



# The Parish of the Ascension

*from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 28;*

*the Ascension, and the commission of the disciples*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

## *A prayer for our parish*

Lord our God,  
whose Son ascended to be with you in glory,  
bless all in the Church at Castle communities.  
Make us faithful, serving the Common Good  
and revealing your great love to all people,  
whatever their interests and needs.  
Give us confidence in proclaiming your word  
and compassion in all our deeds,  
so that we can truly become People Fully Alive,  
generous and visible disciples of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Annual Report 2015-2016

**The Parish of the Ascension Church at Castle ecumenical partnership**

[www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

Address: Parish of the Ascension Office, St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ

# The Parish of the Ascension

**The Parish of the Ascension** is a single benefice comprising several church buildings around Castle Hill and beyond (north of the river, as far as Gilbert Road, West Road, Histon Road and Madingley Road, beyond the M11). They form a family of community-serving churches.

**St Augustine's** was built in 1898 as a multi-purpose building; a primary school and social space during the week and a church on Sundays. It continues to be very much at the heart of its community.

**St Giles'** parish dates back to 1092. Open most mornings, the church is a quiet city-centre space for prayer and meditation. At other times it welcomes people in for the musical events, concerts, conferences, celebrations, commemorations and children's holiday clubs that take place. The garden is variously used for lively fun days, garden parties and picnics.

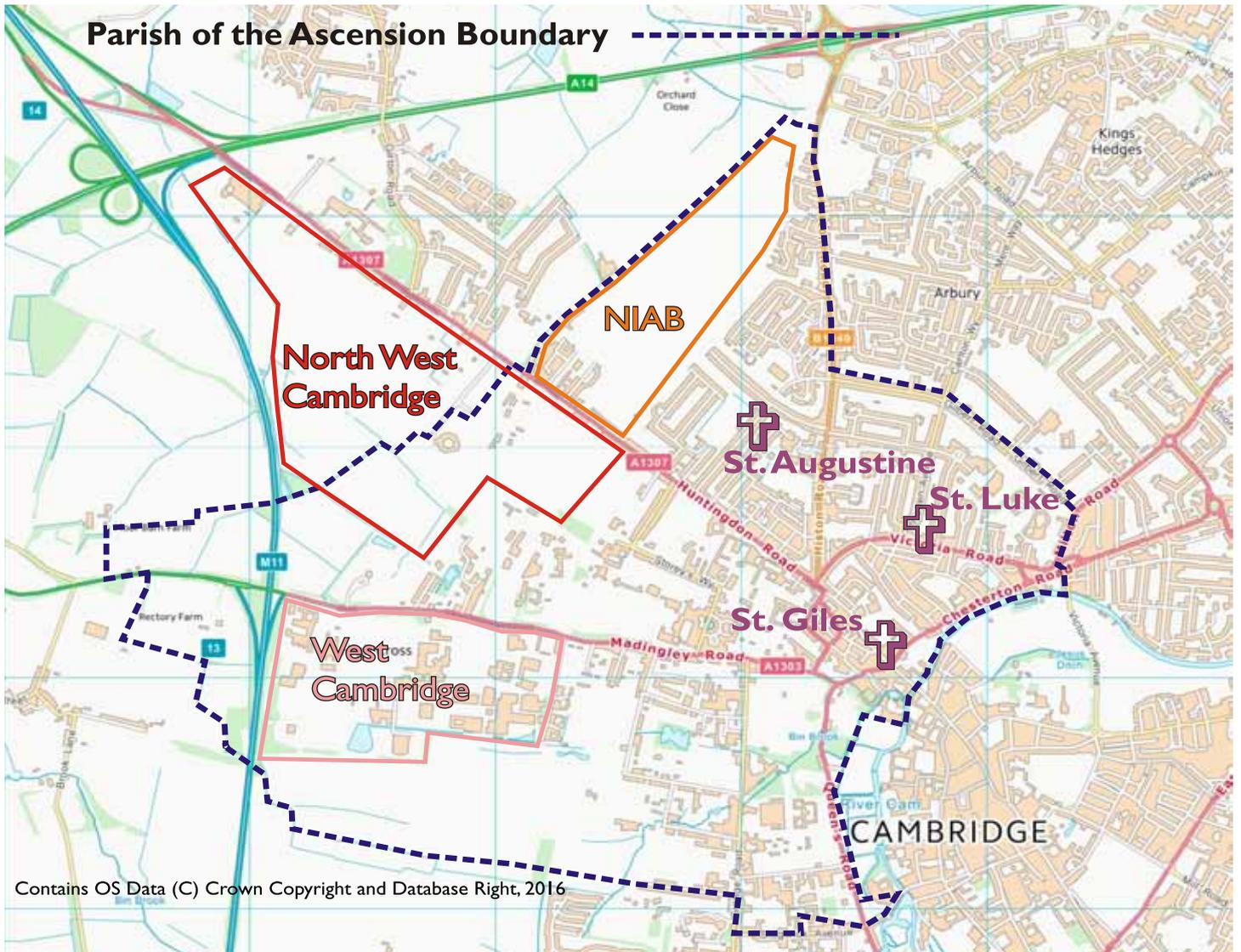
**St Luke's Church** is a local ecumenical partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. The halls and church rooms, called St Luke's Church Centre, are a venue for a wide variety of groups and activities.

