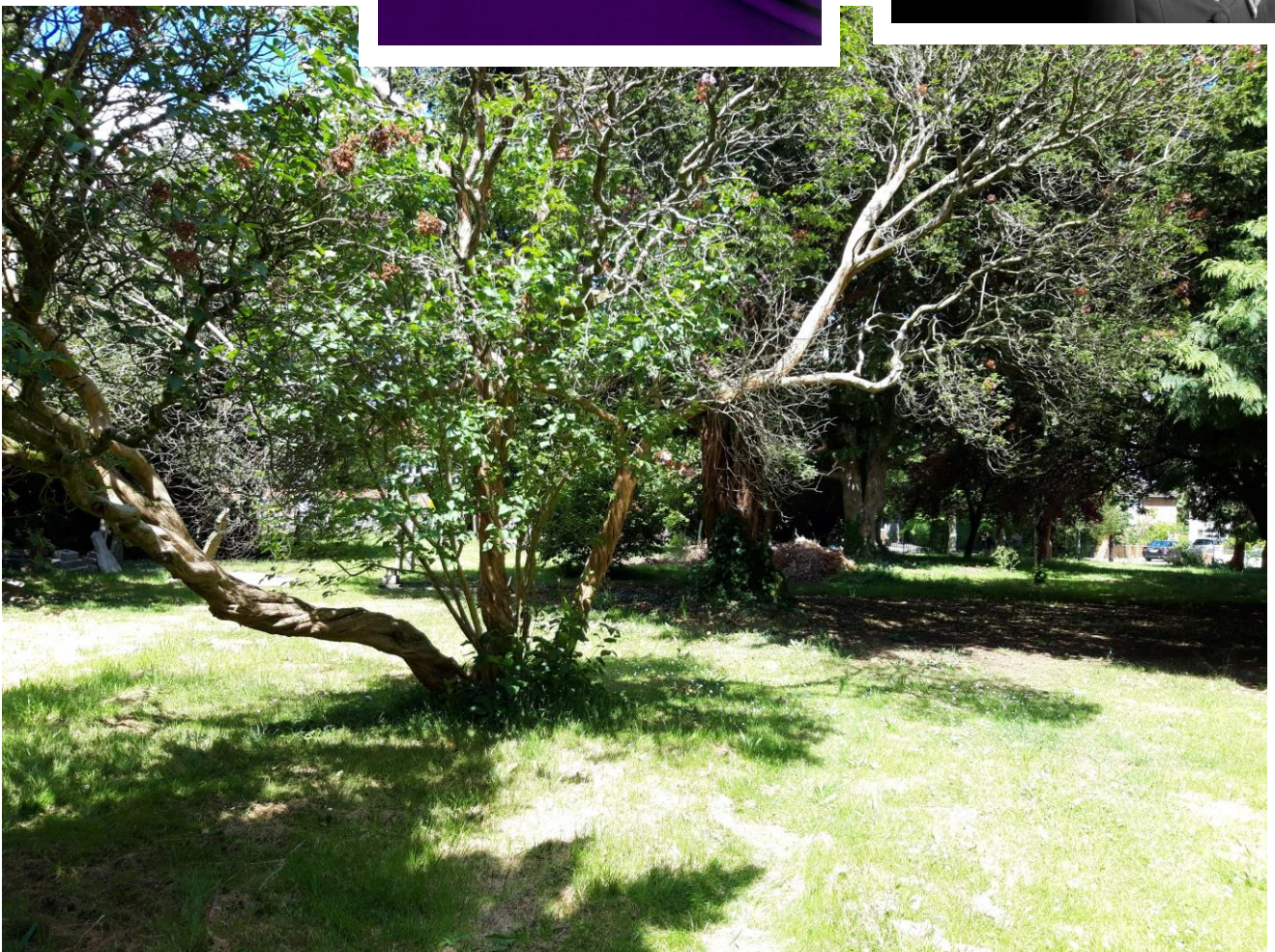




# St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

## Parish Bulletin And Annual Report 2022



**ST. LUKE'S CHURCH MAIDENHEAD**  
**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**  
**For the**  
**Election of Churchwardens**  
**followed by the**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

at 11.15am, in the Church, following the 10.00am service of Parish Communion

- 1 Welcome and prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, and Matters Arising
- 4 Electoral Roll Officer's Report
- 5 Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens
- 8 Election of PCC Members
- 9 Report on Welcomers
- 10 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 11 Fabric Report
- 12 Safeguarding Officers Report
- 13 Parish Life Reports
- 14 Incumbent's Report
- 15 Any Other Business
- 16 Date of Next Meeting      Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 (TBC)

**ST LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD  
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD AT 11.20 AM ON**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

The Reverend Sally Lynch was in the chair and welcomed the 34 people present plus 4 via zoom. She opened the meeting with a prayer.

**ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price had been proposed and seconded for the post of churchwarden and were duly elected.

John Salter (retiring) was thanked for his work during the year and given a gift by Revd. Sally.

Clare Price will commence her role as churchwarden once she has completed her PhD thesis in the autumn. John Salter agreed to continue in the role of churchwarden until then. A presentation was made to John in gratitude for his ministry as churchwarden.

This meeting was then closed.

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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD HELD IN  
THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

**Apologies for Absence**

Barbara Essam, Anne Child, Sue Turner, Simon Bader, Iris Brown, Rhidian Jones, Terrie and Colin Robinson, Lisa Sharp.

**Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 2021 APCM had been circulated in the Annual Bulletin, these were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Revd. Sally gave an update on the organ repair and highlighted the need for a small working party to be set up to look at options for exploring available grants.

**Electoral Roll Officers Report**

The PCC Secretary read out the Electoral Roll Officers Report which had been complied by the current Electoral Roll Officer, Ruth Humphreys. There are 111 people on the Electoral Roll. Since the 2021 APCM, 9 names had been removed from the roll and 12 names had been added.

Revd. Sally thanked Ruth for the work she had done on the Electoral Roll.

**Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report had been published in the Annual Bulletin. There was nothing to add to this report and there were no questions regarding it.

