



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL  
CHURCH MEETING  
23 March 2014**

**AGENDA  
AND  
REPORTS  
2013**

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## **AGENDAS 23 March 2014**

### **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 two members for the Deanery Synod
  - 6.3 Election of nine members for the PCC
  - 6.4 Appointment of sidespersons
  - 6.5 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 22 March 2015
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 is accountable to the PCC.*

**ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM**

**MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING &**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**17 March 2013**

**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 25 March 2012**

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 34**

**1. Welcome and prayer**

The Rev. John Armstrong opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Abi Ognjanović, John Home and Derrick Evans.

**3. Minutes of APCM Meeting held on 25 March 2012**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record (proposed by Vicki Armstrong and seconded by Jan Ford) and signed by the chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Reports**

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

**a) Jolly J's**

David Baxter advised that Jolly J's had restarted and was again meeting each Monday morning.

**b) Deanery Mission 2014 and Finance Update**

Jill Parker drew attention to the Deanery wide mission that was mentioned in John Armstrong's report and said that whilst it was not due to take place until 2014 as a church we should be praying and planning now for this exciting opportunity of outreach. John Armstrong added that the Mission was to be led and supported by Roger Murphy from Faith Through Mission who would be visiting St. James in the coming months, and would be an opportunity for everyone, as one church, to be totally devoted to our saviour by getting involved in praying for the mission and being part of the various events being planned.

John Armstrong also pointed out that the church had an obligation to pay its way, which we were not currently doing and that by not paying the Parish Share we were not meeting his salary. John added that as a church we were not putting enough money into the collection; that the additional money could well be in the pockets of the congregation and that we could not rely on nor wait for the 2014 mission to raise additional revenue.

Bryan Pratt pointed out that the overall expenditure of St James, including the deanery share but prior to mission expenditure, was estimated to be £52k (2012 £56,593). This equated to necessary income of £1,000 per week, which in turn equalled, approximately, £25 per giver per week given the current attendance. Bryan felt that there should be an understanding of the whole picture by the church. John countered this by quoting that Archdeacon Morris had said that "he did not want to hear of any church not engaging in mission because of their deanery share liabilities".

John also made the point that if the church did not start to pay its way we could end up without a vicar but stated that we should not let our money problems take the edge away from God's great commission.

Reviewing the accounts, Ruth Tresidder advised that whilst income was slightly ahead of where we were a year ago the church was facing unavoidable additional costs with regard to the boilers and trees. Although Ruth thought that some people might be able to give a little more and, possibly, gift aid, others were already giving sacrificially. For 2014 Ruth advised that the church should be paying in excess of £41,000 in Parish Share but that due to support from other churches across the Deanery we were being asked to pay £30,000. This level of support could not be maintained and we needed attractive services in order to improve attendance if we were to make significant inroads into what we should be contributing. If we did not then we would end up sharing our vicar.

Jenny Thorne also agreed that money was hugely important but that we had to start with mission.

The reports were noted.

## **6. Elections and Appointments**

### **a) Election of PCC**

The meeting agreed that Stephen Adams, as Reader at St James, should automatically be appointed to serve on the PCC.

The meeting also noted that St James, under diocesan rules, was entitled to appoint up to nine lay members to the PCC based on an electoral roll of 85. Currently there existed eight vacancies with one member about to commence his third year of office. The meeting further noted that normally appointments lasted three years but that in order to move to a system in 2014 whereby one third of the lay members were elected each year it was recommended that all appointments be made this year for one year only. Six nominations duly proposed and seconded had been received and on the basis that no other nominations were forthcoming the following were duly elected to serve on the PCC for the forthcoming year: Jenny Baxter, Barry Parker, Jill Parker, Ruth Tresidder, Jenny Thorne and Ralph Trollope.

### **b) Appointment of Sidespersons**

The current rota of sidespersons was approved and re-elected en-bloc, being proposed by John Tresidder and seconded by Vicki Armstrong.

**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 Ruth Tresidder and seconded by Bryan Pratt.

**7. Any Other Business**

**a) Votes of Thanks**

- John Armstrong thanked Jen Burgess, who was standing down having completed three years on the PCC, and Brett Justice, who had stood from the PCC during the year, for their input to and support of the PCC,
- John Armstrong thanked John Tresidder for all the work he was undertaking on the fabric of the church building and its grounds, and
- Pat Adams gave a vote of thanks for John and Vicki Armstrong.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 23 March 2014.

**The meeting closed in prayer at 12.10pm.**

**Chairman .....**      **Date .....**

**REPORTS**

**Church Management**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended  
31 December 2013**

**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 2013 - 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 2013 APCM was as follows:

John Armstrong *	Incumbent
Pat Adams *	Warden and Vice Chairman
Hilary Crosby *	Warden
Stephen Adams	Reader
Margo Grant	Deanery Synod
Janet Pratt	Deanery Synod
Bryan Pratt	Deanery Synod
Barry Parker *	Elected - Secretary
Ruth Tresidder *	Elected - Treasurer
David Baxter *	Elected
Jenny Baxter	Elected
Jill Parker	Elected – Resigned 16 January 2014
Jenny Thorne	Elected
Ralph Trollope	Elected
	Total 14

\*Standing Committee members

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

There were 92 members on the 2014 Church Electoral Roll of whom nine are not resident within the parish (2013:85 with nine not resident within the parish).

The average Sunday attendance has continued to decline and is now 72 (2012:79), but, as in previous years, average 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 12 - 18. With regard to

2013, £23,100 was paid to the Diocese towards our Parish Share of £30,473. With the guidance and assistance of our treasurer, Ruth Tresidder, we maintained a very strict control over church expenditure and as a result we actually paid £3,100 more towards our Parish Share than we had originally estimated. The shortfall of £7,373 has been credited to us by the Deanery following the non-replacement of clergy posts for 2013. We cannot, however, rely on any shortfall being met in the future. For 2014 we have agreed to pay £25,000 which is still some £21,000 below the actual net cost of our local clergy. Unless there is an upturn in giving it is likely that clergy posts will continue to remain vacant and some form of boundary review across the deanery is inevitable.

All churches must be inspected every five years by a qualified architect or quantity surveyor and St James is due its quinquennial inspection early in 2014. The results of the inspection could put a further strain on our finances.

The full PCC met on ten occasions during 2013 with an attendance rate of 83% and included two extraordinary meetings held on 17 January 2013 and 9 October 2013 and an away half-day held on 2 February 2013.

The meeting in January was held to determine the manner in which invitations to the enthronement of Justin Welby at Canterbury Cathedral should be allocated. The meeting in October followed a presentation by Revd. Barry Jackson, from St. Peter's Church, Kineton, on the potential for setting up a local foodbank in Southam, which the PCC supported and plans are continuing.

The away half-day held in February was led by the Area Dean, the Revd. Capt. Craig Grocock and considered the Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches and how by applying the eight qualities the threefold Diocesan mission purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities could be fulfilled. At the meeting the PCC identified loving relationships and holistic small groups as our strongest qualities and inspiring worship and empowering leadership as our weakest. The PCC also agreed to set up three sub groups; Worship, Discipleship and Serving, with the remit to consider and make recommendations to PCC in the following areas of church life:

- (i) Worship: including worship, intercessions, music and resources with the aim of ensuring that all occasions for worship are inspiring, energising and sustaining for those who take part,
- (ii) Discipleship: including discipleship, pastoral care, groups, children/youth, 3<sup>rd</sup> Age, Alpha, courses and communication, and
- (iii) Serving: including Church and Community events, Outreach /Evangelism, Festivals, Schools involvement and 3<sup>rd</sup> Age.

