

**LINCOLN ST MARY MAGDALENE
WITH ST PAUL IN THE BAIL
AND ST MICHAEL ON THE MOUNT**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2013



The Parochial Church Council presents its
Annual Report
of Activities and Stewardship of the Church's Finances

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

St Mary Magdalene Church, Bailgate, Lincoln has stood at the crossroads of the ancient city in the heart of the conservation area for nearly eight hundred years. The church was destroyed in the English Civil War and has been rebuilt and restored over the centuries. One restoration was overseen by the leading Victorian architect, G.F.Bodley, in 1882. St. Mary Magdalene Church has been described as “Bodley’s Little Gem”.

Located on the corner of Exchequergate and Bailgate near to Castle Square, it is an extremely important structure in the historic landscape of uphill Lincoln.

For many centuries our church has been at the heart of worship and service to the community in which it is set. It is open to the public daily and frequently hosts musical and other events. It is an active church holding several services each week.

It is an ancient church serving a living God.

MISSION STATEMENT

We worship the Living God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and share in his mission by:

- Valuing all people
- Serving the local community
- Sharing in the work of building his kingdom

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary Magdalene Church is situated in Bailgate, Lincoln, at its junction with Exchequergate. It is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Hon. Secretary, Lincoln St. Mary Magdalene Church, 42 Lee Road, Lincoln LN2 4BQ.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

MEMBERS OF THE P.C.C.

P.C.C. members who served from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013:

Very Revd. D. Leaning (to 03/13)	Chaplain
Anne Atkinson	Vice-Chair
Rachel Beck	Churchwarden
Jonathan Wilkins	Churchwarden
Christopher Brook	
Shirley Brook	
Patrick Forbes-Ritte	
Geraldine Ham	
Joanna Jeffries (to 04/13)	
Helen Jones	
Sandra Longden (co-opted 05/13)	
Richard Main (from 04/13)	
Thomas Rookes	
Patricia Shariatmadari	
Eleanor Thomas	
Barbara Wellman (to 04/13)	
Lindsay Wilkins	
Paul Wilson	
Jennifer Wray (from 04/13)	

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The full P.C.C. met 9 times during the year with an average attendance of 79%. Committees met between meetings and a record of their deliberations was received by the full P.C.C. and discussed where necessary.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C.

The interregnum continued throughout 2013 and St Mary Magdalene's PCC had the responsibility of co-operating with the Rural Dean, Revd. Canon David Osbourne, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

In addition to the church building the P.C.C. has residual responsibility for the closed churchyard situated on Chapel Lane, Lincoln which is maintained by Lincoln City Council.

RESERVES POLICY

By reference to the previous year's accounts it is P.C.C. policy to maintain a balance equating to approximately six months payments to cover emergency situations that may arise. It is P.C.C. policy to invest its fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds and with Charifund.

STATISTICS 2013

	2011	2012	2013
Communicants:			
Sundays	1978	2234	2018
Weekdays	458	512	369
Total:	2456	2746	2387
Average communicants on weekdays	7	6	5
Average communicants on Sundays	38	43	39
Average attendance at Sung Eucharist (Sunday)	49	53	50
Average attendance on Sunday evening	16	19	21
Average attendance at weekday Evening Prayer	2	2	2
Baptisms:			
Adults	0	4	1
Children	8	9	5
Total:	8	13	6
Weddings:	10	12	10
Wedding Blessings:	3	0	0
Funerals:	1	1	4
Confirmation candidates (adults)	2	0	1

REVIEW OF THE YEAR MINISTRY AND MISSION 2013

2013 saw many changes but also some good continuity.

The Churchwarden Team, Ministry Team, Finance Team, Choir and congregation remained true and steadfast through difficult times.

The scaffolding went up before Christmas 2012 and work on the roof started in the New Year. The work had to be, and was, finished by March for the safety of the 10K event in April. We are indebted to Derek Wellman and Simon Ham for overseeing this work and to Geraldine Ham and Pat Shariatmadari for doing all the grant applications.

