

Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle



Papers for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Tuesday 9th May 2023

Our Vision Statement

- To serve the people of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle for their own sakes.
- To respond to God's call and to recognise the Kingdom of God in the minds and lives of local people.
- By faith and trust in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – to build up the body of Christ in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle.

PAPERS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 8.00pm
in St John's

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AGENDA

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Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 available separately

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle was held at St Mary's Church Kidlington on 4th May 2022 at 8.00pm.

Those Present

Mr Mark Christodoulou (joint chair), Mrs Kathryn Smith (joint chair), Revd Susy Brouard, Dr Jill Buckeldee, Miss Philippa Burrell, Mr Scott Cheeseman, Mrs Caroline Coleman, Mrs Diana Davis, Revd Martin Davis, Miss Margaret Day, Mrs Tilly Evershed, Mrs Meghann Hewett, Miss Stephanie Hobson, Miss Ann Holland, Mrs Alison Johnson, Mr Colin Johnson, Mr Michael Ling, Mrs Elaine Marsland, Ven. David Meara, Mrs Clare Morgan, Mrs Sue O'Hare, Mr Andy Pedley, Mrs Janet Warren. There were 23 people present.

1. Opening Worship

The meeting opened with prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Liz Bruce, Mr Rob Bruce, Mr Robert Buckeldee, Mrs Pam Cooper, Mrs Yo Davies, Dr Bill Evershed, Mrs Anne Handsley, Mr Stephen Handsley, Mrs Peggy Harwood, Dr David Hewett, Mrs Jan Jeffreys, Mr Peter Jeffreys, Mrs Marion Kubat, Mr Nick Kubat, Prof. John Morris, Mrs Joyce Morris, Mrs Penny Pedley, Mrs Cherrill Seward, Mr Malcolm Seward, Miss Kate Seward, Mrs Emma Timms, Mr David Townsend, Mrs Joan Townsend, Canon Rosemary Tucker, Mr Chris Tupling.

3. Election of Church Wardens

Four written nominations had been received prior to the meeting:

St Mary's Kidlington:

Tilly (Irene) Evershed: proposed Bill Evershed, seconded Margaret Day

Andy Pedley: proposed Tilly Evershed, seconded Bill Evershed

St John's:

Mark Christodoulou: proposed Malcolm Austen, seconded Cherrill Seward

St Mary's Hampton Poyle:

Susan O'Hare: proposed Kathryn Smith, seconded Pat O'Gorman

There being no further nominations the four proposed people were elected unopposed to serve as Churchwardens for the year 2022/2023: Mark Christodoulou (5th year), Tilly Evershed (3rd year), Andy Pedley (2nd year), Sue O'Hare (1st year).

Thanks were expressed to all the wardens for their hard work.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Andy Pedley, seconded by Tilly Evershed, carried by the Meeting.

5. Election of representatives for Deanery Synod

It was noted that we were entitled to elect five representatives for the three-year term 2020 to 2023, but so far had only three: Philippa Burrell, Stephanie Hobson, Rosemary Tucker. There being no further nominations the three current representatives will continue.

6. Election of representatives for Parochial Church Council

Members still in elected office:

Scott Cheeseman (elected APCM 2021, 2nd year)

Diana Davis (elected APCM 2020, 3rd year)

Denise Dempsey (elected APCM 2021, 2nd year)

David Hewett (elected APCM 2020, 3rd year)

Alison Johnson (elected APCM 2021, 2nd year)

Catherine Male (elected APCM 2020, 3rd year)

Clare Morgan (elected APCM 2021, 2nd year)

Chris Tupling (elected APCM 2021, 2nd year)

Janet Warren (elected APCM 2020, 3rd year)

Members no longer in elected office:

Robert Buckeldee selected by lot to resign 2022

Caroline Coleman having reached the end of a three year term

Ann Holland having reached the end of a three year term

Anne Handsley selected by lot to resign 2022

Michael Ling, resigning
Sue O'Hare was now a PCC member as churchwarden designate.

The following had been nominated to serve as new members of the PCC:

Robert Buckeldee (proposed Jill Buckeldee, Margaret Day)
Margaret Day (proposed Bill Evershed, seconded Tilly Evershed)

Bill Evershed (proposed Tilly Evershed, seconded Margaret Day)

Kathryn Smith (proposed Tilly Evershed, seconded Sue O'Hare)

There being no nominations for the remaining two vacancies, these four were duly elected by the Meeting.

7. To appoint an Independent Examiner for 2022

The Treasurer proposed that Nicola Cadwallader, of David Cadwallader & Co Ltd, be appointed for 2022, having acted as Independent Examiner since 2018.

This was approved by the Meeting.

8. To approve the membership for the Committee of St Mary's Kidlington

The following had been nominated to serve as members of the Committee of St Mary's Kidlington:

Churchwardens + Scott Cheeseman, Alison Johnson, John Morris, Mrs Ann E Thomas + David Hewett ex officio.

There being no further nominations, these were proposed by Andy Pedley, seconded by Scott Cheeseman and approved by the Meeting.

9. To approve the membership for the Committee of St John's Kidlington

The following had been nominated to serve as members of the Committee of St John's:

Churchwarden + Malcolm Austen, Margaret Day, Margaret Dee, Rachel Evans, Cherrill Seward, Malcolm Seward, Emma Timms

There being no further nominations these were proposed by Diana Davis, seconded by Margaret Day and approved by the Meeting.

