

**Saint Augustine of Canterbury  
Local Ecumenical Partnership**

*Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed and  
Roman Catholic Churches  
in fellowship in North Springfield*



**Annual Report**

**2013/2014**

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2014**  
**Agenda**

**Opening Prayer**

**Apologies for absence**

**A) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Appointment of Church Wardens
3. Delegation of responsibilities of the P.C.C. to Church Council

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**B) The Annual Church Meeting**

1. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising.
2. Appointment of Church Wardens/ Officers
3. Election of members to the Church Council and congregational reps. to other bodies.
4. Election of Welcome Team.
5. Financial report and reception of Independently Examined Accounts.
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
7. Annual Report on life and work of the church.
8. Ministers Reports (*please read printed reports before the meeting*)
9. Rev Lee Batson to share with us the exciting plans for the new build on Beaulieu Park
10. A.O.B.
11. Date of next meeting – Church Council

**Closing Prayer**

## Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2013

### St Augustine of Canterbury, North Springfield

The meeting was held on Sunday 24th April 2013

#### **Present:**

Rev Jane, Rev Viv, Pauline Hepworth, Helen Leverett, Doug Hayton, Joe Hughes, Graham McGhie, Carolyn Smith, Linda Raymond, Deborah Wilkes, Lorraine Cummings, Charlotte Tew, Simon Carpenter, Linda Carpenter, Val Carter, John Anderson.

No Apologies were received

**Opening Prayer** - led by Simon Carpenter

#### **A) The Annual Parochial Meeting**

##### **1. Minutes of last APM**

Agreed and accepted as an accurate record.

##### **2. Appointment of Anglican Church Wardens.**

Mrs Helen Leverett was  
Nominated by Carolyn Smith  
Seconded by Lorraine Cummings  
All in favour

Mrs Pauline Hepworth was  
Nominated by Joe Hughes  
Seconded by Doug Hayton  
All in favour

Karen & Pauline were thanked for their hard work.

##### **3. Delegation of responsibility of P.C.C. to Church Council**

All in favour.

The PCC meeting closed at 12.23 and the Annual Church Meeting opened

#### **B) The Annual Church Meeting**

##### **1. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising.**

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising - Non

##### **2. Appointment of Church Officers**

Carolyn and Doug were willing to continue serving as our Methodist Church Officers

Mr Douglas Hayton was  
Proposed by Joe Hughes  
Seconded by Carolyn Smith  
All in favour

Mrs Carolyn Smith was  
Proposed by Helen Leverett  
Seconded by Lorraine Cummings  
All in favour

Doug & Carolyn were thanked for all they do.

### **3. Election of members to the Church Council and congregational reps. to other bodies.**

Val Carter -

Proposed by Carolyn Smith

Seconded by Simon Carpenter

Elected unanimously

John Anderson

Proposed by Rev Viv

Seconded by Graham McGhie

Elected Unanimously

### **4. Election of Welcome Team.**

Those on the Welcome Team are:

Hannah Beasley, Donna Beasley, Lorraine Cummings, Linda Raymond, Ian Wilson & Sandie Hulbert.

All were re-election unanimously.

Helen Leverett stood down due to commitments as Church Warden

### **5. Financial report and reception of Independently Examined Accounts.**

The accounts have been verified as accurate by Richard Evans - our Independent Examiner.

Graham reported the following -

By the end of 2012 there was a surplus of £2,730 with total receipts of £19,247.

Regular giving was £17,436 an increase on the previous year.

This reflected a drop in Planned Giving and an increase in collections and other giving.

Fund raising events brought in £1,352.

Money received from church fees is not an income figure as it is mainly paid over to the diocese as an assigned fee.

Payments were £16,945 of which the Parish Share is £12,000, which is approximately half of the expected payment.

Clergy expenses were £605

Church Giving - £250 for Compassion

Tax recovered from giving - £5,665

Balance - statement of assets and liabilities

Nat West £9,500

CBF £920

C of E Insurance Bonds £5,000 invested, current value £4,610

There is a standing order of £150 per calendar month for building maintenance.

