

**THE PARISH CHURCH
OF
HOLY TRINITY, BIRCHFIELD**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
2013-2014**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2014**

OUR VISION

Holy Trinity, through Jesus Christ, wishes to continue sharing the love of God with others, regardless of age, race, gender or creed. To that end we welcome everyone to Holy Trinity.

VICAR

Revd Canon Eve Pitts

READERS

Mrs E Christian

Mrs M Grannell

Mrs J Simms

Mr K Rutherford

Mrs E Mitchell (retired)

CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs C Callender

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs W Richards

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Mrs N Bartlett, Mrs M Bartley, Miss S Bartley,

Mrs C Callender, Miss H Cross,

Miss J De Costa, Mrs M Grannell,

Miss C Harris (Treasurer), Mrs L McKie,

Miss L McPherson, Mr M Odubanjo, Mr W Simmonds

Mrs W Richards, Mrs A Watson, Miss M West (Secretary)

Readers: Mrs E Christian, Mrs J Simms,

Mr K Rutherford, Mrs E Mitchell (retired)

FABRIC SUB-COMMITTEE

G Bartley, C Callender, A James

PASTORAL TEAM

E Christian, A Kooner, M Scott, J Simms, M West

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING SUB-COMMITTEE

**N Bartlett, M Bartley, H Cross, V Flowers,
R Johnson, L Rhone, W Richards, K Rutherford,
E Samuels, L Thomas, G Winfield**

'INSPIRED GENERATION' LEADERS

**Jennifer Alexander, Siobhan Bartley, Lorna McPherson,
Theo Rutherford, Wendy Walker, James Alexander**

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

A James, H Cross, G Bartley

DEANERY SYNOD

**M Bartley (Lay Chair)
W Simmonds**

DIOCESAN SYNOD

M Bartley

Figures for	2013	2012	2011
Electoral Roll	125	127	185
Baptisms	21	27	10
Confirmations	0	7	0
Weddings	9	6	12
Funerals in Church	19	11	20
Av Sunday attendance	143	166	158

AGENDA

- 1. Opening prayer**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Vicar's report**
- 6. Presentation of Annual Reports**
- 7. Treasurer's report**
- 8. Elections and appointments**
 - PCC members**
 - Sidesmen/Women**
 - Deanery Synod**
- 9. Any other business**
- 10. Date and time of next meetings, including PCC**
- 11. Closing prayer and blessing**

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Please note: the Financial Statements were not available when these reports were printed, so they will be issued separately.

VICAR'S REPORT 2014

150 years of prayer in a wonderful building. Of course, the building is not "the church". YOU are the church – the hands and feet for God's work in this parish.

We are called to be witnesses to the wider community, and this year will give us the opportunity to take the best of our church to celebrate the past, present and future.

Well, what about the past? Many of you know that story, and there are stories which should be told, so please take part in the coming project to tape and preserve those stories. I will be asking individuals to contribute to this project.

In the present there are many opportunities open to us – to grasp eagerly to bring real and lasting changes to our community; for example, our buildings and the site generally need care, prayer and imagination, and above all faith and a willingness of everyone to do what you can to bring changes that everyone can contribute to and be proud of.

No one person can do the huge job that is needed here; it is often said that we are God's hands and feet, his mouth and his ears, and of course, his heart. If we have his heart it is not difficult to love others, the kind of love that that will bring positive change. There will be visible changes to our church building, to Mark House, to the vicarage and church hall. All this will demand much from us, but it is achievable if we believe, with God's help, that we can do it.

It is always a joy to any vicar to be surrounded by people who will encourage others in prayer and to work as a team. The past year seems to have flown – we are already a third of the way into 2014.

Our agenda is exciting, and we have many people who have helped to make things happen; for example –

Sidesmen and women – we need more

Choir, choirmaster and mistress

Fundraising Committee

The newly formed Mothers' Union

Inspired Generation

Churchwardens

Readers – a special thanks for all their hard work assisting with

Communion

PCC members

Flower arrangers

Anthony – for his work for the hall.

All the day to day duties call for commitment. When the jobs are done with a willing and loving heart, God is honoured and our church will be a place of that love and service to which we are called.