**St Peter's Church** is located just across the road from St Giles' Church. Christians have been worshipping here for well over a thousand years. Care of the church is shared with The Churches Conservation Trust. The building is open as a place of quiet prayer and is sometimes used for exhibitions. Throughout the year special festivals are celebrated at St Peter's, and it is a quiet, sacred space for all to use.



Map of the parish showing the major development areas within and beyond the western part of the of parish.

There is also extensive infill development from Mitcham's Corner near St Luke's.



## ChurchatCastle - an Ecumenical Group

Together with Castle Street Methodist Church and the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St John the Evangelist, who worship in St Giles' Church, the churches offer an ecumenical witness in this northern area of the City of Cambridge. The umbrella name of 'ChurchatCastle' is used to describe the ecumenical character and activities of the churches and is reflected in the web-site, [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org).

## Social profile

The social profile of the parish's population is as diverse as the city of which it forms a part. Cambridge City Council, Mapping Poverty 2013 ([www.cambridge.gov.uk/mapping-poverty](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/mapping-poverty)) shows that there are significant pockets of need within the area that constitutes the parish. The evolving new housing developments, especially the University site, will add even more diversity with many more international students, scholars and their families coming to live in the parish.

## Representation

### *Parochial Church Council Terms of Reference*

The PCC is the legally constituted body for the area with ultimate responsibility for all the activities of the churches locally. It may delegate some of its responsibilities to the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Luke's, District Church Councils (DCCs) for St Giles' and St Augustine's, and to the Resources and Joint Outreach Committees as it sees fit.

It also assumes particular responsibility for the Parish's contractual obligations in respect of the Parish Room and the Burial Ground, and in respect of the Parish Administrator and any other person that may be employed by or contracted to it. It will as a result draw up and agree a budget annually reflecting these responsibilities. It will also determine the level of financial support provided to the different churches in respect of their responsibilities for meeting some of the central administrative costs and parish share. The PCC will act as the final authority in respect of any dispute between the

churches in the Parish, whether these are of a financial or other nature and in so far as it is within their jurisdiction. Members of the PCC will be elected annually by members listed on the Electoral Roll. The Chair of the Resources Committee is an ex-officio member of the PCC.

**St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC)** is a partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. Authority is delegated to this body within a sharing agreement between the PCC of the Parish of the Ascension and the congregational meeting of the United Reformed Church in all matters pertaining to the management of St Luke's Church. The ECC meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, except in August. Anyone in the congregation may ask for an item to be put on the agenda. Membership of the ECC consists of twelve lay members who are each elected for a period of three years, the URC minister and the Rector. Congregational Meetings take place every other month after the morning service; they are the forum for debate and open to everyone in the congregation (although only those on the Common Roll may vote). The Annual General Meeting takes place in March/April, when reports from the various organisations and activities are presented and elections are held.

## Administrative information

**Parish of the Ascension**, St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ

Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator's Office at the above address.

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank plc, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

**Legal advisers:** Diocesan Registrar; Barr Ellison, 39 Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1PN

**Independent Examiner:** Stephen Waller, Waller, Wilson & Co., The Forge Cottage, 2 High Street, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 7EJ

**Architect:** Julian Bland, Bland, Brown & Cole, 33a Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UW

**Book-keeper:** Laetitia Smith

**Parish Administrator:** Sheila Rozeik

## Electoral Roll

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules ('CRR'), an updated roll has been prepared in advance of the annual parochial church meeting. Thanks are due to Caroline Wilson, Sylvia Pick and Frances Klein at the three churches for their help in bringing it up to date.

During the last year we have lost seven members, four people having moved away, and three members having died. With the addition of twelve new members who have joined during the last year, the new roll now includes 143 members, which is an increase of five in total membership since last year.

## Parochial Church Council

as at the APCM, 21 April 2015

All members are ex-officio members of the appropriate DCC

<b>St Augustine</b>	2013 - 2016	Antony Rix
	2014 - 2017	Caroline Wilson
	2015 - 2018	Patricia McGuire
<b>St Giles</b>	2013 - 2016	John Jarvis
	2014 - 2017	Roy Papworth
	2015 - 2018	Andrew Gould
<b>St Luke</b>	2013 - 2016	Vacancy
	2014 - 2017	Sue Mudie
	2015 - 2018	Joan Jeans

## District Church Councils

<b>St Augustine</b>	2013 - 2016	Anthony Clamp
	2014 - 2017	Maggie Spencer-Thomas *
	2014 - 2017	Clare Hancock (elected for 2 years of a casual vacancy)
	2015 - 2018	Philip Mead
<b>St Giles</b>	2013 - 2016	Stella Cross
	2014 - 2017	Janice Papworth *
	2014 - 2017	Philip Cross *
	2015 - 2018	Helen Kinsey

\* not eligible for re-election when current term ends, as indicated

## Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC (elected annually)

<b>St Augustine</b>	Mark Wills, Gill Mead
<b>St Giles</b>	Arthur Hibble, Christine Schmaus
<b>St Luke</b>	Frances Klein, Paul Gibbs
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	representatives 2014 - 2017 ex-officio on PCC Mark Wills, Joyce Jarvis, Alison Taylor
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Richard Footitt
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Patricia McGuire

