



## **Annual Reports and Accounts**

**For the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022**

The Parochial Church Council,  
St. Bartholomew's Church,  
Ducklington with Hardwick,  
Oxfordshire.

## **Aims and Purposes:**

St. Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverence Andrea Colbrook, who was inducted on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, 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 the church building of St. Bartholomew's, Church Street, Ducklington, to enable our ministry to the community.

## **Objectives and Activities:**

The PCC is committed to encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Bartholomew's. All members are encouraged to become actively involved both practically and financially in the work of the church. The aim is to enable all members to grow in faith and serve the community by supporting each other through worship, prayer and pastoral care. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how services can involve the different groups that live in and around our parish.

For the first six months of the year we were still in 'vacancy' but continued our worship and other vital work by welcoming local and retired clergy, as well as our own LLM's to minister to us. They also helped in leading weddings, funerals and baptisms so that these functions within the church could continue.

We have kept the church open for worship every day and have continued to share Communion through the practice of intinction of the bread in the wine. We also continue to offer home Communion if required and still have our services available online through the medium of Zoom.

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

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

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is not registered with the Charity Commission but it is an excepted charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Bartholomew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Church Wardens, the Licenced Lay Ministers, the Lay Pastoral Assistant, Deanery Synod Representatives and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services and are 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 general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The Standing Committee continued to meet every two months, before and after the appointment of Andrea Colbrook in July, just before the next PCC meeting.

## **Administrative Information:**

### **Ex Officio Members:**

Incumbent: In interregnum from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2022

The Reverend Andrea Colbrook (From 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022)

Licensed Lay Ministers: Dr. David Adams, Mr. Ian Paul (Left 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2022)

Johan Schoeman

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Mrs. Faith Truran

To APCM 2023

## **Church Wardens:**

Mr. Martin Dines To APCM 2023

Mrs. Gill Long To APCM 2023

## **Elected Members:**

Mrs. Angela Williams, Rep. on Deanery Synod To APCM 2023

Mrs. Jenny Pratley, Rep. on Deanery Synod To APCM 2023

Miss Sue Fenn, PCC Secretary To APCM 2025

Mrs. Darlene Britt To APCM 2024

Mrs. Tricia Hughes, ER Officer To APCM 2024

Mr. Chris Stoneham To APCM 2023

Mr. Edmund Strainge To APCM 2024

Mrs. Jane Nichols To APCM 2024

Mrs. Meg Roberts To APCM 2024

Mrs. Ann Morris To APCM 2023

Mrs. Amanda Bennett To APCM 2023

Mrs. Maria Skoyles To APCM 2023

## **Secretary's Report:**

This year will be my first APCM as Secretary since taking over from Rosie Evans at the 2022 meeting in May. I can honestly say it has been a huge learning curve, but one that has certainly opened my eyes to the administrative workings of the church. At that time we were still in interregnum, but on 4<sup>th</sup> July the Rev'd Andrea Colbrook joined us and together we have tried to get to grips with it all.

I attended a PCC Secretaries workshop at Church House in July which was very informative but I certainly realised what a lot I had to learn. Some of the delegates were new as I was, but some had been in place for a number of years but still had many questions to ask.

The PCC met for six scheduled meetings during the year with an average attendance of 93% and the Standing Committee met before each of these meetings to plan the agenda.

During 2022 the church held 10 baptisms, 5 weddings, 12 funerals, 2 memorial services, 1 committal and 5 burial of ashes. During 2022 it was discovered that the new churchyard was actually owned by the Parish Council and since then there have been ongoing discussions between them and us at Ducklington Church as to how we go forward. At present all memorials are signed off by both the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Rector sticking to Church of England regulations. At present the outcome is still to be resolved.

Following the end of Covid restrictions we were able to carry out our full services during the year at Lent, Easter, Harvest and Christmas and also hold our Fritillary Sunday fund raising event. At the village flower and produce show we teamed up with the local WI to run the tea and cake stall. We also held our Harvest supper in the Village Hall that was very well attended.

£236.51 was raised for Christian Aid during a week in May and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust held their annual "Ride and "Stride" that raised £200.00 for our church.

Sadly, in September following the death of the Queen, we opened the Church to anyone who wanted to be together to watch the funeral service on our big screen. 34 people attended and it was deemed a great way of getting church members and the community together.

We continue to offer all our services on Zoom for those unable to come to church and also offer home communion to those requesting it.