Revd. Sally thanked Jeanette Lock, PCC Secretary for her work towards this report and Ralph Hinchcliffe (previous PCC Secretary) was also thanked for his guidance. Jeanette also offered her sincere thanks to Ralph for all his support to her since she had taken over the role of PCC Secretary.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The interim treasurer summarised his report that had been published in the Annual Bulletin.

He reported that overall, our current financial position was better than at the start of 2021. This was largely due to returns on our investments and donations from several generous benefactors. However, day to day running costs had increased while regular giving was down by around 20%.

Dave Sopp gave his personal thanks to Richard Burdett for his assistance while handing over the role of treasurer.

Revd. Sally thanked Dave for his work and also thanked Richard Burdett for his many years of service to St Luke's church in his role as PCC Treasurer. A presentation was made to Richard in gratitude for his ministry as treasurer.

### **Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens**

Revd. Sally thanked Aaron Wilson and Mike Mason for their work as Assistant Churchwardens during the year, and also their work on the Fabric Committee. Mike Mason had stood down as Assistant Church Warden and was thanked for his work.

Aaron Wilson agreed to continue in the role and following the APCM, Rachel Beaumont offered to take on the role of Assistant Church Warden.

### **Election of PCC Members**

Under Canon Law we are entitled to 12 Lay members of the PCC of which a third are elected annually.

Those completing their term of office and therefore not entitled to be re-elected for one year were Rachel Beaumont, Eileen Goford and Ruth Sheppard. Phyl Sopp had change role from elected member to clergy during her term of office. Revd. Sally thanked them for their contribution to the PCC and, in Rachel's case, Standing Committee, during their terms of office. This left 4 three -year vacancies, 1 two - year vacancy and 2 one - year vacancies.

Four nominations had been received prior to the meeting, there were no additional nominations received:

Anne Child, Barbara Essam, Simon Bader for 3 years (until APCM 2025).  
Sally Somerville for 2 years (until APCM 2024)

This left 2 one-year vacancies.

Ruth Sheppard had been nominated to stand as a lay member of the Deanery Synod for the remaining one year of this Synod.

All nominees were duly elected.



### **Report on Welcomers**

John Salter gave a report on Welcomers. We currently have 10 Welcomers. He thanked them all for their punctuality and reliability during the year.

Revd. Sally also thanked them for all they have done during the year. More welcomers to join the team were encouraged.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Dave Sopp reported that Mr. Robin Clutterham was our independent examiner this year and he had indicated that he is willing to continue in the role. Revd. Sally proposed that he be re-appointed for next year, this was carried unanimously.

The Chair offered her thanks to Robin.

### **Fabric Report**

The Churchwardens Fabric report had been published in the Parish Bulletin. The wardens had nothing to add to it, and there were no questions.

Revd. Sally thanked all those who had served on the Fabric Committee as well as those who had offered their help on church care days.

The Chair also thanked Sally Somerville and the church cleaning team for their hard work to keep the church clean and tidy.

### **Safeguarding Officers Report**

Barbara Essam, our church Safeguarding Officer had published her report in the Parish Bulletin. Revd. Sally highlighted the importance of safeguarding awareness and training within the church, particularly with children and vulnerable adults.

The Chair thanked Barbara for her work as Safeguarding Officer and also thanked Dorothy Strack-Hankey for her administrative support.

### **Parish Life Reports**

These were all published in the Annual Bulletin and there were no questions in relation to them.

Revd. Sally reminded the meeting of the importance of our Mission Action Plan and of our priorities as a church towards a) climate awareness, b) families and all-age worship, and c) how we continue to develop our worship. Revd. Sally highlighted the issues around climate change and our responsibility to working towards becoming an Eco Church. She mentioned that during our worship on 15<sup>th</sup> May there would be an opportunity to reflect more on this.

Revd. Sally gave her thanks to those who had reflected and written about their experience with Zoom worship. She also thanked Adam, Tim and the choir for the musical contribution they had offered to our worship.

A question was raised by Ian Gilchrist about the possibility of keeping the Zoom Sunday Worship link open longer to enable some of the “Zoomers” to be able to talk together after

the service. Dave Sopp replied that he used the same laptop for church finances straight after the Sunday service. Revd. Sally mentioned that there is usually an opportunity for discussion following Zoom Morning Prayer on Tuesday to Saturday mornings.

Revd. Sally offered her sincere thanks to Dave Sopp and Rachel Beaumont for their help to offer Zoom worship to those unable to attend church in person.

### **Incumbent's Report**

The Incumbents report had been published in the Annual Bulletin and Revd. Sally talked about some of the salient points in her report.

Covid-19 restrictions had made 2021 a difficult year and Revd. Sally wanted to thank everyone involved in church life for their support during this challenging time, "helping God's people in this place to keep going".

Revd. Sally gave thanks for the service of several key members of the church family who had died during 2021 and 2022, in particular Johanna Raffan, Enid Barber, Kenneth Rivers, Stan Swansborough, Michael Curley, Barbara Stevens, Jill Cotterill and John Cox. She added that while we give thanks for what has been, we also look prayerfully towards the future and what is to come.

She thanked Gerry Knight who, for health reasons, had been unable to continue in his role as Verger, and said that a planter would be delivered to him, in thanks.

She concluded her Report by giving personal thanks to the Ministry Team- to Ruth Humphreys for her work in the Parish Office, Adam Went for his work towards the musical life of the church, Jacqueline and John for their wisdom and guidance as church wardens, and Revd. Terrie and Revd. Phyl for their contribution to our liturgical and pastoral life.

### **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Vote of Thanks**

John Salter and Jacqueline Lewis proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the Revd. Sally for all her hard work and dedication during the last year, for her friendship and for all that she had offered to the St Luke's church family. A small presentation was made to her.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 12.20pm.

**Date of Next APCM – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

## **Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead Annual Report for 2022**

### **Aims and Purposes**

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Sally Lynch, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of all the church buildings, these all being situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is also responsible for safeguarding in all aspects of the church's life.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St. Luke's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our worship and other activities put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship, prayer, and nurturing faith; learning about the Gospel; and developing their faith and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care and the occasional offices for people living in the parish and beyond
- Missionary and outreach work, care for the created world.