10. To approve the membership for the Committee of St Mary's Hampton Poyle

The following had been nominated to serve as members of the Committee of St Mary's Hampton Poyle:

Churchwarden + Jean Bagnall, Judith Baker, Tracy Bickley, Carolyn Castle, Monica Green, Pat O'Gorman, Kathryn Smith

There being no further nominations these were proposed by Tilly Evershed, seconded by Clare Morgan and approved by the Meeting.

11. To approve the membership for the St John's Hall Management Committee

The following had been nominated to serve as members of the St John's Hall Management Committee:

Churchwarden + Malcolm Austen, Margaret Day

There being no further nominations these were proposed by Diana Davis, seconded by Meghann Hewett and approved by the Meeting.

12. To approve members for the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington

The following were currently serving as members on the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington:

Pam Cooper, Margaret Day, Penny Pedley, Janet Warren

Janet Warren tendered her resignation. There being no further nominations the remaining three were approved by the Meeting.

13. To consider the 2022 Electoral Roll Report

The Secretary gave the report on the Electoral Roll, on behalf of Joyce Morris. At the time of the APCM last year there were 249 names on the Roll. Since then 8 have died, 1 has moved away and 3 have joined (including one just reaching the age of 16), so the Electoral Roll is now 243. She noted that this does not include the stipendiary clergy and all the other clergy who are so active in the parish.

It was noted that people are entitled to join the Electoral Roll at any time, not just before an APCM so new arrivals should always be invited to join.

14. To consider the Annual Report for 2021

The Chair referred the Meeting to the formal Annual Report & Accounts circulated before the meeting and thanked the PCC Secretary and Treasurer for compiling this.

The Meeting accepted the Annual Report.

15. To consider the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

The Chair referred the Meeting to the Financial Statements included in the Annual Report & Accounts, which the Treasurer then summarised. He noted the Independent Examiner's Report on Page 1 confirmed that all was well with the accounts. He noted a satisfactory outcome, given the challenges of the past year, with a healthy (though not exceptional) surplus. This was mainly due to one generous legacy, the current freezing of Parish Share and reduced spending on Fabric due to the pandemic. Thus, though the balances looked good now we could expect to have to spend more on Fabric and Parish Share shortly.

There were no questions and the Meeting accepted the annual accounts.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for all his work on the accounts throughout the year, and for the past 21 years. We were grateful for all that he had done and wished him much relief in retirement.

16. Fabric Committee Report

The Chair referred the Meeting to the Fabric Report included in the traditional parish "annual booklet". It was noted that works carried out had been mainly limited to those which were essential or legally required. The Meeting approved the Report.

17. Deanery Synod Report

The Chair referred the Meeting to the Deanery Synod Report included in the traditional parish "annual booklet". The Meeting approved the Report.

18. To consider any other matters of parochial or general Church interest

There were no matters raised.

19. To deal with any other business

The Meeting expressed thanks again to Michael Ling, retiring as Treasurer, and to Katy Smith, retiring as churchwarden.

The Chair read out a letter from the Rector, re-iterating those thanks, and reporting on plans to strengthen the role of small groups in the church community, looking how we can serve the needs of new housing to be built in the parish, and the commitment to welcome and support refugees from Ukraine.

It was noted that throughout the parish we were now involved in more activities than pre-COVID and had coped well with the pandemic, both spiritually and financially, thanks to God's goodness.

Felicity and all the Ministry Team were thanked for their leadership throughout the year.

20. To set the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2023

The date of the APCM for 2023 was set for Tuesday 9th May.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm following the saying of The Grace together.

Reports for 2022

Rector's Report

In 2020 the public desire was often expressed as not wanting to revert to 'normal' but instead to find a 'new normal' building on the insights of Covid times and releasing us from long acquired but less helpful habits. In church circles and in our parish many expressed that same hope.

2022 was the year when we began to be able to shape a 'new normal' that is right for our parish at this time.

At the beginning of the year there was still much uncertainty around and congregation members were in different 'places'. Felicity preached four Epiphany sermons that were shared across the whole parish. They set out our mission and values as a parish church community (i.e. not a specialist ministry) with the heart of our mission statement '*to serve the people of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle for their own sake*'. This involves

- 1) seeing where God is already at work around us and coming alongside God's ministry
- 2) being involved in and serving all sectors of the community in their diversity
- 3) gathering around Christ at the centre of our community
- 4) living in (worship) and as (service) the light of Christ.

Our church may, like the national church, now be Simpler (trimmed down) and Humbler (knowing our limits and our dependence of Christ). Yet at the same time, if we continue to deepen our faith, we can also be a Bolder church with a deep-rooted confidence that comes from knowing who we are and what we are here for. The future is full of hope and grounded in God's promise.

These theological principles underpinned much of what followed in the year as we continued the post-Covid opening up process.

Some things have stuck, some things have disappeared, some things were 'of the moment', and we are still travelling a journey. At the end of 2022 a pattern has emerged that is our New Normal for the moment.

- **Zoom has remained** a useful choice for winter and evening meetings, or families with children in bed.
- **Online provision is here to stay**, but has found a more manageable level by reducing *Pause for Prayer* to three weekdays and making more use of livestream for Sundays. (Thankyou to the very small Tech Team of Tilly, Scott, Andy and Gary who make this possible but are usually unseen and unheard.)
- **Joint Services** came about for staffing, financial, and ecological reasons, but are so much appreciated that they became part of the regular monthly calendar.
- **Evensong** has become a monthly event, having previously been termly.
- **Hampton Poyle** has settled at two services a month having previously been three.
- The **Weekly Email** is established as our main communication tool reaching 250 households and cutting down the paper needed for hard copies.