**Sue Fenn,  
PCC Secretary April, 2023**

## **General Church/Rectors Report:**

Since arriving in July as your new Rector, the “offer” you made to me in the Parish Profile has been more than fulfilled. Ade and I received a very warm welcome with the hand of friendship extended by all. St. Bartholomew’s has a strong ministry team including our LLM’s and retired clergy; exemplary church wardens; experienced support teams and administration covering all aspects of church life; a dedicated pastoral care team; effective safeguarding; competent financial management delivering a strong financial position and technology-savvy support for our services, website and beyond. We feel settled and embedded in Ducklington and, thanks to the support of so many committed volunteers, ministry can flourish in an increasingly busy church.

We established a new rhythm of services to celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday, including a service of the word and reflective Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Together, we explored how and where we administer Holy Communion and our decision to move back to the high altar has been well received. We have retained Zoom access to our services, recognising that some are unable to join us in-person. The life of Christ unfolds through the cycle of the year, and we revised our seasonal liturgy to encourage each of us to journey with Christ through the seasons of the Christian year. Each season affords wonderful opportunities to grow and deepen relationships within the church, school and community.

Our school ministry has gone from strength to strength with several in-church school services, collective worship and Space Maker training with the head teacher, in preparation for implementation in 2023.

The characteristics of a Christ-like church are being contemplative, compassionate and courageous and there is much evidence of this within the life of the parish. We served as the spiritual heart of the community as we commemorated the life of Her Majesty the Queen; through our All Souls Service and with our remembrance service. We have been a place of openness, warmth and generosity that reflects our faith through Warm Space and our response to the asylum seekers joining our community. The support from local charities to our Warm Space initiative has been particularly encouraging. We have been a visible presence in the community through collaborative engagements with the Parish Council, re-instating men’s breakfast and our carols around the Christmas tree.

We re-introduced a full Christmas programme of services with Christingle, the Angel installation, the Brize Singers' concert, a Carol service, Crib service, Midnight mass and a memorable Christmas Day service.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Ian and Linda Paul. Ian served the church as an LLM for many years and, although they will be sorely missed, we wish them well in their future ministry.

I am encouraged by the connections made throughout the community and how this shapes the ministry at St. Bartholomew's. All deaths affect a village, but Roger Barnes was a man who made an enormous contribution to our church and the wider community and his legacy remains with us.

Finally, I should like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for skilfully steering the church through vacancy and for your on-going commitment to the life and ministry of our church.

**Rev'd Andrea Colbrook,  
May, 2023**

## **Deanery Synod Report:**

The Witney Deanery Pilgrimage took place in June. The Pilgrimage visited all the Church of England churches in the Deanery. The hope was that the Pilgrimage would enhance the unity of the Deanery and also offer a stimulus towards churches becoming more contemplative in line with the aims of the Diocese namely: contemplative, compassionate and courageous. This was a very successful venture.

During the December Synod meeting an update was given concerning the asylum seekers in our area. The Diocese of Oxford is divided into 29 deaneries and each deanery has a Synod which is chaired by the Area Dean. The parish share in the Oxford Diocese is £28.9 million. The largest expenditure goes on stipends and mission. The good news is that St. Bartholomew's has been able to pay the full amount of its parish share.

**Angela Williams,  
Deanery Synod Representative 23.04.23**

## **CHURCH WARDENS REPORT:**

This is the time of year that the Church Wardens look back over the past year, 2022, to reflect on the work achieved in our church and community. We have a lot to thank God for as we have faced many challenges, some difficult ones and some joyous ones. Martin and I give thanks to everyone who has generously and graciously given their time and talents to maintain the running of our church, events and the church services. Everyone in our church community has contributed one way or another throughout the year and a lot of it is unseen and unobtrusive.

We started the year in Interregnum with some Covid restrictions still in place. The early months of the year were taken up with preparing our Parish Profile and considering what sort of Rector we would like. This all came to fruition on March 1<sup>st</sup> when we appointed Andrea as our Rector and officially welcomed Andrea and Ade into our community on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

We have had a visible presence within our community this year with Frittillary Sunday, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Flower and Produce show, the tree planting/blessing, the Queen's death, followed by her funeral, Remembrance Service and singing carols around the Christmas tree. What a joy it has been to have the return of Harvest supper, Messy church, Brize singers' concert and all the Christmas services.

