



All Saints Oakham

Annual Vestry Meeting  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 26 April 2015

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

## **Reports from Church Organisations**



**Photography by**

Richard Adams — cover  
Diocese of Peterborough — page 8 (top)  
Robin Robson — page 8 (bottom)  
Kevin Slingsby — pages 9, 11, 12  
Jenni Duffy — pages 10, 14, 15  
Denise McDonald — pages 16, 23  
Dennis Corton — page 21  
Beryl Kirtland — page 6, 25  
Vyw Wainright — page 19  
Anna Oliver — page 20

# Contents

## Section 1 - Agenda, Minutes and Reports from Organisations

Agenda for the Annual Vestry Meeting 2015	4
Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2015	4
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2014	4
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2014	5
Vicar's Annual Report	6
Ministry Team	8
Worship Forum	8
Pastoral Forum	9
Licensed Evangelist	10
Electoral Roll	10
Sidesmen	10
Communications Group	11
Music	12
Bell Ringers	13
Sunday School	13
ASH (All Saints Hub)	14
ASK (All Saints Kids)	14
Pram & Toddler Services	15
Tiny Tots	16
Deanery Synod	16
Diocesan Synod	17
Good News Van	17
Church Hall	18
Stewardship	18
Homes Groups	18
Fabric	19
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	20
Flower Guild	20
Healing Prayer Group	20
Walking Group	21
Concerts Society	22
Mothers' Union	22
Fairtrade	23
Catering Committee	23
Churches Together in Oakham	24
Rutland Foodbank	24
Drop-In Centre	24
Open House	24
Friends of All Saints'	25

## Section 2 - Annual Report for the Charity Commission

Administrative Information	1
Review of the Year – PCC Secretary's Report	2
Financial Review	3
Statement of Financial Activities & Balance Sheet	4
Notes to Financial Statements	6
Independent Examiner's Report	11

# Annual Vestry Meeting 2015

A meeting of Oakham parishioners will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 26 April 2015 in All Saints Church for the election of Churchwardens.

## Agenda

- 1 Prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 13 April 2014
- 4 Election of Churchwardens
- 5 Election of Deputy Churchwardens

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2015

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

## Agenda

- 1 Presentation of the Electoral Roll
- 2 Minutes of meeting of 13 April 2014
- 3 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 2014

**13 April 2014 at 11:15am**

**Present:** Canon L T Francis-Dehqani (Chair), 75 Parishioners.

The Meeting began with prayer.

**Apologies:** Mrs A Austen, Mrs G Bruce, Mrs C Carlin, Miss H Carlin, Miss R Carlin, Mr & Mrs D Corton, Mr & Mrs J Tomalin and Mr & Mrs M Vecqueray.

**Minutes:** Proposed (P Hill) and seconded (P May) that the Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 28th April 2013 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 11:15am.

# Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2014

13 April 2014 at 11:15am

**Present:** Canon L T Francis-Dehqani (Chair), 75 Parishioners.

**Apologies:** Mrs A Austen, Mrs G Bruce, Mrs C Carlin, Miss H Carlin, Miss R Carlin, Mr & Mrs D Corton, Mr & Mrs J Tomalin and Mr & Mrs M Vecqueray.

**Electoral Roll:** This was presented by Electoral Roll Officer Richard Davies. The roll at March 2014 contained 306 names. Richard Davies, who compiles the roll with the Stewardship Secretary Gordon Woods, was thanked for his hard work. Proposed (R Davies), seconded (G Woods), the roll was accepted by the meeting.

**Minutes:** Proposed (P Hill), seconded (M Nichols), that the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th April 2013 were a true and accurate record of that meeting. Carried nem con.

**Election of Deanery Synod Members:** Having been duly proposed and seconded the following were elected to the Deanery Synod until May 2017: Kevin Andrews, Araminta Mathias, Yvette Nicolle-Anderiesz, Marilyn Tomalin and John Tomalin.

**Election of PCC Members:** Having been duly proposed and seconded the following were elected to the PCC until the APCM in 2017: Ann Blackett, Sally Blythin, Richard Morris and Susanna Page.

**Treasury Team's Report:** The treasurer (Peter Hill) highlighted the main points from the Financial Review of 2013 which had been published together with the Annual Accounts in the Annual Report Booklet. There had been no significant improvement in the availability of funds for maintenance and repairs compared with the situation at the end of 2012. However it had been possible to secure an agreement with our bank (HSBC) to eliminate all future bank charges from the beginning of 2014. This would mean a saving of approximately £700 per annum. The Friends of All Saints were able to fund about two-thirds of the money needed to retille the centre nave aisle. Proposed by Peter Hill and seconded by John King 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 Neil Lowther was reappointed to this position: (proposed P Hill), seconded (J King).

**Vicar's Report:** The Annual Report booklet contained a detailed account from the Vicar of the previous twelve month's activities. Particular success in the ongoing innovations in the area of communications were highlighted, with the weekly Pewsheet and the improved service booklets becoming well established. The work of the Treasury Team was commended. The need for a successful Stewardship Renewal Campaign was emphasised, and Gordon Woods reminded the meeting of the major fabric items (boiler, church lighting etc) which were requiring more urgent attention.

The Vicar spoke of progress made with young people, and our youth intern Jess Thompson was introduced to the meeting. The work of our Safeguarding Officers was commended, as were the contributions of all members of the Benefice Team.

**Thanks:** Alison Long (Churchwarden) thanked the Vicar for all that had been achieved during the past year by the Team. Special thanks were given to all those who stepped in at short notice to deal with the numerous minor jobs and requests which needed attention. Alison spoke for her colleague Margaret and all members of the congregation.

**Other Reports:** The PCC Secretary's Report and other Reports had been issued previously as part of the Annual Report Booklet. A few items were raised from the floor: Soo White asked about the use of incense at some services, the Revd Drye queried whether double bulbs could be used to improve lighting, and Dr Cheverton asked whether Communion elements could sometimes use a loaf of bread for example. The Vicar said these items would be discussed at the Worship Forum and the PCC.

**Election of Sidespersons:** The following list had been submitted by Andy Compton for appointment as sidespersons for 2014-2015: Audrey Austen, Richard Blythin, Stan Bruce, Kathryn Collinson, Andy Compton, Dennis Corton, Richard Davies, Heather Day, Richard Day, Gerry Duffy, Rebecca Falconer, Ken Gilman, Peter Hill, Jane Ince, Joan Jervis, Stephen Johnson, Peter Kinal, Stuart Long, Jack Pearce, Sue Reilly, Brian Rose, Elizabeth Smith, Ron Streeter, Michael Timms, John Tomalin, Marilyn Tomalin, Jackie Vecqueray, Mike Vecqueray, Brenda Weatherhogg and Patrick Wilson. Approved.

**Final Prayer:** There being no further business the meeting closed with prayers at 12.20 pm.

# Vicar's Annual Report

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

It is my privilege to present a report which shows a Parish in good heart strongly engaged in the mission and ministry of the Church in this place. In June I will have been ordained for 20 years, the majority of them spent in this one parish. I use my report to outline some of the blessing of working here and some of the challenges. Each of them apply to me personally and also to the wider parish. My report should be read in conjunction with the specialist reports elsewhere.

### Worship

Worship remains the core purpose of the people of God. In my youth I learnt in the Irish Cathechism that our chief end was to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. We have much to be thankful for in our worshipping life and some ongoing challenges to face.

#### Our Blessings

- Numbers at Sunday services are strong averaging 211 adults and 25 children;
- Attendance at Festivals (esp Christmas, Remembrance and Easter) is very high;
- We have seen increased numbers of children recruited and trained as servers;
- We have finished our revision of Seasonal booklets, these combined with our pewsheets allow a greater flexibility in worship;
- There is a real commitment to Daily Worship, particularly the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Communion Services;
- Our Director of Music works very hard and is flexible and adaptable in his musical choices;
- Special Services allow us to worship with the villages and people of the wider Team. This is particularly true during Holy Week. Our Team Worship is greatly enhanced by the work of Laudamus, our Team Choir

#### Our Challenges

- The remaining booklets to be revised are our Family Provision. We need to reimagine our Family Service Provision;
- Evensong is currently poorly attended (sometimes 25 but often 15 people). I am committed to providing the traditional Prayer Book service as a prayerful ending of the Sunday Round of Worship, but I need to be sure that it is valued and welcomed, evidenced in attendance;

- Of all our Daily Services, the Tuesday Service is less well attended, have we got the time right?
- Everyone says they value the choir, but few of you want to join it. Might we be able to say why so that we can address it?

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 are make invaluable contributions to our worship and I am grateful to each of you.

### Pastoral Care

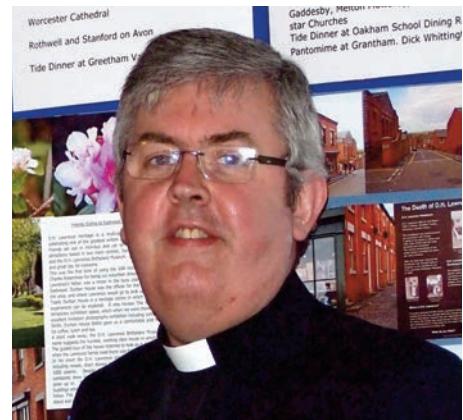
#### Our Blessings

- People continue to seek our ministry at times of birth death and marriage. In 2014 we officiated at 44 funerals, 34 baptisms and 12 weddings;
- All the occasional offices are provided with appropriate preparation and follow up;
- The Bereavement follow up group (Come and Chat) is increasing its work;
- Team wide Wedding Preparation is held twice in every year. In 2015 21 couples are booked to attend;
- We are able to offer Home Communions to the housebound using a range of trained people.

#### Our Challenges

- People continue to require home visits and we need to ensure that the Pastoral Forum knows of these requests;
- We need to continue to work to ensure that pastoral care, whilst overseen and directed by the clergy, is the responsibility of the whole worshipping community.

