donations and tax recovered of £126,938 (2012 £128,289). As a consequence of this focus there is no plan for generating funds through Fund Raising. An additional major contribution came from the Church Hall (£3,000). A continuing drive to keep down expenses was successful in many areas, leading to a total expenditure of £137,248 (2012 £132,619). Areas of major expenditure where the PCC have little control include Parish Share £87,015 (2012 £83,300), Mission Giving which is a fixed percentage of previous year's planned giving £8,140 (2012 £6,800) and Insurance £5,346 (2012 £4,154) where Ecclesiastical Insurance have agreed to phase in the full increase over 3 years. Other areas of substantial increase were Ministry Team Expenses £6,080 (2012 £5,184), Gas £7,714 (2012 £7,333); and Electricity £2,305 (2012 £2,010). These results allowed only a reduced amount of £2,000 to be transferred to the Fabric Fund (2012 £8,950), which was in line with budget.

### **In the Fabric Fund:**

A Grant of £12,000 from the Friends of All Saints enabled the tiled flooring in the centre aisle of the Nave to be restored at a cost of £19,940. Little additional work was undertaken in 2013. However, the Quinquennial Report was received at a cost of £1,148 which lists urgent items requiring substantial expenditure.

### **In the Vicar and Wardens Fund:**

minor expenditure was incurred for vestments and leaving gifts.

**The Church Hall** generated a surplus of £2,556 after transferring £3,000 to the General Fund.

Restricted funding and Expenses are explained in the notes to the accounts.  
No funds were brought forward from last year as a Restricted Fund.

The balances carried forward to 2014 are:	Restricted funds	Nil
	Designated funds	£26,234
	General funds	£19,804
	Church Hall funds	£24,261
	Total	£70,299

### **Reserves policy**

The Parochial Church Council is aware of the need to increase the reserves in both the General and Fabric Funds. This was addressed, with some success, as part of the Stewardship Campaign launched in November 2011 and will again be launched in 2014. However, this still needs focus in order to cope with general increases in costs together with above inflation increases in parish share, gas, electricity and insurance.

**Peter Hill and John King, March 2014.**

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 25 March 2014  
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Lee Francis-Dehqani (PCC Chairman)**

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS' OAKHAM

### Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 December 2013

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	129038	500	14848	144386	139773
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	9036	1203	154	10393	9056
Income from investments	2(c)	21	0	0	21	25
Income from church activities	2(d)	11048	0	0	11048	8821
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>149143</b>	<b>1703</b>	<b>15002</b>	<b>165848</b>	<b>157675</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(b)	111	0	0	111	122
Fund raising costs	3(c)	0	0	0	0	0
Church activities	3(a)	139609	7336	15002	161947	144835
Governance costs	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>139720</b>	<b>7336</b>	<b>15002</b>	<b>162058</b>	<b>144957</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>						
<b>BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		9423	-5633	0	3790	12718
Transfers between funds		-2000	2000	0	0	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>7423</b>	<b>-3633</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3790</b>	<b>12718</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 Jan 2013	7	36642	29867	0	66509	53791
Balances carried forward at 31 Dec 2013	7	44065	26234	0	70299	66509

Notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts

## Balance sheet at 31st December 2013

	Note	2013 £	2012 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash in Bank		80158	39703
short term deposits		0	33865
Debtors and prepayments	4	5106	4331
		85264	77899
 <b>less LIABILITIES</b>			
creditors-amount falling due in one year	5	14965	11390
		14965	11390
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Total assets less current liabilities		70299	66509
 <b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
UNRESTRICTED		44065	36642
DESIGNATED		26234	29867
RESTRICTED		0	0
		70299	66509

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 25 March 2014  
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Lee Francis-Dehqani (PCC Chairman)

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2013**

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2005.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

### **Funds**

Restricted funds represent (a) income from a trust which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust, and (b) donations or funds raising for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The fund may only be expended on the specific object for which they are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance of the fund.

### **Incoming resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

### **Resources expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

### **Fixed assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings - anything acquired prior to 2006 has been written off in the year of acquisition. From 2007 items of £1000 or less will be written off in the year of acquisition. More expensive items will be depreciated.

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

### 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned direct giving					
Gifts by Gift Aid	81355			81355	80948
Gifts not under Gift Aid	1652			1652	2559
	<u>83007</u>	0	0	<u>83007</u>	<u>83507</u>
Other direct giving					
One-off donations by Gift Aid	7407			7407	8928
Plate collections not by Gift Aid	10177			10177	11694
Other sundry donations not by Gift Aid	2904		448	3352	3048
	<u>20488</u>	0	448	<u>20936</u>	<u>23670</u>
Income tax recoverable	23443			23443	21112
Other voluntary income					
8 Grants	2100		14400	16500	10734
9 Legacies	0	500		500	750
	<u>2100</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>14400</u>	<u>17000</u>	<u>11484</u>
Total voluntary income	<u>129038</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>14848</u>	<u>144386</u>	<u>139773</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fund Raising events	9036	1203	154	10393	9056
2(c) Income from Investments					
Interest	21			21	25
2(d) Income from church activities					
Fees (for funerals, weddings etc)	7566			7566	6061
Hire of church/ hall	3375			3375	2760
Other	107			107	
	<u>11048</u>	0	0	<u>11048</u>	<u>8821</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>149143</u>	<u>1703</u>	<u>15002</u>	<u>165848</u>	<u>157675</u>

