

CHURCH, SOUTHGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH
Year: April 2021 to May 2022

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of supporting the clergy in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre and Walker Halls, 6/7 The Green and 62 Oakfield Road.

The Parish population is circa 8,500.

REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL Electoral Roll Officer: Patricia Ashby

Now in its third consecutive year, membership of the current Electoral Roll for Christ Church, Southgate has – as we shall see – increased a little and it is a pleasure to note that we have been able to welcome thirteen new members since the names were last reviewed in May 2021.

In summary, then, at the same time as adding thirteen new members to our number since the last report, it has been necessary to remove six other names: four members have died and notification was received of two members leaving the area and no longer attending Christ Church.

In conclusion, then, the overall total of the roll has increased by seven from 220 in May 2021, to 227 in May 2022.

VICAR'S REPORT: Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert

It falls to me as the incumbent of Christ Church Southgate in 2021 to write a report about a year that continued the unprecedented in the life of this church caused by the COVID pandemic. We were closed again for almost three months at the start of the year and the practical changes were difficult and required rapid decision making and flexibility.

The year started after a very strong Christmas offering with the difficult decision to close the church again as the infection rates in Enfield and locally were very high – we remained closed from Epiphany Sunday (the first Sunday in January) until Mothering Sunday (the 14th March) when Sunday morning and Thursday services returned. This meant that the main worship was again the pre-recorded services on our YouTube channel. A video service of the word was issued each week for the first 5 months of the year until the end of May – with extra specials for Easter. They were supported by clergy and laity recording readings, prayers and sermons at home, as well as the choir going “virtual” – recording and filming voice parts of a psalm, anthem and two hymns for each week, which were edited together by the Director of Music. The viewing figures for these services have been very strong – from about 100 to over 500 in some instances – more than would have come to church. As a result, the choir and music continued to thrive. Choral evening services on Sunday returned in June (once more singing was allowed) and the Tuesday evening Eucharist returned in August.

Easter and Holy Week was fully and joyfully celebrated but with reduced music and singing, and contact limiting measures in place, which inevitably changed the liturgy. The ability to just have Easter again was warmly welcomed. Easter Sunday numbers were nothing like pre-pandemic levels but over 160 in total.

A highlight in the summer was the licencing of Amy Li as a Lay reader to join the clergy team which was streamed live. We have also welcomed Claire Betts and her family from St Paul's, New Southgate to worship with us during her theological training. Claire has started preaching and praying with us as part of her development and learning.

In August, singing returned with a bang and a residential weekend for the choir in Bristol Cathedral – a lovely time was had by all.

In November, the Bishop of Edmonton came to celebrate our Patronal Festival and lead a service of Confirmation with 17 candidates. This service was written up by the London Diocese and was picked up as a news item in the Church Times because 8 of the candidates were prepared by our new LLM Amy Li through her extensive on-line ministry in Chinese.

We also made the Church Times in November when we became the first church in the country to sign up as a Healthy Healing Hub as part of the Go Health community. This is a real marker for the future.

Despite the pandemic capacity restrictions and being closed for about a quarter of the year we have continued to provide services for the community at pivotal times of their lives, so have performed 2 marriages, welcomed 17 people into the Christian Faith through baptism and conducted 14 funerals – in both church and crematorium.

It was great that Christmas at Christ Church was almost back to normal with the usual service pattern, but the online choral services from the previous year were re-promoted. Numbers were a great improvement on the previous year but still less than pre-pandemic levels. It was great to have a church full of people singing carols again with great energy and enjoyment. Huge thanks to Richard Brain and Kate Macpherson for all the excellent music throughout the year – both live and recorded and often both at the same time.

During Advent the knitted crib figures that make up the Travelling Crib were able to go on their usual house-to-house journey around the parish. However, this was backed up with a journey inside the church building, with their daily location posted on all our social media platforms so they could be tracked. It gained over 30,000 views across December.

Our printed materials and digital footprint continued to flourish this year. Our subscribers to Twitter, Instagram and our weekly email held up at the levels that were generated by the first lockdown in 2020. The extended print run of 200 of the Spire Magazine was continued and it was still delivered to every household on the electoral roll, as well as other subscribers. The December edition was the last one edited by Clare Boulton and Patricia Ashby, so huge thanks go to them for all that they have done to keep our community together – Bishop Rob is a particular fan of the Spire. Huge thanks also go the rest of the “comms team” of Caroline Robertson, Hilary Meur, Judith Limbert, Richard Brain and Clive Woodhouse, as well as all those members of the community who have written or created material for publication.

Sadly, the annual Vicar's Pre-Lent Big Quiz was lost to the closure but reappeared, rebranded and rapidly sold out as a Harvest Quiz. It was keenly contested by church and community teams while raising over £1000 for the RNLI – our son Chris is a Lifeboat Crew volunteer and delivered the tie-break question live from St David's. The quiz was the only major community event that was to survive the closure. The Christ Church Association (CCA) bar was able to reopen in the autumn but no drinks or refreshments were served in church at all in 2021.

