St. Matthew’s Church, Salford Priors
2012/2013 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
With financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2012

Administrative Information
St. Matthew’s church is situated in the village of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England. Our group was formed in 1970 and became known as the Heart of England Parishes in 2009, and also includes the parishes of Temple Grafton, Exhall, Wixford, Binton and Bidford on Avon.

The correspondence address is:
Mr Roger Huggins, Group Administrator,
Birch House, Grange Lane, Harvington, WR11 8NL

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2012 until the date of this report was approved are:

Chairman
Revd Peter Walker

Vice-Chairman
Mr Peter Penney (up to APCM 2012)
Mr Roger Huggins (from APCM 2012)

Readers
Mr Ray Stanley (retired on 10th June 2012)
Mr Michael Cocker (up to March 2012)
Mr Andy Martin (up to March 2012)

Churchwardens
Mr Roger Huggins
Mr Kevin Harrison

Deanery Synod Rep
Mr David Willatts (from June 2012)

Elected Members
Mrs Wendy Shaddick,
Mrs Eira Willatts, Secretary
Mr Malcolm Spriggs (up to APCM 2012)
Mr Andrew Dean Treasurer (from APCM 2012)
Mr Mark Shaddick
Mr Peter Penney
Mrs Sheila Penney
Mr Gavin Reynolds (up to March 2012)
Mrs Kay Latham (from APCM 2012)
Mr Tim Jacques
Mr Greg Hallett
Structure, governance and management
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.

Objectives and activities
It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The functions of parochial church councils shall include—

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;
- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
- giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council;
- raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Matthew’s Church and Churchyard.

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Vicar’s Report - Revd Peter Walker
The year 2012 has mostly been a good year in the five parishes that make up the Heart of England group. We have enjoyed some wonderful times together both inside our church buildings and elsewhere; and now we look forward to 2013 with hope. However, some parts of the past year have been hard, a few people chose to leave and worship elsewhere, while others questioned the way the group was being led or suggested that the clergy were not giving enough time to one or other of the churches. Unfortunately, recent changes in staffing and funding are not likely to be reversed, meaning that we need to find new ways of working and “being church” in the coming years. In 2012 we began to address these challenges and this is a process that will continue for quite some time to come.

Highlights in 2012 as a group of churches included: a Palm Sunday procession at Binton with a real donkey; HM the Queen’s diamond jubilee Flower Festival in Bidford; a celebration of Capt. Scott R.N. in Binton on the centenary of his death; and another Village Nativity Procession in Bidford also featuring the donkey. We welcomed adult candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Faith at the deanery celebration in Alcester. In July the Revd Kevin
Grumball was ordained priest at Coventry Cathedral and we are delighted to see his ministry continue to grow and flourish amongst us. A dedicated group of people continues to work across our four church schools including: the Open The Book team; the Foundation Governors; and those taking Collective Worship. As a result, our relationships have deepened with all of the schools and also between the four schools as well. We have now started meeting to pray for our schools on an occasional basis and we would welcome all those who are concerned for Christian Education to join us for this.

All of our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) have been addressing necessary improvements to our historic buildings. We want our buildings to be welcoming and flexible for use in the coming years and some works were completed or nearing completion as 2012 drew to a close. The nave roof was replaced at Wixford thereby securing the fabric for the next century. Additional heating has been fitted at Binton making what was our coldest church much more comfortable for winter use. The new Families’ Area has been completed at Bidford helping us to welcome and support parents with pre-school children in our services. For the future we are working on further projects with our premises at Salford Priors, Temple Grafton and at Bidford.

Facing up to the challenges of the future, all of the PCCs and leaders gathered in October for a day away with Bishop John to reflect on new ways of leading churches as the numbers of paid staff decrease. In such times of change good communication is clearly important, it is therefore encouraging to note the first steps with a new Parish Magazine that for the first time is distributed to all six churches and to their surrounding communities. As 2013 unfolds we will explore some further changes with the aim of doing better those things that really matter, and we will try hard to communicate what we are doing so that others can share in the vision.

As you read the report that follows, you will catch a glimpse of the extraordinary number of truly generous people who give of their time, talents and money to support these six churches, I want to place on record once again my thanks for everything that they (you) do. Thank you and may God bless you. Finally, in all that lies ahead I ask you to pray for the Heart of England Parishes, for the people and leaders (lay and ordained), for love and unity between us, and for the growth of God’s kingdom in these villages.

