

**CHURCH, SOUTHGATE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH**  
**Year: April 2022 to May 2023**

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**

The current Electoral Roll for Christ Church Southgate, last renewed in 2019, is now in its fifth consecutive year; it is due for its next complete renewal in 2025. Although there have been losses, membership of the roll has increased a little during the 2022 to 2023 period. We have been able to welcome fifteen new members since the names were last revised in April 2022.

Alongside including these fifteen new members, two members have died this year and have been removed and notification was received of six members leaving the area and no longer attending Christ Church, plus one other who is also known to be no longer living in the area and/or attending Christ Church; these nine persons in total have been removed at this time.

In conclusion, then, the overall total of the roll has increased by six from 227 in April 2022, to **233 in May 2023**. (This is fourteen more than the total of 219 at the date of renewal in 2019.)

**VICAR'S REPORT: Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert**

As incumbent of Christ Church, Southgate it falls to me to report that the life of the parish has been characterized in 2022 by a gradual returning to normal after the removal of the remaining restrictions in 2021. I am delighted to report that attendance numbers fully bounced back – with a huge increase in school visits and some of the Christmas services. The music, art and heritage aspects of the building have been particularly increased during the year, which greatly involved the wider community.

The year 2022 started after Christmas 2021, which was back to normal in terms of offering, but was still very reduced in attendance (a total of 329 attendees on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 2021).

During the lead up to Easter in Lent we had a well-attended weekly special service of the Stations of the Cross with different reflections and images each time. Easter and Holy Week was fully celebrated again with full and enthusiastic choir and singing. The total Easter attendance was double that in 2021 – increasing from 161 to 316.

At times of national celebration and mourning, Christ Church played its full part with special services (and garden party) for the Platinum Jubilee in June as well as following the services provided for the period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II (including being open with a book of condolence available to the community). Once again, I led the Remembrance Service in Broomfield Park and in church, with uniformed organisations in attendance.

A highlight in July was the ordination at St Paul's cathedral of Fr Paul Ellerby as Deacon to join the clergy team as a self-supporting Curate. We have thoroughly enjoyed having Fr Paul with us so far and we look forward to his ordination to the priesthood in 2023, when we will also see our ordinand Claire Betts ordained as Deacon. During the year one of our congregation, Anna Hughes, was accepted for ordination training and started her course in September at St Augustine's College.

During November we held a sung Requiem Mass for the previous Vicar of Christ Church, Rev'd Peter Jackson, who died in Nice, France in August. It was lovely to see many friends of Peter come back to the parish. Communion in both kinds with a chalice was re-introduced at this service and has remained in use since.

Christmas 2022 at Christ Church was a joyful return to the usual service pattern. The numbers were a huge improvement on the previous year and back to pre-pandemic levels. A particular highlight was having 347 come to the Christmas Eve Crib Service – including 125 children. Similar to Easter, the overall Christmas attendance was almost double the figure in 2021 – an increase from 329 to 626.

During Advent the knitted crib figures that make up the Travelling Crib went on their usual house-to-house journey around the parish. However, this was backed up with daily social media posting of Mary, Joseph and donkey interacting with a different Advent calendar each day.

We were able to fully provide services for the community at pivotal times of their lives, so have performed 4 marriages, welcomed 7 people into the Christian Faith through baptism and conducted 16 funerals – in both church and crematorium.

Our 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 Spire Magazine gained a new editorial team of Imogen Cooper and Freya Carroll (many thanks to them) and switched to bi-monthly for subscribers and purchasers in church.

The emphasis during the year has been to find as many ways as possible to welcome the community in the church with a number of new initiatives. The main church building was the local Polling Station for the May Local Elections. In June we began to host the local ABRSM music exams in the church on our grand piano. The acoustic in the church, as well as the instrument itself, was well received by candidates and examiners for the 11 days of exams. They are already booked into 2023.

A major project to raise awareness of our Pre-Raphaelite windows was undertaken within the Enfield Council scheme "Stories of Enfield", which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many thanks to Cath Harvey for spotting and applying for the project. We put on art talks, stained glass craft workshops, children's crafts and a weekend of tours, all supported by the production of a new, fully funded, coloured guidebook to the windows – ably put together by Clive Woodhouse. The project was included in an Enfield Council exhibition in Enfield town centre.

