



The Church of St James the Greater

Annual Report 2012

Annual Report of the Church of St James the Greater in 2012

Background

St James's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent – the Reverend Canon Glynn Richerby – in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also represents those who, although living outside the small parish, choose to be associated with the worship and witness of this church.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Ex Officio Ministry team	Glynn Richerby Jane Sharp Angela Jagger John Raven	
Ex Officio Church Wardens	Graham Jagger Owen Jones	(first elected 09) (first elected 12)
Diocesan Synod	Margaret Terry	
Deanery Synod 2011 – 2014	Margaret Damant Owen Jones Glynn Richerby John Sharp Terri-Leigh White Margaret Terry	(Treasurer) (ex officio)
Elected Members retire 2013	Rosemary Freer Martin Harger April Burton (David Kibert – resigned in 2012) (Mandy Stephensen – resigned in 2012)	
Elected Members retire 2014	Phil Jones Angela Hefford Sara King Will Warner Andy Judge	(Secretary) (Deputy Churchwarden)
Elected Members retire 2015	Caroline Beardsmore David Brunning Sarah Kirby Keith Vaughan Julia Walker	(Deputy Churchwarden) (Deputy Churchwarden)

Committees

The PCC operates through a select number of committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship & Mission Committee

Reviews the pattern and content of services with the Vicar and advises on education and mission.

Stewardship & Communication Committee

Encourages members of the church to express their commitment in terms of time, talents and money. A team of visitors maintain contact with everyone associated with the church through distributing the *Quarterly* magazine.

Youth & Children Committee

Implements the policy "To build up contacts with as many young people as possible, so that they may grow up with an understanding of the Christian option for their lives".

Fabric Committee

Oversees repairs to and maintenance of the buildings, but excluding the Vicarage which is in the care of the Diocese.

Charitable Giving

Implements a policy to raise awareness of and support for charitable causes.

Church Attendance

There are 151 members on the newly compiled Electoral Roll (201 last year). The majority of worshippers are resident outside the parish, but a significant number of worshippers are within walking distance of the church.

Attendance at services on normal Sundays – as recorded by Churchwardens – averaged 228 (264 the previous year) including children, and those attending more than once.

Attendance at the mid-morning Sunday services has become very variable.

A team of leaders has provided a children's Sunday Club on Sunday mornings in term time attended by up to 10 children – numbers significantly reduced since girls have been recruited as choristers. However, there are regularly some 30 children in the choir.

Evensong is strongly supported.

There is continued demand for the church as a venue for funeral and memorial services but a low level of demand for baptisms and weddings.

Festival services attract many visitors – a feature of the public ministry of this church.

Tuesday early morning Eucharist's are followed by breakfast in the Vicarage on the first Tuesday of the month.

Thursday mid morning Eucharist's followed by a coffee drop-in are well supported.

Housebound members of our fellowship were remembered in prayers at Sunday services and a number regularly received communion at home.

A Swahili speaking congregation gathered from a wide area of the Midlands has begun to worship in the Lady Chapel on the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month.

The *Quarterly* magazine has been distributed by the Stewardship Committee to the congregation and sent by post to a large number of those who wish to keep in touch.

Good Companions (senior citizens) and housegroups regularly met.

A midweek youth club has paid leaders supervised by John Raven.

St James's continues to financially support a detached youth worker in the Southern Edge Mission Partnership of which St James the Greater is a constituent member.

The Church continues to sponsor the 41st Scout Group which meets in the Undercroft free of charge.

The Hall is used for a Muslim after-school Madrassah

Vicky Roe monitored adherence to the church's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Review of the year

The Parochial Church Council had six scheduled meetings and an extraordinary meeting.

Main concerns were: debating '2020 Vision' – deanery plans to respond to a future reduction of stipendiary clergy; replacing the chairs in Church; putting 'Friends of St James's' on a more formal basis; continuation of a weekly a drop-in and lunch for homeless people; provision for children in

church; choir recruitment; approving plans for a choir tour; commissioning and following through a Quinquennial Inspection of the church building.

The PCC received quarterly management accounts from the Treasurer; reviewed updated Health and Safety and Child Protection Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, and responded to Deanery, Diocesan and Southern Edge Mission Partnership developments.

Sub Committees brought advice and proposals to the PCC. A PCC working group carried out further congregational consultation about the options for replacing church chairs.