**Rev Hildred Crowther** continues to coordinate the work of the Pastoral Forum and I am indebted to her for



her skill and commitment to this aspect of our Parochial life. Similarly the other members of the Ministry Team, Retired Clergy and members of the Pastoral Forum continue to be generous in their support and delivery of pastoral care.

### Adult Education

#### Our Blessings

- Nearly 140 people signed up for Lent Groups this year. Whilst coordinated ecumenically there is a strong Anglican presence in these groups;
- Several Home groups meet regularly and they are known to be welcoming and supportive of new members;
- The Christian Meditation Group continues to offer space and reflection on Wednesdays at St John and St Anne's Chapel;
- Six people are currently part of a vocations exploration group which we hope will bear fruit in candidates for authorised ministry.

#### Our Challenges

- In 2014 we had no Adult Confirmation Candidates we will be holding adult classes in the Autumn.
- Our current Homegroups have little capacity within them and we need to consider starting a new one.

I am grateful to **Mrs Gail Rudge** who coordinates our Lent Groups of these groups and to all who lead Study and Home groups

### Children & Young People

#### Our Blessings

- The reports elsewhere of our Children's groups show a vibrant and developing work from baptism candidates to teenagers;
- Our Pram Service continues is a welcoming place for new parents as

- is our Tiny Tots Group both of which meet midweek;
- Sunday School has continued to be greatly enjoyed and numbers are good;
- 7 children were admitted to first Communion in June. They were a joy (and a challenge) to prepare;
- We now have provision for 10-14 aged children in ASH;
- Our ASK kids (generally 14-16) are a small but greatly encouraging group. Of this group 3 were confirmed in June and several now assist with the Chalice;
- Changes on our local Church School have meant that Dominic and I now provide whole school collective worship each Monday;
- We have appointed a new Safeguarding Officer **Mrs Ruth Bray** and she has reviewed all our procedures and policies. I am grateful to her for her expertise and for undertaking this important work.

### Our Challenges

- When Synod approves a new baptism liturgy we will revise our Family Service Booklets and we need to do this as creatively as possible;
- We continue to need to recruit new Sunday School teachers and helpers;
- Our Youth Intern Project which ended in June 2014 was not as productive as we had hoped. We need to reflect on the reasons for this and how we might address this.

I recognise the dedication and hard work that this represents. I am particularly grateful to all who teach and lead Sunday School. **Mrs Robin Robson** newly licensed Reader has helped enormously with our Sunday School work. I am grateful to Dominic for coordinating ASK and Guli for co-ordinating ASH, together they are a committed group whom I admire greatly.

## Team Development & Ministerial Supervision

(see separate Ministry Team Report)

### Our Blessings

- **Mrs Robin Robson** joined our Ministry Team in September having previously been a Reader in the Lyddington Group;
- The Lay Ministers and Clergy have been unfailing in their support during a very difficult and disrupted time when Audrey was off sick.

- Our Thursday Communion is a time of resourcing and prayer together.
- In June **Mrs Debbie Marsh**, formerly Reader in this Team will be ordained at Peterborough Cathedral. On 31st May Debbie will preach both at our 11am Team Service at Langham and also at 8am at Oakham. It would be good to support her on these occasions;
- In December we appointed **Canon Julie Hutchinson** as Team Vicar of the Southern Parishes to fill the vacancy following Revd Audrey Atkinson's move to Prison Chaplaincy.

### Our Challenges

- It has been demanding to cover an extended period of sick leave (Feb-April 2014) and then a vacancy (Oct 2014-September 2015) in the Southern Villages. This has impacted on how much I have been able to be present at All Saints Oakham;
- Issues leading to and arising from the vacancy have necessitated a renewed reflection on the meaning and expectations of working as Team Colleagues;
- We need to continue to grow vocations;
- The Share has been an ongoing challenge especially in the Southern Villages;
- Two experienced readers have recently moved to Oakham and we will need to incorporate them into our structures.

I am very grateful to all my Team Colleagues for their support and their commitment to Ministry.

## Finances

### Our Blessings

- Oakham paid 100% of its Share amounting to £93,784. The whole Team Share of £204, 690 was also paid in full;
- We ran a successful Stewardship Campaign in the Autumn, the results are reported elsewhere;
- We maintained our practice of dispersing 10% of planned giving to Mission Giving.

### Our Challenges

- Although the Diocese is changing its method of Share Calculation which ought to reduce our payment, this will take some time. Until then increased Share requests will be a challenge. In 2015 our Share is £98,600. We can expect it to be

over £100k in 2016.

Each of us needs to continue to review our giving in a spirit of stewardship and thankfulness

The Financial Reports which are presented to the APCM represent an enormous amount of work on behalf of so many people

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

## Finally

In September 2014 the Parish and Team were generous in their recognition of my ten years service here. I continue to have much to be thankful for in my work and ministry at Oakham. Looking back I can see just how beneficial it has been to stay longer than the (perhaps?) expected 6 or 7 years. To stay this length of time has allowed us to establish change and ground it in ongoing experience. The work and the people are a continued blessing to me.

At the risk of missing someone out, in addition to those mentioned above I should like to thank:

- All Team Members for their insights and support
- Revd Hildred Crowther for her support and encouragement to me personally and the generous offering of her time and skills. We rejoiced with her and Mike in January at the safe arrival of a first grandchild, Charlie.
- Revd Dr Dominic Coad for his real growth and maturing in ministry and his taking of extra responsibility during the Team vacancy. In September his wife Dr Frances Clemson was appointed a lecturer in Theology and Ministry at Durham University.
- The Churchwardens Mrs Margaret Pattinson and Mrs Alison Long for their commitment to the Parish and to me personally. After serving for five years Mrs Pattinson is stepping down as Churchwarden and we should record our very sincere thanks to her for all she has undertaken in this time.
- Mrs Janine Weaver, our Administrator, for staffing the Team Office in such a welcoming way. In particular she has built a really good relationship with our wedding couples.
- To My Family Guli, Gabriel, Eleanor and Simeon and to Margaret my mother in law. Each of them know the reality of parochial ministry in ways that many will never see.

# 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 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 Robin Robson** (Reader since 2014)

**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.

2014 saw some changes:

In September **Mrs Robin Robson** joined us having previously been a Reader in Lyddington. We benefit greatly from Robin's wide ministerial experience and particular her gifts in Children's work.

In October **Revd Audrey Atkinson** moved to be Chaplain at Full Sutton Prison. A farewell service was held at Langham.

In December we appointed **Canon Julie Hutchinson** as Team Vicar. She will take up her position on 1st September 2015. Julie and her husband Philip are, of course, well known in Rutland. Julie fostered her vocation at All Saints Oakham and was previously Vicar of Morcott and Lyddington. She comes to us with wide experience mostly recently as Bishop's Chaplain and before that as Director of Ordinands. I hope many

parishioners will be able to support her at her licensing on Tuesday 1st September at 7.30pm at Langham Parish Church.

The Ministry Team continues to meet weekly for Holy Communion on Thursdays at 9am. Numbers are increasing it is a good way of showing your prayerful support of our work. In addition the full Team meets monthly for planning and support. 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.



*Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson was appointed as Team Vicar in December 2014, and will take up her post in September*



*Mrs Robin Robson, appointed Reader in September 2014*

## 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 Churchwardens, the Director of Music and representatives of the Ministry Team and PCC.

The major task of this year has been to bring to completion the revision of our current worship booklets. This began in Lent 2014 and carried on through the Seasons of Easter, Ordinary Time, Advent and Christmas. In addition to these well produced booklets we have developed the use of our Pew Sheet to allow for a wider

use of hymnody and a more responsive approach to liturgy and parish notices. This has been a huge amount of work and I am grateful to Mr Kevin Slingsby for his support advice and hard work.

We still need to review our Family Provision and Healing Services both of which will require input from our

Children's and Pastoral workers.

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.

# Pastoral Forum

## Rev. Hildred Crowther – Assistant Priest..

I'm extremely grateful and indebted to the members of the Pastoral Forum for their continued and loyal support during the last year. We continue to meet every alternate month and we share news of anyone in the congregation whose personal circumstances have changed, temporarily or otherwise, and would like a home visit, or the Reserved Sacrament (i.e. the host that has been consecrated during a Communion service) to be brought to them at home. You can be assured that everything we share in meetings is held in confidence.

However, our congregation is large and it is impossible for us to be aware of everyone's need so we also appeal to each one of you to let us know if you, or anyone you know, would like a member of the clergy or a lay minister to visit. We are always very pleased to do so and it's always a privilege. If you later tell us that we no longer need to visit as you'll shortly be coming back to church, we'll always respect that. So, If you then find that you can't make it after all, and would therefore like us come and see you again, please do let us know.

I can't overemphasise the importance of the above. We can't come to you if we don't know you'd like us to. We are a large family and as in any family we need to take responsibility not only for ourselves, but also be on the lookout for the needs of others.

You may remember that a couple of years ago we set up the Come and Chat Group to support people who've been bereaved, be they church members or not. The uptake in the beginning was slow, but I'm delighted to report that it now seems to have taken off and numbers attending have risen since last May/June.

Just to remind you we meet on the 1st Thursday of the month (even if it's New Years Day or Maundy Thursday!), across the road at All Saints Church Hall, between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Some people come right at the start of their bereavement journey, others at a later stage. Some come for many months, others for just one or two. Some like to come for a chat and a cuppa while others find it beneficial to talk one to one about how they're coping at such a difficult time in their lives. Some people like to stay for the whole 2 hours. Others drop in for a shorter time. We're very happy that people are able to choose what's right for them. I always try to be present but am aware that this may not always be possible. I'm therefore delighted that

Robin Robson has now joined me as co-leader of this group. Robin moved to Oakham some time ago and was recently licensed as a Reader in the Team. She also has experience of bereavement work and so will be a great asset to the group.

If you know anyone who might benefit from coming to Come & Chat please point them in our direction, or better still, bring them along. It's difficult to walk into a group of people you don't know, especially at such a vulnerable time. Please note that on 7th May we have to relinquish the Church Hall so that it can be used as a polling station. Come & Chat will therefore meet in the Mayhew Room for month only. If you hear of anyone intending to come to Come & Chat in May, please make sure that they're aware of this.