To begin with we cleaned every Friday for services to be held in Church but such was the dust and dirt that we were forced to worship elsewhere. Services were held in St. Hugh's Chapel, Edward King House and The Chapel at St. Anne's Bedehouses. We continued with regular Evening Prayer in the vestry. We welcomed the other Uphill Churches to the Women's World Day of Prayer which we hosted in March in the chapel at Edward King House.

We are most grateful to everyone who helped with the massive job of cleaning the Church after the roof was finished and to Barbara Wellman for organising enjoyable Benedictine Evenings when we cleaned together and then enjoyed fellowship over a good meal.

In March we said farewell to Very Reverend David Leaning, to whom we are indebted for his dedication and service over the six years he was with us. Lesley Hackney also decided to leave the Ministry Team and continue her training in her home Church in Hackthorn. She will be missed for her quiet presence and pastoral care.

We continued with our regular pattern of services, Sung Eucharist, Evensong, Songs of Praise, Taize, Evening Prayer, Easter week services, Patronal Festival, Christmas Market services and Carol Service with the help of Brian Saunders, Margaret Saunders, Ted Barlow, Barbara Wellman, Margaret Ford, Bishop Christopher, David Leaning, Brian Dodds, Geoff Harris, Sally Myers, David Osbourne, Paul Paynton, Neil Burgess, Julia Hart, Michael Boughton, Jeremy Cullimore, Peter Green, Andrew Stokes, Alex Whitehead, Julia Hepburn, Johnie Parkin, Pippa Duce, Anne Atkinson, Chris Brook, Rachel Beck, Shirley Brook, Helen Porada, Philip Gration Geraldine Ham, R H Groushin, Neil Jelly, Tom Rookes and Elizabeth SSC and Clare Lindsay. Our grateful thanks go to all and to Rachel for organising everyone.

The children were well catered for with regular Sunday School during the morning Sung Eucharist. Helen Porada organised successful and enjoyable Messy Church during the School Holidays. At Christmas we managed to squeeze 200+ children and

parents from Westgate Academy into the Church when rain stopped the carols and Nativity scene in Castle Square.

Church has been open every weekday and we are indebted to Barbara and the team of Churchsitters who offer a welcome and Pastoral Care to those who come through the doors. We miss Brian Dodds who ministered quietly to many as he opened up early and listened with care. There are many who, invisibly, to most people, offer pastoral care to members of the congregation.

The Julian Group meets monthly for quiet prayer.

The Lent groups were well attended and a house group started to meet together for fellowship and prayer.

2013 was also the year when Lincoln St. Mary Magdalene first had a Facebook and Twitter profile. These have a growing number of followers.

There are many other times, covered by other reports, when the Church is open and we thank God for every opportunity to be a living witness in our community

Anne Atkinson

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

The Churchwardens' team continued to function well during 2013. It was a time of interregnum and also included the departure of St. Mary's Chaplain David Leaning in March.

We are very grateful to Rachel Beck for her continuous work in organising clergy to take our services during this period and for her work in maintaining the diary for banns being read, wedding and funeral services.

The Churchwardens' team also acknowledge the work done by the retired clergy, lay readers, choirmaster and choir, past churchwardens, members of the PCC, churchsitters, members of the congregation and friends of St. Marys without whose assistance St Marys would not function.

During 2013 the major works to refurbish the roof were started and completed both on time and in budget. For this we must thank Derek Wellman & Simon Ham.

During the year we also discussed access to St Mary's churchyard, the possibility of reopening the South door, refurbishment of the notice boards, restoring the Bodley hanging and provision for mothers and babies. In addition investigations were made to establish if there was any Chancel Repair Liability and it was discovered that there was not.

St Marys was used for charity events, concerts, childrens' activity days, as a base for street collections and as a place of rest and refreshment on Farmers' Market Saturdays.

