



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
17 March 2013**

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS
2012**

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AGENDAS 17 March 2013

Vestry Meeting Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting (see page 4)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Closing Prayer

Annual Parochial Council Meeting Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Last Year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 4)
4. Matters Arising
5. Reports (see below)
6. Elections and Appointments:
 - 6.1 Election of Reader (Stephen Adams) to PCC
 - 6.2 Election of PCC
 - 6.3 Appointment of sidespersons
 - 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
(Note: Mrs Elizabeth McBride is willing to continue)
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting – Proposed 23 March 2014
9. Closing Prayers

Parochial Church Council Meeting Agenda

To elect the following officers:

1. Vice Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Members of the PCC Standing Committee

Note: The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee of at least five people. The Incumbent and churchwardens are members ex-officio. The PCC must appoint at least another two PCC members, one of whom will normally be the Treasurer. The Standing Committee has the authority to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings, but it is accountable to the PCC.

ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM
MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

25 March 2012

Vestry Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens

1. Welcome and prayer

The Rev. John Armstrong opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2011

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for the following: Pat Adams and Hilary Crosby. There being no other nominations the above were duly elected for the following year. Rev. John Armstrong prayed for them on behalf of the whole church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Members Present 22

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Hilary Crosby, Margo Grant, Pam Batstone and Jenny Thorne.

2. Minutes of APCM Meeting held on 20 March 2011

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

John Armstrong thanked all those who had contributed to the reports and encouraged everyone to read them and ask questions.

a) Corrections

Two typographical errors in the body of the reports were corrected: page 15 - the total expenses for 2010 should be £64,664, not £6,466 as shown, and page 21 - under the item Timber Casing in the Belfry, the wording should read 'the timber casing that housed the drop weights for the old clock mechanism is *'planned to be'* removed....., not *'has been'* removed.....

b) Electoral Roll

The Secretary reported on behalf of Margo Grant, the Electoral Roll Officer, that there were currently 128 members on the roll. With the preparation of an entirely new roll due for 2013, however, there was a distinct possibility that the numbers on the roll could fall significantly.

c) Finance Update

The following key points were made by Ruth Tresidder, Treasurer:

- St James Parish Share for 2011 was underpaid by £13,737,
- giving for 2012 was already showing a fall as compared to the same period for 2011 of £2,000,
- recovery of Gift Aid was now up to date,
- outreach would be difficult without increased giving,
- Southam Deanery was currently being subsidised by other deaneries in the Coventry Diocese by c£60,000 pa, and
- by 2013 each deanery should be self-funding with parishes meeting the costs of their incumbents, etc. which could result in a reduction in the number of paid clergy across the deanery.

During the course of discussion John Armstrong stated that his vision was to see new people in church and encouraged everyone to get alongside their neighbours, with the aim of inviting them into church or along to church events. John also suggested that we should consider combining outreach with fundraising, putting 'fun' into fundraising and that we could possibly consider some sort of sponsored event. John Armstrong also advised that the '200' club was looking for new members.

The meeting also noted that a Summer Fete would be held on 16 June 2012 and a Christmas Fayre on 1 December 2012.

Mary Home also suggested that consideration be given to 'specialised' or 'targeted' services being held as a way of outreach into the community and instanced a pet blessing being held by the Diocese as an example.

The reports were noted.

5. Elections and Appointments

a) Election of PCC

St James, under diocesan rules, is entitled to appoint up to twelve lay members to the PCC based on an electoral roll of 128. Currently there existed four vacancies, with eight in post. No new nominations had been received and it was noted that up to two additional members would be co-opted if required. (Note: should the numbers on the electoral roll fall to 100 or below the number of lay members that could be appointed under diocesan rules would be nine.)

b) Appointment of Sidespersons

The current rota of sidespersons was read out to the meeting and was approved and re-elected en-bloc, being proposed by Betty Phillips and seconded by Janet Pratt. The meeting also noted that the numbers on the rota could be increased once the stewardship returns had been fully analysed. In response to a query regarding sidespersons' roles and responsibilities, John Armstrong agreed

that, in liaison with the wardens, he would review, update and issue new guidance notes.

c) Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

The meeting noted that Elizabeth McBride was prepared to continue in this role and was duly re-elected, proposed by Bryan Pratt and seconded by Ruth Tresidder. The meeting also noted that Elizabeth did not want payment in any kind for her work.

6. Any Other Business

a) Church Buildings

John Home reflected on the fact that with a reducing number on the electoral roll there would be fewer people to get involved with the work of the church and in particular with its upkeep. John Home was concerned that once a church went into decline, the numbers could continue to spiral down and wondered what sort of external help could be called upon.

During the discussion that followed a number of points were made and noted by members, including, inter-alia, that:

- over the years Southam Town Council had made a significant number of grants to the maintenance of the churchyard,
- the Friends of St James Church had enabled the church to obtain grants for work to the fabric as well as providing funds for specific projects,
- Friends are always looking for additional members,
- the cost of maintaining church buildings was an issue across the whole of the church's estate and that John Armstrong's recent meeting with Simon Lloyd had discussed the constraints imposed by the Church of England with the refurbishment of listed buildings,
- the church is not the building but the people, and
- there was a need to raise the profile of St James within the community, encouraging people who were not already involved to give time and expertise (the meeting of Ufton's fabric team in the local pub was instanced as a success in getting the wider population involved), and possibly opening the church during the week, as suggested by the Diocese, albeit this would result in additional cost.

b) Votes of Thanks

- Pat Adams gave a vote of thanks for John and Ruth Tresidder and the team of volunteers for all their hard work in setting up the church office and manning it, and for John and Vicki Armstrong.
- Ruth Tresidder gave a vote of thanks for Ralph Trollope who had stood down as Gift Aid (Covenant) Secretary after many years of faithful service.

c) Burial Space

The meeting noted John Tresidder's report that there were only ten new burial spaces available in the graveyard. The Diocese and

District Council were aware of the situation and John Tresidder advised that he would continue to provide updates of the position.

d) Lent Course

Jan Ford advised that the Lent Course had gone very well and had been attended by around 20 people. As part of the discussion at the Lent course those attending agreed to consider how, as a group, the churches could achieve greater visibility across the town and each church was asked to consider how this might be achieved.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 17 March 2013.

The meeting closed in prayer at 12.30pm.

Chairman..... Date

REPORTS

Church Management

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 December 2012**

Priest-in-Charge

Rev. John Armstrong
The Rectory
4 Park Lane
Southam CV47 0JA

Parish Administrator

Mrs M Mumford
The Parish Office
77D Coventry Street
Southam
CV47 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 High Street
Southam
CV47 0HA

Independent Examiner

Mrs Elizabeth McBride ICMA
1 Park Lane
Harbury
CV33 9HX

Annual Report for 2012 - continued

The PCC co-operates with the Rev. John Armstrong in promoting, within the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission in the Southam Deanery in the Diocese of Coventry. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC has no connected charities.

The PCC employs one part-time member of staff.

No member of the PCC, or any connected person, has benefited financially from the PCC. Expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC have been reimbursed.

PCC Membership as at the 2012 APCM was as follows:

John Armstrong *	Incumbent
Pat Adams *	Warden
Hilary Crosby *	Warden
Stephen Adams	Reader
Margo Grant	Deanery Synod
Janet Pratt	Deanery Synod
Bryan Pratt	Deanery Synod and Vice Chairman
Barry Parker *	Elected - Secretary
Ruth Tresidder *	Elected - Treasurer
David Baxter *	Elected
Jenny Baxter	Elected
Jen Burgess	Elected
Brett Justice	Elected – Resigned 18 October 2012
Jill Parker	Elected
Ralph Trollope	Elected
	Total 15

*Standing Committee members

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church and of the churchyard.

In 2013 a new electoral roll has been prepared and everyone had to fill in a form to be on the new roll, even if they were on the old one. We now have 85 members on the 2013 Church Electoral Roll of whom nine are not resident within the parish as compared with 128 of whom 13 were not resident within the parish last year.

The average Sunday attendance was 79 (2011:82), but, as in previous years, numbers increased at the various festivals and for baptism and thanksgiving services.

The statement of the financial activities for the year is set out in this Annual Report together with the Treasurer's Report, see pages 15 - 20. With regard to 2012, £29,750 was paid towards the Parish Share of £40,141, a shortfall of £10,391. During the year a considerable amount of time was given to the resource dilemma (not only financial) the church finds itself in vis-à-vis the desire to meet its obligations of the Parish Share, the need to maintain the church buildings so they are fit for purpose, together with a desire to grow the kingdom of God in the Parish of Southam.