## Ministry Team (ex officio on PCC)

Team Rector	Philipa King
Team Vicar	Janet Bunker
URC Minister	Ruth Wilson
Asst. Priest	Ank Rigelsford
Asst. Priest	Tom Ambrose
Asst. Curate	Geoff Dumbreck
Retired Priest	Owen Spencer Thomas
LLM	Margaret Cooper
LLM	Marie Lucchetta
ALM (Pastoral)	Sue Mudie

# Parish Overview

## St Giles' Church

- ¶ The congregation of St Giles' have taken the diocesan prayer to be 'generous and visible people of Jesus Christ' to heart. We seek to show forth these qualities through hospitality and social engagement.
- ¶ We are proud of our heritage within the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, and wish to make it accessible to a new generation of Christians.
- ¶ This year, we have prepared a draft Strategic Plan for the next ten years. We are currently working through this plan point-by-point as a District Church Council, and much of this report is drawn from the draft as it stands.

## St Luke's Church

- ¶ St Luke's Church is a single worshipping community comprised of members of the United Reformed and Anglican tradition, within the Parish of the Ascension. The majority of the congregation subscribes to a common roll upholding the commitment to both our denominational traditions.
- ¶ We are committed to an ecumenical model of ministry and welcome people into our church community and buildings who have a variety of faith background.
- ¶ We aim to be an inclusive community informed by the imperative of the gospel to welcome all in God's name regardless of denominational affiliation, life circumstances or background.

## St Augustine's Church

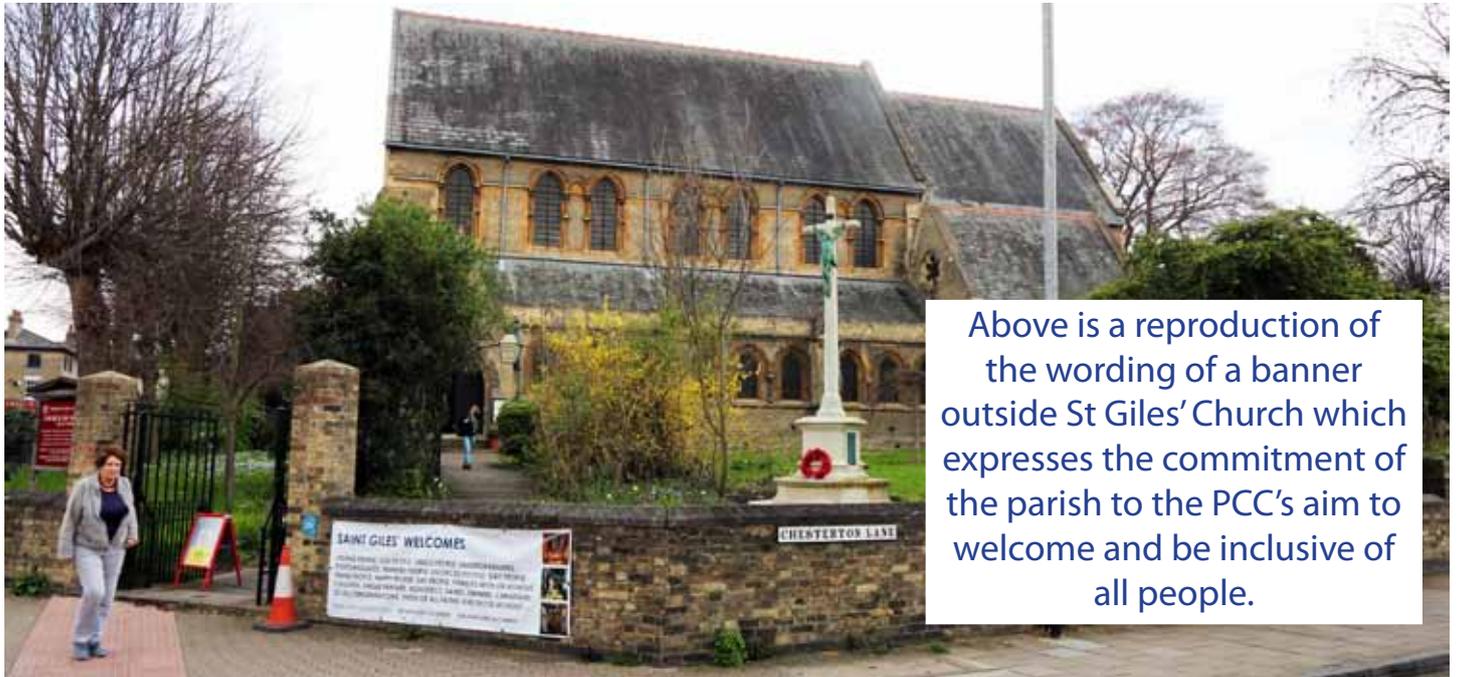
- ¶ This year has seen the completion of a three stage, £500,000 redevelopment and extension of the church building with the funds coming from a variety of sources, i.e. charities, local authorities and individual donations. The impetus for this redevelopment was two-fold. Firstly, the expected population increase in the area due to the new housing developments in NW Cambridge will lead to increased pressure on the limited local community facilities. Secondly, ever since it was built in 1898, St Augustine's has been a dual use building and the church continues to make a firm commitment to share its facilities and use its expertise to help new and existing residents in building strong and resilient communities.
- ¶ It is essential that we offer opportunities for fellowship and worship on the Darwin Green site. These will build on the social gatherings that have taken place at the King's Court development in recent years. Once a community space has been secured, we intend to offer regular Sunday Worship on the Darwin Green site and provide a 'welcome pack' for all new residents.