The groups, with the potential for co-opted members, have met on a number of occasions reporting back to the PCC, reducing the number of full PCC meetings. The serving group, in particular, is totally focussed on HOPE14.

In November, acutely aware that additional help for our children's work at the 10am service was urgently required, the PCC agreed that the question of what the church could and should be doing with its current level of human resources be considered at a special meeting of the PCC on 16 January 2014. This arose

from ongoing concerns about falling numbers attending church, an ageing congregation, some members of the church 'trying to do too much' and a desire that whatever the church did should be done with excellence.

The Town Churchyard at St James has now run out of space for new burial plots although 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. A survey undertaken by Southam Town Council determined that Southam residents were not be prepared to pay for a new town burial ground and resolved that it was not prepared to become a burial authority.

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 and reports 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 particular vote of thanks goes to those volunteers who help cover the church office each Tuesday and Friday morning and when Margaret is on leave. A special vote of thanks also goes to Ruth Tresidder who organises the rota. More volunteers are always welcome so if you would like to help please have a word with Ruth Tresidder.

Copies of the PCC 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 Pat Adams (Vice Chair) has signed it on their behalf.

***Barry Parker - Church Secretary***

### **Rector's Report**

Re-reading my report from last year I asked myself "what are the 'matters arising'?" Still present are those challenges such as financial and human resources. Jesus still challenges us to follow him, to be his disciples, and to bear his light in the world. On the financial front, I am pleased that we are making progress, however gradually; at least we're moving in the right direction, and I thank everyone for the commitment they have made to furthering God's work; thanks especially to Ruth Tresidder for her faithfulness in ministry as Treasurer.

Human resources, as in all voluntary organisations, are scarce and very valuable. Church life provides many opportunities to serve: some are "secret service" where jobs are done by persons unknown to most of us – like hoovering the church carpets and printing church bulletins. Everyone's contribution makes a difference, so to **every** member of our fellowship: thank you. May God bless you richly. May God also add to our numbers. This won't happen if we tinker with the liturgy or sing the "right" songs, but it will if we relate well to each other, if we pray and seek the Lord in that unity for his guidance and power, and if we also seek him for opportunities to share him with those around us. During the past year we have got some things right and some things wrong. We try, but sometimes we are "trying". Where I have missed the mark, please forgive me, as I would you. If we want the church to grow, we are in good company: the Lord agrees, as do the other local churches, so that's a good start.

It's obvious, really, but we are not called to be subtle with our faith in Christ. Not subtle or "secret service" but "up-front". Elsewhere you can read about Hope14. I urge everyone who is part of our fellowship to join in with this time of outreach – not just the preparation – not just the eight days in September 2014 – but also in what happens next! We can (and must) all pray. There is something for absolutely everyone to be involved with and just as I am very excited about this, I hope you will be, too. Please listen to our mission team representatives' words as they keep us up to date with the plans (thank-you, Team), ask them questions and ask them what you can be doing! This deanery mission will include a number of activities but its main point is to provide us with a focus and an opportunity to share our faith with anyone with whom we are in contact as part of our everyday lives. Pray that many will respond to Jesus' call through us.

People have been known to worry that God might call them to be missionaries in some strange foreign land. The good news for us is that we can be missionaries without leaving the town. Everyone who is part of "the body of Christ" where we live can be a blessing to those around us. How old we are, how long we have believed in Jesus, what "sort" of Christian we think we are ..... none of this matters one jot. When our Lord said we should be "fishers of men" perhaps we could think of this as rescuing people from an unnecessary fate: not so much one of drowning, but, let's be blunt, of eternal death. That's neither subtle nor PC, but it's true. Let's get prepared to reach out with the word of life. It's what Jesus' followers **do**; remember it's not our ability that counts, but our availability to God.

Thanks finally 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**

As Churchwardens we have had another busy year. On Sunday March 17 2013 we were both re-elected to the post of Church Warden for another year and were formally accepted during the Archdeacon's Visitation. This year it was held at our Church, St. James', on May 22. We were instrumental in preparing the Church for this occasion, organising refreshments and with a couple of helpers, helping to serve. This Service was very well attended and the Church was packed.

In preparation for the Battle of Southam, a Children's Workshop was held in Church on the 31 May. As well as assisting, we re-vamped the Church Quiz for the younger children.

We have attended many different meetings throughout the year – PCC, Standing Committee, several PCC sub groups, Deanery Parish Share meetings and the talk and after meeting with Roger Murphy in preparation for Hope14.

Throughout 2013 we have managed to put in at least one appearance at each of the weekly services as was our aim.

We continue to manage the Sidespersons Rota for the 10.00 am Sunday Service and welcomed a new member to the team at the end of the year.

Our job is very varied and has presented a number of interesting situations throughout the year. 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**

Once again it has been a difficult year trying to balance the books. Unless the numbers attending our services increases significantly, resulting in more income, it will become increasingly difficult to ensure we have the resources to develop mission within the parish.

General income and expenditure for 2013 was significantly lower than 2012. Over 50% of the variance on income was attributed to the fact that in 2012 we had received eighteen months tax from HM Revenue and Customs whereas in 2013 we had claimed for a twelve month period. We are up to date with Gift Aid claims and in future we will only be claiming for a twelve month period.

On a positive note planned income amounted to £2,091.91 per month compared with £2,036.16 in 2012.

The majority of our reduction in expenditure was that we paid £6,650 less to the Diocese towards our parish share. The £23,100 we did pay was £3100 more than we had forecast at the beginning of the year.

Our end of year balance of £6,006.95 includes £2,000 retained towards the cost of urgent tree work required in the churchyard. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before the APCM. We have been fortunate that the Town Council have given us a grant of £500 towards this work.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed towards the new projector and the ancillary costs associated with the scheme. The total cost was £3,102.23 of this all but 21p had been donated for that purpose.

Thank you to those who helped finance the very successful Nativity Extravaganza and those who contribute to the cost of flowers at Easter and Christmas. All these donations are very gratefully received.

The church being a Grade 1 Listed Building means we cannot cut corners when undertaking repairs and maintenance and it is wonderful that we received a total of £10,500 in legacies and donations towards the upkeep of our building.

We have committed ourselves to paying £25,000 to the Diocese in 2014; this is considerably less than the cost of providing an incumbent when this cost is split between only two parishes. With the loss of clergy within the Deanery it may well be, in the long term, that we shall have to share our clergy with additional parishes.

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.

I am conscious that a number of people are extremely generous with their giving to St James. I am equally aware that the PCC have expectations of a lifestyle beyond our means. I make no apology for trying to keep a tight rein on expenditure.