To facilitate this work, and as part of our stewardship, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church buildings.

**Safeguarding** continues to be a major consideration for the PCC, with regular reviews taking place during the year. The PCC has also reviewed the church's Safeguarding Policy and has complied with its duty to have due regard with the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2021 the Diocese of Oxford launched the Safeguarding Dashboard for each parish. This parish has complied fully with it and is currently at level 3 of 3. The PCC ensures that all those required to do so undertake the relevant nationally provided safeguarding training.

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### ***Worship and Prayer***

Our main service continued to be a Parish Communion service at 10.00am on Sunday, also offered on Zoom. A quieter and more contemplative Service of Holy Communion at 8.00am also took place once a month, along with a weekly service at 10.00am on Wednesdays. In partnership with All Saints, Boyne Hill and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, we offered a variety of evening services through the Sundays at Six programme. These were a mixture of in-person and Zoom worship. We continued to have an All-Age Communion service on the first Sunday of the

month. Baptisms took place at midday on Sundays (mainly) and also within the 10am Sunday Communion service.

We continued to offer zoomed Morning Prayer from Tuesday to Saturday, with up to 15 participants and Evening Prayer on Friday. We held our APCM on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

In October we restarted Café Church service at 4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

In Lent we followed the Diocesan course, Come and See which focused on The Lord's Prayer. This was offered both in-person and via Zoom. In July we enjoyed an in-person quiet day at Goosebury Hall, Epping, and a quiet morning was held in church in October.

Revd, Sally, Revd. Terrie and Revd. Phyl attended the Clergy Conference at Swanwick in June.

A confirmation service took place on 13<sup>th</sup> July when Bishop Olivia confirmed 4 candidates from this parish.

At various times throughout the year, the church was open for private prayer, particularly on the death of HM the Queen. The church celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special Evensong and street party, and also commemorated her passing.

Our Advent and Christmas services were well attended. Our Carol service was held in-person and also on Zoom. On Christmas Eve we held two Crib services. School Carol services were held during December.

Planning has taken place for the appointment of a Children and Family Leader as a 3-year post for 20 hours a week. This post has now been advertised.

From September, the church was made available on Thursday lunchtimes as part of the Warm Welcome scheme, in conjunction with The Brett Foundation.

### ***Diocesan/Deanery Synod***

Three lay members of the PCC sit on Deanery Synod, alongside the clergy. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

### ***Church Buildings***

In September a fixed camera, digital projector and screen system were installed in church.

A Fabric Committee has been re-established to ensure the church building remains in a good condition. Initially this was led by Mike Mason and Aaron Wilson (Assistant churchwardens), and then subsequently it has been led by Simon Bader. The Fabric Committee is able to prioritise and address any general church maintenance needed. Along with a team of volunteers, they held



several church working parties to address any general church maintenance needed, both inside and outside the church building. The major issues have been some falling plaster and an aging boiler.

### ***Pastoral Care***

Pastoral care continued to be vitally important throughout the year. The Pastoral Team continue to support on a weekly basis, those on the pastoral roll who are housebound or frail. The PCC is extremely grateful to these for the time and effort they have put in.

Weekly deliveries of the newssheet etc have continued for the dozen or so church members with no IT provision.

The vicar and curate have been able to offer Home Communion and pastoral visits and have conducted a number of funerals.

### ***Mission and Evangelism***

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. This year our Outward giving was £7,152 which was distributed to our three nominated charities: Tearfund Ukraine, A Rocha, and Brett Foundation Fuel Bank, with donations also made to the Baby Bank, The Children's Society, and Bishop of Oxford Outreach.

The Christmas Tree Festival raised £2141 for the chosen charity, Alexander Devine Hospice.

We have encouraged our members to donate to Foodshare via local supermarkets and in church. Our Parish Magazine 'Inspire' was published once during the year and we are grateful to Ruth Humphreys for collating the articles. We produce a weekly news sheet which is circulated via email / hand delivery.

We continue to offer alternative fresh expressions of church, including monthly Messy Church.

We continue to offer our in-person fellowship and outreach activities, such as the monthly Thursday Teas, monthly Keeping Company bereavement group and weekly baby and toddler group, which now meets in church and is very popular.

We have developed the Gaynor's Gift group, a Prayer Shawl ministry to knit, crochet or sew shawls or blankets which, once blessed, are distributed to those in any kind of pastoral need. This is held monthly either in church or via Zoom.

A useful Planning Morning had been held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May to update the St. Luke's Church Mission Action Plan.

We held a very successful Platinum Jubilee Street party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June which had provided good links with the local community.

A Garden Party was held in the Vicarage Garden on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

A Harvest Supper had taken place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October which included an Eco-Church presentation by Revd. Phyl.

Our Christmas Tree Festival took place in December with 72 beautifully decorated Christmas trees in church, sponsored by a variety of people and organisations. We welcomed several hundred people into church each day. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the whole event which raised over £2000 for the Alexander Devine Hospice as well as much needed church funds.

The Co-Op chose St. Luke's as one of their recipients of their Community Fund for this year, with funds being used to support developing the churchyard.

### ***Ecumenical Relationships***

We are a member of Churches Together in Maidenhead and, as a Presence and Engagement parish, church members also participate in the activities of Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum and Women's Interfaith Group.

### ***Volunteers and Others***

The PCC would like to express its thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to the running of St. Luke's Church. Many of these people work quietly in the background, doing all the little and not so little jobs that go to the smooth running and upkeep of the church. Too many to mention by name, we thank everyone for their contribution no matter how small.

2022 has been another challenging year for all of us and the PCC would particularly like to thank the Reverend Canon Terrie Robinson, and our curate the Reverend Phyl Sopp. Also, Dave Sopp for both his work in editing and broadcasting services, and for taking on the role of interim treasurer. We are greatly indebted to churchwardens, Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price, and their team of helpers who have welcomed people into the church.