- The new **Music Group is established** resourcing the monthly *Open Space* and other services as needed, with a diversity of music.
- **Some rotas have become quite thin** and we are living without some of the liturgical support of former times. Clergy are often 'paddling' busily beneath the waters... But we are still growing in faith and worshipping with integrity. Interestingly, the rota for prayer ministry was the only one where every single person was ready to return straight away.
- **Some boundaries are more permeable now and we are more flexible.** We have three churches each with their own distinctive strengths and offerings, and have continued to make friends across former divisions. It is much more common for people to show up at 8am if they are busy later on, or at one of the other churches if 'All Together' or 'Open Space' is not their scene. The children's work at St John's is appreciated by St Mary's choristers and other children. Online provision remains an option for everyone every week (and 4 times during the week) and those who normally attend in the building also join online if they are away or have other reasons for being at home.

In many ways we are indeed simpler and humbler. But we have discovered that together we really can do more than we thought we could. I would like to thank congregation members for your flexible positive attitudes as we navigated the different stages of change through the year. I cannot count the number of times people have said to me that they weren't very sure about {x,y,z} but they went along with it and then discovered something new and wonderful in the process. When we embrace the challenges that disruption throws us, there really can be growth.

Alongside all of this 'New Normal' is the joy of familiar things returning, as has been set out in the more formal part of this report.

Parish management is vital but is often unseen. Safeguarding, finances, health and safety, lettings, management and support of staff and volunteers, buildings and churchyard maintenance, and rotas... All the administration of a

medium sized business applies also to churches and goes on day to day by our full time clergy and our amazingly generous volunteers. Without this, we would not have a viable, legal and safe parish within which to fulfil the other essential elements of ministry. Administration is also missional and pastoral and you are vital to the health of our parish. We are a 'complex animal' and there are many teams involved in the diverse ministry we offer to the people of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle, from praying and preaching to finance, from choirs and bells to house groups, from catering to computing and much more. Thank you all.

People often see just one element of our ministry and may be unaware of some of the **other ways in which team members are involved in the wider community**. The Almshouses next to St Mary's Kidlington provide subsidised accommodation for elderly and vulnerable residents. It is a separate trust and so does not feature in this report but Felicity is the chair, and the trustees and almoner (Ann Whitford) are nearly all church members.

Most people will know of the wonderful community work being done by our church-run project, 'The Hub', but the clergy and other staff members also maintain good relationships with the Parish Council and local councillors, 'Kidlington Voice' Business Community through monthly business breakfasts, potential developers whose plans might impact the future shape of Kidlington and its resources, 'Churches Together in Kidlington', the Fire Brigade, and 'Kidlington News'. Although, unusually, we do not have any church schools in our parish we do have relationships with all the state schools. Susy and Penny have used their teaching skills for Diocesan courses, Marian is SSM officer for the Dorchester Episcopal Area caring for self supporting ministers, David gives substantial liturgical and pastoral help at the cathedral, and Felicity has been for five years the Bishop of Oxford's Adviser for Women's Ministry with a care for all ordained women across the diocese. The parish was asked to take on the chaplaincy of the air cadets and Felicity went on a residential training week at Shrivenham RAF base but had to withdraw as the time commitment was too demanding. Even with a commitment to serving local people at the heart of our ministry we just cannot fulfil every need.

We end 2022 in a very different place. Christmas was celebrated with (nearly) all the familiar and loved traditions and some wonderful music once again. Around 1,000 people followed the star and three amazing camels through the streets of Kidlington to the live nativity at St Mary's and we contemplated once again the mystery of the incarnation demonstrated by a tremendously confident and outgoing baby as the choristers sang and the sheep munched their hay. This was an astounding event and left us with a real 'can do' feeling at the end of the year. And thanks to Clare Morgan's not-so-subtle negotiations with a camel keeper (!) Felicity got to ride a camel all the way back through the darkened streets to the astonished faces of local car drivers.

My thanks are to each and every team member for the parts you play in our diverse and wide ministry and for your support, love and care this year. My prayers are for you all and especially for Martin and Diana and their family.

Felicity Scroggie, Team Rector

St Mary's Kidlington Report

2022 started off cautiously as people began to move forward following the pandemic years. Services at St Mary's took into account the widely differing comfort levels of individuals within the congregation regarding pandemic precautions. The aim was always to support those most anxious. The online services and pause for prayer remained a vital support for those still uncomfortable with entering a full congregation and those who are unable to attend, for whatever purpose. The Wednesday morning communion also played a vital role in encouraging people back to in-person worship.

As confidence grew the re-emergence of many of our favourite events took place. The Art Weeks returned in glory. The Fete team brushed themselves off and hurriedly put together a fabulously well attended Fete with an incredible Dog Show and the new attraction of Kidlington's own Lego Masters competition. The long postponed Open Gardens event involving all three churches and the lovely gardens of all our congregations was another wonderful event involving the whole village. Thank you to the very many people who ensured these events were such a great success.