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

***Ruth Tresidder - Treasurer***

**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2013**

	Note	Actual 2013		Actual 2012	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
From Donors:					
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	25,982.09	640.00	25,328.83	600.00
Gift Aid recovered	1b	6,878.24	185.00	9,367.69	253.25
Non Gift Aided Income	1c	7,240.74		8,137.42	
Fund raising & special appe	1d	3,706.28	1,123.97	4,467.60	857.32
Legacies	1e		10,000.00		
Insurance claims				1,871.53	
<b>TOTAL DONATED INCOME</b>		<b>43,807.35</b>	<b>11,948.97</b>	<b>49,173.07</b>	<b>1,710.57</b>
<b>Fees</b>					
Clergy	2a		3,963.00	3,100.00	3,100.00
Lay	2b		2,451.00	3,675.00	3,675.00
PCC	2c	7,949.00	658.00	6,956.00	(313.00)
<b>Total regulated fees</b>		<b>7,949.00</b>	<b>7,072.00</b>	<b>6,956.00</b>	<b>6,462.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>51,756.35</b>	<b>19,020.97</b>	<b>56,129.07</b>	<b>8,172.57</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Diocesan costs:					
Parish Share: Current year	3a	23,100.00		29,750.00	
<b>Clergy &amp; Service costs:</b>		<b>23,100.00</b>		<b>29,750.00</b>	
Clergy expenses	4a	1,348.73		1,274.24	
Altar supplies	4b	77.02		197.79	
Music	4c	557.12		488.00	
Other	4d	55.00			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>2,037.87</b>		<b>1,960.03</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>49,719.48</b>	<b>19,020.97</b>	<b>54,169.04</b>	<b>8,172.57</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>		<b>51,756.35</b>	<b>19,020.97</b>	<b>56,129.07</b>	<b>8,172.57</b>
<b>TOTAL DEFICIT</b>		<b>2,037.87</b>		<b>1,960.03</b>	



**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2013**

	Note	Actual 2013		Actual 2012	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£	£	£
<b>EXPENSES (Cont)</b>					
<b>Administration:</b>					
Administrator	5a	3,881.28		3,835.84	3,835.84
Office supplies	5b	2,059.36		2,444.98	2,444.98
Other	5c	903.20		416.72	416.72
Office telephone		430.86		558.31	558.31
Church Office	5d	4,180.33		3,936.05	4,158.55
		<b>11,455.03</b>		<b>11,191.90</b>	<b>11,414.40</b>
<b>Maintenance:</b>					
Utilities	6a	3,938.72		3,325.44	3,325.44
Insurance	6b	6,412.34		6,344.42	6,344.42
General repairs	6c	1,075.61	789.17	3,046.84	3,046.84
Churchyard				523.60	583.60
		<b>11,426.67</b>	<b>789.17</b>	<b>13,240.30</b>	<b>13,300.30</b>
<b>Ministry support:</b>					
Special appeals	7a	105.21	3,979.94	205.41	813.43
Children, Youth & Training	7b	464.60	662.46	245.63	99.21
		<b>569.81</b>	<b>4,642.40</b>	<b>451.04</b>	<b>912.64</b>
<b>Fees re weddings &amp; funerals</b>					
Diocese	8a		3,963.00		3,100.00
Lay	8b		2,451.00		3,675.00
			<b>6,414.00</b>		<b>6,775.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>					
		<b>48,589.38</b>	<b>11,845.57</b>	<b>56,593.27</b>	<b>7,970.14</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>					
Transfers from General Fund		3,166.97	7,175.40	(464.20)	202.43
Add: Reserves b/fwd at 1 January 2013		(484.25)			
Total Reserves 31 December 2013		3,324.23		3,788.43	
		<b>6,006.95</b>		<b>3,324.23</b>	<b>(261.77)</b>



**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2013**

RESTRICTED FUNDS MOVEMENTS	Balance				Balance
Fund Description	01-Jan-13	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31-Dec-13
	£	£	£	£	£
Audio Visual	2,292.77	325.00	3,102.02	484.25	-
Bees Abroad	-	172.94	172.94		-
Building maintenance	1,317.46	10,500.00	789.17		11,028.29
Children ex Infant Welfare Trust	8,569.67		479.98		8,089.69
Churchyard maintenance	60.00	500.00			560.00
Flower Fund	114.71	40.00	4.98		149.73
Granny Wagon	276.04		23.48		252.56
He*Brews	1,424.11		26.27		1,397.84
International	341.51	411.03	700.00		52.54
J. John booklets	30.00		30.00		-
John Milner Organ Fund	601.22				601.22
"Messy Church"	600.74				600.74
Wedding Fees in Advance	50.00	658.00			708.00
Youth	102.73		102.73		-
	<b>15,780.96</b>	<b>12,606.97</b>	<b>5,431.57</b>	<b>484.25</b>	<b>23,440.61</b>

**Liabilities - Agency collections**

Agency Wedding Fees in Advance	284.00
Children's Society boxes	1,273.45
	<b>1,557.45</b>

**Liquid funds as at 31 December 2013**

Bank	31,005.01
Petty Cash	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>31,005.01</b>
Less Restricted Funds held on behalf of others as per above	23,440.61
Less Liabilities - Agency collections	1,557.45
<b>St James Funds at 31 December 2013 see Receipts &amp; Payments Account</b>	<b>6,006.95</b>

**NOTES RELATING TO 2013 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 and from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme since 6 April 2013 (unrestricted) and from Special Appeals (restricted) up to 30 September 2013.
- 1c Planned giving that may not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.
- 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, International, donations for church flowers and a grant of £500 from Southam Town Council towards tree work to be carried out in the churchyard at the beginning of 2014. We are fortunate that the Town

**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2013 – Notes Continued**

- Council include mowing the churchyard in their grass cutting contract and pay for emptying the skip.
- 1e We are extremely grateful for the legacy of £10,000 from the estate of Fred Raderecht dec'd towards repairs and maintenance of the church.
  - 2a Clergy fees from Weddings, Funerals, monuments etc.
  - 2b Fees from Weddings and Funerals to Clerk, Verger, Organist and Bellringers
  - 2c Restricted fees are the increase in Wedding Fees in Advance held in our account for weddings in 2014. Some of this income rolls over from one financial year to another.

**Expenditure**

- 3a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese, this was £3,100 more than we had expected to be able to pay. The Deanery had requested that our contribution be £30,473.
- 4a Clergy expenses and cost of Rectory telephone.
- 4b Candles, Communion Wine, etc.
- 4c Fees for Organist at services, Music Group expenses and Music Licences for 2013.
- 4d Visiting speakers.
- 5a Salary and Tax for Administrator. The Office is manned on Tuesdays and Fridays by volunteers.
- 5b Rental, maintenance and ink for photocopier, stationery, book of remembrance.
- 5c Bank charges, fund raising expenses and administration of weddings and funerals.
- 5d Rental of Church Office and associated utilities.
- 6a Gas and Electricity supplies and Water rates for St James Church.
- 6b Insurance of buildings, contents and public liability.
- 6c Routine maintenance including repairs to gas boilers and statutory test, fire extinguishers, replacement wall copings and roof repairs.
- 7a Unrestricted includes donation to Southam Christmas Lights Association, contributions to Southam Deanery and Combined Churches. Restricted includes expenditure on audio visual equipment, Christmas flowers, International and Bees Abroad.
- 7b Unrestricted includes teaching material and prizes for Groups, and youth work. Restricted is expenditure by Granny Wagon and 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 2013

**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 2013.

*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: 16th February 2014

### **Gift Aid Report**

Thank you to everyone who contributes to St James Church 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 2013 a total of 31 people paid by standing order into the church bank account but this had decreased to 29 by the end of December. Giving by this method amounted to £17,531.92; on a positive note this is an increase of £375 over the previous year.

Nine people donated through the blue envelope scheme at the beginning of 2013, by the end of the year one additional person transferred to using these envelopes. During the year £4,598 was given by this method, an increase of £644 over the previous year.