We hosted a number of other tours including the BADA and two visits from an American Arts and Crafts tour company. The church re-opened to visitors two days a week, while Caroline our administrator was in the office.

We held gardening mornings in the church yard every 6 weeks, led by Sandra Anderson, which attracted volunteers from the congregation and the wider community.

The annual Vicar's Harvest Quiz returned and rapidly sold out to church and community teams (including one from the Seaward's undertakers) and raised over £1000 for the DEC Pakistan appeal.

We led and hosted a Christmas Memorial service for the same undertakers' firm.

The Christ Church Association (CCA) bar opened again throughout the year and provided drinks in church on a number of special occasions.

I must also highlight and thank the SRC for all their work – particularly Hilary Meur for running the stalls and Pat Hawkins for looking after the money – which has raised so much for good causes during the year. Our record of outward giving as a community is quite remarkable, particularly given the current cost of living squeeze.

The choir has been able to have a full programme of tours and visits during the year, including singing the services for a day at Southwark Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. There was also a weekend in Amsterdam which included a live Dutch TV broadcast from St Nicholas Cathedral.

The junior choir has also been maintained, with over 20 regular members, and was a major contributor to worship, including some services with the junior choir only. They were included in the choir trips to Southwark and St Paul's Cathedrals and had unique and memorable experiences. Huge thanks must go to Richard Brain and Kate Macpherson for all the excellent music throughout the year.

The provision in our Children's Corner continued to expand, both in floor space, and books and equipment. It was in use by families every Sunday morning and also regularly used and appreciated by visitors during the week.

Our work with our four local non-faith Schools grew as we welcomed year groups for curriculum sessions as well as for Easter, End of Summer Term, Harvest and Christmas services. A fifth school came on its first visit in January 2023. In December alone we welcomed a record number of 650 school children into church. This directly contributed to the record number of children that came to the Christmas services in church.

Our monthly services in our parish care homes continued throughout the year and delivering communion to the housebound was fully re-established. The bi-weekly healing services also returned throughout the year.

Our weekly café on a Friday morning as part of the "Places of Welcome" scheme was restarted in the spring and the Thursday picnic lunch in church, followed by a prayer group, was restarted in the autumn.

At the end of 2021 we were signed up as the first ever Healthy Healing Hub church in the country. This was featured in the Church Times and as a result I was interviewed live in January 2022 on Premier Christian Radio and UCB radio. We are planning to extend our wellbeing provision in the future. Members of clergy are booked onto Mental First-Aid courses for 2023.

A bi-weekly Bible Study, led by an LLM Jackie Anderson and Sue Grey, returned in the summer and has become very well established.

I led a parish trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play in August, which was very successful and great fun was had by all.

I am the Creation Care lead for the Edmonton Area of the Diocese of London and organised an Eco-study day in October. Sadly, at short notice it was cancelled as none of the speakers could make it into London because of a train strike.

Plans have moved on a little to offer, via a major building project, accessibility to toilet facilities, catering provision, as well as new pastoral and community spaces, but the economic uncertainty has put them on hold.

The high level of uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme continued in 2022.

Investigation work and final planning was carried on the large shift in the chancel floor. We are about to go to tender for the major remedial work that will take place in 2023.

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. I must particularly thank Clare – who will be stepping down at the end of her term of office – for rising to the challenge of becoming treasurer as well. All that we did in 2022 would also not have been possible without the clergy team of Rev Hazel Miall, Fr Paul Ellerby, Cathy Dallman, Jackie Anderson, Sandra Anderson and Amy Li, also supported by ordinands Claire Betts and Anna Hughes – 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 the CCS community this year – to all of you many, many thanks. There is always plenty of work to do to serve our community and spread the knowledge of the love of God across the parish and beyond. So, please pray about what you can do to help serve the Lord.

