

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY, HANWELL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST
DECEMBER 2022



Our Vision is ‘to be transformed by Jesus, and to transform the world with Jesus.’

Incumbent (Rector)	Revd Andrew Dand (chair)
Associate Vicar	Revd Susy Dand
Permission to Officiate	Revd Helen Cosstick
Churchwardens	Helen White (to May 2022) Tim Barnes Gareth Bevan (from May 2022)
PCC Secretary	Beryl Bevan
Treasurer	Chris Cosstick
Deanery Synod Reps	Edsel Jodhan
Elected Members	Beryl Bevan Gareth Bevan (to May 2022 - became Church Warden) Chris Cosstick Simon Croyden (resigned summer 2022) Neil Davies Hannah Foxcroft Tamsyn Kent (to May 2022) Philip Phelan Susan Powrie (To May 2022) David Sebuyira Camille Adams (From May 2022) John Hennessy (From May 2022) Frances Scott (From May 2022) Helen White (from May 2022)
Safeguarding Officer	Maria Barnes

Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the whole mission of the Church within the ecclesiastical parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It also has maintenance and safeguarding responsibilities for the Church Hall on Greenford Avenue, which is primarily let to community users, but also used for church activities and events, including the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter, our weekly toddler group Noah's Ark, Warm Spaces and St Mary's Players Pantomime.

General Statistics

Church membership

As at 31st December 2021 there were 136 People on the Church Electoral Roll. Of these 66% were resident in the parish. Of the total Electoral Roll, 59% were female and 41% were male.

Occasional Offices

During 2022 there were 11 baptisms and 1 marriage in church, and the clergy conducted the funerals of 16 parishioners.

PCC & Key personnel

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (at which 4 new PCC members were elected), and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (at which two churchwardens were elected) were held on Sunday 22nd May 2022 in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and The Churchwardens Measure. The full PCC met 5 times during the year with an average attendance level of 84%.

Our Administrator Sophie Dand left in September to focus on other work opportunities. Susan Powrie (Hall Administrator) has taken on the Administrator role from October 2022

Helen White stepped down from her role as church warden at the APCM and Tim Barnes was joined by Gareth Bevan as churchwarden in May 2022. Chris Cosstick has continued in his role as treasurer and Beryl Bevan in her role as secretary.

Review of the year

2022 began with a new wave of Covid 19 infections and continued restrictions in church.

As the UK transitioned from the acute phase of the pandemic to 'living with Covid', we too have been able to transition from the reactive choices of the previous 2 years into the freedom to make *proactive* choices as the year progressed and the 'new normal' emerged.

Our 'rebuilding' in 2022 has been centred on our vision statement, (adopted in Autumn 21), 'To be transformed by Jesus, and to transform the world with Jesus'.

We have sought to 'build forwards' to where God is calling us and to avoid getting stuck by 'looking back' to a pre-pandemic world and church. We have elected to try and keep hold of the spirit of trying new approaches/ideas/things that the pandemic gifted us.

In 2022 we focussed on our 'core business' as a church - making disciples, and equipping ourselves for the new reality of church in 2022 and beyond, and as a result we have seen sustained growth with many new people and families joining us.

'Transformed by Jesus'

Worship

- The aim of our services on Sundays and Wednesdays is to create a space for people to gather in order to encounter Jesus. 2022 has allowed us to develop our services to fit the new post pandemic landscape, acknowledging and celebrating the way in which our blended approach (online and in person) allows people to stay connected both to Jesus, and to one another.
- The Leadership Team and PCC undertook a review of our Sunday services in March and decided to retain the Online @9, 10:30am in church service pattern, and to build upon the positive elements of change made during the past two years and keep evolving and adapting to the current landscape of how people connect. We have also been able to implement several changes we had begun to plan pre pandemic.
- Free from restrictions on numbers we now have both a band and a choir at every Sunday service as we look to better blend contemporary and traditional elements in our worship. In addition, we began to create a series of services outside of Sunday mornings that seek to be intentionally of a more informal or traditional nature. Evensong in Autumn 2022 is one such example.
- **Easter** saw the beginning of steady growth at 'in person' services, including a new family service on Good Friday. We have continued to stream key elements of festivals in 2022 to reach as many people as possible.
- Our **Creche** ministry restarted in October, alongside greater cross over with **Junior Church** coming into our 10:30am services for key moments such as baptisms, and communion.
- Our **Remembrance Sunday** service took place in the park again, this is developing as an event for our wider community and we will plan to build on this in 2023.
- Our first **Christmas in the 'new normal'** allowed us to enjoy a much more familiar pattern of services (Carols, Christingle, Midnight, Christmas Day) with streamed options available to reach a wider number of people.
- In 2022 we **celebrated our 100th Online service** and as the year drew to a close, we have begun to look at the emerging role of 'digital' in the mission of the church and how this will develop and change as we move forwards.

