



Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Including Trustees Report for
Charities Commission

Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Church Accounting Regulations 2006 & SORP 2005

Trustees Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Castle Church, Stafford

To comply with the new reporting procedures with regards to producing a Trustees Annual Report (TAR), this document has been put together from various sources including our Mission Action Plan, Accounts and other references such as our web site, and must be read in conjunction with our Annual Parish Report, attached.

Reference and Administration details

Charity name *Castle Church Stafford*

Warden compiling report *Stephen Deall
13 Deanshill Close
Stafford
ST16 1BW*

PCC Members 2009 - 2010

Ex officio members	<i>Philip Sowerbutts</i>	<i>Incumbent</i>
	<i>Christine Sykes</i>	<i>Curate</i>
	<i>Stephen Deall</i>	<i>Church Warden</i>
	<i>Barbara Boote</i>	<i>Church Warden</i>
	<i>Sara Deall</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Vera Davis</i>	<i>Deanery Synod Representative</i>

Serving members	<i>Scott White</i>	
	<i>Enid Poulson</i>	
	<i>Les Neil</i>	
	<i>Les Deall</i>	
	<i>Mavis Bryant</i>	
	<i>David Boote</i>	
	<i>Tim Robinson</i>	
	<i>Tracey Robinson</i>	
	<i>Graeme Charlesworth</i>	
	<i>Emma Price</i>	<i>PCC Secretary</i>

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Banking details	<i>Co-operative Bank 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 5EP</i>
Independent Examiner	<i>Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance St Mary's House The Close Lichfield WS13 7LD</i>
Priest in Charge	<i>Phillip Sowerbutts</i>

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC Constitution: The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

Currently PCC members and Churchwardens are elected in line with the Parochial Church Council Measure, each member being a full member of the Church Family, on the nominal role, at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

We do not have a formal induction procedure in place for new trustees at present and are looking to address this in the next sitting of the PCC.

We have a number of sub committees as follows

Fabric Committee: responsible for the general maintenance of the church buildings, chaired by David Boote

Social Committee: responsible for the administration and planning of Church Family social events, chaired by Scott White

Church Hall Committee: responsible for the letting of the Church Halls.

Church Building Committee: responsible for assisting in the instruction and refurbishment Steering Committee management of the building refurbishment, chaired by Graeme Charlesworth

A comprehensive set of risk management documents have been prepared for all four Church Buildings, and are still under review and waiting to be adopted by the PCC when other business allows.

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Objectives and Activities

At Castle Church we have a Mission Action Plan (MAP) in which we have detailed our plans for the short, medium and long term with regards to continuing the growth in our church family and making a difference in the local community.

Our main objective is 'to make the love of God known to everyone' to help do so we intend to make the Castle Church main building, which is Grade 2* listed, fit for purpose in the 21st century, we have appointed a local architect Horsley Huber and with their assistance and after a great deal of time and effort, faculty permission was given to completely re-order Castle Church, with a view to making the Church building safe.

After this faculty was granted, a five-year overdue quinquennial inspection of the church building was carried out revealing significant major serious problems with the building, and we are continuing to work with a professional fundraiser, who is acting on a purely voluntary basis, to raise the relevant funds. We have recently been awarded £35000 towards our total by English Heritage and are hoping to use this money as a spring board to further funds. We are hoping to begin the first stage of works on the Church building towards the end of this year.

Achievements and Performance

We have the following services:

10:15am Family Service (currently meeting in the Church Hall - Newport Road)

This is a modern and informal service using power point technology and with music led by a band. It attracts people aged 0-100, though is predominantly made up of young families. After around 20 minutes the children leave us for their own activities in The Barn. They usually look at the same passage of the bible as the adults in the main service. Attendance: 40-50 Adults 20-30 Children

9am Traditional Sunday Service with choir:

For those who find the modern style of worship uncomfortable, we have a traditional sung morning service. This is led by our church choir and attracts mainly, though not exclusively older people. Attendance: 20-25 Adults 1-2 Children

9:45am Sunday Service at Lovelace Close Highfields

An informal setting for this warm and friendly service in the church hall on Highfields. The service is usually lay led and has a team of people who undertake this ministry. This service attracts more elderly people. Attendance: 15-20 Adults

6pm Sunday Service (currently meeting in The Barn behind the Church Hall - Newport Road)

The last service of the day combines modern and traditional music as we come together in this quieter more reflective time together, with an opportunity to spend more time in God's word.

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There is a mixture of ages and a significant number attending for the second time on a Sunday.
Attendance: 10-20 Adults

10am Midweek Communion

A new midweek Communion service twice each month (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) followed by a coffee morning.
Attendance: 15-20 Adults (more attend the coffee morning afterwards.)

We have policies on Baptism, Weddings and Funerals which are published on our website,
www.castlechurch.org.uk

We are blessed at Castle Church and have a large number of volunteers giving up both their time and expertise, we have a thriving Sunday School, a small youth group, a choir, a drama group and a craft group. This is in addition to a small army of volunteers who staff a coffee morning on a bi weekly basis and provide tea and coffee after each service.

As a church family we have run a number of successful 'Christianity Explored' courses over the last year, together with new series called 'God on Monday' aimed at both working and retired parishioners helping them to understand the role work plays in God plan.

We have a number of midweek Bible study groups, both in the day and in the evening.