Mindful that we at St James have not been able to meet our Parish Share for a number of years, with the guidance and assistance of our treasurer, Ruth Tresidder, we have maintained strict control over church expenditure in order to maximise the amount of parish share paid.

The PCC is, however, acutely aware that the number of vicars that could be employed across the Deanery is directly linked to the amount of Parish Share paid. With the significant costs of maintaining and improving both St James and the Town Churchyard, increasingly innovative ways of meeting the costs of our wonderful community asset are required. With this in mind, and as a part of reaching out into the community, the summer fete has been successfully reintroduced and Nifty Fingers started meeting.

The full PCC met on twelve occasions during 2012 with an attendance rate of 80% and included an extraordinary meeting held on 13 August 2012 at which the PCC agreed to consider the formation of two sub-groups being:

- (i) Worship and Nurture (to include worship, teaching and homegroups), and
- (ii) Pastoral Care and Outreach or Mission and Pastoral Care.

Additional to this, the Council also made some decisions by email.

The PCC also agreed to spend time at an away day looking at the 'Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches', take a five year forward view setting realistic goals, particularly for the first year, develop communication and structures that worked and look at weaker ones and develop gift oriented ministries. Whilst an initial discussion was held in the autumn, full consideration was delayed until February 2013.

The Town Churchyard at St James is rapidly running out of space for new burial plots and, at the time of writing, there are currently only four remaining. Second burials in existing family graves can continue where there is space available and cremated ashes can also be placed in family graves as well as the reserved cremation area. Stratford District Council was formally requested by St James Parochial Church Council to become a burial authority in May 2009 and to provide a municipal cemetery at Southam. This request was finally declined at the end of 2012. The situation so far as Southam Town Council is concerned is

that they are not a burial authority and to become one would incur considerable expense. Their deliberations continue.

The PCC is supported in its duties by a Standing Committee, to enable urgent decisions which have been properly delegated to be taken between PCC meetings and a Fabric Committee to look after the church buildings, etc. The minutes of their meetings were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

The PCC is fully aware of the risk factors involved in the running of church affairs and continues to ensure that all our properties are adequately insured, including public liability.

Mrs Elizabeth McBride, has again kindly agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC is very grateful to her for the time she has spent on this.

The PCC is also grateful to Margaret Mumford for the smooth running of the church office and a special vote of thanks goes to those volunteers who help cover the church office each Tuesday and Friday morning and when Margaret is on leave. We can always do with more volunteers and if you would like to help please have a word with Ruth Tresidder.

Copies of the minutes are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church after each meeting.

As you would expect, a lot of the detail of what is discussed at the PCC meetings is covered in the following reports. In addition detailed reports of other groups and activities associated with St James are set out in this Annual Report.

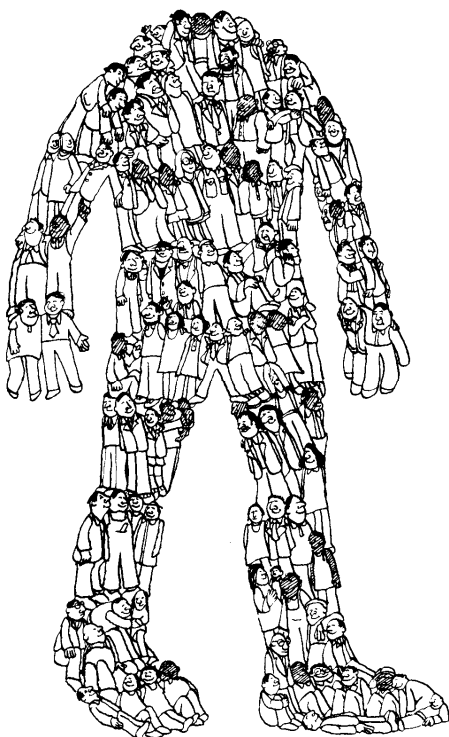
The members of the Parochial Church Council approved this report and the Rev. John Armstrong has signed it on their behalf.

Barry Parker - Church Secretary

Rector's Report

2012 has been a year for asking important questions and facing challenges! On the surface there are two particular challenges: those of financial and human resources. We have been engaging in discussions about these and other important matters, not least that of "what is the vision of the church?" Given that we are fewer in number than we would like to be, that we struggle with paying our dues, and that we know that we are here for a purpose, what should we be concentrating on?

On a positive note, the influence of the church in our town is more significant than we probably realise, particularly if we consider what the church **is**. The drawing here is meant to show that the church, described in the Bible as "the body of Christ" is **you** if you are a member of it. We are all different, with a



variety of gifts and talents, friends and neighbours and contacts, and we Christians are the key way in which Jesus ministers today. When each of us does or says **anything** we are representing Christ – that is some responsibility! Together with the other Christians (of all denominations) in Southam we make up his body and in many ways we are getting on with it. Incidentally, rather than suggesting that we are running round like headless chickens, this drawing seeks to reflect Jesus' teaching that **he** is the head of his body, the church (Colossians 1:18) ... and it would be difficult to draw that on top!

What I'd like us all to address, then, is how we ensure the various bits of the "body" link with each other not only by relating well (and, where it's useful, by ensuring the right hand knows what the left hand is doing) but also by together giving a clear "picture" of

Jesus Christ: his life and his continuing ministry today in the community of Southam. The body of Christ should "look like" Christ and "act like" Christ, so where we **don't**, we need to examine ourselves, for the sake of those whom the Lord is calling to him. Jesus has declared that **he** will build his church. However he does expect **all of us** to be involved in that building-up of the church, as a full-time commitment – so for all of us there's a challenge to examine our priorities.

We may need to have a radical re-think about what we expect the church to be, to look like and to do – as well as how we can best worship God together.

In particular we need to consider the values and activities and attitudes of the early church, in the light (or otherwise) of today's context. A likely consequence of this will be the need to put down personal preferences for the greater good –

thinking of others rather than "me". We may need to put down some activities which we realise God no longer requires of us, in order to make room for what he requires now. Each of us might have to be prepared to reconsider how we view God and how he views us; likewise to consider again what he expects of the "normal" Christian. What are sons and daughters of the King supposed to be like and supposed to be doing? Who are priests?

If "we are complete in him" what does this mean and are we "whole" or "well" in body, mind and spirit? If the world has "wellness" clinics and "well woman" surgeries, etc. what can we offer and what have we experienced? It is important that we look after our own and we shall be endeavouring during this next year to develop pastoral care. We ought also to be offering the wholeness of Christ to others. This does already happen in many ways, but we can always do better. Caring for and feeding those we have, plus reaching out to others who are not currently members of a church, is something no church member need be exempt from. When we talk of "outreach" this begs the questions: with what are we reaching out and *why*?

I'd like us to agree to aim to grow numerically in real terms and, while we're at it, to endeavour to pay our way.

Let us endeavour to become MORE like Jesus, MORE confident, MORE healthy, and to see MORE come in God's Kingdom.

Please accept our thanks to all of you who *already* serve faithfully and reliably in a variety of ways in the family of the church, whether in the context of Sunday or weekday services or in the many and various branches of church life during the week. This *already* makes a difference and many are blessed by your ministry. Thanks also to any who are actively training others on the job so they too can be equipped.

Thanks to all officers and members of the PCC, of all the committees, particularly to our Churchwardens, Pat and Hilary, our Secretary, Barry and Treasurer, Ruth, for all your faithful hard work.

May God bless and equip us all and may we be a blessing to those amongst whom we live and work!

John (and Vicki) Armstrong

Churchwarden's Report

The year began with just one Church warden due to Mike Kitchen – Hurle having had to resign his post through re-location to Devon.

At the APCM in March, Hilary Crosby was elected as church warden to join Pat Adams (continuing). The first task undertaken was in the updating of the 'Sidesperson's Role and Responsibilities', and we produced a draft copy specifically designed for each of the three Sunday services. A meeting with the sidespeople and anyone interested in joining this team was held in church in April. It was encouragingly well attended and a number of new names were added to the rota. Slight alterations were made after discussion / suggestion and the service relevant agreed new specifications were sent out accordingly.

Margaret Mumford is still in charge of arranging the 8am and 6.30pm rota but we have taken over sorting the rota (including readers) for the 10am service.

