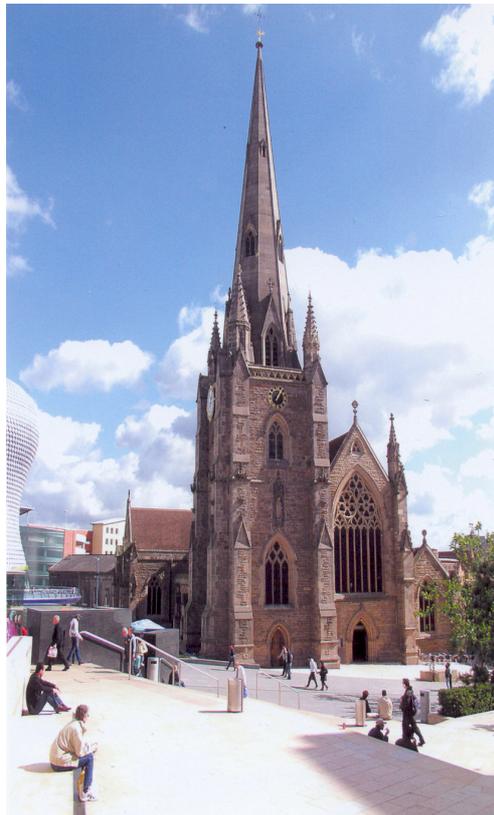


St Martin in the Bull Ring

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2012



***Discovering the Heart of God
in the Heart of the City***

A Dream

I walked the streets of a city that I knew but didn't.
Recognised buildings with a light and energy never experienced before.
As I wandered around the strange familiar streets I came to
The Heart of the City.

There was a truly holy place
alive with people and prayer.
I watched as the old and young
The able and the sick,
The rich and the poor,
The local and the visitor,
The resident and the foreigner,
The happy and the sad,
The hopeful and the helpless
entered the busy stillness.

I watched children and others
learning from screens and welcomers
about the one to whom the glory is given.
They ate meals and had the chance to create in word and form,
paint and clay their response to this day.
People were praying some alone others with helpers,
listeners to the cries of the heart,
lighting candles, seeking.
The needs of the world brought to its creator
through shabby scraps of snatched thoughts and pleas.
Laughter and smiles mixed with silent tears as people gathered to share and greet.
A broken group waited for their chance of wholeness through dance
and art as the work continued around them.

If hope and love could be a colour or a taste or a fragrance or a place...

I sought an explanation from someone at the door.
'What is this place?' I asked, hopeful for a simple answer.
'This is the place where we
discover the Heart of God in the Heart of the City.
Come and join the celebration.

Stewart Jones

RECTOR'S REPORT

As we look back over 2012 there is much to be thankful for and much to encourage us as we continue to 'Discover the heart of God in the heart of the city'.

Highlights included the Jubilee weekend celebrations in June (despite the rain) with a wonderful concert, a service of Songs of Praise and a shared lunch for over 250 people. The latter event was something we did in partnership with the surrounding restaurants and much needed help from the Bullring management team. We also held an early morning service and breakfast following the Olympic torch passing through the bullring with over 50 people coming along.

Financially we began the year with many challenges, made very real with the loss of 5 staff due to redundancy. We said goodbye to Collin, Janet, Karen, Sharon and Tom in the first months of 2012 and I am grateful to all of them for their contribution to the life of the church. A stewardship campaign held in February 2012 and some imaginative fundraising events helped us to meet our budget targets as we finished the year with a small surplus.

In March we welcomed Emma Sykes as the new Associate Rector, having already got to know her really well as our curate. The transition to her new responsibilities has been very smooth and Emma brings wisdom, skill and talent to the community and we are very blessed to have her and her family with us. With the redundancies has come the creation of a new post of Assistant Church Manager now filled by the promotion of Lisa Taphouse from our administrator's post. We ended the year by appointing a new part time admin person and we welcome Joe Roberts to the team.

This is the third and final year of our current strategy document and of the 18 objectives we set ourselves in 2010 we have completed or partially completed at least 14 of them. This is something to be grateful for and to give thanks for the hard work of both staff and all our volunteers. (In June 2012 we had 134!). This means we enter into the next year of our life together reviewing what we has happened and discerning what God wants of us in the future.

St Martin's remains an incredible place, rich with people, prayer and the power of God at work in and through us. To him be the glory.

Stewart Jones

Prayer and Worship



9.30am Sunday Holy Communion Service

Annual Report 2012

General information

The number of the congregation varies from Sunday to Sunday as we have visitors from all over town and indeed from all over the world. Our core congregation continues to be faithful and I can still say that the age range varies from as young as a baby in a pram to ninety something. We also have students from nearby universities attending the services regularly.

We continue using the liturgy in Common Worship and follow the liturgical seasons. The readings and preaching follow the same theme as the other Sunday services.

New Development

We continue to develop and involve the congregation in active participation with the intercessions and Bible reading. Ratika Mal, one of our young people from the congregation is our latest addition on the rota for Bible reading. Flona Smith has now permission to assist with Holy Communion.

I want to thank everyone who is involved in the worship not only those who come to the front to preach, play organ/piano or lead in various parts of the service but also the faithful congregation.

A Bible verse for this coming year

Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. (Psalm 132:7,9)

Elsie Blair-Chappell
Assistant Priest

THE CROSSING SERVICE

The Crossing Service continues not only to be our largest service of the week but it also manages to live up to its name. It is a place where many people come from a rich diversity of backgrounds to experience a mix of contemporary worship as well as traditional hymns, liturgy and times of extemporary prayer. People from many different church backgrounds and those of none, still come and are able to find connections to others and more importantly to God's spirit. Our "come as you are" motto is one that is still expressed and lived out by what we try to do, the only caveat to the motto being, when we come as we are, be prepared to be changed by God's Holy Spirit. It is when we are vulnerable that God is able to work more deeply in our lives.

This year, as it was such a momentous year in terms of the Queen's Jubilee and the London Olympics, we have focused on "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). This theme was expressed in the title "The Searching Soul" and as ever Stewart Jones' creativity in expressing this in different ways came through in what was produced visually and in the spoken word. Our thanks goes to all those guest speakers throughout the year who help to inspire and enrich the teaching at this service. We also held a special "thank you" service, so that we could acknowledge all the hard work of the many people who volunteer their time to be part of the mission and ministry of St Martins. Without them (and you!) we would not be able to do what we do.

Throughout the year, we have tried to build up, encourage and enable others to take a more active part in the up front worship at The Crossing. We have seen a few new faces who read as well as pray and we have had one or two new people who have preached as well. Again this has been wonderful to see different people grow and be challenged in the gifts that God has given them. We also regularly have a prayer ministry team that pray with people during the times when we have communion.

We continue to work at making The Crossing a place where people can develop a sense of community but also be challenged and encouraged by teaching and preaching that we hope is relevant to the lives of those who come. It is messy at the edges at times but our prayer is that no matter who comes through the door, they will experience the overwhelming love of God through his son Jesus Christ.

Emma Sykes

EVENING SERVICE

This year the weather behaved itself (!) and all December Carol Services took place on the dates planned. There was also an Epiphany Carol Service, which tracked the story of Jesus from the visit of the Magi through to the Presentation in the Temple, when Simeon recognised him as the Messiah.. Once more the evening Ash Wednesday Service, again led by the Rector, was held in the Chancel; it was again intimate in style and especially beautiful.

This year the Theme in Lent was “The Sixth Sense”; 1) Seeing is Believing, with a short film (the Rector), 2) Ears to Hear - Music and Meditation (John Gerighty); 3) The Touch of Jesus, a Healing Service (Dave Bell); 4) Taste and See with Sanctuary (Pal Singh); 5) The Fragrance of Christ (Emma Sykes); and, on Palm Sunday, 6) a Service with Prayer Stations (Emma). Unlike at the other Services, the normal liturgical pattern was not followed; it was hoped that, being different, many might have felt able to “drop in” – the numbers attending were a little greater, but not many of the other congregations came.

