

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Ermine, Lincoln

Annual report



A celebration
of St Johns in 2012



The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist with St. John the Evangelist Ermine Lincoln

Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday March 17th 2013 at 11:30am

1. Opening prayers and apologies
2. Election of two churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday March 17th 2013 at 11:35am

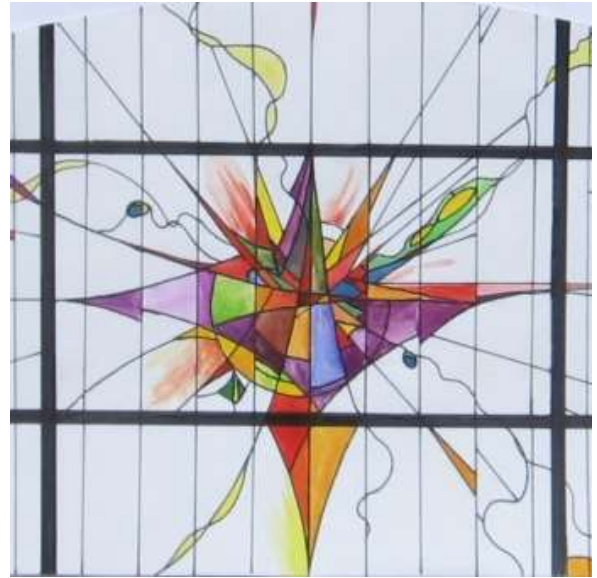
1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting
3. Vicar's address (given as the sermon earlier)
4. Reports
The reports are not individually listed in the agenda, but will follow the alphabetical order in which they appear in the body of the annual report.
5. Election of 4 members for the PCC
6. Election of treasurer
7. Election of sidespersons
8. Appointment of external examiner for the accounts
9. Matters arising from the previous annual meeting minutes
10. Date of the APCM in 2014 (*Suggestion: 23 March 2014*)
11. Any other business
Please note that if you intend to raise any issues under this heading that the chair is to be informed 3 days before the date of the meeting
12. The grace

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Fr Stephen writes...

When is it better not to win a prize than to win it? In our case last year, it was when we were shortlisted from over 60 entries nationally for the Jerusalem Trust prize, a prize of £10,000 for a piece of artwork in a parish church. Our project was for a new stained glass installation in the west window and we put a huge amount of effort into developing a brief for the project, in contacting and interviewing artists, in agreeing a final design and in producing the final submission for the judges. However, when we arrived in London for the prize announcement we discovered that the judges had decided to split the prize in half, which would have, had we won, made it very difficult for us to continue with the project. Although this was disappointing, we had learnt a lot through the process of developing our ideas and everyone at St John's in some way got involved with the project at some point. When the designs were unveiled for the congregation at St John's to have a look at, many people commented and became engaged in a conversation about the images and their meaning, one of the first times I can recall people discussing theological ideas at the back of the church! What we also discovered in the course of the project was how highly regarded the church and the Keith New window



in the east window is nationally – the artists we invited to submit designs were unanimous in telling us about its importance. This importance also reflected in the visit of a team from the BBC's One Show who spent the morning filming in the church. So, no, we did not win, but what we gained in the process was much more valuable and the engagement of everyone in discussion was a wonderful, unexpected and crucial part of our time as a Christian community in 2012. In a way, not winning the prize was as much a celebration as winning it!

Celebration is always at the heart of the Christian life. Each time we come together for the Eucharist, it is a celebration of the life of God in and around us, the weaving of his Spirit in and through the church and the community we serve, the dance of resurrection that Jesus invites us to accompany him in. Those celebrations extend to each child we baptise, to each couple we marry, to each human soul we commend to its journey beyond this life, to each time we reach out a hand in blessing and love – the life of the divine is in all of this, and God calls us to celebrate with him. 2012 saw us celebrating with one family at both ends of its spectrum. It was a great joy to welcome Martha Fleshbourne into the church at her thanksgiving service, as it was to hear that Olive Musson had been awarded a Mayoral Medal. Olive's ministry is one that could easily disappear under the radar because it is quiet and supportive, but we were delighted that the City of Lincoln had decided to honour her in this very special way. We also celebrated another birth, the birth of a new ministry as, after a long period of discernment, Pam Beattie was ordained as a permanent deacon by the Bishop of Lincoln at Lincoln Cathedral in the summer. (In fact, Pam was the very first person to be ordained by the Bishop). We look forward to Pam's growth in the diaconate.



Another celebration was the award of a second Eco-Congregation award, which Bishop Tim presented us with in the summer, a recognition of our ongoing policy to make the church as energy efficient as possible. It was therefore disappointing to hear that we will not be able to install secondary glazing in the church as the Diocesan Advisory Committee have refused permission for us to do this. The PCC are considering our next steps with this, but please do continue to wrap up warm in the winter months! We continue to struggle with our energy bills, which are often high, due to the nature of the building – we try to be as economic

as possible in our use of energy, but I don't think energy efficiency was at the top of the list when the church was built!