All our regular four non-faith Schools came back to church for services at Harvest and Christmas – in fact we welcomed a record number of 520 school children in December.

Our monthly services in our parish care homes and taking communion to the housebound was dramatically curtailed but we were able to return to care homes in the autumn.

The weekly “Stop Falls” session for Age UK was stopped by the pandemic as was our weekly café on a Friday morning as part of the “Places of Welcome” scheme. We hope to be able to restart both soon.

On every Sunday that the church was closed, I did a Prayer Walk around the parish boundary – a total of approximately 6 miles – as before. By the time we re-opened in early 2021 this amounted to a total walked of 168 miles. I regularly saw a number of other people having a go as well.

Many parishioners were also seen outside, as during 2021 Sandra Anderson led the formation of the ‘Friends of Christ Church’ garden which has made huge strides in clearing and developing our spaces as a resource for the whole community and to care for God’s wonderful creation.

I must record my personal thanks to the dream team of Wardens Clare Boulton and Kate Carroll for their immense support and hard work that benefits us all in so many ways. All that we did in 2021 would also not have been possible without the clergy team of Rev Hazel Miall, Cathy Dallman, Jackie Anderson, Sandra Anderson and Amy Li – so many thanks for all the blessings they bring to us. There are so many people who have contributed in many and varied ways to keeping the CCS community together during another strange year – to all of you many, many thanks. We still have plenty of work to do to shape our service to the community post the pandemic as we continue to spread the knowledge of the love of God across the parish and beyond. So, I ask you all to think and pray about what you can do to help.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (P.C.C.)

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	The Revd Dr Chrichton Limbert (Chair)
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Hazel Miall
Churchwardens:	Clare Boulton (Vice-Chair) Kate Carroll
Lay Readers:	Cathy Dallman Jackie Anderson Sandra Anderson Amy Li (from July 2021)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Peter Holiday (until August 2021) Ronald Lo John Macrory
Electoral Roll Officer:	Patricia Ashby
Elected Members:	Tracy Allen Christopher Howell (from May 2021) Hilary Meur

Elected Members: Angela Parker (from May 2021)
Beverley Rutledge
Gina Stone
Clive Woodhouse

FUNCTION AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES OF THE PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates through a number of committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC, and report to it. The Vicar and Churchwardens are ex officio members of all committees. The current membership of all committees is given below.

Finance & Standing: *Chair: Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert*

As the only committee required by law, the Finance and Standing Committee has oversight of the financial health of Christ Church by monitoring income and expenditure, and budgeting. It has the power to continue the business of the PCC between meetings if a mandate is in place.

Members: Clare Boulton (Warden & Acting Treasurer), Kate Carroll (Warden), Hilary Meur (elected PCC Member); Clive Woodhouse (elected PCC Member).

Outreach: *Chair: Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert*

Members: Sandra Anderson, Patricia Ashby, Clare Boulton, Richard Brain, Kate Carroll, Judith Limbert, Ronald Lo, John Macrory.

Plant and Fabric: *Chair: Kate Carroll*

The Committee supports the PCC in delivering the premises and fabric related targets set out in the Mission Action Plan.

Members: Fr Chrichton Limbert, Briony Hadjidaniel, Peter Holiday (until August 2021), Chris Howell, John Marriott, Mick Meur, Phillip Miall.

Social Responsibility (SRC) *Chair: Vacancy*

The Social Responsibilities Committee oversees the support of the Christ Church Southgate parish to charitable organizations with aims and missions commensurate with the mission of the Anglican Church (worthwhile organizations). It looks after regular and special activities in the parish to support such worthwhile organizations.

Members: Hilary Meur (Secretary), Patricia Hawkins (Treasurer), Clare Boulton, Barbara Clarke-Love, Ronald Lo and Angela Parker.

Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC) *Chair: Philip Miall*

The PCMC manages the Parish Centre (Church House and the Walker Hall) including any annexes and estates thereof, and is responsible for lettings therein.

Members: Clare Boulton (Secretary), Mick Meur (Treasurer), Bob Hagon-Torkington (Lettings Secretary), Graham Cook, John Macrory, Steve Wyatt

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES: PERSONNEL

Sidesmen: *Head Sidesman: Judith Lo*

Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, John Clarke, Mary Coutts, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Pat Hawkins, Judith Limbert, Judith Lo, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, John Marriott, Jane McMahon, Caroline Robertson, John Rose, and Yvonne Woodthorpe.

Choir: Director of Music: Richard Brain

Kate Macpherson (Organist), David Hinnitt (Associate Organist), Ian Winton (Treasurer)

Christ Church Association Chair: Clive Woodhouse

Steve Wyatt (Secretary), Pat Collins (Treasurer), Philip Miall, Steve Smith, Angela Smith, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, Mick Greenaway, Chris Binns.