Prayer Service (3rd Sunday); Apart from in Lent, in June (the Civic Service) and in December (Nativity Carol Service) they took place every month, even in August. Naturally, the style of each Service has been different, depending on who was leading it, some being more structured than others. The numbers attending have varied, but have been somewhat disappointing with so few of the PCC (which authorised it) supporting. Also, worryingly, several regular members of the Evening congregation have tended to stay away.

There were other themes – Stewardship (in February), several and Sermon series - “The Healthy Body” and “The Body of Christ in Action” (June and July), “Be Still and Know, my Favourite Verse” (August) “Loving the Lord” (September) and “Lord of Life and Death” (October); each service was again depicted in a different way, whether with choir, with violin or otherwise.

Choir:

This year the core of Singers has remained fairly constant; owing to my having a short stay in City Hospital, Linnéa Markgren ably directed the Choir (“They watched the conductor more”, “Why?”, “Well, she’s prettier to look at than you are” !!). She now assists me on a more regular basis. We had Emma Hancox back with us for a few months, before she got a job in London: Chloë Hancox, having graduated from Cambridge, is studying for an MA in Birmingham, Lewis Jones now sings regularly again, as do Claire Hollocks, Ed Harrison and Lucy Harvey. Marion Woodward has been with us when she was leading the Service or preaching.

Now that Colin and Pam Walker are able to worship with us with more regularity, we have gained another excellent reader in Colin.

David Griffiths has played for most the Choral Services and Jo Barber has again contributed meaningfully on violin. May I also thank Bernard Salter, who twice played the organ for Choral Services, David Lane (St. Agatha’s), who played for the non-choral services when I have been away, and Stephen Blair-Chappell, who played for Christmas Midnight Communion.

John Hawker,

Worship Director 6pm Service

Tuesday Service of Prayers for Healing

The Tuesday service of prayers for healing has continued to follow the pattern of being a simplified version of The Crossing and therefore has had a mix of the contemporary and traditional. It is a place of warmth and fellowship with the average attendance being about 60 people per week. There is a great sense of community with the regular members providing support and friendship for one another. Prayer for healing continues to remain an important part and I am always amazed by the variety of people and circumstances that they come with to receive prayer. A huge thank you goes to all those who are faithfully involved in this ministry.

There are two main developments that have happened in 2012. Firstly, is to introduce a reading and prayer rota to enable more people to be involved in the worship in this way. It is good to hear different voices and be blessed by their prayers. Secondly, we have recruited more "listeners", into the listening team. This is an area of ministry that has been really significant for many people who come to this service, the power of a Godly listening ear can be part of a healing process and so we wanted to build it up. We have training planned for 2013 and hope to expand this area of ministry more.

There are many people involved in this service and I would like to thank the readers and prayers, the worship team, the communion assistants and all those who serve tea and coffee, as well as those who lead and preach on a regular basis. May God bless and grow this ministry.

Emma Sykes

THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

This midweek service provides an important place of stillness, prayer and worship for the number of regular worshippers and the many visitors who come. Attendance varies week by week but there are usually around 20 people receiving the bread and wine and those who come are very pleased to be able to find a place of sanctuary in a busy day.

Many thanks to those who help at the service in particular John Lewis, Joney Blair and the Facilities Team. I am also very grateful to Elsie and Emma for the times they take the service allowing those who come to have the chance to experience all the styles of the clergy team at St Martin's!

Stewart Jones

Prayer and Worship Forum report

We have met three times to review our current vision statement, and consider ways in which Christ's worship in St Martin's is to His glory and in tune with those attending services. We have also been concerned to help the prayer life of all who come, corporately and individually.

The objectives for the Prayer and Worship Forum were:

- to create three specific prayer events a year
- to establish prayer networks for the community
- to explore the possibility of an additional midweek after work service

The last was deemed to be unworkable, as another service would put a large amount of pressure on staff already very busy with six services a week, as well as the difficulties of providing facility support.

We have managed three prayer events – St Martins @ prayer on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6.00pm, Ash Wednesday and Advent prayer days.

There was an additional event, Retreat in Daily Life, which was very helpful to those who chose to participate.

Prayer networks are not formally organised but work through life groups and staff prayers. The Forum feels this should be considered as something to have in the next vision document.

These thoughts were brought to PCC , with these questions:

How can we help our young people with prayer?

Do we need prayer networks?

Are our services (a) helping people to become committed Christians

(b) helping members to grow in faith

© reaching out to the newcomer and seeker

If services need to change – ARE WE READY TO ACCEPT CHANGES?

Marion Woodward

Pastoral Care



Pastoral Care Forum Annual Report 2012

The aim of the Forum is to ensure that everyone at St Martin's has the opportunity to receive a genuine expression of Christian care.

We have finally found a way of keeping in touch with and updating the information we hold for all members of the congregation, so that it is readily available to the Clergy, Staff and other key volunteers. The proposals will be considered by the Church Council very soon and, if approved, the system will be operational shortly.

Just before Christmas a team of members took on responsibility for visiting those who are no longer able to attend services due to illness or disability. Thanks to all who assisted.

We were hoping to arrange another 'Welcome Course' during the year, but that proved not to be possible. However, the 'Welcome to Church' Notice Board, and the 'Welcome Pack' for new members of the congregation were kept updated. Unfortunately, the Welcome Pack is no longer available to download from the website.

We arranged three Social Events during the year; a Barn Dance in July raising £350, a Skittles Night in September that raised £130 and finally a Quiz Night in November that raised £300. A total of £780 raised for the Church and three very enjoyable evenings where we were able to get to know each other a little better.

My thanks to the Forum members, Bridget Cameron, Liz Harris, Lorna Honick and Christine Marshall for their help, advice and enthusiasm.

Pastoral Care can never be the responsibility of one individual or even a small group. It is the responsibility of every member of the congregation to care for each other. If you become aware of anyone in need of assistance, please speak to a member of the Forum or the Clergy Team.

Yvonne Thompson

Chair - Pastoral Care Forum



ST MARTIN'S CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For over 800 years the homeless, destitute and vulnerable have called on the services of St Martin's-in-the-Bull Ring in times of need. Since 1999 support services have been provided through a separate Help Desk and Counselling Service that in 2003 was incorporated within the St Martin's Centre for Health and Healing.

I'm sure then that everyone can imagine the disappointment when the Board of C.H.H had to make the decision in June 2012 to close the Help Desk. Whilst the Desk was an extremely successful and cost effect service, increasingly over the last 3 years it became difficult to raise funds to support its work.

Obviously we were all concerned with the effect closure would have on the vulnerable clients supported by the Desk. Graham and his team worked tirelessly over the months leading up to closure to ensure that all clients were referred on to other services and that no-one was left without somewhere to turn in times of need. This additional effort proved to have been highly successful, so much so that very few traditional Help Desk clients have been into the Church looking for help.

Clearly the Help Desk was only one half of C.H.H and the Counselling Service by comparison has had a relatively successful year. Funding from the NHS, Charitable Trusts and individual donations has ensured that over the last 12 months the service has been able to slightly increase the numbers of people worked with.

During the last 12 months over 13,000 sessions were offered to 1,978 clients. Most of the people had a variety of needs requiring in-depth work. The service was fortunate to be able to call upon the expertise of over 35 highly qualified and experienced Counsellors. This large number of therapists enabled the service to offer a comprehensive range of approaches, including; Person-Centred, Psychodynamic, Integrative, Gestalt and Solution focussed Therapy (including CBT), which crucially mean't that clients can access a counsellor most appropriate for their needs.