Other undertakings in 2012 have included:-

- attendance and reporting at the monthly PCC meetings
- the commissioning of Church Wardens during the 'Bishop's Visitation' service at All Saints Church, Harbury
- taking part in a meeting of higher level discussions re: burial spaces
- presence at the Triennial inspection by the Area Dean – Rev. Craig Grocock
- discussion meetings with an external group re: 'The Battle of Southam' (to take place in August 2013)
- meeting together to determine the 10am sides/reader rota for Sept – end Dec 2012 and for Jan – end June 2013 then emailing it to those on this list
- meetings with John Tresidder re: various aspects to do with the fabric and contents of the building, also the church yard

We try to ensure that at least one of us is in attendance at the different church services if possible, including Thursday am – HC.

As church wardens we have both received numerous phone calls throughout the year from parishioners and visitors wanting to know information or with specific requests. We aren't **just** around on a Sunday, you can call on us at any time as need be.

Pat Adams and Hilary Crosby – Church Wardens

Treasurer's Report

I make no apologies for keeping a tight rein on expenditure during the last year. Unfortunately our income is such that if we were a business we would already be in administration.

On a positive note our unrestricted income (less insurance claims) increased by £2,864.90.

Income from fees increased but we cannot assume this to be a continuing trend as the number of new grave spaces is limited and although both wedding and funeral fees have increased from 1 January 2013 the opportunities for the PCC to include a charge for incidental expenses are fewer.

We managed to pay an additional £4,500, over the previous year, to Coventry Diocese towards our parish share. The PCC had hoped to pay £30,000 of a requested £40,141 but failed by £250. Unless we do increase our income to pay our full share we cannot access grants from the Diocese and in the long term cannot expect to share our priest with only one other parish.

The cost of church running expenses restricts spending on developing mission.

Planned income amounted to £2,036.16 per month. Insurance costs us £528.70 per month and our electricity and gas £269.75 per month. If we were paying our parish share of £30,000 on a monthly basis we would need to have paid £2,500 each month.

During the year, for various reasons, we lost a number of families who were contributing to the finances of St James but our Stewardship campaign helped others to consider their regular commitment to the church and ensured the loss was considerably less than it would have been had the campaign not taken place. We cannot be complacent and we must all prayerfully consider whether giving to Our Lord is a high priority in our lives.

I should like to thank everyone who contributes to our church finances especially all those who give to the church on a regular basis, whether by standing order or through our various envelope schemes—planned giving, particularly from non-taxpayers, which increased significantly over the last year.

If you would like more in depth information about our accounts please do contact me.

Ruth Tresidder - Treasurer

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2012

		Actual 2012		Actual 2011		TOTAL	
Note		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
From Donors:							
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	25,328.83	600.00	27,018.98	950.00	27,968.98	
Gift Aid recovered	1b	9,367.69	253.25	7,105.51	14.10	7,119.61	
Non Gift Aided Income	1c	8,137.42		7,799.74		7,799.74	
Fund raising & special appeals	1d	4,467.60	857.32	3,874.41	4,963.66	8,838.07	
Churchyard	1e						
Insurance claims	1f	1,871.53		1,994.30		1,994.30	
TOTAL DONATED INCOME		49,173.07	1,710.57	47,792.94	5,927.76	53,720.70	
Fees							
Clergy	2a		3,100.00		2,717.00	2,717.00	
Lay	2b		3,675.00		3,213.00	3,213.00	
PCC	2c	6,956.00	(313.00)	5,594.00	28.00	5,622.00	
Total regulated fees		6,956.00	6,462.00	5,594.00	5,958.00	11,552.00	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		56,129.07	8,172.57	53,386.94	11,885.76	65,272.70	
EXPENSES							
Diocesan costs:							
Parish Share: Current year	3a	29,750.00		25,250.00		25,250.00	
Clergy & Service costs:							
Clergy expenses	4a	1,274.24		1,092.22		1,092.22	
Altar supplies	4b	197.79		272.27		272.27	
Music	4c	488.00		684.86		684.86	
Other				105.00		105.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		1,960.03		2,154.35		2,154.35	

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2012

EXPENSES (Cont)		Actual 2012			Actual 2011		
		Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	TOTAL £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Administration:							
Administrator	5a	3,835.84		3,835.84	4,802.62		4,802.62
Office supplies	5b	2,444.98		2,444.98	2,264.55		2,264.55
Other	5c	416.72		416.72	625.85		625.85
Office telephone		558.31		558.31	632.15		632.15
Church Office	5d	3,936.05	222.50	4,158.55	2,539.22	1,090.00	3,629.22
		11,191.90	222.50	11,414.40	10,864.39	1,090.00	11,954.39
Maintenance:							
Utilities	6a	3,325.44		3,325.44	3,409.38		3,409.38
Insurance	6b	6,344.42		6,344.42	6,021.04		6,021.04
General repairs	6c	3,046.84		3,046.84	3,621.51	207.00	3,828.51
Churchyard	6d	523.60	60.00	583.60	1,050.04		1,050.04
		13,240.30	60.00	13,300.30	14,101.97	207.00	14,308.97
Ministry support:							
Special appeals	7a	205.41	813.43	1,018.84	238.72	2,156.86	2,395.58
Children, Youth & Training	7b	245.63	99.21	344.84	549.26	1,806.98	2,356.24
		451.04	912.64	1,363.68	787.98	3,963.84	4,751.82
Fees re weddings & funerals							
Diocese	8a		3,100.00	3,100.00		2,717.00	2,717.00
Lay	8b		3,675.00	3,675.00		3,213.00	3,213.00
			6,775.00	6,775.00		5,930.00	5,930.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		56,593.27	7,970.14	64,563.41	53,158.69	11,190.84	64,349.53
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR				(464.20)			694.92
Transfers from General Fund							(366.59)
Add: Reserves b/fwd 1 Jan 2012				3,788.43			3,926.77
Total Reserves 31 Dec 2012				3,324.23			3,788.43

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2012

RESTRICTED FUNDS MOVEMENTS

Fund Description	Bal 1 Jan 2012 £	Receipts	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal 31 Dec 2012 £
Audio Visual	1,841.77	600.00	149.00		2,292.77
Building maintenance	1,317.46				1,317.46
Churchyard maintenance		120.00	60.00		60.00
John Milner Organ Fund	601.22				601.22
Wedding Fees in Advance	363.00	(313.00)			50.00
Bees Abroad	-	106.30	106.30		-
Children ex Infant Welfare Trust	8,668.88		99.21		8,569.67
Flower Fund	66.45	48.26			114.71
Granny Wagon	275.29	0.75			276.04
He ⁺ Brews	1,424.11				1,424.11
International	307.61	533.90	500.00		341.51
J. John booklets	15.00	15.00			30.00
Leamington Christian Mission	53.13	5.00	58.13		-
"Messy Church"	1,139.47	58.86	597.59		600.74
Re-location Church Office	-	222.50	222.50		-
Youth	102.73				102.73
	16,176.12	1,397.57	1,792.73		15,780.96

Liabilities - Agency collections

Children's Society boxes	£
	1,304.09
	<u>1,304.09</u>

Liquid funds as at 31 December 2012

Bank	£
	20,409.28
Petty Cash	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>20,409.28</u>

Less Restricted Funds held on behalf of others as per above 15,780.96

Less Liabilities - Agency collections 1,304.09

St James Funds at 31 December 2012 see Receipts & Payments Account 3,324.23

NOTES RELATING TO 2012 ACCOUNTS

Breakdown of totals Receipts and Payments Account

Income

- 1a All tax reclaimable giving from standing orders paid into bank account, weekly numbered envelopes and yellow envelopes.
- 1b Tax reclaimed from above (unrestricted) and from Special Appeals (restricted) up to 30 September 2012.
- 1c Planned giving that does not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2012 - Notes Continued

- 1d Unrestricted includes proceeds from Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre, one off donations, income received for incidental charges at weddings and funerals, Book of Remembrance. Restricted includes Bees Abroad, Leamington Christian Mission, International, and "Messy Church".
- 1e Southam Town Council now include the churchyard in their grass cutting contract and pay for emptying the skip rather than giving St James a grant towards maintenance; the PCC are extremely grateful to the Town Council.
- 1f Insurance claim following attempted theft of lead from north aisle roof in 2011 - there was a subsequent claim caused by drainage problems.
- 2a Clergy fees from Weddings, Funerals, monuments etc.
- 2b Fees from Weddings and Funerals to Clerk, Verger, Organist and Bellringers
- 2c Wedding Fees in Advance income rolls over from one financial year to another and the Restricted £313.00cr is the additional sum used from income received in 2011.