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
3(a) Church activities					
Ministry					
Parish Share and Deanery quota	87015			87015	83300
Ministry Team expenses	6080	783		6863	6194
	<u>93095</u>	<u>783</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>93878</u>	<u>89494</u>
Worship					
Organist, choir and music	6686			6686	6376
Altar requisites	2376			2376	2691
Other	464			464	483
	<u>9526</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9526</u>	<u>9550</u>
Faith development					
Children's groups and youth work	445			445	3993
Christian Books for resale	114			114	188
Other	9			9	30
	<u>568</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>4211</u>
Outreach					
Donations	0			0	0
10 Evangelism and mission	8140			8140	6800
Baptism, marriage, bereavement groups	183			183	232
	<u>8323</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8323</u>	<u>7032</u>
Church running expenses					
Gas	7714			7714	7333
Electricity	3661			3661	3012
Water	91			91	88
Insurance	5798			5798	4532
	<u>17264</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17264</u>	<u>14965</u>
Church building and land					
New building & other major works	0			0	0
Moveable furnishings and equipment	315			315	90
Building maintenance, minor equipment	4365	6553	15002	25920	14202
	<u>4680</u>	<u>6553</u>	<u>15002</u>	<u>26235</u>	<u>14292</u>
Administration					
photocopying	1566			1566	1373
bank charges	693			693	660
other	3894			3894	3258
	<u>6153</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6153</u>	<u>5291</u>
Total cost of church activities	<u>139609</u>	<u>7336</u>	<u>15002</u>	<u>161947</u>	<u>144835</u>
3(b) Costs of generating voluntary income					
Stewardship expenses	111			111	122
3(c) Fund-raising trading costs					
3(d) Governance costs					
Fees of independent examiner					
Total resources expended	<u>139720</u>	<u>7336</u>	<u>15002</u>	<u>162058</u>	<u>144957</u>

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

### 4 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Prepayments	329			329	322
other debtors	4777			4777	4009
	5106	0	0	5106	4331

### 5 CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accruals for utility and other costs	1600			1600	1760
other creditors:					
other	13365			13365	9630
	14965	0	0	14965	11390

### 6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

Debtors	5106			5106	4331
Cash and short term deposits	53924	26234		80158	73568
	59030	26234	0	85264	77899
Current Liabilities	14965			14965	11390
	44065	26234	0	70299	66509

### 7 SUMMARY OF FUND BALANCES

	Balance 31.12.12 £	Transfers £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance 31.12.13 £
Unrestricted Funds	36642	-2000	149143	139720	44065
Designated Funds	29867	2000	1703	7336	26234
Restricted Funds	0		15002	15002	0
Total Funds	66509	0	165848	162058	70299

### 8 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Grant from Church Estates			2400	2400	2400
Grant from Church Estates for Music	2100			2100	2100
Grant from Friends of All Saints Church			12000	12000	0
Grant from Listed Places of Worship Scheme				0	3234
	2100	0	14400	16500	10734

Church Estates Charity was formed from the sale of Church land over the years and a bequest from Royce for Church music. All revenue from investments is committed to the Fabric of the Church and to Church music. The 2013 Grants were allocated to the Restricted Fabric Fund.

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

### 9 LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
FB Hall (for Fabric Fund)			500	500	0
				0	0
	0	0	500	0	0

### 10 MISSION GIVING

	2013 £	2012 £
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>		
MU Literacy & Development (Burundi, Malawi, S Sudan)		250
TESS (Educational Support, Uganda)		250
MAF (Dental Safaris to Chad, Refugee support in S Sudan)		100
Biblelands	200	
Barnabasfund (Aid for marginalised and persecuted)		100
USPG Anglicans in World Mission General Fund	700	600
Tearfund	500	
Julian Lott	400	400
Send a Cow	250	250
Bungoma Link/Nurse	600	750
Diocesan Missionary Fund	30	
Toilet Twinning - Burundi (via Cord & Tearfund)	600	
<u>NATIONAL</u>		
SSAFA	250	250
Ordinand Support	600	600
Church Urban Fund	350	250
Parish Nursing	250	250
Bible Society	300	250
Farm Crisis Network	300	
Stamford Food Bank		400
Childrens Society	250	
Medecins Sans Frontieres	150	
<u>LOCAL</u>		
Baldwin Trust		200
Opportunity Chalet Rutland & Melton	400	500
Launde Abbey	200	200
Churches Together in Oakham	400	400
Drop in Centre	200	200
Homeless Support		50
Scouts	150	200
Guides	150	200
Rutland Reminders	110	150
Rutland Food Bank	400	
Leicestershire & Rutland Emmaus	250	
Amy Hana - International Guide Project	150	
	8140	6800

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the members of All Saints' Church, Oakham, Parochial Church Council**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N. I. Lowther F.C.A.  
7 Sculthorpe Close  
Oakham  
Rutland, LE15 6FJ

24 March 2014