We now have stronger links with our Primary school and have welcomed them into the church for many services. November the Warm Welcome Space was established as a response to the call to help with the cost of living crisis. At the same time, people seeking asylum arrived within our parish and we responded to their requests for help in many ways.

Our PCC members, including our Synod representatives and School governors, have represented the congregation throughout the year, and we thank them for their commitment and for their contribution to the discussions and decision making.

Martin and I are committed to being Church Wardens for another year and are looking forward to seeing what 2023 brings for St. Bartholomew's.

**Gill Long,  
Church Warden April 2023**



## LLM Report

The time period January to December, 2022 has seen some significant changes for St. Bartholomew's three LLM's.

The Vacancy ended on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 when our new Rector, Rev'd Andrea Colbrook, was inducted. In the intervening months Dave Adams, Ian Paul and Johan Schoeman worked closely with the Church Wardens, Rev'd Mary Carney and Rev'd John Hughes to provide continuity in the religious life of St. Bartholomew's.

Dubbed the 'Three Musketeers' by a member of the congregation, the three LLM's met via zoom at regular intervals to provide a rota for both preaching, leading services, providing appropriate liturgy for Mary and John, and assisting them when they were presiding at the Eucharist. In collaboration with the Church Wardens it was agreed that we should have alternate Eucharist and Services of the Word; as can be expected these were busy times

It would be amiss of the LLM's not to praise God for his Providence on two accounts: the availability of three LLM's at St. Bartholomew's during Vacancy, and the hard work provided by those members of the congregation to make services happen Sunday after Sunday. The LLM's graciously and without reserve acknowledge the superb work done by the Church Wardens, Administrators, Musicians and Audio-visual crews.

The LLM's give thanks to God for calling Andrea to St. Bartholomew's; Andrea has provided spiritual and religious leadership, close collaboration with the LLM's and an injection of renewed fervour in the life of St. Bartholomew's. The LLM's embrace the principle of teamwork imbued by Andrea and her respect for blending with the work done by the clergy team and life of the church in Ducklington. We value to the time set aside by Andrea for monthly meetings; we count this precious time to reflect on, and plan our clerical work in St. Bartholomew's.

Dave and I pay tribute to Ian for delaying his move to new endeavours until Andrea was more settled in her new role. After a long, busy and blessed association with St. Bartholomew's, Ian presented his valedictory sermon on 16<sup>th</sup> October. On this sad occasion we gave thanks to God for his services to our congregation and Church. We offered too our prayers for his labours in a different setting within the Lord's vineyard.

The LLM's count ourselves privileged to continue our work supporting Andrea, proclaiming the love of God in our church and serving the interests of our congregation.

**Johan Schoeman,  
LLM April, 2023**

## **Fabric and Church Building:**

**Fabric Report:** The Fabric Committee has met once during the year and we discussed project work and general maintenance. Our Quinquennial is due next year and so we are focussing on fulfilling items from the 2019 survey. We are particularly keen on progressing with a practical solution for disabled access and have met with diocesan disability experts to investigate ways in which we can improve access through the south door.

We are lowering our carbon footprint and reducing our lighting bills by changing to LED's. Our CCTV system has also been updated for the security of the church, our congregation and those who visit us.

Thanks go to Peter Cocks who has been very active in general maintenance of the church both inside and out.

**Martin Dines,  
Church Warden 18.04.2023**

## **Pastoral Team Care Report:**

Our Pastoral team at St. Bartholomew's consists of a group of caring people who help us manage many aspects of our lives. This includes visiting the unwell, elderly or housebound; providing support for those in difficult circumstances or the bereaved; helping with hospital visits where appropriate and sending cards to mark life events such as baptisms, marriage and death. The team is a huge asset to the church and all work very hard to help those who are in need.

**Faith Truran,  
Pastoral Assistant 23.04.23**

## House Group Report:

The House Group meets for fellowship and to learn more about our Christian faith together. We have gathered every fortnight, usually in various homes which makes for a more informal atmosphere.

Year 2022 – Reflected on and discussed ‘How to hear God’ by Pete Grieg, which has proved to be both informative and stimulating.

Anyone is welcome to join our group. If you are interested in enriching your Christian life and getting to know some of our church members on a deeper level then please come along. Please contact me on 07791-877817 or faith@truranfamily.co.uk

**Faith Truran,**  
**House group coordinator 23.04.23**

## PCC Safeguarding Report:

The PCC monitors and reports on any safeguarding issues at every PCC meeting. Our safeguarding policy is reviewed and updated annually in May. There has been one safeguarding referral made within the parish this year. The correct procedures were followed.