So, what of the future? I trust that the ambitious people of Holy Trinity will stand up with confidence and a firm faith to help me create a new future with new and old people who take the vision of teaching the faith. We need to know our Bibles and to grow in confidence with our faith. We need to be committed, not only on Sunday attendance, but also to sharing our faith with others. Holy Trinity must be a place of warmth and welcome to everyone who comes through the doors. Our future is in our hands: if we work together everything is possible.

So, what is the vision for our church? The necessary work will be done on the site: re-ordering will take place. This will be made clear to you. The church building will have the essential work done: the roof, floor and doors. There are some exciting times ahead, and not just for those who attend our church.

We need to encourage the development of the gifts of many people; we need leaders. And who knows – priests of the future, perhaps? This church is ideally placed to make a difference in our community. We will start small; for example, a soup kitchen, run by the Mothers' Union, starting next month. It will be a visible sign in a practical way of Jesus's command to feed the poor.

Bible study is vital, of course. We need to be comfortable and grow in confidence about who we are, and not be afraid to be ourselves. I believe all this is possible. I believe God wants us to prosper. The question is: do we want this?

The future is in God's hands, but he needs our hands and minds and spirit. When we wake up and are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit we will move with confidence to a future with a legacy for the next generation of Christians.

Let our 150th year be one of hope for a new future. Thanks to everyone.
"Let the mind of Christ be in you."

God bless,

Revd Eve Pitts

WARDEN'S REPORT

Another year, our church is growing, but we need to be positive. Some of us don't like change, but to go forward, we have to accept change.

Our priest has got a vision and imagination which is for our church; we have to support her.

The Good Friday service was not the usual service everyone expected. But at 8pm Friday night this type of service was broadcasted on BBC Radio 2 from Winchester Cathedral. How many of you heard that? Millions did worldwide.

It would make my day to see more of you committed to doing activities in church; you would also learn a lot about church, not just on Sundays.

I am thanking all who have helped me through last year. I do not know if some of you know that April is our busiest time behind the scenes.

I thank all sidespersons; however, there are four people that are especially there for me. A special 'Thank You'.

On Thursday 17th April as I walked down Heathfield Road, I said 'Lord, so much to do with just three of us'. Then three became ten. I just want to thank God for this and thank you all for Thursday.

I am praying and hoping that we respect, support and take care of our priest, Revd Eve. I am confident that we will.

Thank you for all your kind words and prayers.

May God bless you all, love you all.

Cynthia Callender
Warden

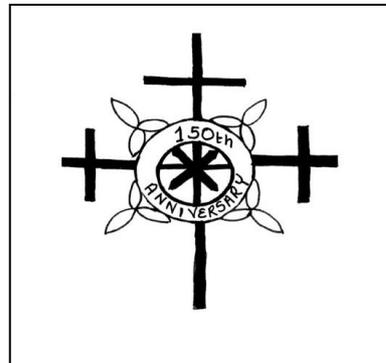
150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

From an initial meeting in June 2013 between committee members, Waveney Richards, Wayne Simmonds and myself, Michelle Grannell, we have felt empowered, with the support of God, to do our best to make a Holy Trinity's anniversary year a memorable one.

The Anniversary Committee will act as a steering group for the celebration which will involve all existing groups within Holy Trinity Church enabling us to utilise the gifts and talents of church members. This in turn will ensure the celebration will be God centred and inclusive. We have been well supported in this ethos by Revd. Eve and the P.C.C.

Groups have been approached and have been welcoming and supportive in their involvement with the celebrations. Obviously, as church members, if there is an event you would like to see happen, please approach one of the committee members to see if we can help realise this.

The 150th logo has been designed by Waveney and I'm sure you'll agree is a beautiful and dignified one which encompasses the elegance of our church.



There is a programme of events for the year which should be published in the near future. The first event will be the

Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary Service on Sunday 18th May 2014 at 10.45am. We hope you will attend and support this wonderful milestone in the history of Holy Trinity Church.

If you do have any queries, feel free to approach Waveney, Wayne or myself. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Grannell - Lay Reader & Co-Ordinator of 150th Anniversary Committee

CONVENTION REPORT

Members: Rev. Eve Pitts, Jackie Rutherford, Marcia West, Veronica Flowers, Jillian De Costa, Siobhan Bartley, Wayne Simmonds, Keith Rutherford

The Convention Committee was formed in 2011 following an inspirational session during a bible study evening at the Vicarage. The original purpose of the Convention was to have a weekend of Christian Worship where we can unite with other churches and the community to have a weekend of worshipping God. The first Convention was deemed a success and following submission of report to the PCC, the decision was made to hold the event again in 2014.