#### **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
Curate:	Fr Paul Ellerby
Churchwardens:	Clare Boulton (Vice-Chair) Kate Carroll
Lay Readers:	Cathy Dallman Jackie Anderson Sandra Anderson Amy Li
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Ronald Lo John Macrory
Electoral Roll Officer:	Patricia Ashby

Elected Members: Tracy Allen  
Christopher Howell  
Hilary Meur

Elected Members: Angela Parker  
Beverley Rutledge  
Gina Stone (till March 2022)  
Clive Woodhouse  
Imogen Cooper (from May 2022)

### **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, 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, Christopher Chessum, John Clarke, Mary Coutts, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Pat Hawkins, Hongyang Fu, Sylvia Keck, 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), 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; First Aid Officer: Angela Parker

Deanery Synod Representatives: 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) record a total income across all funds of £259,470 which was £33,450 more than 2021 (£226,020). Total expenditure across all four funds was £285,029 (2021: £234,788).

Looking at the Parochial (Church) Fund the total **unrestricted** income in 2022 was £189,158 (2021: £177,432) which can be broken down as follows:

	2022	2021	% change 2022/2021
Donations and legacies	£8,695	£13,963	-38
Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders)	£76,415	£69,733	9
Collections	£1,295	£2,053	-37
Income Tax Recovered	£20,475	£18,295	12
Other income (incl. Occasional Offices, Listed Place of Worship Grants Scheme Merchandise, use of Church)	£16,946	£9,330	81
Investment income	£13,420	£12,874	4
Rental income	£51,912	£51,184	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>£189,158</b>	<b>£177,432</b>	<b>6</b>

Use of the Church for ABRSM Exams and as a Polling station increased our income by £4,335.

The total **unrestricted** expenditure in 2022 was £172,690 (2021: £160,617) which can be broken down as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% change 2022/2021</b>
Premises (heat, light, insurance, water, churchyard upkeep, church & organ maintenance <i>but not major items</i> )	£26,406	£21,490	23
Mission costs (services costs, music costs, youth, outreach)	£7,566	£11,988	-67
Common Fund	£85,200	£85,200	-
Supports costs (administration, salaries, payroll costs, property management costs and accountant's fees)	£41,343	£32,079	29
Properties – maintenance and other costs	£11,011	£7,132	54
Other expenditure	£1,164	£2,728	-57
<b>Total</b>	<b>£172,690</b>	<b>£160,617</b>	<b>7</b>

The net result on the unrestricted Parochial Fund in 2022 was a surplus of £16,468. It should be noted that whilst heating and lighting costs increased by £5,000 compared to 2021, we also received discounts on our energy costs from the **Energy Bill Relief Scheme** for businesses of £4,700. The increased support costs relate to the requirement for the 2022 accounts to be audited and that the properties were managed for the full year. The expenditure on the properties included replacement of the windows in Flat 7.

The **restricted** income funds (that is income received by the Church for a specific purpose) received a total of £15,934 (2021: £5,439). There was expenditure of £47,697 (2021: £16,635) from these funds, the majority of which was spent on maintenance of the fabric including £18,000 on repairing the boundary wall and £9,000 on preparatory work for the repair of the chancel floor. Thus, the net result on the restricted funds was a deficit of £31,763.

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, significant work to undertake on 62 Oakfield Road to bring it up to the required Energy Performance rating for rental properties by 2025, as well as the work to repair the chancel floor and organ 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**

### **Statutory report on the fabric of Christ Church**

#### Chancel Floor

Our church architect, Roderick MacLennan passed away in August 2022. Before his death, he contacted Caroe Architects who subsequently agreed to take on the chancel floor project. The architect overseeing the work is Touseer Ahmad. We've also appointed Sawyer & Fisher as our quantity surveyor, Ed Morton of the Morton Partnership as our structural engineer and Chris Reading as our heating engineer. All are experts in their field and have experience working in churches and cathedrals. New surveys and drawings have been completed and, at the time of writing, we are about to go out to tender. Whether we are able to stick to our original plan to begin work this summer will depend on costs and availability of specialist contractors.

Luke Ashley of Andrew Goddard Associates Ltd has been appointed our Principal Designer, a role necessary to comply with health and safety legislation.

In addition to the above, we are also arranging a Refurbishment-Demolition (formerly Type 3) asbestos survey.

