

# The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

## Annual Report 2012

24th March 2013

Cross and Stable Church  
Downs Barn Milton Keynes

Serving Conniburrow Downs Barn Downhead Park Neath Hill Pennyland



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

### **24 MARCH 2013**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 11 March 2012
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Annual Reports as at 1 March 2013 attached
5. Acceptance of the Financial Statement (2012)
6. Acceptance of the Membership List
7. Appointment of Church Officers
  - a) Wardens: Currently Bob Cross
  - b) Secretary Currently Gwen Green
  - c) Treasurer Currently Gill Grant
  - d) Minutes Secretary Currently Gwen Green
  - e) Team Leaders:
    - e1) Senior Steward Currently Ken Brine
    - e2) Worship Currently Bob Cross
    - e3) Junior Church none
    - e4) Pastoral Group Amy Head
    - e5) Furnishings & Flowers Vacancy
    - e6) Christian Aid Rep Currently Gill Grant
    - e7) Social Events Vacancy
    - e8) 2 Reps without portfolio  
Amy Head; Alice Maynard (resigned)
8. Representatives -
  - to be elected or nominated where appropriate
  - a) SEP Currently Bob Cross, Gill Grant
  - b) Mission Partnership Currently Gwen Green
  - c) Management Committee  
Two representatives of Mission Partnership  
Andy Jowitt, plus one  
Four nominated representatives of the  
Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership  
Bob Cross, Gill Grant, Andy Jowitt, Ken Brine
9. For information only:
  - a) Management Committee (Charity No 1017685)  
Two User Group Representatives vacancies  
Two Residents Representatives Beverley Labbett  
One rep. of the Milton Keynes Council  
Rick Brackenbury  
One rep. of the Linford Parish Council  
Vacancy
  - b) Cross and Stable Church & Community Centre  
Trustees. Charity No 1017685  
The Centre Trustees  
Vacancy nominated by MK Council  
John Wheaver nominated by MK Council  
The Parish Trustee  
Joan Wilson nominated by Linford Parish  
Council  
The Church Trustees  
The Pastoral President - Vacancy  
The Vicar by virtue of office  
Amy Head nominated by the Vicar
  - c) Directors of Cross & Stable Charity. (Charity No 800370)  
Vicar, Ken Brine, John Wheaver,  
Paul Brookman, Peter Green

10. Any Other Business:

11. Date of next AGM

Note: Easter 2014 - April 20th

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Cross and Stable Church**

### **Held on Sunday 11th March 2012**

**Present:** The Reverend Paul Smith (in the chair) together with 14 members and friends. Rev Andy Jowitt arrived a little late

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Jeanette Smith and John Wheaver

#### **2. Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 13th March 2011 were agreed and signed by Rev Paul Smith, following a few amendments: Heading: Financial Statement 2011. We need to be more careful to get the date of the next AGM correct and changes need to be made asap with everyone being informed.

#### **3. Matters arising from the minutes:**

9b. The Ringing Recruitment was very successful; over 40 signed up to training sessions. After a 38 year break Cross and Stable may soon have a team of ringers for regular practice and Sunday morning ringing!

#### **4. Annual Reports**

All the reports for 2011 had been circulated beforehand. Thanks to Peter and Gwen Green for assembling, photocopying and stapling them. There were a few errors: Rev Chris Collinge has been in post 7 and a half years. The financial statement pages will need to be redone. Our minister wished to highlight: the pastoral reorganisation is of major concern to Cross and Stable; the initiative of ministry to the deaf each month is appreciated. There are difficulties of maintaining a presence as a small unit. I commend Andy Jowitt to you all. Paul recommends we help finance the next edition of NETwork for the cost works out at 24p a copy; £1000 for 4,000 copies. As a partnership things can be done together: successes involved the Riding Lights Theatre Group, Christmas Cracked, the Visit of Bishop John Pritchard to give three Advent Lectures; we wish to congratulate Peter Ballantine on becoming a Canon of Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford. We need to check that we

have the Partnership Safeguarding policy in place: Judy Thorp is the new representative. There is a new Methodist/United Reformed Church United Area - for joint ecumenical work together. Amy Head is our representative on this committee. Mission Partnership has positive projects which we can be involved in eg: the Theology Forum and Leipzig/Milton Keynes Link. The photocopier is a definite asset to have.

