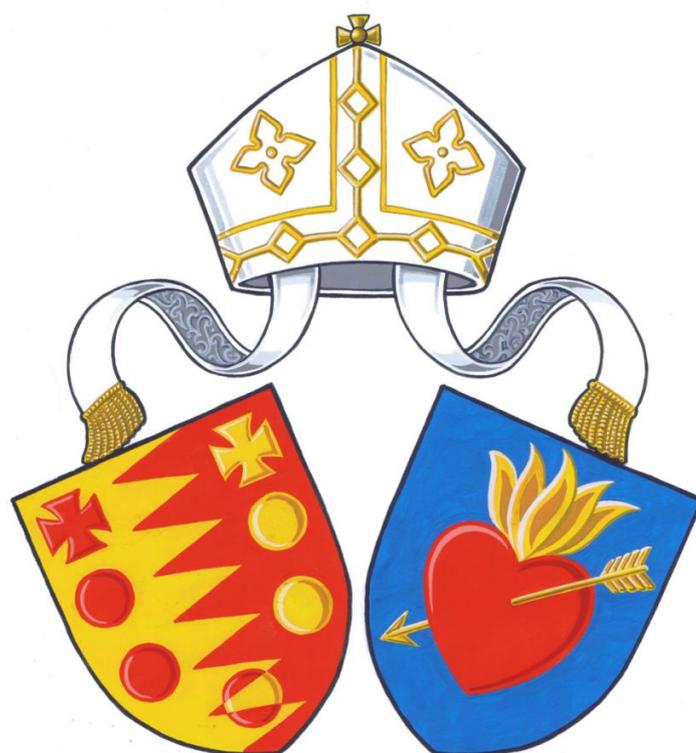


**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH  
EDGBASTON**



**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

## **2013 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Augustine's Church, Edgbaston**

St. Augustine's Church is situated in Lyttelton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9JN. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, 9 Lyttelton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9JN.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### **Ex-officio members of the PCC**

Incumbent: The Reverend Matthew Tomlinson (Chairman)

Churchwardens: Stephen Hartland & Paul Geddes

Director of Music: Thomas Keogh

Lay Reader: Richard Warby

Deanery Synod Representative: Paul Geddes

Diocesan Synod Representative: *Vacant*

### **Members until 2014:**

Stephen Barlow

*Ian Biggs (resigned November 2013)*

Wendy Clifton

*James Fletcher (resigned April 2013)*

Megan Jenkins (Vice-Chairman of the PCC)

Sarah Kidd (co-opted November 2013)

Celia Potts

Madeleine Ruehl

James Scott (co-opted November 2013)

*Matt Spillett (resigned November 2013)*

Nick Tomlinson

Will Woodhouse (co-opted November 2013)

### **Members until 2015:**

Julian Bailey (Honorary Treasurer)

Cynthia Slater (Secretary to the PCC)

Marguerite Usher-Somers

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Augustine's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services and members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include mission and outreach and fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

## **AIM & PURPOSES**

St. Augustine's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Matthew Tomlinson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The

PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Augustine's Church and for the church hall, St. Augustine's House, 9 Lyttelton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9JN.

## **OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Augustine's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Augustine's and the Church Hall.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

As can be seen from the detailed Financial Statements in Appendix B, our income for the year was **£89,198** and our expenditure was **£98,206**, so that we need to focus on reducing the 2013 deficit of **£9,008** for 2014, the size of which is largely contained by the current increase in our investments.

## **INCUMBENT'S REPORT**

I am never sure at this time whether I should review the year from last Easter to this one, or the whole calendar year. Whichever I choose, we cannot fail to remember that the first part of the year was dominated by exceptionally cold and snowy weather. On the Saturday before Palm Sunday over 12 inches of snow fell and for the first time in many years we were unable to take the Palm Sunday procession outside and around the perimeter of the church. Thick snow remained on the ground for the rest of Holy Week and for most of Easter Week too, making a highly unusual Easter. However, the Holy Week services all went splendidly for which we owe our thanks to our choir and serving team and our Easter Day parish mass was well attended in spite of the weather – possibly because people were unable to get away as they often do for the Easter weekend.

A number of social events punctuated the year. Notable among these were a very enjoyable mid-Lent Quiz Supper organised by Derek and Sarah Flitter, and a delightful summer outing on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth organised by Paul Geddes, continuing a now established St. Augustine's tradition. The parish Fête was blessed by a lovely sunny day, and much enjoyed by the wider community. A number of enjoyable concerts were staged at the church, enhanced by the refreshments that St. Augustine's excels at.

Among other highlights in 2013 was the Solemn Evensong for the Dedication Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> October at which the choir sang the spectacularly difficult St. Augustine's Service which was written for the church in 1968 by Herbert Howells and had only been sung in the church on three previous occasions. This was, I believe, the first time it had been sung by our own choir without any external augmentation. Among the many people who attended the event was perhaps our most distinguished former Director of Music, Dr Roy Massey, who was highly complimentary of the performance. We were honoured at the close of November to have the Lord Bishop of Birmingham with us to celebrate and preach at High Mass and conduct a baptism. Bishop Urquhart returned on 2<sup>nd</sup> February this year to conduct a Confirmation service at which seven people from St Augustine's were confirmed, along with candidates from St. Germain's, St. George's, Newtown, and All Saints, King's Heath.