Expenditure

- 3a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese, this was £250 less than we had hoped to pay. The Deanery had requested that our contribution be £40141.
- 4a Clergy expenses and cost of Rector's telephone since the Church Office has moved out of The Rectory.
- 4b Candles, Communion Wine, etc.
- 4c Fees for Organist at services and Music Group expenses. 2011 costs included Music Licences for 2012.
- 5a Salary and Tax for Administrator. Administrator's hours reduced from 18 hours to 12 hours a week from August 2011. Office manned 8 hours a week by volunteers.
- 5b Rental, maintenance and ink for photocopier, stationery, computer repairs.
- 5c Bank charges, cost of stewardship campaign and fund raising expenses,
- 5d Rental of Church Office and associated utilities. Restricted expenditure was as a result of gift aid received in 2012 from some of the donations in 2011 towards the new office.
- 6a Gas and Electricity supplies and Water rates.
- 6b Insurance of buildings, contents and public liability.
- 6c Routine maintenance including gas boiler test, fire extinguishers, electrical work, drainage and roof repairs.
- 6d Replacement tree and tree survey.
- 7a Unrestricted includes donation to Southam Christmas Lights Association and cost of nativity scene for Library Grounds – this latter expenditure being reimbursed in new year by Southam Combined Churches. Restricted includes expenditure on new cd player, International, Bees Abroad and Leamington Christian Mission.
- 7b Unrestricted includes teaching material and prizes for Groups, and youth work. Restricted is expenditure by Jolly J's.
- 8a Clergy Fees from Weddings, Funerals, Monuments etc. assigned to Diocese (Restricted).
- 8b Lay Fees from Weddings and Funerals (Restricted)

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2012

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Southam

I report on the accounts of St James' Church, Southam for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees, that is, the members of St James, Southam PCC, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act 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.



Elizabeth McBride 1 Park Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa

Date: 10th February 2013

Gift Aid Report

A big thank you to everyone who contributes to St James in such a way that we can claim gift aid of 25p from HM Revenue and Customs for every £1 donated.

At the beginning of 2012 a total of 28 people paid by standing order straight into the church bank account and by the end of December this had increased to 31. This was a positive increase as, during the year, we lost a number of people paying by this method due to a change in circumstances, moving house or no longer worshipping with us. Giving by this method amounted to £17,156.92.

Ten people used blue envelopes at the beginning of 2012, following the Stewardship campaign three people changed to paying by standing order, and one additional person is now using the blue envelopes. During the year £3,954 was raised by this method.

88 people contributed to the church by yellow envelope during the year; of these eleven gave on a regular basis. Total giving by this method (including one off gift aid donations) amounted to £4,817.91.

During the year we did recover £9,620.94 from HM Revenue and Customs – this was for the period 6 April 2011 to 30 September 2012. Unless giving increases significantly it is anticipated that the figure for next year will be lower as there will only be the opportunity to claim for a 12 month period.

If you are a taxpayer and putting cash in the collection do remember to use a yellow envelope– it does increase our income by 25p in every £1.

Please do have a word with me if you would like more information on paying by standing order or having a supply of blue envelopes.

Ruth Tresidder - Gift Aid Secretary ☎ 813524

Fabric Committee Report

The last year has been a relatively quiet one for the Fabric Committee; we have not undertaken any major projects and have kept expenditure to an absolute minimum.

There are nonetheless a number of statutory and regulatory items to attend to each year as well as general maintenance. These items include (but are not limited to) the servicing and inspection of the heating, fire fighting equipment, the lightning conductor, electrical portable appliances and inspection of large trees in the churchyard. In addition, on a number of occasions, we have suffered from ingress of water into the church during heavy weather and we have taken steps to minimise this.

We are very fortunate in Southam to have a church which is valuable both historically and architecturally; the church will feature in the historical events planned for later in 2013 and is a Grade 1 listed building.

It is our responsibility, as a Church, to maintain the building and keep it in good repair so that it can fulfil its role of putting the Church at the heart of the community and to develop its full potential as a servant of the whole community as well as a place for the worship of God.

Looking forward to 2013 we anticipate being a bit busier. A number of larger items need to be attended to. The temporary repairs to the roof following the attempted theft of lead in 2011 won't last forever and we will need to take steps to protect the roof from future criminal activity. The tree inspection has also highlighted that some action is required to make the churchyard safe. The high level lighting in church is also approaching the end of its life so we are starting to investigate replacements. Other projects are in the pipeline and the usual maintenance will continue.

Committee members are: Chairman - Terence Hill, Secretary – David Baxter, John Tresidder, Ralph Trollope, Mary Williams, David Hwer and John Gwillam. Ex officio members are: Rev John Armstrong, Hilary Crosby and Pat Adams.

David Baxter – Fabric Committee Secretary

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Southam Parish Council Annual Parochial Church Meeting 17 March 2013

Report from the Electoral Roll Officer

51 members left

6 members died

14 members added to the roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 85 members

Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met four times during 2012. Here follows a summary of the matters discussed and planned:

Guest speakers addressed synod (and non-synod members were also warmly welcomed). The Rev. Simon Willetts addressed Synod on "Developing Inspiring Worship; enabling people to connect with God whatever the style!"

The Rev. Martin Kirkbride spoke on "Making new Disciples: The New Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship" This new course reflects the three diocesan aims of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities, each of which would consist of 10 weekly meetings and would be linked to Bible study. The course would last for one year (3 terms), but it would also be possible to complete one term per year. Individuals and groups may apply; where churches and deaneries apply, tutors will be provided. Subsequently it was hoped that a course would be established in the Deanery, yet for a variety of reasons efforts have come to nothing so far.

Capt. Jim Currin, CA spoke on "Making new Disciples: Making use of the contacts you already have." introducing discipleship as 'Sharing Faith the Jesus Way', speaking of the very wide range of people with whom we come into contact frequently in a variety of contexts. A genuine and evident care and making an initial contact on a point of mutual interest are of prime importance. Thereafter it is important to be ready to listen, to respect any points of view put forward, and be ready to answer any questions. Above all it is important to pray for opportunities and for the inspiration to use them in order to establish a relationship with God.

The fourth presentation during the year was made by Captains Roger Horsley Paul Warren CA on "Making New Disciples: The Principles of one-to-one Evangelism." The basis of one-to-one evangelism is the ability to be able to explain and share one's own faith. We need to know firstly our own faith and secondly the people we're talking to. One-to-one evangelism usually takes place with people we know at least a little already. People we communicate with are usually interested in our personal experiences so it is important that we know how to convey our own faith experience. Secondly, it is helpful to have a shared interest with the other person; they need to know we're interested in them, care for them, for their own sake rather than seeing them as potential 'conquests'. We should never be 'pushy' in our approach, but rather leave them wanting more. Thirdly, it is always important to pray, personally and corporately. There would be a need for a follow-up presentation on how to nurture new disciples. It was noted that part of the process is not to invite new Christians immediately into church services, but to meet them 'where they are' – in a situation which is comfortable and comprehensible for them.

Dr Claire Strachan, Church Buildings Development Officer for the DAC also made a presentation to Synod.

The **Deanery Mission Support Team** has advanced its plans for Deanery Mission by engaging with Through Faith Missions. Their team, led by Capt. Roger Murphy, would support our Mission Team before, during and after the

mission, which will take place in September 2014. Pray for God's direction and blessing as we all work together for God's kingdom.

Stewardship and Finance. New arrangements have been made for calculating the Parish/Deanery Share, based on the number of clergy. We are currently being generously subsidised by other deaneries in the diocese and our estimated shortfall in 2012 is £63,000. In future, to merit such continued support from and in order to maintain our current number of clergy, we would need to demonstrate that we are making every effort to improve our level of payment to the Diocese. Average weekly giving in the Deanery is £11 per week with donations ranging between £7 and £13. All parishes were encouraged to aim to achieve a similar number and value of Standing Orders from as many parishioners as possible. Annual fund raising events among parishes of the Deanery in 2010 ranged from £8,700 to £344. A third means of contributing to the Share would be by reducing costs – e.g. electricity, gas.

Following a meeting of the Support Fund Group, Southam Deanery was offered the cost of one clergy person in 2013 – as opposed to 1.2 in 2012. Consequently an additional £10,000 would need to be found between the 18 parishes in 2013, with the aim to provide financially for all our clergy in the near future, with the intention to reduce the subsidy gradually – to 0% by 2015.

Deanery Share for 2013 is £235,647. Imminent retirements among the clergy will necessitate prayerful discussions about clergy staffing.