Financial Review

Treasurer's Report 2011

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £76,760 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. Of this £44,858, or 58%, was received from parishioners by way of planned giving, loose plate and Gift Aid. This was a reduction of 5% on the previous year. The church relies heavily on the remaining income coming from lettings of the Church Halls and fund raising.

In addition to this, grants were received from the Borough Council for maintenance of the churchyard, from Castle Church Growth Trust for local mission work and from a number of Trusts to fund the Ministry Apprentice this year

Expenditure of ordinary unrestricted funds £77,732 of has been tightly controlled with no significant increases seen. Each year we make a contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share which largely provides the stipends, pension, training and housing for clergy. For the second year the PCC has been unable to meet the full amount of the share of (£48586 for 2010) and a cumulative liability is shown in the balance sheet to represent the sum owing of £16639. We have been in negotiations with the Diocese concerning this issue for over 15 months now and expect to enter into an arrangement to resolve the issue soon.

During the year the PCC through fund raising supported mission and made payments to the Barnabas Fund and OMF International.

Policy on Reserves

It is not the intention of the PCC to build up large reserves, but to use the money that has been donated to meet the mission of the Church, paying due regards to the wishes of those that have kindly donated funds.

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Fabric (Restricted) Fund - For 2011 the PCC will hold £50000 on deposit, with the intention that it will be used to meet the costs of the proposed Church reordering project. The remaining funds for this project will be sought from grants and fund-raising.

Of the residual £4,700, £3,500 will be allocated for refurbishment and redecoration of the Church Hall, and the rest to cover emergency building work.

General Funds - it is the policy of this church to keep approximately 3 months running costs (£18750 approx.) in reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies. To achieve this we will aim to put £3000 per year into reserves from income until that level is achieved.

Fabric Report

After a busy couple of years, this last year has been quieter for the estates committee. There have been some problems to sort out - the electrics at Highfields have failed twice; once as a result of a ceiling collapse in the rear store (bringing down wiring) and more recently the supplier needed to rectify a problem with one of the phases coming into the building.

There has been an attempt (fortunately unsuccessful) to steal lead from the porch roof of the church. Lead was disturbed and will need dressing back to the tiles but no further action is to be taken at this point, pending a fuller renovation of the roof when works to repair the church are carried out.

During the year, 2 internal doors were replaced and a door frame repaired in the main hall, and the Howard Room was redecorated. A room thermostat was added to the large hall in an effort to economise on gas usage without compromising comfort.

Lighting has recently been installed along the front of the main hall, to increase safety for users of the Barn. The committee is also going to have the paving slabs there levelled to remove a trip hazard.

The stage door has recently fallen off its hinges and needs replacing - the wood is beyond repair. Quotes are being sought for this work.

The car park needs some resurfacing but whilst the options for this are considered, further, signs are to be erected to draw attention to the present unevenness of the surface.

This year, the committee has decided that some redecoration is required to both Barn and main hall and this will be done by committee members later in the year. The carpet in the Barn has recently been cleaned, which, together with the redecoration should ensure that this space remains attractive to users.

Quotes are in hand for servicing of both the church and main hall gas boilers, though in view of the forthcoming replacement of the church boiler, servicing of that may not go ahead, dependent on cost.

The appointment of an Independent Examiner as minuted at the APCM 12th April 2010 will continue to be: Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance.

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Annual Parishioners' Meeting Monday 12th April 2010

1. The meeting opened in prayer with a reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 1.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting Tuesday 20th April 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Both Churchwardens offered to restand - there was no need to propose and second this as they were elected for 6 years. No other nominations were received, therefore they will serve the remainder of their term.

4. Close of Meeting

The meeting was then closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Monday 12th April 2010

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting Tuesday 20th April 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

1. Item 4 (p.2) New services - We are about to undertake a review of the service structure, to take place between now and the summer.

2. Item 3 Scouts and Guides - Tim Robinson asked what approach had been made. Barbara Boote explained that they had been invited to any appropriate event eg. Remembrance Day but were uninterested. The relationship between the Church and the Scouts is strained following the newspaper articles, but Philip reiterated that our doors are always open to them. They have found other accommodation and want an extension to their lease until they are ready to build, but this will need a licence and is being negotiated with solicitors.

3. AOB - Sara's role as an ex-officio member of the PCC is Item 8 on tonight's agenda.

4. Reports

The Vicar's report

Les Neil expressed his concern over the problems with Parish Share and asked if there had been any developments. The vicar replied that there were none yet, and that the diocese has put us in arrears. He has had a meeting but heard nothing, although they were sympathetic. Neil Bradley at the Funding Office has worked out that our giving is at or above the diocesan average, but we have still had no reduction. Sara Deall commented that Peter Snelson was very good at the meeting.

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Curate's Report

There were no questions asked. The vicar offered his thanks to Rev. Sykes.

Churchwardens' Report

There were no questions asked of either Steve Deall or Barbara Boote. The vicar thanked the Churchwardens for their help and fellowship.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer stated that although the figures appear to show an overspend, £8000 of that is Parish Share arrears and the rest is a donation to the Growth Trust from cashing in investments. Gregory Smith asked where this money has gone as an income, but Sara explained that Trust money is held in a deposit account and is not income - accounts for the Trust are currently being completed. As the meeting has had little time to read the accounts, we could call an extraordinary meeting to allow questions at a later date, or people could contact Sara directly if they have any questions. The vicar thanked the Treasurer for balancing the books in a difficult year.

Fabric Committee

There were no questions asked. The vicar stated that much needs to be done in terms of risk assessment, as there is a lot of legal constraint. He thanked Steve Deall and David Boote for their efforts.