77 people contributed to the church by yellow envelope, of these 13 gave on a regular basis. Total giving by this method (including one off gift aid donations) amounted to £4,492.17, a reduction of £325.74 over 2012.

During the year we received £7,063.24 from HM Revenue and Customs including £546 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. In 2012 we received an additional £2,557.70 from HMRC but that was for an eighteen month period rather than the twelve months in 2013. It is wonderful that the vast majority of our giving is now eligible for tax relief.

If you are a taxpayer and putting cash in the collection please do use a yellow envelope as it does ensure we claim as much back over the year from HMRC as possible.

Irrespective whether you are a taxpayer or not please do have a word with me if you would like more information on methods available to contribute to St James on a regular basis.

***Ruth Tresidder - Gift Aid Secretary ☎ 813524***

### **Fabric Committee Report**

We are very fortunate in Southam to have a church which is valuable both historically and architecturally. It is a Grade 1 listed building and has stood for centuries as a place of worship and a beacon of faith to the community.

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. This must be balanced against the limited resources that we have at our disposal and once again we have needed to keep spending on the fabric of the Church to an absolute minimum this year

We continue to attend to the statutory and regulatory items 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 the perennial problem of keeping the building watertight.

Looking forward to 2014 we anticipate further progress on the larger items that require attention such as the making safe of the trees in the Churchyard and the replacement of the high level lighting in church.

Committee members. Chairman - Terence Hill, Secretary – David Baxter, John Tresidder, Ralph Trollope, Mary Williams, David Hower and John Gwillam. Ex officio – 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 23 March 2014

Report from the Electoral Roll Officer

Two members left

One member died

Ten members added to the roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 92 members

### ***Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer***

## **Deanery Synod Report**

**Deanery Mission** (see also Southam Deanery Mission Team Report on page 41)

At the meeting of Synod on 14 March 2013 members were joined by over a dozen visitors from the parishes for the presentation by Capt. Roger Murphy CA: "Making New Disciples: Plans and Preparation for the Deanery Mission 2014." Roger is an itinerant evangelist working for Through Faith Missions, a group based in Cambridge. The 18 parishes in four areas would be sharing the good news under a common logo – HOPE14 (already an umbrella organisation) - using opportunities to stand together and declare the Christian faith in a definite, non-threatening way between 20 and 28 September 2014.

The Deanery Planning Team would maintain a clear focus on the delivery - presentation meetings which would include an opportunity for response. Prayerful support throughout would be vital and regular bulletins would be distributed.

A team of volunteers was offered via TFM to work alongside local people. TFM did not charge a fee; Roger just requested a donation towards his expenses. Meetings of the Planning Team were taking place every 6-8 weeks, with Roger attending on alternate dates. Roger would meet with individual churches/groups on a Saturday morning then preach at a Sunday service. Discussion continued in subsequent meetings.

The purpose of the Mission was to tell others about the Christian Faith; draw people of the communities together, and draw parishes of the deanery together. During the Mission Week there will be activities relevant to each parish. Members of the Mission Team would be working in schools with a joint major kids' and youth event at the end of the week. It was hoped that most parishes would be represented in the Mission Team, keeping Hope 14 on the PCC agenda, encouraging prayer and generating momentum and communication until the Mission week. The deanery website displayed latest information, as did the 'Breathe' prayer information sheet. A Launch Weekend ensued on 19 and 20 January 2014.

It was planned that parishes would use the 'Lost for Words' course – encouraging people to be able to discuss their own journey and faith - on a variety of days and times across the deanery. , each one led by a member of the Deanery Mission team. Likewise there would be a follow up course.

During the year the Mission Group continued to meet regularly, although Roger Murphy had moved out of the area, and was unable to attend as often as previously. A diary of local and deanery wide events for the mission was being compiled and parishes were urged to inform Gillian of the dates and nature of any events they were planning. The group was currently preparing a bid for funding from the Diocesan Mission Fund.

**Diocesan Synod** In the first meeting of the year Bishop Christopher expressed that he was looking forward to the first female bishops in the C of E within the next ten years; he also felt that the government was making a big mistake in its policy on same sex marriage.

The Diocesan Director of Education anticipated that the work of the Board would increase five-fold by the end of the year because of all the necessary changes. There would be 3,000 employees and a £10 million budget. Deaneries were asked to look for professionals with appropriate skills and experience who might join the DBE.

At the meeting on 23 June Bishop John, reminded of Karl Barth's exhortation to Christians to preach with the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other, said we must not only "talk the talk" but also "walk the walk". In acknowledging that we are each different and have different views on God, we must embrace that diversity and live well together as "reconciled reconcilers." His challenge was: "How might we best live in Grace and Trust to enable us to live with difference?" Following this there was discussion on the subject of "Women in the Episcopate." Two members of the clergy, one man and one woman – both from the same deanery and both in fellowship with one another, gave their points of view, which were well expressed with care and reverence for the other.

**General Synod** The Rev. Ruth Walker attended our deanery synod to report. At General Synod held between 5 and 9 July, the Archbishop of Canterbury emphasised three priorities: Prayer, reconciliation and evangelism. There were three major debates – Safeguarding, Welfare Reform and the Church, and Women in the Episcopate. During the General Synod held between 18 and 20 November the Archbishop of Canterbury made a presentation describing his work. The Archbishop of York presented: "Challenges for the Quinquennium: Intentional Evangelism" which resulted in an agreed statement calling on "every diocesan and deanery synod and every PCC to spend the bulk of one meeting annually and some part of every meeting focussing on sharing initiatives for making new disciples" and urging "every local church in 2014 prayerfully to try at least one new way, appropriate to their local context, of seeking to make new disciples of Jesus Christ." Other subjects debated included Faculties, Disused Burial Grounds, Poverty, Church Schools of the Future and Draft Legislation on Women in the Episcopate.

**Deanery Clergy** The two deanery ordinands, Gillian Roberts and Vikki Bisker, were ordained in June. The Rev. Michael Greig retired as incumbent of the Bridges Group.

**"Local Pastoral Groups"** Representatives from the Bridges Group, the Feldon Group and Southam met with Heather Vernon from the Diocesan pastoral staff to discuss these.

**St Nicholas, Radford Semele** work was finally completed during the year on the building.

### **Deanery Synod**

David Clarke, our hard-working Lay Chair, moved to Shropshire and therefore tendered his resignation. His place for 2104 has been taken by Trevor Letchford. Ian Crowther, Treasurer at Ufton, agreed to act as Independent Examiner.

During the year presentations were made on the organisation of **Food Banks** in the Fosse area, with the view to setting up distribution within Southam Deanery.



At the deanery synod meeting on 19 September, Craig Grocock's wife Su McClellan, Area Manager, Midlands and Wales for the charity '**Embrace the Middle East**' (formerly Bible Lands) gave a presentation entitled "Kairos: a Cry from the Palestinian Church", reviewing briefly the background to the current Palestinian/Israeli situation and then gave a detailed description, including personal experiences.

A **Deanery Quiet Day** was held on Saturday 30 November at Hunningham. Following the demise of **Offa House**, Bishop John had called a meeting to explore how spiritual growth within the deaneries might be encouraged and developed.

The synod meeting on Thursday 5 December was held at **Stockton**. Churchwardens had been invited to join the meeting especially for the refreshments, as a sign of appreciation for their work in the parishes.