The last year has seen the committee planning the 2nd Convention which is due to take place during the weekend of 16-18th May 2014. This weekend coincides with the Church's 150th birthday and will launch a yearlong celebration of the inauguration of the Church. We have 3 external speakers for the weekend and the Bishop of Aston has been asked to be the Chief Celebrant on the Sunday. Past Vicars and members including some dignitaries have been invited to the service on the Sunday morning.

This convention will include a lot more involvement from other groups in the Church. The Prayer Group has been asked to arrange the Prayer Breakfast on the Saturday Morning, The Lay Readers will be running a seminar on Prayer,

Mrs Farrell and the Choir will organise the concert on the Saturday evening. The 150th Group have been asked to arrange the 150th celebratory service on the Sunday Morning, and the Social and Fundraising group have been asked to organise the refreshments for the weekend, including the Celebration Lunch on the Sunday afternoon. Inspired Generation are also organising their service on the Sunday afternoon.

This year the Mothers' Union will be exhibiting over the weekend.

A full evaluation of the Convention will be carried out and a report will be submitted to the PCC. The committee will ask the Vicar and the PCC to consider the future for the Church in terms of the Convention and also to clearly define what the aims and objectives should be going forward.

I truly believe that the Church and the community need this event and I pray that God will continue to sustain Holy Trinity, Birchfield. There are challenging times ahead and with everyone working together and praying together God's kingdom will continue to grow.

God Bless

Jackie Rutherford, Convention Chairperson

DEVELOPMENT OF HOLY TRINITY SITE

1. Introduction

This has been an interesting and exciting period of development for Holy Trinity knowing that things are happening and we have much to look forward to for the future but we have much to do to make it happen.

1. The Tender

A tender to appoint a suitable architect to assist in considering options for a range of work to improve the various buildings on the site of Holy Trinity Church (Mark House, the community centre and the church).

The appointment of APEC architects limited were appointed in September 2013 by the Steering Group.

The objectives of the study

- i. Imaginative consideration of options for the improvement and development of the site to support the objectives of the Church and the PCC going forward, in respect of the building assets on the site
- ii. Identify re-ordering/improvement works required to Holy Trinity Church
- iii. Consider development/refurbishment options for Mark House
- iv. Identify required improvement/refurbishment works required to the Vicarage
- v. Identify required improvement/refurbishment works required to the Community Building

Consider wider options to rationalise the assets on the site; and to potentially generate development value from the site in order to fund achievement of the wider PCC objectives

Steering Group

The steering group consists of Rev Eve (Chair), Marcia West (PCC Secretary), Derek Douglas (Congregation Member)

Angela Watson (PCC member and Project Manager), APEC Senior Architect Naomi Fisher and Andrew Halstead, Diocese representative.

Terms of Reference have been agreed and signed off by the PCC with updates provided at PCC meetings on both the project progress and budget spend.

2. Consultation period

A 'brainstorming' session was held during Sunday service in September 2013. APEC undertook consultation meetings with church congregation, user groups, community leaders/local people/organisations and establishments. Authorities such as the Diocese, Near Neighbours, local authorities, and English Heritage, also attending events held at the church; i.e. the Winter Fair to understand and determine the needs and wishes of the congregation and interested parties.

APEC produced a Strategic Development Brief following their various discussions as an indication of the types of spaces the church and local community would need and use, that could reasonably be accommodated on the site. The brief was a starting point for the design work that would list the constraints and opportunities of the site. These points would enable APEC to develop options for Holy Trinity's review.

3. Conceptual Design

We are nearing the final phase now and APEC have produced a number of designs - too many for there to be an open and prolonged discussion. The Steering Group have been able to narrow the designs down to the best 3 options (pending approval from PCC) and APEC will work these into final designs for presentation to PCC and the congregation for our final agreement.

Angela Watson, April 2014

HOLY TRINITY CHOIR

I would like to thank all members of our Gospel Group; additionally, thanks to Revd. Eve, Elaine Weir, our tutor and Brian, our organist for their support.