Deborah Wilkes enquired if the fee paid to the Independent Examiner had been dropped to £50. Jane stated it remained at £100 as it seemed unfair to reduce the payment.

Joe Hughes asked why the payment to Compassion had dropped by £65. Jane stated she had paid the difference.

Carolyn Smith explained the splits for planned/unplanned giving were not reflective and will change. The overall total is not affected.

Carolyn proposed the accounts be accepted.

Joe Hughes seconded.

The audited accounts are to be signed as accurate by Helen Leverett and Simon Carpenter.

### **Budget 2013**

A deficit budget had been run in an attempt to increase the amount paid to the Parish Share, but this has used up reserves and has had to stop in favour of a break even budget. Parish Purse payments will remain at £12,000 per annum.

There is an additional payment of £1,200 to be paid to the Joint Management Fund.

Graham McGhie proposed the break even budget for 2013 be accepted.

Pauline Hepworth seconded.

Jane thanked Graham and Carolyn for their hard work. Graham thanked Carolyn for the extra work she had taken on.

### **6. Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

Graham proposed Richard Evans remains the Independent Examiner.

Deborah Wilkes seconded and it was unanimously accepted, as was the decision to keep his fee at £100

## 7. Annual Report on Life and Work of the Church.

Jane thanked everyone for the hard work that they do.

## 8. Ministers Report

No comments on the reports provided. Simon expressed thanks to Rev. Jane and Rev. Viv

## 9. New Website - A taste of the future

The new website created by Simon Carpenter is now live and has links to Facebook, Twitter and C of E Newsfeed. There is also a St Augustine's face book page and Twitter page. The site has been completely revamped and is geared for social media. A demonstration was given and very well received.

## 10 AOB

Nothing discussed under this section

**Date of next meeting – Church Council – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm**

**Closing Prayer** Rev Viv

Meeting closed at 1.35 pm

### Annual Report 2013-2014

#### Background

St. Augustine's Church Council has had the responsibility of co-operating with the Revd Jane Anderson (Anglican) Revd Viv Gasteen (Methodist) in promoting the pastoral, ecumenical, evangelistic and social mission of the church within the parish and LEP. In conjunction with the Roman Catholic Community through the Local Management Committee they are responsible for the maintenance and insurance of the church building, gardens and car park.

#### Membership of Church Council

Members of Church Council are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of Church Council

Name	Role	Date Elected	Date Term Expires
Rev Jane Anderson	Chairman	From Oct. 1999	
Rev. Viv Gasteen	Minister	From Sept. 2010	
Simon Carpenter	Reader (secondment)	2011 (ex officio)	
Pauline Hepworth	Church Warden	2013 (ex officio)	2016
Helen Leverett	Church Warden	2013 (ex officio)	2016
Doug Hayton	Church Officer Methodist	2011 (ex officio)	2014
Carolyn Smith	Church Officer Methodist	2011 (ex officio)	2014
Graham McGhie	Treasurer	2013	2016
Lorraine Cummings		2011	2014
Val Carter	Methodist Rep.	2013	2016
John Anderson	Secretary	2013	2016

There will be 3 vacancies on Church Council.

We would like to thank all members for their hard work and the commitment they have shown.

The following posts are vacant;  
1 post for Deanery Synod.

1 post for Ecumenical Council  
0 post for Joint Management  
0 post for School Governor

The following are representatives for denominational bodies:

**Deanery Synod**

Rev. Jane Anderson, Simon Carpenter

**Methodist Circuit**

Rev. Viv Gasteen, Dough Hayton, Carolyn Smith.

**Ecumenical Council**

Rev. Jane Anderson, Rev. Viv Gasteen, Deborah Wilkes

**Joint Management Committee**

Rev. Jane Anderson, Graham McGhie, John Anderson

## **Aspects of Church Life**

The Church Council operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of Council and also include other church members.

### **Baptisms**

***Review of the past year.***

Not so many Baptisms this year but the ones we have done have been a real pleasure. We have met some lovely families. We recently baptised two boys Zack and Matthew from one of the new families that have recently joined the church, which made it very special.