## Report from the PCC

- ¶ The PCC has met six times since the 2015 APCM. It continues its statutory oversight of the burial ground, the parish room and various development works at all the churches which maintain, update and improve their facilities; these works have been numerous and considerable over the past year. The PCC asked for and received advice on financial and resource issues from its Resources Sub-committee when necessary.
- ¶ The Council also began discussions about the Diocesan Strategy Document **People Fully Alive: Ely 2025** and the mission objectives of the parish and its congregations. This Annual Report is structured to reflect the activities of the parish under the headings of that diocesan report.
- ¶ The PCC receives an update on the new housing developments in the parish at every meeting. In August, members of the PCC and others attended a picnic held on the Kings Court site off Huntingdon Road (part of the Darwin Green development) to build links between new and existing residents.
- ¶ The PCC discussed and approved the business plans prepared for both St Peter's and St Giles' at the request of the Bishop in consideration of taking back St Peter's into the control of the parish. The establishment of a new Friends of St Giles' was welcomed by the PCC with the stated purpose of the group to 'preserve and enhance the building and grounds of St Giles', and to promote and equip the building and grounds as a centre for the community'.
- ¶ The PCC commended the management plan for the parish's burial ground prepared by Arkley Nurseries (which is available on the ChurchatCastle website). This plan will help ensure the site's future management as a place of rest and remembrance, a valuable local amenity and an historical and wildlife site. Ashes can already be buried in family graves but as space for burials of ashes in new plots is steadily reducing, a number of faculty applications were received and approved by the PCC for the reservation of these last few plots.
- ¶ The Standing Committee of the PCC approved on behalf of the PCC, Nigel Walter of ArchAngel Architects as the inspecting architect appointed by the Parish of the Ascension. His name has now been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval.
- ¶ At its February meeting the PCC agreed to affiliate to Inclusive Church, a Christian organisation whose aim is the full inclusion of all people in the Christian churches (especially the Church of England) regardless of ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation and also seeks to raise awareness about the ways that people feel excluded by the Church.

# SAINT GILES' CAMBRIDGE WELCOMES

**YOUNG PEOPLE, OLD PEOPLE, SINGLE PEOPLE, UNDERGRADUATES, POSTGRADUATES, MARRIED PEOPLE, DIVORCED PEOPLE, GAY PEOPLE, TRANS PEOPLE, HAPPY PEOPLE, SAD PEOPLE, FAMILIES WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN, SINGLE PARENTS, AGNOSTICS, SAINTS, SINNERS, CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS, THOSE OF ALL FAITHS AND THOSE WITHOUT ...**



Above is a reproduction of the wording of a banner outside St Giles' Church which expresses the commitment of the parish to the PCC's aim to welcome and be inclusive of all people.

## *People Fully Alive - a strategy for growth*

On 3 June 2015, the Ely Diocesan Synod voted overwhelmingly to adopt a new strategy, **People Fully Alive: Ely 2025**. This sets out an agenda for growth over the next decade. The diocesan vision, 'We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ' is a reminder that we are in this together. This vision gives us something to aim for, and compliments the strategy for the next ten years

**The strategy is characterised by three imperatives:**

- ¶ **Engage** fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally
- ¶ **Grow** God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders
- ¶ **Deepen** our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer

These imperatives offer a common language and focus across the diocese. Through the vision and imperatives, we can think about what we want the Church to look like in the future, and how it can serve not only our congregations, but offer ministry to everyone in our growing communities.

### **Five Levers of Change**

Five key elements emerged through responses from feedback to responses to the strategy proposal. These have been designated the Five Levers of Change. They are:

- ¶ **Nurture** a confident people of God
- ¶ **Develop** healthy churches and leaders
- ¶ **Serve** the community
- ¶ **Re-imagine** our buildings
- ¶ **Target** support to key areas

# OUR STRATEGY

**People Fully Alive** gives us a plan and we have used the imperatives and levers of change as a template for this report.

## Engage

*Our aim is to be at the heart of the local community*

### St Giles'

- ¶ In 2016, we continued to take steps to open the church more frequently, building on the success of Open Wednesdays. Plans to install CCTV are now at an advanced stage, and this will enable us to leave the church open while unattended for longer periods. Once again, we welcomed RS students from St John's College School, and led regular assemblies for the Castle School. The Christmas Tree Festival and Easter Egg Hunt have both grown, and are now a regular fixture in the local calendar.
- ¶ The church is used by many different groups, including student orchestras, other denominations, and an amateur dramatic society. We have hosted visiting choirs from London and Norway. The parish office is situated in St Giles' and serves as a hub for the rest of the parish.
- ¶ As part of our strategic plan, we have committed to reviewing community engagement at every meeting of the District Church Council (DCC), making the church's mission a standing item on our agenda.