Regular reports of the proceedings of **Diocesan and General Synod** were also given at meetings. Notably the Rev. Ruth Walker spoke of General Synod's voting on consecration of women as bishops. Nearer home Bryan Pratt and Margo Grant attended their first session of a Diocesan Synod on 10th November when the Ven. Morris Rodham gave a presentation on the development of the Eight Qualities for a healthy growing church.

Other events reported included:

- Bishop Christopher's Diocesan Pilgrimage and his walk through the deanery on 23rd March,
- Bishop John's visit to the 6th Form at Southam College, where he responded to topical questions from 30+ students, and
- the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury in May marked the 50th anniversary of Coventry Cathedral and ended on 27th May with the "Spirit of the Countryside" service at Stoneleigh. About 1500 people attended - Southam Deanery was well represented both in involvement and attendance.

Many thanks to Margo Grant and Bryan and Janet Pratt for their commitment as representatives of St. James Church at Deanery Synod and to Jill Parker our representative on the Deanery Mission Support Team.

John Armstrong

Leading, Service Support & Worship

Audio Visual

The Parochial Church Council has decided to purchase a new CD player and projector to replace the current ones. The CD player has been installed and the new projector will be ordered soon.

Although no church money was spent on repairs and maintenance of the sound and vision systems, repairs were carried out by myself to make more equipment available for church use.

Isaac has become proficient in setting up and running the sound during services over this last year.

Rade and Isaac Ognjanovic

Music Group

Many thanks to our talented, reliable and committed musicians who turn up at 9.00 am every Sunday come rain, come shine to practise before our 10.00 am service.

We try to keep the music fresh with familiar and new worship songs, thus expanding our abilities and repertoire.

Throughout the year we have provided music for several special services.

Our age profile goes from 16 to ... well over 60 (though Abi was nine when she began). If you have a musical talent and are willing to make yourself available on a regular basis do please let me know!

Vicki Armstrong – Co-Ordinator

Tower Report

During the last year the Ringers have rung regularly for most of the services that are held throughout the year. And have maintained regular practice sessions.

We rang for seven Weddings and hosted just one band of visiting ringers this year. One full peal was rung to welcome the annual Mop to the town again this year. And two quarter peals were rung, One to celebrate the Queens Jubilee, And one with the bells Half muffled for remembrance day.

Our annual outing with our ringing friends from Banwell in Somerset was arranged by Terence this year, Starting at Royal Wootton Bassett and then on to Calne, Avebury, Mildenhall and Ramsbury finishing with a meal at the Blue Boar at Aldbourne.

The Christmas meal was as usual organized by Iain and Loraine and held at the Bowling Green. This was attended by about twenty five people including several of our ringing friends from other Towers in the area.

We are still looking to recruit new members into our team. To be able to learn the art of Church Bellringing is very rewarding and very good exercise for the body and mind. If anyone is interested in learning to ring please do come along on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.00pm or speak to someone in the Belfry on a Sunday. Ideally any candidate should be at least 14 years of age.

Terence Hill

Children and Youth Work

Pre-School and Children's Groups

During the last year we have changed the format of our 10.00 am services. On the first three Sundays of each month the children have their own group time taking part in a range of fun, bible-based activities whilst the adults have their own teaching. On the fourth Sunday there is an all-age service where everyone is involved from the youngest to the oldest and on the fifth Sunday the children also stay in church for the 'Take Five' service.

We are always looking to increase the team so if you think you would like to get involved with our children's work please have a word with John Armstrong or John Hedge.

Our thanks go to our pre-school and children's group leaders: John Hedge, Becky Abbott, Pat Adams and Abi Ognjanovic.

'More' Youth Group

'More' continues to meet on a fortnightly basis during term-time. We always mix fun with serious stuff. Several new members have come in the last twelve months and we are always happy to welcome more.

We have recently begun to look at biblical leadership, e.g. Abraham, Moses as well as Jesus, Peter, etc. of course!

Our evenings end with "food time" when we sample the various offerings everyone brings – pancakes and popcorn being all-time favourites.

Our aim is to encourage living faith in all who come. Our group has a wide range of Christian experience and maturity – i.e. some who have been brought up in the church and some who have no church background at all. Do please pray for the group and for us as we seek to lead and encourage.

John (and Vicki) Armstrong - Leaders

Granny Wagon

We're delighted to report that the Friday night Hot Chocolate team (aka the Granny Waggon) is still turning up on a weekly basis and now heading towards our eighth anniversary! We have remained at the Park Lane recreation ground, our original venue, for the past year, in the area between the church yard and what was the toddlers' play area. The advantage is that we're close to the road, the street light and somewhere to hang our own lantern.

Despite a lack of customers during the Christmas season, attendance has climbed again over the past few weeks to around twenty. The refreshments are always received politely and often with some surprise, from newcomers. It is

noticeable that the polystyrene cups are more often than not deposited in the bin!

We're very fortunate in having several committed teams, and generally our turns come round about once a month, with a system of passing on the equipment to the next team.

Our thanks to Gerry Barrett, Elaine Barnden, Hilary Crosbie, Annie & Roger Lane, Gary White and Glynne Clarke from the Community Church.

Many thanks to all of you who support Granny Waggon with edible contributions, prayers and turns on the rota.

Chris Cooke and Jan Ford

Messy Church

Messy Church continued until July 2012 but then, after much prayer and soul-searching we came to the conclusion that we needed to have a break from the regular sessions.

We were not entirely sure if we were fulfilling the original vision to bring "church" to the "unchurched" as most, if not all, of our regular attendees already had church affiliation and would therefore still have Christian input in the future.

Pat and Vicki were the only two left on the planning team and no-one else wanted the responsibility involved; it had become apparent that many of us who "made it happen" were overstretched in our commitments and did not feel called to continue.

In September we prayerfully made the decision to put Messy Church on hold and will wait and see what the future holds, having "planted the seed in the ground" (John 12:24).

We may well try to put on some Messy Church holiday specials as these were always the best attended, but, as ever, it would depend on having enough people to plan and staff them.

Many thanks to all who so faithfully served on the Messy Church team, especially to Jo for all her hard work, time and drive in making it work in the first place.

Pat Adams and Vicki Armstrong

Jolly J's

Sadly Jolly J's is not currently running as there are no leaders able to take on the responsibility of running the group. The last session was on 12th November 2012. I would like to thank Laura Seago and latterly Denise Cooper for helping run Jolly J's so successfully since May 2011. I would also like to thank all of our other regular helpers for their ongoing support.

In the final few weeks of Jolly J's numbers ranged between 3 adults and 5 children and 10 adults and 14 children. During the year new toys have been purchased with money from the restricted fund for under 5s and also from Jolly J's funds. £100 was donated to church in May to contribute towards heating and lighting costs. In December Jolly J's had a Christmas tree in the Southam Christmas tree festival, the theme being 60 Jolly J's (60 things beginning with J). The tree was purchased with Jolly J's funds. The decorations were coloured in by the younger members of the church.

We hope that Jolly J's will start up again, perhaps in a different format, e.g. monthly family coffee mornings in church to coincide with the farmers' market.

Members of Jolly J's who are also involved with Southam NCT (National Childbirth Trust) have indicated that they would like to start up the group again. This is being discussed at present.

Jenny Baxter

Homegroups

The Monday Evening Homegroup

This group meets term times only, but gets interrupted by Bank Holidays and Streams in the Desert ladies nights.

All of our meetings contain some aspect of **W**elcome, **W**orship, **W**ord and **W**itness sometimes as the study book and sometimes as a quiet or reflective evening with group members bringing a prayer, psalm or worship song.

We have six in the group. We will welcome new comers to our group, if you would like a taster session please give us a call.

In this year we continued with the Spiritual Warfare by Jack Kuhatschek until we finished the study and now we have progressed to another Life Builder Study by Scripture Union called Angels by Douglas Connelly. These last two studies had some of the same readings, but looked at them in different ways.

When we finish this we hope to go for a meal. We did manage a dry and sunny BBQ night, many thanks to Gary and Annie, in our wet summer.

If we were without a venue to meet at, then we met and prayed at a pub with whoever was available.

Inez Prasch and Juliet Houghton

The Tuesday Evening Homegroup

We meet together every other Tuesday evening during term time. We enjoy being together, learning together, worshipping together, praying together and having fun together. Support and friendships spill over into everyday life and this is a huge blessing.