Discipleship

- We undertook a **Discipleship survey** in our summer term to gain insight into how people like to learn so that we can develop discipleship programming that engages people in our post pandemic context. 68 people took part and this has given us a treasure trove of insight and inspiration to work with.

As a direct result, in the Autumn term we offered a **book study of 'The Bible: A Story that makes Sense of life'** by Andrew Ollerton, and 43 people studied with us across assorted Zoom and WhatsApp groups. This was complimented by a **Sunday Teaching series on Philippians**, and **downloadable daily Advent bible readings**.

- In addition to the Autumn offerings, in the summer term we ran '**Parentalk: The Teenage Years**', and our new **daytime discipleship group** (developed in 2021) continued to meet.
- Our **Summer Sabbath** took place as usual - a key rhythm and season of intentional rest in our church activities.
- We have been able to celebrate our **Eco Church Bronze** award at Harvest and have begun on plans to improve our green credentials inc. bringing our own mugs for coffee after services.

Community rebuilding

- At the heart of following Jesus is doing it alongside others. Given the new found freedoms of 2022 we have hosted events such as a **Summer Church Picnic**, **BBQ** in the Autumn, and most welcome of all **post service refreshments restarted** once again!

'Transforming the world with Jesus'

Mission and Outreach

- As Jesus's disciples today we are called to make a difference in our world, and to partner with Jesus in that work. 2022 saw us adopt a **new mission partner** in '**The Grove Community**' and their leader Mark Tate came to speak in the summer term.
- **Noah's Ark**, our popular toddler group, enjoyed its first full year since Covid began and has continued to grow month on month.
- In July we welcomed in hundreds of local people to our first '**History Weekend**'- **The Stories behind the Stones**, the culmination of new research done during the pandemic. We look forward to making this an annual event going forwards.
- When **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth died** in September, we were able to service our community by providing a place to come and pray and reflect, sign a book of condolence, alongside screening the Funeral service for people to watch together, and our own Commemoration service.
- As the cost of living crisis developed in the UK we have partnered with 'Stay Active' to open a '**Warm Space**' at our hall, which has been funded by a grant from Ealing Council.
- Once again St Mary's players took to the stage in December with a pantomime - this year Cinderella, a wonderful opportunity to connect with many in our local community.
- **Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter** took place in a hotel in the 21/22 season but will make a return to local churches/halls including us in early 2023.
- Along with other churches, and the charity sector in general around the UK, we have seen **volunteer** numbers drop as people decided to step back during the pandemic and assess commitments. We began to see a positive change in this area towards the end of 2022.

Growth

One of the defining features of 2022 has been growth. The number of people we engage with on Sundays has **grown by 19%** across the year. While much of this growth has been driven initially by adults, by the end of 2022 our children's work was approaching pre pandemic levels of engagement for the first time in nearly 3 years. We are now a larger church than we were pre pandemic, having **grown by 14% compared to 2019**.

There are a combination of factors at play but primarily, I believe, this has been a result of **our obedience to God's call** around key decisions such as services, discipleship and creating room for growth.

We have now passed beyond the classic 'glass ceiling' of 150 and we will need to think carefully about how to sustain a larger community, putting in place appropriate structures to allow people to be known and find their place within our church family while acknowledging the changes such growth brings.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Co-ordinator Maria Barnes, on behalf of the PCC states that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

There were 9 DBS checks carried out in 2022.