**The Bridges Group** - Interim Arrangements. Following Michael Greig's retirement the six parishes had agreed that his post be discontinued and the Diocese had upheld this decision. Arrangements had also been agreed for Bob Clucas to double his time (to four days per week) in the Benefice and Gillian Roberts (NSM) was working five days per week (supported also by the services of Peter Jackson, Lay Reader). This still left the Benefice without an incumbent, and initial, but inconclusive discussions had taken place with the Archdeacon. Further discussions with Churchwardens and the Archdeacon would take place early in 2014. Discussion would also continue on the future of the **Feldon Group** in view of Tim Britton's retirement in 2015.

### **Deanery (and therefore, Parish) Share**

The Deanery had endeavoured to pay the requested Deanery Share, which had been allocated as equitably as possible among the parishes. Unfortunately four parishes had struggled to pay, resulting in a shortfall of £16,000. However, following the retirements of Diane Patterson and Michael Greig the deanery had received a refund of £32,000 on their stipends, thus making it possible to complete the Deanery Share for 2013, with £16,000 remaining for future use. The reduction of the cost of stipends in the deanery would lead to a reduction in the deanery share.

During 2013 financial help was received from the Support Fund to the tune of the cost of one clergy post. Originally the expectation had been that this would reduce to 0.5 clergy post for 2014 but Craig Grocock asked for formal approval of a zero contribution for 2014 from the Support Fund and this was agreed unanimously. Poorer deaneries are now in greater need and others are unable to contribute as generously to the Support Fund as in the past year. A meeting of representatives from all deaneries in the Diocese to allocate the Deanery Shares for 2014 took place on Saturday 1 June 2013. For 2014, the deanery treasurers have taken the aforementioned into account and, all parishes having agreed the share they felt able to pay, the Treasurers Group have re-allocated the deanery share as equitably as possible, still leaving a shortfall of £7,000. This would be taken from the £16,000 rebate, allowing some 'breathing time' but we shall still need to look for ways of funding in full the costs of its clergy in the near future.

**John Armstrong**



## **Leading, Service Support & Worship**

### **Audio Visual**

A new projector that was chosen by the PCC has been installed to replace the old projector. The new projector is more reliable, it has a more powerful bulb and the image it creates is much brighter. Video cabling has been installed to allow a laptop on the platform to connect to the projector so that a presenter can control the projected image. A small flat screen has been installed on one of the pillars to show the presenter what image is being projected without the presenter having to turn round to view the projector screen. Thank you to John Tresidder and his team for installing the projector, flat screen and cabling.

The audio equipment has had a few breakdowns during the year, where there have been breakdowns the equipment has been repaired quickly at no cost to the church and with little disruption to services.

Thank you to Oliver who has been controlling the powerpoints and some of the sound during Sunday 10am services on a regular basis. He is picking things up very quickly. Thank you to Isaac who is fully competent in setting up the equipment and running it and Abigail who is also happy to help.

### ***Rade and Isaac Ognjanovic***

### **Music Group**

During the last year our music group has faithfully provided music for the 10.00am service plus music for special services.

We have a wonderful, dedicated and talented group of people who work together very well. They show up at 9.00am every Sunday to practise before the service and are always keen to learn new music to add to our repertoire.

It would be great to add more talent to our group, so please let me know if you are interested in playing/singing. There are no age restrictions!

Many thanks to Abi, Ann, Hilary, John C, John H, John A, Maria, Stephen, Troy (Boogie), Rade, Isaac and Oliver!

### ***Vicki Armstrong – Co-Ordinator***

### **Tower Report**

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

We rang for six Weddings and hosted three bands of visiting ringers this year. One full peal was rung to welcome the annual Mop to the town again this year.

Our annual outing with our ringing friends from Banwell in Somerset was arranged by Spike and Jenny this year. We visited six towers around the Forrest of Dean and held our usual striking competition. We lost out to our Banwell friends this year so the cup is down in Somerset until our next outing when we will be trying hard to claim it back.

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, Do please 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 past year the children continued to have their own group time on the first three Sundays of each month taking part in a range of fun, bible-based activities whilst the adults have their own teaching. A highlight of the morning service is the enthusiasm of the children as they share with the rest of the congregation what they have been learning and crafting during their group time. 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 usually stay in for the whole service.

Unfortunately we have not been able to increase the team during the year as we would have liked 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 to find out more. You would be very welcome!

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

### **'More' Youth Group**

"More" continues to meet on a fortnightly basis during term-time. We have covered topics such as "Leaders in the Bible", for example:

Jeremiah – a leader who was young

Daniel – a leader who prayed

Ruth – a leader who sacrificed

Boaz – a leader who provided.

Topics have also included "Values", "Friendships", "Relationships" and "How do I hear from God?"

As a group we are praying for new non-church members and propose to have an invitation (involving food, of course!) with this aim going out to Southam College in March.

We are watching a generation of young people growing up in tough times; statutory services are being reduced, there is no guarantee of employment after education finishes, and whopping tuition fees for those who want to go to university.

We, the church, need to continue to seek to understand, listen to, and pray for all the young people in Southam! Please also pray for this group and for us as we seek to lead and encourage.

***John (and Vicki) Armstrong - Leaders***

### **Granny Wagon**

Over the past year there have been noticeably fewer youngsters in the recreation ground on a Friday evening, although during the summer months, especially during the school holidays, numbers did climb back up to the 20s and above on several occasions.

The very poor weather over the past two months has meant that some weeks it was too wet even to consider setting up. Consequently, the team met up to discuss the future of the project. Everyone is keen to continue, should there in fact be a need. It was decided to put a small notice on the St James Church page in the District Advertiser, explaining that we would appear at the recreation ground each Friday between 7.30pm - 8.30pm, weather permitting.

Each team will use their discretion about setting up: if the weather is suitable, we're happy to wait an hour in case we get customers. Those who do come along for a hot drink and a biscuit always seem pleased to have a chat, and over the years, interesting conversations have taken place.

Thanks again to all who participate and those who support us.

### ***Chris Cooke and Jan Ford***

### **Jolly J's**

I would like to thank Paula Adamson for her drive and initiative in restarting Jolly J's in March 2013. The group had stopped in November 2012 when I returned to work and Paula grasped the opportunity to restart the group with the support of some local NCT (National Childbirth Trust) mums. I would also like to thank all of the helpers for their continued support of this very popular group. Here is a report from Paula:

Jolly J's has continued to go from strength to strength after restarting on 4 March 2013. There is a regular average attendance of 15 children. In the Summer and Autumn new toys were purchased (including a large train track, toy car garage, baby toys and learning toys) which have proved to be very popular. The Children's Centre have also loaned some toys through their Toy Library.

The 'tea helpers' have continued to be invaluable in setting up, serving drinks and snacks and washing up, enabling the parent helpers (from the Church and NCT) to spend time with other parents and their children.

The year ended with a Christmas Party which was well attended by children, parents/carers and helpers. Small gifts were given to all the children.

A meeting was held on 7 November 2013 to ensure that everyone is clear on various roles and to ensure that the group continues with its success. A follow up meeting will be scheduled for February 2014.

In December Jolly J's donated £100 to St James Church to cover some of the running costs.

### ***Jenny Baxter and Paula Adamson***

## **Homegroups**

### **The Monday Evening Homegroup**

We meet weekly in term times and not in the school holidays.

In each week we try and include some worship, prayer and study. We have some reflective evenings and BBQ or meal out occasionally.

We support the work of the Church in different ways with the Granny Wagon, men's and lady's breakfasts, for the lady's "Streams in the Desert" and Mothers' Union etc.