St Mary's continued to host many weddings, baptisms and funerals through the year, bringing many people from our community into a church setting. We welcomed KAOS and other local organisations to use the church for their concerts. And beyond the church, the mid-week lunch at Willow Tree Café at Moorside allows members of our congregation to meet and connect away from church.

Through 2022, we were blessed with excellent music. Our choir and choristers worked very hard to bring us varied and relevant worship music, and we are grateful to our musical director, David Hewett, for his leadership and enthusiasm. The Making Group were once again active in Lent and Advent exploring God through their creativity.

St Mary's is well used and remains in good condition - routine maintenance being effected as necessary. Thanks to the Fabric Committee for their work in overseeing the maintenance of the building.

We are an Open Church and as such, St Mary's remained open on a daily basis. Thank you to the team of Parishioners who open up in the mornings and lock up each night; there is no doubt that this is greatly appreciated - the building is well visited and continues to provide a place for quiet contemplation for prayer, as it has for over 800 years.

Tilly Evershed and Andy Pedley, Churchwardens

St John's Kidlington Report

Worship

After a cautious start to the year we were able to lift the remaining Covid restrictions in the Spring, resuming the serving of refreshments after our Sunday morning services and introducing an option to resume the sharing of the common cup in our Eucharist services. Regular services were held at 10am on Sunday with our All Together services on the first week of the month and Iona communion held every Tuesday evening in the Lady Chapel.

Lent began with a said service with ashing on Ash Wednesday and in Holy week, we held our traditional services of book of common prayer, Iona, Stations of the Cross and on Maundy Thursday a service of washing of feet, stripping of the alter

followed by the midnight vigil in the Lady Chapel. Good Friday saw a reflection at the cross and our children's service in the afternoon. We celebrated Easter Sunday with a Eucharist and baptism service with outdoor lighting of the Easter candle from a "carefully lit" brazier. Our patronal service was celebrated on 26th June.

As the economic situation and in particular the costs of oil and gas escalated, the Parish revised the pattern of services in the Autumn to ensure a 10am service would take place in at least one of our churches, rather than in all three churches in the Parish. The move to shared services began with a joint parish Harvest service at St John's, including the choir from St Mary's which was a wonderfully joyous occasion and extremely well attended. Joint services continued every other Sunday for the rest of the year. Our service of Remembrance was held on 13th November. Although we held a joint Advent Sunday service at St Mary's, we continued our tradition of the travelling Posada which this year took its advent journey across the whole Parish.

Our Christmas services included a Carol & Christingle Service on 10th December, a Nativity Play performed by Junior Church (many taking on several roles!) on 18th December and on Christmas Eve we held our Crib Service, where the travelling Posada was welcomed back to church. This service was particularly well attended with young ones making their own seating arrangements down the aisle during an interactive re-telling of the Nativity story. This was followed by our Midnight Mass at St John's.

St John's Family

Our congregation numbers are now close to where they were before the pandemic, however we remain in regular contact with those who have been unable to return, for whatever reason, to ensure they still feel part of the St John's family.

In September, our Team Vicar Martin stepped down from regular clergy duties due to ill health, for which we offer our continued prayers and support to Martin, Diana and all their family as Martin's treatment progresses.

Sadly, a member of our congregation, Patsy Johnson, died in January. Messages of sympathy and condolence were sent to Patsy's family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Junior Church

Junior Church has been a regular feature in all our Sunday morning services with active contributors provided to the monthly All Together services, Mothering Sunday, and of course our Nativity play. Numbers have remained steady throughout the year.

We would like to express our thanks to all the leaders and helpers who continue to nurture the faith of children and young people in St John's Church and provide lively and engaging activities for them each and every Sunday. We also thank them for providing Junior Church activities at St Mary's when services were shared during the latter part of the year.

Using St John's Hall Church

The Quinquennial inspection of St John's took place on 26th January as part of the regular check of Parish buildings by the Diocese of Oxford. While there were no major concerns, a number of improvements to the fabric of the building and to some of the fixtures and fittings were recommended, a number of these being addressed throughout the year.

The Hall and Meeting Room which are available for parish social use or use by the local community have been well utilised throughout the year with The Hub @ St John's now offering a full programme of activities.

The hall continues to provide facilities used regularly by other groups in the community during the week and at weekends, covering a wide variety of activities and fund-raising events.

Care and compassion in our community continues, with food donations for the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank and Christmas gifts from the joint Advent Sunday service for those in need locally. The Fair Trade stall has been able to return, especially on Sundays with joint services and continues to be well supported by members of the congregation.

Acknowledgements

The **St John's Committee** met three times during the year, with two meetings held via Zoom and face to face for our

meeting in October. The **St John's Management Committee** also met three times during the year, each meeting being in person, to discuss matters such as the quinquennial inspection recommendations, heating arrangements and costs for hall users, general tidying up and clearing of the garden area.

We give grateful thanks to Martin and all members of the Parish Clergy team including Felicity, our Team Rector, Susy, our Curate and our retired clergy, for leading us spiritually and for their valued ministry to us all during the year and to Bruce for enhancing our worship with his music in all our services.

We would also like to express our thanks to everyone for their valued support and contribution to life of St John's especially during the revised pattern of services from Autumn onwards. We remain extremely grateful for all that you are and all that you do, as members of St John's Hall Church in Kidlington.