Safeguarding Officer: Jackie Anderson

Health & Safety Officer: Ronald Lo

Deanery Synod Representatives: Peter Holiday (until August 2021), Ronald Lo, John Macrory.

Youth: Judith Limbert

Stewardship Recorder: Mick Meur

ANNUAL REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT: Clare Boulton

Treasury Team (Clare Boulton, Mick Meur, John Macrory)

The consolidated accounts (which include the Parochial, Parish Centre, *Spire* Magazine and Social Responsibility Funds) show the impact on our finances of the continuing restrictions as a result of COVID-19 which meant that the church building was closed for three months and there were reduced activities in the Parish Centre for much of the year.

The accounts record a total income across all funds of £226,020 which was £30,129 more than 2020 but still c £35,000 below pre-pandemic levels. Total expenditure across all four funds was £234,788 (2020: £231,450).

Looking at the Parochial (Church) Fund the total **unrestricted** income in 2021 was £177,432 (2020: £154,488) which can be broken down as follows:

	2021	2020	% change 2021/2020
Donations and legacies	£13,963	£9,766	42.97
Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders)	£69,733	£68,770	1.40
Collections	£2,053	£1,986	3.37
Income Tax Recovered	£18,295	£18,284	0.06
Other income (incl. Occasional Offices, LPWG scheme, Merchandise, use of Church as Polling Station)	£9,330	£6,987	33.53
Investment income	£12,874	£12,514	2.87
Rental income	£51,184	£36,181	41.46
Total	£177,432	£154,488	14.85

The total unrestricted expenditure in 2021 £160,617 (2020: £141,885) which can be broken down as follows:

	2021	2020	% change 2021/2020
Premises (heat, light, insurance, water, churchyard upkeep, church & organ maintenance <i>but not major items</i>)	£21,490	£9,617	123.45
Mission costs (services costs, music costs, youth, outreach)	£11,988	£4,639	158.41
Common Fund	£85,200	£85,200	
Supports costs (administration, salaries, payroll costs, property management costs and accountant's fees) **	£32,079	£24,176	32.68
Properties – maintenance and other costs	£7,132	£17,541	-59.35
Other expenditure	£2,728	£712	283.14
Total	160,617	141,885	13.20

** Support costs for 2021 include the fees paid to the Accommodating Company who have managed our properties since June 2021.

The net result on the unrestricted Parochial Fund in 2021 was a surplus of £16,815.

The **restricted** income funds (that is income received by the Church for a specific purpose) received a total of £5,439 (2020: £5,562). There was expenditure of £16,635 (2020: £22,781) from these funds, the majority of which was spent on maintenance of the church building. Thus, the net result on the restricted funds was a deficit of £11,196.

As reported by Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder, throughout the year in his *Spire* articles we are reliant on the regular giving, through the Parish Giving Scheme, by Standing Order or by donation, to meet day to day expenses. As such we will continue to encourage those not in the stewardship scheme to join and those in stewardship to review their giving annually. We are very grateful to all those who contribute in this way.

Looking ahead with rising costs, notably for gas and electricity which increased by 268% and 240% respectively in 2021, significant work to undertake on Flat 7 to address issues with the windows and roof, and the work to repair the chancel we will need to carefully manage our financial resources, looking at ways to both increase income and taking any possible steps to reduce our expenditure.

Though challenging, with careful stewardship, we will be able to continue to meet our existing commitments e.g., to the Diocesan Common Fund, to maintain our musical excellence, to care for our building and undertake new developments in support of our mission.

Finally, thanks are also due to the many volunteers, throughout the Church, its committees, and associated organisations who contribute to the successful stewardship of our financial resources.

PLANT & FABRIC COMMITTEE (STATUTORY REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF CHRIST CHURCH):

Kate Carroll, Churchwarden, Chair

Quinquennial report

Roderick Maclennan undertook the quinquennial inspection on 11th August and 14th October 2021. It contained no surprises with particular attention drawn to the work needed on the chancel floor and the boundary wall. Roderick Maclennan commended us on our care for the church building.

Chancel Floor

Following the grant of a faculty, we were able to drill two 100mm bore holes to analyse the substructure under the chancel floor. It was discovered that apart from a small amount of cheap, ancient concrete and screed there was very little between the floor tiles and the clay earth below consequently, the floor had been moving because the clay earth had been contracting. Roderick Maclennan's recommendation is that we remove and preserve the tiles, put in a proper surface with an underfloor heating system. The area affected would include the altar and choir stalls with desired result a stable and level surface that is visually indistinguishable from what we have now.

Roderick Maclennan drew up a revised specification on the basis of which he obtained two ballpark estimates for the cost of the work. After consideration by the Finance and Standing and Fabric committees, the PCC has agreed a budget of £160,000 plus VAT with the work to begin in January 2023 subject to a faculty being granted. At the time of writing, we are going to tender and will invite Clivedon Conservation, Fullers Ltd and possibly one other contractor to provide detailed quotations.