Whilst the funding climate continues to be extremely uncertain we remain hopeful that C.H.H will still have a vital role to play in providing those most in need within our community with the help and support that St Martin's-in-the-Bullring has spent nearly a millenium offering.

Rob Jones
Director

EVANGELISM



Healing on the Streets Prayer Ministry

Annual Report 2012

A group of us from St Martin's and other churches in Birmingham go outside on Edgbaston Street to pray for people each first Saturday of the month.

The 'Healing on the Streets' model is a simple way to reach out to the lost and hurting on the streets. It enables us to connect with our community expressing God's love in the market place. We simply invite people to sit on the chairs so we can pray for them. Over time we build relationships, creating stepping stone for people to come to Jesus and be healed along the way.

Distinguishing marks

The presence of the Holy Spirit – We want shoppers and passers-by to experience and enter into God's presence. Our total reliance is on the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing without him.

Peace – Jesus is the Prince of Peace. In the busiest of places we create a sanctuary, a safe place, and oasis where people can experience his peace. We quite often hear people say they feel better, more peaceful and less burdened after prayer.

Gentleness – The streets are full of broken, hurting people. We minister with gentleness and sensitivity.

Love – the compelling love of Christ propel us out into marketplace. Whether they are healed or not, we endeavour to convey people that God loves them. I have seen many tears rolling down people's face when they hear the words '*God loves you*', '*you were wonderfully made*', and '*you are the apple of God's eye*'.

An account of one of the prayers

A young girl from a Buddhist background came up for prayer. At first she was not so sure if this is what she wanted. As she sat on the chair we could sense the Holy Spirit's prompt in her life. We prayed she would have a revelation of Jesus. We prayed for God's blessings and guidance in her life. When she left her face was beaming. (Is this what happens when people are touched by Jesus?)

When I hear so many prayer requests as the one above, I can only but just begin to understand why Jesus sent out this disciples to go out and preach the Gospel, saying 'the Kingdom of God is near, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.' (Matthew 10: 7)

Elsie Blair-Chappell
Assistant Priest

Who is Jesus course

This four week introduction to the Christian faith has become a regular feature of our teaching programme at St Martin's. Three courses have been held in 2012 with a total attendance of 29 in the year. Nearly everyone who completes this introductory course carries on to the Emmaus course which is a very useful follow up to the basics covered here.

Each session begins with refreshments and offers a chance to ask any questions about the person of Christ in hopefully a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere.

Stewart Jones

DISCIPLESHIP



Discipleship Forum Annual Report 2012

The Discipleship Forum did not meet during 2012. The objectives that were set out in the previous vision document had been met or responded to and so there wasn't as much of an urgency for the forum to meet and before we knew it, it was the end of the year!

However this does not mean that discipleship has not happened. Here are updates of activities that have happened:

Growing Leaders

In June there were 23 new Growing Leader graduates! Our largest course yet, with in one case, a whole life group coming along and being involved. As with the previous group, it was a mixed group with some very experienced people and some less so. Once again many people valued the opportunity to get to know others more and different people gained different insights out of the course. In September we launched our third Growing leaders course with 12 people. Already, many have benefited from the ideas that the course material raises and has provoked more thought and prayer and different approached in doing thing. The area that we still struggle with is finding mentors, this is something to keep trying to develop in the future. It has been great to see some of the previous participants on previous courses get involved in this one - particularly to help lead sessions and to help with hospitality (a very important part!).

Lifegroups

As outlined last year there was less emphasis put onto lifegroups but the ones that have continued are still thriving and continue to be a place where people grow, learn and pray together through God's presence and spirit.

Small Groups

Small groups have continued through out the year with a number of "Who is Jesus?" courses running and some follow-up groups. In Lent we had a particularly fruitful and interesting "Going Deeper" course when we used Bishop Andrews book and study "The Way of the Desert". We hope to continue to grow and mature these groups further as we believe smaller groups are another area where growth and maturity of faith in Christ can be fostered and developed.

Emma Sykes

Kids Club Report 2012

Kids Club has continued to meet on the first and third Sundays of the month.

There have been some team changes. Many thanks, good wishes for the future, but also a sad good-bye to Mac, who has helped in the team for several years, and his two sons.

Due to his work commitments, we have seen less of Ali this year. It has been much more difficult this year to keep Kids Club going. Christina and Alison have continued to serve faithfully, along with myself. As expected, children have been growing up and moving on to the Mix. Best wishes to Omar.

This year the two groups met twice for a joint event: once in St Martin's and once at the Redpoint climbing centre. These were very successful events and we plan to repeat them. Nearly all the leaders of Kids Club and the Mix went to listen to Rob Parsons encouraging us and training us on how to get our kids through church without them growing up to hate God! A few weeks ago Alison and I received more training through workshops on different aspects of leading children's work. Many thanks to Christina, Alison and Ali. I'm looking forward to being able to congratulate Alison in a few months' time on her successful completion of the Bishop's certificate. If you are interested in doing the course, please talk to her. If you are interested in joining us as part of the team, please contact Oli or one of us on the team.

Sue Rodgers

Youth and Schools Work at St. Martin in the Bull Ring Annual Report

This has been another full and eventful year for us!

Youth work

As well as the regular Mix sessions (part of the Crossing service), we have been getting more involved in taking an active part in the Crossing services – particularly on the 4th Sunday each month. We have set up the ‘table’ area in the South Aisle, to try and help children, young people and their parents to engage with our services and take part. Our children and young people have also been leading our prayer times, doing readings, and starting to join in with the music team in leading worship. Over the coming year we hope to keep this up, and to look for new ways for children and young people to take a fuller part in our worship and teaching together.

It was a great encouragement last July when five of our young people went forward for Confirmation, with others from the church. We had a great time in the Mix learning about confirmation together, and supporting our five friends through this special point in their faith journeys.

Last summer also saw us link up with the youth group from St. Thomas’ Garretts Green to run the *MyFaith* video project. We had a fantastic time learning how to plan, film, and edit video – and through this had some brilliant conversations about what faith means to us and what difference it makes in our lives. We presented the finished videos to each of our churches in November at two ‘premier’ events, and have posted the films to YouTube (you can link to see them through the St. Martin’s website).

Schools work...

We have had a regular flow of school groups coming to visit us still. We get a full range of group sizes (from 5 pupils to 240!) and ages (from 4 years old to 21!), visiting for different reasons and for different lengths of time. It is an incredible privilege for us to be able to work with schools in this way, and we have got really good relationships developing with several schools and teachers, which is brilliant. We are still getting an average of at least one visit per week during term time, with some schools visiting five or six times a year with different groups.

We have been working on several different ways to improve the ways that we engage with schools. We ran two Art Exhibition and Competition events for secondary schools last year: *Searching* during Lent, and *Waiting* during Advent. These gave us a chance to work more closely with a couple of schools, and the art work that we were able to display (from GCSE Art students) was of an excellent standard so it was great to be able to celebrate their creativity in this way.

Thank you to all of those who pray and support this work, and for everyone who helps in little ways to help children and young people to engage with faith here at St. Martin’s.

Finally, it would not be right to finish this annual report without saying a **massive** ‘thank you’ to all of the volunteers who make this work possible – both in the youth work and schools work. You are all amazing!

Grace and Peace,

Oli

Mission



Annual Report for PCC, 2013 for 2012
Creative Arts Ministry

In January 2012 St Martin's Arts was reabsorbed back into St Martin's Church, meaning the charity closed and all the assets were transferred to the Church. We had been planning this for a number of months, and administratively this was time consuming but the aim of the move was to see the Arts Ministry fully integrated into the church. It's now the beginning of March 2013 and I feel that it's working really well.