Through the last year we followed the study books Angels and The Lords Prayer by Douglas Connelly which are from the Life Builder Scripture Union and finishing the year with the church course "The Jesus Lifestyle".

We welcome anyone who would like to come and take a look at a home group.

Please contact Juliet 01926 812104 for more information.

***Inez Prasch and Juliet Houghton***

### **The Tuesday Evening Homegroup**

This small friendly group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings. We are very flexible and whilst we meet mainly at 6, Sycamore Grove, Stephen and Pat's home, we can change venue easily to accommodate any group member with babysitting difficulties. We all enjoy being together and there is a lot of care and support between the members both within the group setting and outside.

Over the past year our numbers have fluctuated, as the busyness of life takes its toll on family life. In the Summer term we completed a very interesting and challenging series investigating 'Christianity, Cults and Religions', using a DVD and study books. We all found this most informative and helpful. Since we live in a multicultural society, we felt we should be informed of other faiths practised by those people we might work with or live near. During the Autumn term we suspended our regular homegroup meetings so that we would be free to support the 'Jesus Lifestyle' course that was running in Church. We did however miss meeting regularly so we did have a 'coffee and catch-up' one evening. During the Spring term we have begun a series of studies entitled 'Building a people of Faith'. The interactive study books we are using follow the life of the Church in the book of Acts. A timely choice, as it happens, because the Sunday sermons are currently taken from the book of Acts.

If you don't, as yet, belong to a homegroup and are interested in finding out more then please talk to Stephen and Pat or telephone them on 813753. Please feel free to come along and 'give us a try'. If our group isn't the right one for you then there are several other groups that you could try. The official starting

time is 7.30pm and the official end time is 9.30pm. However as this report said at the beginning the group is very flexible and the kettle will always be ready for anyone arriving early or able to stay later.

***Stephen and Pat Adams***

## **The Wednesday Evening Homegroup**

If you are not in a homegroup please don't miss out, why not give it a try? You are very welcome to join us or try any or all of the groups at St James until you find the group that best suits you. Our homegroup is a safe place where we find we're able to be ourselves, have fun and grow in our faith by sharing, studying the Bible and praying together.

We usually meet at Sheepfold, the home of Margo Grant, on a Wednesday evening from 7.30pm – 9.30pm but this is flexible and we move both the venue to another member's home and the day we meet as and when necessary. Whilst I am the 'nominated leader' and represent the group at the Homegroup Leaders meetings we share the preparation and leading of our meetings amongst group members who are happy to do so.

As a group we attended the Jesus Life Style Course held at St James. During this 12 week period we tried, unsuccessfully, to continue to meet regularly as a home group resulting in us all realising how much we missed the close fellowship and support of the group. As 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.

Our resources for the last year have been very varied, We have used downloaded videos such as Nicky Gumbel interviewing Archbishop Justin Welby at the 2013 Alpha Leadership Conference and listened to recordings e.g. Justin's address at New Wine in the summer. Currently we are following a series of bible studies on prayer called 'Bold I Approach' looking at the glories and struggles of Christian prayer—what it is, why we do it, how we do it, and why we don't do it!

We also have several social meetings each year. This year included a trip to Warwick Arts Centre to see the Soweto Gospel choir on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tour and an evening meal together to celebrate Mary and John Home's golden wedding anniversary.

***Jill Parker***

**The Thursday Afternoon Homegroup**

On Thursday afternoons twice a month some of the older members of St. James' meet together to drink tea, eat cake or biscuits - usually home-made, set our worlds to rights and do a bit of Bible Study.

Once or twice we have invited someone to come and speak to us on a topic we would like to know more about.

During the past year we have followed a course entitled 'Glimpses of God' which promoted some interesting discussion. This is one of a series of courses known as the York Courses and each course comes with a CD and a booklet with questions to help the group to discuss the topic. We have done several of these courses in the past.

This was followed two or three separate sessions one of which was looking at Poverty - a vast subject. In the summer of 2013 we began working through the book of Acts, still ongoing.

There are ten - twelve in the group and we meet in the home of one of the members. Do come and join us if you would like to. You could come for a 'taster' session, no obligation. We meet from 2.30pm to approximately 4.30pm.

To find out more phone me - Jen, on 810454.

***Jen Burgess***

## **Pastoral**

### **Corporate Prayer**

Depending how you look at the past year, as a Church, we do not seem to have done very well at praying together.

The group of ladies who meet on Fridays has managed to continue although the numbers do fluctuate quite a bit. Last year we also mentioned a Men's Prayer Group and a Church Prayer Group but both seem to have faded out as the year progressed. In addition, there was no response to the question about reinstating the Prayer Focus in the Bulletin.

We have, however, had regular information to help us pray for HOPE14 both with the 'Pray Big' article in the Bulletin and 'Breathe' the prayer newssheet for HOPE14 which is also shared with other Churches across the Deanery. We have to thank Jill Parker of the Deanery Planning Group for this.

Also available in Church at the beginning of each month is the Diocesan Prayer Sheet/Guide which enables us to pray for other Churches in the Diocese and also Bishop Christopher and Bishop John.

***Jen Burgess***



## **Church Liaison**

### **Combined Churches**

The four churches meet four times a year and in November we were delighted to welcome Rev Neil Chappell, the new minister for the Congregational Church.

Joint ventures have included the Easter Walk of Witness, which is planned again for 2014. As the Library grounds are unavailable due to building work, it is hoped that after starting at the Grange Hall the final venue will be in front of the Police Station, via the Bowling Green pub and possibly Market Hill or the area opposite the Factory Shop. There was much discussion regarding the target audience and how quiet Southam High Street always seems to be on Good Friday. However, all present were keen that the Walk should take place, as witness to the presence of - and co-operation between - the four churches and to remind the community of the meaning of Easter, of which so many people are truly unaware.

The second significant joint venture between the churches is the on-going success of the monthly services held at Galanos House and Newstead Lodge on the first Sunday afternoon. Between twenty to thirty residents and some staff join in with these services at Galanos, which are held in the dining room and followed by tea and cakes. At Newstead Lodge, there are fewer residents in the sitting room, but those who are alert enjoy joining in the singing.

The plan from St James Church to deliver a 'Welcome to Southam Churches' leaflet to newcomers has been well received by the other churches. It is hoped that each area will have a 'neighbourhood watch' body to note when a property has changed hands in order to make such a delivery.

Hope14 has been advertised to the other churches, and we have all been invited to three talks in April and May at the Community Church (details on the notice board). Church members are also asked if they would be willing to share in the two Community Church projects: the Gateway Coffee Shop and the Like New Children Clothing Shop – again, details on the notice board.

Deacon Terry Hum has told us that after ten years, he will be stepping down from the role of Chair for the group, and Shirley Rush is also planning to 'retire'. Our thanks go to both of them for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Finally, a number of meetings and discussions have been held between the four churches and Galanos House over the past two years regarding the possibility of holding services for dementia patients. Sadly, Galanos staff feel at present that their current patients are too unsettled to enter into any regular worship, pointing out that those more able join in with the monthly service in the main building.

**Jan Ford**

**St James CE Primary School, Southam**

St. James Primary School continues to have a good reputation for the education and care of its pupils. There are strong links between School and Church and I should like to express thanks to all who represent the Church in supporting the School, whether as parents, visitors or governors.