The Charity Committee has been very active in encouraging support of charitable objectives. Events together with special collections raised a total of £6,902 including Gift Aid (£6,053 last year) for emergency appeals and charities.

Our contribution to Diocesan funds through full payment of the Parish Share was £68,868 (£67,518 in the previous year).

A programme of property repairs and renewals has been supervised by Will Warner and Graham Jagger

Andrew Packham supervised the replacement of high level light bulbs in the Church.

The Men's, Boys' and Girls' choirs have maintained a high standard throughout the year at the direction of Matthew Haynes, Mike Rule and Roxanne Summerfield. Joint choirs had an adventurous tour afloat on the Norfolk Broads in the summer singing in Norwich Cathedral and giving concerts in various churches.

St James's Singers directed by Michael Rule sang on Sundays when the regular choirs were on holiday. Assistant Organist Roxanne Summerfield gained Associateship of the Royal College of Organists. Catherine Farmilo was appointed as Organ Scholar.

A weekly Saturday Drop-by with lunch is provided in the Undercroft for up to 75 vulnerable and poorly housed people in conjunction with the British Islamic Society.

Another season of concerts arranged by John Sharp has further raised the profile of St James's as a major concert venue. The St James Cantata Choir performed a Mozart programme.

Francis Ciza has settled into the work of part-time caretaker with his wife Edith assisting in cleaning the premises. They live with their infant daughter Charlene in the Church Hall Flat.

The Associate Priest, Readers, Honorary Clergy, Pastoral Assistant, Sacristans and Servers worked well with the Vicar to support overall ministry exercised by everyone at St James's.

Looking ahead

Wide consensus about the choice of replacement chairs having been reached, Faculty permission is now being sought and an Appeal to meet the cost has been launched.

A formally constituted *Friends of St James the Greater* is to be launched at the Patronal Festival 2013.

An extensive programme of repairs to the fabric of the church is to be carried out including work on the twin towers and modification to the lighting system.

Continuation of the Saturday Stop-by project is to be reviewed in July.

God bless our church and parish, and prosper all our attempts to be faithful to you and to draw others into your Kingdom.

**On behalf of the PCC
The Reverend Canon Glynn Richerby (Chairman)
& Mr Graham Jagger (Vice Chairman)
12 April 2013**

CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREATER - 2012 ACCOUNTS & 2013 BUDGET

Copies of the full Accounts in the statutory format will be available at the AGM. However, a condensed version of the General Fund is set out below, together with the budget that the PCC has approved for 2013.

INCOME	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>
Plate Collections	9470	9600
GAD Envelopes	4651	4800
Envelope Scheme	8440	8500
Standing Orders	55504	56500
Tax Reclaims	23616	23750
Donations & Legacies	19961	20000
Wedding & Funeral Fees	638	750
Hire of Church	3273	3500
Concerts	4700	7000
Miscellaneous Income	139	250
Interest Received	301	320
Charitable Collections	6902	7500
Church Hall Rentals & Donations	21176	21500
Rental Income	3150	4200
Total Income	161921	168170
EXPENDITURE		
General Church Exps		
including cleaning, caretaking, security, insurance, light, heat, water, candles, communion wine less sums recharged.	18413	19050
Clergy Expenses		
including all clergy expenses less recharged	2689	2870
Church Administrative Expenses		
incl. Administrator, printing, postage, telephone, publicity, advertising less recharges	14413	14820
Choir & Organ Expenses		
including Director of Music, Organists, choir pay, music, etc less sums recharged.	26001	27240
Church Organisations		
incl Sunday Clubs, Youth work, and SEMP	4000	4200
Charitable Giving - as collected		
	6902	7500
Parish Share		
	68868	70245
Church Hall Expenses		
	8310	9220
Properties - Vicarage and Church Flat		
	623	650
Depreciation		
	6604	6410
Total Expenditure	156823	162205
Gen.Fund Surplus	5098	5965
BALANCE SHEET AT 31.12.2012		
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	29234	
CURRENT ASSETS	106696	
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	8192	
TOTAL ASSETS	127738	
REPRESENTED BY:-		
General Fund	-23990	
Ashman Investment Fund	118821	

Holyoake Fund	514
Organ Fund	1273
Youth Fund	2168
Bream Trophy Fund	180
Fabric & Furnishings Fund	25831
Choir Fund	-1198
Peggy Tearl Fund	3799
Music Dev.Fund	340
TOTAL	127738

John Sharp
Treasurer

Charitable Giving Committee

The membership of the committee comprised Caroline Beardsmore, Mike Bull, Hilary Simpson, Andrew Packham, Barbara Penrose, Janet Burton and Sara Zielonka.