Names to Remember:

- Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Verifier: Sarah Varnom
- Deputy PSO (to contact if the PSO is unavailable): Gill Long (Church Warden)
- Pastoral Leader: Faith Truran
- Junior Church: Paula Taylor

Training:

- All PCC members have a current DBS check and have completed the necessary online diocesan training.
- All members of the parish who support our junior church have a current DBS check.
- All junior church helpers have completed the necessary online diocesan training.

- A number of additional church officers also attended diocesan training.
- Some members of the Pastoral Team have a current DBS check. If members do not, then they should always carry out a formal pastoral visit with a team member who does have the certificate.
- Our music group leader has a current DBS check.
- Our bell tower captain has a current DBS check.

#### Leadership Training:

- The leadership programme that was introduced last year for all clergy and lay readers has been completed. Our church wardens have also completed the training. They are in the process of submitting their final essays.
- The PSO and leaders of activities with children and/or adults who may be vulnerable have attended the appropriate leadership training sessions.
- The PSO regularly attends meetings for local PSO's. She is also a member of the Oxford Diocesan PSO Forum.

#### Safeguarding Information Displayed in Church:

- A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'.
- Contact details of the Rector, the PSO, Church Wardens any other local leaders.
- Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues e.g. local authority contact details; key helplines such as 'ChildLine'.
- Access to the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

**Sarah Varnom,  
Parish Safeguarding Officer April, 2023**

## **Children's Work and School Involvement – Junior Church Report:**

Junior Church members increased in 2022. There are 22 children on the register, however we only have 6 to 7 regular attendees each week.

Our craft activities are based around the week's gospel, for example in November we linked the sermon to Climate change project COP27. The children enjoyed making crafts from recycled paper and cardboard boxes. We also learned about the Christian Calendar, Lenten symbols, Patron Saints, Feeding the five thousand, Jonah and the people of Nineveh, Joseph and his brothers, Moses, the parable of the Five talents (we created our own Monopoly board), Love one another (we made Love sunglasses) and following in Jesus' footsteps, (using our own footprints).

The most memorable subject we covered was based on what our new Rector, Andrea does – linked to Church Mission and Ministry at Life events:

- Baptism – the arrival of a child in a family
- Wedding – getting married
- Funeral – the loss of someone we know and love

In June we celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee by making our own bunting linked to the Holy Spirit gospel. Sadly, in September for her funeral, we made a portrait collage of the Queen's 7- year reign.

We continue to encourage the children to participate in the service by reading the gospel and joining the singing group.

Please pray for additional volunteers, to help cover for when I am unavailable. Thank you all for your support.

**Paula Taylor,  
Junior Church Co-ordinator April, 2023**

# **Ducklington CE VC Primary School**

## **Foundation Governor Report:**

There are three Foundation Governors on the Governing Body of Ducklington Primary School.

As Foundation Governors we have attended most meetings and taken an active role in school activities. We have all visited the school on numerous occasions and have supported both the school and church in religious activities involving school pupils. These included the Easter Experience, end of term and leavers' services, Christmas events and services. These will continue and be expanded into 2023.

Each Foundation Governor has different areas of responsibility including Religious Education, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Art and English.

By the end of 2022 the school was functioning normally without any Covid related restrictions. However, the post pandemic effects of Covid remain to be addressed.

In the Autumn term 2022 the school, including the governors, were making preparations for Ofsted which was expected in the first part of 2023.

The Foundation Governors play an important role in the governance of the school, especially as there are vacancies for other governors. Their role to promote the relationship between church and school is significant and the head and other governors are supportive of this. We also, of course, recognise the importance of ensuring all pupils receive a broad and balanced education.

The school and its staff and pupils are an integral part of our community both as a church and as a village. We strive to maintain that link, to include the school community in as many church and village activities as possible and to offer support as and when it is needed.

**Alison Spencer-Schoeman,**  
**On behalf of all three Foundation Governors,**  
**Jenny Pratley, Angela Williams, Alison Spencer-Schoeman April 2023**

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

There are many volunteers contributing their time and talents to further the objectives of the church. The PCC is extremely grateful and would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church and lively and vibrant community that it is.

Particular thanks must go to Rosie Evans who supported us so well in her capacity of PCC Secretary for a number of years and stood down at the APCM.