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. Amongst those who have served with me as Foundation Governors during 2013 have been Vicki Armstrong, Dave Howell, Steven Cook, David Baxter and Jenny Thorne. Louise Kirby will also be joining the Governing Body soon. Do ask any of us if you would like to know more about the school.

In the past I have referred to the commitment, stamina and care of our governors. To this I ought to add "patience", given their continuing efforts to ensure that our children have a satisfactory area for outdoor sport, whilst at the same time maintaining good relations with our immediate neighbours and the various authorities.

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

In February 2013 we heard that we had been successful in obtaining a grant from our UK Department for International Development (DFID) to create economic incentives for improved natural resource management and improving livelihoods of 900 pastoral households in the arid and semiarid lands of Laikipia County in Kenya over a three year period. There were proviso's and we needed to update policies and procedures and also satisfy a due diligence examination in order to satisfy them that we up to the task. By July we were ready to go to Kenya to set up the project and travelled to Laikipia in August.

We met with problems because the original partner organisation Desert Edge had had changes in the management in their umbrella organisation which adversely affected them but made it impossible for Bees Abroad to go ahead with the project. We had to inform DFID of the change and were faced with decisions about what to do next.

When we returned to our accommodation someone had sent the following "Thought for the Day "- here is your word for today: **John 16:33**

*'I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace.'* John 16:33

- God does not want you to be worried and distressed.
- Every word that the Lord gives us is meant to bring us peace.
- Things around you may look challenging.
- But you and I must find our peace in Him

**PRAYER:** *Lord, I receive Your peace in my heart and life right now. I will not look at circumstances with fear and trepidation, but I will look to You and find my peace in You. Amen.*

From that point on due to meeting the right people at the right time when we returned to the UK we had a potential new partner interviews had taken place and everything was ready to start the project provided we could satisfy DFID that we were confident that the project could go ahead. Permission was given and the project started in October with David Njuguna as Project Manager who soon got the project up and running by November 1. Since then we have had very encouraging update a good progress has been made

We thank God for hearing all the prayers of our friends and opening doors for us to be able to help the struggling pastoralist families in Laikipia continued to grow

Our other projects in Kenya have continued to make progress.

In June 2013 CHEPTEBO RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CRDC) in the Kerio Valley in Kenya, where Bees Abroad have helped to introduce beekeeping, was chosen to be the host nationally for the global day to combat desertification. This is a convention initiated by United Nations which Kenya is part of and its objectives are to educate communities in environmental conservation. The event drew many people from various parts of Kenya including senior

government officials led by Environment secretary, Deputy Governor, dignitaries from United Nations, NGO'S and stakeholders. The centre had passed the required criteria because of its track record in environmental conservation efforts in a practical way evident in its activities within and outside the Centre. The key speech was given By Dr. Alice Akinyi Kaudia – Environment Secretary – Ministry of Environment and Natural resources. The theme of the year is, "don't let our future dry up". Her speech and others who spoke emphasized the intention of the day; that is World day to combat desertification initiative to support local communities to adapt and build resilience by seeking to:

- increase food security through enhancing drought resilient of local agricultural practices,
- reduce poverty through diversification of enterprises to improve livelihoods,
- facilitate the integration of adaptation of drought into Kenya sustainable development plans and policies,
- undertake measures to reduce vulnerability of inhabitants of Arid and semi-arid areas to vagaries of drought, and
- illustrate how national policies through NAP (National Action Programme) may be influenced and modified based on lessons learned from the field.

Bees Abroad have been invited to help with a beekeeping module in the Agriculture course CRDC hope to commence in 2015 looking particularly at farming God's Way in arid and semi-arid lands.

CHEPTEBO is a Christian Centre of excellence that effectively contributes to the community's spiritual and physical development in the Kerio Valley, Kenya and has an interesting web site [www.cheptebo.org/](http://www.cheptebo.org/).

CHEPSIGOT SEKEMIAT WOMENS GROUP attended this event having a stand with their added value products as well as a sample of their A-maizing Bee suits. They impressed the judges at the event and were awarded to following certificates for their contribution to conservation though their beekeeping. This is a great achievement for the knowledge Bees Abroad have shared with this group over the last few years.

CHEPSIGOT SCHOOL have continued to develop their Young farmers club and one of the Bees Abroad donated hives has been occupied and has provided some honey added nourishment to the meals for the children. They have also benefit from a donation from the junior School in Southam which they are using to have additional hives and irrigation pipe for the school farm

SINYATI WOMEN still have considerable challenges from tribal unrest but are benefiting by being able to make the added value hive products to supplement their income. Caroline Lentupuru one of their members has joined the Baringo County Government responsible for the Environment and Natural Resources.

Thank you to St James for all your love and support.

***John and Mary Home***

### **Farmers' Market Prayer Stall**

It has been five and a half years since we began, with some trepidation, regularly to have a prayer stall as part of the monthly Farmers' Market. This takes place on the second Saturday of each month and we aim to be there from 9.30am until at least 11.30am. Sometimes we stay considerably longer because we are having such wonderful opportunities to talk and pray with people.

Sometimes people take the trouble to return at a later date to tell us of answers to prayer, etc. This is always a cause for rejoicing.

We are encouraged that the other stallholders appreciate our being there and indeed over the years we have come to know them well. Some we pray for every time! We also help out on some of the stalls at times.

It is our custom to give out chocolates at Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter – another opportunity to bless the people of Southam.

If you would like to come and join the team, do please make yourself known to us. It's not as scary as you think and we would pair up with you initially.

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

***John (and Vicki) Armstrong***

### **Fundraising – including Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre**

We held a very successful Summer Fete which raised £565.75 and our Christmas Fayre raised £1,245.34. A further £737.32 was raised during the year from serving refreshments in church and at the Craven Lane Hall.

It is good that we can raise additional funds when other events are taking place within the town. We were open, on occasions, when Southam First were holding street markets as well as the weekend of Southam Open Gardens and most notably during the weekend of the re-enactment of the Battle of Southam.

A big thank-you to everyone who supported us on these occasions; it is hoped to include similar fund raising activities during 2014. 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 2014:** Saturday 21 June - Summer Fete  
Saturday 6 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***

### **Home Communion**

Several members of our congregation are licensed to take Communion to the sick or housebound. This is usually on a fortnightly or three weekly basis.

We are always pleased to hear of folk who would like to receive Communion in this way, whether or not they are regular churchgoers.

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

***Jan Ford***

### **International**

Every Friday at 10.30am the church is open for coffee and cake followed at mid-day with Cross of Nail prayers. During this hour and a half we have many people dropping in for a chat and a laugh, we have visitors looking around the church and some who simply require a little peace and quiet 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. In all we have had a very good year and thanks go to all who help and support us.

Please drop in for coffee on a Friday morning!

***Chris Cooke***

### **Men's Breakfast**

Once again we can record another successful year – Roger Lane's "Full English for a fiver" just gets better and better and the same can be said of the quality of our Speakers – although the year seemed to get off to a bad start.

With our television screens currently full of images of floods, high winds and waves crashing against lighthouses it seems strange to report that our first event of 2013 had to be cancelled because of snow. We had been looking forward to listening to a recipient of the Queen's Medal - former Assistant Chief Constable Richard Lyttle - talk to us about both his career in the Police and also his more recent role as Project Manager of Leamington's new Justice Centre, but we didn't let a little January snow stop us – we got him to come in April instead.