There were 11 baptisms in the church in 2013, and 10 weddings. We have continued to support the work of René and Marina Pereira in Argentina, through giving and prayer and their work is one of our mass intentions every Sunday. We have also supported the El Ahli Christian Hospital in Gaza, and, closer to home, the St. Basil's residence in Stirling Road and the Karis Neighbour Scheme.

We are unashamedly a traditional church. This is not just in our style of worship – although I regard as an accolade the comment of the Archdeacon of Birmingham that St. Augustine's seems completely untouched by any of the liturgical innovations and changes that have occurred in the Church of England since 1970! We adhere, I hope, to the traditional teaching of the Christian church too, which means that current developments within the Church of England, in particular the decision to proceed with

the ordination of women to the episcopate, may mean that at some stage in the future, some of us may need to re-assess our place within its structures.

The strength of any congregation is in the cohesion based on the four characteristics of the embryonic church found in Acts 2.42, that we devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers. It need not be said that the Eucharist and biblical teaching are at the centre of our worship. However I have been impressed and encouraged by the support and help given by members of the congregation to each other, especially in times of sickness. We are also a praying church, and it is encouraging always to observe how many people make use of the church being open every day to come in and offer prayers, and the constant flicker of candles before the images of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart bears visible testimony to this.

There are many, many people without whose generosity and dedication the church could not function, and whom I will not name here, but will mention at our Annual Meeting, but above that, I ask you, with me, to give thanks to God for his very many blessings to us in the year past.

**Matthew Tomlinson**  
**Vicar**

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

### **Church fabric and fittings**

It has been a busy year for the Wardens. The most pressing concerns were the organ, the state of the roof and that of the forecourt outside the west doors of the church.

A number of quotes were gathered for the restoration of damaged and missing tiles on the roof during the year and various options were investigated. The most favourable quote came from Fletcher Access of Malvern. This quote was accepted and in early October the necessary repairs were carried out to the north and south sides of the roof and the roof of the chancel, using salvaged tiles which matched well with the existing tiles.

The forecourt had become a concern due to its wobbly and uneven surface, which was felt to be potentially hazardous for elderly members of the congregation and which appeared to be being exacerbated by vehicles being parked on it. The paved area to the west of the church comprised slabs on an inch or so of sand and was thus never designed to withstand the rigours of cars being parked on it. In late May, most of the unstable paving slabs were lifted and sand placed under them but this was felt to be insufficient as a long term solution. A better solution seemed to be bonded gravel, such as is used at National Trust sites and accordingly, quotes were sought from a number of paving specialists. In March 2014 a new resin bonded gravel surface was laid by Resin Drives of Bradford on the forecourt, which will be both weed resistant and water permeable. It is also capable of supporting a weight of eight tons, so should be

unaffected by vehicles being parked on it.

The organ is greatly in need of extensive work and this was felt to be too specialised an issue to be dealt with by the Wardens alone, so an Organ Committee was established to include all those with a detailed knowledge of organs. Thanks are due to Tom Keogh and John Pryer for their continual efforts to keep the organ working from week to week. Five Faculties were applied for during the year. These were for the Holy Water stoup inside the inner west doors; the Lady Chapel lectern; the hanging lantern in the Lady Chapel; the display of original ironwork from the west doors on the south wall at the back of the nave; and the installation of an Incumbents Board in the Narthex. Of these, the stoup, lectern and lantern were already in situ. The ironwork display was mounted on the south wall at the back of the Nave in February and the Incumbents Board is scheduled for delivery in late May, it being crafted by the same people who wrought the Churchwardens Board in 2012. A further Faculty to allow the installation of the riddel posts and altar surround given to St. Augustine's by St. Mary's, Selly Oak last year was considered, but was abandoned after the Archdeacon advised that it would on no account be approved.

There is also an outstanding Faculty Petition to be completed of providing Choir Stalls lighting, which we need to progress, since the funding has been promised by a benefactor of the church.

Most of the light bulbs have also been replaced, followed a scheduled maintenance visit for this purpose.

As we feel that the role of a Warden is not only to maintain the church, but also to beautify it, a number of other tasks have been undertaken in pursuance of this objective. Originally, brackets had been fitted to the ends of all the pews to accommodate umbrellas and walking sticks but over the years most of these had been removed, with only a handful remaining. On discovering that some of brackets which had been removed were in the vestry, it was agreed to restore as many as possible along the central aisle. Accordingly, the newly discovered but badly tarnished brackets were polished up and attached to the ends of around two thirds of the pews in time for the Lord Bishop's visitation in November. Further brackets were later found, meaning that by Christmas, sufficient brackets had been polished and reinstalled to allow every pew end along the central aisle to be fitted with them. The process of restoring the brackets also revealed, through manufacturers' marks, a hitherto unknown restoration of fittings to the church at some time in the 1920s.

The very attractive brass ewer, probably by Hardman, and given in memory of Alice Harrison in 1902 has been repaired, polished and generally restored by W. H. Darby Ltd, based in Hockley. The restoration included the re-chasing of the memorial inscription as follows:

PRESENTED TO ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, EDGBASTON  
IN MEMORY OF ALICE LAURA HARRISON (CHRISTMAS 1902)  
LH AND EJH

It once again gleams in the Baptistry, next to the Font when the church is attended, and is used at baptisms once more.

A Victorian mahogany table was placed in the Narthex for the Visitors' Book and other literature about the church to be placed upon it, including the excellent trail drawn up by Margaret Hale in conjunction with NADFAS.