Halls Committee

There were no questions asked.

Electoral Roll

The vicar stated that the electoral roll as distributed does not state the true picture as quite a few members of the 10.15 congregation did not get their applications in on time- there are another 17 to be added on.

Deanery Synod Report

There were no questions asked.

Sunday School Report

The vicar said that numbers are very high and the noise level is a problem in services as there are many preschoolers and not enough space in the hall.

Castle Church Drama Group Report

There were no questions asked.

Choir Report

There were no questions asked. Mavis pointed out that the penultimate line of her report should read 'look out', not 'look our'.

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Social Committee

There were no questions asked. The Treasurer said that £711 was raised by the Lent Lunches for the Barnabas Fund.

Castle Church Craft Group

There were no questions asked.

This was the end of the report.

5. Any Other Questions

There were no questions asked.

6. Mission Action Plan

The vicar introduced the MAP for Castle Church, and explained that each church must plan for mission and growth, not manage decline, and there will be a change of role for clergy with a wider remit. The MAP is a document that plans the direction of ministry and every parish must complete one. It is a working document to be reviewed regularly.

The MAP contains a detailed church profile (geographic and demographic profile), the issues a church needs to face, mission and growth, operation and achievement criteria. Ours has three goals: Land and Buildings, Outreach and Discipleship, all of which are interconnected.

Land and Buildings

Church: We have faculty to improve the church buildings, but the quinquennial has brought up many problems. The costings to put everything right have come through and the total is just over £750,000. Once the building reaches a certain state of disrepair we will have to close it, so we must do something about it. The MAP states that we have appointed a fundraiser and are putting in a bid to English Heritage this week, and they will hopefully give us £250,000. We need to put the building at the heart of the community, providing exhibition, theatre and school space. Then we will need a maintenance plan to make sure the building does not reach the same state again. The vicar then gave the opportunity for people to ask questions about this. Greg Smith asked if the figure of £750,000 included the reordering and the vicar replied that it does. Neil Ashton inquired about the possibility of getting to the castle from the back of the church grounds - Rev. Sowerbutts said that at present we can't, but we could be put on a trail to bring people in from the community as a form of outreach. Greg asked how long the faculty lasts for, this is 2 years from the beginning of this year, but it can be extended. Les Deall asked about performance space, and the vicar replied that he has had in informal chat with Derek Gass at the Gatehouse theatre. Mavis Bryant asked if English Heritage will require us to match fund out of our own money, and the vicar replied no, that if we get English Heritage funding then Gerry is sure that other funders will want to join in.

Church Hall: This has been decorated and notice boards have been developed for outreach.

The Barn: This is becoming more popular as a venue for hire, we will try to get other churches to use it.

Highfields: We have planning permission and are trying to move forward.

Land: We must think how to make the best use of this.

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Outreach

There are five issues under this heading: Services, Mission Events, Christianity Explored, Occasional Offices, and Place in the Community.

Discipleship

This heading covers six areas: Releasing the Church Family into Ministry, New Christians, All Ages, Pastoral Care, One to One, and Bible Study/House Groups.

7. Election of PCC Members - 3 Members to serve 3 Years

There was one nomination, for Neil Ashton.

Proposed: David Boote

Seconded: Steve Deall

Neil Ashton was elected to the PCC.

8. Constitutional Change

From 2011, the posts of Secretary, Treasurer and Child Protection Officer will become 'ex-officio' members of the PCC.

This was discussed by the PCC last month. We need stability in these key areas as laws are changing in Child Protection all the time. It is being brought to the APCM this year for introduction next year.

Proposed: Tim Robinson

Seconded: Scott White

All in favour

9. Election of Deanery Synod Members

It was proposed that Vera Davis be elected to the Deanery Synod.

Proposed: Enid Poulson

Seconded: Barbara Boote

All in favour

10. Ballot for length of office of elected PCC members (if required)

This was not required.

11. Any Other Business

The Treasurer asked if we could reappoint our auditors, Lichfield Diocese, if they continue not to charge us. If they start charging, the PCC will probably vote to change this.

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It was proposed that, subject to not charging us, we use Lichfield Diocese to audit our accounts.

Proposed: Vera Davis

Seconded: Les Deall

All in favour

12. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed in prayer at 8.35pm.

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Annual Parishioners Meeting Monday 28th March - 7.30pm 2011 Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of last meeting on 12th April 2010
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Close Of Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Monday 28th March 2011 Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last meeting on 12th April 2010
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports contained in this document.
5. Opportunity to ask any other questions
6. Updates on Building Issues
 - Church Building
 - Church Yard
 - Highfields
7. Constitutional Change:
'From the Annual Parochial Church meeting in 2011, the post of PCC Treasurer and Safeguarding Children Officer will be an ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council'
8. Election of PCC members
9. Election of Deanery Synod Members
10. If needed, Ballot for length of office of elected PCC Members.
11. Any Other Business
12. Closing Prayer

Date of first PCC Meeting: Tuesday 26th April at 7pm in the Barn beginning with Holy Communion.

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Vicar's Report 2011:

As I approach the end of my 4th year at Castle Church, there are many things to give thanks to God for, but at the same time there are worries and concerns for both Castle Church and the wider Church Of England. This report then will be divided into two.