During 2012 we organised a Film night on Shrove Tuesday, giving people the chance to see 'The King's Speech, with proceeds (£320) going to The Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda. On Mothering Sunday we cooked and served lunch, where Wendi Stevens was our guest and spoke about the refurbishment of a girls' hostel in Valparai in the south of India. The lunch raised £380 towards this refurbishment. Despite the poor summer weather we were fortunate on the evening of the Summer Serenade, where we were entertained with lovely music while drinking cocktails in a beautiful garden. This raised £400 to support a local initiative for young people, The Football Church. The Summer Stroll and Simple Supper did fall victim to the poor weather, with the stroll being cancelled, but the supper went ahead. The takings were sent to VISTA, the local organisation for blind and partially sighted people. We organised the bazaar (an event that involves very many groups and people within the church) and the proceeds were divided between the church and VISTA. A total of £693 was sent to VISTA. Our final event in 2012 was another film night, where we were joined by members of other SEMP churches for a showing of the film 'Of Gods and Men'. This raised £222 for the Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA).

During the year we also held retiring collections for the Disasters Emergency Committee West Africa Appeal that raised £351.

The total amount raised by these events (including half the Bazaar total, and gift-aid on donations) came to £2,366.

As in previous years, we hoped to appeal to different people from within our own congregation and beyond. We tried to support a balance of causes, some local, others national or international. We would like to thank members of the congregation for nominating charities or worthy causes to benefit from one of our special events and encourage all members of the congregation to bring suggestions to any member of the committee. We thank all those who have supported any of the things we have organised and encourage everyone to join in future events.

In addition to the events listed above, the amount of money passing through the Church Books and given to charities and good causes includes amounts raised by other groups and individuals, the Lent Appeal, and the proceeds of collections at some funerals and other services. The total amount of Charitable Giving (including Gift Aid) in 2012 was £7,251.

I should like to thank the Committee for their tireless work and dedication over the past year.

Caroline Beardsmore
April 2013

Child Protection Co-ordinator's Report 2012-2013

In my role as Child Protection Co-ordinator, I have worked with the Youth Committee and the PCC to update the Church's Child Protection Policy in line with the Diocesan Handbook and changes in regulations.

I have continued to oversee the Criminal Records Bureau checks for those in contact with children, in particular for the Church Choir trip to Norfolk in 2012. I make occasional visits to the various children's groups and help with the Sunday Club on a rota basis.

Vicky Roe

Fabric Report 2013

Since the 2012 Fabric Report Will Warner, who for a number of years has been assiduous in his care of the building, has decided to hangup his overalls and hand on his trowel to younger hands. With his dedication to the fabric Will has relieved the churchwardens of a considerable load and for this we are truly grateful. Will goes with our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future. Will's is a hard act to follow but we are fortunate in that Dr Andrew Packham has agreed to step into the breach and carry on where Will left off. Andrew will be working to build up a group of people to share this task.

In addition to the usual annual maintenance issues larger projects in the past year have included the installation of a ventilation system in the undercroft and the reroofing of the hall porch. A number of unscheduled maintenance issues have arisen in the undercroft due largely to its considerably increased, and not always sensitive, usage.

2013 promises to be a busy year in terms of the fabric. Recent falls of stone from the west end have highlighted issues which were first identified at least 10 years ago but which have not yet been addressed. It is now urgent that the necessary repairs be now effected, and certainly before next winter, in order to prevent further deterioration of the fabric. The summer will see the west end enclosed in scaffolding and it is not until this has been done that the extent of the required works can be fully assessed. It likely, though, that the necessary expenditure will amount to several tens of thousands of pounds.

Rather than clutter this report with detail, a summary of maintenance issues which have been addressed, are in-hand, or are still outstanding is given in the attached tables. Of particular interest may be the attached copy of the church log book for the last 12 months.

We are very grateful to Andrew for his significant and thorough contribution to this report.