Come and Chat wouldn't happen without the support of our faithful volunteers who turn up regularly to help me to set up and clear away, to make the tea and most importantly to spend time with those who come. I couldn't

do it without them and would like to express my gratitude to them.

Some time ago, Pastoral Forum members reinstated the Sunday afternoon tea parties that we held in Church. These have been very beneficial to those who've come and again, we're very grateful to all those who've helped to make these happen. Unfortunately, the last one had to be cancelled as it was due to take place on a very cold day when the heating had failed, and we decided to wait until spring before having another. However, the commitments of Forum members have now increased to a degree that none of us is in a position to co-ordinate the setting up of these events although members would be happy to help as and when they are able. We are therefore looking for someone to take on this important task and would of course give them as much support as possible in taking over the role. If you feel that you would like to do this please speak to me or Dominic or any member of the Forum.



Candles lit in memory of the faithful departed, All Souls Day 2014

# Licensed Evangelist

## Jenni Duffy

One of my favourite parts of my role as a Licensed Evangelist is assisting at the many baptisms we have and welcoming the children and their families and friends to our lovely church.

During the last year, 32 children have been baptised, many of whom continue to attend our toddler groups and special services we have during the year. Thank you to all who have helped during these Baptism services and to the wonderful team of ladies organised by Jackie Vecqueray who provide ongoing contact by visiting and delivering anniversary cards for four years and also invitations to services and information leaflets.

During Advent more than 60 families hosted our three Travelling Nativities, the photographic display in the children's area shows the many ways the sets were enjoyed by their hosts.

Special thanks must go to the many knitters who produced such a variety of rainbow sheep for the families to keep and to Pamela Woods, Denise McDonald and Viv Ufton for their help with the logistical challenge of co-ordinating all of it. This is a wonderful outreach project as the Christmas story is brought into each of their homes and we are encouraged to see many of these young families at services during Advent and Christmas.

Mothering Sunday was a splendid occasion and our thanks to Marilyn & John Tomalin for making the gorgeous simnel cake and to the ladies of the flower guild for the beautiful bouquets of flowers that were so gratefully received.



*The Travelling Nativity*

In November last year I attended the Bishops Conference with the other members of our Ministry Team. It was great to spend time with Clergy and Lay Ministers who were enthusiastic about their work and to hear the Bishop and other speakers talking on the theme of the conference 'I will build my church'. Belonging to All Saints' Church and being part of such a vibrant and caring community is such a privilege and I am often quite moved when I look around at all the wonderful work that goes on here –

much of it unseen and unnoticed. I believe that the work of Evangelism is being done by each and every one of us. Evangelism is relational, so for every one of you who visits a friend or neighbour, cooks for some event or other or notices someone new in church and takes the time to welcome them – you are Evangelising. All of this helps to promote God's Kingdom in this place and we are helping to build our church when we create a welcoming and encouraging environment.

## Electoral Roll

### *Richard Davies – Electoral Roll Officer*

The total on the electoral roll in **March 2015** now stands at **305**.

There are 276 residents and 29 non-residents.

Eight members have died during the year.

Four members have gone away.

Eleven new members have joined.

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

## Sidesmen

### *Andy Compton*

This year we have covered all the regular Sunday services in addition to the Civic Remembrance service and the Christmas services through a team of thirty sidesmen. We have also been supported by members of the ASK group on occasion. I would wish to take this opportunity to thank all the sidesmen for their reliable service and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Please see the minutes of last year's APCM for the full list of sidesmen for the year.

# Communications Group

## Kevin Slingsby

It is now almost two years since the PCC identified communications as an area of our Church life which needed improvement, and the working group has continued to look at how we undertake this.

An important area we tackled in our first year was the Weekly Pewsheet. We have continued to work on that this year, although the main development has perhaps been less visible to Oakham people, as from July, following the successful trial in Oakham, we introduced the new style Pewsheet to all the villages. This coincided with a revamp of the front cover aiming to emphasise the inclusiveness of the Team image by picturing all the churches and listing all the Team services for the Sunday. The introduction has been well-received in the villages, and we continue to monitor ways in which we might improve it further.

Service Books was another important area, as these, together with the Pewsheet, are the first thing people receive when they come to a service. Christmas 2014 saw the final stage in

the year-long task of revising these, and we now just have the Family Worship provision to complete (which awaits national finalisation of the new Baptism liturgy), along with a few minor ones.

A major item of work for the group has been the production of a Welcome leaflet, along with a plan for its introduction and distribution. We are now nearly ready with this, and we plan to distribute it throughout the town as well as making it available in church and other key locations, as well as putting a system in place to monitor new housing developments, people moving etc, to ensure that as wide a local audience as possible are made aware of what goes on here at All Saints.

An important 'first impression' means of communication to the wider public of Oakham is our external notice-

boards, and after much procrastination these have finally been installed. It will now be much easier to keep them up-to-date, with one side of the board containing semi-permanent information (service times and contact information), with the other side being changed on a regular basis.

Significant areas still requiring our attention are the monthly Magazine and the website, and these will be our priorities over the coming months.

I am very grateful to the members of the group for their support over the year, and for their enthusiasm and inspiration as we develop new ideas and work on them. If anyone feels that they have anything that they could contribute to our work, be it just ideas, or a willingness to join the group, please do have a word with me.



*The new noticeboards will enable a significant improvement in communication with the wider community*

# Music

## *Kevin Slingsby, Director of Music*

Music at our main services at Oakham continues to be supported by a small, but loyal, choir, and I am grateful to its members for all that they do. However, despite continued requests, it has not been possible to recruit new members who are able to make the commitment to sing every week, and we rely increasingly on the combined forces of Laudamus, the Team Choir, for important occasions.

We therefore took the decision in the Autumn to review the way in which Laudamus operates alongside the individual church choirs, and we have now started a pattern where two or three times a month we meet to practice as a joint choir instead of having four separate practices (Oakham, Whissendine, Market Overton and Langham) those weeks, but continuing to meet separately for the other two weeks of the month. This means that the individual choirs, including Oakham, still have the opportunity to work on music specifically for their church, but there is much more opportunity to work together towards music for major festivals and other occasions, thereby creating a much richer musical experience for all the singers, and giving more opportunity for those people who can only commit to such major events to feel part of the ensemble.

The key events at Oakham have continued to be highlights of the year – the Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the Advent Carol Service and the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols. Developing last year's pattern, we sang as a Team Choir for Carol Services in Whissendine, Market Overton and Langham as well as for the Oakham service, and we were pleased to welcome again a number of additional singers for those services.

In September 2014 we also sung for a Prayer Book Society event in the Team, including Matins at Brooke and Evensong at Braunston, the Patronal Evensong at Teigh, the Deanery Eucharist at Whissendine, Harvest Festival at Brooke, with a return visit there for Ash Wednesday 2015.

In October we took part again in the Diocesan Choral Festival in Peterborough Cathedral, and it is always a joy to join with other choirs for this. The directorship of Steven Grahil, the new Director of Music at the Cathedral, was inspiring, and we look forward a preliminary rehearsal for the 2015 Festival with him in only a few weeks' time as I write.



In January we enjoyed a second visit to the White Lion at Whissendine for the annual choir dinner, which since 2012 has been an event for the whole of Laudamus. The year has finished with a successful 'Come and Sing' Stainer's Crucifixion this Palm Sunday, with a choir of 45 and two excellent soloists from Oakham School.

The music group has continued to play at Family Services, and it has been a pleasure to work with a small but dedicated group of players for this. We are always very happy to welcome new members, so if you play an instrument, or would like to join us as a singer, please do have a word.

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, Sandra Needham for her meticulous work in looking after the music and the vestry generally, and those who assist with organ playing, especially Paul Butler, who has continued to be a great support to me in all that we do, and who has an excellent knack for knowing just what is needed, both musically and otherwise, usually before I have managed to ask him to do it!

# Bell Ringers

## Louis Totaro - Tower Captain

Compared to the previous year, ringing at Oakham has been a little quieter during 2014 in terms of weddings, although this is expected to change for 2015 judging by the number of ceremonies already booked – 14 so far. Visiting teams during 2014 were also down to single figures but again, this year is already looking promising with 3 teams already booked.

Practice nights on Tuesdays remain well attended by local members and visitors and we continue to persevere with developing ringers of all abilities. We continue to maintain a very good standard of ringing, but as a perfectionist I am always looking for improvement!

Of course all of this hard work, time and commitment by the ringers and their families should never be taken for granted and I am most grateful of their continued support. Spending time together is not just about ringing but developing friendships and we certainly have a good community within our band. We have a tradition of holding a bell ringers party around Christmas/New Year, although this is typically our busiest time in terms of ringing and family commitments.

Therefore, in a slight break of tradition we decided to defer this to a quieter time of the year, so in March we

downed our ropes for dinner at the Baker's Yard in Oakham and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our peal of bells remain in a good ringable condition. The last inspection carried out by John Taylor Bell-founders of Loughborough identified that the leather washer of the tenor bell was showing signs of its age and wear and therefore proposed this should be replaced. The work is scheduled to be carried out fairly soon and this will involve temporarily unbolting the bell from its headstock – all 1½ tons of it! However, I do not foresee much disruption and I would certainly expect this work to be completed the same day. Fortunately, there are no other major signs of wear on the bells or frame at this time, although as I mentioned in my report last year that this could change and the latter will need to be closely monitored. Our next annual visit is

due within the next few months. Several bell ropes are showing signs of wear and we are in the process of refurbishing these over the course of the year.

In an ideal world, I would like to see our team with more 'new blood' and in previous years we have been very successful in this area. However, over the years I have seen trends change particularly from our youth as their out of school commitments/other activities and homework now take up most of their time. On the flipside we have seen more adults become interested and I would certainly like to extend an invitation and encourage anyone who is interested to join us and come to have a go at ringing. Our practice night is held every Tuesday 7:30pm – 9:00pm and our Sunday morning ringing commences at 9:55am.