Repair to ceiling

There was a slight plaster fall from the ceiling over the South aisle. This has been repaired by Fullers who also inspected the ceiling along the whole aisle.

Boundary wall

A faculty was granted to repair and repoint some of our boundary wall. The work was undertaken by Fullers Builders under the direction of our architect and was completed on 3rd March.

Organ

Danny Corbin of Fothergill Engineering removed and repaired the organ blower on 9th August and did work on the humidifier on 2nd March. He has recommended twice annual services going forward.

In conjunction with organ specialist Dr Thistlethwaite, Richard Brain has obtained three quotes for repairs on the organ from Bishop & Sons, Mander Organs and Nicholsons. These are being scrutinized.

Mice

Chase Pest Control have been to the church several times and their traps appear to have had the desired effect.

Clock

Len Craft of Public Clocks replaced the auto-wind motor and removed, cleaned, inspected and refilled the gearbox.

Oak Tree

Jamie Ryan has completed the work in the churchyard pruning the cedar and reducing the conifer hedge. John Cromar of Treescan surveyed the oak on 18th August 2021 and recommended that no work be undertaken on it at present.

Gutters and roof

Ian Howe of IPH Solutions cleaned the gutters on 23rd February. He took the opportunity to make a thorough inspection of the roof. Missing slates will be replaced and flashing repaired on 29th March.

Boiler room

A team of volunteers helped to clear out the boiler room. Many thanks to all involved.

P.A.T Testing

The appliances in Church underwent P.A.T testing on 11th May 2021.

Maintenance checks

Routine servicing has been carried on the fire extinguishers, the boiler, lightning conductor and clock.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert, Chair & Vicar & Clare Boulton, Churchwarden

This committee has an overarching brief and is made up of a flexible group that are called into action as communications are needed for continuing weekly business and special projects and events.

The story of 2021 continued from 2020 with the pandemic restrictions and church closures so "Outreach" was focused on continuing our lockdown communications and sharing the story of our changes towards normality.

After a limited Christmas 2020, we had to close again until Mothering Sunday in March so the expanded Spire continued, as did the weekly email, the online activity and colouring sheets and the pre-recorded online services.

Once we had reopened, the pre-recorded services continued weekly through Easter and were finally discontinued on Trinity Sunday, but all the services are still available on YouTube and the Christmas ones were promoted again in December 2021. The weekly email was slimmed down again but still includes a weekly Vicar's Letter but the Spire Magazine remained expanded and was delivered to over 200 households. This allowed us to communicate as services and other events returned. The December/ January edition was the last issue under the editorial team of Claire Boulton and Patricia Ashby, who had decided to step down from the arduous monthly task. The huge amount of work they both did during the two years of the pandemic was a major contribution to keeping the community together. Bishop Rob expressed his gratitude and thanks for the magazine to Claire and Patricia when he visited in November – echoed by many others. The Spire magazine entered 2022 with an uncertain future but a new team of Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper started their tenure with a Lent edition in March.

Our social media presence had continued at 2020 rates – we Tweet at least once a day and many of our messages were regularly picked up and re-tweeted by the C of E and the Bishops of Edmonton and London leading to page impressions in the thousands across Twitter, Facebook

and Instagram. For example, our tweets of pictures of Mary and Joseph on their Advent travels round the church building attracted over 30,000 impressions.

Enormous thanks are due to all those who have kept our church communications up to date and current. Thanks must go to Clare Boulton, Patricia Ashby, Hilary Meur, Caroline Robertson, Richard Brain, Clive Woodhouse, Judith Limbert and Fr Chrichton.

We have gently started to rebuild parish activities (including the first ever Harvest Quiz) so Outreach will continue to be important to bind us together again in person as a community.

PARISH CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PCMC) REPORT: *Philip Miall, Chair*

The Parish Centre, COVID-19 and lettings

The Parish Centre has welcomed back most of our users following the COVID enforced closures for most of 2020. It is unfortunate that several of the long-term lettings have indicated that they will not return, including Slimming World and The Bridge Club.

It is with great regret that we have also lost Kindergarten Nursery that used Walker Hall on weekday mornings, following the unexpected death of the nursery's owner, Sharon Nyss. Walker Children's Club are trialling expansion with a Parents and Toddlers Group one morning per week and have investigated a Children's Sensory Play Activity.

COVID restrictions and loss of bookings have meant that income has been significantly reduced. However, despite loss of income from lettings, expenditure on items such as heating and cleaning has had to be maintained. Also, future energy bills will significantly increase. The Parish Centre is also owed a significant sum from Kindergarten Nursery, which we will seek to recover following legal proceedings. However, the Parish Centre continues to be self-financing under the overall supervision of the Christ Church PCC.