The Reverend Sally Lynch has worked tirelessly to keep the church running and safe. This has always been done with good humour and a ready smile. She has provided encouragement when needed as well as empathy and has always been available if help is required. This she has done as well as carrying out her function as Associate Area Dean. She has continued to encourage St. Luke's to carry on as close to normal as has been possible during the year.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Luke's the current membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Curate, two Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members and eight members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our

services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of mission and of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are spent and safeguarding. New members receive initial training.

The full PCC of St. Luke's Church in 2022 consisted of 15 members. The PCC met on seven occasions during the year, with an average attendance of 75%. There are two committees to which some members of the PCC belong.

#### ***Standing Committee:***

This is the only committee required by law and has limited powers to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It seeks to promote the effective working of the PCC and co-ordinate the activities of the various planning groups. Its membership consists of the Incumbent, two Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC secretary and two lay members of the PCC, elected annually. It also acts as the Finance Committee overseeing the financial situation and planning the stewardship renewal. The Standing Committee has met on four occasions during the year (two via Zoom).

#### ***Fabric Committee:***

This committee is responsible to the PCC for all matters in relation to the fabric of the building and churchyard.

#### **Administrative Information**

St. Luke's Church is situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford (and Archdeaconry of Berkshire) within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Luke's Church, The Vicarage, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7AX. Registered charity number 1129951

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 are:

#### **Ex Officio Members**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Incumbent     | The Reverend Sally Lynch (Chair)  |
| Curate        | The Reverend Phyllis Sopp   |
| Churchwardens | Jacqueline Lewis (Vice Chair),<br>Clare Price   |
| Deanery Synod | Richard Burdett (until APCM 23)<br>Ian Gilchrist (until APCM 23)<br>Ruth Sheppard (until APCM 23) |

**Elected Members**

Adam Went (until April 23)  
Jacqueline Lewis (until April 24)  
Eileen Goford (until April 22)  
Ruth Sheppard (until April 23)  
Rachel Beaumont (until April 22)  
Aaron Wilson (until April 23)-moved away  
Jeanette Lock (until APCM 24)  
Kim Rumble (until APCM 24)  
Mike Mason (until April 22) -moved away  
Clare Price (from April 22-until APCM 2025)  
Simon Bader (from April 22-until APCM 2025)  
Anne Child (from April 22-until APCM 2025)  
Barbara Essam (from April 22-until APCM 2025)  
Sally Somerville (from April 22-until APCM 2024)

Jeanette Lock,  
PCC Secretary

## **Churchwardens' Fabric Report**

The Fabric Working Group met several times during the year, initially under the chair of Aaron Wilson, until he moved away from the area. Simon Bader then took over the position of Chair of the group in October 2022.

Ongoing boiler work continues through to 2023 carried out by Industrial Air, including a new module which will provide 3 working modules bringing it back to full capacity. Additional "spares" will be acquired as the boiler parts are now obsolete.

A projector system, screen and camera were installed.

New pump was fitted in the outside sump in order to drain the servery area sink.

Working Parties organised throughout the year keep the front of the Church and Church Yard tidy. Smaller jobs within the Church have been carried out by willing helpers.

Plant growth to the south elevation of the tower and in guttering of the south nave roof was cleared by the roofing company who replaced tiles on the Church Hall at the same time. This growth had led to internal damp and a plaster fall in the nave at the junction of the chancel arch. Having allowed time for drying out, contractors have now been appointed to repair the plaster. In order to take advantage of having scaffolding towers in church to replace the plaster, all light bulbs will be replaced with LED or new fittings as required at the same time. Taking advantage of a grant from the Diocese, an energy audit was commissioned and carried out in November. The report contains a number of recommendations concerning reducing the carbon footprint of the building and also the future possibilities of replacing the heating system. The findings from this report will be considered and steps taken to progress them in the next year.

A small section of lead came was discovered to be missing from the East Window. Commissioning a survey of the condition of all the stained-glass windows and attending to this and other minor necessary repairs is under investigation.

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price

## **Treasurers Report**

I would like to start this review by thanking Ben Darracott and Kim Rumble for their valued assistance in banking and Gift Aid administration respectively as well as John Salter, Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price for agreeing to be part of the Finance Team.

Work has continued on setting financial policies and sharing the workload, although progress has been slow. As mentioned in last year's report the church accounts are now held on an online platform provided by Xero. This enables multiple people to have access to the accounts with varying levels of authority/access.

Parish Share apart, the year's biggest expenditure was the £32,680 spent on the new projector, screen and camera installed by DM Music in September. Whilst we are still learning to use the new equipment it has already proved beneficial on many occasions, not least for improving the quality of services broadcast via Zoom to those unable to attend church in person, and the schools Christmas Carol services.

The Benefactors fund meanwhile benefited towards the end of the year by an extremely generous legacy from the late Johanna Raffan MBE. With such generosity of course comes increased responsibility and Revd. Sally and the PCC have been busy reflecting on how to spend the money wisely. Work is underway to recruit a 'Children and Families Leader' for a fixed term of 3 years (approx. cost of £45,000), investigations have been made about our church energy use and discussions held about more efficient lighting, not to mention potentially replacing our church heating system which will again need significant expenditure early in 2023. These works along with the £14,050 earmarked for Chapel improvements mean we will not be short of project work over the coming years. These are exciting opportunities to grow our church and further develop our Outreach in Maidenhead and beyond.

### **Designated and Restricted Funds**

As a result of reviewing our funds and policies the following changes were made at the end of 2022.

- The Fabric Reserve limits of £140k to £200k were increased by 50%, to reflect inflation since they were first introduced, to now be £210k to £300k.
- Further transfers were then made to The Fabric Fund and General Fund (see below) to bring the current Fabric Reserve Fund back to near the middle of the new range (£255k) thus allowing for market movements in both directions. No shares were moved between the CBF accounts and the existing policies on dividend income distribution will remain.
- The Vicar's Discretionary Fund was reduced to £0 and will be discontinued at the Vicars request.
- The Events Committee Fund and Catering Fund were reduced to zero and will be combined, with the net proceeds to be transferred to the General Fund at the conclusion of each Financial Year.

### **Balance Sheet**

Last year's rise of £47,626 in the value of our shares was all but matched by a decline this year of £44,796 as the markets reacted to adverse conditions both at home and abroad. However, with the generous legacy and increased fund-raising activity following the pandemic our overall Funds have increased from £493k to £676k (37%).