Thanks also to Roger Barnes (who sadly died in June), Martin Dines for taking on his position, and Gill Long as our Church Wardens, for their guidance during the remainder of the Interregnum period.

Also to Martin and Jane Dines and Tricia Hughes for their technical management of our worship services through PowerPoint presentations and PowerPoint and on Zoom.

**Sue Fenn,  
PCC Secretary April 2023**

## **WARM SPACE:**

The Warm Space at Ducklington Village Hall has been running every Thursday since the beginning of November, 2022.

Originally set up to help during the cost of living crisis that could affect our community, giving a heated space with a free light lunch and hot drinks. It has developed into a Warm Welcome Space where people come mostly for the company and the chat. Puzzles, knitting and card games are very popular pursuits. Our numbers vary each week but average around 18 visitors over the day, with 5-6 volunteers. Ages vary each week but on average are over 65 years old.

Initially set up by people from the church, it now has many volunteers from the village. We are keen to keep it a community initiative. Our funding has come from anonymous donations, the church, the Round Table, local charities and the Village Hall committee.

**Gill Long,  
Churchwarden April 2023**

## **THE SINGING GROUP:**

The Singing Group has continued to support music in all the worship at St. Bartholomew's. We have met every fortnight to prepare for Sunday services and have introduced several new hymns and songs to the congregation over the past year, including at the festivals of Christmas and Easter. We also play for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms as requested, the charges being £88, £88 and £33 respectively.

I would like to thank Pauline, Harriet and Ruth for their help at the keyboard.

**Amanda Bennett,**  
**Music Co-ordinator April, 2023**

## **TOWER BELLS:**

The past twelve months have not been an easy time for Ducklington, having tragically lost Roger Barnes at the end of June. Full marks to all the band however, for taking a deep breath and carrying on as no doubt he would have wanted.

We have continued to ring regularly for Sunday services and weddings through the year, only on a very few occasions with less than a ring of six. The bells were heard for both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her funeral, as well as for Fritillary Sunday when the tower was open for visitors to find out more about our bells and ringing in general.

In July we welcomed Andrea Colbrook as our new Rector, and one of her first duties was to conduct Roger's funeral. The bells were hung half-muffled for the occasion and all members of the band who were available rang. The bells were also half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday – thanks for Marysia for scrambling in amongst the cobwebs to put on the muffles for each event. Thanks are also due to our Treasurer Madeleine for organising a very enjoyable Ringing Trip in July, and to the other officers for keeping things running smoothly through a very difficult time.

We have been very pleased to have two new ringers, Sarah and Evie, join us recently. After a break from ringing they have re-found their ropes and will be a great addition to the band. We have also been joined by Ciara who is



making excellent progress in her bell-handling and will soon be ringing as part of the band.

I would like to pay tribute at this point to Roger for all his work for the Church and the tower in particular. Without his efforts we would not have the lovely ringing room and a set of very ring-able bells. Nor indeed would we have such a friendly and competent band of ringers; his enthusiasm, skill and personality have made the Ducklington band what it is today.

Regarding the bells themselves, they continue to ring satisfactorily and are regularly checked by our steeple-keeper, Marysia. We do have an issue with several bells being difficult to ring up “right”, (though part of this is due to needing more practice in ringing up). The next time the bells have their annual inspection we will ask the engineer to see if there is anything that can be done to help remedy this. (Work on this issue has been done in the past, and there is a limit to the amount of adjustment that can be made). There are also some pulleys to be replaced, but we have these available and it is a job we can cope with fairly easily.

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to ring at St. Bartholomew’s, and we are fortunate to have a good reliable and capable band of ringers available to ring for Sunday Services, weddings and other occasions, as well as a good ring of bells to perform on.

**Richard Ford,**  
**Tower Captain April 2023**

## **HANDBELLS:**

Ducklington Handbell Ringers are delighted to be ringing together again after the pandemic lockdowns. Over the past year we have enjoyed ringing for Fritillary Sunday, Harvest Supper, for the Christmas Carol Service which seems to have been enjoyed by audiences and the congregation.

We have recently had two new recruits but have also lost several of our long standing members due to work and other commitments. We are now down to six ringers, which is fine for twelve bells, as long as we are all able to make the practices. We would like to encourage others to join us, especially as we have four larger bells that haven’t been rung for a long time. There is no need

to be able to read music as we ring from numbers; you just need to be able to count in time up to four! We currently meet, in church, on Tuesdays from 5 to 6pm but would happily rearrange this time to suit new recruits if necessary.

**Sally Craig,  
April 2023**

## **CREATIONS GROUP:**

We started the year meeting twice monthly on Fridays, this was mainly a social activity where we bought along our own crafting project and enjoyed completing it whilst we chatted and built friendships. There were a few opportunities where some of us offered to pray for situations, as and when it was appropriate.

We have completed group crafting activities, for example spending one session experimenting with a glass kiln. When Warm Space started several of us went along with our projects and enjoyed chatting with our neighbours whilst we crafted.

Creations was spurred on by the enjoyment of making stars for last year's Christmas 'Star Trek' and replicated the project with an Angel theme for this Christmas. We expanded the project, involving the school children in an assembly and joining with Messy Church for an Angel themed Christmas event. We also attended several Warm Space sessions and engaged visitors in making angels for the Christmas display in church. We enjoyed attending Warm Space, taking our crafting along as conversation starters with our neighbours.

We changed our meeting time to a Thursday afternoon in the hope of continuing this, using the other session each month to gather in someone's home for more focused activity or creative reflection. There were eight of us participating on our WhatsApp group at the end of 2022.

**Maria Skoyles,  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

## **CHRYALLIS GROUP:**

The Chrysalis group came together as a response to an invitation in April, 2021 to anyone who didn't want to die as a caterpillar. Our purpose was to listen to each other's life experiences, notice when we were unconsciously living off the leaf on which we were born, and gently provoke one another to take the risk of dying to our superficial sense of Self in order to be re-born with wings to fly. Between 5 and 7 of us met once a month on zoom. The conversation was triggered each time with a thought piece from a wide selection of different writers and an occasional video.

We suspended the group in the Autumn of 2022 when a couple of participants moved out of the area. We are currently discussing the possibility of re-starting the group in 2023 as a part of our commitment as a church community to grow in faith. Chrysalis is open to anyone, at any stage of their spiritual journey, who is tired of living on the same old diet of ideas and is willing to risk what they know for what they can barely imagine. It offers an informal, trusting circle of other spiritual travellers with whom to explore the promise of life in all its fullness.

**Dave Adams,**  
**LLM 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

## **Friends of St .Bartholomew's:**

It has been another successful year for the Friends. We were able to get together for a party in the summer and delighted that both Andrea and Ade, and Mary Carney and John Hughes were able to join us. The Friends are a great mix of those on the electoral roll, supporters of the church from the community, past members of the church who have moved away, or those who were married at St. Bartholomew's. The feedback from people is that they appreciate staying in touch through the newsletters and are very happy to contribute to the Fabric Fund for the continued upkeep of the church.

I am delighted that David Cole has taken over the running of Friends and pleased to hear the new ideas that he has. A big thank you to him and also to those who contribute articles to the newsletter and help with the distribution.

Maintaining such a lively old building as St. Bartholomew's will always be costly, and it is encouraging that so many people want to help.

**Steve Bold,  
May, 2023**

## **Electoral Roll Report:**

At the last revision of the Church Electoral Roll for the APCM on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 the number of people on it was 102. Since then 4 have come off (deceased) and 6 have come off as they have left the parish. 13 have been added, 11 of which are in this latest revision.

At the end of 2022 the number on the electoral roll was 98, but currently as at 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 this stands at 105.

**Tricia Hughes,  
Electoral Roll Office May, 2023**

## **Financial Review 2022:**

I start this report by paying tribute to Roger Barnes who died so unexpectedly in June. Roger was, of course, more than just the Treasurer but, for this report's purpose, I can only commend his record keeping which ensured that I could carry on his work reasonably quickly. Changing bank details etc proved much more difficult but that is another story! Thank you, Roger, for all that you did.

Total receipts on unrestricted (General) funds were £65,132, an increase of **26%** on the previous year, due mainly to a more 'normal' year following the easing of Covid restrictions, more wedding services and Fritillary Sunday re-starting. £30,021 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and a further £7,996 was from Gift Aid.

The planned giving to unrestricted funds through banker's orders and the Parish Giving Scheme increased by **13%**. Plate and non-recurring giving/donations also increased by **65%** (following a decrease in the previous year) but that was no doubt due to more people coming back into the building and, the introduction of Sum-Up terminals at both doors so that people can

more easily donate using a debit or credit card. Income from that was £410.00 gross.