***Hopes for the coming year.***

This year we have a lot more baptisms coming in, so it would be nice to hopefully get some new members for our congregation. Our objective is always to make everyone feel so welcome regardless of whether they have a faith or not.  
*Pauline Hepworth*

### **Parent & Toddler & Baby**

***Review of the past year.***

Parent and toddler group continues in the small hall Wednesdays 10.30 till 12 pm. We continue to share God's love and provide a range of messy, creative, imaginative, physical and challenging activities that reflect a chosen theme planned by myself and Rev. Jane. Our topics/themes reflect the time of year, celebrations, seasonal changes in Gods world, special events and bible stories. This term our focus is Easter and reflects the beginning of Spring and recognises days such as St Valentines Day (Gods love) St David's Day and Mothering Sunday.

The activities are age appropriate to the group that attend and over the last year we have had our natural 'turn over' with our older pre-school children moving onto 'Big' school in September 2013 and now our group is mainly made up of children between the ages of 6 months to 2 years.

We have four or five childminders that access the group weekly with two or three children each and our group also includes a nanny with her grandson, two dads and of course mums. In total we average 12 - 13 children and 8 - 9 adults. Our morning session begins with a circle time 'service' with a brief introduction to our group, a story or explanation of the theme of the day, songs, offering to God and prayers. All the children and parents/carers are encouraged to arrive in time for this part of the session. Due to the main participants of the group being childminders quite often we find that due to having a number of children to get to and from Church they tend to come towards the end or after our service time which can be a little disruptive. The group continues to be a friendly, welcoming environment that supports a Christian lifestyle and encourages God's love.

We have established a core group of children attending and its nice to get to know one another, build positive relationships and be able to give advice and watch the children grow physically and spiritually.

The group continues to offer invitations to services being run in church as part of Sunday Worship or Messy Church and some of our attending families also have attended these services.

***Hopes, objectives and goals for the coming year.***

We hope to continue to build on those important links that the group has with the church, encouraging more parents and carers attending the group to then attend Sunday worship and to close the gaps that appear to separate the two aspects of church life.

To continue to offer teachings from the bible expressing Gods love to our young children and parents/carers in our community through planned, exciting and spiritually based activities and play.

To continue to spread the message and role model a Christian lifestyle to the group through relevant themes and topics.

To try and research new hymns and stories for younger children that will encourage the message to be heard.

To have fun as a group/family, and to build on friendships, offering advice and support.

*Sandie Hulbert*

### **Sunday School**

#### ***Review of the past year***

We have had quite an exciting year in Sunday School! Numbers had dwindled some what in the months leading up to the summer break, but after offering prayers to encourage more families to find their way to St Augustine's it seems our prayers are being answered! Matthew and his family joined us in Autumn soon to be followed by Helena then Amelia! The rain in January and February meant that many football matches were cancelled so we had some of our old members back which was lovely. We also had a couple of other families join us for a couple of Sundays so it got quite busy in Sunday School!

In lessons we have been trialling the use of some new materials 'Splash' for over 8's and 'Bubbles' for up to 5's to support our learning and have been looking at how to live a Christian life and be a shining light for God.

#### ***Hopes, for this coming year.***

In the next year we would like to see numbers increase further if at all possible so we would ask for your continued prayers; but for the time being we are looking forward to seeing our newest members grow in the love of God and come to understand more about what it means to be a Christian. More children in Sunday School does provide us with a nice problem - we do really need a few extra helpers to either be an 'extra pair of hands' on a rota basis or to assist in preparing occasional lessons. If you feel this is something you might be able to help with please let Charlotte or Jane know. Or if you could assist in the running of a crèche for our younger church members once again on a rota basis, please let Sandie or Jane know. *Charlotte Tew*

### **Messy Church**

#### ***Review of the past year***

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who through their support and commitment has enabled Messy Church to continue. Messy Church offers a different style of church on a Sunday afternoon every few months, where children and adults gather to share and explore the Christian lifestyle and teachings through craft activities, a shared meal and a short act of worship including songs and prayer. We have been running for a few years now and it is heartening to see families who attend regularly. There are usually a variety of short activities, some messier than others and always at least one that is food related which is always popular. As well as being an opportunity to set one's creative spirit free and have fun the crafts provide a talking point allowing opportunity to think about God and Christian values. We incorporated elements of Messy Church into the Christmas Eve Christingle service with all who wanted making their own Christingles as the service progressed.