Rejoice and give thanks because:

- The Passion For Life Mission was a huge success. Not only did we have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with a huge number of people, the church family worked tirelessly together to make it happen. New Christians took on leadership roles for the first time alongside older members of the church family, with almost everyone playing their part. The Mission gave us new contacts and fresh and innovative ideas for ways in which we can reach people. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will be working in the lives of many who came to draw them closer to Jesus.
- There has been a significant increase in desire to learn from God's word. Many have been encouraged, blessed and have gained more insight into what it means to live for Jesus each day through the regular systematic teaching of scripture. Particular highlights have been the Genesis series on the life of Jacob, showing that God can and does work despite human frailty, the current creed doctrine course digging deeper into what it means to believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit and finally the large number of people who are listening to the whole of the New Testament throughout Lent.
- The new 'God on Monday' groups have been successful in helping people make sense of their Christian faith beyond a Sunday learning what it means to follow Christ on a day to day basis having that faith inform all our words and actions.
- The 10.15am and 6pm have really settled into their new places of worship and are happy there. There has even been a slight increase in numbers of those attending our 6pm service. The 10.15 continues to attract new people, some of whom stay with us, while others continue in their search for a new church family elsewhere.
- The addition of David Hazell to our staff team has been an immense blessing to the whole church family. His obvious abilities alongside his sense of humour have given us all a real boost. His appointment has, of course, been made possible by the wonderful support of various trusts and churches including Lichfield Diocesan Growth Trust, The Willatts Charity, Gospel Partners Trust and Christ Church Fulwood Trust. We have advertised for David's replacement but, as yet have not made an appointment.
- The development of a Pastoral Visiting team is an exciting development, releasing gifted people within our congregation into ministry.

Our worries and concerns are:

- Our church building is now in a very poor state of repair and needs significant work to both the tower and the electrical installation in order to simply make it safe to use. The clock is now ticking on its life and usability. Although English Heritage have helped begin fundraising for us, we are still over £100,000 short of making the building safe, and much more than that making it usable again.
- Financially we are still a long way from being able to pay our way as a congregation belonging to the Church of England. Although the Lichfield Diocese are trying to be helpful to us we are still a long way from making ends meet.
- Using the hall for the 10.15 service is not a long term solution. The Sunday School are, on occasions finding that they haven't got enough safe usable space to operate.

You will notice from the above that the first list is full of positive and exciting developments within the spiritual life of the church. We are a growing church, not just numerically, but more importantly in our love for the Lord and our desire to serve him. Our concerns are mainly with

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fabric and finance. Therefore, if we really do believe that the church of Jesus is his family gathered, and not the building we meet in, then, as a church we are in a more healthy position! But of course we need places to meet and money to minister, so please do ask that God would give us what we need for both.

On other matters, we have sadly said goodbye to two long-standing members of our church family this year, both promoted to heaven. The early passing of Greg Smith came as a shock to all of us and we still miss his presence and gifts with which he served God and all of us faithfully. More recently Ron Stacey who was a faithful member of our 6pm service passed away suddenly. We will miss his gentle presence at that service.

Finally I need to say some thanks. Many of you serve in all kinds of different ways whether up front, behind the scenes, musically, practically etc. I haven't space to thank each individually. But I must thank my wife Claire who is my constant help and support. She serves us all in so many ways in the church family but in 'keeping me going and focussed' she is particularly brilliant! She is both someone who shares in the joys of ministry but also carries burdens with me.

Christine continues to be an immense support, never wavering in her loyalty to me, and her servant heart for all of us. Also thanks needs to go to Ian who supports Chris in so many different ways. As I've already said, David has brought a great deal to our church life. His questioning mind and obvious academic abilities have kept me on my toes and his practical help has been great.

Dalena is such a blessing to me personally as she runs the church office with such efficiency and style! She makes sure I am doing what I should be doing at the right time and relieves the majority of the administrative burden from me. Pauline and Roy continue to make a huge contribution to the smooth running of our buildings and we should all be grateful to them.

During the Mission we gave Scott White a Castle Church t-shirt with 'Ministry Facilitator' on it. Scott works hard for us in so many ways not least running things like the Coffee Morning and many Social Events, but is often on hand to sort out lots of little things that we need doing.

Mavis never ceases to amaze me with her boundless energy and skills. Her ministry among us really helps to further the gospel. Her sensitive choosing of music and musical skills are such a blessing to all of us. Sara Deall has decided to step down as our treasurer and there will be a gradually transition to a new one. We shouldn't underestimate the ways in which she has transformed our financial systems and has introduced budgeting etc. We will miss her skills and knowledge but thank her for all the work she has done to serve God and all of us in this tricky role.

Finally, I could not wish for two more competent or godly churchwardens in Barbara and Steve. They are so good at encouraging me, keeping me going and, on occasions reining me back from making mistakes. They are not only wardens, but also friends. They work so hard for all of us and we need to thank God for them.

If I were to make one final plea as your Vicar, it would be to ask everyone in the church family to be committed to praying both on your own and at our church family prayer meetings. If we are only 'doing' and not 'praying' then we are working for Him.... without Him.

Philip Sowerbutts March 2011

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Curate's Report 2011:

'A Passion for Life' during Holy Week 2010 was an extremely busy and exhausting week of mission filled with joys and challenges. The enthusiasm of the team from Oak Hill Theological College drew a response from us all as they presented the Word of God in a variety of ways and contexts. I particularly valued the Team Bible Study and Prayer meeting each morning.