The faculty application is progressing.

#### Organ

The organ was inspected by Dr Thislethwaite following which Richard Brain and Kate Macpherson prepared a detailed tender document, which was sent out to three respected organ restorers/builders - Manders, Nicholsons & Co and Bishop & Sons. After consideration and following the recommendation of the Director of Music, the PCC have agreed a budget of up to £75,000 for remedial work on the organ. It will be undertaken by Bishop & Sons who recommended a complete overhaul which could give a workable life of 20-30 years. We're preparing a faculty but the project cannot begin before the work on the chancel floor has been completed. We will employ Bishop & Sons to protect the organ whilst the work on the chancel is undertaken.

#### Lighting

Interior and exterior lights have been repaired and/or replaced.

An electrical check, which is due every five years, will be completed this year by David Percival.

#### Churchyard

The holly hedge and yew tree have been pruned so it no longer obstructs the pavement.

#### Maintenance checks

Routine servicing and maintenance has been carried out on the fire extinguishers, the alarm system, the organ blower and humidifier, the boiler and lightning conductor. Ian Howe of IPH will do an annual check of the gutters, which is contracted for through the Diocese.



## **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 2022 was one of continuing the journey out of lockdown to normality.

The Friday email continued every week with a Vicar's Letter and expanded versions of the pew sheet notices. The Spire magazine restarted in March under the new editorial team of Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper, with a Lent edition covering two months. A bi-monthly publication continued throughout the year and to date.

Our extensive social media presence has continued – 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. Instagram is also used at the same time as tweets (which automatically posts on Facebook).

A major outreach achievement in 2022 was the production of a new full colour guidebook for the William Morris windows. The text was prepared by Clive Woodhouse, while the photography and production were covered by the church taking part in the Stories of Enfield project (which was Heritage Lottery funded). The project also funded the printing of a very large stock of booklets for the future. During the year we hosted many visits, talks and workshops for many societies, schools and the general public to exploit and spread the word on our heritage and art works.

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

## **SIDESMAN'S REPORT: Judith Lo, Head Sidesman**

During the past year, we were more relaxed in welcoming people into Christ Church after COVID. We no longer remind people to wear masks and sanitize their hands. We are yet to resume arranging the offertory procession, vestry duties and helping at weekday services.

During the year, we welcomed Mr. Christopher Chessum to join the team. His name was put forward and approved by the Parochial Church Council at its July meeting. We also welcome back Ms Sylvia Keck who resumes her role after a break during the COVID lockdown.

As at 31st March 2023, the number of Sidesmen on the Duty Rota is 19.

They are: Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, Christopher Chessum, John Clarke, Mary Coutts, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Pat Hawkins, Hongyang Fu, Sylvia Keck, Judith Limbert, Judith Lo, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, John Marriott, Jane McMahon, Caroline Robertson, John Rose, and Yvonne Woodthorpe.

Though we appear to be a large team, we are always looking out for new volunteers to share our duties that cover all three Sunday services as well as other special services during the week. Do let me know if you are interested to find out more about us or to join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the team who made sure services run smoothly and earned glowing comments from visitors. Their tireless and reliable service to this meaningful role is very much appreciated.

### **CHILDRENS & YOUTH REPORT: Judith Limbert**

I am delighted to report that 2022 into 2023 has been a year of growth and positivity for our work with children, young people and families.

Children's Corner has continued to develop, with displays to match the liturgical year and our commitment to being an Eco Church. The selection of wooden toys and books also support both these things and the values of being inclusive and welcoming to all. It is in use every Sunday with young children and their parents and carers. The adults can still engage with the service, while the children are absorbing the atmosphere, sights and sounds of being in church whilst playing or crafting.

Arts & craft activities have been available throughout the year. A particular highlight was the stained-glass craft, funded by the 'Stories of Enfield' project, which added to our festive lights and eco branches across the Christmas season. Another highlight was the adoption of windowsills by different families to decorate at Easter. This year we are holding a family foraging morning in the churchyard to make Easter gardens to place on the windowsills.