### **Reserves Policy**

The PCC's current policy on holding reserves are as follows: -

#### *Restricted Funds*

The PCC is advised on an annual basis of significant unspent balances in these funds where it is apparent that plans are not in hand to spend the money within a reasonable time.



### *Unrestricted & Designated Funds*

**Benefactors' Fund:** (i.e., accumulated legacies for the general purposes of the PCC). The policy is that the money should normally only be spent on the capital cost of items, or on repairs/restoration work that would not normally be required more than once every ten years. Alternatively, it can be used to fund support for church personnel development. Hence the reserve level will vary and there is no target level. In 2010 the PCC decided that the dividend income from the part of this fund held as CBF Investment Fund shares should be treated as General Fund income.

**Fabric Reserve Fund:** The policy is to hold reserves of between £210,000 and £300,000, so that:

- The income from the investment is sufficient to cover the cost of day-to-day maintenance of the building's fabric (dividend income from the Fabric Reserve CBF shares account will continue to be paid into the Fabric Fund) and
- To allow us, if necessary, to fund major building repair projects without needing to immediately raise funds to do so.

The remaining reserves (i.e., all excluding the Benefactors' and Fabric Reserve funds) should be sufficient to fund three months of ordinary expenditure. As part of the resetting of the Fabric Reserve Fund levels £35k was transferred to the General Fund to provide for this policy.

The full PCC accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 are too large to fit in this Parish Bulletin, but they will be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting and are available on request to the PCC Secretary or Treasurer. However, a copy of the Statement of Financial Activities (i.e. a summary of all of income and expenditure) is included on the next page.

Dave Sopp

# Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead

|   |      | Unrestricted Funds<br>General | Designated        | Restricted<br>Funds | Endowment<br>Funds | Total Funds<br>2022 | 2021              |
|---|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|   |      | £                             | £                 | £                   | £                  | £                   | £                 |
| <b>Income and Endowments from:</b>                        |      |                               |                   |                     |                    |                     |                   |
| Donations and legacies                                    | 2(a) | 82,461.94                     | 258,902.43        | 5,583.17            | 0.00               | 346,947.54          | 107,612.30        |
| Other trading activities                                  | 2(b) | 0.00                          | 8,789.64          | 0.00                | 0.00               | 8,789.64            | 8,054.01          |
| Investments   | 2(c) | 30.71                         | 10,166.68         | 1,161.07            | 175.42             | 11,533.88           | 9,694.01          |
| Church activities   | 2(d) | 7,793.50                      | 3,069.00          | 1,211.76            | 0.00               | 12,074.26           | 8,455.50          |
| Other activities  | 2(e) | 0.00                          | 0.00              | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| <b>Total Income and Endowments</b>                        |      | <u>90,286.15</u>              | <u>280,927.75</u> | <u>7,956.00</u>     | <u>175.42</u>      | <u>379,345.32</u>   | <u>133,815.82</u> |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                    |      |                               |                   |                     |                    |                     |                   |
| Church activities   | 3(a) | 97,903.52                     | 9,518.78          | 8,785.03            | 0.00               | 116,207.33          | 131,502.70        |
| Raising funds   | 3(b) | 215.00                        | 2,727.50          | 0.00                | 0.00               | 2,942.50            | 1,585.69          |
| Other activities  | 3(c) | 0.00                          | 0.00              | 160.74              | 0.00               | 160.74              | 780.00            |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                                  |      | <u>98,118.52</u>              | <u>12,246.28</u>  | <u>8,945.77</u>     | <u>0.00</u>        | <u>119,310.57</u>   | <u>133,868.39</u> |
| Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses) |      | (7,832.37)                    | 268,681.47        | (989.77)            | 175.42             | 260,034.75          | (52.57)           |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments                         |      | -                             | (40,338.85)       | (3,674.68)          | (782.90)           | (44,796.43)         | 47,625.55         |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>          |      | <u>(7,832.37)</u>             | <u>228,342.62</u> | <u>(4,664.45)</u>   | <u>(607.48)</u>    | <u>215,238.32</u>   | <u>47,572.98</u>  |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                            |      |                               |                   |                     |                    |                     |                   |
| Events Committee to General Fund                          | 4    | 6,156.48                      | (6,156.48)        | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| General Fund to Catering                                  |      | (1,347.47)                    | 1,347.47          | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| Vicars Fund to General Fund                               |      | 526.23                        | (526.23)          | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| Benefactors' Fund Dividends to General Fund               |      | 1,114.51                      | (1,114.51)        | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| Fabric Reserve to Fabric Fund                             |      |                               | 0.00              | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                |                   |
| Fabric Reserve to General Fund                            |      | 35,000.00                     | (35,000.00)       | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                |                   |
| Hick Flower Fund to General Fund                          |      |                               | 72.19             | 0.00                | (72.19)            | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| General Fund to Flower Fund                               |      | (127.81)                      | 127.81            | 0.00                | 0.00               | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| Net movement in funds                                     |      | <u>33,489.57</u>              | <u>187,092.87</u> | <u>(4,664.45)</u>   | <u>(679.67)</u>    | <u>215,238.32</u>   | <u>47,572.98</u>  |
| Total funds brought forward at 1st January 2022           |      | (8,942.94)                    | 419,461.80        | 75,809.96           | 6,650.74           | 492,979.56          | 445,406.58        |
| <b>Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2022</b>  |      | <b>24,546.63</b>              | <b>606,554.67</b> | <b>71,145.51</b>    | <b>5,971.07</b>    | <b>708,217.88</b>   | <b>492,979.56</b> |

## **Our Agreed Vision and Mission statements, and Values (MAP)**

### ***Our Vision:***

Our vision is to be an inclusive church which is 'In Faith, Out There', bringing Jesus' healing and wholeness to people around us. With the whole Diocese of Oxford, we seek to become more Christ-like as we live out his teaching and example.