St John's continues to be used for all sorts of activities and services. The Police Neighbourhood Panel meets regularly in church and the Lincoln International Chamber Music Festival arranged a concert in December to which they invited students from both St Francis School and Ermine Primary Academy. We also hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation service in May and welcomed two students on placement. Our work with schools continues to flourish and we value highly the partnership we have with both St Francis and the Academy of Lincoln Trust Schools on the estate. One sadness in 2012 is that we made the decision to close our John's Juniors group, but we are looking towards developing a different approach to work with younger children in 2013. An innovative approach to youth work with



Pathfinders moving down to the community centre was initially highly successful, but it did not prove possible to sustain this long term. However, that project has laid foundations for others to build upon and we look forward to developments with youth work on the estate in the future.

Our engagement with the community continues. We held another highly successful community spring fair for which we invited local groups and organisations to have a table in the hall and to fundraise for their own group – this has proved very effective for both the groups and for the church. I am sure those who were at the Christmas fair will not forget the crowds that

flocked into the hall, and with Santa also meeting a record number of children, it was a very busy day indeed. It is good to see such events being so well supported by people from the estate. We maintain our links with all local community groups including Sure Start and the Women's Refuge and looking to see how we might best support their work.

In some ways, 2012 was an "advent year", a year of preparation for our 50th anniversary celebrations. It was a year however it which we continued to pray in and with our community, in which we maintained a worshipping life both in the church and in other venues. So much goes on at St John's on a weekly basis that it is easy to

forget the everyday encounters that mean so much to people: the weekly visit of the tape ministry, the regular services at Ruckland Court and Ermine House joining those communities together in prayer and worship, the students from St Francis School helping out with the Wednesday lunch club, the parish visitor creating a sacred space in the home of our housebound communicants, the phone call you make to someone for whom you have concern...everyday encounters that speak of the gospel of Christ just as powerfully as does our prayer and worship. All of this is held in the cycle of the church's year that speaks to us at different times and seasons of the colours of God's love and care.

As often happens, some people left St John's to follow different paths in 2012 and we were particularly sorry to say farewell to Sue Brennan, who has been so much part of the life of St John's for over a decade. PCC member, churchwarden, discovering her ministry as a reader and a quiet, prayerful



presence – these are just a few of the gifts that Sue brought to us and we wish her every blessing in her new life and ministry at Barton on Humber. The changes in 2012 meant that David Fleshbourne took on extra responsibilities in his roles as churchwarden and treasurer, and I do want to thank him for his commitment, care and concern in his support for St John's over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank everyone for your continued support and prayer in the ministry that we exercise here at St John's.

The immediate future sees us in a year of celebration and prayer for the church's 50th anniversary. But this will take place in a time of change and development within the diocese. The Bishop's Central Services Review last year made a number of recommendations that will have a profound effect on the way the diocese is run (the introduction of three – instead of two – archdeaconries, the reduction in the number

of suffragan bishops) and as I write a number of implementation panels are looking at ways in which the diocese will develop in terms of discipleship, mission, worship resourcing, etc. This is a potentially very interesting time in the life of the diocese and I hope that we at St John's will support and help to develop new ideas and arrangements and to pray with those whose task it is to bring about the changes.



We continue to face challenges in our life together. Financially, things are always tight and we are affected, as is everyone, by the current financial crisis. It costs us £98 a day to keep St John's open – this is a big challenge and I do encourage you to remember this when you are talking to people about the church and when you are considering your own gifting. That gifting is of course also in the many skills and talents

that people share at St John's. However, we do continue to rely on a few people to take an active part in the organisation and running of church activities, and whilst we are deeply grateful and give continued thanks for their ministries, it would be good to see more people getting involved.

So an "advent" year, a year of preparation, a year of not winning a prize, but gaining so much more from the journey. For Sheila and me personally, it was also a year in which we celebrated our daughter's marriage at John's, and it was a great privilege for us to be able to do this surrounded by your prayers and presence.

So, we look forward with confidence to 2013, our celebration year, praying that God will bring his blessing to all that we do and celebrate, to the everyday encounters as well as the big public events and that he will continue through his Spirit to guide us forward in his love.

With every blessing

F. Stephen



ChurchCare



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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ERMINE

Was one of 11 long-listed applicants in the competition for the
Jerusalem Trust Prize for Commissioning New Art in Parish
Churches held in 2012

The Parish was highly commended by the Judges for its
energy and commitment in developing a commission for a
piece of significant new art to:

- Enhance the beauty of its church and
- Reach out to its community

Anne Sloman, Chair of the Church Buildings Council

Bridget Cass

The Jerusalem Trust

Very Rev Michael Sadgrove

Dean of Durham Cathedral

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell

Bishop of Chelmsford

Mark Cazalet

Artist

The Jerusalem Trust



Altar Servers

Altar servers assist with liturgy at the Eucharist and other services such as Benediction. In September we said goodbye to two of our servers: Nkechi and Ogo Iyamah who have both moved to their respective universities. However Sue Fleshbourne is now serving on Sundays and we have been joined by Gary Root. Both have given welcome support to our small team.