Richard Brain and Kate McPherson continue to be a source of inspiration for our junior choristers and choral scholars. Read more about their development in the Music report but it is important to note that the choristers are all drawn from a wide circle of local schools. The power of making music together cannot be underestimated. They also enjoy contributing to our family friendly Eucharists, the Pop-Up Nativity play and other special occasion services.

This year we had a new Pop-Up Nativity script but still the same wonderfully unrehearsed performance. Thank you to Kate Carroll for finding it and making sense out of the chaos!

Christingle once again proved popular with local families and it was a joy to have so many at the Crib service on Christmas Eve too.

The area of greatest growth this last 12 months has been in the work and engagement Father Chrichton and I have with local schools. This forms several different pathways.

- We continue to welcome Walker School, pupils, staff and parents 4 times a year for Harvest, Christmas, Easter & their end of year Leaver's service.
- Little Oaks Montessori Nursery visit for stories and songs themed to Harvest, Christmas and Mother's Day/Easter.

- Pop Up Nativity plays were performed by whole year groups, 30 at a time. Ashmole Primary brought both Reception & Year 1 and Monkfrith Primary brought Year 2. In total 180 children all had a part in telling the Christmas Story.
- We have had curriculum-based visits for KS2 year groups from Ashmole Primary School, Walker School and West Grove Primary School. They have explored 'Christian values', 'Christian symbols', 'Sacred Spaces', 'Christian Festivals' & local history. These sessions are an opportunity for the children to take what they have been learning in school and put it into context. The format normally involves Q&A sessions & exploring the building.

This is important work as all the schools are multi faith community schools and it is an opportunity for the pupils to learn about the similarities of values and texts across faiths. One of the outcomes of this expansion in schools work has been the increase in numbers at services such as Christingle and the Crib service.

Fr Chrichton also led the annual Armistice Day service in Broomfield Park which included contributions from Hazel Wood Primary School, Walker School and Broomfield Secondary School. He has also contributed to a consultation, that has started under the new Head, about the future direction of Broomfield Secondary School, as it is sited right on our parish boundary with the North Circular Road.

Everyone involved in working with children and young people here at Christ Church are DBS checked.

Joanne Leach is our named Children's Champion and thanks go to her for taking on that role. My thanks also to all who came and helped in any way this year with supporting our children's work...it was often a lot of costumes, props, craft and noise .... but always joyful.

Looking forward I hope we shall continue our education work, building strong connections with our local schools and supporting their delivery of the Christian elements of the KS1 & 2 RE curricula and also, that parents and families continue to find Christ Church a place of welcome for all.

#### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT: Richard Brain**

The Choir has enjoyed another successful year singing. The Choir is now back to singing the full routine of services post pandemic, in addition to our usual autumn and summer concerts, and regular tours. Membership has remained steady, with Chorister numbers remaining around 12 in the junior section and the Adult Choir numbering 21. I was delighted that Emily Chapman remained a Choral Scholar for a third year while she continued her studies on the Postgraduate MA course at the Royal College of Music. The environment for the recruitment of Choral Scholars is extremely competitive, and as such, I shall have to increase the annual scholarship to ensure we attract singers from this September. A long-term strategy for the funding of Choral Scholarships is something for us to consider.

The Choir sang special services for the Platinum Jubilee and then for the Vigil the night before the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The latter was significant as Vigil became the official Civic Service for Enfield and was attended by both the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor. Other special services during the Autumn included singing Faure's Requiem for the Feast of All Souls', singing for the Advent Procession and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Patronal Festival Concert was based on a theme of light, to compliment the Open House weekend theme of our William Morris windows. It was a pleasure to welcome so many to Church for this concert as well as Liz Partridge and her string quartet again.

The Choir sang Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in May 2022. This was followed by a highly successful Adult Choir trip to Amsterdam to sing at St Nicholas Basilica following an invitation to sing there by the Director of Music, Dr Giles Brightwell. As part of our visit, the Choir sang for the Dutch religious broadcaster NRO NCRV live on television. The Choir also subsequently sang at Westminster Abbey in August 2022 and attended a reception hosted by the Dean and former Vicar of Christ Church, The Very Reverend David Hoyle. Finally, the Choir sang for a weekend residency at Hereford Cathedral in February 2023. The Choir are next due to visit Truro Cathedral in the last week of July 2023 as the resident visiting choir.