Mark Christodoulou, Churchwarden

St Mary's Hampton Poyle Report

2022 saw the return to a more normal pattern of services at little St Mary's. Our small friendly congregation are always pleased to offer a warm (literally) welcome to parishioners and visitors who might like to join us. Katy Smith stepped down as Churchwarden in May and Sue O'Hare has taken on the role, with the continued help and advice of Katy and other previous Churchwardens who together keep the church cleaned and decorated. Katy will continue to lead the project to build a servery and toilet in the church.

Some highlights in the church life here in Hampton Poyle during 2022 were the annual Rogation perambulation with Felicity, as ever, on horseback leading a soggy but happy group through the village. There was a Pet Service in the churchyard in August, Harvest Festival and small supper in September and a moving and reflective Remembrance All Souls service in November. Advent and Christmas saw carollers assemble on a particularly cold evening to sing carols around the village with a welcome glass of mulled wine at the end house. The church was packed on Christmas Eve for magical carols by candlelight. The final service of the year was

Christmas morning, the church was beautifully decorated with flowers for the Christmas season.

In addition to these events a Craft Fayre was held in November with crafts for sale, teas and cakes, bric a brac, and a raffle, raising in excess of £670 for church funds. A particular highlight of 2022 was in June when Mervyn Puleston celebrated 60 years since his ordination with a special and very well attended communion service. The village celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a party in a local farmer's barn and while we mourned the death of the Queen in September, we look forward to a picnic in the barn in May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Sue O'Hare, Churchwarden

Fabric Report

St Mary's Kidlington

The New South Gate (like for like replacement) was fitted by Kidlington Parish.

The lighting in and around the Bell Tower was updated allowing the bell ringers to find their way in and out of the tower more safely and giving greater visibility within the bell chamber.

The boiler and fire extinguishers were serviced, and spire lightening conductor was inspected. In addition PAT Testing of all electrical equipment was executed with no failures.

Many small and vital repairs were carried out by members of the congregation in concert with the Parish council, including some maintenance to the dry-stone walling. Many thanks go to them all.

Chris Tupling, the Health and Safety officer inspected the church and gave some advice, which we have followed up.

St Mary's Hampton Poyle

Some initial works resulting from the Quinquennial report were completed in July.

Chris Tupling, the Health and Safety officer inspected the church in August.

The boiler and Fire Extinguishers have been serviced during the year and PAT Testing of all electrical equipment was executed with no failures.

Other small and varied works were carried out by local volunteers.

St John's

The heaters, boiler and fire extinguishers have been serviced during the year and PAT Testing of all electrical equipment was executed with no failures.

Both toilets had dual-flush syphons fitted to them, to cut back on unnecessary water usage.

The brickwork was re-pointed and the hinges and fittings on the main door were refitted and the door and frame to the Vestry fire escape were renewed. All of which were requested in the Quinquennial report.

Chris Tupling, the Health and Safety officer inspected the church in July and the recommendations were carried out.

Anderson's Close

Our tenants continue to rent Anderson's Close and appear very settled.

Tilly Evershed, Chair Fabric Committee

Oxford Deanery Synod Report

Four Synod meetings took place during 2022.

Tuesday 5th February 2022 7.30pm at St Giles Church

The meeting opened with a welcome and worship led by the Vicar of St Giles. Prudence Dailey [Lay Chair] gave a report from the recent General Synod and also an introduction to the way in which General Synod works. Revd Anthony Buckley [Chair] gave some thoughts in preparation for Lent. The meeting ended with notices and AOB and closed with the Grace.

Wednesday 18th May 2022 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalen

The meeting opened with a welcome and worship led by the Vicar of St Mary Magdalen. Revd Gavin Knight, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Summertown, spoke about the response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis within the Deanery. He spoke from the experience of his own and other churches and provided an opportunity for members to share their own experiences. It was announced that Revd Katie Tupling would

be the new Deanery Secretary. The meeting ended with notices, AOB and was closed with the Grace.

Wednesday 21st September 2022 7.30pm at the Church of St Mary and St John, Cowley Road

This was a joint meeting of Oxford and Cowley Deanery Synod.

The meeting began with the instruction to speak to someone we didn't know about how our churches had worked with the Queen's death and the start of the reign of King Charles. A formal welcome and notices was followed by the main business of the evening – to consider the Executive Summary [April 2022] of the work completed by the Oxford and Cowley Strategy Group [OCSG]. The Group met post covid to discern community needs in the Oxford and Cowley Deaneries, ascertaining the resources required to meet these needs and identifying existing resources that may be shared. Some good suggestions of where to go from here were put forward during the discussion. The meeting closed with worship following the form of night prayer.

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels, Summertown

The meeting began with a warm welcome and opening prayer.

Revd Mia Smith, Chaplain of Hertford College, spoke on Keeping Advent and Christmas in Busy Times giving examples from her work with students. This was followed by discussion and sharing of ideas from our own churches.

Parish Share 2023 resolution

The following motion was proposed: 'The Deanery Share of £1,175.007 for the year 2023 be allocated to parishes below in accordance with the figures below'. Figures were circulated in a separate table. Following some discussion the motion was carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Stephanie Hobson, Philippa Burrell, Rosemary Tucker

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Parish.

Those involved in work with vulnerable adults or children have completed any training that is necessary or have been reminded that they need to update their training. I have renewed my own leadership training. Safeguarding reports are submitted to the PCC twice a year.