Graham Jagger, Owen Jones
Churchwardens

Pastoral Assistant's Report 2012-2013

Over the past year I have continued my duties in the Church and Parish and my meetings with the Vicar. I value the opportunities to do visits and take Communion to the housebound, as well as being a Eucharistic Assistant in Church. I also escort people attending hospital appointments. I lead a team who help with schools visiting the Church as part of their RE curriculum and devised a child-friendly Church Trail leaflet for the purpose.

I attended the Pastoral Assistant's Study Day with AGM at St. Martin's House. I have been a representative on the Pastoral Assistants' Council and continue to be responsible for taking and typing the minutes of meetings.

Vicky Roe

Stewardship Committee

The committee meet four times a year, coinciding with the publication of the Quarterly magazine in February, May, August and November. These meetings are primarily for the team leaders to collect magazines to pass on to their distributors, who in turn deliver them to members of the congregation. It is also an opportunity to share information about any changes in the congregation; newcomers; those who have moved or left; those who are ill or have died; and those who may welcome some assistance, for example home visits or lifts to services.

Cherry Fulloway, one of our long standing distributors, has reluctantly decided to stand down this year due to health problems and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cherry for her excellent support over many years. I would also like to welcome to the team Ken Lumb, who has kindly taken over as a distributor from the late Ken Bilney.

Additional help is always welcome, and if you would like to join us please contact me on 0116 270 4710, or e-mail at pam@spokes.biz

Pam Spokes
Chairman

Worship and Mission Committee

We aim to support Glynn by reviewing the pattern and content of services, as well as considering events such as the Lent programme.

The members of the committee are Glynn Richerby, Tony Bentley, Janet Burton, Angela Jagger, Mike Rule, Kath Packham (convenor), Margaret Terry, and William Woolley. If you are interested in joining us, please approach a member of the committee.

Our discussions involved:

- A review of Lent and Easter 2012
- A review of Advent 2012 through to Candlemas 2013
- Pattern of services in 2013, including:
 - the frequency with which to use incense
 - 'special occasion' services such as the Patronal Festival
 - Consideration of feedback from services in 2012
- Lent and Easter 2013
 - Including the development of the Lent programme including preaching themes and the study group
- Other matters such as:
 - The ringing of the bell before the Sung Eucharist
 - Large print items of orders of service and other items for services

Kath Packham, April 2013.

Report of The Youth Committee 2012-2013

'The Youth Committee continues to take an overview of the young peoples organisations at St James and remains optimistic but realistic about the future'. That was the opening paragraph of last year's report and continues to be the case.

The finances still have a reasonably healthy look with hopefully a small financial cushion for the coming year although in these 'austere' times we must be fairly prudent.

Again many thanks to Janet Felstead for financial advice and Vicky Roe for her continued supervision of Child Protection issues. The slightly modified CRB checking procedure still provide Vicky with lots to do and we appreciate her efforts.

The Sunday Club continues to play an important role in the Sunday worship at St James and thanks must go to all of the volunteers who are involved in that and in particular, Jo Stapleton. Without the Sunday club some parents would find it difficult to attend St James on a regular basis.

The uniformed organisations under Mr and Mrs Hurst continue to provide focus for the young people in their charge and we would hope that the apparent popularity nationally would filter down to St James in the form of increased membership.

The Youth Club continues to attract a core of regular members across a wide age range who meet weekly for social interaction and discussion of a range of issues. We did not send a trip to Irthlingborough this year but future trips have not been ruled out. We must also thank Ceri Turner who has taken over as regular leader and is doing a superb job. We also thank John Raven for all his practical support.

The various choirs under the supervision of Matthew Haynes underpin most of the worship at St James and have continued in their efforts to recruit new members. One of the highlights of the year was a working trip to the Norfolk Broads. As we know the standard of music remains as high as ever at St James and we must always treasure and nurture that.

The Edge Project has continued and is an important initiative and is run by Ali Simpson. It seeks to go out into public places to engage with young people on a one to one basis. St James will continue to support it next year and is hopeful that the other churches in the Diocese will continue with their support as well.