### **The Organ**

Since the last report, much progress has been made on Organ repairs and I would like to express my gratitude to the Vicar, Wardens, and PCC for their support in making this possible. The Organ Blower has now been repaired and our Organ tuner has spent hours going through the instrument making it playable for the time being. However, the underlying problems of mechanical reliability and dirt remain. We have asked the Organ builders Bishops and Son to be our contractors, as they presented a repair package that directly addressed our requirements at a competitive price. There was a real sense that this company understood our requirements and were enthusiastic to take on the project.

Repairs to the organ will be sequenced to follow repairs to the Chancel floor and thus I anticipate the organ to be out of action for several months somewhere in the first half of 2024. An electronic organ will be provided in the interim. Should we need a temporary organ during the Chancel floor repairs, this may incur an additional cost as this is separate to the organ repair.

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.

### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Hilary Meur, Committee Secretary**

This has been another good year. As we learn to live in the new normal, we have continued some usual fundraisers and added a few new ideas.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal focused on raising awareness around issues of mental health and wellbeing for adults and young people, along with domestic abuse. We raised £500. Donations for coffee and stall sales were sent to Grief Encounters £400 and Nightingale Cancer Support £700.

We collected non-perishable food, toiletries and goods for the Food Bank throughout the year. We also continued to support St John's Palmers Green with goods for trafficked young mothers and their babies, also items for packed lunches and a weekly bag of groceries. We donated many Easter Eggs too.

For a second year we held a St. Swithuns' fundraiser, raising £800 for Shelterbox and our Harvest Quiz raised £1,000 for DEC Pakistan. Harvest gifts were divided again between Homeless Action Barnet (HAB) and the Enfield Foodbank. Pickle, chutney and jam was made with fresh fruit and vegetables and sold on the stall.

We held a sponsored Songs of Praise. We produced and sang our Top Ten sponsored hymns at a special Sunday evening service which raised £1,000 for Sightsavers. This event was moved at short notice and in 2023 we hope to repeat the fundraiser at Open House weekend. We sold £100 worth of handmade poppies before Remembrance Sunday which was sent to The British Legion.

The craft group also made and collected Winter Warmers. These included hats, scarves, gloves, lap rugs and 'wheat bags' which could be heated in a microwave. We gave these away to anyone who needed help keeping warm. Remaining items went to HAB. Our giving of Christmas presents to Southgate Homebound returned this year and we included scarves and shawls with the usual biscuits and chocolates.

We sent 51 shoebox presents to Operation Christmas Child and £320 for their postage. Some of the gifts went to Ukraine and Moldova. Our bucket appeal raised £1,863 for DEC Ukraine. Our Gift Tree for The Ark produced about 200 presents again this year. These went to children and young people for whom St John's is caring. Rev Julie is very grateful for our continuing support.

The Christmas raffle raised £500 split between Opening Doors and Britten-Pears Arts in memory of Fr. Peter Jackson.

Christmas stall sales were really good. This has enabled us to send the following; CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health) £800, Cooking Champions £300, Enfield Foodbank £300, St. Andrews Can Bank £200, and Crisis £125.

Collections from the Christingle and Crib services raised £750 for the Children's Society.

In total we raised and donated £10,503 to charity. This is a great achievement. An excellent total raised by a small committee with the support and on behalf of the Christ Church congregation and family.

## **ECO CHURCH REPORT: Sandra Anderson**

The 'Friends of the Christ Church Garden' group meets regularly to care for our garden. Since its formation a handful of people have expressed their wish to no longer be included and another handful are the regulars. Hence progress with gardening and proposed projects is slow.

We experimented with growing vegetables last year and planted a selection of seeds. We successfully produced potatoes and lettuces, but nothing else. The sunlight can be patchy, as is the soil quality and of course our experience. Under Jenny's guidance we will try again with fruit bushes.

An acer tree has been planted in the front garden for the late Queen's jubilee. We are firstly waiting to see if it has survived the winter, and secondly for approval of our chosen plaque.