Buildings and grounds

The Management Committee (PCMC) is dedicated to ensuring that the Parish Centre buildings remain in good structural condition and are well maintained.

We continually liaise with our cleaning contractors, E J Cleaning, to ensure that the complex is kept clean and that household maintenance is of a good standard. E J Cleaning has provided extra cleaning and materials that were required to ensure that the Parish Centre is compliant with COVID-19 hygiene standards.

A significant amount of lead was stolen from the roofs of Church House last summer – date unknown, and not discovered until a rainstorm resulted in water ingress into the hall. The roofs have been repaired with non-valuable materials.

The dampness problems at the southeast corner of the Church House building, mentioned in last two years reports has been further investigated by specialists contracted by our insurers and by Thames Water without any firm conclusions.

We continue to close the Parish Centre car park and roadways within the complex (except for staff) during weekdays for security and safety reasons. Parking is available for users during evening lets and for Parishioners on Sundays. New signs have been installed on the lockable gate.

We continue to upgrade lighting, heating systems and kitchen equipment as required.

Fencing around N^o.6 and 7 The Green has been replaced to prevent schoolchildren entering their garden area.

Management Committee

I welcome Graham Cook, as a new, enthusiastic and active member of the PCMC.

Our Parish Centre booking secretary, Bob Hagon-Torkington, continues to work incredibly hard in his role of organizing the letting and bookings.

Mick Meur, our treasurer ensures that our finances remain good and has also organized and coordinated all our builders and contractors, a time-consuming task.

Other members of the PCMC are Clare Boulton, our secretary, Steve Wyatt and John Macrory who can always provide his legal advice. A big thank you to all members of the committee.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Hilary Meur, Committee Secretary

The pandemic has continued throughout this year so we have had to rethink some of our fundraising activities.

The Bishops Lent appeal focused on Challenging Youth Violence. We raised £800 through our Jar of Hope and sales of eco-cards, preserves and other goods. Offering home delivery where necessary.

We held a St. Swithun's Fundraiser from 15th July for 40 days. We asked participants to pledge a daily amount choosing wet or dry i.e., rain falling on Christ Church or not each day. We raised £1,000 for Water Aid.

The usual Lent Quiz became a Harvest Quiz in October but with the same worst raffle prizes. Christ Church Association ran the bar and donated £300. Mrs. Vicarage made and sold eco cards. Overall, £1,500 was raised for the RNLI.

Our charity stall returned to church in September, with eco and the usual cards; preserves and books etc. Sales continued to be good, and sales of Advent candles helped boost our income. We dispatched 41 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child with £200 towards their delivery costs.

Through December we increased our range of goods and takings were excellent. We donated £750 each to Cooking Champions and Urban Table. We have volunteers working for both these local charities and like to support their efforts.

With the return of the Christmas raffle, £350 was sent to North London Hospice.

We sent £550 to the Children's Society, through collections & sales.

Again, we had a gift tree, and as last year supported The Ark at St. John's Church Palmers Green. We collected about 200 presents mainly for children and teenagers. We also donated baby clothes, blankets, food and milk for babies of sex trafficked young people.

More recently goods for refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine have been donated and sorted at St. John's. Several members of the congregation have again given generously of their time.

We need to record that Jackie Anderson resigned from the committee during the year and we thank her for her dedicated service.

In total almost £7,000 was raised. As usual our grateful thanks go to the generous congregation and the local community who continue to support this small committee.

We hope following the annual meeting the committee will be reformed with a new Chair and members enabling us to find a new way forward.

SIDESMAN'S REPORT: Judith Lo, Head Sidesman

The past year has been a strange time for the Sidesman Team. We resumed our duties of welcoming people into church since the first Sunday in September, 2021. Arranging offertory procession and vestry duties remain outstanding as we still observe some COVID precautions.

As at 31st March 2022, the number of Sidesmen on the duty Rota is 16. They are Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, John Clarke, Mary Coutts, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Pat Hawkins, Judith Limbert, Judith Lo, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, John Marriott, Jane McMahon, Caroline Robertson, John Rose, and Yvonne Woodthorpe.

We welcome Ms. Hongyang Fu to join the team during the year. Her name will be put forward at the Parochial Church Council meeting in due course.

The whole team looks forward to resuming all duties and we always welcome parishioners in joining the team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the team. Their tireless and reliable service to this meaningful role are very much appreciated.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT: Richard Brain

The last year has seen the Choir sing for both online services and live services again as Lockdown restrictions have eased. It seems almost like a dream that a year ago the Choir was still singing as the *Christ Church Virtual Choir*. By last Summer, the Choir were back to in-person singing, and although the some COVID restrictions were reintroduced in the Winter, the Choir was able to sing for all the usual services and concerts. It is safe to say that the Choir has come out of the Pandemic in a strong position, both in terms of its membership, and in the quality of its musical output.