For Easter, two large troughs filled with flowers have been installed outside the church, either side of the west doors, to make that prospect more attractive. A survey has also been undertaken of the floor tiles in the chancel of the church, with the intention of replacing damaged tiles with new ones made from the original moulds.

### **St. Augustine's House (No. 9)**

Due to concerns from neighbours, missing fencing sections on the east side of the garden have been replaced.

In September the lime tree in front of No. 9 was pollarded and work has been carried out on several pipes in the building to arrest water leakage. Toilets in the flats have been repaired and sink taps and valves on the ground floor replaced. Clogged drains have also been cleared. The ground floor is badly in need of redecoration but this was postponed until Spring when temperatures are higher and light brighter.

In April 2013 we contracted AGS to install new boiler for £2,093, which was about what we were expecting. This was to replace both the hot water boiler and separate heating boiler, which were both at the end of their useful lives, with a single combination boiler which services both central heating and hot water, and is thus more efficient.

### **Parish Office**

The parish office has been given a new telephone and PC and monitor with up-to-date software installed. In accordance with a PCC resolution, we have also installed broadband so that the office is connected to the internet.

### **Organ Committee**

Due to the dire state of the organ, an Organ Committee was established to oversee the progress of rebuilding or more probably replacing it. The committee initially consisted of the vicar, church wardens, Tom Keogh, John Pryer, Megan Jenkins, Colin Hutcheson and Ian Biggs. Ian Biggs has since left St. Augustine's and has been replaced on the committee by Neil Crawford.

In June, Tom Keogh, John Pryer and Ian Biggs met with Henry Willis and Sons, organ builders, to inspect the organ. In a letter Willis and Sons sent some days later, they reported that at present the organ is dangerous, with many degraded electrical connections and is also such a mixture of work, due to rebuildings in the 1920s/30s and

then in the 1950s, that there was little which could be seen as having historic value. They also said that at present, due to its cramped position, many of the organ's redeeming features are unable to be utilised. The cramped conditions in the organ have also hampered access, which is blamed for the poor state of repair of much of the organ. Willis and Sons stated that there is little to be achieved in rebuilding the present organ, but quoted a figure of £240,000 + VAT should they be asked to undertake rebuilding. This figure would be comparable to the cost of building a new instrument. Willis and Sons indicated that they would be happy to present proposals for a new organ. A technical assessment of the organ was later carried out by Willis and Sons' foreman.

In October Neil Crawford, Paul Geddes and Tom Keogh met representatives of MPOS (Modular Pipe Organ Systems Ltd) to discuss the possibilities of hybrid electric organs such as the one presently in use at St. George's. The cost of such a system would be considerably cheaper than a new pipe organ in the short term but the cost of replacement speakers, which would be required every few years would mean the costs would probably work out to be about the same over a longer period.

A further report from Nicholson's organ builders was received in January, following an inspection in November.

It has been suggested that a website could be established with the specific purpose of raising funds for the replacement of the organ.

### **Sesquicentennial Anniversary**

A 150th Anniversary committee has been established, consisting of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Tim Bridges (architectural adviser to the Victorian Society), Tom Keogh and Celia Potts.

Possible projects for completion by 2018 are:

- a) A book on St. Augustine's, with chapters on particular topics such as incumbents, architecture and memorials written by the various members of the committee.
- b) Refurbishment of the War Memorial.
- c) New music to celebrate the 150th anniversary.
- d) Rebuilding or replacement of the organ.
- e) External lighting of the church
- f) Commemorative souvenirs – plates, cups, tea towels, CD etc.

Another item, the installation of a full peal of eight bells in the tower has been deferred for the time being due to the urgent need to give priority to the organ.

To date, the committee has met once. Topics to be covered by the book were established and allotted to each member to begin work on.

So far, initial quotes have been sought for the restoration of the War Memorial and when we have received three, it is planned to make an application to the War Memorials Trust for a Grant. The WMT give grants up to 75% of the cost of works.

Work towards researching the history of the church's architecture and memorials is presently hampered by the current lack of access to the archives section of the new Library of Birmingham, although Richard Warby has provided information on an earlier research project which he carried out.

Through the Keltek Trust, a set of bells was also identified which might be available to be installed at St. Augustine's if the plan to install a full peal of bells is restored to the programme of works. Such action would require a full structural survey on the tower and possible strengthening, as well as removal and then restoration of two floors in order to allow for the bells to be hauled up into position.

**Stephen Hartland & Paul Geddes**  
**Churchwardens**

## **STEWARDSHIP**

The details of income via the Stewardship Scheme are given below with the figures for 2011 and 2012:

<b>Sources</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
No. of standing orders	24	25	26
No. of standard envelopes (gift aided)	33	32	32
No. of standard envelopes (not gift aided)	4	6	6
<b><u>Gift Aided Donations</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Standing Orders	11,440	10,756	9,873
Standard Envelopes	16,392	14,760	16,689
Dedicated Envelopes	2,145	3,267	2,777
Other Donations	1,986	11,627	1,493
Tax Refund on above	7,991	10,103	7,708
<b><u>Non Gift Aided Donations</u></b>			
Standing Orders	300	530	410
Payroll Giving	4,050	3,330	2,873
Standard Envelopes	640	2,311	1,968
Dedicated Envelopes	12	17	20
<b>Total Income From Stewardship</b>	<b>44,956</b>	<b>56,701</b>	<b>43,811</b>

**Carol Sockett & Roy Davies**  
**Stewardship Recorders**

In April 2013, HMRC allowed 'cash on plate' collections (up to £5,000 in the financial tax year) to be gift-aided. I decided to do a trial run which meant that the use of the yellow gift envelopes was ended at the end of June 2013. One result of this decision was a reduction in the amount of clerical work involved in making a claim.