There's been so much happening, and I don't want this to be a list, so I'll focus on a few things ... My real passion about my work here is engaging with individuals. I've learnt that a little can mean a lot to people, that people have very different needs, and that one size doesn't fit all. I've learnt that consistency in our approach to them, honesty and trust is really important. I've also learnt that having low-key events for people to come to is important. It helps us meet the needs of those who are lonely, those who are working hard to maintain or improve their mental health, those who are searching for God or for more of Him, and to those who long for community. This is the work you might not notice, you won't see flashing lights and crowds of people, but seeing smiles on peoples' faces, seeing confidence grow, people opening up, people caring for others, and seeing them grow into the person God made them, is a massive privilege.

One of the most exciting projects for me over 2012 has been the Tuesday Gathering programme. This programme was developed to engage the many visitors we have coming to the church. At least twice a month we run these workshops in the church, which are free and open to everyone. The events are all art based; sometimes as art workshops, other times retreats and occasionally an artist's talk or discussion. Some sessions I run myself where other sessions are run by exhibitors, freelance artists or clergy. I'm there for each session to help build relationships. To give you a flavour here are a few things we've done: Writing our own songs of worship with John Gerighty, What is the Colour of Your Soul? with Catherine Pinnock, Pray and Play with Clay with Emma Sykes, Advent Meditations with Mary Gilbert, 5 textiles sessions with Midlands Textiles Forum, Good Grief talk and discussion with Jean Parker, Music Reflections with John Gerighty, Making 'Cross in My Pocket' to support Elsie's work at Birmingham Children's Hospital, Book-binding & printing with Jackie Rankin, Photography with Dee Patel and Starting with Pastels and Fabric Painting with Anita Wojtowicz. Some people come along regularly, some now and then, and others as a one off. It has been great to get to know people coming along and although I won't share their personal stories I'm really excited about the group. Funding is from the Grimmit Trust and Deritend Trust.

In addition to these workshops we held a craftcare day with Jackie Rankin and her team from Arts All Over the Place, during which people were able to take part in printing, clay, sculpture, papier-mâché and other activities free of charge throughout the day. I am planning to develop more work with Jackie.

I'm also excited about 'Knit and Natter' which is being run by Marion Woodward, Margaret Relf and Marjorie Rainbow. It might not look like a big deal from the outside but this group is supporting women who have a life-story, who have struggles and who love being able to meet and talk. I've been really pleased to have opportunities to work with individuals.

Continued

CraftworX, our art group which had been meeting since Jan 2004, closed in June 2012. There were a number of reasons for this, which I carefully considered, but mainly I was aware of the need to keep-on-top-of-changes within the group and within our demographic as a church. It's easy to cling to something and lose sight of the fact that seasons come and go. I decided that CraftworX was no longer the best way to support the members we had, and that it was no longer serving the need which it was set up for, so the group was closed. Many thanks to all those involved, and for Westhill for their funding support.

Our Friday Lunchtime Concerts continue and are popular with musicians and audiences. Around half of our musicians come from the Conservatoire. This year, for the first time we combined painting with a concert. Stella Seaton-Sims performed operatic pieces while Paul Langford responded to each by painting. This performance was themed for Remembrance Day, and was enjoyed by many. We also hosted our 9th Annual Christmas Concert with Bournville Strings and Sutton Coldfield Chamber Choir, conducted by Gordon Thornett. This event was run in conjunction with St Basils and money raised from a retiring collection was shared with them. Many thanks to all involved.

Hopefully most of you will have seen and enjoyed our exhibitions and the aids to prayer and contemplation which we have set up in the church. Last year our exhibitions were: Visions by Midlands Painting Group, Legacy by Midlands Textile Forum, Good Grief by Jean Parker, Painting, Photography and Sculpture by Crisis, Portraits of Friendship by Dee Patel and the Near Neighbours Project, Art and Soul by Catherine Pinnock, Revelation by Paul Langford, Time and Tide by Colin Monk, and also two exhibitions of work from local schools, Searching and Waiting. We've also been pleased to show work by Paul Langford in our Tea Lounge and Meeting Rooms.

This year I was also involved in a new venture with Alison Haywood, the craft fairs! We held 2 in 2012 which raised £1,500 for the church. They were a lot of fun, and it was really great to see the event supported by so many volunteers, not only creating amazing things for us to sell but also helping on the day, and helping our visitors have an enjoyable time. Feedback from the stall holders was that they really enjoyed the atmosphere, and they are coming back for 2013. Apart from being a fundraiser, again, it's a way on engaging with the public, and also, believe it or not, our stall holders sometimes need some tlc and I think the set up at St Martin's allows us to do this in a way that commercial fairs cannot. Thanks so much to Alison and all the volunteers for this fun event and the money which they raised for the church.

Since I started in 'formal' Christian Ministry I've always thought about the little boy with his loaves and fishes. Sometimes we look out to the crowds and the job just looks too big – too costly for our resources and too daunting for our abilities - but if we give the little we have to God, he will multiply it, use it, bless us, encourage us, and we will see amazing things – and if we stop long enough to take it all in - we do see them - every day.

Cheryl Homer

THE BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE FORUM

The main purpose of the Forum is to promote the rich and varied heritage sites which are within the Birmingham area, to the media, city councillors, tourist information centres (TICs), libraries, hotels, educational establishments, coach companies and indeed anyone who can help raise awareness of our extensive heritage and, therefore, encourage more visitors to our sites and to Birmingham.

The Forum produces and circulates an eye-catching publicity leaflet. Accompanied by photographs, clearly stated are the names of the venues along with their postcode and telephone number. The leaflet may also be downloaded from the excellent website: www.birminghamheritage.org.uk The website features members' news which is updated after each quarterly meeting. The Heritage Open Days (HODs) logo 'H' will again feature alongside the venues participating in the HODs both on the leaflet and the website. Members' websites have a reciprocal link to the Forum's website with disappointingly, the exception of St Martin's!

There are some fascinating display boards which can be booked by members to display at their events. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Marketing Birmingham (MB) is linked to the Heritage Forum website which is great. MB reported that over the Christmas season the meet and greet service welcomed 155 coaches which was an increase of 36% on 2011; hotel occupancy for the festive period was 80% with hotel revenue up by 11%; the footfall was 4.3 million people. It is hoped that some of these visitors found their way into St Martin's!

During the year Pugin's Birmingham joined the Forum in time for the bicentenary of Pugin's birth. The Friends' of Selly Oak Park and King Edward Schools' Archives have also joined in 2012 which brings the membership venues up to forty-seven including eight churches.

The print run for the 2013 leaflet has been increased to 160,000 copies which will have to last for two years owing to the lack of funding. This year, please encourage people to visit the Forum's website, and also make a particular effort to look out for the leaflet, especially as St Martin's is featured in an exciting collage on the front cover! Then together, we shall share the City's living and varied heritage.

**Jean Jepson
March 2013**

Believing in Birmingham

The plan to hold quarterly lunchtime meetings as agreed last year has taken place. Attendance has varied but those who have come have found the chance to catch up with each other invaluable. There is a need to coordinate how city centre churches work but often the challenge is knowing who to invite as there are still a number of churches now based in the city which we know little about.

The funds that Believing in Birmingham held were given to the work of Restore a much needed charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Stewart Jones

MALAWI DIOCESAN LINK

The Church of the Province of Central Africa includes Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The first Anglican missionary to Malawi was Bishop Charles Mackenzie who arrived with David Livingstone in 1861. The Province was inaugurated in 1955 and has a movable bishopric. The countries forming the Province are very different. Botswana and Zambia suffer the difficulties of rapid industrialization, along with underdeveloped, thinly populated areas. Whereas in Malawi 30% of the adult male population is away as migrant labourers in other countries at any given time. Zimbabwe is still experiencing problems of social adjustment after independence from the UK.