Over the year the group has varied in number, location and topic. We are fluid and flexible and since there are several parents with young children in the group this works well. Following the last Report for the APCM we have completed our study of 'The Ten Commandments' where we used a series of talks given by J John. We then studied Paul's letter to the Colossian Church and the Church at Philippi using a set of booklets to facilitate our study and exploration of the Bible. Ideally, we endeavour to do a little preparation before the evening, although this is never obligatory it is beneficial. No question is ever too easy or too silly and some good and helpful discussions develop. We have also had a few evenings when we have listened to teaching from the New Wine Summer Conferences either on DVD's or CD's.

We are now starting a series investigating 'Christianity, Cults and Religions' using a DVD and study books. We hope this will equip us to understand how these other Faiths differ from Christianity and therefore help us in our conversations with people.

If you don't, as yet, belong to a homegroup and would like to know more then please talk to Stephen or Pat or telephone them on 813753. We usually meet at 6, Sycamore Grove, but this is easily changed to accommodate the needs of the group. The official starting time is 7.30pm and the official end time is 9.30pm however the kettle will be ready for anyone arriving early or able to leave later.

Don't miss out by only ever wondering about being in a homegroup, there are several homegroups in the Church that you can 'try out' before you decide which one suits you best.

Stephen and Pat Adams

The Wednesday Evening Homegroup

We have continued to meet regularly on alternate weeks during the last year, mainly on a Wednesday evening making adjustments to a Tuesday to accommodate P.C.C. meetings as necessary. We continue to aim to discuss relevant issues as we study the Bible, pray and support one another.

This year we have had stimulating discussions stemming from a mixture of resources varying for example from an article in a Christian magazine 'What is church for' to a recent bible study series called 'Two Cities 'looking at the message of Isaiah.

The past year has also been a difficult time for many members of the group and the love and friendship that being part of such a group brings has been appreciated more than ever. There have been tears, laughter and joy as we have shared practical support underpinned by prayer for each other and the community around us.

John and Mary Home had another visit to Kenya and once again we were all involved in supporting and praying for them. Mike & Sandra Kitchen-Hurle and The Hewitt family have finally been able to move house and although we shall all miss them deeply we rejoice that God has provided new homes for them and that our loss will bring blessings to their new communities.

Our homegroup is a safe place where we find we're able to be ourselves and grow in our faith by sharing, talking, studying the Bible and praying together. We meet at Sheepfold, the home of Margo Grant on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 - 9.30.

Homegroups are relaxed and informal and we would encourage everyone to be part of a group. You are welcome to join us or try any or all of the groups at St James until you find the group that best suits you.

Jill Parker

The Thursday Afternoon Homegroup

We are a group of 12 older members of St James' who meet on the 1st and 3rd afternoons of the month in the home of one of the Group members. One of the group is no longer able to come to the meetings but other Group members visit her regularly.

We meet mainly for Bible Study and discussion and during the past year we have spent time looking at how the Old Testament is seen in the New Testament and how the Lord Jesus is seen in the Old Testament. That was followed by a series on the book of James that linked in with the Sermons in Church and we used the material available each week which provided some questions and discussion points.

After the Christmas break we have had the first of five sessions, part of a Lent course entitled 'Glimpses of God' which will take us up to Easter.

There is always room for more people and do please come and join us if you would like to. Phone me for more details on 01926 810454.

Jen Burgess

Pastoral

Corporate Prayer

For some time now a small group of ladies has been meeting at 9.0am on a Friday for an hour to pray for the Church.

During the past year 2 other Prayer Groups have come into being. On the last Thursday in the month we now have a Church Prayer meeting for an hour, held in the Church Office. All are welcome - particularly when the evenings get lighter!

The other one is a Men's Group that meets on the other Thursday evenings for 1 hour and again they would welcome others to join them.

In addition we did have a Prayer Focus in the Bulletin for some months last year. Were you aware of it? Did you use it? Would you like to see it return? If so let Margaret in the Office on 01926 812413 know and she will pass the message on.

Jen Burgess

Pastoral Group

History

This group came into existence late in the Sabbatical of John Armstrong in 2011 and comprised of Jen Burgess, Margo Grant, Ceri Hewitt and Bryan Pratt. Ceri had to withdraw due to a potential family move to Crewe.

Purpose

To clarify the means by which such work is structured and ordered for the benefit of the congregation and others in the community of Southam.

Initial findings

These were that the pastoral work within the church is currently very disparate with few obvious links between Resources Available and Needs to be met. These Needs seemed to be communicated by osmosis rather than by any structured approach. Therefore, there is no assurance of a continuity of care; planning seemed to be non-existent, needs being met by an "on the hoof approach."

These findings served to highlight the immensity of the issues facing the church if it was to make an impact on the community of Southam.

Initial action

A meeting was held in late 2011 with all Home Group leaders together with Jenny Baxter from "Jolly J's." This at least tackled/reinforced the responsibilities of each Home Group/Age Group to seek to pastor those under their care.

Following action (2012)

This has been far slower than would have been liked due to a number of factors:

- 1) The apparent lack of structure in this area, and was this so:

- 2) The need for proper, structured communication leading to action (who?):
- 3) The need for trust in confidentiality:
- 4) The need for boundaries in setting confidentiality and a knowledge of the person(s) in whom that ultimately, and under what circumstances, it rests.

Resources / Needs

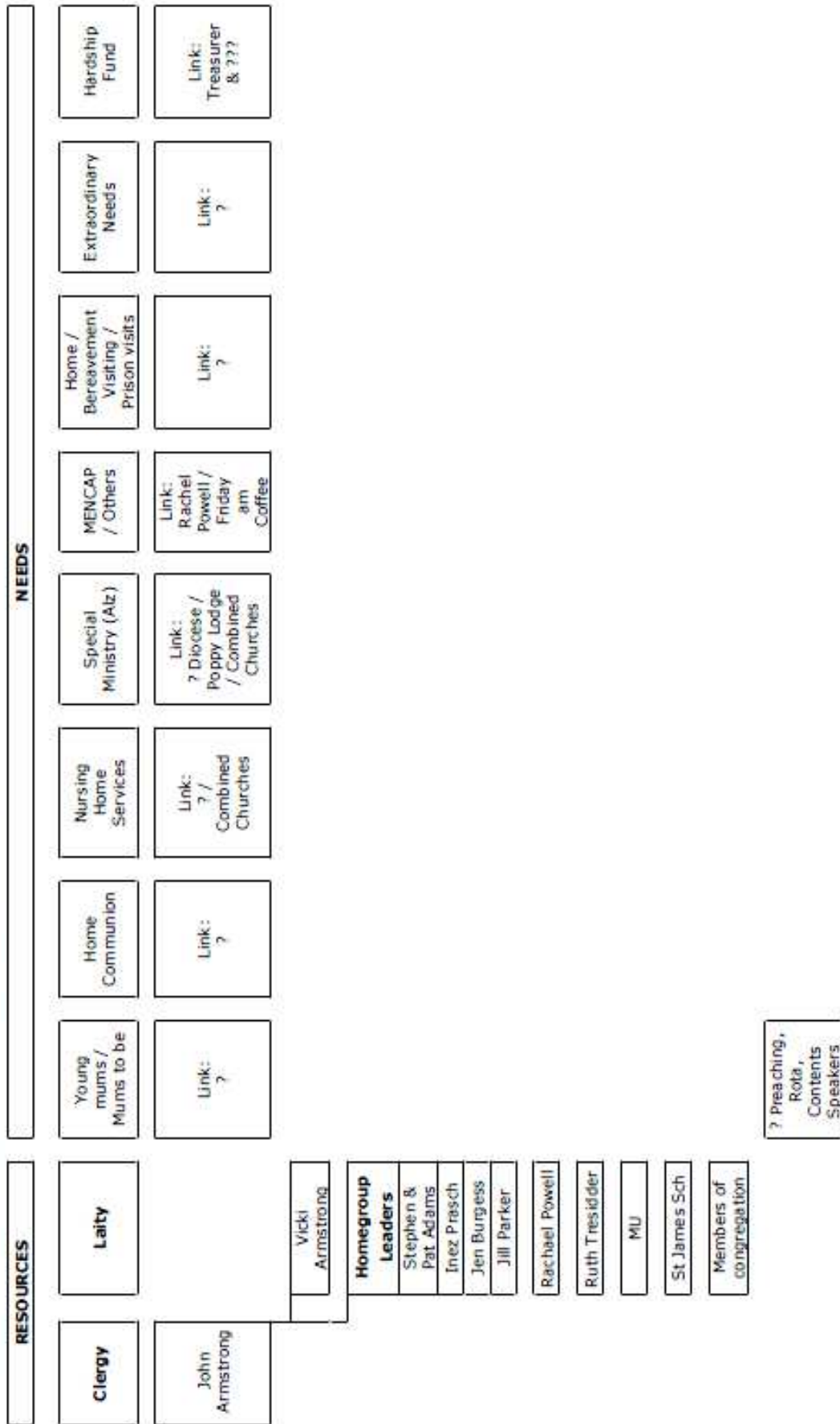
This situation has been graphically illustrated in the chart on the following page* due to the fact that resources in St James have been declining whereas the Needs have not.