The 'cash on plate' collections during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 which fulfilled the requirements laid down by HMRC totalled £3,379.87. This sum will be increased by the collections from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and the tax claim will be submitted at the end of the present tax year (5<sup>th</sup> April 2014).

If it appears that in a full year, the collection exceeds £5,000, the use of yellow envelopes will need to be reconsidered (at least for part of the year).

**Roy Davies**  
**Stewardship Recorder**

**SERVERS**

The committed team in the sanctuary at the weekly 10:30 am Mass continues to grow. With the participation of Frs. Robert Pickles and John Hall, occasionally both, on a Sunday, it is our customary practice to have a full High Mass. Jane Kenyon, Adam North and Derek Flitter share the duties of Sub-Deacon as required, and undertake other roles with the assistance of the rest of a committed group.

James Scott is assiduous and thorough in all of his various duties, not just on Sunday mornings but at Evensong as well, so much so that a persistent rumour has it that he resides in the church tower on a camp bed.

Michelle Howell is equally faithful in her attendance, and provides invaluable help with the vestments. Andrew Hayes has become a mainstay on Sunday mornings, although he has as yet resisted the blandishments of the role of Thurifer.

Joshua Delia is a recent new recruit who, we hope, will be able to be a long-term member of the sanctuary party, and it was a pleasure to welcome Francis Tomlinson to our select number during Holy Week, as all observed his enthusiasm for the role of Boat Boy.

We are also occasionally assisted by Samara Johnson and Laurence Faulkner, the former during university vacation and the latter when his nursing duties allow. Indeed our only problem is whether to let Fr. Robert or Derek wear the largest size alb.

Cynthia Slater is a stalwart at the 8:00 am celebration, and there has so far been no need for the church to buy her a new alarm clock. I am grateful to all concerned for continuing to enhance our worship each Sunday.

**Derek Flitter**  
**Head Server**

## **MUSIC**

Once again I am pleased to report that the choir has been able to support and enhance the weekly worship at St. Augustine's. Choral Masses have been offered on every Sunday during term time and Choral Evensong has alternated with a slightly simpler Parish Evensong.

In October, we said farewell to Cecily Tomlinson (soprano) and Matt Spillett (tenor), who both gave excellent service to St. Augustine's Choir as leaders in their respective parts. Thankfully, at the same time, we welcomed Will Woodhouse from St. Mary's, Nottingham, who is a welcome addition to the tenor section. More recently, I am pleased that Sarah Kidd has joined the altos.

The highlight of the last year was our Dedication Festival in October, at which the choir sang the St. Augustine's Service by Herbert Howells. This is an enormous triumph for the choir - especially one in which every voice is vital - and one which very few parish choirs could achieve.

Advent and Christmas followed their usual pattern, with stunning results at both carol services, and a particularly moving performance of 'The Lamb' by John Tavener who died six weeks before Christmas.

During the year we have continued with our well established set-up of English settings at the 10:30 Parish Mass - a new addition being the Coll Reg setting by Herbert Howells.

Music at Evensong has followed an alternating pattern 'Anglican' settings and plainsong. Everyone is to be congratulated upon their willingness to get to grips with plainsong - especially four line notation.

We now have a regular series of free concerts. These are once a month on Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm. It is something different each time, and these have been received well by a group of regulars. Thanks are due to Marguerite Usher-Somers for taking care of the excellent refreshments that are available before and after.

Thanks are also due to John Pryer, our organist, Fr. Matthew, everyone who supports our music - and last but certainly not least, the choir.

**Thomas Keogh**  
**Director of Music**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There are a good number of regular attendees at Sunday School, and Julie and I have been able between us, to ensure that it has run on every Sunday excepting the two in August when we were both away. We have been delighted by the help that Clemency Flitter has given us in the last year, and as a former Sunday School pupil herself she can bring experience of learning from us, which has been very useful. We are particularly grateful that she has made this commitment given that last summer she took her GCSEs, and has started her A-level studies this year. Some parents stay with their children at Sunday School, and they are always very welcome. Our youngest Sunday School member is three years old, and our oldest nine.

Over the years we have developed quite a pattern on activities which follow the Church year. We try to connect the children with what is happening in Church by reading and explaining the lessons and prayers, and Julie is particularly gifted in finding the resources to do craft activities with the children too. Every year we perform three plays - the Advent play, the Epiphany Play and the Passion Play. The children take part in a 'Last Supper' meal on Maundy Thursday, and in the summer we treat them to an annual Sunday School outing. This year we had a very enjoyable trip on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth, stopping on the way for a picnic.

My only sadness is that in this modern world so many conflicting activities happen on Sunday mornings, and numbers are not always very consistent, but the children are a strong group of firm friends, and are a delight to teach.

**Joanna Tomlinson & Julie Ward**  
**Sunday School Leaders**

### **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. We are currently looking at Revelations and we may occasionally discuss religious programmes on television.

We welcome new members.