Bob Turnell
Youth Committee Chair

Report on the Diocesan Synod for the APCM 2013

The Diocesan Synod has met four times over the past 12 months. The meeting in May, at Christ the King, Beaumont Leys, was the last meeting of that triennium as a new Synod was elected in the summer. It was a crowded agenda. Items included: the accounts of the Diocesan Board of Education; the Annual Report and Accounts of St. Martin's Cathedral Properties; the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance (Synod members being automatically a member of that body) and a consideration of a consultation paper "Parish contributions, a new way forward." The main item on the Agenda was a presentation and discussion on "Church and Society," with special consideration being given to "The Godly Society," ending with the motion that this Synod "Affirms and supports the need to promote a Godly Society through support in the parishes to those who are vulnerable, marginalised and most in need, together with seeking to transform the unjust structures of society that deny human fulfilment and potential."

The evening meeting of Synod each September is specifically for the presentation of the Draft Budget for the following year so that it can be tweaked, if necessary, before coming to Synod in November for its adoption. At its November meeting the Synod authorised "expenditure in the year ending 31st December 2013 a sum not exceeding £8,240,062." Also at that meeting the Synod was asked to approve a new system of parish contributions in place of the current Parish Share system, with effect from the financial year 2014. In effect, instead of a levy being imposed on parishes by the Diocese, parishes are going to be asked to make their own voluntary contributions – a gift rather than a levy. Other items on that agenda included Child Protection / Safeguarding and reflections on the vote on Women Bishops which had taken place a few days earlier.

A special meeting of the Synod was held in March at St Martin's House to "consider the Diocese's response to the opportunities and challenges arising from the discovery of the remains of Richard III and the proposal to reinter them in Leicester Cathedral sometime in the first part of 2014." Exciting times lie ahead for the Cathedral, but it will all come at a price and the Board of Finance put forward proposals to help with this.

Its has been quite a busy year for the Diocese, but even busier times lie ahead in the next 12 months, particularly for the Cathedral, who also welcome a new Dean – Canon David Monteith – is to be installed on 18th May.

Deanery Report for 2012

The Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2012.

The BIG Meeting 1st March 2012

Deanery representatives, Church Wardens and PCC members were invited to consider the Deanery 2020 Plan. Over 160 people, representing every parish in the city, chaplaincies and Mission Communities, gathered at Christ the King Beaumont Leys. We reviewed the work done on the Deanery 2020 Plan and approved the plan which aims to work together in Mission Partnerships and appoint one ordained pioneer in each partnership by 2020. People felt encouraged by the emphasis on Mission Partnerships and local ownership of mission; on how the plan might help reach out to younger people; and how parishes were consulted during the process. It was agreed that there was still a lot of work to do making sure the Mission Partnerships were right, including our petitioning parishes and city centre in the plan, and understanding what a pioneer might do. More details, including all the feedback from the meeting, are on the website:
<http://cityofleicesterdeanery.moonfruit.com/#!/resources/4553921518>

14th June 2012 St Philip's Church

The Agenda included a presentation from Gill Rusk, Diocesan Officer for Buildings and Mission about her work and case studies from two parishes. Pip Berry explained how the church of Holy Apostles was suffering from concrete cancer and required major work done. This was a good opportunity for the parish to think about using their building to serve the local community. At the Church of the Resurrection they were thinking about expanding the church and community centre to include a café space and better community facilities. Chris Anand, from the parish, explained the careful consultation process they were working through.

This was followed by a discussion of how to encourage lay people to play their full part in the life of the church and especially to get the training they might need. Stuart Burns from the Department of Mission and Ministry highlighted the many courses available, especially those which can be done at parish or Mission Partnership level. It was agreed that the Deanery would try to run the Discovery Course every year.

Finally, we discussed priorities for the year ahead, these are: Understanding Pioneer Ministry, Young People, and the role of the Clergy.

The Bishop's Road Show 11th October 2012

The Deanery met at the Samworth Academy to hear Bishop Tim reflect on the progress of 2020 plans right across the diocese. First we saw a presentation of the City of Leicester plan, which reflected on the learning we have done and all that we have to be thankful for in the city, especially our growing churches, our fresh expressions of church (café's, messy church, work with children and young people), and the many special events for the Jubilee and Olympics. In two years most Mission Partnerships will have a local plan which describes how they will use their pioneer post and what other posts they will have in the MP, including paid lay workers. Some MPs will have gone further and will have the first of these pioneer posts in place.

Bishop Tim spoke about the importance of lay people and new ways of being church. He recognised that the role of ordained ministers will need thinking about if they are not going to be overstretched in the future. And he gave a big GREEN light to the deanery plans.