We recently commenced using the Angelus as our prayer of preparation. This is an important reminder to us that we too, like Mary, are servants of the Lord. As we still ourselves from worldly concerns the sacristy becomes a quiet place of spiritual preparation for the central act of our faith.

It is a privilege to serve our Lord in this way. We would welcome new servers and offer any support or training that is necessary. If you feel called by God to join us please speak to Father Stephen in first instance.

Paul Barrett

Archive Group

The Archive group continue to support and maintain our archive collection and spent much time putting together the “Ermine Memories” calendar for our 50th anniversary. A particular thank you to Jackie who gave a lot of time and energy to this project. We published the calendar in October and have sold over 140 copies to date, the calendar provoking many personal memories for people. We also made an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an oral history project for the 50th anniversary, which was well received, but we have been invited to resubmit the application this year with some revised costing information. We are very hopeful that we will be able to start the project this year.

Fr Stephen

Church Hall

The church hall continues to be well used with the Janet Ashton School of Dance still being our highest user. Sadly, though, there will no longer be a sequence dance on a Thursday evening due to lack of numbers attending. The Saturday evening dance will continue.

Due to the high level of usage we have managed to avoid putting up the cost of renting the hall during the year which helps us maintain a competitive edge. These may well have to be looked at this year with the loss of the Thursday evening income.

There are still times when the hall is not used, particularly during the daytime, if anyone knows of any suitable groups looking for a regular or one off meeting place please could you point them to the Church website or ask them to contact me.

A very big thank you is due to Emma Ackland-Snow for all the help she has given me over the past year with the one off bookings, without this help I would struggle to cope with all the bookings.

Liz Straw

Church Wardens

I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone at St John's for your help and support especially after my fellow churchwarden's departure.

Nothing much to report really, everything is running smoothly, although things are going to get busy as we gear up for our 50th Anniversary year. We have had a few minor acts of vandalism, but they have been repaired as soon as possible.

Let's us hope that our 50th anniversary year events help put not just St John's, but our estate and its people on the map.

David Fleshbourne

Churches Together in Lincoln and District

Churches Together in an Ecumenical group that works within Lincoln and its surrounding villages. There have been a number of changes in the last year which have tried to include more of the villages in the activities that CTLD perform. This has included re-inviting churches that have not been members before or given up their membership in the past. The week of prayer for Christian unity was a success with various services being held both in and out of the city and at different times throughout the day. The Good Friday walk of witness was a big success with a large gathering of people congregating in the city centre, both Bella and I enjoyed the walk down Broadgate and Pelham Bridge where the police stopped traffic so that we could safely process in silence towards the City Centre.

I have revamped the website www.ctld.org.uk and given it a modern feel that should provide lots more information to its users and make it more maintainable for the future.

The future of CTLD is as yet uncertain since certain key members are stepping down from their current roles. There is however a will to keep the group running and possible work together with other groups such as Lincoln Christians in Mission and also take part in the Bank 2013 which will be held on Saturday 4th May at Lincoln City's Stadium.

Daniel Holt

Clergy / Readers Meeting

The clergy and readers meet regularly to pray together and to discuss both issues arising at St John's and in the diocese and the Church of England as a whole. This is an important way of both keeping in touch with one another and opening up discussion of key issues facing the church today. We do not meet as regularly as we would ideally wish to (finding a common date in all our diaries is quite a challenge!), but in this past year we have been taking some time in our meetings for reflection and Bible study.

Fr Stephen

Deanery Synod

After a really interesting year last year full of debates this year has been much quieter. We were able to welcome the new Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt. Revd Christopher Lowson, to come and hear short presentations about each church in the deanery and then hear him discuss some of his vision for the future. During this time of transition and much change within the diocese there is no clear direction on which Deanery Synod needs to focus its attention and so we are taking this opportunity to think, reflect and grow spiritually.

Tabitha Holt

Electoral roll

The electoral roll currently stands at 77. Three names have been removed from the roll, and 2 added. A complete revision of the roll is due this year.

Ermine Churches Together

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with Ermine United Reformed Church and Ermine West Methodist Church and as priests/ministers we meet regularly to update each other and to share in prayer. With the closure for Sunday worship of the Methodist Church in 2012, opportunities for joint worship have become more restricted and due to poor support of specially arranged ecumenical services, we have agreed to ensure that any services we put on are available to the other churches. We share our weekly bulletin with the URC and Ermine West.