Peter Walker

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in April 2012 it was reported that there are 85 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 56 of whom are not resident within the parish. The Church of England has chosen the month of October to determine average church attendance numbers. In 2012 the average weekly attendance at St Matthew’s was 70, but this figure included a large Baptism service at the end of October. Church attendance on a “normal” Sunday was 55.
Both Salford Priors and Dunnington schools hold special festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and a Leavers Service at the end of the academic year in July, when the church is filled to overflowing with excited children and parents.

Staff
Revd Peter Walker (Priest in Charge); Revd Ruth Walker (Associate Minister); Revd Sue Henwood (Associate Minister) & Revd Kevin Grumball (Assistant Curate).
Joan Philpott finished as our Church cleaner in November and we thank her for her service. Victoria Reichel and Anthony Pilkington have now taken over.
Andy Woodhouse continues to maintain the churchyard under the supervision of Roger Huggins.
We are grateful to our Administrator, Roger Huggins for his conscientious and untiring efforts in the service of St Matthew’s.
We still do not have a Sacristan and these duties are shared among a few volunteers at present. Lorraine Walker is beginning to take on Verger duties at weddings.

PCC
The full PCC met 9 times during the year with an average attendance of 78%. Committees met between meetings and their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.
Another successful Group Leadership Away Day was held at Clifford Chambers in October with Bishop John as our speaker.

Elders - Greg Hallett
The Elders focus during 2012 has been on the further development of the family services, which are now being well attended and to which the children look forward.
We have also spent time revising the Home Group structure and the content of bible study for the Groups with Ephesians having been studied during the year. A new study on Paul’s letter to the Church in Philippi has started within the Groups in 2013 and will be complemented with a teaching series at Holy Communion services during April and May.
After a nomination process at the end of last year, we are very pleased to welcome Peter Penney onto the Eldership. We would still like to find another woman to join the group which now consists of Joyce Lewis, Roger Huggins, Greg Hallett, Tim Jacques, Peter Penney & Peter Walker.
A new Pastoral Care Team has been set up under the leadership of Peter Penney and consists of Malcolm and Elizabeth Spriggs, Pete and Jean Waring and Wendy Shaddick.
I would like, on behalf of the Elders to thank the congregation for their support and prayers during what has been a challenging year in many ways. So many people have stepped up to the plate and offered to help and take on new responsibilities, which is hugely appreciated. We can look forward to 2013 being
an exciting year as we continue to build on our relationships with the community of Salford Priors, through our growing Family Services, Community Group and Cup Cake Café outreach amongst other things. We all have a part to play in demonstrating the love of Jesus out to where it really matters – in the homes and lives of those for whom we are called to serve.

**Fabric Report**

Some tiles have been replaced on the Chancel roof and Steve Bennett has kindly re-fitted one of the lightning conductor filials on the tower making our lightning conductor system once again fully operational. The inside of the church is in need of a Spring Clean which didn’t happen last year but needs to be carried out in the near future. The main heating system broke down just before Christmas leading to some cold services in church over that period. The repairs were made after a month and it is now functioning properly. It is anticipated that a more local firm of heating engineers can be engaged to service and repair our system in the future.

**Worship Music Group - Paul Crocombe**

Looking back over the year it would be true to say that the Group is an evolving and ongoing unit that tries to provide competent musical backing for an eclectic mix of hymns and songs that are needed with the variety of service styles that we accommodate. After many years of involvement and leadership, Phil Mottram stepped down and with grateful thanks, we acknowledge all that he has contributed in this area. For the time being Amy James is on maternity leave, but we look forward to having her back in the fold soon. At present we have a pool of musicians and singers we can call upon depending on availability and other commitments. Some weeks we have had 6 leading from the front, while on other weeks, just 2! We shall endeavour to play well with a smile on our faces along with a genuine joy of being able to use what we can do for the good of the body. Do give us feedback of any variety! That way, we can move onwards and upwards.