A fall at the end of Easter week resulted in a bruised and battered curate with one arm temporarily out of action. I would like to thank you all for your help and patience during the weeks of my recovery when I needed extra assistance to carry out some tasks and, unable to drive, had to curtail others or required a chauffeur.

During the year I have continued to lead and preach at both Sunday and mid-week services including Holy Communion. As well as the twice monthly Tuesday morning Bible Study I have led the monthly Prayer Meeting and Wednesday Bible study when required. I have visited the sick at home and in hospital, as well as those who are frail and housebound, reading and explaining Scripture and administering Holy Communion. I have also been involved in wedding, baptism, funeral and schools ministry and ministry in nursing homes and Oxleathers...

The first meeting of a new pastoral visiting team took place in January and CRB checks are being organised as I write. A range of resources has been prepared to support pastoral work in the parish and I am in the process of amending some and adding others as a result of the meeting.

Following contact with another church regarding a bereavement drop-in advertised in their weekly leaflet I hope to launch a similar drop-in here this year to support and enhance our funeral ministry.

I have written a number of offertory prayers which have been made available for use in all our services.

This year I devised my first sermon series 'From Teddy Bears to Silver Hairs.' Over the course of 4 weeks under the headings 'Childhood', 'Adulthood', 'Senior Years' and 'End of Life' we considered the question, 'Who are we and what is our place in the Family of God?'

It was with sadness that we said 'goodbye' to Bishop Gordon Mursell upon his retirement. St. Mary's in Stafford was packed for a farewell Eucharist at the beginning of June.

In September we were joined by David Hazell as ministry apprentice who quickly became a valued member of the ministry team. He has greatly enriched discussion at weekly staff meetings with Philip as we study scripture together, discuss the book we are reading, pray and discuss the business of the parish.

A day at the Christian Resources Exhibition in Telford in October proved useful in gathering information to support my ministry.

November saw the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Dr Rowan Williams; make a pastoral visit to Lichfield Diocese. Ian and I went to St. Mary's, Stafford for the Choral Evensong at which he preached and afterwards to a tea at Doxey church for all clergy and Deanery Synod members where we spent a few minutes talking to him.

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I have also been to a couple of meetings arranged for clergy to meet Rt Rev'd Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford.

In addition...

I have served on the PCC and attended clergy Chapter meetings and Deanery Synod when possible including a Deanery study day in October at which Rev'd Dr. Paul Fiddes spoke on 'The Creative Suffering of God.' I attended the Archdeacon's Visitation at Bradley and was also involved in the Deanery Ascension Day service at Castle Church.

I went to an NSM consultation evening at Shallowford House in July led by Rev'd Preb Patricia Hawkins and to the annual Selwyn Lecture in Lichfield Cathedral, in October, where Rev'd Mark Earey spoke on 'Worship and Mission - developing a strategy.'

During the year I have very much appreciated the help and encouragement I have received from you all and particularly from Philip who cheerfully covered my workload when accident and illness put me out of action. He is always generous in sharing materials, resources and in giving his time when I need help with an issue or an aspect of ministry. I also am blessed by the wholehearted support of my loving family and in particular Ian who stands alongside me and facilitates my ministry in every way he can. Thank you.

Of course this report is not exhaustive and a significant part of my time is spent in preparation but I hope it gives you a flavour of what your curate has been doing over the past year.

Changes in Deanery personnel will undoubtedly impact us as a number of churches go into interregnum over the next few weeks. We will need your forbearance as Philip and I give support where and when we can.

Christine V Sykes March 2011

Apprentice Report 2011:

Report on My Time in the Parish So Far

Due to the position being a combination of parochial need and personal development my role has been quite varied. It falls largely within the category of spending time with people (and social engagements), the worship of the church, young peoples work, outreach and personal training.

Social

Every Sunday Castle Church has 4 gatherings spread over 3 different sites. This means that we have to work harder than other churches at creating a sense of oneness. The more cohesive we are the better we will be able to serve the gospel. Due to this I have been very careful to get to know people from all our gatherings, although it is harder to do so at our 9.45 because of timing, and encourage people to attend events where we can all come together socially.

The worship of the church

I have been involved in: setting up and finishing the pack down of various services; leading intercessions at both our traditional and 'relaxed' services; reading the lessons; preaching at our 9am, 9.45am and 6pm gatherings and also leading the services there; I have learned to play the bass guitar for our 10.15 gathering.

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Young peoples work

I have been involved in leading our bi-monthly youth group and getting along side each of the college aged youth individually. I hope to be starting a small bible study for those interested of college age in the near future.

Outreach

Castle Church parish has within it a large ex-council estate that is largely un-churched. The majority of the residents on the estate have no real concept of what the Christian faith is and have (largely) negative preconceptions about Christians and church. For the gospel to be spread and people come to faith the church has recognized that it needs to establish itself, both as an entity and individuals, more squarely in the social life of this estate. To this end I go into one of the estates primary schools on a Friday morning as a Teaching Assistant. I spend my time with their two year six classes. The fruit of this has been a strengthening of relations between the school and church. Also, the children are aware of what I do with the rest of my week and have seen me playing bass during their Christmas carol service. This has given the children a positive experience of church linked to someone they like from the 'real world', something that is potentially invaluable, as a result three children from a broken family did come to church one morning. Further to going into the school, I also play for one of the local pubs in the Stafford wide Tuesday pool league. Gradually relationships have begun to grow and their negative perception of Christianity is slowly starting to change. My role in the church is not a secret; therefore my very presence has forced them to reassess certain opinions of the church. Naturally this is a slow process, but I hopefully the church will seem less foreign and the gospel less irrelevant. It has also provided the context for me to be introduced to friends of people from church who would be unlikely to come to our gatherings yet.