#### **5. Financial statements 2011**

A number of errors were discovered and so the two pages 9 and 10 will be amended and brought before the Congregational Meeting in September. However, the corrected pages will be inserted into the Annual Reports for the Stantonbury Partnership AGM on 19 April 2012.

#### **6. Membership list**

The adoption of the present membership list (dated 31 December 2011) was agreed. A number of extra copies of the list with addresses and telephone numbers will be available to officers, but data protection Act prevents wider circulation

#### **7. Appointment of Church Officers**

The list of Church Officers was proposed en bloc by Paul Bright and seconded by Gill Grant.

A number of names have changed:

7c.4 Amy Head will enable the Pastoral Group to function.

7c.7 Jeanette Smith will resign from the Social Events Committee. Joan Wilson will enable this.

7c.8 Officers without Portfolio - Amy Bright, proposed by Bob Cross, seconded by Gill Grant; Alice Maynard proposed by Amy Bright, seconded by Peter Green. At present Beverley Zialor wishes to leave 7c.8. Names to be ratified by the Stantonbury Partnership AGM on April 19 when 2 Parish wide Church Wardens will also be elected. [At present Bob Cross is one of them].

#### **8. Election of Representatives**

a) SEP : Bob Cross and Gill Grant - SEP AGM on 19 April 2012.

b) Mission Partnership : Gwen Green. Paul Bright is also willing to be a member of this committee.

c) Management Committee. It is advisable that representatives are not also Trustees of the building to avoid conflict of interest. However, Andy Jowitt will serve on both committees by virtue of office. Bob Cross, Amy Bright, Andy

Jowitt, Peter Green, Ken Brine.

This list was proposed by Paul Bright and seconded by Gill Grant, and agreed by all.

#### **9. For information:**

a) Cross and Stable Management Committee have Beverley Labbett, Richard Brackenbury as community members. There are vacancies for area and user representatives.

b) Cross and Stable Community Centre Trustees: David Labbett, John Wheaver, Joan Wilson, Amy Head, and Andy Jowitt to serve.

c) Cross and Stable Charities Directors (No 800370) Andy Jowitt, Ken Brine, John Wheaver, Peter Green and Paul Brookman to serve.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

a) There will be flowers for Mothering Sunday and Gwen Green will make sure there are hot cross buns after worship on Good Friday, April 6th.

The Dedication of the Officers will take place at Morning Service on 25 March.

b) Andy Jowitt said that Bradwell Village would like to invite Cross and Stable Members to a cream tea one Sunday afternoon [date to be fixed]. Bradwell also had some pew Bibles to spare; however we wished to thank them but said we did have quite a number of Bibles at Cross and Stable. There was a wish to continue having the weekly readings on the notice sheet!

#### **11. Date of the next AGM - 24 March 2013 [Palm Sunday]**

The meeting closed with the Blessing at 12.45pm

Signed: Chairman

Date

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#### **Downs Barn Minister's Report 2012 - 2013**

Minister's Report for Cross & Stable Church, Downs Barn  
It's now just ten months since I took on the role of minister for Cross & Stable Church. For me one priority was to try and find time to get to know people and to get to know the area. I've very much appreciated the supportive and friendly welcome I've received.

At the time of writing, I'm just back from a Key Stage One assembly at a nearby school. I've been able to visit all the local schools for assemblies on a reasonably regular basis, and am glad that this link with our local community has proved possible. Before Christmas, Year 6 children from Brooksward School came to church for the 'Christmas Cracked' programme and a team including Cross & Stable members took the presentation to Southwood School. It went down very well. Right now dates are being set up for the 'Easter Cracked'

programme.