I worked alongside the Health and Safety officer in helping ensure safeguarding was in place for an overnight choir visit to Romsey and for a concert at Merton College. A new activity with vulnerable adults, "The Big Sing" resulted in a number of volunteers being safely recruited, interviewed, DBS screened where necessary and trained in safeguarding.

I took over the Disclosure and Barring administration when Tim Eden, Parish Administrator left his post and have been checking identity for volunteer roles.

There have been three safeguarding concerns this year which have been worked through with the help of clergy and our diocesan safeguarding advisor.

The social media policy related to safeguarding was updated and approved. I am continuing to use the dashboard system to ensure that we are up to date with diocesan safeguarding requirements. The PCC has reviewed relevant safeguarding policies and procedures.

Yo Davies, Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety Report

The beginning of 2022 was a time of change as Covid 19 regulations came to an end, and churches began to adjust to the decrease in government and diocesan guidance.

As we moved through the year, we saw changes in seating arrangements in St Mary's and St John's as we decreased social distancing and no longer maintained such a stringent cleaning regime. Recognising that congregation members had a broad range of responses to the pandemic, and a range of medical needs, sections of distanced seating were kept – as well as socially distanced sharing of the peace and eucharist available in one kind and intinction.

By the end of the year, in-building worship had broadly returned to pre-pandemic practice, but with continued sensitivity to individual need. Continued thanks to clergy and church wardens for their flexibility and resilience throughout this most challenging of times.

I was able to meet with all the churchwardens over the summer to discuss health and safety and regular checks on church plant and equipment. Together areas for attention have been identified and action taken. For example, there is now a regular routine of PAT testing which has been taken on in-house, thanks to Andy Pedley.

There has been one reportable H&S (RIDDOR) incident at St Mary's which involved a bell ringer tripping over a gravestone at night. This incident was reported to Cherwell District Council and the grave surrounded by hazard tape. The area around the bell tower exit has now been lit by solar lighting.

Thanks to church wardens and respective fabric/church committees for their ongoing work to ensure our churches are safe places to be.

Chris Tupling, Health and Safety Officer

Finance Committee Report

Michael Ling retired from the role of Treasurer at the 2022 APCM, and I replaced him. With the assistance of the Finance Committee, and especially of Margaret Day we are working towards a "new model" of financial management with more tasks being shared. The Committee met three times in 2022 while I have been Treasurer, and our intention is to set meeting dates to best service the pattern of PCC/ Standing Committee meetings – so possibly five or six times in a full year.

Our priority this year was to compile and recommend a budget for 2023 which will cut quite deeply into our reserves, but will achieve some major repairs which cannot be delayed much longer. We also felt it was our responsibility to assist with clear messaging about our financial position throughout the year, rather than having a one-off campaign.

The Treasurer's Report is included in the formal Annual Report for 2021 and the Annual Accounts are shown separately.

This year's committee were Robert Buckeldee, Katy Smith, and Margaret Day, and I am very grateful to all of them for their support and commitment during the year.

Bill Evershed, Treasurer

Communications Group Report

The Group met once via Zoom early in 2022 and has continued to maintain contact by email and phone as necessary. Members of the team have continued to deal with day-to-day matters such as maintaining the website, working on church noticeboards, production of publicity material for parish events and services (with the help of the Parish Administrator). Scott Cheeseman has resigned as leader of the group but other members will be "keeping things ticking over".

Margaret Day

Children & Young People Committee Report

This committee shares the over-view of all work with children and young people across the three churches with Martin as Team Vicar. The regular weekly provision of Junior Church at St John's, monthly All Age services 'All Together' at St John's, and choristers at St Mary's, and the monthly TIG youth group, have continued through the year thanks to dedicated leaders and helpers. In addition, we have been able to offer special seasonal and child-focussed services: Good Friday, Christingle and Crib Services. Holding joint services in the autumn meant that we were able to run some children's activities at St Mary's thanks to the St John's leaders.

We continue to foster relationships with schools and uniformed organisations as invited (this year with the Beavers, cubs, 'Be Space' prayer spaces in primary schools, and school assemblies in Gosford High School

Our thanks to all who have worked together to keep these things running.

We would love to rebuild the creche and Sunday School teams at St Mary's so that we can run the weekly creche and Sunday Schools but this year it has not been possible.

Felicity Scroggie

Kidlington Community Hub Report

With the more stringent constraints of the Covid lockdowns coming to an end, 2022 has been in general a much busier year than 2021. Rachel, having started with the Hub in the summer of 2021, has very much made the role of Children and Family Worker her own, and is brimming with energy and ideas to grow the Hub's activities. It was lovely to see the Hub represented at the Kidlington Gala Day in July.

Little Acorns and Bouncing Babies are now as busy as ever, meeting on a Tuesday morning in St John's and a Wednesday morning in St Mary's hall respectively. It was very welcome to be able to lift the limit on numbers for Little Acorns, the stay-and-play for under 5s and their families, which now has up to 53 children and their grown-ups. The outside area continues to be very popular. Bouncing Babies, for new parents and their babies under 12 months, now operates as a drop-in without any need for booking and usually sees numbers between 10 and 17 babies. The groups are supported by seven volunteers from within the church community.

Now I am Two has run during the year, with up to ten children on roll. However the timing of the session has proved to be difficult: it has run from 12.45 to 2.15 on Mondays at a time which fits in with other hall bookings, but which is a time when many two- and three-year-olds have a nap. Attendance has therefore not always matched the number of children registered to take part. It is hoped to change the time to slightly earlier, and to make it a lunchtime club so that more children can attend.

Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support (OBS) continues to meet on a Wednesday, with Rachel as a Breastfeeding Peer Supporter, and this continues to be a successful and essential service to new mums in the area. The Health Visitors worked successfully alongside the OBS group in partnership with the Hub for some months, but they are currently reviewing how they work.

Starting a group for families of children with special needs is also being actively considered.

Much energy in the latter part of the year went into ensuring that the Hub is on a sound financial footing, not just to

maintain its existing activities, but also to enable extending its provision. This has been very successful, but the efforts need to continue. Now that the Hub is recovering from the disruption of the pandemic, the management committee are considering a relaunch to raise the profile of the charity, and to make it available to even more members of the community. To this end, a number of initiatives are being considered:

- Advertising for volunteers from a wider section of the community
- Setting up an independent website
- Increasing the range of activities
- Developing the range and ambition of fund-raising activities.
- Increasing the involvement of users in the running of the activities.

So, 2023 looks to be an exciting, positive and eventful year for the Hub.

Anne Bardsley, Management Committee

Small Groups Report

As a true parish church serving a range and variety of people we also offer a range and variety of small group contexts where faith can be explored, questions can be debated, relationships can be deepened, and creativity encouraged. These meet in the daytime, evening, and online, and are Discussion, Bible Study, Silent, Prayer, and Creative. The Meditation and Julian Groups enjoy the fellowship of silent prayer (Monday evening and Saturday morning). Discussion Groups meet seasonally (Lent, Summer, and Advent) and regularly through the year: Women's Group (Monday nights), Tuesday House Group (afternoons fortnightly by Zoom), Wednesday Fellowship (evenings), Thursday online quiz and fellowship group (afternoons); Bible Study (Wednesday evenings weekly with Liz and Paul). Confirmation Preparation Groups are always open to all who would like to refresh their faith alongside those who are preparing to be confirmed.

The Making Group embraces creativity to make seasonal installations in and around St Mary's. They started with Lent 2022, when they met for three sessions, responding to the themes of the Living in Love and Faith Lent course, and

producing hangings and banners decorated with words and phrases from the course that resonated with members of the group. At Christmas time 2022 they again put up the Nativity scene and figures which the group had made a few years ago, with the addition of the figure of an angel. The elements of the crib scene were separated and placed in different settings around the church, where they were used by school groups and others who came into the church over the Christmas season.

We are always open to starting fresh groups if there is a new need or if existing groups get too full. Huge thanks are owed to group leaders who this year enjoyed a splendid supper cooked by Jan Jeffreys as we reviewed the current status and future hopes for our groups.

We are looking forward to working with Penny Pedley who is taking over the co-ordination and encouragement role for existing and new small groups across the parish in 2023. If you would like to join a small group please do come and say.

Felicity Scroggie

Pastoral Visiting Team Report

Our team lost two members, Jane Green very sadly died after a serious illness and Rosalyn Roulston retired. Both had been founder members and had contributed enormously. In the summer we were so pleased when Ann Croft joined us. We meet regularly and with Susy, our curate we are seven in number. We have concern and care for approximately twenty to twenty five members of the parish. It was a tough year with coming out of Covid restrictions. We lost several of those we visited and others have struggled with ill health. We continue to keep in contact with people regularly by phone or visiting in person.

Philippa Burrell

Prayer Ministry Team Report

The team started to offer prayer ministry after the 10am St Mary's services from Dec 2018 and thanks to a wonderfully committed group of ten members we have been able to continue to be available each week since, except during the pandemic months.

Two members of the team (name tags on blue lanyards) sit in St Mary's Lady Chapel after the 10am service to listen to and pray simply with whoever would like to come, as well as after Joint services in St John's Lady Chapel. People may wish to be prayed for personally or may ask for prayer for loved ones.

We pray before the service for the service itself, and after the service for the parish and our clergy, church activities, Kidlington organisations, Council and schools, and for those who are ill or bereaved.

We are privileged to continue in this ministry believing that God's Spirit is at work in beautiful ways to comfort, relieve and bless.

Liz Bendor-Samuel

Eco Team Report

Achieving the Carbon Zero 2030 Challenge: To provide leadership on achieving the carbon zero 2030 challenge and other environmental matters - In our Church and in our lives. The PCC recognises that there is a Climate Emergency and will plan and implement actions towards achieving Net Zero by 2030.

The Ecoteam has now been meeting for two years, reflecting on the church community's Carbon Footprint and its - **our** - impact on the Environment, both locally and globally. We've been guided by the A Rocha "EcoChurch" awards, and are working through their questions and survey points, under five areas of Church Life:

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle.

And we were delighted, in November 22, to be awarded a Bronze Award for St Mary's Kidlington. Hampton Poyle and St John's are a work in progress, as is Silver (and eventually Gold) for all three churches. So now we are looking to up our game, and win Silver, and eventually we hope Gold too. You'll notice, in the South Transept there is our Notice Board, entirely crafted from upcycled materials – we'll be changing the content

on a regular basis, so keep an eye on it – and the eco-tips in the weekly newsletter.

There have been some minor “wins” – the St Mary’s and St John’s loos have been upgraded with dual flush devices; all the lights are now very efficient LED bulbs, this saves energy and since they last for years, effort in replacing them. The Refectory heating system has new controls that enable it to be more efficient and much less wasteful. The changes in worship pattern during the winter was partly to reduce the need to heat multiple buildings with the associated cost and carbon footprints.