We continued to build a good relationship with our immediate neighbours and businesses in the Bailgate and surrounding area.

Jonathan Wilkins
Churchwarden

BAILGATE AREA GUILD, LINCOLN BIG AND OTHER ST MARY MAGDALENE COMMUNITY LINKS

As St Mary's representative I have attended meetings of the Bailgate Area Guild and the Historic Lincoln Partnership. Close links have also been maintained with Lincoln BIG (Business Improvement Group). These connections are part of St Mary's mission and outreach and have provided opportunities for the church to engage with the parish community in a variety of ways. This year we have opened regularly for the monthly Farmers' Markets and other special events in Castle Square. We were the base for the annual Busking in the Bail and supported the Lincoln BIG Children's Festival. The Christmas Lantern Procession and Nativity was held in church this year owing to bad weather. The Full English Festival, promoted by Richard Main, took place in early September. This was a significant fundraising opportunity, as well as a great community occasion. The proceeds this year went to St Mary's Music Foundation. With the support of Annie Houghton and team setting up, and a wonderful team of stewards, we again hosted the Bailgate Area Traders' Advent Wreath Festival. This year there were 7,872 visitors, and £2053.77 was donated, and was shared equally amongst the Nomad Trust, STRUT and St Mary Magdalene's.

None of this community involvement would be possible without the support of our church members and we thank them warmly for their generous giving of time and talent and for their prayerful support.

Shirley Brook

PCC Representative, Bailgate Area Guild and other Community Groups

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LINCOLN AND DISTRICT

CTLD had three general meetings in 2013. These were on 7th February, 7th May, and 23rd October. The Annual General Meeting was held on 26th June.

At the meeting on 7th February there were discussions on The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, The Bank event on 4th May, arrangements for the Procession of Witnesses and other details for Good Friday on 29th March, Lay Chaplaincy, CTLD Website, and the future of CTLD.

On 7th May there was an extraordinary meeting for members to discuss the way forward for CTLD. Suggestions were made at the meeting and these were discussed together with ones which had been made previously..Summing up members saw core events as follows:

The Good Friday Walk of Witness and Civic Service.

One main CTLD service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to which everyone is invited. [Other services to be arranged on a local basis.]

The new website is working well and is much appreciated.
E-mailed notices about what is happening in individual churches should continue.

At the meeting on 23rd October Brenda Shields from the Nomad Trust spoke about the position following the Pathway Project. Rev Peter Green spoke about the Chaplaincy at Bishop Grosseteste University and its ecumenical role. Pastor Darren Edwards spoke about the new Ignite, Elim Pentecostal church which was located in Moorland Community Centre. There were updates from the Steering Group and financial update.

At the AGM on 26th June Rev Liz Jackson reported on the previous 12 months and progress on the nine key points. She also reported on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and the Good Friday Service and Walk of Witnesses. Other reports covered Women's World day of Prayer by Celia Howes, The Bank 2013 by Dan Hargreaves, Nomad Trust by Rev Hamish Temple, and Finance. At the end of the meeting Liz Jackson was congratulated on her recent appointment as Priest in Charge at Radford, Notts.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place from 18th to 25th January and included services at New Life, Washingborough Methodist, The Orthodox Church, St Mary Magdalene, Holy Cross Boultham, Salvation Army Citadel, Friends Meeting House, Bailgate Methodist, St Hugh's Church, and Our Lady of Lincoln.

Tom Rookes

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Christianity Deanery Synod meetings in 2013 have mainly focused on the unfolding vision for the Diocese. The meetings have included updates on the Diocesan Implementation Panels, which were set up by Bishop Christopher to address the main areas for development in the Diocese, namely; ministry, worship, discipleship, governance, church buildings, parish share and the new Mission Fund. The Deanery Synod heard a presentation from The Ven Jane Sinclair, the Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey, focusing on the priorities for mission and ministry across the Diocese and asking people to send suggestions and feedback to the Bishop – which the Deanery Synod members were able to do following discussion of the priorities, vision and general direction being outlined by Jane. The Revd Canon Ian Silk, Vicar of Swallowbeck and Chair of the Discipleship Panel gave a presentation to the Deanery Synod on Discipleship and suggested that every parish in the Deanery consider how they were nurturing the discipleship of those in their parishes and communities.