Expenditure on the General Fund increased on 2021 from £51,245 to £53,503 (**4%**) mainly because of increased payments to the Diocesan Board of Finance for weddings and funerals and higher church running costs; especially electricity costs. Our Parish Share *fell* by **2%** but we must factor in the likelihood that this will increase substantially over the next few years.

Total receipts on restricted funds were £8,097 an overall reduction from 2021 of **18%**; these funds mainly comprise the restricted Fabric Fund but also the Warm Space Project. We received very generous donations for Warm Space of £1,600 to kick start the project. Going forward I will report separately on these funds as there will also be separate Funds for the South Door Project and Asylum Seekers' Fund. Income from the Friend's scheme remained constant, and we sincerely thank them for their contributions. Gift Aid receipts for these restricted funds fell by some **61%** but this was mainly due to timing of claims following Roger's death and I am resolving this in the 2023 financial year.

Restricted Fund expenditure was £9,202 (up **119%**) mainly comprising minor repairs to the fabric but also work on the North Door copings. There are also regular costs relating to the Warm Space project that commenced in November, mainly comprising village hall hire and the provision of refreshments.

I am pleased to report that the Deanery Parish Share was met, with St. Bartholomew's contributing £34,234.

Net movement on unrestricted funds was an increase of **£11,629**. During the year, the total fund balances, including cash in hand, increased from £35,038 to £45,714 of which £25,467 is unrestricted.

### **Reserves Policy**

We have yet to initiate and implement any policy concerned with maintaining our balance on unrestricted funds. We invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. Planning must now be implemented for the next quinquennial inspection.

**Approved by the PCC on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £	
<b>Voluntary receipts from donors:</b>						
Planned Giving	30,021		2,304	32,325	28,814	<i>Standing orders, PGS, Friends' subs</i>
Collections at services	4,990			4,990	3,018	<i>Plate and donations from the congregation</i>
Non-recurring g/ving/donations	887		5,196	6,083	8,206	<i>Bucket collections, wall safe, one-off gifts</i>
Income tax recovered	7,996		597	8,593	7,955	<i>PGS, Standing orders, Friends' and GASDS</i>
	<u>43,894</u>	-	<u>8,097</u>	<u>51,992</u>	<u>47,993</u>	
Activities for generating funds	5,671			5,671	2,051	<i>Fundraising events</i>
Investment income		0	152	152	13	<i>Bank interest</i>
Receipts from church activities	14,872			14,872	11,767	<i>Weddings, funerals, inscriptions etc</i>
Other incoming resources	694			694	102	<i>Sundry income, grants</i>
	<u>65,132</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,249</u>	<u>73,381</u>	<u>61,926</u>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
<b>Church activities:</b>						
Diocesan Parish Share	34,234			34,234	34,967	<i>Parish Share</i>
Church running expenses	10,314		3,645	13,960	12,598	<i>Admin, insurance, utilities, safeguarding, building repairs etc</i>
Mission giving and donations	814			814	324	<i>Bucket collections and one-off donations to charities</i>
Cost of generating funds	6,438			6,438	6,330	<i>Fundraising costs, internal and ODBF weddings and funeral payments</i>
Fabric projects (one-off)			5,132	5,132	1,197	<i>Specific fabric projects</i>
Other payments	1,704		425	2,129	22	<i>Any other payments</i>
	<u>53,503</u>	-	<u>9,202</u>	<u>62,705</u>	<u>55,438</u>	
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>11,629</b>	<b>0 -</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>10,676</b>	<b>6,488</b>	
Cash and bank accounts 1st Jan	13,389		21,650	35,038	28,550	
Cash and bank accounts 31st Dec	25,467		20,247	45,714	35,038	
	<u>12,078</u>	-	<u>1,403</u>	<u>10,676</u>	<u>6,488</u>	

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Cash Funds	3	-	3	80
Bank current accounts	23,524	8,379	31,903	21,323
CBF deposit fund	1,940	11,371	13,311	13,138
Handbells account		498	498	497
	<u>25,467</u>	-	<u>20,247</u>	<u>35,038</u>

Approved by the PCC on 19th January 2023

They were independently examined by Dr Stephen Bold in February 2023

"I have completed my examination and can confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination."

Signed   
Dr Stephen Bold  
FREng, M.B.E.

Date 23/04/23