### St Luke's

- ¶ We aim to be clear in our adherence to the call to be seen as 'Generous and visible people of God,' by engaging with people at the point of their need, modelling for them the love which God has shown to us in hospitable welcome and encouraging a community sense of ownership of our premises.
- ¶ The Church is used on a daily basis by people of all ages, from babies to the elderly and the Centre Manager is able to direct those seeking help to a member of the ministry team. The worship space is nearly always free for those who call into the building and clear information is offered about service times and activities. In addition there is a remembrance book and a prayer stand where people can leave a request for intercession.
- ¶ On a weekly basis the church hosts activities for

pre-school and primary school aged children; there are strong links with our Church School, St Luke's; there is liaison between the church and the Scouting communities and the Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE) has their office at St Luke's.

### St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's continues to be a popular venue for a variety of community groups; at present 25+ regular groups use the facilities as do many others for one-off events. The building's extensive redevelopment and refurbishment programme has been a response to its increasing popularity as a venue and also to the new housing developments in the NW part of the city, Darwin Green and the University NW Cambridge
- ¶ As part of its successful application to the city council for S106 funds (developer contributions to local infrastructure) St Augustine's stated, 'We, and many of the local groups meeting at St Augustine's, would be happy to offer our advice and experience in setting up and running community groups, and are happy to consider initiating and running occasional events on a trial basis were Darwin Green residents to request that.'
- ¶ Another successful new initiative has been the setting up of 'Cafe@99' which uses the front hall of the church to run a drop-in café which provides social space for the community and groups using the church building on Wednesday and Friday mornings. The café was initiated and is run by Richmond Road Residents' Association, an example of joint working and a growing sense of people being part of 'St Augustine's' without problems of ownership.
- ¶ The Open Door weekend (5-6th March) saw a programme of events to celebrate the completion of the building's extension and raise awareness of the new facilities. It drew large numbers of visitors to view exhibitions and archives of the building's history, to dance in a ceilidh, join in a thanksgiving service, to enjoy a community lunch and hear a concert from local music groups.

## St Giles'

- ¶ We are pleased to report that St Giles' has seen considerable growth in service attendance during the last year. This is largely due to the launch of the Vigil Eucharist, but the Thursday Holy Communion is also growing in popularity.
- ¶ The number of people associated with St Giles' (our 'worshipping community') has increased even more dramatically than our average attendance. In particular, the Vigil attracts many people on a semi-regular basis (whether because they are exploring Christianity at a steady pace, or because it allows them to attend worship when they cannot get to their usual church on Sunday). Several members have joined the roll, bringing with them great enthusiasm and a range of skills, from leadership to music, gardening and maintenance.

## St Luke's

- ¶ We communicate with the wide variety of people of all ages who use our church building, while being respectful of their right to rent a community space for a discrete purpose, through targeted communication to those entering the building ('Who we are', baptism, marriage, funerals, etc.).

- ¶ In the coming year we plan to enhance the links we already have with the Scouting groups and COPE by initiating shared activities, continuing to provide mid-week groups for children and their carers and offering mid-week opportunities for people to talk about the things that concern them in the context of faith.
- ¶ We have initiated the development of Inspiration, a course on spiritual nurture for new parents and their babies, based on the book *Starting Rite* by Jenny Paddison (CHP), a development of the Church of England's Christening Project.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ Members of St Augustine's congregation are active members of their community and the 'boundaries' between church and community are blurred and fluid. This makes it easier for people to move between the two and feel that they belong to 'St Augustine's'. People in the community know the Christians at St Augustine's and know they are approachable and welcoming.
- ¶ St Augustine's has recently joined the Student Christian Movement (SCM) to engage with the local student community.



# Deepen *Exploring ways to deepen our Christian faith*

## St Giles

- ¶ In 2015, we held two quiet days, attended by individuals from the parish and beyond, and are extremely grateful to Fr Raymond Tomkinson and Fr Eric Simmonds CR for leading them. Three further quiet days have already been arranged for 2016.
- ¶ In Lent 2015, as an alternative to a Lent Course, we developed a short Bible Study using the Benedictine practice of *lectio divina*. This proved very popular, and has been repeated in 2016.

## St Luke's

- ¶ The Ecumenical Church Council is planning to explore further the requirements of the role of Elder, in both denominational traditions.
- ¶ In collaboration with the other Church at Castle churches we will offer a *Pilgrim* course.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ The Upper Room Group and the Men's Group continue to draw people further into critical enquiry and understanding of faith and how that is lived out in contemporary society.
- ¶ Free material about the Christian faith (illustrated below) is provided in the front hall of the church and has proved popular with those attending Cafe@99 and hall activities. Much of the material is from SGM Lifeworlds.
- ¶ We have had the joy this year of welcoming a number of our younger congregational members (7+) into communion before confirmation as well as including them on our readers' rota. Due to the age profile of our children and young people, from toddlers to teens, we have arranged age-appropriate activities and are looking to further involve them in our Sunday worship.