**Carol Starkie**

### **COFFEE AFTER PARISH MASS ON SUNDAYS**

We serve fresh filter coffee, tea and home made cakes after the 10:30 service on Sundays, as we have for many years. This is a time when people can socialise, and it operates as a non profit making concern. There is no set charge for what we provide and people are invited to give donations if they want to. On special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and the Patronal Festival, we serve cava or sherry as well.

My thanks go to Bob Nagle, who sets out the cups every week, pours the coffee and usually helps wash up afterwards. Thanks too, to everyone who makes cake, or helps us serve or wash up. Gill Lister buys us biscuits every week which are very much appreciated too.

We always welcome help. There is no formal rota, and I am happy to continue providing coffee, milk cakes and biscuits, but it is very useful to have help with pouring out the coffee and tea. It is a good place to be, behind the coffee table, as you can get to meet most people at the 10:30am service. When I most need help is when I get distracted in conversation, and forget that I am supposed to be doing a job!

**Joanna Tomlinson**

## **COMMUNITY LUNCHESES**

We continue to hold the Community Lunches on the last Friday of each month, the exceptions being December, August, and Lent, during which more frugal lunches are held. Anyone from the parish is welcome to join us.

Despite the fact that our numbers are currently declining, we continue to make a profit, and were able to donate £150 to The Missions to Seafarers for which they were very grateful. We enjoy what we do, and it gives pleasure to those who attend. Of course it would be pleasing to see more people coming along from the Services other than the 10:30 am Mass.

We have recruited a new helper from the 8:00 am Service, namely Wendy Clifton, who is a great help.

Also mention must be made of Lorna Barron, who has been a stalwart helper for many years. She and John now benefit from the endeavours of the group.

Our thanks go again to our helpers, namely Sheila Barnes, Stephen Barlow and Catalin Ciurezu.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 12:15 pm.

**Val Edwards, Sue Waggett, Vera Ravenscroft, Pat Crockson & Wendy Clifton**

## **PRAYER LUNCHESES**

These are held each Monday in the Narthex at midday. We pray for the world and its worries, both man-made and from natural disasters; the church, local and worldwide; missionaries; and those who are ill. We remember those who have died and at this time pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

The group is very small and I am sure those who would think of joining will be appreciated and find their prayer lives enriched.

**Carol Starkie**

## **PRAMPUSHERS**

Prampushers will celebrate its 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday in May. It remains a popular venue for mums and their under 5s with 10 to 15 families attending each week, with 20+ children.

Children enjoy a range of seasonal healthy snacks and craft activities. They have a good range of toys and a topic table that rotates between activities such as farm, train, pasta shapes, lentils and rice pouring, jigsaws, magnets, play dough and threading. The outside space with slides, a play house and cars are invaluable for active children to get some fresh air and let off steam.

The story, rhythm and singing session at the end of each group is very popular and brings the group together before lunch. Families have enjoyed once-a-term Bring and Share lunches, giving children the opportunity to try new foods and eat together.

Jane Kenyon has given Prampushers vital support for the last 7 years, keeping us all sane with her tea and coffee, serving snacks, providing the bowl to wash sticky hands, washing aprons and paint brushes, always asking how we all are and leaving the kitchen immaculate. We would like to thank her for everything she does for the group.

I have recently visited the Bumps and Babies group on a Tuesday to introduce the group to them and encourage them to come along. This has proved a positive link for creating new members, however *Netmums* remains our best source of families. The mums met to take part in Arco Lounge's Quiz night and enjoy some Tapas. After a blinding 1<sup>st</sup> round, we were pleased not to finish last!

Prampushers supported Children in Need in November, funding the event from playgroup profits. The children enjoyed a clown, craft, a party tea and a visit from Pudsey Bear, and raised £200. We were also pleased to be able to contribute £75 to the cost of a new boiler in no. 9.

At the start of January we were unable to meet our quarterly payment to the church, but we are now in a position to restart this. We are regularly visited by the pre-school Learning Alliance who provide us with support and ensure that we are complying with current Health and Safety.

**Emma Cawsey**  
**Organiser**

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

A lot of information is available here and so it is necessary to depart from a narrative and restrict the report to bullet points:

### **27<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

- The Rev'd Priscilla White, Area Dean, introduced a new 'spotlight' feature to give two

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churches in the deanery an opportunity to introduce themselves and their work at each meeting.

- **Spotlight on Edgbaston Old Church**

Incumbent: The Rev'd Alison Joyce, assisted by The Rev'd Dr Saskia Barnden and The Rev'd Michael Dunk. The parish contains seven schools, four hospitals, The Queen's Foundation and half of the Botanical Gardens. Currently the church is reviewing its outreach and is seeking further local engagement. Finance is presently strained due to the cost of rebuilding the organ and a collapsing graveyard wall which needed to be rebuilt. The church had also suffered three cases of lead theft. Congregation numbers are increasing and the parish remains in good heart.

- **Spotlight on St. Gabriel's**

Incumbent after a long interregnum: The Rev'd Andy Delmege (who is also vicar of Brandwood), assisted by The Rev'd Kate Pearson and Mission Apprentice Jenny Baker. Good work is being done through a 'Soul Food' project and the church runs a thriving after school club. There has been a significant increase in children and this has been very positive but has caused some friction with some of the more established congregation. St. Gabriel's was to be adopting a programme called 'Jesus Shaped People' from Bradford diocese in September 2013, in order to reshape the life and mission of the church.

- 'Future Possibilities' exercise to establish which matters were of most concern to synod members, in order to help the standing committee to plan future meetings.