# Sunday School

## Robin Robson

We continue to hold Sunday School on every Sunday in the term time save for the third Sunday when there is a Family Service in the church. There are now three young people groups, one for Sunday School for ages 4-11, All Saints Hub (ASH) for children of 12-14 and All Saints Kids from 14-17.

At Sunday School our numbers have grown and we have 27 children on our roll. Normally we have a group of around 12-20 children and we give them the 45 minutes Christian teaching tied in to the Lectionary, mostly (sometimes the readings are unsuitable for children and we use another one). We always have some kind of Activity which ties in with the reading. They do enjoy bringing the product of their toil to the Church and enjoy telling Lee or whoever has been presiding what we have been talking about. Some of the most vocal children in the class suddenly become silent as questions are asked, which is frustrating for those who have taught them so carefully!

We have the help of a magazine called Roots which gives suggestions for each week, it is also on line and

has even more resources there. Roots is a Lectionary-based resource which helps the children learning about something that has also gone on in Church.

Some of the children are learning to be servers during the Eucharist and they are learning well. It is lovely to watch them develop.

On 22 June last year it was the Confirmation and First Communion service. Bishop Donald came and then joined us for the annual barbecue in the Vicarage garden, and the weather was good. The children enjoyed getting ready for the Nativity Tableau and enjoyed doing it even more. Some of the children went to the Pantomime early in the New Year.

I would like to thank all those who lead the Sunday School, the leaders take

time to prepare for their session and they are creative so that the children really enjoy it. We could not cope without the helpers so thank you to them, we could not manage without them. Last Summer Jane Ince and I went through the cupboard that is in the Church Hall and we replace all the items that were broken or no longer usable. Thank you to the PCC for giving us the funds necessary, we are trying to keep everything up to date and functional.

We have got some new helpers but more are needed and if you feel you could help, please let me know. It is sometimes difficult to man the Sunday School as we should.

And finally children are not just our future but our present. They are a vibrant and loving group and spending time with them is wonderful, if occasionally quite tiring.

## ASH (All Saints Hub)

*Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani*

Over the past year there have been some changes to the provision we make for children and young people with the start of a new group called All Saints Hub (ASH). This group is designed for children aged 11-13 and meets monthly during the regular Sunday service with occasional activities at other times. Currently there are five children who attend regularly, with another couple due to join after Easter. Whilst wanting to encourage the children to think about matters relating to life and faith, the content of each session varies as we rely on different members of the congregation who offer something from their own experience and expertise that will engage the young people. This has the advantage of developing relationships between different ages and generally benefits all those involved. The young people themselves chose the name ASH for their group and it's been a pleasure to witness their energy and enthusiasm for each of the topics we've covered. This year's programme has included sessions ranging from Harvest and Remembrance to Building a Church, Making Good Decisions and participating in Scriptural Reasoning. Members of ASH have also enjoyed some shared activities with the older ASK group, including a film evening, a Christmas party and a Maundy Thursday meal. Any children aged 11-13 are welcome and we are always looking for adults to lead a session.

## ASK (All Saints Kids)

*Revd Dr Dominic Coad*

This year saw the end of our youth intern Jess Thompson's time working with our young people. Jess has moved on from Oakham and is now married. Since her departure ASK have met regularly for a variety of different activities.

We began the new school year by attending the Greenbelt festival, at the end of August, just before term began. A long weekend camping together included talks, music and lots of fun together. The year progressed with various social events, including Sunday breakfasts and a Christmas party.

We have also enjoyed our 'ASK the Big Questions' discussion group, covering topics including *Should a Christian be a soldier?*, *Why does God's world contain suffering?* and *Is there a heaven?* The group have also planned and led Sunday School and prepared prayers for a Sunday service. On Maundy Thursday, the group will be helping us to keep the watch, as they did last year.

Though small, ASK is a lively and friendly group, enjoying fellowship and exploring matters of faith.



Pram and Toddler Service Annual Picnic in the Vicarage Garden

# Pram and Toddler Services

## Jenni Duffy

The Pram and Toddler services are bouncy and full of life as usual. We have 26 children registered this year and have been averaging 6 toddlers/babies plus their respective adults per week with some weeks reaching a lively 28 people in all. We have been very pleased to welcome six of our young members into the church family following their Baptisms this year with one more to celebrate on Easter day.

Our annual picnic was held at the Vicarage again – thank you Lee. It was a lovely sunny day and we enjoyed seeing the different teddies and other cuddly toys as we enjoyed the fun. In addition to our bible stories, we have been looking at different materials, working on our colours and counting skills and most importantly making lots of noise and being creatively messy!

New faces on our team rota include: Oakham School pupils, Ubong and Rebecca, who help us as part of their community service and we are grateful to Margaret Dehqani-Tafti who has joined our team as a pianist. An important part of our work with these young families involves prayer – members of our team meet once a month to pray for them, for each other and for the wider church. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved for keeping our group running smoothly and sharing their gifts and time so generously.

In May this year we will celebrate our 15th birthday. We will be organizing something special so look out for details on how to mark this happy occasion with us.



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



# Tiny Tots

*Denise McDonald & Alice Clarke*

Working as we do with small children time seems to pass very quickly. Families grow and the new baby is soon running around, talking and taking part in all activities.

Nobody could describe the church on Thursday mornings as a quiet place, but few who come in whether church members or visitors, seem to object. Most are glad that the next generation see the church as a welcoming place. We are always glad to offer casual visitors of all kinds a cup of tea or coffee and explain what we are up to.

Our numbers are not at present quite as great as they have been in the past, mainly because of the establishment of another toddler group on Thursday mornings. However, we are still averaging 20+, rising to 40 or so on special occasions, so it would seem that there is space for everyone. Our broadly seasonal programme with craft, singing, and stories, is tailored largely to two and three year-olds although even the youngest can find fun with simple toys. Highlights are always a visit from Father Christmas, our Toddle Waddle in April which this year raised £338.00 for the Meningitis Trust, and the last meeting in July when large numbers of Teddy Bears and their friends arrive for a Picnic. The other moment this year that all the adults present will remember with gratitude is the winter morning when the boiler decided not to function and Canon Lee; wrestling

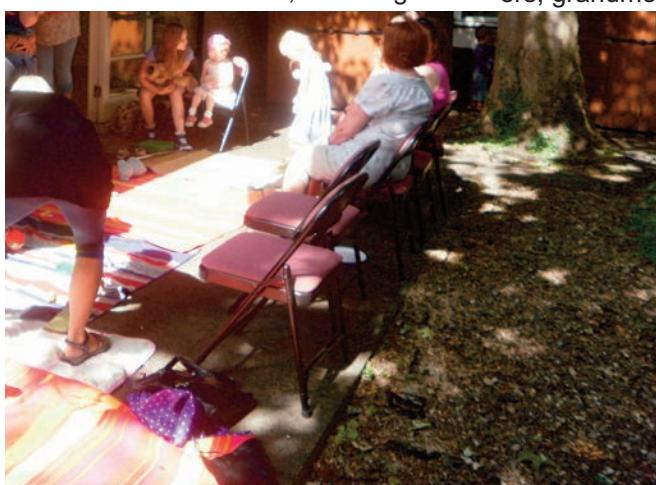


with it, gave a whole new meaning to 'Go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in'. We were all very thankful when his efforts met with success – the church can be cold!

We have been very fortunate to add Liz Nicholls to the team running the group this year. Her kindness, friendli-



ness and willingness to do whatever is needed make her a real asset to the group. In addition, of course, we really appreciate our cohort of mothers, grandmothers, childminders and occasional fathers who join together to welcome newcomers and support anyone who is looking for help or advice. Being a new mother can be quite lonely and it is good to know where support is at hand. It is our adult attenders who set the tone of the group. We could not manage without them and thank them very much.



# Deanery Synod

*John Tomalin - Lay Chair, Rutland Deanery Synod*

Three meetings and the Deanery Eucharist were held during the year.

**24 May 2014**

## Ketton

Mr Vvv Wainwright spoke about the re-ordering of churches, explaining how the buildings had changed over the years. He stated that at present, in many rural villages, the only stable building is the Church and it is now being used for additional activities. We need to find new ways of using our churches and need to see where God is leading us.

Mike Sargeant, the Rural Missioner for Stamford & Rutland, spoke about the 'Walk Rutland', which would take place from 17th – 31st August 2014 with walks of varying length in the county. He commented that it would be a mission opportunity to speak to people on the way and talk about God.

Mr John Tomalin was elected as Lay Chair for a third three year term. This would be his last term. Rev Mark Battison had been appointed to the Barrowden benefice and it was noted that Ketton would be getting a curate, (later confirmed as Revd Don McGarigle).

The first draft of the Mission Plan had been written. It was noted that it would be adopted at the September meeting.

**7 July 2014**

## Deanery Eucharist at Whissendine

The preacher was The Venerable Richard Ormston, recently appointed Archdeacon of Northampton.

**25 September 2014**

## Great Casterton

Synod welcomed Archdeacon Mildred Malalah from Bungoma to the meeting. The Mission Plan with the ten missional intentions was presented and adopted by synod. It was agreed that during 2015 Synod would focus on the review of Growth Action Plans, Youth Work, Festivals and Discipleship courses.

It was noted that Rev Audrey Atkinson was to take up a position as Prison Chaplain at Full Sutton. Mrs Veronica Fell had agreed to become Deanery Synod secretary.

## 6 November 2014

### Uppingham

The meeting was addressed by Revd Alison Christian (Warden of Launde Abbey) on Spirituality. She commenced by stating that giving is spiritual and should be sacrificial as everything belongs to God. She then said that the problem with the church is that we do not know how to pray. Launde helps people to understand prayer. Also many people are Christian in the head but not in the heart. Alison Christian concluded by saying that we needed to get out of our churches into the villages and local communities.

There was considerable discussion on the Parish Share for 2015 and the reasons behind the 5% increase being requested. Several examples of the difficulties being faced by parishes were given and some examples as to where the increase was to be spent in the diocese, e.g. two youth workers and maintenance/increase in clergy numbers.