Elaine tutors us for three Thursdays per month training our voices for singing. Brian works with us once a month to practise songs for the church services throughout the month.

We practise for one hour a week, which is not long. If congregation members can spare the time, we would welcome new members.

Last May we did a fundraising concert for the church finances. We raised £700 for our church. Thank you everyone who supported us on that night with a special thanks to the Gems. They did a splendid welcome sign and organised the refreshments very professionally. A 'thank you' to the members who donated refreshments on the night.

We did another raffle to raise money for new microphones. Again, this would not be possible without kind donations from Holy Trinity members and them selling tickets. By the time you read this, some of those microphones should be in use in church.

This year we will be hosting a concert during the convention weekend and there are already plans for another next year. Please pray for our continued singing ministry.

God Bless,
Mary Farrell - Choir Mistress

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Team Members: Jean Simms, Evadney Christian, Angela Kooner, Mavis Scott, Marcia West

As a team, we work together as part of our discipleship. We visit members of our church who are unable to attend church due to illness, disability, age or any other condition that prevents them from attending church. We also visit those that are ill in hospitals and nursing homes. Our aim is to keep them in touch with church affairs. We listen to those in need of someone to talk to, and give help and advice where we can. If we are unable to handle a particular situation, we refer the issue to Revd Eve for further advice and supervision.

We support the ministry of Revd Eve, by sharing in the responsibility for the care of church members. We offer prayer and give communion to those who wish it. We are also there for those in church who may need our help and make newcomers to our church welcome.

In January 2014, we were officially commissioned as the Pastoral Care team for Holy Trinity, Birchfield for an initial five year period. Some of the group recently attended the annual Away Day for Pastoral Care teams, which was held at Carrs Lane Church. It was a good opportunity to meet with other teams from around the diocese and to hear about the work that currently goes on to support the needs of churches and their wider communities. We also took part in workshops that looked at the types of need and people groups that we may support in the course of our work (e.g. dementia, mental health, supporting families and children)

We will continue to work alongside Revd Eve, to support the pastoral needs of our church. Please pray for us, that we may be given health and strength to perform our tasks.

**The Pastoral Care Team
April 2014**

CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

I would like to begin this report by saying thank you to Reverent Canon Eve Pitts for her support in adopting and following the safeguarding guidelines.

Recently The Church of England – Birmingham has partnered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) to establish an online system for processing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) applications. From 20th December 2013 the Church of England – Birmingham will stop processing paper applications for criminal record checks. Every parish will now be required to nominate a Parish Identity Verifier who will be responsible for applying for Disclosure & Barring Service checks for volunteers and paid workers.

Benefits to parishes for using the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service include:

- Access to an online application system
- A much faster processing service
 - Dedicated processing staff
 - Checks now take just a few days to process
- No more need to send forms via the post
- Reduced potential for errors created when completing paper forms
- Specialist help and advice
 - Provided by an account manager
- No administration charges for the parish
 - All costs will continue to be met by the Church of England – Birmingham

The new system involves the applicant completing an online disclosure application form which is forwarded to the Recruiter who verifies the applicant's details. The application is then forwarded to the Disclosure & Barring Service via the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS). The whole process can take less than one working day to complete.

The DBS will process the form and send either a secure electronic notification if the applicant record is clear or a paper copy if there is information to be disclosed about the applicant. The applicant in both cases would receive a paper copy in the form of a DBS Certificate.

I will forward any additional information (if requested) to the PCC regarding safeguarding guidelines or Verifier role

The Child protection team aims to communicate effectively, to work to a high standard and to develop good practices which make it easier for everyone to follow the Child Protection policies. This will help enable us to protect young people and vulnerable adults.

Child protection team: **Reverend Canon Eve Pitts, Angela Watson and Michael Richards.**

INSPIRED GENERATION

The academic year 2013/2014 has been another challenging year for Inspired Generation but with the support of the congregation and by the grace of God, it has been another successful year.

During the year, the group's request for more leaders was met with 3 volunteers from the congregation stepping forward – Samson Odubanjo, James Alexander and Petrine Houston. Samson, James and Petrine very quickly joined the leadership team and their help during the year has been key to managing the amount of work required to successfully run a group of this size. Petrine has recently stepped down as a leader; however, the group are eternally grateful for her support and input during the year.