- **Presentation by Fr. Patrick Gerard, Diocesan Environmental Adviser.**

Fr. Gerard spoke about the trouble getting people to take responsibility for their own 'carbon footprint' and noted that the average person in the west consumes around twenty times as much as the average person in India. He pointed out that the Church's response to climate change needs to be in harmony with God's vision of creation. He said that the C of E was actively trying to shrink its 'carbon footprint' and recommended a software package named 'Smeasure' which assisted in this. He also said that we need to work globally to combat climate change and need to realise that we are all children of God.

A lively discussion followed but this was not recorded in the minutes. I made the point that climate change is a natural process which archaeological evidence shows has been continual for millennia but that there were presently conflicting estimates about how much humans had influenced the present rate of climate change. Changing patterns of polarity and solar activity had a strong role on climate change and that surely instead of trying to prevent the inevitable from happening we should seek guidance on how best to adapt our society to the changed climatic conditions.

- Priscilla White announced the departure of The Rev'd Caroline Ralph from St. Peters for a parish in Somerset.

## **21st November 2013**

- Announcement that St. Mary's, Selly Oak was to stage a reading of 'A Christmas Carol' on 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- Priscilla White asked for any churches interested in hosting prayer meetings to contact her.
- Promotion of 'Hear the Call' - said to be a very good book for exploring ministry in one's own church
- Announcement that the St. Francis Centre, Bartley Green was acting as a reception point for donations for the Philippines disaster relief effort. Volunteers were needed to box up donated items prior to dispatching.
- Presentation on the Bishop's Youth Council. The council is intended to give a voice to the youth of the diocese and help with the Bishop's youth programme. A number of events the BYC has recently been involved in were described. Each deanery is entitled to contribute three representatives but at present Edgbaston deanery has only a sole representative.
- Messy church. Priscilla White described 'messy church', saying that it was an approach to introducing people to Christian thinking and concepts in a creative and non threatening way. She emphasised that a 'messy church' session should be seen as a real church service but simply exhibiting a different approach. There was some debate over how easily new worshipers could be brought over from 'messy church' beginnings to joining a regular congregation. An exercise followed where craft activities were combined with Biblical concepts and casual conversation encouraged. The idea clearly has much to recommend it, but I felt it unlikely that it would work as easily at St. Augustine's as it clearly does at St. Faith and St. Laurence and St. Michael and All Angels.

### **12th March 2014**

- Announcement that Leslie Osborne has had to resign due to ill health so a new deanery secretary is sought.
- Jonathon Goll (Lay Chair) pointed out that all deanery synod representatives posts were due to expire this year. New representatives need to be elected at APCMs prior to election of general members of PCCs, due to them being supernumerary.
- A training day was due to take place on 26th April at St. Boniface, Quinton, entitled 'Old and Precious', which would concern ministry to older people.
- Focus of St. Faith and St. Laurence, Harborne  
Incumbent: The Rev'd Priscilla White. Sessions on discipleship were being run on Sundays throughout lent. There are issues with balancing the budget but 'messy church' was being developed further. The choir has grown well in the last year and the church has seen encouraging numbers of young people attending services, although retention of

these people is an issue yet to be solved.

- Focus on St. George's, Edgbaston

Incumbent: Julian Francis. Regular and committed congregation of 60-100. Linked to St. George's school but presently lacks many young people in the congregation due to a generation having recently moved on to university and the next generation still to arrive. The choir is dedicated but is "lacking in new blood" and the church is in great need of restoration.

- Presentation by Dr Andrew Smith, Bishop's representative for inter-faith relations and director of the Faithful Neighbourhoods Centre. Christ had given us three great commandments: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind; Love your neighbour as yourself; and Make disciples of all nations. We must find a balancing point to enable us to act equally on all three of these commandments. He said that in order to establish a good dialogue with those of other faiths, we need to learn our own faith more deeply, and understand it fully and with great confidence: to talk with those of lesser faiths, it must be obvious that we are strong in our own. He cited a number of scriptures, in particular Deuteronomy 10:18-19 (God...loves the alien amongst you and gives to him food and raiment. Love the alien then, as you were once aliens in Egypt). He also suggested ways of approaching those of other faiths, such as reminding ourselves of 1 Corinthians 13:4 and adding to the end of the first statement the name of the group we are approaching (e.g. - Love is patient and kind - to Muslims). If we use this as a guide to our approach important things can be achieved. He mentioned a former church which is now a Shia Muslim college. Good dialogue had resulted in the retention of a chapel which is open for Christian worship. He also talked of the numbers of people of other faiths, particularly Muslims, who are converting to Christianity in far greater numbers than are converting the other way. This is largely ignored by the media. Many of these people are persecuted for their choice or keep it hidden to avoid persecution. Churches need to try to understand the needs of these new converts and learn how to make them most welcome.

- Priscilla White called for energy saving suggestions. St. Peters have been heating their church to an 'ambient' temperature of about 15°C most of the time and raising the temperature only slightly during services and have saved a reasonable sum of money in doing so. Priscilla White mentioned that due to charity status, churches should not be charged the climate change levy and VAT should be charged at 5%. If charged, this can and should be reclaimed. Jonathon Goll spoke of the 'Energy Basket' fuel purchase scheme arranged between the Church of England and the Church of Wales with Total Gas. Self heating pew cushions were also mentioned.

- Priscilla White announced that Nigel di Castiglione would be leaving S.t Johns, Harborne but would be available to cover other churches for a while.