## 5 February 2015

### Oakham

The meeting was addressed by Mrs Helen Briggs, CEO Rutland County Council, on the subject of the council's review 'People First' and their commitment to work with the 'Voluntary', 'Community' and 'Faith' sectors in Rutland. She stated that this had been brought about by the financial pressures and, while the council would maintain their statutory obligations, they were looking to involve other sectors to support non-statutory functions and to provide some financial support to do so. This would be taken on board by Churches Together.

It was noted that Mr Jeremy Orme (Hambleton) had agreed to become the lay representative on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

## Diocesan Synod

### *John Tomalin – Diocesan Synod Representative*

Synod met twice in 2014 and once so far in 2015. 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>

## 22 March 2014

### Bishop Stopford School, Kettering

In his presidential address **+Donald** spoke about several controversial issues, including bishops in the House of Lords, women bishops, and sexuality.

The 2013 annual reports from Boards and Committees were received as was a report on the November 2013 Sessions or the General Synod.

Synod approved the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and draft amending Canon. Voting by houses was:

- **Bishops**

1 in favour; 0 against; 0 abstentions

- **Clergy**

45 in favour; 2 against; 2 abstentions

- **Laity**

44 in favour; 2 against; 7 abstentions

## 13 September 2014

### Malcolm Arnold Academy, Northampton

In his presidential address **+Donald** highlighted four topics:

- The process for the legislation to consecrate women as Bishops
- The process for discussing concerns relating to sexuality
- Disappointment that Government does not welcome those who have been persecuted in the Middle East. Synod resolved that "This synod urges Her Majesty's Government to welcome to this country and to support those who are persecuted by Islamic State"
- The welcome positive message emerging across the diocese as we tackle the challenge of a growing church

**The Chairman of the Board of Finance** reported on the outcome of the 2013 financial year and introduced the proposed budget for 2015 and a position statement for 2016. Synod approved the budget and total share for 2015.

Synod also approved a proposal for two posts in the budget to develop mission and ministry with young people in the diocese.

## 21 March 2015

### Bishop Stopford School, Kettering

**+Donald** introduced his 'political' subject quoting the House of Bishops web site with 'who is my neighbour' and urging all Christians to vote. Trust and esteem were at an all time low which was not good as it leads to fascism or anarchy. He stated that the view of the church should be heard on all issues, not just moral issues, particularly where huge changes can be made on society. He noted that churches were the only organisation encouraging debate.

**Amanda Robinson**, Director of Education, gave an overview of the work and achievements of the Peterborough Diocesan Education Trust (PEDT) since March 2013, its objectives, ethos and responsibilities. Schools are able to convert to academy status under the auspices of PEDT. Currently there are 13 schools in the PEDT, including Ryhall, 5 who are going through the process, including Oakham C of E, and a further 5 who have expressed interest. 35% of all diocesan schools are now academies.

**Garry Johnson**, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, briefed synod on the work of safeguarding in the diocese. He noted that work at diocesan and PCC level had resulted in a 45% increase in referrals and 27% increase for information and advice in 2014.

## Good News Van

### *Catriona Drye*

This is a mobile Christian Library and has all sorts of books including study guides, books on prayers, biographies, novels etc. and also DVDs. We meet on the third Tuesday evenings, 7.30 pm at St John and St Anne's Common Room, South Street one month, and then alternate months at 25 Willow Crescent. We usually have a good chat and refreshments.

# Church Hall

## Peter Kinal

The Church Hall has continued to provide bookings for church and non-church events. Both regular and occasional bookings have held up well, with regular bookings now approaching full capacity. It has been possible, once again, to transfer a further £3,000 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. His additional input, particularly by giving assistance to some regular hirers in setting up chairs, etc, has been very greatly appreciated.

Meetings of the Church Hall Committee were held in May, September, November and January, with useful review and planning for the maintenance and improvement of the Hall and its facilities. This has includes the

installation of a water boiler, whilst amongst those still being planned are the fitting of a new and larger sink, acoustic tiling and, following some complaints, an upgraded heating system.

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. I have received considerable practical support from all members of the committee, but at the risk of being discriminatory should mention Patrick and Stephan.

## 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

*Douglas & Catriona Drye.*

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 10am. We have an interesting discussion on various parts of the Bible and see how it relates to our daily lives; it's quite challenging at times and encouraging to see how relevant it is to our life today. We will be looking at the Women of the Old Testament when we meet again after Easter. Do come and join us!

### 6 Peterborough Avenue Home Group

*Patrick and Marjorie Wilson*

Our two main studies this year were on the Patriarchs and on the history and significance of Israel. Several members brought their own presentations on some Old Testament characters, mainly in the book of Judges. As always the insights and freshness of approach from these were inspiring. Another very stimulating presentation was given by one of our members, speaking on one of his Christian heroes, in this case, Eric Liddell.

Throughout we have drawn encour-

agement and satisfaction from the opportunities that our meetings have given for strengthening friendship, learning from each other and praying together.

### 19 Ashwell Road Home Group

*Stan and Gill Bruce*

The group, numbering twelve in all, meets fortnightly throughout the year, except during Lent and in the summer holiday season. During the past year we followed a challenging study course on the fruits of the Spirit, entitled *Nine a Day* produced on a DVD by the Langham Partnership; we also learned about the work of the Langham Partnership, which encourages nationals to write culturally-appropriate literature for pastors and church leaders in the developing world, funds the production and distribution of such literature, and provides scholarships to enable church leaders, who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it, to receive theological education up to PhD level. Following that we studied the Letter to Philemon, and then commenced a course of study on the Book of Nehemiah.

We continue to support the work of Send-a-Cow financially, and receive

## Stewardship

## Gordon Woods

Stewardship is thanking God for his goodness by making regular gifts to the church. This style of giving provides about 80% of our income.

Unlike some churches we do not have frequent fundraiser events, our main one is the autumn sale which both produces income but also interacts with the townspeople.

There are 3 main ways of giving; (1) by a bankers order via the Diocese, (2) by weekly numbered envelopes put in the offertory and (3) by an annual cheque. For all these giving methods, if you are a tax payer, 25% can be added to the donation by 'Gift Aiding'. The different methods, in numerical order, have 149, 44 and 6 donors (a donor often represents two people.)

The October stewardship presentation resulted in 11 new donors using the first methods, three of whom had decided it was more convenient than the second method, the remainder being totally new givers.

The greatest change in amount given occurs when this either starts at zero (a new donor) or ends at zero (through death or moving away).

After 17 years it is time to hand on this role to a younger person. Please ask me what the work involves, most of which is between March and May. My phone number is 01572 755371. A couple of new donors would be my best leaving present! No-one else at church except the donor and me knew much you have given. Thank you!

---

regular updates about the progress of one particular family in Kenya in its journey from poverty to self-sufficiency.

For our summer outing last year, following our theatre visit the previous winter to see the Saltmine production of *Amazing Grace* – the story of the life of John Newton, we visited the Museum in Olney where John Newton and William Cowper the hymn-writer are commemorated, and the church where John Newton served for sixteen years. For our other main social event, we enjoyed lunch together at *The Barn* restaurant in Burley Road in early January

# Fabric

Vyv Wainwright – Benefice Surveyor

## Nave Floor

The central isle of the Nave floor has now been completed and when funds no doubt permit in the future we will be able to complete all the Nave floor repairs.

## Church Lightning Conductor

This has been checked and is in working order.

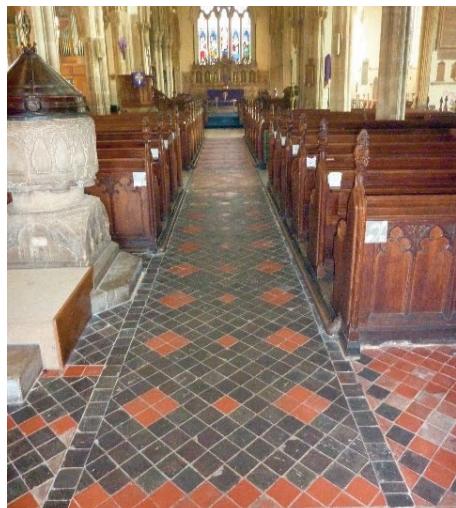
## Light Bulbs and Electrical Work

In my report last year I recorded that we replaced the light bulbs on the chandeliers with eco bulbs, helping reduce our carbon footprint and our electricity bills. After discussion with the PCC we have decided to see if we can replace the bulbs as they do not give out as much light as was originally anticipated. Given the condition of the light drops (the wire between the ceiling and the chandeliers) we have also decided to replace these.

We have also been anticipating our electrical safety certificate which is now in place, as we have also had a cable buried in the church yard for the outside lights. Now that this work is completed the lights on the west end gate-posts are working again.

## The Central Heating Saga

For those of you who were around last year you will remember the difficulties we experienced in 2013-14 with the boiler. Well the saga continues and during 2014-15 the boiler has been suffering considerably and on a couple of occasions it has packed up completely. However, Blounts plumbing and heating engineers have been able to re-start the boiler. However because it is situated in the damp subterranean boiler house in the church-yard it is rusting and therefore is in urgent need of replacement.



*The completed tiling in the Nave*



*The new gas meter box*

Purcell, Miller Triton, (the church architects), carried out a feasibility study into where the new boiler should be sited. And they recommended that north transept as an ideal location due to the exiting gas supply and flue being there already. However concerns about the potential for noise from the boiler have been expressed, despite reassurances from the heating engineers who have been advising us and architects (and me!). We can, as recommended by the architects, place a sound proofing cover around the new boiler, although one heating engineers does not think this is necessary.

So we are now exploring the idea of placing the boiler in the parish office. However this will necessitate an application for Listed Building Consent as the new flue will have to pass through the roof above the office. We will need a new gas supply into the building which will require a trench to be dug for the gas pipe and no doubt the archaeologists will have to be involved as a trench is being dug in the grounds of the church.