During the hight of the Pandemic, technology allowed us to innovate in the era of social distancing and integrate music into the *Virtual Church* pre-recorded YouTube service videos. The choir has increased its reach and profile, with recordings being viewed by hundreds of people every week. Of particular note were our virtual Choral Evensong services, the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, and *A Sequence of Music and Readings for Holy Week and Easter Day 2021*.

As restrictions eased over the Summer of 2021, the Choir returned to more live service singing and was able to undertake a short tour to Bristol Cathedral in August. This trip was a great success, allowing the Choir to fully sing together for the first time in 18 months. The Choir was privileged to sing for the Installation of a new Bristol Cathedral Canon, Johnnie Parker, singing for Cathedral and County dignitaries to a packed cathedral.

From September 2021, the Choir was effectively able to return to normal activities, with a few adaptions for remaining COVID restrictions. Membership has remained steady, with Chorister numbers remaining around 12 in the junior section and 6 in the senior section. Three new men

joining the tenor/bass section along with a new Soprano Choral Scholar, Nataalka Pasocznyk. I was delighted that Emily Chapman is remaining with the Choir as a Choral Scholar while she studies on the Postgraduate MA course at the Royal College of Music. Within the department, I am delighted that Kate Macpherson has been redesignated as our Organist, accompanying all of the Church's principal choral services and concerts. Kate had done a spectacular job as Associate Organist, and this was a fitting recognition of her dedication to the Church and of her talents. We were delighted to welcome to David Hinitt back to play for Nine Lessons and Carols last December in his new capacity as Associate Organist.

Special services during the Autumn included singing the Duruflé Requiem for the Feast of All Souls', singing for the Advent Procession and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Patronal Festival Concert also returned, with the Choir singing a selection of Choral Classics including works by Parry and Mozart, as well as concert works "Five Spirituals" by Michael Tippett and "Serenade to Music" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It was a pleasure to welcome so many back to Church for this concert as well as Liz Partridge and her string quartet again. The Choir sang Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral in February and will be singing at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 30th May later this year. This Adult Choir is also in the process of organising a trip to Amsterdam to sing at St Nicholas Basilica following an invitation to sing there by the Director of Music, Dr Giles Brightwell. Further trips are now in the Choir diary until 2025.

The Organ

The reliability of the Organ remains very concerning. As previously explained, the Organ continues to experience problems mainly around the decaying action and broken notes. The level of dirt inside the instrument is also impairing optimum mechanical efficiency. Since last year, the Organ has now been inspected by three Organ Builders who have offered quotes for repairs. My recommendations will be presented to the PCC very soon. As a reminder, we have engaged the services of the respected organ advisor, The Reverend Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite of The Association of Independent Organ Advisers and former Precentor of Guilford Cathedral as our Organ Advisor. Although Kate is able to disguise the damage to the Organ at the moment, the Organ is now on a downward trajectory and until this work is completed, more parts of the organ will fail, the effects of which will have an impact on the quality of organ provision for services. The Church should prepare to hire an electric organ for either of the following scenarios:

- The organ is out of action for repairs
- Repairs have not commenced but the organ has ceased to function.

Since the last report, the Organ blower engineers have also recommended further repairs.

Future Cathedral Trips and Tours

2022

Monday 30th May: St Paul's Cathedral

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July: Amsterdam (St Nicholas Basilica)

2023

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th February: Hereford Cathedral

24th – 30th July: Truro Cathedral

2024

3rd and 4th August: Chichester Cathedral

2025

Spring Half Term: Winchester

October Half Term: Wells

ECO CHURCH REPORT: Sandra Anderson.

When I wrote at this time last year we were just emerging from lockdown. One year on we are moving in the right direction again albeit slowly.

Last summer 'The Friends of the Christ Church Garden' group was formed after PCC approval (which I thank them for). After an initial meeting to explain the rationale to interested parties we have come together as a gardening group on designated Saturday mornings, although keen gardeners can come along at any time.

We began by tackling the front garden as there was a backlog of maintenance work due to COVID. It is now in a reasonable state again and we will continue to maintain it while beginning to start work in the back garden. We will begin planting some vegetables soon and our first project at the back might be a sensory garden. I am hoping that gardeners will begin to introduce their friends to the project, so that eventually more of the community are involved. Eventually the aim is for the garden and gardening sessions to be used for some 'green prescribing' by our local GPs enabling those with anxiety and depression to come and do some supervised gardening to encourage their wellness. I would like to especially thank Jenny Wootten for her input.

It has been a challenging year for Nick and Youla caring for our bees. The bee inspector was called in the late summer as a bee disease was detected. Some equipment had to be burned in a hole in the ground and it was then deemed ok to carry on. However, it seems that the bees nurtured a new queen and have swarmed and relocated. Most of the remaining bees died. There are only about one hundred left. Youla has informed me that they are waiting for the bee inspector to return to throw some light on what's happened. Also the hive remains under quarantine from the infection until the inspector confirms that it is disease free. Once we are through this difficult patch we will try again. Thank you to Nick Harper and Youla Hadjidaniel for their continuing hard work and dedication.