**Cup Cake Café - Julie Hallett**

Our vision for Cup Cake Café when we started over three years ago was that it would be a relaxed and fun place for us to meet with people from the local community of Salford Priors, where we could serve delicious home made cakes, coffee and tea and take God's love to people. Cup Cake Café has grown from strength to strength and every month we seem to be full to bursting with people of all ages, from just a few weeks old (Eli) to Mums and Dads with their children to older visitors. Most months we meet new people as well as all the regulars. Many of our church congregation also attend. We have kept prices low to ensure that Cup Cake is affordable for all. Throughout the year we have given money to a variety of charities, St Richards Hospice and Crisis at Christmas, to name but two, and we have an information board in the TOPS building to show how the money has been spent. We have
invested in a new coffee machine that is also used at church. We also have a "prayer tea pot" where people can ask for prayer and this is done confidentially. The really wonderful thing about Cup Cake is the growing relationships. Several Mums now bring their children to the family services. Steve and Fran Foster are often there with members of the Community Group. For some who don't manage to get out much, Cup Cake is the highlight of their month. We have great links with Kerry Spencer who leads the Brownies, and a good number of Brownies have taken their Hostess badges with us. We are always delighted to have new helpers and cake bakers so if anyone would like to help, please talk to Amy James, Debi Harrison or myself. Cup Cake is proving to be a vital part of our outreach and we are incredibly grateful to the PCC who support us and of course to all of our regular helpers who give up their Saturday mornings to serve the community.

**Outreach via Sport - Greg Hallett**

2012 was a mixed year for the Sport Challenge events. Having lost the Badminton in January, the Football match was drawn but a depleted team were soundly thrashed in the Cricket Challenge.

More positively, The Churches team was victorious in the Bidford Olympics challenge last September, when over 70 people took part in a variety of races, bounces, throws and pulls. A thrilling day was watched, very enthusiastically by many people shouting encouragement to both teams in what was a wonderful community event. Victory was achieved in January 2013 in the badminton challenge, as usual a very close run and highly competitive event. Our prayers for a speedy recovery go to Jamie Cox (Bidford Baptist Minister) who literally gave his Achilles tendon for the cause!

Watch out for news of the return of the canoeing challenge later in 2013.

**Open the Book - Wendy Shaddick**

This is now our fourth year of visiting the four church schools in the Heart of England parishes where we act out bible stories in assembly on the third week of each month. Since September we have continued our progress through the New Testament, acting out the miracles Jesus performed and also his parables. These have included the parables of the Unforgiving Servant, the Ten Talents and the Parable of the Sower; also the story of Zacchaeus, the Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Healing of the Ten Lepers. We have ended the Spring Term by tackling the difficult subject of the death and resurrection of Jesus – not easy to explain to infant and junior school pupils! However, we use the ‘Open the Book’ bible which is the Robert Hartman Lion Storyteller Bible and with God’s help we have been privileged to let these children know how much God loves them.

I am very grateful to my dedicated team of thespians, John Alexander-Head, Chris Bowen, Paul Rigler, Hazel Mumford, Suzy Fryer, Peter Waring and Malcolm Spriggs, who come from across the six churches. We are always looking out for others to join us – it is a constant joy to us that the children look forward to
our visits and enjoy our performances and it is a real privilege to be used by God to reach these little ones and give them the chance to hear stories from the bible. “Let the children come to me and do not forbid them because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these”.

**Community Group - Stephen Foster**
The first meeting was in June 2009 and Community Group meetings have taken place each and every week, with a few breaks for holidays, ever since. Initially few in number, the Group has built up to a steady 11 people, facilitated by Stephen and Fran Foster. The focus is on community service, “transforming communities,” demonstrating the love of Jesus.
The topics discussed in any evening are very varied and range from local to national and world issues. The Group has bonded well and genuine friendships have developed with a real sense of community. They have built relationships to support and look out for each other. One of the Group recently needed to take his blood pressure on a regular basis and couldn’t manage this on his own. He rang his neighbour (from the Group) across the road and then went over to get his assistance. These are 2 couples who have lived opposite one another for 10 years, but until the establishment of the Group, had never met!
Quotes from some of the Group include “I don’t know what we would have done if you hadn’t knocked on my door” “it’s the highlight of the week, I wouldn’t miss it for the world”
The Group fits a “fresh expression” of Church. It works towards establishing a new community or congregation especially for those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or once were, but left for whatever reason (de-churched), and is a fresh expression of church in the making.

**Youth**
Paul Crocombe and Joyce Lewis have stepped in to run the Kick-Off sessions at the moment while Chrissie Goodwin takes some time off. The group of 11-14s meet on two Sunday mornings a month with about 4 or 5 regular members and another 3 or 4 who come occasionally.