Our Speakers have covered a whole range of emotions. Team 4U's Sharon Hedges spoke movingly of the plight of abandoned children in Eastern Europe, and Revd Chris Knight from Leamington gave a fascinating insight into life behind bars when he described the 10 years he spent as a Prison Chaplain.

Although Revd Andrew Dow also used to be based in Leamington, he took us instead on an epic journey with his imitation of railway engines; as Dave

Shepherd rightly remarked "If you closed your eyes, you could believe you were travelling on the London Underground". But despite the entertainment value, Andrew was able to hold his audience and take them on a much deeper, spiritual journey and finish with a powerful Christian message too.

For a complete change of theme in June we welcomed Rose Evans, resplendent in her Olympic Volunteer's uniform and we shared in her enjoyment of a very worthwhile job, done extremely well. The Olympics played a part in our September Breakfast too when we were delighted to welcome our Hope 14 Leader, Roger Murphy who spoke not only of his slow journey to faith, but also of his considerable achievements since.

Part of the enjoyment of our Breakfasts is the good natured banter during the morning and that theme was developed by two of our Speakers. The first was Revd Grocock, our very own Area Dean who chose - in his words: "to speak of life and death (in a light hearted way) with plenty of humour" and in that respect he certainly didn't disappoint - we had no idea he knew so many religious jokes, but perhaps first prize should go to our final Speaker of the year - Martin Pleasance whose Talk on Body Language had us both enthralled and in fits of laughter too.

Another good year of fun and fellowship, but a year of achievement too for we were able to send £225 in donations to worthy charities - not only that, we also achieved a "first" in that we held our inaugural Men's Christmas Dinner at the White Hart in Ufton. With an attendance of 20, all agreed the evening had been a great success and will certainly be repeated in 2014. New members are always welcome so call me on 01926 612986 or drop me an email to [ian@accountable.co.uk](mailto:ian@accountable.co.uk) you won't regret it.....

***Ian Crowther***

### **Men's Curry Club**

The Men's Curry Club meet at 'The Balti Hut' at 8pm on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month. Numbers are small and vary from month to month and there is always room for more.

This is a great opportunity for male members of the congregation, those who are new to the church and other friends from our local community to have an evening of lively conversation, fun, good company, fellowship and a great curry.

Please call me on 815965 if you would like more information.

***Nick Powell***



## **Mothers' Union**

At the meeting of Southam Mothers' Union 23 members enjoyed a convivial lunch at Kings Hill Nursery. Subs of £18.50 per member were collected.

The February meeting held in the Church Office marked National Marriage Week with a wedding photo on display, the Mothers' Union theme for the year being Marriage and Family Life! Jan Eaton gave an interesting talk on life on a boat, relating some of her many experiences of life on the canal.

The March meeting took the form of a devotional service conducted by Chris Cooke. Members attended the Lady Day service in Harbury in April and enjoyed an outing to Kings Hill Nursery in May. They took part in a guided tour of the nurseries and had tea afterwards.

In June Mary James gave a demonstration of the knitting project she organises bringing many samples to show members. These included a knitted nativity, knitted last supper and knitted Noah's Ark scene.

One of the highlights of the year was the strawberry tea kindly hosted by Rose Evans in her garden. £55.70 was raised in profit to be used towards one of the many fund raising projects that the Mothers' Union undertakes.

Mothers' Union does not hold a branch meeting in August, but in September the A.G.M. was held. Reports were given, leader, officers and committee elected to serve for the year 2014. The A.G.M. is always preceded by a Communion Service with members joining the usual Thursday morning communicants.

In October Hilary Wankling, headmistress of St James Primary School came to talk to us. She gave us an illuminating talk on being a headmistress of a Church of England School. In November Jo Ognjanovic spoke of her involvement at the Coventry Prayer House. The year's programme ended with a carol service in December in church.

The Mothers' Union continues to support many events held in the church in Southam and in the Diocese and the Deanery. Members took part in the Women's Day of Prayer, put on a Lenten Lunch and ran a stall at the Christmas Fayre. Members help out at Jolly J's doing refreshments and have an input in story time. Prison visiting still features in some member activities and members donated towards Angel Tree. Southam provided two of the 51 presents that were collected in the Dioceses and contributed towards postage.

Amy Harris was welcomed as a new member during the year and is currently awaiting enrolment. The committee's hope for 2014 is to hold four evening meetings to enable working mums to be involved. Their vision is to be fully involved in HOPE14. We will be holding a tea party in church on 25 September. All are welcome and we do hope you will join us.

To find out more about the work of the Mothers' Union please speak with Chris Cooke, Annie Lane, Averil Brown, Jenny Thorne, Rose Evans or Pam Gilkes. They will be pleased to talk to you and welcome you to any of the events.

***Averil Brown - Mothers' Union Secretary***

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Creativity + Refreshments + Fellowship + Fund Raising = Nifty Fingers

During our second year as a crafting and fund raising group we continued to meet in the Church Office twice a month on a Wednesday afternoon. The numbers attending the crafting sessions declined but those who continued to attend enjoyed fun afternoons chatting and making a variety of craft items from the many generous donations of crafting materials we received. Donations of finished articles created at home were also generously given. As a group we were able to support both the St James Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre.

For 2014 Nifty Fingers is changing, we will no longer be meeting in the church office. For the next few months we will continue to craft in our own homes whilst we rethink and plan a new venture.

We are still collecting donations of crafting materials and if you would like to craft at home please contact one of us for ideas and/or materials.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all those who generously donated both materials and their time. Your efforts have helped us raise extra funds for both St James Church and Bees Abroad.

***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. As explained elsewhere, generally, one church group visits both Galanos and Newstead Lodge on the first Sunday afternoon each month.

The services last not more than half an hour and each of the four churches use their own style of worship. As we hoped, the rota and services in 2013 were more organised and productive than previous years, with the staff at Galanos arranging seating in the dining room and providing refreshments after the service, which is very much appreciated.

***Jan Ford***

## **Southam Deanery Mission Team**



Transforming Communities, one life at a time!

Over the past year the Southam Deanery Mission Team (SDMT) have continued with preparations for HOPE14 the major mission initiative across the Deanery planned for September this year working in partnership with Through Faith Missions and linked to the national HOPE campaign. The aim of the project is to proclaim the Gospel and to share our faith to enable people in our communities with little or no experience of church to respond to Jesus and to see our local community transformed through the love of God.

Approximately 100 people gathered at Radford Semele's new church on Saturday 18 January for the official launch of HOPE14 to worship God and pray for his blessing on this year of mission! This was followed by The Informal at Napton on the Sunday evening when Roger Murphy from Through Faith Missions spoke about mission and challenged the 70 plus people who attended.

Our aim is to keep prayer central in all that takes place with HOPE14. The 'Breathe' prayer newsletter was launched on a bi-monthly basis now moving on to a monthly distribution to provide a framework for prayer. A prayer of blessing for Southam and the surrounding villages has also been issued and is being prayed across the Deanery as we cry out to God for the people around us, for the gifts of grace and faith for those who don't yet know Jesus and for God's blessing across the area.

A programme of events is being planned for St James as well as bigger Deanery wide events. This is an exciting time and over the coming weeks there will be opportunities for everyone at St James to be involved both in practical ways and in receiving training.

For more and up to date news and information regarding events please visit the Southam Deanery website or <http://www.southamdeanery.co.uk/8.html>.

SDMT Representatives:

Margo Grant

Jill Parker (Prayer Coordinator for HOPE14)

Jenny Thorne

***Jill Parker***

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