I am awaiting quotations for the new boiler in both suggested locations. Once I have these I will prepare a report for the Diocesan Advisory Committee setting out the options with costs so they can then advise us accordingly. Once they recommend where the boiler should be located we will then have to make a faculty application by the end of June 2015. Hopefully, if we get consent, we need

to put public notices up advising about the work. If there are no objections then we can start work in September. The contractors have estimated a time frame of around 6 weeks to get the work completed. So we will keep you posted.

## Church Signs & Disabled Access Signs

The new Church signs are now complete and the disabled access signs are on order.

## Roof Repairs

There is a lead flashing which has come loose on the south aisle roof near the tower which needs repair. We hope to repair this soon.

## Gas Meter Box

The gas meter box has new doors! Go have a look.

## And finally,

I would like to express particular thanks 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.

I do hope that we can get the boiler replaced this year to prevent the difficulties and cold church of last year.

As I said last year work with historic buildings takes considerable patience (and funds) but the results are really worthwhile. Your support is much appreciated.

# Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings

## *Alison Long, Churchwarden*

During the last year we have continued to work on issues raised within the Quinquennial Inspection of April 2013, particularly in attempting to rectify the electrical problems.

The electrical system in the church is now safe, although ultimately it will need to be overhauled due to age. As you may be aware we are fast approaching a time when it will desirable to look at both lighting and sound projects, and we have undertaken some preliminary work to give us some idea of cost for updating the sound system.

However, these projects have by necessity been forced onto the back burner by our need for a new boiler. Much time and investigation has been spent this year in looking into all the options and I think we are now well on the way to coming up with a suitable replacement for the current system. This has been an interesting and sometimes frustrating situation and we would like to extend our thanks to all who have attended the many meetings and particularly to Vyv Wainwright who has been instrumental in all the fabric initiatives – please see his separate report on these.

The lightning conductor has been checked and has been found to be in

good order.

We are now due for the Archdeacon's Visitation and Inspection and this will be carried out by John Tomalin – Deanery Lay Chair before the end of April. We will also have completed the annual check of the contents of the church against the inventory of the Terrier by then. The initial work that we have carried out has shown no major discrepancies. I would appeal to anyone who has any of the pyxes belonging to the church to let either myself or Margaret know, as there are several that are unaccounted for.

We are pleased to see the installation of the new notice boards, and we are grateful for the support of the Friends in providing these much needed additions to the church.

This year has seen an update of our Safeguarding procedures and we extend our thanks to Ruth Bray for all her work in this area.

As always there are many people who work tirelessly to keep the

church and the church yard in good condition and we would like to thank all who give up their time to clean, arrange flowers, provide coffee and welcome on a Sunday morning, as well as those who are involved in working in the church yard and as sidesmen, readers and intercessors.

There are many aspects of being a church warden and I have enjoyed the last two years very much, thanks in no small way to the help and support of Margaret Pattinson. I want to personally say a huge thank you to Margaret for your humour and patience in helping me to learn the ropes. It has truly been a pleasure to work with you. I look forward to working with whoever takes on the role next and hope that I can pass on all the information with the same efficiency.

Finally I would like to thank all who have supported us as churchwardens over in so many ways over the last year and I look forward to working with you more in the year to come.

## Flower Guild

### *Anna Oliver*

A big thank you to all the ladies of the All Saints Flower Guild who have decorated the church at festival times and for those ladies who have arranged and looked after the altar pedestals.

A special thank you to Edwina King for her dedication and hard work co-ordinating the members and rotas

over the last 4 years and continuing to advise me on taking over her role .

Thank you to Betty Tidd for agreeing to carry on in the role of Treasurer.

Over the year Lynda Allman and John Tomalin have given demonstrations on the principles of putting together an altar pedestal. It's not so hard after all.

A special welcome to our new members Margaret Tyler, Lynette Thomson, Pamela and Joyce Wells.

The Flower Guild is largely self financing and so we welcome donations to support the decoration of the windows during the church festivals and the altar pedestal flowers through the year.

We are always looking for new members to join our group of volunteers. A



## Healing Prayer Group

### *Patrick Wilson*

The Healing Prayer Group has continued to meet for prayer and Bible

# Walking Group

## Dennis Corton

The group has now celebrated 5 years since its formation in April 2010 and during that time we have probably each walked 300 miles. Small wonder the boots need replacing! 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, Anne Green, Daphne Eyres, Joan Cooper and Dennis Corton

The walks take place on the fourth Thursday of each month, are about five miles long during the winter months and seven miles during the spring and summer. This year they were centred on the following areas:

- Exton Park
- Ridlington
- Manton, Wing, Lyndon
- Burrough on the Hill and Hill Fort
- Bisbrooke
- Fotheringhay
- Wymondham
- Kings Cliffe
- Launde Abbey
- Braunston
- Hambleton Peninsula
- Oakham
- Greetham
- Easton on the Hill

Our lunches are always jovial and relaxing affairs and perhaps the photographs with this report will bear this out. During the winter months we dine



Seaton – 26 June 2014

at cosy hosteries and in the summer months we eat al fresco with our own picnics. On New Years day a 'Bring and Share Lunch' was organised by Sally Corton at home after a brisk walk around the peninsula.

We are always very conscious of the weather, every one checking the

weather forecast before we venture out, but we have been incredibly lucky and the wet weather gear has seldom been used.

If you enjoy any of the following activities please come and join us, you will not be disappointed – lots of chatter, topical conversation, countryside, wildlife, rural activities, socialising, village life, local history and not least walking. Also if you are new to the area what better way is there to explore and appreciate what we have in our local areas.

Details of the walks are published each month in the pew sheets 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.



Elton – 24 July 2014

study on the third Thursday evening of each month. On the first Wednesday of each month, at 12:00pm, 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.

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. One such service was arranged during the year.

# 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.

Catmose College have also contributed at the end of their term occasionally, and 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, such as Emma Heseltine (piano) and John Gull (organ). 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 2014 given by Roxanne Summerfield (Easter), Shanna Hart (May Day), Peter Davis (Spring) and Robert Gower (Summer). We are extremely lucky to have such a splendid organ in All Saints, 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. The final recital by Robert Gower was given in aid of the Royal College of Organists '150 for 150' appeal – a series of 150 plus recitals to celebrate their 150 years.

We also promoted a celebrity evening organ recital, given by Tom Bell on Wednesday 25 June.

Other concerts in 2014 included a Spring Concert with Bridget Hardy, Isaac Nakhimovsky and Ralph Woodward on 22 February, the St John Passion with Cantus Choir and Orchestra on 12 April, and a charity concert for Seafarers UK put on by Angus McPhee on 26 March, as well as the usual Christmas concerts by the NSPCC and Catmose College on 1 and 17 December.

In March & December we welcomed the Rutland Choral Society for their Spring and Christmas concerts, and on 18 July their 'summer offshoot', the Rutland Singers. The Choral Society joined with the Rutland Concert Band on 8 November to present a Remembrance Concert in aid of the Royal British Legion.

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.

The programme of concerts is organised by a small committee and I am very grateful to them all for their unstinting support, encouragement and ideas during the year, without which the various concerts could not happen. I am also very grateful to the team of organisers of the lunches after Bank Holiday organ recitals – not only do they provide an excellent opportunity to meet the recitalist over an informal lunch, but they help to subsidise the costs of the recital. We could do with a few more helpers in this department – please talk to Kevin or Christine if you think you could help.

# Mothers' Union

## *Meg Dyer & Pamela Woods*

We have an active branch of the MU in Oakham with a variety of meetings and events.

Our current membership is 28, having lost some who have moved away or decided it is impossible to continue. However we have welcomed two members from other branches. We still have two men but only one indoor member. The Corporate Communion services held once a month at St. John and St. Anne are well attended.

As usual the business of the AGM in January is combined with having lunch together first, always an enjoyable time for members and visitors. We joined with other members in the Deanery for the Deanery Festival held at All Saints church with Rev. Dominic Coad leading it at the last moment, then tea was enjoyed by all. Once again we joined with others in the Deanery for the Quiet Morning in October. This was at Uppingham and ably lead by Rev. Rachel Watts, fo-

cusing on various paintings and interpretations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed as usual by lunch. Last year the joint outing with The Friends of All Saints was to Derby, a day not without incident, but never the less an enjoyable time visiting the Crown Derby works, the Chapel in the Bridge, spending time in the Cathedral listening to potential new organists and finally, after tea, making our way home, sadly no evensong this time.

A variety of monthly meetings included hearing about the work of Jenni Duffy the Parish Evangelist, learning how the churches in Africa obtain much needed funds by making Palm Crosses, and then trying to make some ourselves! We heard all about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, the work of the Rutland Food Bank and Flowers in Church and the Liturgical colours

used, this last talk from John Tomalin. A fun time was had for members and friends when we held a Strawberry Tea in the summer. The entertainment, provided by some members, was the word of wives of prominent Biblical characters. What would Mrs Noah, Mrs Job or Mrs Nicodemus have to say about their husbands?

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. We would welcome new people to our meetings usually held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

# Fairtrade

## Denise McDonald

In November 2004 a proposal was tabled to the PCC worded as follows 'That the PCC loan Denise McDonald the sum of £700.00 to enable her to set up as a Fair Trader, the sum to be paid back from profits as soon as practicable.' I was duly granted the loan and *It's Only Fair* came into being.

The loan was paid back to the PCC by the end of 2008. Last November then marked 10 years of Fairtrade at All Saints and it was lovely to be able to celebrate this in the family service conducted by Dominic that month. That day also saw us being able to use Fairtrade Communion wine on a regular basis. My thanks to Araminta for the wonderful cakes she made which we all enjoyed after the service.

During the 10 years it has been a real pleasure to visit so many different Churches in addition to the regular pattern here at All Saints therefore taking Fairtrade all over Rutland. Over the 10 year period I have been to Market Overton, Ashwell, Braunston, Ryhall and Whissendine, so in the next 10 years it would be lovely to be able to pay visits to the remaining Churches in our Benefice, I know Ryhall isn't but it is in Rutland!