### ***Our Mission:***

At St Luke's we aim to grow in faith and encourage each other along the way. As Christian people, strengthened and enthused by our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are committed to spreading the light of the Gospel into our community, our nation and our world. We are responding to the vision of the Diocese of Oxford to live out the Beatitudes (Matthew 5. 1-10) by trying to be more compassionate, contemplative and courageous disciples of Jesus, becoming more Christ-like for the sake of God's world.

### ***Our Values:***

#### ***Inclusivity:***

to be a church that welcomes all people and cares for the good of all.

#### ***Creativity:***

to use our God given gifts in creating stimulating and varied worship and learning activities and to celebrate creativity in all its forms.

#### ***Generosity:***

to use our building, time, talents and money for the growth of God's Kingdom and the benefit of other people, and to care for creation.

#### ***Wholeness:***

to seek to deepen our own faith and spirituality through worship, study, prayer and silence; and to encourage others to explore faith in God, and to promote wellbeing for all.

#### ***Hospitality:***

to share fellowship and food as widely as we can, and enable others to meet with God.

## **Our plans for development 2021-24**

### ***Nurturing disciples***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Growth in faith and love for God
- Bringing new disciples to faith

How might we do this?

- Develop further our ministry with baptisms, weddings and funerals
- A variety of good quality teaching/ study, nurture and support opportunities (fire pits)
- Offering training to C&YP leaders, Pastoral Team, others

### ***Worship for all***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Improved worship experience and accessibility for newcomers
- Enabling people to meet with God
- Offering something for different preferred styles

How might we do this?

- Establish a broader pattern of offered worship
- Explore and develop further the use of music in worship

### **Environment and justice**

What are we aiming to achieve:

- A more environmentally aware and friendly community
- An ability to live out the Beatitudes

How might we do this?

- Work towards the eco church award
- Re-establish the Social Gospel group

### **Buildings and Grounds**

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- A peaceful and beautiful space for reflection, to meet with God
- A well used building, which is financially secure

How might we do this?

- Intensive work on the churchyard
- Renew our lighting and sound / streaming / AV systems

### **Fellowship, Outreach and Wider Community**

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- More participation in wider activities
- The church community as a place of healing and wholeness
- A community where new people feel they belong

How might we do this?

- Re-examine our Street Prayer letters
- Encourage the Social Gospel group to input to worship / make presentations more regularly
- Develop further our links with our Primary School and with other faiths, especially Maidenhead Mosque.
- Open the church more frequently for private prayer and offer coffee etc and space to meet with each other and God
- Promote good mental health and well being

*These developments build on our existing ministry and seek to further what we already offer - with a re-focus on 'being' good news and growing faith, going back to the basics of prayer and Bible reading. Revised August 2021*

## Reports on church life 2022

### Incumbent's report

Although we started the year with the vestiges of the pandemic looming over us it was good to have returned to the 'new normal' by the end of 2022.

Over the course of the year we found ourselves able to hold far more in-person services and activities. Care homes opened up for visits. Baptisms picked up in number and children's ministry resumed (albeit not yet on Sundays). Hybrid worship became established as we made the most of our monthly Zoom subscription. It is so good that those who are vulnerable or housebound are able to join in many services now via zoom.

Whilst not denying the severity of the pandemic and the constraints it placed on everyday life and worship, there have been joyful discoveries. One of these has been zoomed Morning Prayer on five mornings a week. Rather than two or three of us meeting in a cold church, up to a dozen now meet to pray together using the Daily Prayer app (Common Worship). The service is led by the ministers on rota, and others occasionally too. We pray each month through the whole pastoral roll and for every street in the parish and we share three pieces of scripture together every day. It is a real joy.

In-person worship has also been a joy to resume – a face to face Christingle service for Candlemas, Lent and Holy Week kept fully once again – including a Maundy Thursday Watch until midnight with a stunning altar of repose on the high altar. At Christmas both our Christmas Eve Crib service were very well attended and there was a celebratory feel.

We are not back quite where we were yet. It has been good to welcome Nicola back as a crucifer, but we have not (and may not) brought back a full altar party of servers. We are still receiving communion in both kinds but intincted. Maybe it is time to start shaking hands again at the Peace – as well as waving to zoomers!

Being able to worship fully in person meant that we could celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style, with a Choral Evensong and to offer a street party to our neighbours. A great day, despite the gloomy weather – we won't forget a communal singing of *Sweet Caroline* in the street! Normality in everyday life meant that when the normality was shattered by the news of the death of our long reigning Queen, we were able to throw the church open and enable people to come in and pray and express their sadness if they wished. This news also necessitated the re-printing of the 8.00 am BCP service booklet as we now pray for our King.

As all restrictions on numbers at occasional offices were lifted we saw more baptisms but sadly only three weddings. The cost of living increase has also impacted on these for the future.

Both Baby and Toddler group and Messy Church have grown and now thrive with very healthy numbers attending each and very positive feedback. Messy Church is very much a congregation in its own right as a fresh expression of church.

At the other end of the age spectrum, Thursday Teas continues to thrive in the community hall, and Keeping Company, our monthly get together for those bereaved is also well supported.

I am delighted that we have been able to start a monthly service of Holy Communion at Swift House. This is much appreciated by the small, faithful group who meet together.

School services resumed in full - see the later report on St. Luke's- and we were able to welcome also both St. Piran's and Clares Court for in-person Carol services this year. Riverside School also brought children over for lessons during the year and St. Luke's pupils had their usual Holy Week experience.

In July some of us enjoyed another Quiet Day at Goosebury Hall in Essex and we have been able to offer other quiet times throughout the year. I sense a real desire for deepening spirituality and for more knowledge of, and growth in, the faith along us.

2022 was a good year for our church, of rebuilding and new growth.

And there were, as we would expect, some sadnesses too. Some folk moved away and we mourned particularly the passing of some long standing church members. At our last APCM we arranged for the delivery of planter to Gerry Knight as thanks for his stalwart service as vergier. His subsequent death came as a shock and we continue to hold Hazel and their daughters in our prayers.