The Primate of the Province is The Most Revd Albert Charna and after his election, he was enthroned as Archbishop on 20 March 2011 at a service in Lusaka Cathedral in Zambia. He also continues in his role as Bishop of Northern Zambia. The Provincial Treasurer is Mr R. Kanja who lives in Zambia.

Birmingham's Diocesan Link with Malawi continues through prayer, interaction of people and awareness of their lives, in addition to financial giving.

During the last year **£53,615** has been donated to the Birmingham Diocesan Link of Malawi. This funding was received from parish churches as well as individuals from across Birmingham Diocese and was shared equally among the four dioceses which form the Anglican Church in Malawi. The money raised contributes to maintaining a Christian presence and outreach in the communities through the churches. However, the money given falls short of the Diocese's target of £60,000. Church members are being encouraged to reach the maintained **target of £60,000 in 2013**.

An additional **£12,009** went through the Birmingham Diocesan Office contributing towards specific parish, school and hospital links as well as to newly ordained clergy. People also contributed **£22,898** for the carriage costs of two containers which were sent to Malawi with a range of supplies.

The Malawi Partnership Officer and Chair of the Malawi Task Group for the Diocese is the Revd Richard Tucker and the Chair of the Partnership for World Mission is the Rt Revd Maurice Sinclair. Canon (lay) Paul Wilson continues in his role of Honorary Finance Officer. Please contact any of these people through the Diocesan Office or at: www.malawipartnership.co.uk if you would like to find out more and be involved with the link in some way, including considering exploring Malawi for yourself!

Malawi has its first female President. Mrs Joyce Banda took up office in April following the death of 78 year old President Bingu wa Mutharika who died in office after being in the role since 2004. Mr Mutharika's decision to appoint her as his running mate for the 2009 elections surprised many in Malawi's mainly conservative, male-dominated society which had never before had a female vice-president. Equally surprising was her decision to publicly stand up to her boss by refusing to endorse his plans for his brother, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Mutharika to succeed him as President in 2014 when he was due to retire. The former President's wife is quoted as saying: 'She will never be president, how can a mandasi (fritter) seller be president?' Mrs Banda took all this in her stride, saying she was glad to be identified with market women since more than 80% of Malawian women belong to that category: 'Yes, she's right, I'm indeed a mandasi seller and I'm proud of it because the majority of women in Malawi are like us, mandasi sellers.' She also resisted calls for her to resign as the country's vice-president — she was elected rather than appointed so she could not be fired by Mr Mutharika; and instead set up her own People's Party. Joyce Banda, born in 1950, is the second woman to lead an African country — the first being Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. She has a track record of fighting for women's rights.

Please pray for:

- Malawi and Birmingham Diocese's continued relationship with her people, especially through the church communities
- all those in leadership roles: the politicians; the four bishops of Malawi; parish clergy; members of the laity, especially the Mothers' Union in their leadership and pastoral roles
- wisdom in helping the church in Malawi to move towards financial self-sustainability

**Rachel Jepson
March 2013**

CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod has met twice during the year. The **March** meeting was held in St Patrick's Room, St Alban's Church Highgate and the opening prayers were led by Fr Pervaiz Sultan, priest-in-charge.

The Area Dean Revd Dr Andrew Lenox-Conyngham welcomed everyone including the speaker Rhiannon Jones, the Bishop's Advisor for the Transforming Church strategy and Fr Geraldo Romo Garcia who is attached to St George's Newtown.

Rhiannon Jones reminded members that the Transforming Church strategy had been launched at St Martin's on Saturday 12 September 2009. She stressed that every church should use the Transforming Church strategy to create or enhance its own strategy to develop and grow. She pointed out the goals of church growth, including using the opportunities presented naturally through having baptisms, weddings and funerals; holding annual events like 'Back to Church Sunday' and Christian discipleship courses; and encouraging children and young people in their walk of faith. A lively discussion ensued. There are resources available and contact should be made through her at the Diocesan Office.

The **September** meeting was at St Barnabas', Balsall Heath. The opening prayers were led by the Revd Canon John Herve who also gave a description of this parish together with that of St Agatha's. The churches are in an 82% Muslim community where there is great social deprivation. The congregations are small but John is pleased that the church premises are rented to organisations which aim to relieve deprivation and any social tensions.

The first part of the meeting was chaired by the new Area Dean, Revd Ian Harper, Vicar of St John's and St Peter's Ladywood. He thanked Andrew Lennox-Conyngham, his predecessor and long serving Area Dean for his kindness and ministry to the deanery. Members endorsed the thanks.

The speaker was Andrew Halstead, Diocesan Secretary who reminded members that congregations financially support one another through a parish share which is known as the Common Fund. He spoke about the new way of calculating a parish's Common Fund and highlighted that:

the new method has four main elements = **ministry cost + parish services cost + curate training cost**; the total of which is multiplied by a **parish percentage** which then gives a parish's contribution to the Common Fund

thus each parish is being asked to aspire to being self-funding

the base level of **ministry cost** for 2012 was £40,077 per full-time clergy stipendiary post

the **ministry cost** covers: the incumbent's stipend, employer's National Insurance contribution, pension contribution, housing costs and the Council Tax

the base level **parish services cost** per PCC for 2012 was £11,035 per parish

the **parish services** are provided centrally through the staff of the Diocesan Office, including training and development of clergy and parishioners; care of church buildings and property; communications

the base level **curate training cost** per PCC for 2012 was £9,877

the **parish percentage** for St Martin's works out at 80% of the overall total for the three elements

the **parish percentage** takes several factors into account including average Sunday attendance figures and a church's 'ability' to pay according to its unique set of circumstances and its socio-economic situation

a **parish hardship fund** has been established of £100,000 per annum to relieve cases of special parish hardship which occur within that year

use of the **parish hardship fund** will be proposed by either Archdeacon, discussed at the Grants and Loans Review Committee and then ratified by Bishop's Council

Elections to Diocesan Synod

House of Clergy: four vacancies were filled, John Herve, Larry Wright, Ian Harper and Pervaiz Sultan

House of Laity: Stephen Wycherley and Ian Williams. One vacancy

Bridget Cameron was thanked for her long service to the Diocesan Synod and for her informative reports to the deanery.

This is the first time that St Martin's has not been represented on the Diocesan Synod!

General Synod and Diocesan Synod reports were tabled at both meetings together with parish updates.

The GENERAL SYNOD of the CHURCH of ENGLAND

General Synod unusually met three times in 2012. Two groups of sessions were held in Church House, Westminster, London during February and November. In July Synod gathered at the University of York. A range of issues was debated — some concerning society as a whole while others focused on church business. If you would like to find out more then please explore: www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod as my report focuses on the most memorable elements of General Synod 2012.

Women in the Episcopate

July Group of Sessions

Preceding the official start to General Synod, meetings were held on the afternoon of Friday 6 July of the House of Laity and the Convocations of Canterbury and York ie provincial synods. These meetings were important in order to begin the final stages of the major legislative process designed to make it possible for women to be bishops in the Church of England. The draft legislation was approved by the House of Laity and by both Houses of Convocation. The process of 'simple majorities' opened the way for the legislation to be presented for 'final approval' by the whole Synod on Monday 9 July — when a 'two thirds majority' would be required in each House ie Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

However, on Monday the Steering Committee for the draft legislation moved a motion to adjourn the final approval debate in order to enable the House of Bishops to reconsider its amendment to Clause 5 of the draft Measure. After two and a half hours of debate, that motion was approved by 288 votes for, 144 against, with 15 abstentions. As a consequence, the Archbishops announced that the General Synod would meet from Monday 19 – Wednesday 21 November in London to resume the final approval debate; following reconsideration by the House of Bishops during their meeting in Oxford on Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 September. This would be the first time that Synod needed to use the provisional extra dates since the 1990s. Also, as a result of these decisions Synod's business was completed by Monday evening!