The children's corner continues to be maintained by Judith Limbert. It is now being well used again on Sunday mornings and is stocked with eco-friendly toys and books that contribute to teaching children about the care of God's creation.

Judith has also continued to produce eco-friendly cards for all occasions made from completely recycled materials. Thank you to Judith for her dedication and eye to detail.

Coffee time after the 10am service on Sunday has finally returned. A huge thank you to Hilary for her perseverance in making this happen. Fairtrade products will be used whenever possible in preference to any other products. We are still committed to becoming a Fairtrade Church but we will need two or three enthusiastic volunteers to make this happen. I will revisit this very soon.

Towards the end of last year, after COP26, Father Chrichton became the Creation Care Lead for the Edmonton Diocese. The Church of England has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and Action on Creation Care is part of the London Diocesan 2030 Vision under the Compassionate Communities strand. The Creation Care group has so far met four times to discuss eco church and what we can do to encourage other churches in the diocese to sign up. There will be a Parish Creation Care Plan and each church is asked to identify an Eco Champion (for which there is a job description). Father Chrichton is organising a one-day conference dedicated to Creation Care in central London in October.

Christ Church continues to be committed to the ARocha Eco Church goals. To move forward we need a team of committed individuals lead by an appointed Eco Champion although Creation Care remains the responsibility of all of us.

CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION (CCA) REPORT: Clive Woodhouse, Chair

The CCA bar reopened in July 2021 after a period of closure lasting almost 16 months, initially operating only on Fridays and with strict safety guidelines being followed. Normal service resumed in September, and we have maintained our regular opening times since then. September 2021 also saw the introduction of cash-free payments at the bar, with this method now accounting for about 60% of our sales.

Social events have resumed – including early opening and complimentary cheese and snacks on the first Friday of each month - and our themed food evenings have proved to be particularly popular. The Christmas Wine Tasting was sold out and a further tasting took place at the end of March. The annual celebration of Burns' Night was well attended, as was the screening of the final games of the Rugby Six Nations tournament.

We made a donation of £300 to the RNLI after the vicar's pre-Harvest Quiz, and we hope to resume our pattern of frequent charitable donations now that regular opening has resumed. The Annual General Meeting in November was well attended, and we learnt that our financial losses due to COVID were restricted to about £400 arising from the disposal of out-of-date stock. We were grateful to the Parish Centre Management Committee for waiving the rent payments whilst the bar was closed. The following were elected to serve on the General Committee:

Clive Woodhouse (Chair), Steve Wyatt (Secretary), Pat Collins (Treasurer), Phillip Miall, Steve Smith, Angela Smith, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, Mick Greenaway, Chris Binns.

We continue with the aim to expand our outreach in the parish and hope that we can involve more younger people in the running of the Association.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT: Jackie Anderson, Safeguarding Officer

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC works to ensure that all parish activities provide a safe place for all, but particularly for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Activities this year in support of this include:

- Completion of a safeguarding self-audit in May 2021
- Obtaining DBS clearance for 4 additional individuals to ensure that all activities involving children or vulnerable adults are adequately supported.
- Role Holders have attended safeguarding training as required and members of the PCC have been encouraged to undertake the online training that is available on the Diocesan website.

There have been no safeguarding concerns.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT: Ronald Lo, Health and Safety Officer

Ronald Lo and Angela Parker were appointed Health & Safety Lead and First Aid Officer of the Parish respectively since late 2018.

Church Activities: Main church services and some parish activities have been cautiously resumed since the restrictions for COVID-19 have been gradually removed during the past year. There have been no concerns from the Health & Safety perspective.

Church Fabric: There have been no issues identified in the church fabric apart from the fall of plaster from the ceiling in the south aisle which has now been repaired. The chancel floor defect is being dealt with and the use of the Sanctuary and Quire is being restricted until repairs can be effected.

Incidents: There have been no reported or recorded accidents or incidents in the past year. It is expected that the emergency services should be involved as appropriate in any incident. Any incident, whether or not physical injury is involved, must (1) have the details of the incident recorded in the Incident Book (kept with the First Aid Box near the church door) by the person involved or the person in attendance, and (2) be reported as soon as possible to a Responsible Person of the Parish (i.e. Vicar or Churchwarden). If a Responsible Person could not be reached in reasonable time and the matter has urgency, it may be related to the Health & Safety Officer (currently the undesigned) and an entry made in the Incident Book. As always, any person who identifies a Health & Safety issue is most welcome to raise it and make constructive suggestions.

THE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT: Ronald Lo, Deanery Synod Lay Representative

The Deanery Synod lay representatives of Christ Church Southgate for session 2020-2023 are Peter Holiday, Ronald Lo, and Sandra Anderson (elected 2020), and John Macrory (elected 2020). Sadly Dr. Peter Holiday passed away during the year under review – may he rest in peace.