Southern Edge Mission Partnership (SEMP)

The 7 churches in SEMP, St Andrew's Aylestone, Nativity, St Christopher's, St Mary's Knighton, St Guthlac's, St John's and St James the Greater, are all very different, but this year we have become closer to each other, not by trying to change each other, but by understanding more about the life in each church and helping them all to feel valued and supported. We are sharing some social functions, hopefully 2 each year, like our Shrove Tuesday Quiz here at St James and the Treasure hunt organised by St Christophers in June. In February, there was a Sunday called SEMP Sunday when in the morning there was an exchange of pulpits, and in the evening a Songs of Praise type event. A friend, from St Marys, wrote of that "It was very moving and a lovely social event. The Hallelujah Chorus at the end, where the congregation could join the Choir, was sung with great passion, if not always musically correct. But it was fun and we all finished as one."

Other joint projects, tried this year, one to do with Messy Church and one to do with Teenagers, both stalled because at present they are better pursued by our churches on their own. The barbecue on the day when the Olympic Torch came to Leicester was popular, but without the Torch the follow up gathering for teenagers in the autumn was called off. And Messy Church we are trying ecumenically, so one is being held once a month by St Marys with Stoneygate Baptists and one by St Andrews with Aylestone Baptists.

Our major project is "The Edge", employing Ali Simpson Smith on detached youthwork in the Saffron Lane area, and many feel that we are right at this stage to be concentrating on one major outreach project rather than spreading efforts too widely. Detached youthwork involves meeting young people where they are, mostly hanging around, opening a dialogue and trying to arrange an activity which brings them together and interests them. This is the basis of the football which started 2 years ago as a training session on Friday evenings, and which the Bishop opened as "the Football Church" in May. And now there are regular gatherings like Tea and Toast on Thursdays at the Samworth Academy, and a Youth Cafe which meets there on Wednesday evenings, which Tom Cufflin, a student on secondment from St Johns College in Nottingham, and four of the young people have been helping Ali to organise.

Through Ali's work for us, it does seem many young lives are being touched. In the autumn, because we were facing decisions about "The Edge's" future, the leader of Streetspace carried out an independent review for us, which said in summary that it was much appreciated in the area and that it had a good professional and missional balance, which we have taken to mean that it is seen as the Church working and being of help in the community. Mads Morgan, the Youth Ministry Officer for the Diocese of Leicester, has also said very nice things about what is being done.

So we are keen to try to carry that on as our main joint effort within SEMP beyond the end of 2013, the fifth of the original 5 years set for it. It seems to fit well with "Vision 2020", the plan for the future of the Diocese, which makes a priority of working together, mission and - an expression which we feel we may hear a lot of in the future - pioneer ministry. It will cost, and we have to seek money from grants and charities as well as from all our churches. At its meeting last month, the PCC pledged generous support from St James – thank you very much – and we hope we may also be offered some personal giving – after the Chair Appeal has won through of course!

Caroline Beardsmore Jan Geere John Raven
representing St James the Greater in SEMP

Flower Guild Annual Report 2012/13



Like many things at St James the flowers in the Porch and Chancel steps appear each week and unless you are in church on a Saturday morning you would have no idea where they came from and who put them there. Our Guild has a team of eleven arrangers they are Janet Felstead, Angela Finn, Kath Higginson, Joan Lumb, Cynthia McLauchlan, Norman & Joyce Paviour, Barbara Raven, Anne Sylvester, Joan Thomas and myself. We are governed by our constitution that was formulated in 1976. Working on a weekly rota system; the porch flowers are arranged and paid for by the on duty Guild member. Commemorative flowers given by members of our congregation in memory/celebration

are placed on the Chancel steps. They are arranged by the Guilds Team, who considers it a privilege to be able to do so.

In December Sara King stood down from the Guild. On behalf of you all, I express our most grateful thanks to her for her years of service. We are looking to increase our Guild membership and would be very happy to welcome new members.

Mothering Sunday - 100 bunches of Daffodils were prepared for this special day.

Holy Week – *Tradition that at St James we place flowers on the Maundy Thursday's Altar of Repose, and the Wooden Cross in the Porch, early on Good Friday morning.*

Festivals - Easter, Harvest and Christmas flowers have once again given great pleasure to all attending Church on these special days. Easter is the only festival totally financed by the generous donations from our congregation via the Envelope/Gift Aid scheme, and without this income we would not be able to decorate our beautiful church to the standard we have all been accustomed to for so many years.