Due to a small number of new members, the age range of the group has shifted forward. The net result of this is that we now have fewer young people in the lower age group, 3-5 and a higher concentration of young people in the groups aged 6-10 and 11+. As a result of this, the group has decided that for most weeks, the lower two age groups will be merged and led by a combined leadership team. This is more productive and seeks not to isolate the minority of young people in the smaller groups.

The leaders primarily responsible for the 3-5 age range are Siobhan Bartley and Lorna Said. Jennifer Alexander is primarily responsible for the 6-10 age range and responsibility for the 11+ age range is with James Alexander, Samson Odubanjo, Theo Rutherford and Wendy Walker.

Lauren McPherson and Matthew Odubanjo of the older group have continued in their roles as non-voting members of the PCC and although we no longer have a seat on the Bishop's Youth Council due to commitment issues, we continue to maintain links with the council.

Inspired Generation continues the tradition of leading family service on the first Sunday of every second month. This is a challenge for the group due to the preparation time required but the group has worked hard to lead the service bi-monthly, even playing musical instruments for the entire service, in place of the organ one month.

A number of the older young people of Inspired Generation have been taking part in the Diocese-run "Urban Disciples" programme. The programme is aimed at young teenagers and getting them to explore what it is to have a faith and live in an urban context. This has involved several meetings/workshops with neighbouring Church, St. George's, Newtown. During 2013, the group went on 2 residential weekends in Gloucester as part of the programme where they learned things like leadership skills and further explored being an urban disciple. The residentials were part-subsidised by the Diocese and supervised by Siobhan Bartley, Theo Rutherford, Wendy Walker, Helen Tomblin (Bishop's Advisor for Youth Ministry) and Revd. Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory (Bishop's Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglicans). This has been a fantastic opportunity for the young people to further their skills and understanding of faith but also to meet other young people in similar situations. Although the Diocese is changing its approach to youth ministry, it is hoped that there will be similar opportunities for the young people this year.

Toward the end of 2013, a number of young people and leaders from Inspired Generation teamed up with other young people from the Bishop's Youth Council to take part in St. Basil's Big SleepOut – an annual sponsored charity event in which participants sleep in a car park with minimal supplies. This was another good opportunity to increase our links outside the Church and get involved in movements outside our walls. The young people would like to thank everyone who supported this effort and put forward sponsorship money.

The group have discussed fundraising on a number of occasions and have some ideas in this space. On a couple of occasions, Lauren McPherson of the older group has baked cakes and sold them at the back of Church to raise funds. This shows that the young people are also focused on the needs of the wider Church.

The leadership team started a confirmation course with Revd. Eve last year to further study the Bible and use this to aid lesson preparation. This was mentioned in the report last year; however, due to the time constraints of our leaders, we have been unable to continue with the classes this year. In terms of teaching material however, after a review, the group have purchased and continue to work from the Living Stones teaching literature.

Often, lessons are adapted to make the material more age appropriate and interesting for our young people; however it has been

agreed that Living Stones is sufficient for the group's teaching needs this year. We will review this again next year.

One of the challenges ahead is encouraging more young people and parents to come to Inspired Generation. We have recognised that there are often frequent and infrequent visitors who do not come to classes on a Sunday. We will be working to encourage this going forward. The other side of this challenge is that next year, many of our young people have the option of moving away to go to university or will be outside the teaching age for Inspired Generation. We will aim to ensure that the group is alive with young people and doing the best within its function to serve the young people of the parish.

Amongst the aforementioned, the group has also run the traditional Good Friday workshop, helped support the annual bonfire night, run a "Preparing for University" workshop, run a number of evening practices in preparation for services and created fundraising thermometers for display around the Church. We are now also preparing for our slot in this year's convention in May, headed up by Siobhan Bartley.

Inspired Generation would like to thank everyone in the congregation and visitors for all the support this year and all the positive feedback the young people have received. This has had such a positive impact on the group's growth.

God bless, **Inspired Generation.**

MOTHERS' UNION TEAM REPORT

Events planned, facilitated and supported by the Mothers' Union Team from 31st March 2013 to 31st March 2014

Sunday 17th November 2013: Commissioning Service opening Holy Trinity branch. Induction of 10 members to the Mothers' Union

Sunday 16th February 2014: Valentine Service

Friday 14th March 2014: World Wide President for the Mothers' Union visit to Holy Trinity. Presentation and refreshments

Sunday 15th March 2014: Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service at Birmingham Cathedral

Holy Trinity Mothers' Union formed in September 2013. There are currently 14 members and still growing.