November Group of Sessions

The motion: 'That the Measure entitled "Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure" be finally approved' was put before Synod. The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu chaired the all-day debate. He informed Synod that there were more than 170 requests to speak. After 79 speeches the Chairman imposed a speech limit of one minute. I was the 96th speaker to be called and was allowed one minute!

Here is the text of my speech which I modified to avoid repetition in the debate:

Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham):

Quite simply, fellow members of Synod, now is the time to seize the moment and to make a positive decision which will allow women and men to flourish and be able to honour their vocation at every level of the ordained ministry. Now is the time to seize the moment and to make a positive decision which will enable the full humanity of Christ to be reflected in the Church of England. Now is the time to seize the moment and to make a positive decision which will demonstrate to the people of our nation and the rest of the world the sort of Church we really wish to be. Now is the time to seize the moment and to make a positive decision which will embrace the will of God. So that a new, joyful and exciting chapter in the Church's history, life, witness and ministry can wholeheartedly begin.

Under General Synod's Standing Orders, the draft Measure to allow women to the episcopate had to receive the approval of a two thirds majority in each House at the final approval stage. Thus the motion was put and the Chairman ordered a division by Houses, with the following result:

	<i>Ayes</i>	<i>Noes</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
House of Bishops	44	3	2
House of Clergy	148	45	0
House of Laity	132	74	0

Thus the motion fell by six votes on the House of Laity.

The GENERAL SYNOD of the CHURCH of ENGLAND

Other business

Questions

One of the tasks which I have set myself this quinquennium is to submit topical questions as often as possible. When one submits a question either one asks for an oral or written reply. It is usually more prudent to ask for an oral reply so that the questioner may ask a supplementary from the floor of Synod!

For the gathering in February I submitted:

Q11. *Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham)* asked the Chairman of the Board of Education: Would the Board explain the process, including the skills audit, which led to the proposals in relation to current staff in the context of the implementation of the *Going for Growth* plan?

Q12. *Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham)* asked the Chairman of the Board of Education: With reference to the proposed staffing changes in the Education Division, why is it not more straightforward, more cost-effective and much better employment practice to offer the current staff members additional training, rather than creating a new post and making the existing posts redundant?

Along with two other questions, the Bishop of Oxford replied:

I have explained in an earlier answer the process that led to the proposals. The review of the Board's *Going for Growth* work plan demonstrated the need for a more radical approach to achieve the impact to which we are committed. Simply continuing to tie up almost all the available resource in staff costs is not necessarily the way forward. As I have explained, the details of the new proposals will be further developed in the light of the comments received during the consultation.

For the November Synod I submitted:

Q37. *Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham)* asked the Chairman of the Board of Education: How does the Education Division intend to respond to the recommendations contained in the recent Stonewall report concerning the experiences of gay young people in Britain's schools in 2012, in which it is reported that more than half of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in Britain's schools, many of whom attend faith schools, experience homophobic bullying?

The Bishop of Oxford (Rt Revd John Pritchard), in reply: The Board of Education is quite clear that no form of bullying, for whatever reason, is acceptable in Church of England schools and that it would expect all staff and governors to be vigilant and decisive. Diocesan boards of education work closely with their schools developing their Christian ethos and will be equally determined to put the absolute value of all children and young people at the heart of the Christian ethos of their schools.

Supplementary: Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham): Will the Education Division ensure that every school, at both primary and secondary level, has in place a lesbian, gay and bisexual anti-bullying policy and will provide training for all staff members on these matters?

The Bishop of Oxford: The Education Division itself cannot do that, but it can advise diocesan boards to do it and we will certainly consider that possibility.

The Chairman of the Board of Education, the Bishop of Oxford is John Pritchard — a former curate at St Martin's!

The GENERAL SYNOD of the CHURCH of ENGLAND

Her Majesty's Anniversaries

The two important landmarks in the Queen's life which were celebrated in 2012 were warmly acknowledged by members of Synod.

The first was in February, the Archbishop of Canterbury moved:

That this Synod congratulate most warmly Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her Diamond Jubilee and approve the submission to Her Majesty of a Loyal Address.

Then in November before chairing the women in episcopate debate, the Archbishop of York encouraged members to sing the first verse of the National Anthem to mark Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh's sapphire wedding — sixty-five years.

The Clerk to the Synod, Dr Colin Podmore paid tribute to Mrs Margaret Stevenson in July who has shown unstinting service by being a stenographer for the General Synod for twenty-nine years, and I certainly hope she will be able to enjoy her retirement



In November Synod, in turn, said farewell to Colin Podmore as he left his role to become Director of Forward in Faith from April 2013.

Judith Gracias retired after working as a secretary in Church House for almost forty years! Thus she was the longest serving member of the team. The Queen has inaugurated nine successive General Synods and Judith has witnessed eight of those inaugurations.

Also there was a farewell to Glyn Webster as Prolocutor of York (House of Clergy) as he became the next Bishop of Beverley.

Bishops who attended their last meeting of General Synod before retiring from office were: John Hind, Bishop of Chichester; Martyn Jarrett, Bishop of Beverley; Nicholas Reade, Bishop of Blackburn; Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester; and Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

As is customary, most Synod members attended the service of Holy Communion at York Minster. Towards the end of the service the child parishioners wished to acknowledge, with gratitude, the years of service Rowan Williams has given in his role of Archbishop of Canterbury by presenting him with gifts they had made. Hence my photographs.



The GENERAL SYNOD of the CHURCH of ENGLAND

Due to the situation over women bishops in July, Synod's farewell to the Archbishop of Canterbury came at the end of the November group of sessions. The Archbishop of York moved and spoke on:

That this Synod record its deep gratitude for the Archbishop of Canterbury's outstanding ministry to Church and Nation, and offer him and Mrs Williams its very best wishes for the future.

Subsequently, in line with custom, the Prolocutor of Canterbury, *Ven Christine Hardman* (Archdeacon of Lewisham) spoke on behalf of the clergy; followed by the Chairman of the House of Laity, *Dr Philip Giddings* (Oxford) spoke on behalf of the laity; and the senior ecumenical representative *Very Revd Archimandrite Ephrem Lash* (Orthodox Churches) spoke on behalf of the ecumenical representatives.

Jane Williams received a bouquet of flowers before the Archbishop of Canterbury had his turn. When Archbishop Rowan addressed Synod for the final time, it was, as always, in an enlightening and thought-provoking manner with humour sprinkled throughout. He concluded with these words:

With that sense of the depth of our connectedness and the many, many ways in which those faces that I see before me have deepened for me the sense of connectedness, both at the human level and connectedness with God, I thank you once again with all my heart for all that has been said, all that you have given, and I wish you God's blessing in the future.

May I take this opportunity to say thanks for your continued support and encouragement as well as interest in my role on General Synod, including your prayers, especially around the time when Synod meets.



BIRMINGHAM DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT 2012 **FOR THE APCM 2013**

I attended only one meeting of the Diocesan Synod which was held in July 2012. I did not stand for re-election and therefore cannot comment on the other two meetings. At this meeting in July 2012 there was a presentation to the Synod by the Very Reverend Catherine Ogle, Dean of the Cathedral. She made the following points:

- In 2015 the cathedral will be celebrating its Tricentenary.
- The Dean is currently visiting deanery synods, discussing with them the role of the cathedral and welcoming opinions on the celebrations and the future support the cathedral can give to parishes.
- The Tricentenary will be an occasion to celebrate Christianity in this Diocese and to 'grow' the cathedral.
- There is a need to look outside the building and see how the cathedral can benefit the Diocese, City and region.
- People are key to the celebrations.
- The cathedral itself is a gem and a beating heart in the City.
- It offers prayer, worship, a breathing space for people, friendship and a blessing to all who come.
- It is hoped that through the activities during this celebration year, Christians will grow in confidence and share our story.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The meeting adopted the accounts of the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) for the year ended December

2011. Phil Nunnerley, Chair DBF, made the following points:

- The 2011 accounts show a final reported deficit of £598K. This was primarily due to the increased pension liability of £548K (agreement has been reached to address this problem over a period of 10 years). The remainder of this deficit was due to losses in investment asset valuations. Both these are linked to the wider changes in the financial and stock markets.