# DEVELOP *healthy churches and leaders*

## Lay and ordained leadership

***We have a strong ministry team that meets regularly and which includes ordained and lay members.***

### St Augustine's

- ¶ Lay members of St Augustine's are involved in every aspect of the church. The Director of Music leads two flourishing choirs which sing in special services and perform concerts of secular and sacred music. Lay people read Scripture and lead intercessions in Sunday worship. There is lay leadership of our Sunday School.
- ¶ For a number of years ordinands from the Cambridge Theological Federation have been attached to and preach at St Augustine's during their training and both the congregation and the students have benefitted enormously from this arrangement.

### St Giles'

- ¶ St Giles' Church has long been blessed with significant levels of lay involvement and leadership. Several mission activities, including seasonal events, Open Wednesdays and church meals have been initiated and overseen by members of the congregation. We have empowered lay musicians by appointing a Director of Music for each of the main services. We have involved local choirs in the Saturday Vigil, including St Augustine's Chamber Choir and Fitzwilliam College Choir. We have also appointed a 'choir in residence', Cambridge Vocal Consort, who will rehearse at St Giles' in return for support at major festivals.
- ¶ We require ordained priests to lead the three Eucharists held each week. Members of the ministry team have been heavily involved in reviewing these services and providing worship materials, but most of the day-to-day service preparation is now undertaken by lay people. This enables our ordained ministers to use their time more effectively.
- ¶ St Giles' is pleased to welcome a number of ordinands from nearby theological colleges, and they have helped with music and serving at the Vigil Service.

### St Luke's

- ¶ St Luke's Church is fortunate in having the input of lay and ordained leaders from both denominations. LLMs, ALMs and the director of music are part of the Wider 10 Ministry Team.

- ¶ Live Wires for primary school children, Little Acorns for pre-school children and their carers, and a Sunday morning children's group are led by lay and clergy teams working together.
- ¶ The Ecumenical Church Council performs the function within the URC tradition of the elders meeting. An elder is called to 'foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community.'
- ¶ An all-member pastoral link scheme offers an identified member of the congregation whose task it is to pray and offer support to all members of the church's common roll and alert a member of the ministry team to particular pastoral need.
- ¶ St Luke's welcomes ordinands on a regular basis from the Cambridge Federation.

## Structured review

***Development action planning (DAP) will be undertaken at a parish level, and in conversation with our ecumenical partners, in response to the diocesan strategy.***

### St Giles

- ¶ The most recent ChurchatCastle weekend (summer 2015) intensified a conversation process that will help us to identify ways of working together on mission projects. Rather than ignore our differences, we intend to celebrate our individual contributions and traditions, encouraging a mixed economy of religious expression in NW Cambridge in current and new-build housing.
- ¶ We will consider our progress towards parish-wide DAP objectives at each DCC meeting, as part of our regular discussion of mission.

### St Luke's

- ¶ A monthly wider team meeting provides an opportunity for each church represented in the ecumenical network ChurchatCastle to exchange information, and develop ideas for working together. On the other Tuesdays of the month a planning meeting is attended by authorized ministers in the Team.
- ¶ The Ecumenical Church Council oversees the fabric and mission of the church and community centre.
- ¶ Individual ministers participate in annual reviews according to the requirements of our parent bodies.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ The St Augustine's District Church Council identifies as its main mission field in the future the new NW Cambridge housing developments. As outlined above, St Augustine's will offer its facilities and expertise, working alongside the residents, in building up the resilience of these new communities and in making links between new and existing communities.
- ¶ The charities which the church supports have been recently reviewed. We remain in long term partnership with the Spitalfields Crypt trust but are looking to support persecuted Christians through Canon Andrew White's charity, the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME).

## Fresh Expressions and traditional church

*Within our three buildings and ecumenical partnership a wide variety of worship is offered. Building on this substantial experience we are considering ways to provide further diversity, particularly within the new developments.*

### St Giles'

- ¶ St Giles' is committed to traditional, eucharistic forms of service, but embraces the challenge of making such liturgy accessible to all.
- ¶ This motivation is reflected in the different 'feel' of the Vigil service, where modern musical settings and a more relaxed style have been introduced to great effect.

- ¶ We will continue to develop these services, and commit to running more 'special events' (such as pets services). We will also investigate raising our profile among under 18s, and are currently examining the possibility of a monthly Messy Church meeting.

### St Luke's

- ¶ St Luke's common liturgy is approved by the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council.
- ¶ A non-eucharistic, creative service for all ages occurs once a month and we are using Godly Play resources within these services.
- ¶ An evening service based on the Iona liturgy occurs twice a month.
- ¶ We are in the process of reviewing the liturgy and installing a visual system to enhance our worship and facilitate further creativity to support worshippers with a diverse range of preferences, abilities and spiritual styles.

### St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's has a weekly eucharistic liturgy on Sunday mornings which is greatly enhanced by music provided by the Director of Music.
- ¶ It is likely that members of St Augustine's will form the initial nucleus of any new worshipping community on the NW Cambridge housing developments and this will involve a change of worship style. This move will echo the initial 'church plant' from St Luke's that established St Augustine's in the new housing of the early twentieth century in this part of the city.
- ¶ Occasional choral evensong, with the excellent amateur choirs of St Augustine's, has proven popular.