Last year saw a first for me as I held a stall as part of the annual Autumn sale I had to order more bars of Divine chocolate afterwards having sold out during the morning!

At the end of November I took the stall to Whissendine this was a great success with folk doing quite a bit of Christmas shopping after the service.

Once again people embraced the Christmas card and gift ordering service with sales exceeding £840.00

The stall (once again) put in its annual appearance at the Lent Lunches, and someone commented that it was really nice to have it there as they had more time to look at the products, which is good to know, and certainly borne out by the sales. My thanks as ever to John for manning it for me.

I am so grateful to everyone for their ongoing support for the work of Fairtrade and Traidcraft and I do hope with this support I will be able to carry on running the stall for the next 10 years.



## Catering Committee

### Marilyn Tomalin

Grateful thanks to committee members Gill, Rebecca, Margaret, Jackie, Jill, Pamela and Araminta – a strong team who willingly and quickly step in to provide help and support to various social aspects of Sunday activities.

Unnamed and unnumbered others bake, make, set out and clear up afterwards: many thanks for always being there to do a job cheerfully and

willingly. A date for your diary: Harvest Lunch at Victoria Hall on Sunday 4 October 2015.

# Churches Together in Oakham and District

## Patrick Wilson

Meetings of the Churches Together Committee were held in March, September and November, 2014, and in January 2015, with the Revd. Trevor Wilson (Oakham Congregational Church) 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 24th January, 2015, which was attended by upwards of ninety people. The theme was 'Finding Jesus in the Food Bank', and the presentation was arranged by the Revd. Dr. Dominic Coad and a group of helpers from the Rutland Food Bank. It was generally agreed that this was a very valuable, informative and inspirational occasion.

Other CTO involvements during 2013-14 included:

- Christian Corner and service details in the Rutland Times

- 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. *[For this greater support would be welcomed.]*
- 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. There remains a serious need for more volunteer helpers with catering, serving or washing up.]*

- Publicity for Christmas Services.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Annual Pulpit Exchange during that Week .
- Good Friday Walk of Witness.
- Lent House Groups and Palm Sunday Joint Worship.
- Christian Aid Collection.
- Women's World Day of Prayer.
- Support for the Rutland Food Bank.

At the AGM of the Churches Together Committee, the Secretary, who has served for many years, announced his retirement. The Committee seeks a new Chairman and any volunteer for the role would be greatly welcomed.

## Rutland Foodbank

### Revd Dr Dominic Coad

Foodbank has progressed a great deal in the past year. We are now in new and permanent premises. This new distribution centre is light and airy with toilets and a good size kitchen. It is the perfect place to make our guests welcome.

We open three times a week to feed an average of 67 people each month (roughly a quarter of these are children). Some of these are jobless and often suffering benefit delay but others are in work yet unable to feed their families when a crisis occurs.

Since we opened we have been donated 18.7 tonnes of food and given out 14.3 tonnes. This means we still have a healthy level of stock in our warehouse but we are now giving out more than we take in (600kg in and 932kg out in February).

We have over 70 volunteers, a good number of whom are from All Saints. They work primarily in the distribution centre where they meet clients, packing their food, offering them hospitality and listening to their experiences. Others work in our warehouse, ensuring that food is sorted properly so that it does not pass its sell-by date and we don't run out of the less donated items.

In January members of the Foodbank team were invited to lead the annual Churches Together prayer breakfast. The morning was well received, focusing on the stories and experiences

of the Foodbank clients and challenging those who attended to put themselves in their shoes. Christ calls all of us to care for the poor – it is not an optional part of the Christian life – and Foodbank is one very important way in which many members of the All Saint's congregations respond to this call.

## Open House

### Beryl Waites

Open House has been running successfully for over twenty years. In that time it has expanded from Oakham to include Barleysthorpe, Braunston and Ashwell. It consists of calling in for tea, coffee and a friendly chat at various homes. People new to the church and the area are especially welcome. It is not aimed at fund-raising but purely a friendly gathering. A poster and leaflet available in church give details of this year's programme. I am grateful to all who have opened their homes over the years and look forward to anyone else who is willing to act as host/hostess for next year. Please let me know (01572 722893).

## Drop-In Centre

### Patrick Wilson

Not least of the various activities under the Churches Together umbrella has been the continuing work of the Drop-in Centre. Under the dedicated and gracious leadership of Helen Shea the Centre has provided, each Wednesday, a friendly and warm place for people to drop in for coffee, tea or chat during the morning or afternoon, or a very excellent cooked lunch.

Volunteers from all the churches – with a particularly regular and dedicated number from St Josephs – care for the visitors, serve the refreshments, wash up, or cook. There is always a need for more of these invaluable people. Prayers for them and for the well-being of the project are offered regularly and there is a short prayer meeting for this purpose each Wednesday at 12:00pm in the Congregational Church. It would be good if more people could see the value of this meeting and make it a priority to attend. At Christmas and Easter it has been possible to arrange a short service, which many of those who come to the Centre are able to attend before or after lunch.

The project must be one of the most successful and beneficial of CTO's activities in reaching out beyond the churches to the community. It deserves a fuller measure of support from people and clergy.

# Friends of All Saints

## Beryl Kirtland, Chairman

I am pleased to report that The Friends of All Saints Church membership is strong, the programme grows in length and variety, finances are healthy, friendship grows through social meetings which is good for the fellowship of the church, but the Committee gets smaller.

Shrovetide at All Saints means one thing, a social get together. With thanks to Pamela and Sally the food table is laden. Gordon devises two quizzes with some easier and some more obscure questions. Many prizes encourage the swift sale of raffle tickets. Friends and acquaintances meet and chatter. Fun and laughter abounds. An annual event that does not need to change

On Thursday May 8th the Friend's Spring Outing started with a guided tour of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bottesford, a church with a long

The Revd Dr Dominic Coad gave an inspiring talk linking Music with religion on Friday 8th August before the assembled audience tucked into plenty of afternoon tea fare with a strawberry theme.

Following Byron's Last Journey took us by coach from Oakham where his body had rested on its final journey to be buried in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Hucknall. The church has impressive Kempe stained glass windows, and memorials to Byron are both inside and in the churchyard. The 19th Century Lady Chapel re-



£200 was presented to the Air Ambulance speaker at The Tide Lunch again held at the Harbour Bar and Restaurant.

A foggy November day saw about 40 members assembled at lavishly decorated Rockingham Castle for an excellent festive lunch and a guided costumed tour putting us firmly in the Victorian era. A good prelude to Christmas!

Jack and the Beanstalk was the chosen Pantomime at The Key Theatre this year all thoroughly enjoyed by 54 people of varying ages.

Most of the above has been reported in the Good News Magazine by a variety of people and different writing styles.

Two resignations and a secretary who would like to resign has left the Committee somewhat small and other help is being sought. I thank John King for his excellent account keeping and Committee members for their help through the year.

The new notice boards have been delayed by delivery of toughened glass and engraving decisions, but we are pleased that you can now finally see the oak boards in place.

The new programme is available with a good selection of events. 2014 was an excellent year for fun, friendship and fellowship. I am sure with your support 2015 will be the same.



connection with the Earls of Rutland. Followed by a visit to Woolsthorpe Manor, birthplace and family home of Isaac Newton, the rooms full of memories and memorabilia of the Newton family, of the young Isaac and academic who set up and recorded experiments of his new ideas and discoveries. Outside is the famous Apple Tree! Then in true Friends Style, a Cream Tea.

The combined coach outing with The Mother's Union to Crown Derby and Derby Cathedral gave some anxiety to the organisers immediately prior to the day when it was known that the Cathedral tour was not available but all turned out well with wonderful organ music provided by the applicants for the position of Director of Music. The additional tour of the nearby Chantry Chapel, one of only six in the country was memorable. There was plenty to see and do during the day.

veals the story of the computer connections of Byron's daughter Ada, Contess of Lovelace. Then it was on to Byron's ancestral home Newstead Abbey, a beautiful historic house set in glorious landscaped gardens, for lunch and another interesting tour with much to see and hear of Byron's life.

Knowing how important the Air Ambulance Service is, a coffee morning to raise funds was held at the Church Hall, with Ray Hill showing one of his new films and a slideshow of Friends' Events. Consequently a cheque for



## **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 2014**

#### **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 2014 or commenced serving during 2014 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	Mrs A Long and Mrs M Pattinson
Readers/Parish Evangelist	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-Andriesz, Mr K P Andrews, Mr D R Cook (to May 2014), Mrs K E Goodwin (to May 2014) and Ms A Mathias (from June 2014)
Elected Members	Mrs A Venning (to April 2014), M G Vecqueray (to April 2014), Mrs M Davis (to April 2014), Mr S Long, Dr S Cheverton, Mrs H Bush (to April 2014), Mr J King (to April 2014, co-opted from May 2014), Mr P J Kinal, Dr J Ince, Mrs P Munro, Mr K Slingsby (co-opted), Mrs S White, Dr S Cheverton, Mr R Morris (from May 2014), Mr S Long, Mrs A Blackett (from May 2014), Mrs S Blythin (from May 2014), Mrs S Page (from May 2014), 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 2014 there were 310 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. Eleven names were added during the year and ten were removed either through death or moving away from the parish. The average weekly church attendance for all services during the year, including festivals and baptisms, was 285. When the "highs and lows" are omitted from this calculation the <sup>average</sup> weekly attendance figure is 200 adults and 20 children, which is the figure used in determining the Parish Share.

## 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. The Standing Committee membership is made up of the incumbent, churchwardens and deputy warden, secretary and treasurer, with the addition of PCC member Mrs J Duffy (from May 2014) joining Mrs P Munro and Mr K P Andrews. 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. Deanery Lay Chair John Tomalin is a member of Oakham PCC.

The implementation of an important recommendation which arose from the PCC's deliberations after the planning meeting in March 2013 saw the area of Communications within the Church remodelled with the introduction of a weekly pewsheet in the autumn of 2013 and becoming a permanent feature in 2014. There was also an extension of this important communication tool to some of the village churches in the Benefice. A second important advance was the plan to issue a comprehensive set of new Service Booklets to cover the whole liturgical year. The introduction of the booklets commenced in Lent 2014 and should be completed by the spring of 2015.