Barbara Stevens had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August 2021 but sadly passed away in February. She, and her carers, had been regular Sunday morning attendees and enjoyed meeting people over coffee after services pre-pandemic. Jill Cotterill's very sudden death just before the last APCM was a shock to us all. She supported the church in many ways through John's music and also in her talent for flower arranging. She too is missed and John remains in our prayers. John Marshall had been a regular at the 8.00am service, driving over from Bracknell until he was no longer able. His gentle presence is also missed.

And John Cox was the last of a generation of church members who grew up through the church. He sang in the choir as a boy and served in a whole variety of capacities and offices. He was very good at keeping the most recent vicar on her toes at APCMs. He is much missed.

We had only just welcomed Arthur Little into our church family, when he was called to the heavenly one, and we hold Alicia and Clare in our prayers, along with Jean Jackson and Brenda Windass, who both lost sons this autumn – Elwyn and Peter – and Eunice Goodman, whose husband, Charles, passed away in October. In November we were saddened by the death of Pamela Rivers who, with her late husband Kenneth, had worshipped here latterly and helped with the running of the BRF group.

It was a sad year for many families, and we started 2023 with the news of Tony Boaks' death – we are holding Gill in our prayers.



As always, many people continue make up our church community and have helped us to rebuild and re-establish over the past year. So thank you to:

- Adam and the Choir
- Nicola Buckland, for her work as cruficer
- all who read the lessons and lead intercessions
- all who welcome people
- Dave for masterminding our Zoom on Sundays and keeping an ear on the sound, ably assisted by Rachel
- Sally and Lisa, the catering and cleaning team
- Sue and those who care for and launder our church linen
- Rita, Pat and the whole team of flower arrangers
- the Thursday tea (Fran and Sue T) and lunch arrangers
- the Messy Church team
- Don for keeping the Bible Reading Fellowship notes going
- all who care for the church gardens
- Mike and Aaron and the Simon, and everyone who looks after our buildings
- the fabulous Christmas Tree Festival team
- James and Louisa for some more great quizzes
- Ruth for putting together Inspire magazine last Spring
- Sally and Ruth, the school Open the Book Team
- Rhidan, our Chair of Governors and Peter, school governor
- Amanda, and all the staff of our amazing school
- Richard, Ruth and Ian, Deanery Synod reps
- Dorothy, Jeanette and Peter, CTiM reps
- Dave, Ben, Kim and the developing finance team
- Jacqueline and Clare, our churchwardens, assisted by Rachel and Aaron / Ralph
- The small team of committed pastoral contactors and deliverers, who have kept people in touch with church life
- Jeanette, PCC Secretary.

Safeguarding remains a crucial aspect of church life, even and especially in a pandemic. Thank to everyone who has taken time to undertake safeguarding training and especially to Barbara Essam, our Parish Safeguarding Officer who is deeply committed to ensure we do this well. Thanks too to Dorothy for her admin support.

Our Deanery and Diocese have both continued to support parish life throughout this year. As Associate Area Dean, I have valued regular input and Chapter meetings. The Diocesan vision that we may each grow in our discipleship and become more Christ like - courageous, contemplative and compassionate – for the sake of God’s world, is very firmly embedded and more resources to support mission are available.

We have also continued our strong links with our sisters and brothers of faiths of other than out own, as a number of our congregation have supported a variety of WAMCF activities over the year. It has been a delight to host in our church building the beautiful wall hanging (put together by our own Ruth Sheppard) made by the women of WAMCF to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As a whole church we have continued to work together to further the ministry and work of God in this place where He has set us.

Above all the Ministry Team has continued to work incredibly hard and demonstrated a deep love for God and church family, and been a great support to me as I have sought to lead us on

Adam led the choir through challenging times with grace, humour and kindness. He produced some beautiful music to aid our worship. His decision to hang up his organ shoes was not taken lightly and we miss him, but thank him for all he has contributed to our music and whole church family life. Ruth also continues to support our administration with joy and offers a cheerful voice on the end of the phone. It has been a joy to welcome Clare to the ministry team and she and Jacqueline have ministered really well together over the last year, supporting and guiding the whole church in a variety of ways.

Terrie and Phyl have both continued to enrich our worship – from leading Zoom Morning Prayer, to presiding and preaching and being fully immersed in leading the whole life of the church. Our whole ministry team works together so well and is wholly supportive and keen to see God's kingdom grow here.

As we seek a new Director of Music and Children and Family Leader to join the team we pray that God is even now calling the right people to join us. The appointment of an Assistant Administrator to work two more mornings week will also be a great help. But the church is all of us – every individual in this community matters and is precious to God and to each other.

Thank you, every one of you, for all that you do to grow God's kingdom in this place, to help each other and those around us to live life to the full - as Jesus offered. May we continue to minister together, in His name and for His sake.

The Revd. Sally Lynch

### **Safeguarding Report**

As a church we all share in the aim to keep our children and young people, and our vulnerable adults, both young and elderly, safe. To this end we are committed to respond to any safeguarding concerns with sensitivity, confidentiality and respect. We are fortunate to have the excellent support of the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

The Oxford Diocese Parish Safeguarding Dashboard highlights all the sections of our annual Action Plan, and we are pleased to have maintained the highest Level 3, which means St. Luke's is fully compliant.

Basic and Foundation training in Safeguarding Awareness is required for all volunteers as well as the PCC, with some roles also needing a DBS. All must be renewed every three years. I am most grateful to Dorothy Strack-Hankey for administering the training and DBS, and I would urge everyone to respond promptly to her requests to complete or renew training and/or DBS on-line. Domestic Abuse Awareness training is no longer a requirement for most volunteers,

but we would encourage all volunteers to undertake this on-line training. It covers all aspects of abuse and is relevant in the context of church and community.

We continue to comply with the Diocesan requirements for Safer Recruitment. Role descriptions and volunteer agreements are distributed and signed by all volunteers, and support for the various teams of volunteers is implemented by meetings to discuss concerns and future development. We are compliant with GDPR, thanks to Ralph Hinchcliffe carrying out the audit this year.

Thank you to you all for your cooperation in this important part of our church life. If you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with me, with Sally or with Dorothy.

Barbara Essam  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

### **Our Musical Life**

This year we have seen things further returning to a new “normal” since the pandemic. The choir now sing from the choir pews, although we still retain a safe distance. We have also started to process and recess again around the Church again.