Personal training

I have a meeting once a week with the vicar and one with the vicar and curate, in these we do a mixture of personal development and preparation for serving in the parish; these meetings have been immensely formative.

David Hazell March 2011

Churchwarden's Reports 2011:

This year has quite often been one of waiting for factors which will influence major changes to our 2 church sites. I have been involved in dialogue regarding our bid for funding from English Heritage so repairs can begin on Castle Church building. I must add my thanks to Gerry Walsh, fundraiser, who has certainly inspired confidence to pray, wait and hope for a positive result from our bid to English Heritage. Although we have been offered a smaller amount of money than hoped for, it is enough to suggest to Gerry that other groups will now contribute. It is likely that this summer will now see a start to church repairs which will lessen warden headaches! The 2 wardens have done our once a year 'in depth' look at the church exterior and Steve has now put this onto disk to enable us to monitor any deterioration in future years.

I have also been involved in dialogue concerning the future of the Highfields site, most recently with Sanctuary, who have confirmed their wish to build accommodation for physically disabled people there. It is a long drawn out business which serves to remind us that the Lord's timescale is not necessarily ours. Along with Philip and Dalena, I went to view

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some new-build churches in Cheshire, which, on paper, met some of what we thought were our expectations for a new church building at Highfields. The results of that focussed our attention on the important features we hope for. We now continue to wait for further communication from Sanctuary.

The Scouts tenancy came to an end in July and has been replaced by us allowing them a continued presence at Highfields on a rolling month's let at £65 a month. They have been offered a 'home' elsewhere by the Council and so will be well-provided for when they have to leave. I have left them with an offer of an open door should they ever wish to join us at services.

Last Easter saw our Passion for Life Mission take off which, for me, exceeded all expectations. The people from Oak Hill were full of energy and an inspiration as they packed their time with so many ways of helping people experience the Gospel message. They left behind new friends and a wish to continue their good work.

With so much happening it was no surprise that the application for a Ministry Apprentice was later than we would have wished but, who cannot be pleased by the result. I am so grateful for David Hazell's input to church life in so many ways. God has provided just the person we needed. As I write, we are waiting to hear from prospective replacements for David. Please pray for God's provision again.

As usual, Parish finances have been to the fore and discussions have continued with the Lay Assessor regarding our Parish Share. I am pleased that, after a few problems, Diocese expectations are now nearer to our own.

Once again, Harvest supported the Salvation Army and my thanks go to all those who provided filled punnets. Maybe we should choose a different recipient this year? The PCC will need to consider this at May/June time. Please let me know if you have any ideas. My thanks also go to those who helped decorate our church at Christmas. As usual, the interior was beautiful, especially by candlelight. Thanks to the Howard family for decorating the hall too.

I continued as a member of Deanery Synod, attending whenever I could, but would appreciate another volunteer alongside Vera and me, to ensure Castle Church always has a presence and a say at the meetings.

My thanks, as usual, go to Philip and Christine for their continued spiritual guidance and friendship and to Philip for his strong leadership, energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to Steve who, despite a busy job, has continued to do as much as possible and to Dalena, the perfect administrator.

My wish for the coming year is for us to tackle the need for volunteers to transport some less mobile folk to church and social events. Please pray about this need and contact me if you can help occasionally. We may need this service ourselves eventually, so let's put one in place now!

The next year will no doubt progress the church repairs and maybe, the development of the Highfields site but our focus must be on what God's needs are for Castle Church, not our own and this could mean an excess of patience!

I am also Chair of the Hall Committee and as the Church hall is running so well thanks to Dalena and Pauline, there have been few meetings needed. The revised Terms and Conditions

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are working well and the income covers hall bills. We have a good cross section of hirers from outside church. There will soon be refurbishment of the Church hall, courtesy of the Estates budget which will include painting of scuffed areas of the Hall. The Barn carpet has been cleaned and now looks like new.

Barbara Boote March 2011

The past twelve months have been a roller coaster with some real highs, and lows. I think the major issue that has taken up the majority of time is the ongoing Church building refurbishment project. I think it is very encouraging that we have been able to secure a grant from English Heritage which will enable us to apply to further grant making bodies over the coming months to enable us to make the building safe and watertight. The next challenge we face is to raise the money for the stage two refurbishment, which is to include the heating, flooring, lighting etc. I look forward to getting started on that. And moving that forward.

During the past twelve months as a PCC we have raised the issue of a Health and Safety policy which we hope to adopt in the coming months, when we have sufficient time for it to be included on the PCC agenda.

We did suffer an attempted theft of lead from the Church building roof recently, the thieves did not get away with any and I'm sure that the fact that we have treated the lead with a security system called 'smart water' was a significant factor.

One of my main points of encouragement is the growing collaboration between ourselves and Castle Church Primary school, and it was especially good to attend the Easter and Christmas services with all the children within the church building, my thanks go to all the people who helped make these events happen and go off in a safe and fun way. The feedback received from the school was excellent and left them asking to come back.

The issue of money continues to be a worry but significantly we have been able to open negotiations with the diocese with regards to our parish share. Although we have underpaid for the past two years we have been able to secure a reduction for the coming years and are looking at ways to settle the amount we have outstanding.