# SERVE *the community*

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## Supporting the marginalised

*We have a strong track record of working with groups marginalised in society and this work is locally well-known and valued.*

### St Giles'

- ¶ In 2014, St Giles' became one of the first host churches for the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, and more than half the parish volunteers were drawn from our congregation. This year we have continued to work with other churches, providing food and a place to sleep during the coldest nights of the winter.
- ¶ Several members of our congregation suffer from poor physical or mental health, or are new to Britain, but find a warm welcome at St Giles'. The banner installed at our gate in September 2015 makes explicit some of the groups that we welcome, and has been extremely warmly received by the wider community.
- ¶ We offer financial support and raise awareness for our nominated charities through charity concerts and our monthly bake-sales. These include charities for the homeless, families of prisoners, and school children in Kenya.

### St Luke's

- ¶ In the immediate vicinity of St Luke's Church there are various group homes housing people with varying levels of need in terms of mental health and in the daily tasks of living. These groups are proportionately represented in the congregation and are assisted in their attendance at church worship, meetings and social events by other members of the congregation. Where necessary dialogue occurs between the church and other professional bodies offering support.
- ¶ Local, national and international charities are identified at a congregational meeting and supported throughout the year and we have strong links with Lyn's House, a community run on the principles of L'Arche communities.
- ¶ The annual Christian Aid street collection is organised by a lay member of St Luke's and there are weekly collections for the Cambridge Food Bank. Members have participated in the Cambridge Homeless Project, providing meals and sleeping over in Castle Street Methodist Church.

### St Augustine's

- ¶ At St Augustine's we offer opportunities for those who find it difficult to fully participate in the wider community of the City to take part in some of its rich possibilities locally, meeting with others who are able to participate more widely. This reflects a view that we do not want to marginalise further those who might be isolated by treating them differently from their neighbours. We bring people together. A good example of this is the regular and free Friday Nights at St Augustine's where speakers, often experts in their fields, present lively and engaging talks. These free talks have grown in popularity with 50-70 people attending.
- ¶ The monthly Community Lunch Club offers food and fellowship for the more elderly and/or isolated members of the local community.
- ¶ St Augustine's is a Fairtrade church and holds a Fairtrade stall twice a month, profits from which are donated to the Cambridge Foodbank. St Augustine's also collects money and goods for the Foodbank.

## Working with schools

*We have strong links with our church school and with other neighbourhood schools as well as a number of pre-school groups.*

### St Giles

- ¶ St Giles' enjoys links with the Castle School, St John's College School, St Luke's School, Park Street School and Mayfield. Several schools, uniformed organisations and children's groups contribute to activities here.
- ¶ The Cambridge Programmes, a summer school for international students, has continued to hold its annual Evensong at St Giles'; for some of the 400 participants who came this year, this was their first experience of a Christian church. We value our good relations with Kettles Yard (though now closed for refurbishment) and the Museum of Cambridge, both of which undertake children's work and the latter uses the garden and church space for school groups.

### St Luke's

- ¶ There are strong links with the local church school, St Luke's. The church hosts various seasonal services throughout the year and is the venue for the end of year leavers' service. In addition to this, the church is

used as a venue for school concerts.

- ¶ St Luke's Church Centre houses a Montessori Day Nursery, Smith's Children. It also hosts the ArC Children's Centre toddler group and a music group for pre-school children.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's is home to a number of children's groups including a long-running Korean School, Kumon classes and various pre-school drama and music groups. The Team Vicar visits Mayfield Primary School to talk to the children about Christianity and being a Christian minister and the children visit the churches in the parish as part of their curriculum studies.

## Contributing to the Common Good

*All our churches are valued as a resource by the communities they serve.*

### St Giles'

- ¶ Events such as shared meals, the Homeless Project, and seasonal events have contributed to community cohesion by bringing together individuals and interest groups from across the area. This contribution was recognised by the City Council, who yet again supported us with generous area committee grants for the Christmas Tree Festival.
- ¶ Several student groups find a home at St Giles', promoting a closer working relationship between the University and local community.
- ¶ We are building up new links with U3AC (University of the Third Age in Cambridge) through our Thursday morning series of talks on Cambridge heritage.

### St Luke's

- ¶ Social events at St Luke's have included a series of travel talks that have been hugely successful. The fundraising generated by this will be used to fund a new visual system.
- ¶ The Church Centre has three full-time tenants, the day nursery, COPE and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Other regular users include ArC Children's Centre, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Yoga, Pilates, Poetry Group, Al Anon and AA, Little Acorns, Livewires, Knitting Group, Sing and Swing, St Luke's School and Sunflower Nursery.
- ¶ St Luke's hosted a well-attended hustings event before the 2015 General Election.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's is one of the few community facilities for hire in this part of the city. It is used by children's music and education groups as well as uniformed groups like the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. There are exercise, yoga, dance and art classes, Bridge and Chess clubs and it is the venue for the Cambridge Korean School, Castle Townswomen's Guild and local residents' association meetings. It is also a popular venue for children's parties. Except for a paid cleaner, St Augustine's is run by volunteers from the church congregation and local community.