The aim of Holy Trinity Mothers' Union is to support the local community, support marriage and relationships, keeping prayers at the centre of everything we do.

The Mothers' Union welcomes new members with skills in cooking, sewing, Information Technology, job search, counselling, home decoration plus many more. We have already started knitting and sewing for stillborn and premature babies. Garments were produced in partnership with the Mothers Union in Grenada, West Indies. The garments were donated to local hospitals. A member has visited the local prison, there are plans to continue. There are two male members of the Mothers' Union.

Thank you all for your continued support to all the events including the Mothers' Union for their continued hard work. With God's blessing we will continue to grow in numbers, and make the lives better for those less fortunate than ourselves.

From the Mothers' Union Team

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Holy Trinity Bereavement Group began on 13th May 2011. This group was set up to offer support to bereaved members and their families and also to families of anyone whose burial service was taken by Rev Canon Eve Pitts.

We usually meet fortnightly on a Tuesday for discussion and also to plan our yearly All Souls' Service, which usually takes place in November.

The Team consists of 4 members plus Rev Canon Eve: myself, Elaine Dawkins, Cissilyn Madourie, Thelma Hunte, and new member, Ida Smith.

We, the team members would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all church members and visitors who supported us at the last All Souls' Service back in November 2013 as it was a very rainy night and we had a huge audience! Actually one of our best attendances.

LET US ALL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP HOLY TRINITY OPEN AND SUPPORT OUR VICAR.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING TEAM

Events planned, facilitated and supported by the Social and Fundraising Team from 31st March 2013 to 31st March 2014

Thursday 28th March 2013 The Passover Meal

Saturday 15th June 2013 Holy 2013 Trinity Summer Fete

Saturday 13th 2013 July Summer excursion to Blackpool

Tuesday 1st October- Thursday 31st October Black History Month
(The Front Room)

Sunday 5th October 2013 Harvest Meal

Monday 7th October 2013 Harvest Auction

Friday 8th November 2013 supported IG November Bonfire Night
social event

Saturday 30th November 2013 Winter Fayre

Sunday 15th 2013 December Christmas lunch

Tuesday 4th March 2014 Shrove Tuesday Social Event

Thank you all for your continued support to all the events including the Social and Fund raising Team for their continued hard work. But most of all we have to give thanks to God for his strength and guidance during the last year and the year to come. Please continue to support your church in many ways. 2013-2014 has been a busy time in the social calendar and the team has had a pleasant working time together, not only as a team but as a church family and community. We hope that 2014-2015, even though challenging at times, will be rewarding

From the Social and Fundraising Team

COLOUR GROUPS

In an effort to find a way for members of our congregation to get to become better acquainted with each other, in 2013 a 'colour group' scheme was introduced. Small groups of approximately 10 to 12 people were formed, with each group named after various colours (green, red, blue, yellow and more recently, gold).

Each group has a leader whose responsibility it is to meet regularly with their members, if only for a few minutes after services. It is hoped that church members of various backgrounds and age ranges will be able to meet and get to know each other better, than they would have normally.

The groups are also involved in fundraising for our church, and at the moment some are involved in a challenge to increase/invest a £15 gift given to them by Revd Eve.

Below is an update from one of the groups that has been meeting on a regular basis.

Church Colour groups – Yellow 'A' (Leader: Christeen Forrester)

Christeen reports " that the group is in constant contact. Whilst some members have been unable to meet, communication is mainly by phone, meeting at Sunday services and the prayer group. Contributions to our £15 fund enhancement is steadily growing. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far – your support is greatly appreciated. We hope to have a group meeting shortly."

Regards
Christeen Forrester

HOLY TRINITY BROTHERHOOD

The Brotherhood is a men's group which meets on the first Monday of each month in the church hall from 7.30 until 9pm.

The subscription is £4 per month, which goes towards paying for the occasional outing such as ten pin bowling or a meal at a restaurant. Highlights of the last twelve months include: a visit to the Severn Valley Railway in August, cinema trips to see 'The Butler' and 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom' and a Christmas meal at 'Buffet Island'.