Aim 2012 Onwards

- 1) To provide a base for the understanding of the current resources available to St James and the needs currently within the church and how one can be met by the other:
- 2) To provide a basis for some "joined up thinking" for the future:
- 3) To provide an ongoing discussion and action platform for the future:
- 4) To provide an understanding of the place of St James within the community of Southam as a whole and its links with the Community Church / Combined Churches / Southam First to benefit the community as a whole:
- 5) To communicate in a meaningful way to St James of its responsibilities to engender and empower more resources.

Jen Burgess, Margo Grant and Bryan Pratt

*Chart illustrating current Resources and Needs



Church Liaison

Combined Churches

The four Southam churches – Our Lady & St Wulstan RC Church, Wood Street Congregational Church, Southam Community Church and St James Parish Church – meet quarterly

Last year it was noted that the Combined Churches nativity scene was in need of rejuvenating: in fact, it has been replaced! A joint effort produced a more lightweight and streamlined nativity – the illuminated figures of Mary and Joseph with the crib – under a small sign 'Christmas Blessings from Southam Combined Churches'. Our thanks to Jill & Barry Parker, Mick Ford and Mike Hill for its production and to Val Steele of Southam Lights for storage. Funding was provided by the Combined Churches.

The Community Church has instigated a number of initiatives, notably the Gateway Coffee Shop, but more recently 'Like New' selling second-hand children's clothing. This runs only on Thursdays, but is proving popular. Donations of clothing are welcome, and *all* profits are passed to the World Christian Missions.

The Catholic Church kindly hosted the Lent course last year, which again was well attended by around 20-25 people on each of the four weeks. The Christian fellowship is a real blessing.

Roy Buchanan, from the Congregational Church, shared with the group information on services for dementia patients, which is currently being pursued by a small group.

For the past few years, together with the other Southam churches, some of our congregation have been involved in regular church services at Galanos House and more recently, Newstead Lodge. For various reasons, during the past year the system has been rather erratic, but with a lot of prayer and good will, it looks as if 2013 might be more organised and productive! For more information on this outreach, *please turn to that section of the Report.*

Once again, the **Good Friday Walk of Witness** was a reminder to the town of the significance of Easter, and a number of passers-by joined the short service in the library grounds.

The committee is always keen to receive suggestions for further combined events and will be pleased to hear from you!

Jan Ford

St James CE Primary School, Southam

It is with great pleasure that we can report that our Church School was inspected, with two days' notice on 14–15 June 2012 and, as we had hoped, the inspectors found much to commend. Here are their key findings:

- This is a good school which has improved strongly since its previous inspection.
- Achievement is good. Attainment is above average, including in reading. Achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage is good and is improving in Key Stage 1. Rates of progress in Key Stage 2 are well above average. Pupils show great enjoyment in lessons, are keen to contribute their ideas and to do their best. They are developing well as independent learners.
- Teaching is good. Teachers plan well to meet pupils' individual needs.
- Behaviour and safety are good. Pupils' behaviour is often exemplary; they are considerate and respectful. Pupils say that they feel safe and understand how to keep themselves safe. There is very little bullying and pupils are confident that adults will support them if they cannot resolve a situation themselves. Pupils show a mature understanding of the very small minority of pupils with behavioural difficulties, for whom the school provides outstanding support.
- Leadership and management are good. Leaders provide good support to enable teachers to improve their practice. The curriculum is good, providing relevant and memorable experiences that support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education well.

Governors, who include a number of representatives of St. James Parish Church, were delighted when Inspectors designated the school as "Good" – a well-deserved promotion from "Satisfactory".

Vacancies on the governing body arise from time to time and so we are always looking for "foundation" governors – whether parents of children at the school or not – who would be willing to join the enthusiastic team who have some expertise – or at least a willingness to learn - but most of all, people with a heart for the children and a desire that they should have the best. I should like to thank all those who are, or have been, governors; their commitment, stamina and care is exemplary! Amongst those who have served with me as Foundation Governors during 2012 have been Vicki Armstrong, Dave Howell, Liz Bowen, David Baxter and Jenny Thorne.

Because our school is a Church school, it is bound to "preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level". As a Christian school it aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Especially as there is remarkable pressure about nowadays to sideline the Christian faith, please do pray for us – and indeed why not come along and visit the school or ask if there is anything you can do to contribute to its life?

John Armstrong

Mission and Outreach

Bees Abroad in Keyna

The following is a brief summary of the activities and observations we made during the time we spent in Kenya during November 2011 for Bees Abroad.

The first and the last few days we took the opportunity to visit the deputy minister responsible for beekeeping who is always interested in the work of Bees Abroad and we were able to discuss the role of the Agriculture extension officers who are responsible for giving help and advice to farmers about beekeeping. Sadly they have little knowledge themselves.

We also went to the National Beekeeping Station in Nairobi and met with the staff and heard how they were working more in the field than in the classrooms on set courses. This is a great step forward. We were able too, to suggest that instead of just having a certificate of attendance on courses that they actually had attained a level of knowledge that they were able to put to practise. We gave them the example of a schedule that had been developed for tropical beekeeping by Pam Gregory for Bees Abroad. We have since heard that they are working on this as a team.

When we returned to Nairobi at the end of the visits to the project groups Grace Asiko Deputy Director at the Beekeeping Station had arranged appointments for us to see Julius Kiptarus, who is the Director of Livestock Production, and also the Deputy Secretary, M. Nyandong, in the Ministry of Livestock Development. Both were very interested in the work we were doing especially for the income generation with the rural semi-arid areas of Kenya. Julius Kiptarus wrote copious notes and asked Grace to make protective clothing for the groups and that he would like to visit some of them in the Kerio Valley.

When we visited our seven groups we demonstrated how to make soap using beeswax and honey as part of the recipe and then gave each group all the necessary equipment as a dedicated for soap making enterprise. They may well need to have some practise runs before getting it right but it will add perfectly to their products range for selling at the market. We then went on to discuss the differing challenges they had and as well as making suggestions and helped them to work out some solutions for themselves. We talked about them all becoming less donor dependent now that they were beginning to grow small businesses especially with the added value products. It is difficult to know how much they took on board but we continued to stress the need to have a bank account and keep good records.

We recommended Equity Bank because they do training and have the resources to help with micro credit which may be easier to obtain than trying to raise funds in this country. Equity Bank has also been at the forefront in promoting the growth of micro businesses to small medium enterprises and the China Development Bank extended Equity Bank a long term loan of USD 50m. The Kenya government has in this year's budget created an SME/MSE fund that will focus on this sector and Equity Bank supports farmers by targeting them with products that help them commercialise agriculture.

As we have done in previous years we would like to thank everyone at St. James, Southam and St. Michael and All Angels, Ufton for your support, not only with financial gifts but also for the ongoing prayer support we have received during this past year. Your generous and loving support continues to be a real encouragement and affirmation of the work we have been able to do with health, strength and many, many blessings.

John and Mary Home

Farmers' Market Prayer Stall

We have now been running the Prayer Stall during the monthly Farmers' Market for 4½ years. We always come away from the market feeling encouraged and moved by the grace of God. It has been our privilege and joy to continue to pray for many people – often with no church connections whatever – and appreciate the openness of people generally to the idea of receiving prayer.

We of course continue to get to know the stallholders, many of whom now ask for prayer and allow us to help out on their stalls when needed.

If you would like to come and help on the 2nd Saturday of each month, please let John, Vicki, Pat or Stephen know. We would be delighted to encourage and train you in their ministry on the streets.

Many thanks to Pat, Stephen, Jen, Noreen and Iris for sharing in this ministry.

We ask: Stressed? Worried? Lost? Bereaved? Lonely? Sick? Afraid? May we pray for you?

We are also asking: Will you come and join in?

John (and Vicki) Armstrong

Fundraising – including Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre

In 2012 we revived the Summer Fete and this raised £504.82. On the first Saturday in December our Christmas Fayre was held over lunchtime to coincide with one of the Christmas markets organised by Southam First on Market Hill, this event was very successful and raised £1,357.80.