There will be 0 DBS renewals scheduled to be carried out in 2023

We have had 0 incidents to report to the Diocese Safeguarding Team in 2022

Conclusion

2022 has been a year of growth, rebuilding and continued learning about how life and church will look in the post pandemic landscape. It has been exciting to see growth both in numbers, but as importantly in depth as we focus in on helping people to connect and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

A key message throughout the past 2+ years has been the importance of listening to God's leading *and* then following what he calls us to do. My prayer is that we continue to humbly keep following where he leads us in 2023, remaining open to change and new opportunities.

Rev Andrew Dand
Incumbent and Chair
March 2023

Financial review for the year ended 31st December 2022

Overall income: £152,651

Income was £1,702 lower than the previous year.

Thanks are due to all who support the church through their giving via the planned giving scheme or our online giving platforms.

Overall expenditure: £142,681

Expenditure was £2,211 higher than the previous year; the annual Common Fund payment to the Diocese was again reduced from £85,000 to £66,000 by concession.

Expenditures included £2,500 paid to our Mission partner- Gurnell Grove Community- supporting their important work on the Gurnell Grove estate.

Our costs for energy used at the church and the hall have been heavily impacted by the surge in energy prices, despite sourcing our energy through the Parish buying energy scheme. In 2023 this will be mitigated to an extent by transfers from the energy fund and through increased giving by members of the congregation whose generosity, at a time when the cost of living has risen sharply, is hugely appreciated.

The Common Fund contribution for 2023 is agreed at £66,000 but in due course it will be necessary to plan for a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Fabric Fund -balance carried forward £27,145.

The annual grant from the William Hobbayne charity of £7,500 was received and £5,223 was spent on necessary repairs to the church and a survey for the next tranche of work on the exterior stonework. It is anticipated this work will be undertaken during 2023 at a cost of £21,000 - £23,000 approx.

Reserve Fund-balance carried forward £27,000.

The balance on the reserve fund was maintained.

General Fund-church activities excluding the hall-deficit £21,116.

This was covered by a transfer from the Hall fund.

Hall fund-the balance carried forward after covering the General fund deficit was £16,364.

Energy Fund-balance carried forward £3,327.

A one-off grant was received from the Diocese to mitigate the impact of energy prices rises and this plus two donations from church members has been carried over to 2023 to offset against energy costs.

Warm Spaces Fund-balance carried forward £2,384.

A grant was received from London Borough of Ealing to assist with the provision of a 'warm space' at the Church Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This initiative is partnered with 'StayActive' one of our hall users.

Chris Cosstick

Treasurer

March 2022

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church for 2022

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14th May 2023 (as required under the Church Representation Rules para II 9d)

As Churchwardens our property responsibilities, on behalf of the PCC, include the buildings, plant, fabric and contents of the Church and Church Hall. We completed the annual terrier and inventory check in June 2022 and confirm that the silver and other possessions of the church are complete and in good order.

St Mary's Church is a grade 2* listed building and natural weathering means that specialist work needs to be on-going. The Archdeacon previously recommended that we budget 2-3 days of stone masons' time per year. To this end a survey of the tower and steeple was carried out in 2022 at a cost of £2,962 and remedial work has been recommended at a projected cost of £20,686.35 (due to be carried out in April of this year). Also a new hatch to the Crypt entrance was installed in December 2022 at a cost of £1,410.

The church is inspected by an architect every 5 years. The last inspection was carried out on the 15 March 2022 and overall reported the church to be in good condition and well looked after. The priority items recommended in this inspection have now been undertaken.

Our future planning still needs to consider a permanent extension to the Parish Room, to replace the 2 temporary huts - the Ark and the Cabin.

Major work at the church hall consisted of a complete overhaul of the windows at a cost of £5,820 and the removal of a number of trees and bushes from the north side at a cost of £900. There is also a project in underway to look into the replacement of the boilers, radiators and piping as part of our eco planning. The sanding and polishing of the hall floor is done on a regular basis by a member of the parish for material costs only.

The costs of maintaining the churchyard are billed annually in arrears to the Council with the work being done by volunteers for which no charge is made.

We continue to be fortunate to have many volunteers who help maintain our buildings and churchyard, as well as our dedicated teams of cleaners who keep the church looking beautiful. Their hard work and love significantly reduces our upkeep costs.

Tim Barnes & Gareth Bevan, Churchwardens
March 2023