This year we hope to encourage our visiting children to look at the wildlife in the garden more closely and to use the freely available natural resources for projects and decoration. To this end we have invited families to church on Maundy Thursday to join in with foraging in the garden, with a view to making Easter gardens to decorate our windowsills during Easter. Thank you to Hilary, who arranged a plant sale in September. £85 was raised for the garden fund. We hope to arrange another one very soon.

Thank you to Nick and Youla for their ongoing dedication to our bee story. With the money raised from our very successful honey sale and from donations we have paid a deposit for a new hive of bees to be received this summer. A second hive of bees is being gifted to us from a beekeeper in Colindale. Thank you to Patricia Harper for organising the honey auction and to Bryony Hajidaniel for her help and support. We hope to have a bee 'celebration' when the new bees are installed. Nick and Bryony would be happy to welcome new beekeepers to our 'bee team'.

During Harvest Festival we all renewed our pledges before God to respect and care for His world. Judith Limbert supervised a display board at the back of church where we pinned up some previous notes of what those present were doing. We focused on 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. Our reusable fig branches were used again at Christmas to decorate the main aisle. Decorated with lights and decorations made by the children during the stained-glass project, the church looked beautiful.

Sadly, the Creation Care Day that was planned for October 8th in central London was cancelled due to a train strike. To date this has not been rescheduled and a different event may eventually replace it. Father Chrichton will keep us updated.

Thank you to Hilary Meur for organising our refreshments corner and overseeing items used and to Judith Limbert for her attention to detail in our children's corner. We do our best to use Traidcraft products and to keep our children's corner plastic free.

Finally, thank you to all of you for my appointment last summer as Creation Care Champion for Christ Church. It's a role that I'm fully committed to but there's always more to do than there's time for so thank you to all who help and give your time for the greater good. Please keep the ideas coming.

We remain fully committed to the ARocha Eco Church goals and to sustaining our eco awareness and current practices, while encouraging and introducing new and exciting ways to care for God's creation.

### **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:

- 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.
- Started to use the Safeguarding Dashboard to record all our safeguarding activities as recommended by the Diocese
- Obtained DBS clearance for 2 additional individuals and renewed 9 existing DBS clearances.

There has been one safeguarding concern which has been addressed.

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

#### Fire Risk Assessment

The Fire Risk Assessment for 2022/2023 was conducted by Kate Carroll and Ronald Lo on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and the assessment report was approved by the PCC at its subsequent meeting. We intend to seek comments and advice from the London Fire Brigade on the assessment report.

#### Health & Safety

There has not been any ongoing issue that needed to be addressed. Two incidents were recorded in our Incident Record Book. One was a trip-and-fall on the public pavement outside the church on Waterfall Road resulting in injury to a parishioner that was initially managed in church, and who was subsequently sent to hospital with eventual full recovery. The other incident involved a fall next to the piano with no physical injury recorded. Loose furniture has since been secured. No further actions were needed.

The congregation is encouraged to report any actual or potential issues to ensure the safety of all who use the church premises.

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

The Deanery Synod representatives from Christ Church Southgate for the term 2020 to 2023 were Ronald Lo, Peter Holiday, Sandra Anderson and John Macrory. Peter sadly passed away during his term of office last year. The Synod met three times since the last APCM: in June and November 2022 and in March 2023.

Apart from the appointing School Governors and addressing Deanery business, the following were on the agenda during the period under review.

- We heard a presentation on the work of the Diocese Compassionate Communities team from Rev. Natasha Beccles which focus on serious youth violence.
- Racial Justice (Diocesan Vision 2030) was highlighted and we heard a presentation by the Diocesan Lead on the project, Rev. Dr. A. Christian-Iwuagwu (of St. Stephen's Bush Hill Park).
- After a break in the project when All People All Places was not able to run, the Enfield Night Shelter continued in 2022-2023 with guests housed on some nights during the week at volunteer churches. All People All Places is now up and running again with a different operational model. The Enfield project for the coming winter 2023-2024 will operate as a day centre at Pymmes Park three days a week. A vegan lunch will be provided on Wednesdays, and Volunteers help to pre-cook the lunch and help serve.
- A working party on "Being A More Effective Deanery" was set up by the Deanery last year and reported in March 2023. For a start, a Deanery Quiet Day is being organised for 30 September 2023.
- The last meeting of the year was a Lenten Musical Devotion led by members of Christ Church Cockfosters. The meeting was also introduced to their "Local Houses of Prayer" project.
- Deanery representatives to the Diocesan Synod highlighted the following.
  - National Day of Prayer and Action for the Persecuted Church
  - Caring for God's Creation
  - Vision 2030 of Diocese
  - Finance & budgets and fraud case
  - Safeguarding – clergy and lay
  - London Diocese Board for Schools (LDBS)
  - Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) – push for "carbon neutral" boilers
  - Racial Justice Priority Group