Fr Stephen

Fiftieth Anniversary Group

The group have been very active throughout 2012 putting together our programme for the anniversary year, preparing the submission for the stained glass project, supporting the calendar development and pooling and pulling ideas together for the anniversary. We have benefitted enormously from the support and advice of the Open Churches Officer from the diocese, Ben Stoker. I would like to personally thank all the members of the group for their continuing enthusiasm and support. We meet regularly (in 2012 about once a month), but this has been essential in ensuring that we have kept on top of everything we needed to do! We look forward to a successful, prayerful and enjoyable anniversary year.

Fr Stephen

Hospitality & Fundraising

2012 has been a very quiet year for our fund raising. Our parish lunches have been well attended. We went bowling again this year which seems to be a popular evening out.

We were joined again this by the Guides and Brownies for our pancake party and beetle drive. Everyone seems to have a very enjoyable evening, the beetle drive seems to be very popular.

The spring fair was very much enjoyed again this year by us and by the community. Our Christmas raffle was very well supported again this year by both the community and the church. We would like to say thank you to everyone as we are very grateful for your support as this is a very important part of our fund raising.

We have enjoyed our year again serving refreshments, and cooking our parish meals. Earlier in the year we had fun when 95 school children and their teachers from Boston came to look at some of the buildings in our parish, after they had seen around our church they came into the church hall for their lunches, and a drink. We really enjoyed their company.

This year is our 50th anniversary and we are looking forward to all the celebrations here at St John's and sharing them with the community.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who are in the Hospitality and Fundraising group for all your hard work and support that we have for each other.

If anyone has any ideas about fund raising or would like to help, you are very welcome to come along to our meetings.

Sue Fleshbourne

Lunch Club

In 2012 our lunch club numbers have averaged between 25 for the Wednesday lunch and 30 for the Thursday.

No matter how we try to change our menus everyone seems to enjoy meat and gravy potatoes and two veg followed by sponge or crumble with custard. Everyone who attends say they enjoy their food and the good company.

Esther, Justin and Shane from St Francis School left us in July and Stacey, Jessica and Matthew along with Angie joined us in September. The St Francis students are very popular at our lunch club and in December they came along to our Christmas lunch and enjoyed a Christmas meal with everyone. After every one had finished eating the Ermine Primary Academy Choir come along to sing some Christmas carols to us all, this was very well enjoyed by everyone. We would like to say thank you to the children who give up some of their lunch break to come and sing to us.

We are looking forward to June 2013 when we will have a celebration lunch to mark the 50th anniversary of the church.

We say a very big thank you to Chris Priestley, Irene Crosby, Julie Wain and Tina Clarke for all their help throughout the year.

Olive Musson, Sue Fleshbourne

Mothers Union

We are a small group who meet once a month on a Thursday afternoon, we enjoy sharing our faith and fellowship.

Once again we had a variety of speakers who have inspired, touched and entertained us at our meetings, we have also met with fellow deanery members this year on two occasions, once for our yearly deanery meal in August and then in December for our Mothers' Union advent service and tea, these were two very sociable and enjoyable occasions. We also had our branches annual meal at the Poacher which we always enjoy. We held a coffee morning in September for our Mothers' Union wheels appeal, the coffee morning was very well supported by everyone. We decided to halve the money that was so generously given, half went towards our wheels appeal and the other half we gave to Wateraid, our church charity for this year. The Mothers' Union branch members here at St John's would like to say thank you for supporting us at our coffee morning.

If anyone feels they may be interested in finding out about what the Mothers' Union is all about they are very welcome to attend any one of our meetings and share our faith and fellowship.

We are looking forward to 2013 and our 50th Anniversary. Our Mothers' Union here at St John's is inviting other MU members in our deanery to share a Eucharist and strawberry tea in July to celebrate this.

Our theme for 2013 is the seeds we sow.

Sue Fleshbourne

PCC

In 2012, we had 4 full PCC meetings and a short meeting following the APCM. The July meeting was cancelled because it was felt that the items to be discussed could be held over until the September meeting.

At the APCM, we opted to keep the 2 churchwardens from the previous year, Peter Sherlock and David Fleshbourne.

There was 1 vacancy on the PCC and only 1 nomination, Gill Clayton – Hewson who was proposed by Pam Beattie and seconded by Tabitha Holt and accepted unanimously.

We have discussed many topics this year from fabric and finance to lay ministry and Friends of St. Johns. One of the main topics of discussion has been our 50th anniversary plans.

There is always a summary of our meetings in the weekly news sheet and reports can be found on our church website. In view of this I haven't included any specific details here.

The PCC needs to make well informed decisions and at the 2013 APCM we are due to lose 3 members, Emma Ackland – Snow, Chris Priestley and Sue Young. Cay Sherlock left the PCC during 2012 therefore we will need 4 new members this year. It is an ideal opportunity for anyone who feels called to this role to make their presence felt!

Due to the resignation of Peter Sherlock during 2012, we will also be looking to appoint a new churchwarden. I'm sure that there is someone out there who is perfect for this role!!

Jackie Howell

Prayer Group

Jesus said: "Where two or three meet together in my name, I am there among them".