The choir continue to lead our worship and we have been pleased to be joined by Edgar Hakobian – a member of our congregation – who now plays the piano for our All Age Service on a monthly basis. We have recently introduced a new hymn book – Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship – with great feedback from the congregation.

In September, we were invited to sing at The Chapel of Christ the Redeemer at Culham, Berkshire – a small private Catholic chapel located on a private estate. We were well received, then invited to sing at their carol service in December. This was a huge joy for us and lovely to sing in a beautiful chapel with our Catholic friends.

Also in September, I took the very difficult decision to leave my position as Director Of Music, after 5 happy years at St Luke’s, due to time constraints, and left the position at the end of January. However, I will remain an active member of the congregation, as time allows.

In last year’s bulletin, I mentioned that we were planning for some major works to be carried out on the organ, which would require a huge efforts to raise the require amount of money to cover the overhaul. However, it has now been decided to place this on hold, until such time as a new Director of Music is appointed.

I would like to thank the wonderful members of the congregation, the Ministry team and the PCC for all their support over the past 5 years. Finally, to the wonderful choir of St Luke’s. It has been both a pleasure and a joy working with you – and I wish you all the best for the future.

Adam Went

### **Our Outward Giving...**

... **for 2022** amounted to £ 7048. Our three main chosen charities were:

- International: Tear Fund – humanitarian aid for Ukraine
- Local: The Brett Foundation – fuel poverty fund
- National: A Rocha – ecological awareness. Each received £ 1300.

The collection from the voting at the Tree Festival amounted to £ 2141, which was donated to The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. In addition, we gave £302 to the Children's Society from the Crib service collection and Christingle service, and £242 to Baby Bank from the Carol service collection. We also gave Tear Fund and FACE (the Friends of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia) £131.50 each from Lent lunches.

### **St. Luke's School**

We continue to enjoy close links with our church Primary School: St. Luke's Primary School, a Voluntary Controlled Academy in ODST (the Oxford Schools Diocesan Trust).

The school was able to fully re-open and return to its usual buzz and purposeful working environment.

Open the Book assemblies resumed and another successful Theology Week ran, including a Zoomed interfaith panel – Revd Sally, the Rabbi and Imam.

Services in church resumed too, with a moving service for Year 6 Leavers, who were presented with a copy of Luke's gospel as usual – a gift from church, and dictionary from Spoor Merry and Rixman. In December the whole school and parents were able to join in a simple, but beautiful Carol service. Using the new screen and projector has enhanced school worship in church and enabled us to model environmental awareness in saving paper too. It was a delight to welcome pupils in Early Years to perform their nativity play in church in front of parents.

The school, building continues to be managed very well and new doors are being fitted to classrooms as well as a new half-size classroom in the front grounds.

In – person governors meetings resumed and all governors have been kept informed about the school by the Chair, Rhidian Jones. There are two other 'church' governors: Peter Child and the Vicar. It has been good to welcome Harriet Reay, a Baby and Tiddler / Messy Church parent as a new parent governor. All governors continue to pay tribute to the amazing hard work of Headteacher, Amanda Butler, and all her staff, throughout the whole pandemic. We are all encouraged to pray regularly for our school and its staff and families.

### **Churches Together in Maidenhead**

CTiM enables the Christian churches in Maidenhead to minister together for joint sponsorship of activities. Although it was not possible to meet during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, the Walk of Witness on Good Friday went ahead with record walkers and Street Angels stewarding. The World Day of Prayer service in March was attended by various

churches in the town, as was the service for the start of the season of creation held at St Joseph's in September.

The church ministers were able to meet quite regularly for a Minister's Breakfast at The Bear.

Sadly, the CTiM church members meetings still haven't resumed.

Dorothy Strack-Hankey, Jeanette Lock and Peter Goford

### **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual report for 2022**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to June 2023. At the end of 2022 the Synod had 71 members. Attendance varied from 35 to 43 over the year.

Elections for Deanery Synod lay representatives will take place during the first half of 2023 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2022:

#### *Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 on Zoom:*

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod about the spiritual and practical Christian response to climate change, expressing the seriousness of this issue, why we should care as Christians, and how we can act personally, nationally and locally.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Bishop Olivia and to share comments.
- The two General Synod members from our Deanery, Gracy Crane and Daniel Matovu, reported on the February 2022 session of General Synod which had recently concluded, including the debates about racial justice, challenging slavery and human trafficking, the persecuted church, and Anglican Communion representation in the appointment of any future Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### *Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at St Andrew's Church, Clewer:*

- Archdeacon Stephen Pullin reminded the Synod about what Common Vision is, speaking about each of the five Common Vision focus areas and available resources in those areas.
- Stephen asked for parishes to have a reality check and to give input as to how well these resources are wanted and being used.
- Synod members discussed and gave written and oral feedback to the Archdeacon.

#### *Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Maidenhead:*

- John Sykes shared a brief overview of the Wycombe Deanery Discipleship Training Centre.
- The Synod spent time in small groups sharing encouragements, needs and struggles.
- Some encouragements and challenges were fed back to the whole Synod.

- The Synod spent time praying for some of the situations shared and for wider needs in the church and the world.
- Daniel Matovu, General Synod member, reported on the July 2022 General Synod sessions, including debates about climate change, affirmation and inclusion of disabled people in churches, assisted suicide, and safeguarding. Daniel also described the brief workshop which took place relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Despite a very simple agenda, many members found this meeting very encouraging.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing legacy of Covid-19, and the use of Deanery reserves, the Deanery paid 100% of its parish share for 2022, a total of £ 1,019,381. This was an increase from the £ 961,058 paid against an allocation of £ 1,020,191 in 2021. Richard Thorogood stepped down as Deanery Treasurer at the end of 2022 and the Deanery would like to thank him for his work over a challenging few years.

Thomas Walton, Deanery Secretary

Thank you to all who have both contributed reports to this Annual Bulletin, and also participated in, helped with or led the various services and activities.

Full contact details can be found in the annual year book, updated and available after the APCM.

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