The Synod noted that Bishop Rob will be leaving the Diocese/Deanery in June 2023 after the Petertide ordinations.

Any parishioner who wishes to have further information of any of the above items, please contact our Deanery Representatives.



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

### Parish Centre Activities and Lettings

Activities within the Parish Centre are now almost back to pre-covid times. As mentioned in my last year's report, we have lost several of our long-term lets, however, we have welcomed a new, regular, AA let on Wednesday evenings. We have also welcomed back Southgate Homebound.

Following the closure of the Kindergarten Nursery, the Management Committee has now received all the outstanding money that we were owed.

We are also in negotiation with the Walker Children's Club and After-school Club regarding future lettings.

Our policy of 'No children's or family parties' (apart from special events for known members of the church congregation) remains in place. However, we are happy to provide one-off lets for local organisations and to provide facilities for the Southgate Scouts Hatters Explorer Unit fundraising events.

### 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.

There is still a dampness problem in the south east corner of the Church House building.

Recently, our insurers organised for some of the outflow sewage drainpipes from the building to be relined as camera surveys showed that the pipes were deteriorating. Thames Water has also, finally, fitted stopcocks so that the Parish Centre, N<sup>o</sup>6 and N<sup>o</sup>7 The Green can be separately isolated from mains water.

In February, we employed Chubb to provide a fire risk assessment survey. This highlighted a number of deficiencies in the Parish Centre, however, there were no major or catastrophic risks found. In the light of the report, the PCMC is planning a number of fire safety upgrades.

### Management Committee

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

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

Other members of the PCMC are Clare Boulton, our secretary, Graham Cook, Steve Wyatt and John Macrory, who can always provide his legal advice. A big thank you to all members of the committee for the time that they devote to keep the Parish Centre functioning and an asset to Christ Church.

## **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 Edwardian terrace house).

All properties are managed by The Accommodating Company.

62 Oakfield Road – There was a change of tenants in September when the existing tenants moved out of the area. No major remedial works have been required. In the next two years we will need to carry out work, including replacing the windows and patio doors, to improve the Energy Performance Certificate rating of the property from the current rating of E to at least C as required by legislation due to come into effect in 2025.

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

7 The Green - The current tenants are in their sixth year. Following significant water ingress in December 2021 the windows were replaced and necessary making good was carried out in August.

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

Following two years of COVID-related disruption, 2022 saw the CCA enjoying its first full year of operation since 2019. The accounts demonstrate that the level of interest has returned to the pre-pandemic levels.

We continue to organise a regular pattern of social events, with a particular focus on Fridays. On the first Friday of each month the bar opens early (6 pm) with complimentary cheese and snacks throughout the evening. The third Friday of each month is normally Friday Foodie Night, with a selection of snacks or pizzas being served. Three Wine Tasting evenings proved to be popular, and we had a particularly good attendance at the annual celebration of Burns' Night in January.

The Top Step Talks returned in June, with Bea Limbert (as was) giving an entertaining account of her time working at Buckingham Palace and other major venues that are open to the public.

In the autumn we provided bar facilities in church during the Christ the King concert, and after both the Advent Carol Service and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

There is now a charity collection box on the bar, which enabled us to donate £200 to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. We donated £200 to the DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal after the vicar's pre-Harvest Quiz, and further donations are to be made very soon.

The Annual General Meeting in November was well attended, and the following were elected to serve on the General Committee: Clive Woodhouse (Chairman), 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.