The church prayer group has been meeting regularly for many years in church, usually on Friday mornings for an hour. We value our time together and we are strengthened and helped by our Lord's promise to be with us when we meet in his name. It now seems necessary to change our time to Tuesday mornings at 10:00 to 11:00am in the Mary and Martha room and we welcome anyone who wishes to join

us. Come when you can and go when you must. If you have any queries about joining us please contact Fr. John or Sheila.

Fr. John

St Johns' Church Choir

This has been a year of quiet progress for the choir. We have maintained numbers on the whole and have been able to lead the congregation in the singing of services. We have also been able to take part in the occasional evensong, helped by friends to swell the numbers!

In the weeks after Christmas bad weather conditions made arrangements for practice rather difficult, but as things improve, we should be able resume our regular pattern and extend the repertoire.

As always, we should welcome any new members. We have a very faithful membership, but increased numbers would enable us to make a greater contribution to the life of the church.

Terry Millward

St. Johns' Singers

St. Johns' Singers have had a quiet year without performing in any concerts.

We are preparing new songs, some of which have changed words, ready for the Centenary celebrations.

Unfortunately we have lost Nkechi now that she has gone to university, and Pam felt it necessary to leave owing to commitments now she is ordained. We do miss them!

We are always looking for new members. It is not necessary to be able to read music just an interest in singing.

Sue Young

Stewardship

At the start of the year, there were 33 regular envelope givers, of whom 22 also 'Gift Aided' their weekly donations, thereby enabling the church to reclaim money from HMRC. We

ended 2012 with 31 envelope givers, 20 of whom 'Gift Aid'. We have had 1 additional giver since the start of this year who is also a 'gift aider'.

We also had 8 'Gift Aiders' who pay by Direct Debit and this remains the same this year and another 'gift aider'; who donates every 3 months.

Giving for the year was unfortunately down on the previous year but with fewer givers, this was to be expected. In 2011, the weekly giving average had been £190.77. 2011 was a 52 week year. 2012 was a 53 week year and the weekly giving average was £165.28. So even with more weeks in the year the total giving was down by £1160.47.

Fewer gift aiders means less tax rebate from HMRC! I did claim a rebate of £4345.26 and this was paid to us along with some interest. In 2011 I claimed £4,680.83. It may be that this year the amount decreases further.

It's really important that we receive as much income as possible so if any one does pay Income Tax and doesn't already Gift Aid their donations, please have a word with me and we can soon rectify this! Also, if you feel able to give regularly please have a word with me.

Jackie Howell

Tape Ministry

At the moment there are two of us taking out tapes and CDs of the church service to elderly and housebound people on a weekly basis. Anyone who would like to help can you see Fr Stephen. We take out six tapes; eight CDs and we also visit five people who do not have a tape. There are copies of tape at the back of church for anyone who would like to hear the service again but can you put it back when you have listen to it. Anyone who would like to keep a copy of tape or CD see myself (Paul Cartwright) and I can arrange to get one to you. This ministry is happy to receive any donations that you wish to make; these can be passed on to Paul Cartwright, Christine Priestley or Fr. Stephen. Please place in an envelope and write on what it's for.

Paul Cartwright and Christine Priestley

The Children's Society

Generous box holders in the parish, in the year April 2011 — 2012, raised the wonderful total of £400.74. Some of this was gift aided. We still have 19 box holders,

so the average amount collected from each box was approx. £21. This is very encouraging, considering current general financial difficulties. We are keeping close to our usual annual parish total and the Children's Society is very grateful. Any boxes unopened since last year should now be handed in to be emptied, please.

We have had one junior enquiry for a box this year and are very willing to receive more requests from any age group. There are always boxes available!

Rosalind Millward

www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

I have been busy this year with making the church website more maintainable, this has involved me learning about some technologies that I have not used before so I have enjoyed this challenge. I receive a lot of positive feedback about the site and this encourages me to do more, however people finding things wrong with the site and requests to include new things is what really keeps me going.

There is now a 50th Anniversary Section from which the calendars were sold, you can also buy tickets for events throughout the year. I am also planning on keeping an online account of the year's celebrations.

We have seen an increase in web traffic over the last year with over 4700 unique visits being made to the site, viewing over 12GB of data (this is the equivalent of about 3 DVDs).

Daniel Holt

[3rd Lincoln Guides Annual Report 2012](#)

Once again 2012 has been an extremely busy, action packed, successful and rewarding year for 3rd Lincoln Guides. We now have seventeen guides in our unit and five leaders. The girls have worked hard gaining interest badges, completing challenges and fundraising whilst having lots of fun along the way.

We started our new year by working on the 'Culture' interest badge. One of the clauses required the girls to find out about stories and legends of local people over the years. We invited a lady from the Lincolnshire Heritage Service to join us for an

evening and she told the girls lots of stories of famous Lincolnshire people. It was a very interesting evening.