We have Faculties approved for Bike Racks at both St John’s and St Mary’s Kidlington, and an application pending for some free cycle stands from www.parkthatbike.info. Once supplied, these will be a simple DIY fix.

But there are huge challenges too:

- St Mary’s Kidlington needs to be warmed to 11C for conservation reasons, so the heating is on almost continuously during the winter. Warming the vast, mediaeval building, with no effective insulation or draught proofing inevitably has a huge carbon footprint (and considerable financial cost).
- Reliance on cars for transport to church events (and everything else) has its own Carbon Footprint; how do we minimise this without adversely affecting the rich community that flourishes in the Parish.

The Awards have a holistic approach, and look at our churchyards and land use – we’ve been working with Wild Kidlington to improve the St Mary’s Churchyard for Nature – perhaps we don’t realise just how rich it is already, so we’d like to commence a bio-blitz type event where we survey the Churchyard, and identify what is already there, record it in, for instance, Irecord (<https://irecord.org.uk/>) so there is a baseline for future comparison. We’d like to work too with the St Mary’s Fields Volunteers to enhance the biodiversity; there’s a plan to put up nest boxes in the Churchyard Trees, and already there is a “swift call” device in the Belfry to encourage swifts to nest in the building.

We are looking forward to leading worship on the 30th April 2023, when we will tell you more about our future plans.

The Group has been made up of the following members of the Community: Liz Brandom, Beth Evershed, Tilly Evershed, Joanne Hanson, John Morris, Andy Pedley, Janet Warren. Sad to say Beth and Tilly are both moving on, so we are looking to welcome new members so if you are interested have a chat with one of us, and find out more.

We have a list of good intentions – simple things like shelves above radiators in the Refectory, to deflect the heat into the room rather than up the wall / past the (cold) windows and up to the ceiling) and more ambitious aims as well – eventually to achieve the Gold award for all three buildings.

Andy Pedley, Chair Eco Team

St John's Hall Management Committee Report

The committee consists of a Churchwarden, Mark Christodoulou, Booking Secretary and Treasurer, Margaret Day and member of the Congregation, Malcolm Austen.

Usage of the Hall in 2022 has risen but is still one third less than at its peak in 2019. The usage generated a surplus of £1,994, despite energy costs rising by 190%. The main factor contributing to assist in offsetting rising costs was the amount of Party bookings at weekends, which produced an income of £3,724.

Following the Church Architect's Quinquennial Report January 2022, the Committee have attended to rectifying remedial works identified as needing attention. Several isolated areas of brickwork have been re-pointed to the North and South facades together with some lengths of copings. Renovation and repairs have been carried out to four of the external hardwood doors and their decoration will be finalised when weather permits.

We thank all Hall Users for their custom and support. We also thank all those who work hard to keep St John's Hall in good order.

Malcolm Austen, St John's Hall Management Committee

Churches Together in Kidlington Report

The year began with The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, during which midday prayers were once again held online, largely because people have found it easier to attend online rather than travelling to different churches. As usual they were led by the different churches.

It was good during the year to be able to move out of the shadow of Covid restrictions and do things together. The World Day of Prayer service was held at the Methodist Church and was attended by about 45 people. The Good Friday walk was able to be reinstated and there was a good turnout, helped by a beautiful day.

There was a united service for Pentecost at St Mary's, which was well attended and had a lovely atmosphere of celebration. A few people stayed afterwards for a picnic, which had to be shared in the church due to wet weather.

The switching on of the lights event in the village centre went well and CTK once again had people dressed up as characters from the nativity story mingling in the crowds. We also gave out Christmas cards with details of church websites and tealights with Bible verses around them, which people greatly appreciated.

In addition to these events, CTK supported the Kidlington Eco group, which brings together various local people committed to raising awareness and encouraging action to support the environment. More information about their work can be found on the website: <https://kidlingtonecogroup.co.uk/> or the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidlingtonecogroup/>

CTK has also been involved in supporting refugees coming to Kidlington, both from Syria and Ukraine.

We have also supported the chaplaincy at Gosford High School in providing a Kintsugi Hope course, and providing support for pupils in particular need. We are planning to increase this support from our excess funds in the coming year.

Our thanks to everyone who has helped with and supported CTK events.

Penny Pedley, CTK Secretary

AGENDA

FOR THE MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 8.00pm
in St John's

1. Opening Prayers
2. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
3. Election of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2023/2024
4. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 4th May 2022 at St Mary's Kidlington
5. To elect five representatives to Deanery Synod
6. To elect nine members to serve on the Parochial Church Council
7. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the year 2023
8. To approve the membership of the Committee for St John's Kidlington
9. To approve the membership of the Committee for St Mary's Hampton Poyle
10. To approve the membership of the St John's Hall Management Committee
11. To elect four members to serve on the Council of Churches Together in Kidlington
12. To consider a Report on changes in the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
13. To consider an Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish generally
14. To consider the Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022, independently examined
15. To consider a Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches of the Parish
16. To consider a Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

contd

17. To consider any other matters of parochial or general church interest
18. To deal with Any Other Business
19. To set the date for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2024
20. Closing Prayers

Note: In order to give satisfactory answers to questions regarding parish finances, it would be helpful to the "finance team" if these could be submitted in writing or by email to the PCC Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting.