



ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH
EDGBASTON

FIAT LUX

4th December 2010



ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH
EDGBASTON

**The Civic Inauguration
of the new lighting scheme by
the Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress
of Birmingham
to include the re-launch
of the Friends of St Augustine's**

"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1:3-4

*Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress of Birmingham
Councillor Mr Len Gregory and Mrs Gillian Gregory*



*"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare
unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."*

1 John 1:5



The Lord Mayor's Parlour

When the Lady Mayoress and I came to St Augustine's in July, to attend the West Midlands Fire Service Band concert, as part the fund-raising programme for the new lighting and re-wiring in the church, we made it known that we would be happy to come along and perform a formal inauguration of the lights when the project was complete. The Lady Mayoress and I were therefore delighted to be invited to come and launch the new lighting scheme now it is finished.

St Augustine's is a beautiful Victorian church, well-suited to the style of traditional high Anglican worship that is practised here and so it is appropriate that you have a lighting scheme that supports and enhances that experience.

The Parochial Church Council is to be congratulated on its vision and commitment to making sure that the delightful architectural features are enhanced by a well-designed lighting scheme.

I understand that the fund-raising to pay for the project will take three years and you have already hit your target of a third of the cost for 2010. The Lady Mayoress and I wish the PCC and congregation well in raising the remaining funding during 2011 and 2012.

I am also pleased that as part of tonight's proceedings the **Friends of St Augustine's** is being re-launched and I hope that everyone here tonight will become a member of the Friends.

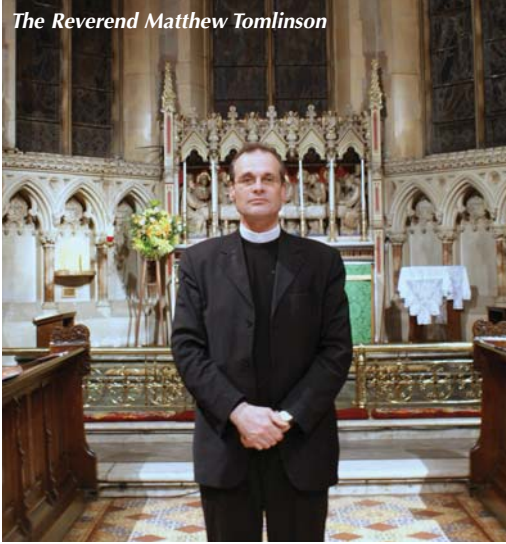
Councillor Len Gregory
Lord Mayor of Birmingham

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

From the Vicar

The Reverend Matthew Tomlinson



It seems entirely appropriate that as the church enters the season of Advent, when we recall the coming of the Light of Christ into a darkened world, we should celebrate the new lighting at St Augustine's and banish the gloom. As the words of so many Advent Carols speak of a long awaited Saviour, on a more worldly level this is indeed a 'long awaited' event for St Augustine's, since it is some 20 years since consideration was first given to replacing the very inadequate lighting which failed to show the church at its best.

Throughout history the Christian story has been told through, and Christians have been inspired by, visual art, and there is a wealth of this in St Augustine's – for example the corbels showing the twelve apostles, many holding the instruments of their martyrdom; the foliate column capitals marking the seasons of year; the reredos sculpture behind the High Altar showing the last supper, and above all, the glorious depiction of heavenly worship in the chancel ceiling. These and many other features of this church have been wonderfully enhanced by the new lights and can now be more fully appreciated. Indeed, some of the congregation are noticing architectural features of the church that they have never noticed before.

The lighting in the church and launch of the re-invigorated Friends organisation is a cause for celebration and I am very grateful to Stephen Hartland and Marguerite Usher Somers for initiating the lighting project and for efficiently seeing it through to completion.

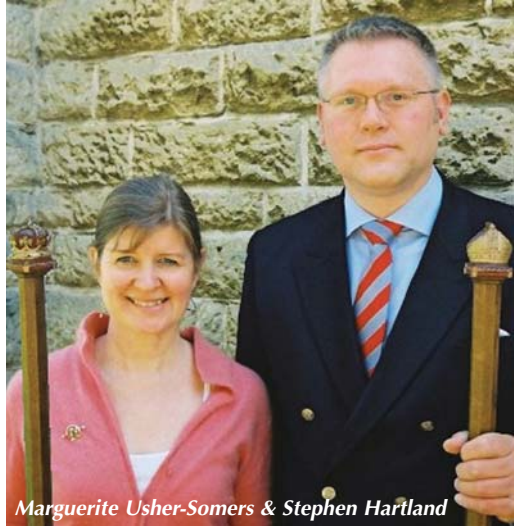
I am also delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress to inaugurate this new lighting scheme.

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night"

Exodus 13:21

From the Churchwardens

Churchwardens are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish. As well as the smooth running of the church and the safeguarding of all the property and moveable goods belonging to the parish, our other important task is the maintenance of the church building, and such tasks vary from temperature control, roof and fabric maintenance and repair and, of course, lighting.



Marguerite Usher-Somers & Stephen Hartland

We determined early on in 2009 that the time had come for the church to be re-wired, since the last time the church was re-wired was over 50 years ago. So, with the approval of the PCC we sought quotations for the complete re-wiring of the church, to include an appropriate lighting scheme. Then, having scrutinised the method statements, costs and the overall proposals we recommended to the PCC that we award the contract to Ecclesiastical Lighting, as the scheme proposed was much superior to other contenders.

The work was carried out in August and September and was completed on time. We have paid for the re-wiring by borrowing from our capital and intend to re-pay this through fund-raising between 2010 and 2012.

We are already a third of the way to re-paying the cost of the installation which has been achieved by generous donations from parishioners, fund-raising events such as the concerts in June and July by Birmingham Choral Union and the West Midlands Fire Service Band, the Summer Fête and more recently the White Raven concert as part of the Birmingham Early Music Festival.

We hope to mount similar fund-raising events over the next two years to achieve our target.

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:6

Evening's Itinerary

- 7.00 pm** Arrival of guests for Drinks Reception in the Narthex
- 7.30 pm** Arrival of Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress of Birmingham,
Councillor Mr Len Gregory & Mrs Gillian Gregory
- 8.00 pm** Guests take their seats in the Nave
- 8.10 pm** The Vicar, The Reverend Matthew Tomlinson,
welcomes everyone and introduces the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor formally invites guests to join the
Friends of St Augustine's followed by
the inauguration of the new lighting system
- 8.15 pm** **Son et Lumière**
with organ music provided by Bernard Salter
- 8.20 pm** Churchwarden, Mr Stephen Hartland, introduces the
concert
- 9.30 pm** Concert concludes followed by closing remarks from
the Churchwardens

Please feel free to stay awhile and admire the lighting
- 10.00 pm** Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress depart

*"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let
them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."*

Psalm 43:3

Fiat Lux Concert



Wood Green High School Handbell Ringers

The group will play a selection of Christmas items



West Midlands Fire Service Band Clarinet Ensemble

Caprice	Clare Grundman
To A Wild Rose	MacDowell - arr. by Alden Estes
Misty	Erroll Garner - arr. Gareth Brady
Bagatelle	Clare Grundman
Sheep May Safely Graze	J. S. Bach - arr. A. L. Wyver
Jingle Bells	Pierpont - arr. Hyde



Stephanie Bec

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565	J. S. Bach
Pavane	Gabriel Fauré
Saints on a Spree	Nigel Ogden

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*
Psalm 27:1

The Friends of St Augustine's

The Friends of St Augustine's was set up in 1978 with the object to maintain, support and benefit St Augustine's. It is a registered charity, number 508312.

Over the years it has made many gifts to the Parochial Church Council and more recently it has helped with maintenance work on the organ and fundraising for the lighting project.

However, by early 2010 the number of trustees had dwindled to only two, and the future of the Friends was being discussed, possibly with a view to bringing the Charity to an end. However, it was discovered that there were several people willing to serve as trustees and a handover was arranged. We thank the outgoing trustees for their work over a large number of years.

Tonight the Friends is being re-launched and with this commemorative programme should be a trifold telling you more about how you can join the Friends.

The new trustees are:

Roger Slater (Chairman)
James Fletcher (Treasurer)
Margaret Hale (Membership)
Colin Hutcheson
Julie Ward
Judith Bailey

There are a number of benefits to membership including newsletters and social events – and the knowledge that your subscription is going to maintain the building of this beautiful Victorian landmark.

The newly invigorated Friends organisation intends to work to support St Augustine's and hopes to be a source of support for the many projects that a church needs to operate as a centre of the community.

The trustees are currently formulating an events programme for 2011 and look forward to working with the Parochial Church Council to help stage successful and fund-raising activities. We would encourage you to help us in our work and start tonight by becoming a Friend, as the more members we have, the better placed we will be to achieve our mission.

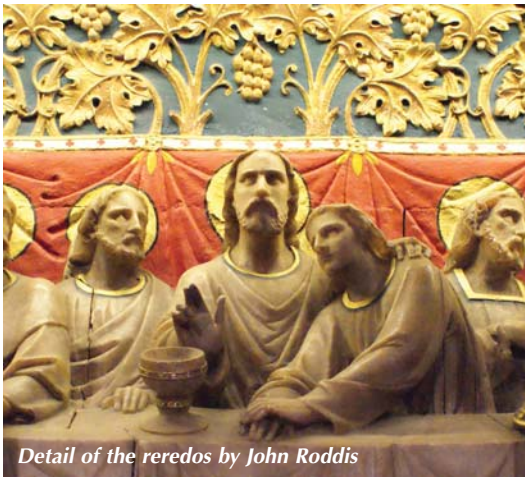
"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

Psalms 36:9

History of St Augustine's

In 1866 the Birmingham architect, J. A. Chatwin (1830-1907), won the competition to design a church to be dedicated to St Augustine of Hippo and the patronage vested in the Bishop of Worcester, in whose diocese Birmingham was then included. Chatwin chose the Geometrical style of architecture, found in churches built at the end of the thirteenth century.

On 12th October 1867 the Bishop of Worcester, Dr. Henry Philpott, laid the corner stone and less than a year later, on 2nd October 1868, he consecrated the church.



Detail of the reredos by John Roddis

In 1877 the original design of the church was completed by the erection of the tower and spire. It was also at this time that the reredos was erected. The sculpture in the church, including the column capitals depicting the transition of the seasons, the apostle corbels and angels were all carved by John Roddis (1839-1887) who was responsible for many other churches in Birmingham and also the Museum & Art Gallery (1885).

In 1898 incidents from the life of St Augustine were carved over the West Door and in the same year the church was lit by electricity for the first time.

During the incumbency of Archdeacon J. H. Richards, between 1929 and 1937, the South Transept was cleared and formed into a Lady Chapel. The dedication took place in 1936.

In 1968, to commemorate the centenary of the church, the Narthex was added.

Now, in 2010, we can add that the church has been endowed with its most impressive lighting scheme.

*"But the path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."*

Proverbs 4:18

Tonight's Performers

Wood Green High School Handbell Ringers

Wood Green High School Handbell Ringers was formed in 1984 from pupils from the school.

In 1991 the handbell team, with the school's brass band, toured Switzerland giving concerts in the Interlaken area. Then in 1992 the two groups collaborated in producing a recording.



In 1994 the handbell team celebrated ten years of existence by launching "Project U.S.A. 96" which culminated in the senior team embarking on a three week tour of the U.S.A. giving a series of concerts in Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Phoenix in July 1996. Currently, the performance

unit comprises ex-pupils from the school, who, as and when demand requires, perform as a small group, mainly around Christmas time.

The history of handbells goes back to when William and Robert Cor of Wiltshire cast the first set of tuned bronze handbells in 1660. These handbells were used to practise the musical changes for the church tower bells, but ringers soon became interested in using the bells to ring melodies.

Simple arrangements of hymns and folk songs began to appear, written for newly formed bell choirs. By the end of the eighteenth century, nearly every village in England had its own handbell choir.



Handbell ringing is truly a part of England's Christian heritage and we hope you enjoy our offering tonight in the beautiful setting of St Augustine's church.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:6

Tonight's Performers

West Midlands Fire Service Band Clarinet Ensemble

Tonight's clarinet ensemble comes from the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service. The Band of the West Midlands Fire Service is a wind band with members from all areas and ages of the community. Formed over 25 years ago by serving firefighters, today the band has grown to over 50 members strong who bring their musical expertise to make The Band what it is.



Locations have included prestigious venues like the Birmingham Symphony Hall and as far afield as Germany and Norway, and of course they played their 25th anniversary concert at St Augustine's in 2009, returning in 2010 for a fund-raising concert in aid of the lighting project in the church.

Tonight's ensemble is made up of the following performers: Stephanie Hyde, Patrick Ryan, Vicki Gray, Judith O'Donnell, Lois Cooper, Linda Cole.

Stephanie Bec - St Augustine's Organ Scholar



Stephanie began her musical training as a pianist and became an organist at the age of 13 when she began playing for her local church. She is currently in her fourth year at Birmingham Conservatoire, studying organ with Henry Fairs and Daniel Moulton. Stephanie has also received tuition from organists such as Susan Landale, Jacques van Oortmerssen and Hans Fagius. She has recently taken up the post as Organ Scholar at St Augustine's church, Edgbaston.

Stephanie has performed in many different venues, including The Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen; St Wulfram's, Grantham; Newcastle Cathedral and St Chad's RC Cathedral, Birmingham. She has played in masterclasses in Paris, Amsterdam and Sweden, and early next year will be going on a study trip to Hamburg with the Birmingham Conservatoire Organ Department.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light"

Ephesians 5:8

Ecclesiastical Lighting is delighted to have been chosen to design the lighting scheme at St Augustine's and the quality of the installation is now displayed for all to see. Working with our installation partners, A. J. Electrics (Coleshill) Ltd and the Churchwardens at St Augustine's, we hope you'll agree that what has been achieved is something we can all be proud of.

Gerry Browne - Director



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THE CHURCH
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