#### ***Hopes for the coming year***

To continue to offer a regular Messy Church, hopefully bi-monthly although this is subject to availability of the church and helpers. More helpers are always needed of any age and you do not have to be 'creative' or skilled at crafts, although it helps if you don't mind getting your hand messy at times. You will have an opportunity to have some fun, fellowship and worship, expressing your creative side if you wish, with a simple meal at the end.

To increase awareness of Messy Church by including Springfield Primary in the invitations. Currently Rev. Jane and myself meet to plan the themes and think of possible craft activities, trying not to get too carried away and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us. *Carolyn Smith*

### **Evergreens (lunch club)**

#### ***Review of the past year***

Evergreens continues to thrive, we have grown a little and regularly have around 14-15 residents who thoroughly enjoy a two course lunch for £3. They are all very fond of Jane (and rightly so!) Pauline, Marie, Linda and Andrew Smith help out in a jolly manner, even when we have aching feet and need to reach for the hand lotion after all the washing up. A great time was had by all at Christmas, we had a lovely turkey dinner, followed by a short service with readings and carols and children from Bishop's School ably assisted by Greg on the guitar singing for us. Pauline regularly has a small craft stall for residents to enjoy.

#### ***Hopes objectives or goals for this coming year***

We are probably almost up to capacity with regard to how many we can cater for due to limited space. We now have a lady from Cotman who attends church regularly, and it has been noted a few residents came to the Christmas Fair at church. It would be nice to occasionally have a speaker or some other entertainment at Evergreens, but this can sometimes be expensive. Any ideas or leads anyone can give us would be greatly welcomed. *Linda Raymond*

## **Social Committee**

### ***Review of the past year.***

Our fundraising events were well supported this year, especially the Train Exhibition, Cream Tea, Christmas Fayer. Our Cream Tea was on a Vintage theme, with home made bunting, tablecloths on tables, with flowers and pots of tea and sandwiches and cream tea, 40 people attended this year. The Christmas Fayre was well supported and special thanks go to Linda Raymond for delivering 1000 leaflets ad all the P.R. work and to Rev Jane and all the helpers. We continue to do our tables sales once a month after the church service.

### ***Hopes for the coming year***

This coming year in September we are having a 1949's Village Fete and we are hoping to attract the local community and maybe gain some more church members.

There will be a Farmers Market, mini Flower Festival, stalls and games. Hopefully some members of our church will be doing some dancing and hopefully people will dress up in 1940's clothing!! *Pauline Hepworth*

## **Worship Group**

### ***Review of the past year***

Worship Committee has dwindled from 6 to 2 members over the past year, however we still meet to plan worship regularly. We have had a few new additions to our liturgy - 'Animals in War' & 'Celtic Winter Solstice'. On Christmas Eve we held a Messy Christingle service which was well attended and enjoyed by the congregation. Our Maundy Thursday service this year will take place in church at 7 pm - please do come along if you are able.

### ***Hopes for this coming year***

If you have any thoughts on services, worship you would like to have or try or if you would like to be a member of the Worship Group which involves helping to plan by choosing themes, hymns etc please do let me know. *Jane*

## **Involvement in our Schools**

### ***Review of the past year***

This past year has seen renewed links with Springfield School - this has included week day assemblies with Rev Viv and Rev Jane, 2 Harvest Festival Services at St Augustine's, a guided tour of the church and the head teacher - Mrs Tyler and a group of pupils were involved in the Nativity Service.

Bishop's School links are very good with weekly assemblies in church and school. Special services during Holy Week, Remembrance Day, St Augustine's Day, Leaver's Eucharist. Stations of the Cross, Ash Wednesday and of course Christmas. We have 3 school Governors - Sandie Hulbert, Hazel Miller and Rev Jane who also take on extra responsibility for Year Groups, Child Protection and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

### ***Hopes for this coming year***

To strengthen our links with Springfield school. To hopefully involve both schools in our Celebration Weekend in September and to begin an after school 'Worshippers' group at Bishops. *Jane*

## **Church Attendance**

There are 55 members on the electoral roll

The usual weekly Sunday attendance counted during October 2013 was 20

Average attendance at Parent & Toddler is 8 adults and 12 children.

Average attendance at Messy Church is 45 + 12 helpers

## **Ministers Reports**

Since our last AGM there have been some very positive things happening in the life of the church here in North Springfield.

We have a fantastic new website, have launched a church magazine, the fourth issue will be out in time for Easter. A wonderful Old Fashioned Tea Party was held in the vicarage garden with dainty sandwiches, cream teas and lots of cakes plus a craft stall.

In autumn we were delighted when Springfield Primary School held their Harvest Assemblies in our church. It was super to welcome the children, teachers, parents and grandparents. Since then both Rev Jane and I have led several assemblies in the school and we are building a really good relationship with the staff and pupils.

Our Christmas Fair raised a really good sum of money towards church funds, however, we do need more of you to come along and help prepare the hall and be around to welcome folks.

The Christmas Concert was amazing, it was absolutely fantastic to see the church full of people of all ages and the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was a wonderful way to begin our Christmas celebrations.

For the first time we held "Lunch with Santa" and the children and parents who came really enjoyed themselves. I think Rev Jane and I also enjoyed seeing Santa too, we're usually asleep when he comes!



It has been a real joy to welcome several new families to our church for Sunday worship, we now need some help for Charlotte in the Sunday school. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to see the children week by week and to hear them share what they have learned.

I feel there is a more positive atmosphere among us this year, all sorts of events are planned, especially the Centenary Celebrations in September.

God has called us to this time and place and to be his witnesses, his people, a learning, caring, sharing church. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to share with you and worship and minister among you.

*“Have you heard God’s voice; has your heart been stirred?*

*Are you still prepared to follow?*

*Have you made a choice to remain and serve?*

*Though the way be rough and narrow?*

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much*

*And embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you*

*The disciples of tomorrow?*

## **Love and Peace to you all**

### **Rev Viv**

The past year has been a packed one as Rev Viv has written in her Ministers Letter, it has been good to re connect with Springfield School and we look forward to building stronger links with them during this year.

I would like to thank Andrew Smith and his team for all of the hard work they put into organising our second Model Railway Exhibition - the Chelmsford Club offer their time and enthusiasm for free and raise a substantial amount of money for our church funds - I look forward to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Exhibition next week end - but I do wonder how they manage to drink so much tea!

Our Centenary Celebration will be on the first week end in September and we are planning for a 1940’3 Fate, Farmers Market, mini Flower Festival, a Community Quilt and Harvest Festival - as we celebrate the Centenary of Chelmsford Diocese we think about how we can be a blessing to our community and hope to engage with many in North Springfield in the run up to and during these 2 days.

With the expansion of Beaulieu Park there are new opportunities for Mission especially around the new ‘Community Hub’ which is due to be built over the next couple of years - Rev Lee Batson, the Vicar of Boreham, who some of you will remember from our Away Day at Little Waltham will be joining us for part of this years AGM to explain more and answer any questions you might have.

Over this past year our church family has increased and it is lovely to have more children in our Sunday School. Sadly we shall have to say ‘farewell’ to Lorraine as she and her family move to Norfolk later this year. I shall miss Lorraine’s support and encouragement and her down to earth, common sense - as well as her practical, fuss free help in the kitchen at all our events.

As always, my love and prayers are with you.

**Jane**

### ***A Blessing as we Journey Together***

May our eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around us  
and our sense of mystery be deepened.

May we be aware of the light that shines in the darkness,  
and that the darkness can never put out.

May we be blessed with companions on the journey,  
friends who will listen to us and encourage us with their presence.

May we learn to live with what is unsolved in our hearts  
daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day,  
we find their answers.

May we find the still, quiet place inside ourselves where we can  
know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in us and through us to those who need our care.

May we continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future  
with deeper understanding of God’s way for us. **Amen.**