The **Advent Wreath** stand although heavy to move, is now no longer unstable.

Our Queen's Diamond Jubilee enabled the Guild to join with the rest of the Country in Celebration. Additional flowers were arranged for our own special Service of Thanksgiving.

Our Summer Evening was held at John & Barbara Raven's house. Everyone enjoyed excellent food, good company in a loving home. Thank you both.

Our regular stall at the **Church's Bazaar** raised a disappointing £43.

The **Wedding** of William & Naomi, with a peacock theme and their family dogs in attendance created much interest.

Our **AGM** was followed by the Guild Lunch that provided a good opportunity to chat.

In closing this report may I personally thank the Guild Members for their support. Without their time, talent, given freely each week our lives at St James would be without the beauty of Flowers. May God give us strength and an increase in members to continue our work.

Julia Walker
Chairman/Co-coordinator

Good Companions

During 2012 the Good Companions had 8 months of meetings. A monthly communion service was held, plus a range of activities including bingo, music and bring & buy.

Pauline Plummer announced her intention to retire in 2012. Due to nobody wanting to take over, I heard good Companions was going to end – and as it has been running for 48 years, I could not see it close! I took over in March 2013 and have enjoyed each Wednesday with many activities planned both old favourites and a few new ones.

We thank Pauline for her many years of service.

Janet Burton
Coordinator

House Groups

Trinity House Group 2012-2013

The Trinity House Group – I was going to say “limps on”- but even though it has been going for 40 years now it is much more than that. We miss Ken Bilney very much, and we have had to change the format so that we don't have outside speakers any more. But, free and easy, 10.30 – 11.45 on a Tuesday once a month, coffee and biscuits, talk about what you like (one at a time, please), and we are, slowly and steadily making the world a better place and helping God to run it.

John Raven

Camden House Group 2012-2013

The teaching aspect of my Pastoral Assistant role has continued this year through the Camden House Group, which meets at my home once a month after the Thursday morning Communion and Coffee Drop-in. We have continued with our Old Testament studies on Joseph and Moses.

Vicky Roe
March 2013

Coffee Drop-In

My grateful thanks once again to all who support the Coffee Drop-In on Thursday mornings (10.45 – 11.30). We continue to increase in numbers and enjoy a friendly chat over a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits before going on our busy way once more. Anyone who would like to “drop-in” will find a very warm welcome – we look forward to seeing you!

Doris Makepeace

Sanctuary Guild

My grateful thanks to Barbara Penrose, Elizabeth Bentley and Margaret Damant in keeping the church dusted and polished over the last year.

If anybody could spare half an hour occasionally to help in any way, would you kindly contact me on 0116 288 5315

Doris Makepeace

Servers Report

During the past year we have welcomed Keith Vaughan to our team. We currently have 23 members, but are always still looking for new servers that would like to join us.

Our annual social event was a Christmas meal held at the Regency Hotel; again it was a great success!

Serving at the altar is a privilege, not a right; a vocation to which not all are called. The server is really a waiter at the table of the Feast of God's Kingdom.

Servers at the altar are nothing new. They have existed to assist priests for as long as there have been priests conducting the worship of the God or gods for mankind. The most famous Old Testament server is Samuel.

I would like to thank all the servers for their support and dedication over the past year and it is most encouraging to have such a reliable team. Thank you.

Emma-Jane Finn

Sidesmen Report 2012/13

The team of Sidesmen have performed their duties well for yet another year. Meeting & Greeting the congregation is an important role to play in the life of the Church.

There are currently 22 Sidesmen. Their number remains fairly constant, with some people dropping out or moving away and new members joining. Sadly we lost Ivan Eames during the year. There is always the need for more, and anyone wishing to help just needs to talk to a Church Warden.

Angela Hefford
Deputy Churchwarden

Youth club

The Youth Club over the past year has pretty much been the same. Members have remained as well as gaining a few more, with a wide age range that all get along; I think we have been lucky. Due to me leaving in the September there is a short period that I cannot report on, but as far as I am aware there were no dramatic changes. Three leaders run the Youth Club, myself, John Raven, and Chris Moon who is the junior leader.