Rachel Beck

MUSIC FOUNDATION

The **CHOIR** continues to flourish yet again. It comprises the **Master of the Choir** and sixteen regular **Song Clerks** and **two Choristers** [i.e children of statutory school age]. This is an increase yet again over last year and is highly encouraging for everyone at this church. There have been quite a few occasional guests who have asked to join with us throughout the year and they have been made very welcome. The main purpose of the Choir's existence is always at the forefront of its mind in all that it does, namely preparing the music for Divine Worship. The music content *per se* continues to provide stimulus and challenge and also inspire those who are listening. The choir has lost count of the number of kind comments which have been forthcoming during the year, all of which are highly valued and are distinctly motivational. New pieces have been introduced to extend the repertoire and this continues to provide variety and interest for the Song Clerks in addition to the main aim of enriching the worship. The commitment and faithfulness of every Song Clerk and Chorister is to be both noted and commended, often at distinct personal cost and, yet again, I place on record my deep gratitude to them all for this and, equally, to the rest of the congregation for its on-going and much-valued support.

There have been several **CONCERTS** during the year with some organisations making return visits notably Harry Bird and the Rubber Wellies, Enzo Puzzovio along with Stuart McCoy, Steve Jackson, Richard Lindsay and University of St Andrews Madrigal Group. These events are promoted for the intrinsic value of the music-making and listening and are a key part of the parish's ministry. There was a rendition of Pergolesi's famous work *Stabat Mater* conducted by Richard Lindsay which formed a **DEVOTION** during Lent -the first time of doing this. This is already being planned again for Lent 2014

The **ORGAN** continues - miraculously! - to function and it has done well to hang on like it has done. Its fitness-for -purpose, however, is still diminishing and the inevitable rebuild is not going to be avoided. When it is finally done it will be a first-rate instrument and will give good service – with the customary periodic care – for many many years to come.

The **MUSIC FOUNDATION** is in good heart and, as reported last year, continues its ministry at the centre of parochial life. The contribution of **Edward Wellman** – a musician with vast experience - has enabled us to embrace new ideas and achieve new standards; this has been greatly valued by us all and long may it continue. The inspiration of **Richard Main** in fund-raising initiatives has given us a huge financial boost as well as a lot of fun and has enabled money to be spent on much-needed music and other necessary items. The social side of the choir's 'life' is very much alive and kicking

Christopher Brook

FINANCE REPORT

In the early part of 2013 the Finance Team focused on the expenditure for the roof. We are grateful to Barbara Wellman, St. Mary's Treasurer at that time, for her conscientiousness in overseeing this.

Barbara retired as Treasurer in April 2013. Unfortunately a new Treasurer could not be found and it was decided that the Treasurer's tasks would be split between several people and as such Anne Atkinson, Rachel Beck, Geraldine Ham, Jonathan Wilkins and Lindsay Wilkins carried out the day to day financial tasks for the rest of the year.

Later in 2013 the group focused on the implementation of the new system for dealing with Parochial Fees including transacting both the payments and receipts via internet banking. In addition the team considered how best to ensure that St. Mary's Outward Giving commitment is met.

At the very end of the year we began to look forward to 2014 and in particular considered the amount to be paid in Parish Share and the implementation of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme which will come into effect in April.

Lindsay Wilkins

The Annual Report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st March 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev. Canon M.A. Whitehead
P.C.C. Chairman

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Date

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Lindsay Wilkins
P.C.C. Secretary

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Date