DRAFT BUDGET 2013

Phil Nunnerley presented the Draft Budget for 2013.

The Synod authorised a) expenditure of £9.013 million for 2013 in accordance with the Diocesan budget 2013 summary paper (based on an average parochial and sector clergy deployment for the year of 164), b) an incumbent's stipend of £23,575 (plus 2.5%) with effect from 01.04.2013: and notes that the Bishop's Council will determine the allocation of Common Fund (projected income of £5.269 million) in accordance with the new Diocesan method.

COMMON FUND 2013 ONWARDS

It is proposed that the new method of calculating the Common Fund will have four main elements.

1) Ministry costs - A standard Ministry Cost for each full time Stipendiary member of parish clergy amounts to £40,077. This includes on costs, housing and Council tax.

Continued

2) Parish Services Costs - Are provided centrally through the Diocese and includes Mission initiatives, work with children, care of church buildings and property, finance investments and governance etc.

3) Clergy Training Costs - The Church of England provides training for clergy and laity through the Diocese and Theological Colleges.

4) Parish Percentage - The current Parish Common Fund Request for each parish, is to be the starting point for the new Parish Percentage. Added to this will be the Ministry Cost for one priest, the Parish Services and Clergy Training costs.

B. K. C CAMERON - Diocesan Synod Representative until July 2012

ST MARTIN'S YOUTH CENTRE REPORT FOR APCM

Despite lack of funding, it has been possible to maintain the youth work in the centre. This is largely due to the dedication of the staff and the enthusiasm of the young people. Our Senior Worker, Dean Morgan, agreed to reduce his hours and pay in order to keep the centre going.

During the year, the young people have had opportunity to engage in a range of sports and fitness programmes. Teams in the under 14s, under 16s and under 18s participated in the Gillette 5-a-side football tournament. The under 16 team won through to the National Finals in Manchester where they were defeated. Circuit training and boxercise fitness proved very popular too. There have been sessions spent at Ackers Trust which have always been over-subscribed and much enjoyed.

Other highlights include film making, using the music studio to create tracks using industry standard software and arts and crafts projects.

The young people have enjoyed participating in debates, anti-gang and anti-social behaviour workshops. They are becoming more confident in presenting their thoughts and ideas.

Recently, the centre ran "Highgate has Talent"; a project in which a number of our members performed for an audience composed of the local community and other city youth centres. It was a most enjoyable evening and the young people were a credit to the centre.

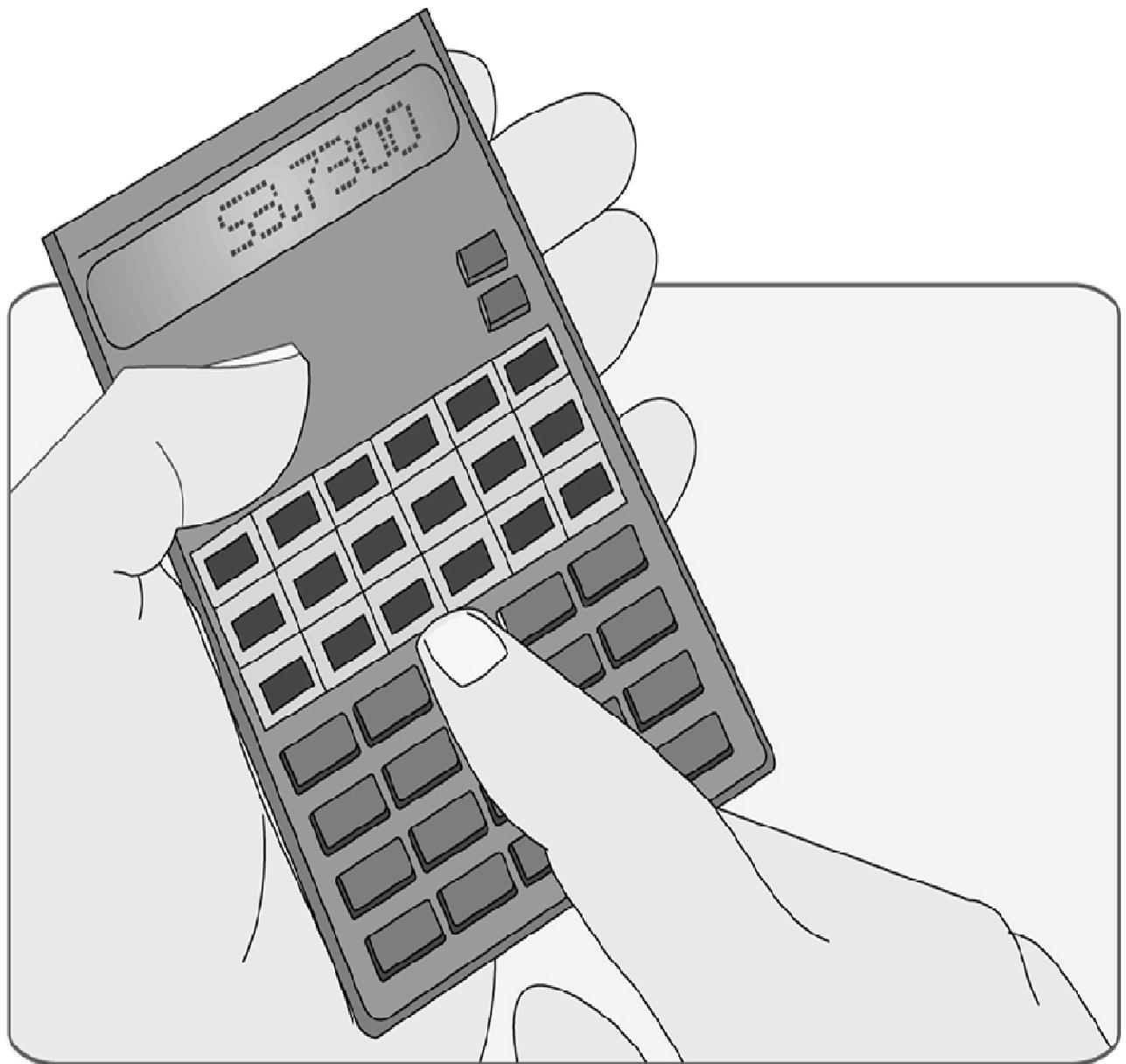
We should like to thank St Martin's Church for many and varied forms of support which include a dedicated group of church members who pray for the centre and its work on a regular basis. We were delighted to receive a donation from the church and donations also from a number of individuals. Advice has been given on a range of issues affecting the centre and five individuals are using their particular skills to help us. Thank you all very much.

It should not be forgotten that this centre was founded by St Martin's and most people in Highgate consider it to be their church.

We appreciate your support at such a difficult time. It is said that the darkest hour is just before the dawn.

Bridget Cameron - Vice Chair Management Committee

Administration



CHURCH REPORT 2012.

As you know, the end of 2011 saw us having to make some difficult decisions in order to eliminate the budget deficit that the church was facing. The result was the need to reduce staff costs and this led to the very difficult decision to cut certain posts whilst other members of staff saw their working hours reduced.

The good news is that last year saw an improvement in our finances with the budget deficit reduced. However, partly as a result of staff changes in the early months of last year, it became obvious that we needed to look at whether the staffing structure was the correct one to meet our present and future needs.

In order to consider this in more detail a staff steering group was set up, the members of which were Stewart Jones, Emma Sykes, Stephen Blair-Chappell, Mark Gordon, Jo Murgatroyd and Lachlan Smith. After several months deliberation, we concluded that the following changes would provide us with a staff structure best suited to meet our requirements.