Due to the tight budget that the youth fund has it has been hard to plan trips that we could manage to do financially. The residential trip that is organised every few years we feel we can no longer due to this difficulty, as well as trips suggested such as bowling, where the youth fund would be unable to make the shortfall that usually comes when there is a trip.

The evening usually has a relaxed structure with young people being able to do what they want before we have a meeting, which is the chance we get to inform the members of what's happening in and outside the youth club and of any opportunities open to them. Afterwards I encourage them to have a group activity such as hockey, dodge ball, football, or an activity they can think of. Sometimes this is not always successful. There is very rarely a problem between the members and when there is we take them to one side to speak to them and to hear their side of the story. All in all the Youth Club is a happy one with everyone being friends and getting on, the space is not a problem as everyone is aware of what is going on around them, everyone is respected and listened to.

Ceri Turner

Sunday Club

The Sunday Club continues to be held through the school term. The leaders are Team Turner (John Raven, Liz Turner and family), Tracy Tobin, Sara Zielonka and myself. The group's ages range from 3yrs to 12 yrs and, despite being small in number, we produce an incredible amount of creative work. Most importantly, we provide a place for children within the Church. All are welcome.

Thank you to all those who take an interest in what we do: the encouragement is so valuable!

Jo Stapleton

Music at St James the Greater

New Choristers

This year has seen a big push for the recruitment of both boys and girls to the choir. Since September 2013 we have welcomed 7 new boys to the choir and 8 new girls. The music department is continuing to work hard to protect the tradition of a separate boy's choir and will work on new tactics to bring in new faces!

Congratulations Roxy!

Roxanne Summerfield has achieved her ARCO qualification and continues to provide an excellent level of musicianship and service to St James.

St James Cantata Choir Concert 2012

Cantata choir produced a magnificent performance of Mozart last November with The Orchestra da Camera and four fantastic soloists. We were pleased to build a coalition with the Leicester University Chamber Choir and the concert was perhaps the most gripping performance I have ever been involved with outside of the professional choral scene. Plans for this year's concert are ongoing with Brahms Requiem, Bach B Minor Mass and other choral favourites all in the mixing pot for choice. My humble thanks to John Sharp and David Brunning for helping to plan and realise these events.

Norfolk

The choir enjoyed an amazing week in Norfolk where they sang three services at the Cathedral in Norwich. Two liturgical concerts were very well received by excellent audiences at both Ranworth and Martham parish churches. The choir had lots of opportunity to travel around on the boats, seeing a large section of the waterways and many of our number grew in confidence socially as a result of the nature of the tour. Behaviour was good and there were no reported safety concerns or incidents – a remarkable achievement with the added worry of the water.

Tour of 2014

Plans are being made for the choir to visit either Brittany or Normandy in 2014. It is preferred at this point that we shall travel to Normandy and produce a number of varied musical activities including the possibility of marking the centenary of the outbreak of WWI with a concert or service at one of the beaches or cemeteries.

Recordings

The choir has not completed the recording of 'for all the seasons' (favourite hymns, psalms and anthems) as of yet. However, two other recordings have been produced. 'O taste and see' offers a wide variety of music and 'Tenebre' is a full recording of the Good Friday service produced this year by Cantata Choir. See Andrew Judge for a copy!

The back row

Departures this year have included Ian Jones for family reasons and Sam Goddard for personal reasons. It is expected that Sam will return in September. As of September, it is anticipated that Tim Emberson will leave for Birmingham Music College, Maddie Welland, Toby Stapleton and Morgan Rees will leave for University and Richard Paterson will become a part time member so as to pursue the opportunity of professional singing engagements in London. Due to this level of departure, the choir are advertising vacancies for all voices on the back row. It is hoped that we can find two altos, two tenors and two basses.

Matt Haynes

Sunday Coffee Team

Coffee is served on Sunday mornings in the Large Hall after the Sung Eucharist. There is a warmth of atmosphere, as the congregation catches up with news and views of friends and fellow members. It is a chance for new members to be included and to be introduced to the social life of the Church.

This weekly event is made possible by the small, but faithful, band of helpers, who, on a rota of once a month, give of their time to serve and wash up. There is always room for more volunteers! From the financial contributions made, the provisions are purchased and any remainder is set aside to replace crockery, glasses and other domestic requirements.

Rosemary Freer