A new venture for the Brotherhood has been crown green bowling at 'The Drakes Drum' in Great Barr, initiated by the outgoing chair, Wayne Hamilton, who has been missed since his ordination. We have our own bowls and a key to the green.

We meet two or three Saturday mornings each year to clear the leaves from the church grounds.

We open every meeting with prayer and the group's hymn, *A New Commandment*. We also sing other hymns and choruses. From time to time we sing in church at the 11am service on Sunday. The Brotherhood will sing at the Convention concert next month.

The Brotherhood hopes to help organise the New Year's Eve party this year.

This month the Brotherhood held its first Annual General Meeting for some time. The officers elected were:

Chairman – Mike Gregory

Secretary – Anthony Pitts

Treasurer – George Bartley

Our regular attendance is between eight and twelve men. Attendances have been slightly down this year, sadly because of members' illnesses.

NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.

Please see Anthony Pitts.

Anthony Pitts, Brotherhood secretary

21st April 2014

GEMS

Chairperson for GEMS is Ms Heather Small, and the Deputy is Ms Dawn Miller; they are also the treasurers. Meetings are held every 3 months to discuss ways in which GEMS can engage more in the local community and at the same time support Holy Trinity Church by organising a calendar of events.

Our mission statement

'To respect each other at all times regardless of age disability position or race, through a holistic spiritual and empathetic way treating others as they would wish to be treated.... to provide a service to all women in the local community regardless of their social background'

GEMS have offered support to the following events in 2013

June - Summer Fayre

GEMS supported members of Holy Trinity Church at their Fayre.

July - Barbecue

This is an annual event held at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Members of GEMS and the community contributed towards the food. GEMS would like to thank Michael Amross and Darrean Richards and also Ralph Ranson for maintaining the Barbecue oven. We have received positive feedback about this event, with more families and children attending each year.

September - GEMS Autumn Ball

GEMS held their 'Second 'Ball' at Holy Trinity Church Hall. We had 80 guests from the local community and from Holy Trinity Church. Photographs were taken of the guests who attended the ball by Mr Michael Richards. £100 was raised from the purchase of the pictures. GEMS made a donation of £250 (which included the cost of the pictures) towards the Jubilee Fund at Holy Trinity Church

Our objectives for 2014

Annual Barbecue July 2014

GEMS will be hosting Holy Trinity Church 150th Anniversary Ball September 2014

Cancer Awareness evening for All women (date TBC)

A GEMS Logo

GEM has an open invitation to all women to join the group regardless of their age disability ethnicity or social class. Anyone interested in becoming a member or would like further information about GEMS please contact Heather Small (Mobile: 07891 413839)

Heather Small - Chairperson

CHURCH HALL

Our church hall has been used regularly during the past year by the following groups:

Sunday	Morning Afternoon	Holy Trinity's 'Inspired Generation' Christ Mission Church (CMC)
Monday month)	Evening	Holy Trinity Brotherhood (once a
Tuesday	Morning	Ladies' Keep Fit
Wednesday	Morning	'Stay and Play' group
Friday (IBM)	Evening	International Breakthrough Ministry (though they mainly meet in church)
Saturday	Morning	Recently used every Saturday by a teacher for supplementary classes for children. Men's Breakfast (once a month)

In addition there have been PCC meetings and several church social events.

The hall was hired on 32 occasions in 2012 for parties and other social events, including a wedding reception on Boxing Day.

Birmingham City Council used our hall on three occasions, twice for consultation meetings with local tenants, once for a staff training day.

Anthony Pitts, 21st April 2014

DEANERY SYNOD

For the deanery calendar year, the Handsworth Deanery focused on the following issues:

1. Same Sex Marriage
2. The ordination of Women's bishops
3. Effective Communication and Welcoming Church
4. Food bank.

Clergy

Retirement- Canon Brian Hall, St Mary's Handsworth.

Appointment to other dioceses

Fr Newey, St Andrew's , Handsworth, Fr Simon MacKenzie, St Matthews, Perry Beeches and Fr Cripsin, St John's, Perry Barr will be leaving at the end of April.

Deanery Appointments:

Fr Julian Sampson appointed vicar of St Michael's, Handsworth and priest in charge of Bishop Latimer, Winson Green and Fr Douglas appointed vicar of St Andrew's, Handsworth.