The situation is of course a new one for all of us as I share my time between two churches and two pastoral areas, and as Cross & Stable develops a link with a different church in the Partnership. For me, there are three morning services to oversee, but only two I can be at on any one Sunday. I personally miss the continuity of seeing people Sunday by Sunday, but I value the different contributions made by people within our congregations and those from the SEP or wider church scene in Milton Keynes who are willing to help. At Bradwell Church a number of the 10.45 am services are now led by members of the congregation, together with a majority of the evening services. More and more, these are the resources churches will depend on to build a sustainable future.

I've appreciated the welcome I've received and know that church members seek to be welcoming to others. The time before and after services is a key part of this. We are not running a Sunday School as such at the moment, but we usually seem to have some children in church and I'm very keen we do our best to help people coming with children to feel at home. Gill has done a great job setting up activities to keep the children happy and busy and I aim to engage them in at least a part of the service. Over these last ten months we have welcomed in baptism two little ones, Bobby and Jack, and one adult: Marion Peters joined in with a baptism and confirmation preparation group at my house and was baptised in the morning at Cross & Stable Church and confirmed in the afternoon at Christ the Cornerstone. A big day.

An important feature of our Sunday worship is the signed service. We have a wonderful team of signers who give of themselves very generously. Sadly, just as we were getting to know Andrew Taylor-Cook in his role as Chaplain for the Deaf community, we learnt that the Oxford diocesan part of his remit was to come to an end. I'd enjoyed working with Andrew and people had quickly taken to him, so it's been sad to say goodbye. We'll have to wait to find out what future plans are for the chaplaincy role.

Next Christmas we'll need to take care that publicity is in place for the Signed Carol Service, and clashes avoided. Though not large, our Christmas numbers were a little up on the previous year. We welcomed in a few visitors and I enjoyed the Crib and Christingle Services the Sunday before and the Café Carols on Christmas Eve, and felt the format worked pretty well. The time around Christmas was a demanding period for me for all sorts of reasons. Peter Green very kindly stepped in to take the service on Christmas morning. I was able to spend some time with my uncle on Christmas Eve (the day before he died) and then, thanks to Peter, gather round my mother's hospital bedside with family members on Christmas Day.

Members of the Stantonbury Partnership play a part in the life of Cross & Stable Church (and members of Cross & Stable Church in the life of the Partnership). With help from musicians from different churches as well as our own, we have been able to enjoy good music each Sunday. Members of Bradwell Church have been eager to build bonds of friendship and fellowship, hence the popular invitation to a Cream Tea last May. One Monday a month people join from the two churches for an hour or so of fellowship and prayer for the

church and the community.

Thinking community, a major boost to one part of our pastoral area will be funding in Conniburrow from the 'Big Local' grant. I have been serving on the steering group for 'Big Local' and have helped out at the community outreach events. I hope we'll see a long-term benefit for the area. "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you". Jeremiah 29:7

Looking to the future, I ask, "How can we build our church?" Maybe I should be asking, "How does God want to build our church?" I hope that there'll be the synergy for people to meet for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. Gwen has started a day-time Lent course (thank you) and a home-based evening group is a possibility for the future.

The Dragonflies Pre-School closed suddenly in November. The good news is that there have already been enquiries about starting a new group at Cross & Stable. I hope we can also look creatively at new ways for the fine building we have to benefit the community and the mission of the church. Could we establish a parents/carers and tots group? Are there activities that will serve people at the other end of the age spectrum? The international mission agency 'Interserve', which has its HQ at Wolverton Mill South, is in dialogue with the Mission Partnership about a placement, potentially in our area. Could we be a base for a community project led by Interserve? Could our church, or one of the schools in our area, be the venue for a Youth Café on the lines of those established by 'Pulse' at the Brickhills and Walton?

Thinking Sunday worship, we have in mind to try a short All-Age invitation service. We've pencilled in Sunday, 16th June 9.30 – 10.00 am for our first try, and have a kind offer of help with the music.

Finally, I'd like to end with a thank you to the officers and members of the church, who contribute with such good heart to the smooth running of our church and our building. People give sacrificially, not least of their time, and there is a real spirit of service among us.

*The Reverend Andy Jowitt, March 2013*

## **Churchwarden's Report**

The year under review has been an unusual year in our Church's life especially in the way that our Minister has changed. Paul left us after many, much appreciated, years of ministry and Andy arrived, Almost overnight. From a congregational point of view, seamless and no interregnum [what a bonus]

Paul had been our Vicar for a long time, sharing his duties between us and Willen. An ordained member of the wider Parish retired and the subsequent reordering of Ministerial duties meant that we had to relinquish a fine ministerial leader in exchange for a fine ministerial leader who we welcomed wholeheartedly amongst the sadness of losing a Minister

We are a small congregation but, together, strong in our ways and I feel confident that we will grow in numbers as time passes. Together we pray that numbers will increase and there are some small signs that numbers are improving.

Our strongest element must be the signed service that takes place on the first Sunday of each month with our dedicated team of signers for whom we are all very grateful. I think we all gain from the way a signed service is presented and hope that we may continue with this for a long time.

Sadly, as you read this, you will know we are losing the services of the recently appointed chaplain to the deaf, Andrew, and we will miss his special contribution to our worship

In the meantime life goes on. A gallant band of worshippers contributes each Sunday to the preparation of the Church, and it dismantling it for the use of others, and also contributes to the worship. There have been some very welcome volunteers lately to help share these tasks and if there is anything you would like to do, please talk to the Vicar, or Ken Brine or myself and you would be very welcome. Those who have helped through the past year, I would like to offer my hearty thanks on behalf of everyone.

There is a vacancy for a Warden and if you feel you would be interested, please approach the Vicar or myself.

*R&C 1st March 2013*

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### **Report from the Worship Team for 2012**

The Worship Team meet most months to review past services and to plan for the future. Many other issues are also discussed including types of service, preachers and hymns.

The normal pattern of services is an Anglian Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month [signed], a Methodist style Eucharist on the second. Sunday, a Baptist style on the third Sunday and a non-Eucharistic service on the fourth Sunday.

When there is a fifth Sunday, the form of service is varied according to ministerial availability.

This availability has changed with our change of Vicar as the Parish Ministerial team has lost Chis Collinge [retired] and she has not been replaced.

We are very grateful to a variety of Ministers who have led our worship, Sunday by Sunday and the variety itself leads to an enrichment of the experience

We are further blessed in our Worship by the volunteers who prepare the church [and dismantle it ] Sunday by Sunday; those who prepare the Table, administer to each service and generally provide help and support. Not least, our gratitude to the signers who make our monthly signed service possible

If you notice anything in which you would like to share, please talk about it to any member of the Worship Team who would be delighted to hear from you.

Equally, if you have any concerns or thoughts about our worship, you are welcome at any of the meetings

*R&C 3rd March 2013*

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### **Ruminare**

This men's social gathering continues to meet at various locations in Milton Keynes as a group for men to socialise and enjoy fellowship with each other.

There is variation in the Meetings in that at some we eat and chat, at some we listen to a visiting speaker, at some we take part in a quiz and sometimes we walk between a meeting place and a pub.

No membership of any church is required; a meeting of men for the sake of fellowship – all are welcome

*R&C 1st March 2013*

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### **Report from the SEP Representatives for 2012**

2012 has been a year of Change, Encouragement and some disappointment for SEP.

Rev Chris Collinge retired from the Parish at the end of March, which leaves Rev Andy Jowitt, Rev Chris Howden and Rev Paul Smith, as full time, and Rev Peter Ballantine, as half-time, Rev Mindy Bell, as part time, (who is currently on maternity leave following the birth of a son), as Ministers responsible for SEP.

Rev Andy Jowitt has taken on responsibility for Cross and Stable together with St Lawrence Church, Bradwell. Rev Paul Smith is now the minister for Willen and New Bradwell Churches.

The Bridgebuilder projects, Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked have continued with Clergy leadership and plenty of Lay support. The Cross and Stable hosted two classes from Brookward School and visited Southwood School in Conniburrow.

There was a Lent programme of "Accompanied Prayer" with 11 people taking part.

In November one of our members was baptised at C&S in the morning and she was one of 8 candidates from SEP who were confirmed in the evening.

An excellent copy of the Partnership magazine "Network" was printed and distributed in the spring with sufficient advertising and sponsorship revenue to cover the cost. Unfortunately the editor is unable to continue and there have not been enough offers of help to produce the next edition.

After another year of discussions with Denominations and solicitors the "Sharing Agreement" for St James Church is still not finalised. Until this goes ahead New Bradwell Church is unable to receive any money from the sale of the Methodist Chapel.

We have had notice that SEP lay-chair, secretary and treasurer will all be standing down at the SEP AGM in April. We thank them all, Mike Morris, John Figg and Maggie Prisk for their years of service and pray for the right candidates to take their

place. All Members of the Cross and Stable are invited and encouraged to attend the Partnership AGM on Thursday 18th April at Christchurch.

*Gill Grant & Bob Cross*

### **Mission Partnership Report 2012**

Rev Canon John Robertson was welcomed as Director of Ecumenical Mission on 28 April 2012 at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. A reflection and planning day was held on 9 June at Stony Stratford.

Latest priorities for the Partnership include interviewing for an East Flank Pioneer Post; discussion ongoing to enable a Nigerian Church integration with Holy Cross and the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership. A job description is being drawn up for an Interserve Fieldworker for the Conniburrow area.

The project groups are also busy: the MK Environment Group have a meeting on 7 March entitled 'Affordable Warmth' at the Well at Willen; the MK Theology Forum meet on Monday March 11, 7.30pm at The Quaker Centre to discuss 'Love at the Limits: Euthanasia and Assisted Dying'. The Mission Partnership Assembly will meet on 13 March 7.30pm at Whaddon Way Church Centre to hear Rev Dr Roger Paul - the Church of England National Ecumenical Officer - on new approaches to ecumenical work.

Nearer to home on the 9 March 9.30-12.30 (breakfast at 9am) at Christ Church, Stantonbury, Canon John Robertson will facilitate a conversation on 'What's Going On'.

The next Mission Partnership AGM will be on Tuesday 18 June 7.30pm; venue to be arranged.

*Gwen Green*

### **Photocopier**

The photocopier keeps going although the engineer always says it is time to replace it!

It has only done 15,000 copies this year. We have contributed £100 towards the use of the Snug and paid all our bills. We lost about £60 when the Pre-School closed and defaulted but otherwise everyone pays up. We have about £1900 saved up for when a replacement is required.

Let Peter or Gwen know if you want to use it. Only 2p a copy. We doubt if anywhere is cheaper!

We do hope that for users and individuals having access to a copier on the premises at very low rates is worth the inconvenience of the space taken up in the Snug.

*Peter Green, 28th February 2013*

### **Treasurer's Report**

The financial records for 2012 were kept as receipt and payment accounts. The figures were prepared monthly and presented to the Officers at bi-monthly Church Meetings

A sum of £2320.37 was received as Tax returned on gift-aided donations.

The final account at the end of December shows that there was a shortage of receipts against payments of - £1949.91

In January 2012 an extra payment of £2000 was made to Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership from the surplus of £3483.47 during 2011 when £8000 was paid to the Partnership.

£33 was collected at the December signed carol service and forwarded to the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People The loose collection money from the other Christmas Services totalled £340.25. In January 2013 this will be sent to "Embrace"

The amount collected for Christian Aid Week was £260 which was paid directly into Christian Aid's Account.

In March 2012 the Church Bell Fund was made a restricted fund at the request of the C & S Management Committee. They are willing to donate 80% of Bell Ringers rent and donations to this fund. In 2012 this was a sum of £196.80.

*Gill Grant*

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	31st December 2012	31st December 2011
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Investments</b>		
Deposit Fund CBF	3052.57	3,025.87
	3,052.57	3025.87
<b>Current Assets</b>		
HSBC Account	267.52	207.52
CAF Bank Account	2,905.51	4,890.32
Unpresented banking	364.86	183.66
Unpresented cheques	-233.00	0.00
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
	3,304.89	5,281.50
<b>Accounts Total</b>	<b>6,357.46</b>	<b>8,307.37</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	5,086.71	7,115.76
Restricted: Church Bell Fund	1,197.50	1,000.70
Designated Fund (for organ repair)	73.25	73.25
Designated Funds	0.00	117.66
<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>6,357.46</b>	<b>8,307.37</b>
Funds January 1st 2012	8,307.37	4,460.33
Excess of receipts against payments	-1,949.91	3,847.04
Total funds December 31st 2012	<b>6,357.46</b>	<b>8,307.37</b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Gift Aid Tax Claim (2011)	1,564.70	1,768.00

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR 2011****GENERAL FUND**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Congregational		
Covenants & Gift Aid	3,988.40	3,801.15
Standing Orders	4,570.00	5,700.40
Tax Recovered	2,320.37	3,246.96
Uncovenanted Planned Giving	583.00	515.76
Collections & coffee	1,773.46	1,120.26
Other Services (Lovat Fields)	83.25	282.87
C&S Gift Day	0.00	0.00
	13,318.48	14,667.40
<b>Other Income</b>		
Social events - coffee morning	59.05	0.00
Donations and CAF Vouchers	1,150.00	1,460.00
Bank Interest (current account)	2.85	3.50
CBF Interest (deposit account)	26.70	15.10
Baptisms Weddings Funerals fees	90.00	293.50
Bell Fund Restricted	196.8	30.00
Designated Funds for Open Door	100.00	25.00
Designated Funds for SEP Sour Run	62.47	
Designated Fund for Hearing Dogs	33.00	
	1,720.87	1,827.10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,039.35</b>	<b>16,494.50</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Ministry</b>		
Quota	12,000.00	8,000.00
	12,000.00	8,000.00
Church rent to management committee	4,200.00	4,100.00
Church Services	29.52	324.27
Junior Church	-	-
Photocopies	132.61	73.86
Sundry	114.00	74.40
Christmas Leaflets	200.00	
	4,676.13	4,572.53
<b>Grants:</b>		
Open Door	217.66	363.57
Soup run	62.47	74.93
Hearing Dogs	33.00	
	313.13	438.50
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>16,989.26</b>	<b>13,011.03</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts against Payments</b>	<b>-1,949.91</b>	<b>3,483.47</b>

## Cross and Stable Members and Friends

### Members

Surname	First Name	Denom
Aderemi	Olukemi	A
Archer	Joan Mary	A
Argue	Allen	A
Baines	Susan	A
Brine	Joan	A
Brine	Ken	A
Crawshay	Richard	B
Cross	Bob	A
Finch	Joy	B
Ford	Jim	A
Grant	Gill	B
Green	Gwen	A
Green	Peter	A
Head	Amy	M
Joseph	Damayanthi	A
Joseph	Suresh	A
Maynard	Alice	A
Payne	Elizabeth	RC
Peters	Marion	Ecum
Wheaver	John	A
Wilson	Joan	A
Zialor	Beverley	A

### Denominations

Anglican	16
Methodist	1
Baptist	3
URC	0
Ecum	1
Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

### Friends

Surname	First Name
Boulter	Gill, Phil and Jack
Buchan	Ann
Casey	Katie
Conway-Freestone	Eileen and Rick
Davis	Charles M
Goldney	Hilda
Goldsworthy	Chris, Tracy and Niah & Ceola
Harvey	Jenny
Jowitt	Jane
Lubbock	Lyndsey
Monk	Doreen
Payne	Leslie
Payne	Christopher
Payne	Joanne
Pooley	Chris B
Pooley	Shirley B
Sheil	Chris
Wells	Billy
West	Phyllis
Wood	Billy
	George

### Organists

Prisk	Adrian
Rouse	Helen
Beryl	Spikings
Stammers	Diana

### Deaths in 2012/13

Lou Wilson - 7th March 2013