**Small Groups**
After a re-design of those wanting to attend house groups, four groups now meet, usually twice a month during the year, for Bible study, prayer and mutual support as well as social events. These groups also organise people to read lessons, lead prayers, and provide and serve refreshments at our main Sunday services. Our thanks to all who participate in these roles and especially to the leaders and hosts of the groups.
The Ladies’ fellowship, although now very small in number, continues its monthly meetings.

**Communication**
A new Group-wide magazine called “Heartbeat” has been launched very
successfully with Neil Smart from Bidford as the editor. It will be published 10 times a year at a cost of 50p per copy.

Our website, maintained by our Administrator, is the place to go for all the up to date information on St Matthew’s. It also tries to include photos of recent events: www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk.

There is also a Heart of England Group website which includes items for the whole group of churches: www.heartparishes.org.uk

Deanery Synod - David Willatts

There have been two meetings of the Alcester Deanery Synod since I took up the appointment last May. The meetings were at Mappleborough Green and Claverdon. The meetings each had a speaker and a theme for discussion. In July the Diocesan Communications officer, Rev Graeme Pringle, spoke on the new website for the Diocese that he was creating to spread information around and its associated Email alert system. It would have the facility for people to select what they want, or need to know, without overburdening PCCs and others with things that are of no interest to them. In November James Holden spoke on sustaining the environment. He focused on the need to preserve habitats for wildlife whilst clearing the forests to provide land capable of producing food. There has to be a balance between the endangered species and the need to feed the world’s growing population, especially in Africa where we need to overcome the attitude of ‘We want to die tomorrow not today’. We discussed what we could do in our own parishes.

At both meetings the problems of the Parish Share was discussed and how the Deanery’s share was divided amongst the individual Churches.

In February the Deanery held a Saturday meeting where a guest speaker, Michael Harvey, spoke on ‘Unlocking Growth’. How do we swell our congregations – we must invite new people to the services and once inside the church door we must positively welcome them.

Prayer & Retreats

The life of our churches is underpinned with prayer, and Monday evenings, Thursday mornings and Friday evenings have seen regular weekly prayer sessions. Edna Philpott continued to offer her home for the Friday night prayer meeting but Monday night sessions have been poorly supported and have been suspended at the present.

A group attended Spring Harvest in Minehead and others also went to Lindisfarne again for a week of prayer, reflection and fellowship.

Many of our ladies again attended a two day ‘Colour’ conference hosted by Hillsong church at the Wembley Arena. The planned “Philia” day at Chipping Campden Baptist church was postponed due to the heavy snow.

Churches Together

This group has continued to organise events over the past year including the Lent Lunches at the Methodist Church and the Annual CT service held this year at St Laurence’s Bidford.
**Thank yous!**

We would like to record our grateful thanks to several folk who have retired or left our fellowship during the past 12 months:

- to Ray Stanley who retired in June from his position as Reader, Sacristan, Verger and “general factotum” after very many years of devoted service to our church; things that are not being done now are things Ray used to do!
- to Malcolm Spriggs who retired as our Treasurer and PCC Vice Chairman also after many years of faithful and invaluable service;
- to Andy Martin, and Mick Cocker our Readers who, with Kate Cocker were MLT members/Elders and who all decided it was time to move on to new areas of ministry;
- to Jayne and Phil Mottram who worked tirelessly for the church as PCC members and Secretary, homegroup leaders, Elder and ever faithful music group leader;
- to Gavin and Rebecca Reynolds who were involved, often quietly behind the scenes and also on the PCC, in so much of the life of St Matthew’s.

   Thank you so much, all of you! We miss you and wish you well.

We also thank Roger Huggins and Kevin Harrison, our Churchwardens for their work in the parish and on Sunday mornings, ably assisted by the group of Sidespersons who meet and greet folk as they arrive for services and give out the various bits of paper or books; and to the group of dedicated bell ringers who welcome us all to worship on Sunday mornings and also provide a wonderful celebration to couples after their weddings.

A special thanks to those who work behind the scenes; to Mike Davies who opens and closes the church every day; to those who lay out the altar and worship space for services and clear up afterwards; those who provide and arrange flowers, clean brasses and generally make ready for Sunday worship.