Upcoming Events: Deanery Day

Other Happenings

The life of the present deanery synod is coming to end in couple weeks' time. The Diocese of Birmingham is looking for new members to become deanery synod members.

Lay Chair Election and Secretary

This year deanery synod will be voting for a new lay chair and a secretary.

New Area Dean: Fr Philip Calvert – Vicar St Mark's Kingstanding.

Wayne Simmonds - Deanery Synod member.

JUBILEE FUND UPDATE

This year Holy Trinity Birchfield celebrates its 150th anniversary, and as we look ahead to the future, there are many challenges facing us, as we try to increase our finances. This was one of the reasons for establishing the Jubilee Fund, so that there would be a focal point for all of the church's fundraising efforts. By last April, over £11,000 had been deposited into the fund, thanks to our members' fundraising efforts and donations.

As you all know, Holy Trinity is in need of major building maintenance and repair; in particular the roof is in immediate need of attention. Some of the money raised was used to pay for repairs (approx. £10,000) to make good the vestry roof, which then left the fund at a low level.

Thanks to regular donations from members and others associated with the church, the fund is steadily growing again. As of 17th April, the current balance stands at £3,995.19.

Within this amount, some funds continue to be earmarked for our convention (£1,389.41, inc. £1,000 for a future screen/projector). There are various fundraising ideas in the planning, from regular events such as the church fayres and concerts down to church members' cake sales. We will need to use everyone's imagination and creativity as we seek to grow our finances over the coming months and years.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the fund over the past year, every little helps and is appreciated. Please continue to make donations to the fund, so that we can continue to help and support our church and place it on a firmer footing for the next generation.

Marcia West & Christine Harris
Jubilee Fund Treasurers
April 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT

Amidst a climate of global economic downturn, Holy Trinity Church continues to face testing and adverse times in terms of a lapse in institutional and financial growth. However, we must give praise to the Heavenly Father to bring us thus far and to help us to mould our minds as brothers and sisters in Christ to work together in order to create a body of love and generosity.

One area of growth which has excelled for the 2013 - 2014 financial year is the income made from the hall of over £10,000 which has added tremendous maintenance and financial longevity to Holy Trinity Church. We are quite thankful for the contributors and coordinators of the hall and hope that the Lord will continue to richly bless us and continue to open the doors financially. Similarly, collections, funerals/weddings and baptisms generated a good income to Holy Trinity Church which helped towards the general expenses and maintenance of the church.

We give thanks to church members and the wider community who contributed financially to the church through pledges, whether it be through standing orders/bank, planned giving/envelopes, donations, gift aids and collections. We have seen an increase in the quality of giving in the form of more 'notes' recorded rather than the customary dominant coins.

However, we have recorded a continual reduction in the number of regular planned giving/envelopes received from members registered on the electoral roll which has no doubt reflected in another disappointment in the total planned giving received for the financial year. We need to realise the need to give consistently in order to keep up to date with the church's expenses such as the Common Fund which plays a vital role in the church's day to day mission. May the good Lord open our hearts and minds and help us to reflect on the future of Holy Trinity so that we think collectively and truly recognize the need to give generously.

If we all want a future for Holy Trinity, we seriously need to change the perception of giving and consider moving away from a culture of giving what's 'left over'. We need to commit ourselves to a monthly/weekly pledge of 'generous giving' from the heart.

The years ahead seem exciting, but challenging, as we take into consideration the tremendous amount of work planned with such few resources.

The cost of running the church is over £78,000 a year, including a Common Fund payment of over £40,000. In addition, we have the ongoing increase of the church/hall running costs, maintenance, utilities and insurance.

More importantly, we need to take into consideration the repayment of the upcoming loan required to carry out the outstanding and much needed church repairs.

Our income for the 2013 financial year was just over £78,000, which shows that we have just barely managed to break even.

Sadly, there are no 'reserves' to fall back on which means that we are just living on the edge.

The Lord has empowered us as ambassadors for this church. With your giving and commitment we can no doubt override these challenges. Let us work and worship together to build a future for this generation and those to come. Only we can make Holy Trinity Church continue to stand firm in Christ and stature within this vibrant community.

Christine Harris – Treasurer

Anthony Pitts – Assistant Treasurer

Eamon James – Assistant Treasurer