At the beginning of February we had a 'Chill Out' weekend. This took place at Parva House, in Little Hale near Sleaford. The guides were to complete their 'Glamourama Go for it' challenge. This meant they had to spend the whole of the weekend pampering each other!!! They painted nails, had facials, massages and bathed in foot spas. They even had a chocolate fountain to complete their very relaxing weekend. Later in the month we joined members of St. Johns at their annual 'Beetle Drive' and 'Pancake' evening which the girls enjoyed very much. We also had our 'Thinking Day' celebrations. This is when we celebrate the joint birthdays of the founders of the Scout and Guide movement 'Lord and Lady Baden Powell'. As part of the 'Culture' badge the girls produced some delicious food dishes from different countries and they even tried to say a few words in the language of their chosen country.

In March one of the guides attended an international weekend at Seagull House in Trusthorpe where she joined other guides from around our region and took part in many activities learning about Asian culture. At the end of the month we had a fun filled Easter egg bingo night and during the evening we judged our Easter bonnet competition. There were some brilliant creations. I'm just so glad it wasn't me who had to choose the winners !

In April we attended the St Georges Day service and parade at Lincoln cathedral.

At the beginning of May we had another fun night Ten pin bowling but for the rest of the month we worked on a special badge called 'On Your Marks'. It was designed to get the girls involved with the excitement and values of the Olympic and Paralympics games. The central badge is a souvenir badge and this is surrounded by three other badges. Each one representing the sections sport, culture and values linked in the medal colours of bronze, silver and gold. The girls had to choose and complete three different activities from each section. They did all sorts of activities which included making Olympic torches, decorating Greek clay pots, baking energy boost bars and designing their own Olympic mascot and team sports kit.

Finally to complete this badge the girls chose to think about the people who do their best in sport against all the odds. They wanted to challenge themselves to do the same so we arranged to visit St. Francis school and set up a mini Olympics with members of their youth group. We all had a fantastic evening taking part in relay races using wheelchairs and discovering just how difficult it is and how skilful you have to be. We also played 'Boccia' which is a Paralympics sport.



In June the guides took part in the Community Spring Fair at the Church Hall which was a great success. Much of our guide evenings during this month were taken in preparation of our company guide camp held at the end of the month at Walesby Forest in Nottinghamshire. Whilst there the guides took part in activities including orienteering, rifle shooting, assault course, metal detecting, water zorbing

and raft building. The girls attempted to build rafts and launch themselves onto the lake. It was hilarious to watch and the activity concluded with a massive water fight between instructors and guides. Needless to say the poor instructors were outnumbered! The weekend was such a great success that we have had requests to go again.

In July we celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The girls were given a special Jubilee badge for taking part in a jubilee celebration challenge. Every member in the region was challenged to attend a 'Safari Supper' in celebration of the queen's reign. A bag of imitation diamonds was sent to each unit and we had to incorporate these in some way into an activity. We opted for using our crafting skills and made key fobs as a souvenir in the colours of red, white and blue. We interpreted the term 'Safari Supper' as being a travelling supper so instead of our celebration taking part in the church hall we travelled to a leaders house and had a right 'Royal knees up'!

During the rest of the month we had a trip to the 'Playzone' and finished the term off with our very own guide Olympic sports night on the west common where we presented the winning team with chocolate 'Olympic medals' !

We returned to guides in September and celebrated Flora's achievement of completing and receiving her 'Baden Powell Challenge Award'. This is the highest award a guide can achieve and we are very proud of her. We took advantage of the remaining light evenings before the winter set in and took the guides kayaking. This was great fun and the girls can't wait to do this again in the spring. At the end of September some of the guides went on a division trip to London to watch a performance of 'Shrek' at the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane.

We went to the 'Big Gig' pop concert in October .This was held in Sheffield. It is a concert exclusive to members of the Girl Guide association. Guides attend from all over the U.K .It was a great atmosphere and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it.

During the half term holiday we were very fortunate to be invited to the Assembly Rooms in Lincoln. Our Guide Company had been put forward to receive a donation from the Masons. We were presented with a cheque for £500. We are very grateful as this will enable us to buy much needed guide and camping equipment.

We returned to guides in November and had a 'bonfire party' with traditional games like apple bobbing .The guides worked hard towards gaining their 'Traditions of Guiding' badge during this month and they also did some weird and wonderful experiments for their 'Experiment Go For It' challenge. Once again the guides took part in the Community Christmas Fair at the Church Hall which was very successful.

We had various joint activities with the brownies throughout December .These included The Christmas Carol Service and coffee evening and our annual trip to the Lincoln Drill Hall to see the pantomime 'Peter Pan'.

The Guides did some bag packing in two local supermarkets during December. This was a great success and raised a collective total of £540.41 .Well done girls!

We are already looking forward to this year's events which will be very exciting as we celebrate St. John's 50th Anniversary. We will also be attending the International Poacher Camp held on the Lincolnshire showground at the end of July.

Vanessa Nicholson -Guide Guider

22nd Lincoln Brownies

We now have twenty-two Brownies in the pack, five Leaders, and one Young Leader.

The Brownies had a very busy year in 2012. Earlier in the year, the Brownies completed the 'Home Safety Badge'.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Evening, and of course a pancake race!

For our Thinking Day Evening in February we made a large world collage from recycled materials. We also renewed our Promise on this evening. We also thought about Brownies in different countries around the World.

Easter wouldn't be complete without our 'Easter Bingo' – more chocolate!

On Sunday 22 April 2012 we took part in the St George's Day Parade at Lincoln Cathedral, luckily the weather kept dry for us.

On Saturday 28 April 2012 we went on a Division day trip to the 'Yorkshire Wildlife Park' near Doncaster. The Brownies enjoyed the day out, and were able to feed the wallabies. The Brownies gained their 'Friend to Animals' badge.

One of the highlights of the year was the Diamond Jubilee, which the Brownies completed several challenges, and received the 'Diamond Jubilee Badge'. We made lots of jubilee crafts including crowns, bunting, streamers, and we also made a Diamond Jubilee card which we posted to Buckingham Palace, and we were thrilled to receive a reply from a Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen. We also celebrated with a Diamond Jubilee party. Each Brownie was given a diamond, and we each made a bracelet. Each unit was asked to take a photo of what they had made with the diamond, and this was going to be sent to the Queen. Each Brownie also received a Diamond Jubilee mug.



Eight Brownies went on a District Pack Holiday in May 2012 to Trusthorpe; the theme was 'Harry Potter'.

To mark the Olympics, the Brownies completed their 'Agility' badge in the summer.

We had quite a lot of new Brownies join us in September; and we decided that when it was time for the Brownies to make their Brownie Promises, we did this as a group, over two meetings.

We had a Halloween Party in October, we all enjoyed this. The Brownies tucked into hot dogs; also made chocolate sparklers; and played the chocolate game!

The Brownies enjoyed all the Christmas Crafts – this included Father Christmas Hand Puppets and Angels.

The Brownie and Guide Leaders enjoyed helping on the Bric-a-Brac stall at the St John's Christmas Fair in November 2012.

We have been lucky with our fundraising this year. We received a £50.00 grant from C.O.L.A. (Children of Lincoln Activities Association) in May 2012. We took part in the St John's Community Spring Fair in June 2012, and had a joint tombola stall with the

Guides. After the Brownies and Guides Carol Service in December 2012, we held a fundraising evening. On Friday 14 December 2012, the Brownies and Guides went to the Pantomime at the Drill Hall to see 'Peter Pan'. Everyone enjoyed this.... oh yes we did. Some of the Brownies met the cast afterwards to get their autographs.

We are currently working on the 'Road Safety Badge' which we started last year. We are looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St John's Church during 2013. Thank you to Parents/Carers/Members of St John's Church for your support during the year.

Louise Thompson Brown Owl

2012 Financial Statement

Receipts & Payments Account

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Incoming receipts from donors		
Gift Aid	11,787	12,073
Planned Giving	1,780	1,761
Service Collections	1,456	1,416
Other collections	740	978
Income tax recovered	4,408	8,970
	<u>20,170</u>	<u>25,198</u>
Other donations		
Donations	1,773	2,949
Specific Donations	0	0
	<u>1,773</u>	<u>2,949</u>
Receipts from church operations		
Fees	1,472	3,301
Other	1,080	1,040
	<u>2,552</u>	<u>4,341</u>
Receipts from fundraising activities		
Fundraising	2,272	2,129
	<u>2,272</u>	<u>2,129</u>
Receipts from Investments		
Dividends on investments	2,071	2,189
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest	29	0
	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,189</u>
Other receipts		
Insurance claims	990	990
	<u>990</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	<u>29,857</u>	<u>36,806</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Donations to Charities	1,361	2,246
	<u>1,361</u>	<u>2,246</u>
Church Activities		
Diocesan parish share	12,500	12,495
Clergy expenses	1,432	2,091
Cost of services	2,795	2,241
Administration costs	2,730	2,576
Running costs	4,907	5,143
Repairs and maintenance	3,935	4,741
Insurance	1,822	1,777
Fitments	312	1,450
Other costs	4,343	2,186
	<u>34,777</u>	<u>34,700</u>
Total Payments	<u>36,138</u>	<u>36,946</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		£0
Excess of Payments over Receipts		<u>-(£6,281)</u>

Community Hall

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Receipts from Activities		
J. Ashton school of Dance	4,092	5,425
Silhouette dance club	1,480	1,774
Bookings	4,160	3,188
Sundries		
	<u>9,732</u>	<u>10,387</u>
Other Receipts		
Insurance claims	120	0
	<u>120</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	<u>9,852</u>	<u>10,387</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Management Costs	1,241	1,716
Running costs	2,855	3,021
Repairs and Cleaning	2,659	4,989
Insurance	861	877
Licenses		224
Fitments	250	856
Hall Sundries	192	
Total Payments	<u>8,059</u>	<u>11,683</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>£1,794</u>	<u>(-1,296)</u>