The role of Church Manager was extended to take on responsibility for the commercial activities of both the Tea Lounge and Room Hire. In addition, line management of the Finance Officer, Jagruti Rana, passed to the Church Manager.

However it was recognised that, in order to manage the extra workload, a post of Assistant Church Manager was needed. This resulted in Lisa Taphouse being appointed to the role in October from her previous position as Parish Office administrator. Lisa works Tuesday-Friday from 9am-3pm and has day to day responsibility for managing the Tea Lounge and Room Hire. It is important to recognise that the revenue generated from these two sources (notwithstanding the hospitality provided) is an important contribution to our income.

The decision to create the post of Assistant Church Manager meant we had to find a replacement for the post of Parish Office administrator. Following interviews in November, we appointed Joseph Roberts. Jo took up the position in early December and works Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm. Jo is also a verger at St Philip's and has quickly established himself as an invaluable member of the team.

Yet again, 2012 was another busy year in the life of St Martin's. I won't attempt to list the activities and services held but none of these would have happened without the hard work and dedication of the clergy, staff and volunteers. So I'd like to conclude by publicly thanking all of the staff team and volunteers for all that they do and, not least, for their enthusiasm, good humour. It is much appreciated and valued.

Mark Gordon
Church Manager

Annual Report - Commercial Activities

Tea Lounge:

In 2012 St Martin's Tea Lounge went through a lot of changes. Tom Thompson left us in April. Tom was our Commercial Manager who ran the Tea Lounge along with other areas on the Commercial side. Stewart Jones stepped in to manage for an interim period of 6 months following Tom's departure.

In October 2012 the new team structure was put in place resulting in the Church Manager, Mark Gordon, having overall control of the Tea Lounge along with Assistant Church Manager, Lisa Taphouse, who manages it on a day to day basis with Naomi Gilbert as Supervisor.

Upon taking on this new challenge I'm sure the perception was that we were simply taking over the running of an existing business, but, as most people know, things are never quite so straightforward when you take on something new. In many ways you have to start from scratch!

It is very important to be aware that the Tea Lounge staff have been through a lot of changes mainly in the management structure, as different managers expect different things, so it has taken time to settle but the staff now have the security of knowing that the current management structure is now in place and we are learning to work together. I'd like to thank them for their patience and understanding during a time of change and uncertainty.

Trading in 2012 was challenging partly as a result of the poor weather conditions and also because of the economic climate! To entice more people in, we have offered discounts on certain days and to certain groups to use the Tea Lounge and advertised more around the building as this costs nothing! We have introduced seasonal offers such as mince pies in December. We are also advertising all offers on our website. The younger members of our staff team have also been tweeting about our offers in the Tea Lounge!

We are not trying to compete with the multinational chains of Costa or Starbucks, but what we do, we do well and we aim to offer a high standard of customer service at all times, in a clean and welcoming setting, offering quality products at a reasonable price. This should hopefully see the Tea Lounge achieve the success, financial and otherwise, in 2013.

We are working to a very ambitious and challenging budget for 2013 so your support and help is very welcomed and I'd like to thank all our volunteers who gave their time in helping in the Tea Lounge during 2012. Their help is much valued and appreciated.

Continued

Annual Report - Commercial Activities

Room Hire:

We introduced the Bryan Green room to our room hire portfolio in October 2012. The room was designed to create a part board room style and part informal style setting with sofas. We achieved this as the room is hired out for one to one meetings, interviews as well as more formal style meetings. We have marketed this on our new website and have drawn up an insert to add to the meeting room brochure. We have not yet included it in the main brochure as we are waiting to see how popular it is before spending additional money in having to reprint new brochures.

The room was not as busy at the end of 2012 as we would have hoped for, but feel that a lot of our existing customers have had their budgets reduced for holding meetings. It also takes a while to get new information to filter through, especially when you are trying to attract new clients.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Blair-Chappell and all who assisted in making the Bryan Green room happen as this was the old help desk office and it needed a lot of TLC and hard work to make it what it is today.

On a Commercial note we now offer two larger meeting rooms and a more informal room which cater to a lot of different needs and time and effort is now needed to fully market our portfolio so that we meet our ambitious target of having all 3 rooms booked out on a daily basis in 2013.

Corporate Hire:

The church continued to be available for use as a venue for corporate hire in 2012 through Amadeus. However, it has been decided that, due to the resources required and the consequent extra workload placed upon staff and the building, we would no longer continue as a venue from 2013.

Lisa Taphouse
Assistant Church Manager

Fianance Report 2012

Towards the beginning of 2012 we said our farewells to some staff, as a result of the PCC decision at the end of 2011 to reduce the costs of employment. Inevitably, this wasn't easy either emotionally or practically as there were some gaps to fill. Nevertheless, looking back at the year:

- things have worked out – we are still here and thriving!
- the overall costs of ministry were reduced as intended
- we had slightly more income than in 2011

we made a small surplus in the year

From a Finance perspective, 2012 was been reasonably straight forward. The financial plan that the PCC approved in November 2011 was implemented almost exactly for which the staff team and Church Wardens should take much credit. The generosity of the congregation in giving and fund-raising more money in 2012 than in 2011 was critical to the success of this plan. Set against the city-wide and national backdrop of recession and stagnant wages, this is truly remarkable.

I am very optimistic for the year ahead. It's easier to be so with the knowledge (and evidence) that God will always make sure we have enough, so long as we are faithful and good stewards of what we have.

As always, my thanks go to the members of the Finance Forum, those who have left us after giving many years of wisdom, those who have joined us and those who continue to serve and the staff team and volunteers, all of whom have contributed to the life and ministry of St. Martin's. I look forward to serving God though St. Martin's in the year ahead.

Andrew Sykes
Finance Chair

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report for 2012

Every Church of England parish church has a Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC is made up of the parish clergy, church wardens, synod members, a representative from the readers and lay members. Lay members are voted onto the PCC for a three year term at the Annual Parochial Church meeting. The PCC has legal and financial responsibilities as well as supporting and enabling the St. Martin's vision. The Standing Committee is accountable to the PCC and meets between PCC meetings to discuss urgent business and set the agenda for the PCC meetings.

The PCC has met eight times during 2012. Meetings always include a time of worship and prayer as well as a main item for discussion, reports and policy updates. During the last year our discussions have included, amongst other items:

- Revised staffing arrangements
- Financial budget
- Stained glass window installation
- The Helpdesk
- Fund raising, including the Jubilee Celebrations
- St. Martin's@Prayer
- The forums
- Church architect
- Real Deal
- Winter Night Shelter
- Policies affecting clergy, staff and volunteers
- Faculty requests
- Reports from the Synods and the forums

There have been two Awaydays, both held at Blue Coats School. The May Awayday focused on how the PCC can be more effective in how it works and operates. The October Awayday, held jointly with staff members, looked at the forum structure as part of the preparation for the next vision and strategy document. Both days also enabled people to get to know each other better.

For the last few years the PCC has had vacancies for lay members. To be able to stand for election you need to be included on the electoral roll at St. Martin's and be willing to be a charity trustee. If you would like to be more involved in the life and work of St. Martin's please prayerfully consider whether you should stand for election to the PCC.

Thank you to everyone who has served on the PCC during the last year.

Jo Murgatroyd
Lay Vice-Chair from May 2012

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24.04.2012, there were 337 names on the Electoral Roll.

Recorded below are the names of those who died during the year 2012-2013:

- Mabel Baker
- Jessica Douglas
- Joan Guest
- Kennet Ellis
- Marjorie Hill
- Margaret Shaw

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll is 240.

This information will be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 23rd April 2013.

Bridget Cameron
Electoral Roll Officer