*Peter Walker - Chairman*

**Treasurer's Report**

In financial terms, St Matthews has been very much blessed over recent years, benefitting from a generous gift arising from a sale of a property in the late 1980s. In 2007 the PCC designated that £380,000 of this fund should be held as reserve for the ongoing maintenance and development of the church building. The PCC is currently discussing a number of projects in this respect.

In the year to 31 December 2012, there was an excess receipts over payments of £7,417 in the unrestricted funds (i.e. day to day income and expenditure, excluding the designated funds mentioned previously). However, there were a number of one off items included in 2012 income, and a number of items of expenditure that fell into early 2013 (i.e. a delivery of oil at c. £700). Therefore, whilst it is welcome that we were in a strong financial position in 2012, this should not detract from the fact that in financial terms, the church is not in a particularly strong financial position on a day to day basis, which is best illustrated by the 2013 budget as outlined below.

We collected some £8,000 from the Government as part of the gift aid scheme, and I would encourage anyone that has not previously made a gift aid declaration to allow us to recover tax paid on donations, but is in a position to do so, to
contact me.
We made contributions to support two younger members of the congregation towards mission related activities during the year. The PCC also bears costs in relation to hall hire for Cup Cake Café and the Community Group, as part of our support for mission in the community.

**Budget 2013**
This is best illustrated by the fact that the PCC reluctantly approved a deficit budget of nearly £7,000 for 2013. The movement from a surplus position in 2012 to deficit in 2013, can be explained by a number of factors. Firstly in 2012 we benefitted from one off income of over £5,000, which we would not expect to recur. In addition our regular giving decreased by over £300 per month during 2012, the full year effect of which is assumed in the 2013 budget.

On the expenditure side, the Diocesan parish share is our largest item of expenditure. Overall in 2013, the Heart of England contribution towards the Diocesan share stayed broadly flat at c. £74,000. It ought to be noted that this only just covers the cost of our clergy, with a small contribution towards the Diocese support fund, whilst other parishes make significant contributions towards this fund. Previously Bidford bore 50% of this cost, with Salford Priors bearing 33% and the other churches 17%. This split was agreed a number of years ago, and in the mean time, Bidford’s congregation has reduced significantly, to the extent that Salford’s congregation is now broadly in line with Bidford. The PCC therefore felt it fair that Salford should contribute more towards the Diocesan share, and at a meeting between Peter Walker and the PCC treasurers, it was agreed that Salford Priors would increase its contribution by £2,900, although it should be noted, that the total contribution remains significantly below that which Bidford currently makes.

With the budgeted impact of other cost increases, the end result of a budgeted deficit of nearly £7,000 clearly cannot be sustained year on year. I would ask all members of the congregation to consider and pray about whether they could increase their monthly giving. If you do not currently make your giving by standing order and would like to, please do let me know.

**Basis of Preparation**
As in past years the accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, meet the requirements of the Charities Act 1993, church Accounting Regulations 2006 and have been accepted by our Independent Examiners, Guard D’Oyly of Stratford.

**Reserves policy**
In Nov 2006 the PCC set out to determine the likely costs needed to maintain our Grade One listed church and churchyard for the future. The outcome of this research was presented to the PCC in March 2007 when it was agreed that, of the present invested capital, £380,000 be set aside for future maintenance. It was agreed that this designated fund be reviewed annually and would be flexible and responsive to needs as they arise.
Thanks
I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Malcolm Spriggs for his significant support in my first year as treasurer, firstly in the incredibly detailed and orderly handover, continuing to support me in terms of the banking of the collection and other items, and also for his considerable help in preparing the year end accounts, where my time has been limited given I have started a new job at a company whose year end is also 31 December! Malcolm continues to support me and I am earnestly grateful to him and Elizabeth for their support.

Andy Dean - Honorary Treasurer

St Matthew’s Church, Salford Priors
Financial Summary
to end December 2012

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<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<td>Other Receipts - Grapevine, Field Rent</td>
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<td><strong>FABRIC RESERVE</strong></td>
<td>448,163</td>
<td>405,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PCC Discretionary Fund (Designated)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(430)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vicarage Decoration Fund (Designated)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>3,699</td>
<td>3,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>3,699</td>
<td>3,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EV Fund (Restricted Fund)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opening balance</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>1,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing balance</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>1,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Glebe Land value at cost</strong></td>
<td>8,393</td>
<td>8,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Matthew's Closing Balance</strong></td>
<td>477,341</td>
<td>430,027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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