The Synod met four times during the year under review in April 2021, July 2021, November 2021, and March 2022.

Bishop Rob attended the April 2021 meeting at which Sue Johnson was elected unanimously as Lay Chair, continuing for a further term of office. Tony Zotti, Steve Miller, Jonathan Haines and Sue Chambers were elected to the Standing Committee. Delores Cover was elected Assistant Secretary to the Synod while the Synod Secretary post remained vacant. Sally Reeve was elected Treasurer. Bishop Rob led discussions on Vision 2030 of the Diocese.

The meeting in July 2021 saw the election of Paul Holgate as Secretary to the Synod. School Governor appointments were announced and all were requested to seek parishioners to take up the many school governor vacancies in the Deanery. The meeting heard a presentation by Rebecca Chapman from the North Lambeth Deanery on “Being an Effective Deanery Synod”. We noted the merger of the parishes of St. Mark’s and St. Stephen’s in Bush Hill Park.

The November 2021 meeting of the Deanery Synod discussed Rebecca Chapman’s “Being an Effective Synod” presentation from the last Synod meeting. Members were asked to identify issues and ways of improving the working of the Synod to be further deliberated by the Standing Committee.

The March 2022 meeting heard the repeated plea for more people to step forward to be school governors, and that the Winter Shelter 2022 was held successfully in hotels (hoping to revert to community spaces next time). The document “Pastoral Principles” dealing with inclusiveness was tabled for the attention of all. The meeting then heard an excellent talk by the Cannon Chancellor Dr. Paula Gooder on “Finding Nourishment in the Wilderness: Reflections on Lent in dark times”.

It was noted that the Deanery now has Facebook presence at <https://www.facebook.com/edsynod>

PROPERTIES REPORT: Clare Boulton, Churchwarden

The church has three properties which are let out to tenants: flats 6 and 7 The Green (on the Parish Centre site) and 62 Oakfield Road (a large Victorian terrace house).

Following PCC agreement management of all the properties was transferred to The Accommodating Company in July 2021.

62 Oakfield Road – The current tenants are now in their second year. No major remedial works have been required.

6 The Green – The current tenants are now in their fourth year. No major remedial works have been required.

7 The Green - The current tenants are in their fifth year. No major remedial works have been carried out. Recent storms have however highlighted a number of issues with the windows, including the fact that they are not water tight. Quotes have been obtained and they will be replacing during the summer months. Once that has been done necessary making good/redecoration in the window reveals will be carried out.

The fence surrounding the flats was replaced in October 2021.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH REPORT: Judith Limbert

2021 began with continued lockdown as COVID kept its grip on us all.

So the ‘Virtual Children’s Corner at Home’ continued with me producing hand drawn activity craft and colouring sheets each week, all downloadable to print and use. These all continue to be available on our website. There is an entire liturgical year of activities plus some ‘extras’. The majority of our children’s and youth activities happens through the work of our choir.

Richard Brain our Director of Music reports on this elsewhere but thanks must go to him for all his work with the choristers and choral scholars who are drawn from a variety of our local schools. The power of singing and making music together and the impact it has for young people cannot be underestimated.

While still in lockdown 'Lent at Home' packs of activities and a 'Wild Lent' eco book went to our regular children's corner families along with a 'Real' Easter egg.

For Advent we gave all the choristers and our young families a 'Real' Advent calendar. The 'real meaning' of the seasons and chocolate!

Autumn saw the welcome return of school activities in church. Walker School held an emotional Harvest celebration - it was the first time the whole school and parents had gathered together since before the pandemic. Little Oaks Montessori Nursery came twice for Harvest and Christmas.

Father Chrichton took the Armistice Day service in Broomfield Park attended by Hazelwood, Walker and Broomfield Schools. Rev Hazel brought the beavers and cubs over to church to learn more about Remembrance Sunday which was also well attended by the scouts.

Both Monkfrith and Ashmole primary schools brought whole year groups for a 'Pop Up Nativity' performance. A chance for 60 children at a time to all have a part to play. Walker School also explored the meaning of Christmas in their end of term service.

Our own festive season made a joyful return with Christingle, a totally unrehearsed 'Pop Up Nativity' and the Christmas Eve Crib service. It was a joy to see so many return to celebrate in person although COVID anxieties kept attendance below pre pandemic numbers.

The travelling crib figures once again stayed overnight in people's homes and the alternative 'behind the scenes' antics of Donkey with Mary and Joseph in church proved very popular with all ages on our social media.

Children's Corner has grown and developed with more books and eco-friendly toys reflecting inclusive and eco values as well as the liturgical year. The displays and activities reflect this too. It is good to see young children enjoying the space while their parents and carers can also be engaged with the services.

Everybody involved with working with children here at Christ Church are DBS checked. Looking forward, I hope we shall all continue to welcome children and their families to church as we continue to grow in faith here.