## Working in partnership

*Partnership working is fundamental to all our work, and is second nature across the parish and Church at Castle.*

### St Giles'

- ¶ St Giles' has strong ecumenical links as a member of the Church at Castle family of churches. Our 'St Giles' welcomes' campaign is explicit that we welcome members of other denominations.
- ¶ In 2013, our building became home to the Romanian Orthodox Parish of St John the Evangelist. This congregation continues to flourish, and we enjoy an excellent relationship with the priest and congregation alike. We signed a memorandum of understanding in early 2015, in which we promised to work towards a formal agreement.
- ¶ St Giles' has historic links with St Peter's Church, and the Parish Office provides a point of contact for those wishing to find out more about services and events in that building.

### St Luke's

- ¶ St Luke's has a long track record of ecumenical and community partnership. The Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) is reviewed separately by Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council.
- ¶ In recognition of the value to the community the building and the church community provides, we have received significant grant support from Cambridge City Council.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's has worked with the City Council over a number of years to provide a wide range of facilities and activities. The Donors Board in the new extension shows the wide range of people and organisations that have supported St Augustine's which has built up a considerable amount of goodwill in its community.

## Development and modernization

***We are community-serving churches. All three buildings have seen extensive, ongoing development and modernization since the 1980s.***

### St Giles'

- ¶ St Giles' is in a reasonable condition for a building of its age, but several improvements would make it more suitable as a centre for the whole community.
- ¶ The basement is permanently flooded with water, but we have taken advice from a structural engineer to find a permanent solution, in order to provide much-needed storage for community activities.
- ¶ The heating and lighting system are functional, but could be improved to provide a more comfortable experience for worshippers and community users alike, and greater revenue. The sound system needs renewing, and the cast iron guttering requires relining every ten years.

### St Luke's

- ¶ We have continued to undertake the work outlined in the Quinquennial Inspection Report 2013, some of which has been funded by grants from the AmeyCespa Community Fund and S106 grants from the Cambridge City Council.
- ¶ We work closely with the Nursery to improve facilities for their children and we are grateful to Max Gordon-Smith, its owner, for his rapid action following a break-in in April 2015 and in developing further security arrangements.
- ¶ We hope to improve the storage of our textiles and to consolidate our archives in 2016.

### St Augustine's

- ¶ St Augustine's has been transformed over the past three years. The building was originally conceived in 1898 as having more than one use, supplying a much-needed school, a church and community/social facilities. The redevelopment over the past three years has improved the shared spaces, making them more flexible for contemporary uses, for both public and private events.

- ¶ The installation of digital projectors and AV equipment will enhance the worship and the regular free talks on a variety of subjects known as 'Friday Nights at St Augustine's'. The equipment will also enable the church building to be used more for conferences and meetings.



## Sustainability and changing use

***All churches are fit for purpose and extensively used by widely-differing groups.***

### St Giles'

- ¶ Development building work has the potential to put a strain on the church finances, and to divert funds from our mission work.
- ¶ The Friends of St Giles' was founded in 2015 in response to this challenge. It set out to launch a funding appeal, running up to the 150th Anniversary of the 'new building' in 2025.
- ¶ This will seek to raise £250,000 in grants and donations, to fund capital projects, and to further the church as a resource for the entire community.
- ¶ There is also the possibility of working more closely with St Peter's church in the future; this small historic church is an attractive venue for weddings and events but has no power or running water. Users could hire the facilities at St Giles' as part of a joint package.
- ¶ We have appointed a booking secretary to increase

income from rental of the church, and to promote St Giles' as a venue for concerts and other events. We will seek to double rental income in the coming decade.

## St Luke's

- ¶ Negotiations are underway to secure a tenant who is willing to invest in the refurbishment of the property that has been known as 'the Scout Hut' in exchange for a fixed security of tenure. This building is an important asset in the future financial stability of St Luke's Church. We have identified a member of the ministry team who is willing to oversee the project which will be the main new focus in our target to use our buildings to their fullest potential.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ Improved facilities at St Augustine's are expected to increase usage, and therefore rental income, which will be used to reinvest and manage the facilities and to rebuild reserves for the future. By including more local residents in running the activities at the church, it is hoped that the responsibilities can be shared more widely. The wide community use of the building enables St Augustine's to present a strong case when applying for grants and funding from external organisations.



## New housing developments

*The Parish of the Ascension covers a large area of NW Cambridge, which is currently being developed or planned for development.*

## St Giles'

- ¶ St Giles' stands at the gateway of NW Cambridge, and serves as a stopping off point between the commercial centre and residential areas. We will seek to exploit this prominent location, welcoming those who move to the area.

- ¶ The skills learned in developing the Vigil Service will enable us to take a leading role in religious provision in the areas of new housing.

## St Luke's

- ¶ Some of the new dwellings at Darwin Green are occupied by people formerly housed in supported-living community homes in Garden Walk, adjacent to St Luke's church. Pastoral links with these people have been maintained.
- ¶ We will welcome people to the new housing currently under construction at Staples Corner, not far from the church.

## St Augustine's

- ¶ With the construction of the University of Cambridge's North West Cambridge site and Darwin Green developments on the edge of the city it is estimated that the parish's total population will rise by 10,000. This increase in population will be in the area adjacent to St Augustine's and as mentioned above, this will be the main mission area for the foreseeable future.



# Thanks to all our volunteers

- ¶ We would like to thank all the volunteers who give so much of their time and resources to make our communities the lively and vibrant places that so many value.

Copies of this report are available from the parish office at St. Giles' Church  
or online at <http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2290>