Restricted Funds

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Charity collections and donations	1,596	1,901
Church 50th Anniversary	101	1,080
Training Fund		
Youth group		84
Wydale retreat		
Lunch Club		
Other Funds		
Total Receipts	<u>1,698</u>	<u>3,065</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Charity collections and donations	1,361	2,246
Church 50th Anniversary		
Training Fund		
Youth group		3
Wydale retreat		78
Lunch Club		
Other Funds	100	
Total Payments	<u>1,461</u>	<u>2,327</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>£237</u>	
Excess of Payments over Receipts	<u>-(£1)</u>	

Totals

	Receipts	Payments		Receipts	Payments
Total for Church	£29,857	£36,138	-(£6,281)	£36,806	£36,946
Total for Hall	£9,852	£8,059	£1,794	£10,387	£11,683
Total for Restricted Funds	£1,698	£1,461	£236	£3,065	£2,327
	£41,406	£45,659	-(£4,251)	£50,258	£50,956
TOTAL	£41,406	£45,659	-(£4,251)	£50,258	£50,956

Current Assets

	<u>2012</u>
<u>Monetary Assets</u>	
Restricted Funds	
Christingle	86
50th Anniversary	1,250
Youth Group	11
National Westminster Bank Current Account	1,498
National Westminster Bank Business Reserve	4,500
LDTBF Trust Account	5,062
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>£11,060</u>

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention, to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anita Page M.A.A.T
Association of Accounting Technicians
16th February 2013

2012 Statistics

Communicants:

Sundays	2291
Weekdays including house communions & EPH communicants	1544
Total	3835

Attendance:

Aggregate attendance at all services	4854
Average communicants on Wednesdays	9
Average number of communicants on Sundays	44
Average attendance on Sundays	54
Attendances at baptisms, weddings & funerals	1138
Housebound communicants	6

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings & Funerals:

Adult Baptisms	0
Child Baptisms	21
Thanksgiving for the birth of a child	1
Confirmation candidates	1
Weddings	5
Wedding blessings	3
Funerals in Church	6
Funerals at Crematorium	12
Total Funerals	18

School Assemblies & Classroom Input

Ermine Primary Academy	14
St Francis School	11
Lincoln Castle Academy	0
Total:	25

School visits to church

7

Residential Homes Services

Ermine House

24

Ruckland Court

24

Website Hits

Unique visits

≈ 4700

Weekly Giving Amounts

Week	Date	Gift Aid	Ordinary	Total	Week	Date	Gift Aid	Ordinary	Total
1	1.1.12	80.50	31	111.50	27	1.7.12	226.95	29	255.95
2	8.1.12	47	46.50	93.50	28	8.7.12	170	23	193
3	15.1.12	532	41.50	573.50	29	15.7.12	104	59.50	163.50
4	22.1.12	32	17.50	49.50	30	22.7.12	91	15.50	106.50
5	29.1.12	46	49	95	31	29.7.12	587	18.50	605.50
6	5.2.12	149	15	164	32	5.8.12	123	28	151
7	12.2.12	224	13.50	237.50	33	12.8.12	75	37.50	112.50
8	19.2.12	194	58.50	252.50	34	19.8.12	119	33	152
9	26.2.12	16	44.50	60.50	35	26.8.12	42.50	19.50	62
10	4.3.12	105	24.50	129.50	36	2.9.12	55	17.50	72.50
11	11.3.12	69	19	88	37	9.9.12	215	18	233
12	18.3.12	203.50	36.50	240	38	16.9.12	88	32	120
13	25.3.12	75	39.50	114.50	39	23.9.12	26	37.50	63.50
14	1.4.12	65	38	103	40	30.9.12	172	26.50	198.50
15	8.4.12	41.10	130	171.10	41	7.10.12	259	37.50	296.50
16	15.4.12	275.50	21	296.50	42	14.10.12	83	38	121
17	22.4.12	19	48	67	43	21.10.12	44.50	14.50	59
18	29.4.12	46	12.50	58.50	44	28.10.12	83.50	31.50	115
19	6.5.12	151.50	33.50	185	45	4.11.12	117.50	19	136.50
20	13.5.12	330	16	346	46	11.11.12	138	60	198
21	20.5.12	59	19	78	47	18.11.12	146	35	181
22	27.5.12	72	24	96	48	25.11.12	89	17	106
23	3.6.12	87.10	37	124.10	49	2.12.12	129.50	38.50	168
24	10.6.12	67	23	90	50	9.12.12	69	6	75
25	17.6.12	191.50	25.50	217	51	16.12.12	125	59.50	184.50
26	24.6.12	323.90	36.50	360.40	52	23.12.12	95.40	29	124.40
		3501.6	900.5	4402.1			3473.85	780.5	4254.35
TOTALS							7032.45	1727.50	8759.95