On a personal level I would like to thank all those who give up their time and effort to help with the running of Castle Church, there are lots of people who tirelessly work behind the scenes to raise money, clean the buildings, visit the house bound, and far too many jobs for me to list here, my deepest thanks go to you all.

I think we need to look forward to the next twelve months with an open heart and look to embrace the changes that are coming, safe and secure in the knowledge that God's will be done here on Earth, and pray that we are helping to achieve that.

Steve Deall - March 2011.

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Electoral Roll Report 2011:

Below is the number of parishioners entitled to vote at the APCM 2011. A list of names is attached as Appendix 1.

Total Numbers on the 2011 Revised Electoral Roll:

Numbers on the Revised 2011 roll:	<u>125</u>
Deletions from the 2010 roll:	-6
New Applications:	+28
Net Change:	+22

Harold Bee - Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod Report 2011:

The July meeting of the synod was addressed by Rev Ian Mobsby from the Moot Community in London. His title was, 'Fresh Expression in the Church - why we need it, what we mean by it, what works, and what would suit us'. It was difficult to find where the ideas would be relevant to our situation at Castle Church.

We returned to the overall theme of 'The Body' for the October meeting. The speaker was Adrian Thatcher a professor at Bristol University and reader in the Church of England. His aspect was 'The Body and its Sexuality'. It was an interesting and illuminating lecture which informs the debate on women bishops and whether gay and lesbian couples can live non-celibate holy lives.

The Principal of Trinity College, Bristol, Rev George Kavoov, made the November meeting the most lively of the year. He spoke on 'The Christian Faith and other Faiths --- how we should proclaim our faith in a multi-racial society'. We must have confidence to share the Gospel, know the Bible and what we believe, engage in dialogue, be warm and friendly, and finally be prepared for converts (which means being willing to change).

The subject of the first meeting of 2011 was 'The Body as a metaphor of the Church' and the speaker the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield Cathedral. He emphasised the need for all parts of the Church ie: the Body to work together.

In March the Rural Dean, Rev Paul Thomas prepared the meeting for the important vote on Women Bishops which is coming up soon. He laid out very clearly the arguments from either side. It is a very difficult issue and needs a lot of prayer. Any changes will have a profound effect.

Vera Davis March 2011

Sunday School Report 2011:

We have had a good year in Sunday School with the children remaining ever enthusiastic about learning more about Jesus through Bible teaching. Some have been far more regular and some of the younger ones are now looking less scared and able to join in more! We usually follow the same teaching series as in church except when its too challenging, so recently we have been looking at stories from Johns gospel that teach us about Jesus being Gods Son.

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In the last few weeks, the larger numbers of older children has meant we have swapped the groups around to give them more space and taken the younger ones into the Howard room. If both groups continue to grow in number we shall have to reassess!

It is very encouraging that many parents and helpers continually provide support through activities with the younger group, and they all do a brilliant job, thank you. I do believe there is true growth in understanding the gospel more and knowing God better across the age ranges. Please pray this continues and that we will give the priority to children's work that it needs.

Claire Sowerbutts March 2011

Castle Church Drama Group Report 2011:

2010 was a tremendously important year. The group presented two very contrasting productions. In February came the pantomime, 'Little Bo-Peep', which gave lots of parts for the group's younger members who revelled in it. In October, three of our adult members gave stunning performances in the comedy 'The Kingfisher'. Unfortunately audiences were thin in numbers. They missed a treat! This year's first production, a play based on Castle Church members' memories of schooldays, will not be until June.

Terry Davis (Chairman) March 2011

The Choir Report 2011:

What a busy year we have had! As I look at the list of the Choir's activities, I wonder that they haven't asked the Vicar for a substantial rise in salary!

We began the 'year' with a Palm Sunday service at which the team from Oak Hill was commissioned, and on Maundy Thursday we enjoyed another Musical Tea Party with our elderly folk. As the Queen wasn't able to be present, we distributed golden Maundy Money on her behalf! After that came the Deanery Ascension Day service in May, a Choral Evensong in July and a special Harvest Thanksgiving at which David Hazell was welcomed and commissioned.

We have also been 'on tour' three times, abandoning the 9'oclock congregation (sorry!) for the church family at Highfields Hall. We really enjoy the fellowship there, as well as the superb acoustics and the cups of tea.

We gather that our Musical Te Parties are much appreciated, especially by those who rarely leave their homes, and so we gave our fourth one in December shortly before the Carol Service. We have another planned for May. It was really good to see the members of our Youth Group looking after the elderly folk and serving them tea in December. Well done, youngsters! We shall ask you to help us again.

Now we meet our greatest challenge as we prepare for Faure's "Requiem" on Palm Sunday, on the 17th April. We are practicing hard and meeting the challenge of singing in Latin, and are thrilled that extra volunteers have come to join us. So we are sure that the Lord will answer our prayers that the Palm Sunday Holy Communion will be a very special and blessed time together.

None of this could be achieved without the faithful and committed service from the Choir members Sunday by Sunday. Thank you so much to you all.

Mavis March 2011

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Social Committee Report 2011:

The social committee this year has undertaken numerous fund raising activities from Quiz nights, Car boot sales and Family games nights to a very successful summer fete and Bonfire night fireworks. Our remit is to get people from inside and outside the church family and community together socially as well as raising much needed funds for church. We also serve refreshments at other church events that are put on by members of the church etc. We are always looking for help and ideas from church members on social and fund raising activities.