The difficulties caused by fabric problems, particularly the continued deterioration of the condition of the Church boiler due the damp conditions of its location, as well as lighting and sound system issues, were heightened by the lack of adequate funding to effect much immediate improvement in the short term. The problems continue to be addressed to secure solutions and already possible sources of grant aid and other funding provision have been identified. Following Mrs Venning and Mrs Corton stepping down from the positions of Safeguarding Officer and Assistant the PCC approved the appointment of Mrs Ruth Bray to the Safeguarding Officer position. The triennial Stewardship Renewal Campaign took place in September/October.

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), March 2015**

## Risk Management

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

## **Financial Review**

In 2014 the combined Church and Church Hall accounts show total Receipts of £160,275 and Expenditure of £165,390 as detailed in the financial statements. This includes a contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The net result for 2014 was a deficit of £5,115 (2013 surplus of £3,790).

### **The Church General Fund**

The focus of income generation is through Stewardship. This resulted in total gifts, donations and tax recovered of £137,352, including a one-off donation of £10,000 which was the only reason why there was not a catastrophic deficit (2013 £126,938). As a consequence of this focus there was 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 only successful in a few areas, leading to total expenditure of £155,167 (2013 £137,248). Areas of major expenditure where the PCC have little control include Parish Share £93,784 including an additional £400 to support Egleton PCC's share (2013 £87,015), Mission Giving which is a fixed percentage of previous year's planned giving £8,180 (2013 £8,140) and Insurance £6,129 (2013 £5,346) where Ecclesiastical Insurance have phased in the full increase over 3 years. Other areas of substantial increase were Other Worship £6756 (2013 £464) mainly due to printing of new Service Booklets, Childrens Groups and Youth Work £3719 (2013 £445) mainly due to employing a Youth Worker, Minor Maintenance and Fixed Equipment £5509 (2013 £2314) mainly due to boiler repairs, photocopying £1657 (2013 £1566) due to increasing size of pew sheets. Bank charges were virtually eliminated as a result of renegotiation with HSBC. These results did not allow anything to be transferred to the Fabric Fund, which was in line with budget.

### **The Church Fabric Fund**

Little work was undertaken in 2014. Completion of flooring in the centre aisle £1300, lightning protection £599 and fees for discussions on relocating the boiler £1,557. There remains a substantial amount of work to be undertaken from the 2013 Quinquennial Report.

### **The Vicar and Wardens Fund:**

Expenditure was incurred for one batch of new Service Booklets and Curate training expenses.

**The Church Hall** generated a surplus of £792 after transferring £3,000 to the Church 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 (Church Fabric)	£9,936
Designated funds (V &W)	£12,135
Unrestricted funds (Church)	£18,060
Unrestricted funds (Church Hall)	£25,053
Total	£65,184

### **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 2014. This achieved sufficient increase to cover predicted General Fund expenditure, but it still requires focus to cover Fabric Fund requirements. Indeed the Fabric may require a Fund Raising campaign in order to raise sufficient funds to replace the boiler and complete the essential outstanding Quinquennial Report items.

**Peter Hill and John King, March 2015.**

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 17 March 2015  
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 2014

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	139452		2400	141852	144386
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	8565			8565	10393
Income from investments	2(c)	13			13	21
Income from church activities	2(d)	9845			9845	11048
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>157875</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>160275</b>	<b>165848</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(b)	352			352	111
Fund raising costs	3(c)				0	0
Church activities	3(a)	158475	4163	2400	165038	161947
Governance costs	3(d)				0	0
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>158827</b>	<b>4163</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>165390</b>	<b>162058</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>						
Transfers between funds		-952	-4163	0	-5115	3790
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>-952</b>	<b>-4163</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5115</b>	<b>3790</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 Jan 2014	7	44065	26234	0	70299	66509
Balances carried forward at 31 Dec 2014	7	<b>43113</b>	<b>22071</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65184</b>	<b>70299</b>

**Notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts**

## Balance sheet at 31st December 2014

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash in Bank		44986	57557
short term deposits		23213	22601
Debtors and prepayments	4	3729	5106
		<hr/> <u>71928</u>	<hr/> <u>85264</u>
<b>less LIABILITIES</b>			
creditors-amount falling due in one year	5	6744	14965
		<hr/> <u>6744</u>	<hr/> <u>14965</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Total assets less current liabilities		<hr/> <u>65184</u>	<hr/> <u>70299</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
UNRESTRICTED		43113	44065
DESIGNATED		22071	26234
RESTRICTED		0	0
		<hr/> <u>65184</u>	<hr/> <u>70299</u>

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 17 March 2015  
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 2014**

## **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 2014

### **2 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>					
Planned direct giving					
Gifts by Gift Aid	83743			83743	81355
Gifts not under Gift Aid	2591			2591	1652
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	86334	0	0	86334	83007
Other direct giving					
One-off donations by Gift Aid	13545			13545	7407
Plate collections not by Gift Aid	11623			11623	10177
Other sundry donations not by Gift Aid	3165			3165	3352
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28333	0	0	28333	20936
Income tax recoverable	22685			22685	23443
Other voluntary income					
8     Grants	2100		2400	4500	16500
9     Legacies	0			0	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2100	0	2400	4500	17000
Total voluntary income	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	139452	0	2400	141852	144386
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fund Raising events	8565			8565	10393
<b>2(c) Income from Investments</b>					
Interest	13			13	21
<b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>					
Fees (for funerals, weddings etc)	5865			5865	7566
Hire of church/ hall	3980			3980	3375
Other				0	107
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9845	0	0	9845	11048
Total incoming resources	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	157875	0	2400	160275	165848

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

### **3 RESOURCES EXPENDED**

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2014	Total 2013
		£	£	£	£	£
3(a)	Church activities					
	Ministry					
	Parish Share and Deanery quota	93384			93384	87015
	Contribution to Benefice Parish Share	400			400	0
	Ministry Team expenses	5613	2138		7751	6863
		99397	2138	0	101535	93878
	Worship					
	Organist, choir and music	6189			6189	6686
	Altar requisites	2449			2449	2376
	Other	6756	219		6975	464
		15394	219	0	15613	9526
	Faith development					
	Children's groups and youth work	3719			3719	445
	Christian Books for resale	230			230	114
	Other	0			0	9
		3949	0	0	3949	568
	Outreach					
	Donations	0			0	0
10	Evangelism and mission	8236			8236	8140
	Baptism, marriage, bereavement groups	37			37	183
		8273	0	0	8273	8323
	Church running expenses					
	Gas	6708			6708	7714
	Electricity	4179			4179	3661
	Water	91			91	91
	Insurance	6585			6585	5798
		17563	0	0	17563	17264
	Church building and land					
	New building & other major works	0			0	0
	Moveable furnishings and equipment	0			0	315
	Building maintenance, minor equipment	8285	1806	2400	12491	25920
		8285	1806	2400	12491	26235
	Administration					
	photocopying	1657			1657	1566
	bank charges	4			4	693
	other	3953			3953	3894
		5614	0	0	5614	6153
	Total cost of church activities					
		158475	4163	2400	165038	161947
3(b)	Costs of generating voluntary income					
	Stewardship expenses	352			352	111
3(c)	Fund-raising trading costs					
3(d)	Governance costs					
	Fees of independent examiner					
	Total resources expended	158827	4163	2400	165390	162058

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

### 4 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Prepayments	338			338	329
other debtors	3391			3391	4777
	3729	0	0	3729	5106

### 5 CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accruals for utility and other costs	1580		1580	1600
other creditors:	5164		5164	13365
	6744	0	6744	14965

### 6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

Debtors	3729		3729	5106
Cash and short term deposits	46128	22071	68199	80158
	49857	22071	0	71928
Current Liabilities	6744		6744	14965
	43113	22071	0	65184
				70299

### 7 SUMMARY OF FUND BALANCES

	Balance 31.12.13 £	Transfers £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance 31.12.14 £
Unrestricted Funds	44065		157875	158827	43113
Designated Funds	26234		0	4163	22071
Restricted Funds	0		2400	2400	0
Total Funds	70299	0	160275	165390	65184

### 8 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Grant from Church Estates			2400	2400	2400
Grant from Church Estates for Music		2100		2100	2100
Grant from Friends of All Saints Church				0	12000
	2100	0	2400	4500	16500

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 2014 Grants were allocated to the Restricted Fabric Fund.

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

### 9 LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
				0	500
				0	0
	0	0	0	0	500

### 10 MISSION GIVING

2014  
£

2013  
£

#### INTERNATIONAL

Embrace the Middle East	250	
CMS (Canon Waller to South Sudan)	750	
MU Whels Appeal	200	
Biblelands		200
PRIME (Partners in Medical Education)	200	
US Anglicans in World Mission General Fund	700	700
Tearfund		500
Julian Lott	400	400
Send a Cow		250
Bungoma Link/Nurse	700	600
Diocesan Missionary Fund	30	30
Toilet Twinning - Burundi (via Cord & Tearfund)		600
DEC Ebola Appeal	750	

#### NATIONAL

SSAFA	250	250
Ordinand Support		600
Church Urban Fund	350	350
Parish Nursing	300	250
Bible Society	300	300
Farm Crisis Network	300	300
Childrens Society	250	250
Medecins Sans Frontieres	200	150

#### LOCAL

Opportunity Chalet Rutland & Melton	400	400
Launde Abbey	250	200
Churches Together in Oakham	400	400
Drop in Centre	200	200
Scouts	150	150
Guides	150	150
Rutland Reminders	150	110
Rutland Food Bank	300	400
Leicestershire & Rutland Emmaus	250	250
Amy Hana - International Guide Project		150

8180

8140

NOTE: The sum shown on Note 3 (page 8) includes Evangelism Expenses of £56 (2013 NIL)

## **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 2014 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

16 March 2015