**Paul Geddes**  
**Deanery Synod Representative**



## APPENDIX A

### ELECTORAL ROLL, APRIL 2014

<i>G. Adjei</i>	<i>L. Faulkner</i>	<i>J. E. Mouzer</i>
<i>K. Adjei</i>	M. Fecadu	R. E. Nagle
J. P. Bailey	<i>I. S. Field</i>	<i>A. North</i>
J. P. Bailey	D. S. L. Fletcher	<i>H. Parle</i>
<i>L. Barlow</i>	<i>J. L. Fletcher</i>	K. Partridge
<i>S. Barlow</i>	S. K. Flitter	W. E. Partridge
<i>L. M. Barron</i>	C. Flitter	<i>H. S. Pickles</i>
R. S. H. Bellamy	D. W. Flitter	<i>R. Pickles</i>
<i>I. Biggs</i>	<i>B. Garikayi</i>	C. M. Potts
J. M. Bird	<i>F. S. Garikayi</i>	M. L. Ruehl
<i>P. A. Brown</i>	<i>P. B. M. Geddes</i>	M. Ruhani
<i>S. Brown</i>	<i>S. Gower</i>	<i>J. Scott</i>
<i>R. Burnham</i>	K. J. Gray	<i>C. Slater</i>
<i>E. Cawsey</i>	S. Gray	<i>R. Slater</i>
<i>C. Ciurezu</i>	<i>D. L. R. Guest</i>	P. C. Smith
W. M. Clifton	M. Hale	<i>C. A. Sockett</i>
<i>D. M. Comis</i>	<i>N. Hanson</i>	<i>M. Spillett</i>
<i>S. D. Comis</i>	L. K. Harding	E. S. Stowell
<i>N. R. Crawford</i>	S. J. Hartland	<i>S. Thomas</i>
<i>S. E. Crawford</i>	<i>A. Hayes</i>	C. C. M. Tomlinson
<i>A. P. Crockson</i>	S. Hobkirk-Smith	D. Tomlinson
R. J. Davies	<i>M. Howell</i>	J. M. Tomlinson
<i>J. M. Day</i>	<i>C. Hutcheson</i>	<i>N. Tomlinson</i>
<i>L. A. Day</i>	<i>P. C. Jay</i>	M. Usher-Somers
B. J. Dicker	<i>M. R. Jenkins</i>	<i>S. M. Waggett</i>
S. J. Dicker	<i>S. Johnson</i>	<i>M. Wainwright</i>
<i>M. S. Edeghere</i>	<i>E. J. F. Kenyon</i>	J. D. Ward
<i>O. Edeghere</i>	S. R. Kidd	<i>J. A. Warren</i>
D. L. Edwards	<i>T. M. Keogh</i>	W. A. Webb
R. V. Edwards	C. Malcolm-Johnson	E. Wilson
<i>N. Facey</i>	<i>J. E. H. Marshall</i>	<i>W. Woodhouse</i>
<i>R. Facey</i>	<i>C. McDarby</i>	<i>F. D. Young</i>

There are 96 members of the congregation registered on the Electoral Roll and of those so registered, 58 live outside the parish (*noted in italics*).

## APPENDIX B

### ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

I have inspected the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council of St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Parochial Church Council's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and of its deficit for the year then ended.



James Fletcher ACA CTA  
Whittington Hall,  
Worcester.

27<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and signed on its behalf by:



The Reverend M. R. E. Tomlinson (Chairman)



Mr. S. J. Hartland (Churchwarden)



Mr. P. B. M. Geddes (Churchwarden)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

	Note s	Unrestricte d Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2013	Total Funds 2012
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Voluntary Income	1a	62,194	1,850	64,044	62,450
Activities for generating funds	1b	1,148	0	1,148	1,394
Income from investments	1c	17,496	0	17,496	16,767
Income from church activities	1d	6,510	0	6,510	9,073
Other income		0	0	0	0
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>87,348</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>89,198</b>	<b>89,684</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Church Activities	2a	98,206	0	98,206	101,257
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>98,206</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,206</b>	<b>101,257</b>
<b>Change to Resources</b>					
Total Incoming Resources		87,348	1,850	89,198	89,684
Total Resources Expended		98,206	0	98,206	101,257
<b>Net Change to Resources</b>		<b>-10,858</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>-9,008</b>	<b>-11,573</b>
<b>Total Resources</b>					
Net change to resources		-10,858	1,850	-9,008	-11,573
Gains and Losses on Investments	4b	19,837	0	19,837	11,091
Balances bought forward at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan		303,299	-19,513	283,786	271,569
Transfer of Funds		0	0	0	0
Asset valuation adjustment		0	0	0	12,699
<b>Balances carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>		<b>312,278</b>	<b>-17,663</b>	<b>294,615</b>	<b>283,786</b>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

	Note s	2013 £	2012 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	4a	111,083	111,083
Investments	4b	187,952	168,115
<b>Total</b>		<b>299,035</b>	<b>279,198</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		4,291	5,779
Short term deposits		1,344	759
Cash at Bank		41,679	17,304
<b>Total</b>		<b>47,314</b>	<b>23,842</b>
Current Assets		47,314	23,842
Liabilities: amounts failing due within one year		51,734	19,254
<b>Net current liabilities/assets</b>		<b>-4,420</b>	<b>4,588</b>
Fixed Assets		299,035	279,198
Net current liabilities/assets		-4,420	4,588
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>294,615</b>	<b>283,786</b>
<b>Specific Funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
General		312,278	303,299
<b>Restricted</b>			
Lighting Fund	5	-27,677	-27,777
Music Legacy		1,293	1,293
The Organ Fund		8,721	6,971
<b>Total</b>		<b>294,615</b>	<b>283,786</b>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

1. Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
<b>1a. Voluntary Income</b>				
Planned Giving via Gift Aid			34,57	
Donations	34,579		9	33,997
Income Tax Recoverable	7,991		7,991	10,131
Collections (open plate)	7,672		7,672	7,257
Sundry Donations	70		70	1,840
Donations Appeals etc			13,73	
	11,882	1,850	2	6,225
Legacies	0	0	0	3,000
			64,04	
1a Total	62,194	1,850	4	62,450
<b>1b. Activities for generating funds</b>				
Social Events	1,148	0	1,148	1,394
1b Total	1,148	0	1,148	1,394
<b>1c Income from Investments</b>				
Dividends and Interest	7,196	0	7,196	6,957
Rent Receivable			10,30	
	10,300	0	0	9,810
			17,49	
1c Total	17,496	0	6	16,767
<b>1d Income from Church Activities</b>				
Fees	2,558	0	2,558	3,099
Church and Hall Hire	3,952	0	3,952	5,974
1d Total	6,510	0	6,510	9,073
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>				
	87,348	1,850	89,19 8	89,684

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

2. Resources Expended	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
<hr/>		
2a Church Activities		
Overseas Missionary Societies	600	655
Home missions and other church societies	600	1,350
Missionary Total	1,200	2,005
<hr/>		
Diocesan Parish Share	48,300	43,426
Other Diocesan Expenses	0	0
Clergy Expenses	0	0
Clergy House Repairs	500	500
No 9 Lyttelton Road	2,939	3,836
Ministry Total	51,739	47,762
<hr/>		
Church Running Expenses	23,255	21,395
Church Maintenance	8,705	19,409
Music Costs	8,882	7,032
Printing and Stationery	1,467	2,131
Sundries	958	552
Bad debts	2,000	934
Bank charges	0	37
Other Total	45,267	51,490
<hr/>		
2a Total	98,206	101,257
<hr/>		

Note 3: Payments to PCC Members

The Director of Music, Thomas Keogh, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £390 per month during the year 2013.

A small immaterial amount of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have been related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

Payments have been made directly to The Rev'd Matthew Tomlinson, Stephen Hartland, Robert Nagel and Cynthia Slater to reimburse them for PCC bills that they paid directly from their own accounts.

No other payments have been made to a current PCC member or person closely connected to them.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

	Freehold House £	Fixtures, Fittings and Office equipment £	Total £
4a Tangible Fixed Assets			
Actual Deemed cost at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2013	126,233	3,129	129,362
Additions	0	0	0
Actual Deemed cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2013	126,233	3,129	129,362
Depreciation at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2013	15,150	3,129	18,279
Charge for year	0	0	0
Depreciation at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2013	15,150	3,129	18,279
Net Book Value at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2013	111,083	0	111,083
Change	0	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2013	111,083	0	111,083

The freehold house comprises No.9 Lyttelton Road that was purchased some years ago and has been introduced into these financial statements at the insured value at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1996. In accordance with SORP dispensation this value has not been updated.

4b Investments	£
Market value as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2013	168,115
Revaluation gain	19,837
Market value as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	187,952

Holdings at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 are in various funds and companies as listed on the following page.

Note 5: The Lighting Fund is negative to show that the church's revised lighting was replaced and paid for before all the funds were gathered by special targeted fund raising. The PCC has agreed that this item will be shown as a separate item to target fund raising for 3 years after the introduction of the new lighting.

Note 6: The £2,000 bad debt was incurred as unpaid rent during 2012, but was accepted into the accounts in 2013.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2013

Holding	Stock	Price 31/12/2013	Currency Conversion	Valuation £
435	AstraZeneca	35.745	1	15,549
73	Pernod Ricard	82.81	1.201	5,034
2100	Prudential	13.4	1	28,140
1551	Royal Dutch Shell	22.8	1	35,363
1040	British American Tobacco	32.38	1	33,675
60	Invensys	5.085	1	305
456	Kraft Foods	53.91	1.6495	14,903
457	Dr Pepper	48.72	1.6495	13,498
70	Mitchells and Butler	4.219	1	295
57	InterContinental Hotels Group	20.13	1	1,147
24	Zurich Financial Services	265.45	1.6495	3,862
10	Syngenta AG	400.84	1.6495	2,430
28.87	M&G Charifund	11.7854	1	340
3064.23	CCLA Fabric Fund	10.8232	1	33,165
	CCLA Deposit Fund			246
<hr/>				
	Total Investments			187,952
	9 Lyttelton Road			111,083
	HSBC Accounts			41,679
	Lloyds Bank Account			1,344
	Known Outstanding Liabilities			
		Robert Nagle		- 220
		Diocesan		
		Parish Share		- 48,300
		AJ Electrics		- 525
		Enterprise		
		Cleaning		- 48
		Mr E Martin		-725
		Severn Trent		
		Water		- 154
		St Pauls		- 62
		Matthew		
		Tomlinson		-500
		Charities		-1,200
	Known Outstanding Debtors			
		HMRC		4,291
<hr/>				
	Total Assets			294,615