Other fund raising activities held during the year included the Nifty Fingers stall at the Jubilee event, raising £35.00 for church funds, and £263.03 from serving refreshments whilst the church was open on two separate occasions when Southam First held other events in the town.

A big thank-you to everyone who supported us on these occasions; it is hoped to include similar fund raising activities during 2013. It is good to encourage more people, particularly those from outside the town to come and visit our church and help contribute to the ongoing costs of the building.

Dates for your diary in 2013: Saturday 15 June - Summer Fete

Saturday 7 December – Christmas Fayre.

Actual opening times to be agreed nearer the date. Watch out for posters around the town and regular updates in the church bulletin once information is available.

Please contact Ruth Tresidder ☎ 813524 if you would like to help raise more funds for our church.

Ruth Tresidder

International

Every Friday at 10.30 the church is open for coffee and cake followed by mid-day cross of nail prayers at 12.00. during this hour and a half we have many people dropping in for a chat and a laugh, sometimes we have visitors looking around the church or those who require a little peace and a prayer, it is so good that the church is open and that a willing team keep these mornings going.

We not only supply a service to the community but raise money for overseas projects that need our support, last year we raised a thousand pounds, we donated to Mary and John Homes work in Kenya for Bees abroad we gave to Ministry Aviation Fellowship that fly people around in remote areas, we are sending a donation to help with a transport problem in the diocesan link of Kaduna and we also give to the Mothers Union Relief fund.

In all we have had a very good year and thanks to all who help and support us, please drop in for coffee on a Friday!

Chris Cooke

Men's Breakfast

The Village Hall in Ufton continues to provide a warm and welcoming venue which - coupled with Roger Lane's excellent "Full English" – means that numbers have continued to grow.

We try to make the topics as varied and interesting as possible and in 2012 we heard speakers from CORD and Leamington Christian Mission; Revd Ann Hibbert gave us a fascinating insight into the work of The Well Christian Healing Centre and we were given a real flavour of the courts when ex-barrister Revd Mark Bratton spoke on the controversial topic of "Assisted suicide".

Closer to home Bill Davies from Harbury produced gales of laughter with "A pinch of salt" a tale of his life in the navy, whilst Philip Clarke's talk of his experiences in Nicaragua was very moving; later in the year newly ordained Revd Clive Hicks from Budbrooke came and told us about their challenge of developing a new church on Warwick's Chase Meadow estate.

Jerry Marshall (Mr HS2 to some of you) talked about his Christian journey under the title of "Entrepreneurial Leadership" and the wheel came full circle when

Stephen Clarke - our very first speaker in 2000 - returned to describe his life in a similar vein and also to tell us about his impending move to France in February 2013.

Thanks to Roger's careful control of costs we have been able to maintain our price of a "fiver" and still continue to support our speakers' chosen charities; this year we donated £225 to seven worthy causes as well as £165 towards the upkeep of St Michael and All Angels in Ufton.

Tony Brown and John Cherry have been invaluable in helping to set-up, lay tables and prepare the toast, orange juice, tea and coffee. We meet at 8.30am, usually on the last Saturday in each month and aim to get everyone away by 9.45am, bar the "washer-uppers" - we can always do with more of those!

Already the 2013 programme is well advanced; in February Sharon Hedges will talk about the work Teams4U does in Eastern Europe and March will see us hosting our Area Dean, Revd Craig Grocock. The bad snow meant January's event had to be cancelled so in April we now shall have the opportunity to hear Richard Lyttle, a former Assistant Chief Constable and recipient of the Queen's Police Medal talk about both his career in the Police and his more recent role as Project manager of Leamington's new Justice Centre.

If you haven't availed yourself of the opportunity to enjoy good company, an interesting speaker, a "Full English" and all for just £5 then why not get in touch with me on 01926 612986 or ian@account-able.co.uk?

Ian Crowther

Men's Curry Club

The group continues to flourish and be a great opportunity for male members of the congregation, those who are new to the church and other friends from our local community to get to know one another.

We meet on every 3rd Thursday in the month (having moved during the year from the 2nd) at 8pm at 'The Balti Hut'. Although numbers vary we average around eight attendees and whilst we tend to sit in the same corner of the restaurant Icky and Bob at the Balti are more than happy to create more space for us should it be needed.

All men are very welcome to join us for an evening of lively conversation, laughter, good company, fellowship and a great curry.

If you would like further information please contact Nick Powell on 815965.

Mothers' Union

The first meeting of 2012 for the Mothers Union took the form of lunch at the White Hart at Ufton. Members enjoyed each other's company over a pleasant meal at a very competitive price for the lunch. Annie Lane collected the annual subscriptions which had unfortunately risen but still gave value for money.

Mary Holmes talked to us about her work with Bees Abroad in February. She brought many samples of salves and creams for us to try and gave us an insight of the training and teaching she and John did. We saw many photographs of the activities they undertook. Alex Clarke was the guest speaker for the March meeting. Her main theme was 'waiting for God and letting God work with us'. She spoke of the period of Lent and what it all meant to us as Mothers Union members. In April members took part in a discussion on marriage. They examined various aspects of marriage and their feelings.

A guided tour of Kings Hill Nurseries was enjoyed in May. We were treated to three speakers at the June meeting. Mary Holmes gave an update of Bees Abroad, Gill Guildford spoke of the work she does in Mothers' Union arranging trips and holidays for those needing financial help. Chris Cooke concluded the talks with a 'snapshot' of the prisoner she visits at Rye Hill Prison. Members then chatted together about the forthcoming Jubilee and celebrations anticipated.

In July members enjoyed a cream tea at Sky Lark Farm, Staverton. An extra meeting was arranged in August to celebrate the Mary Sumner Day. The Annual General Meeting scheduled for September was postponed as members were so enthralled by the talk Rose Evans gave as a volunteer at the Olympic Games that time just ran out. Rose gave an insight into her experiences that was supplemented by a grand display of photographs and memorabilia. However, the Annual General Meeting now held in October elected the officers and committee thus complying with the rules. Afterwards Betty Phillips gave a short address on her trip around the British Isles. We had a change of venue to the Parish Office in November where Jill Parker ably demonstrated the wrapping of presents and other decorations. Now we know what Nifty Fingers do with all their cardboard tubes! The carol service took place in December bringing the years activities to a close.

In addition to these events members took part in the women's World Day of Prayer, the Christmas Fayre and Christmas Tree Festival. We also hosted a Lenten lunch. Members attended the national meeting in Somerset as well as Diocesan meetings. The news of Justin Welby was warmly welcomed by the Branch with members anticipating his installation as Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013. Work with Prison visiting and Angel Tree continued within the Branch, as did support with projects at Diocesan and National level.

Sadly news of the deaths of Olwyne Thorne and Lily Reed was received. Olwyne had been a member for over 60 years and latterly became an indoor member. Lily was also a long standing member. Both were aged 97 years and were much valued and loved by the Branch. It was also with sadness that we learnt of the death of Bob Jones, husband of loyal member Muriel. Difficult times for all concerned, love and prayers to them all.

On a happier note we were delighted that Chris Cooke, our newly re-elected leader and action and outreach coordinator for six years, has been elected to the Action and Outreach Committee at Mary Sumner House. Congratulations Chris.

Averil Brown - Mothers' Union Secretary



Creativity + Refreshments + Fellowship + Fund Raising = Nifty Fingers

We had a great inaugural year making new friends, sharing ideas and learning new skills whilst raising funds for both St James Church and the charity Bees Abroad. The Southam First Celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee gave us our first opportunity to sell items. We also had stalls at the St James Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre.

The response to our appeals for donations of fabric, yarn, buttons and general crafting materials has been wonderful but we are always happy to accept more. Donations of finished articles created at home have also generously been given.

In 2013 we plan to continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Church Office and the invitation is open to all to join us or just pop in for a chat or a cup of tea or coffee.

If you would like to craft at home please don't hesitate to contact either of us for materials, patterns and ideas.

Mary Home and Jill Parker

Services at Residential Homes in Southam

For the past few years, together with the other Southam churches, some of our congregation have been involved in regular church services at Galanos House and more recently, Newstead Lodge. Generally, one church group has visited Galanos on the first Sunday afternoon each month and Newstead on the third Sunday. The services last not more than half an hour, and each of the four churches use their own style of worship.

For various reasons, during the past year the system has been rather erratic, but with a lot of prayer and good will, it looks as if 2013 might be more organised and productive!

We have also been asked to help run a service at Poppy Lodge the dementia unit at Galanos House, and we are pursuing the possibility.

Should you have an interest in either of these very rewarding areas, it would be good to hear from you.

Jan Ford