Scott White March 2011

Castle Church Craft Group 2011:

We have again had a very good year, although our numbers are small, we have maintained a good level of stock over the year. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of our 'customers' for without your continued support we would not have been able to raise around £1000 for church funds. We had only one major event during the year, which was the Summer Fete. The decision to have the cards in church each week has been very popular.

We would welcome new members to our group.

Dalena Deall March 2011

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ELECTORAL ROLL



Revised Register of Electors 2011

The following lay members of the parish are representatives authorised to attend, and take part in the election of lay members of the Parochial Church Council, at the meeting of the Annual Church Council.

Communicant members on the roll can be elected to the parochial church council.

ASHTON	Mr David H	GLOVER	Mrs Janet A	PRICE	Mrs Emma
ASHTON	Mrs C Gillian	GOODE	Mrs Kathleen	PUGH	Mrs Helen Louise
ASHTON	Mr Neil	GREENWOOD	Mrs Beryl	RHODES	Mrs Marjorie O
ASHTON	Mrs Michelle	HALL	Mrs Cynthia I	ROBERTS	Mrs Janet
ASTLES	Mrs Kathleen M	HALL	Mr David A	ROBINSON	Mr Timothy R
BAGNALL	Mr Peter	HALL	Mr Geoff.	ROBINSON	Mrs Tracey
BAGNALL	Mrs Jean	HALL	Mrs Margaret A	ROBINSON	Miss Bethany R
BALL	Mrs Elaine Joyce	HALL	Miss Anita E	ROBINSON	Mr Thomas
BATES	Mrs Jean F.	HANLON	Mrs Sandra M	RUTTER	Mrs Mabel H
BEE	Mr Harold M	HARRIS	Mrs Doris M	RUTTER	Mrs Marjorie
BENNETT	Mr Andrew	HARRISON	Mr Geoff.	SAXON	Mr Derrick
BENNETT	Mrs Ruth Spencer	HAYCOCK	Mrs Margaret A	SAXON	Mrs M D (Jean)
BOOTE	Mrs Barbara K	HAZELL	Mr David	SHELLEY	Mr Raymond
BOOTE	Mr David S	HOPKINS	Mrs Wendy	SHREHORN	Mr Horace J
BROOKS	Mr Michael S	HOWARD	Mrs Dorothy I	SKELLERN	Miss Claire
BROOKS	Mrs Mary	HOWARD	Mrs Pauline	SMITH	Mrs Jeanne H
BRYANT	Mrs Mavis M	INNS	Mr William A (Bill)	SMITH	Miss Jean M
CAGE	Miss Rosemary	JUBB	Mrs Elsie	SMITH	Mrs Margaret R
CASTREE-DENTON	Mr Angus	KELSALL	Mrs A Lillian	SOWERBUTTS	Mrs Claire Helen
CASTREE-DENTON	Mrs Julie	KELSALL	Mr G Stuart	STACEY	Mr Ronald D
CHARLESWORTH	Mr Graeme A	KIRKHAM	Mrs Marian	STACEY	Mrs Geraldine M
CHARLESWORTH	Mrs Susan J	LAKIN	Mrs Muriel W	STACEY	Mrs Irene P
COCKAYNE	Mrs Jean S	LUFTON	Mrs Berenice G	STOUT	Mrs Karen
COULTER	Mrs Phyllis	MANGALL-RICE	Mrs Angela	STRICKLAND	Mrs Olwen R
COULTER	Mr Raymond	MARTIN	Mrs Beryl	SYKES	Mr Ian David
DAVIES	Mrs Gwendoline	MASLEN	Mr Peter W	SYKES	Miss Elizabeth J.
DAVIES	Mrs Margaret	MASLEN	Mrs Sylvia	THOMAS	Mrs Claire
DAVIES	Mrs Rosemary A	MATTHEWS	Mrs Robbie J R B	TILL	Miss Elizabeth J
DAVIS	Mr T N(Terry)	McDONALD	Mrs Frances	TOWERS	Mr Dennis
DAVIS	Mrs Vera M	McELENY	Mrs Andrea Clare	TURNER	Mr Ian R
DAVISON	Mrs E M (Peggy)	McELENY	Miss Deana	TURNER	Mrs Anthea M
DEALL	Miss Charlotte	MELLETT	Mrs Pamela	WATKINSON	Mr Andrew Peter
DEALL	Mrs Dalena A	MILES	Mrs Elizabeth	WATKINSON	Mrs Helen Marg.
DEALL	Mr Leslie	MILES	Mr St Maur	WEAVER	Mr John J L
DEALL	Mrs Sara	MILES	Mr Theodore	WELLS	Mrs Audrey W
DEALL	Mr Stephen	NEIL	Mr Leslie E	WHITE	Mr Scott
FURBER	Mr Mark John	NEIL	Mrs Maureen	WILKES	Mrs Enid
FURBER	Mrs Sarah Hilary	NOEL	Mrs Pauline	WOOD	Mrs Janet Mary
GILDEN	Mr K John	OWEN	Mr Robert	WRIGHT	Mr Paul J
GILDEN	Mrs Norma	OWEN	Mrs E Elizabeth	WRIGHT	Mrs M W (Winnie)
GLOVER	Mr Stephen M	POULSON	Mrs Enid	YATES	Mrs Mary
GLOVER	Mrs Maria	PRICE	Mr Colin		

TOTAL NUMBERS ON THE 2011 REVISED ELECTORAL ROLL . . .125

Harold M. Bee

Electoral
Roll
Officer