



Christ Church Eaton

Here for Christ – here for you

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2022

Contents

PART ONE – CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS	3
VICAR'S REPORT ON 2022	3
REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2022	10
SAFEGUARDING REPORT	12
CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT	13
TREASURER'S REPORT	14
MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT	14
BABY&ME	16
CHAT OVER A CUPPA.....	16
PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH	16
CHARITABLE GIVING 2022	17
FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH	19
THE CHOSEN	21
FABRIC REPORTS	21
NORWICH FOOD BANK.....	22
GLASSES FOR AFRICA	22
PART TWO – REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH ST ANDREW'S.....	23
EATON PARISHES GROUP COUNCIL.....	23
PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM.....	25
EATON PARISHES OFFICE	26
EATON MOTHERS' UNION.....	27
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE	28
OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT.....	29

PART ONE – CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2022

Thank you to all those who sent reports for this annual review. I am grateful also to Ruth Thorp in the Parishes Office, who collated this document for us, and to Catherine, my wife, who formatted it.

I do hope and pray that you will find the review helpful. 2022 now seems a long time ago, since I am writing this in April 2023, and was on Sabbatical from January to March. I have described the Sabbatical in more detail in the May edition of the Parishes Magazine, so please do read that if you are interested. Here I outline the main themes in our worship and church life.

Recovering from Covid

I am grateful for how our church family has adapted and persevered through the challenges of the pandemic and its aftereffects. I am thankful for the faithfulness and generosity of our congregation and staff, who have all shown care and compassion in these challenging times.

At the beginning of the year, we were still following guidelines for wearing masks and keeping social distance during our services. We marked the north aisle as a safe zone for those who preferred more space and protection. We also had no collection during the service, encouraging regular giving by standing order or envelopes. Later in the year we restored the symbolic offering of money with the bread and wine before communion.

We continued to be careful with communion itself. For the first few months, we offered only individual communion wafers to avoid sharing the cup. However, by Easter, we felt it was safe and theologically helpful to resume offering both kinds, as Christ instructed. We saw a gradual increase in the number of people who chose to receive the cup, especially at the 8am service. We used antiseptic wipes to sanitize the cup after each use. Later, we added a second distribution site at the south side of the church, where people could kneel and receive communion in a more traditional way.

One of the things that I missed most during the pandemic was hearing us all singing praises to God in full voice. Because of the masks and reduced numbers, our singing was not as loud and joyful as before. However, we were blessed by the presence and talent of Matt and our choir, who led us in worship with beautiful harmonies (especially audible when I turned off my microphone). They also had to make some adjustments, such as not singing while processing into church at first, but by April,

they were able to sing in procession again, adding more solemnity and familiarity to the start of our services.

We were fortunate that we never had to limit the number of people who could attend our services nor require booking in advance. We always had enough space and flexibility to accommodate everyone who wanted to join us in person. However, we also recognized that some people were not able or comfortable to come to church physically, and I am so grateful for our Zoom system, which allowed us to stream our services online. Camera views and our sound system allowed people to watch from home and us to make recordings to put on our Facebook page. We also held some evening services at home exclusively on Zoom, then had a choral evensong for Easter Day in church, and regular evensongs from June until October, when we stopped them due to daylight saving time, knowing that several of the congregation no longer felt comfortable venturing into the dark and conscious of the environmental and financial costs of keeping the heat on into the evening. We considered services earlier in the afternoon, but they were not popular. By then the COVID-19 autumn booster programme was underway. I had my covid booster and flu jab, knowing that many congregation members had had even more injections during the year, and caught covid in December. Thank you to Colin Way, Alistair Bolt, Phil Rodd and all who covered my absence wonderfully.

Another aspect of our church life disrupted by the pandemic was our refreshments after the service. We were not able to serve tea and coffee at first, because of health concerns, and then had dishwasher problems. However, by Easter, I am grateful that Caroline Gibbs and her team had overcome these issues and were able to offer fellowship over a hot drink and a biscuit. It is great to see people gathering to worship God and support his people together in the service and afterwards.

Special services

We were able to hold many services marking special occasions in church, such as a candlelit procession for Candlemas, Racial Justice Sunday, an all-age Mothering Sunday service, dramatized passion readings on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, special communions for Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, Ascension Day, with a sung communion service for the whole deanery, Pentecost, with choral evensong, Trinity Sunday, Harvest Festival, and a Memorial service for the Departed in Advent. We also paid tribute to our late Queen with a special evening service and sang the new national anthem on Remembrance Sunday. We held our usual special services for Advent and Christmas, except for the Christingle service for which we lacked volunteers. We are grateful to Caroline Gibbs for organising the Crib service and nativity play on Christmas eve with very few children attending church. We also

launched the Parish Giving Scheme on Giving for Growth Sunday in June with the help of Robert Cullyer, advisor on giving for the diocese. David Scott organised the service at the War memorial on Armistice Day. Thank you to everyone who organised, took part in and supported these special services throughout the year.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

We had 5 baptisms in 2022, (compared to 7 in 2019), 4 marriages (7) and 16 funerals (16). I was delighted to take the baptisms and weddings and am pleased more people are in touch about having their children baptised and getting married. We were sorry to say farewell to Eric Burdett, Hugh Bailey, Kathleen Hill and Roger Humber, and Colin Brown (in 2023, taken by Phil Rodd) at Christ Church, and I took the funeral of Ismene Durand at St Andrew's. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for their families and all who miss them.

Attendance

I was pleased to see that attendance at our services stabilised in 2022. It would not have been helpful to average the attendance the year before, since there was so much disruption and change, but in 2022 the 8am communion averaged about 13, normal 10ams averaged 52 and 2 U16s, and we averaged 9 on exclusively Zoom evening prayer and 15 for standard, non-choral evensongs. Our congregation size has fallen during the pandemic, with attendance in an average week in October falling from 99 in 2019 to 77 in 2022, but the services still have enough people to provide encouragement and fellowship. Some of this decline may be people coming less frequently, but our worshipping community, people who come at least monthly, has also decreased in size, from 191 to 142. Some have died, some stopped coming and Rebecca Calcutt Saunders and Jane Hattrick moved away. We were also delighted to gain some new members in the congregation. Our love and prayers are with them all.

Some churches have reduced their number of services since the pandemic, which may affect their attendance. We are glad that we have been able to offer almost the same services as before and supply online options for those who are unable to attend in person. This is thanks to your prayers, support, and involvement in our church.

Christmas is a time to welcome visitors and to invite others to join us in worship. Compared to 2021, when 149 attended and the pandemic was still causing restrictions, we saw an increase in attendance at our Christmas services in 2022 to 325. However, we still have not reached the levels of 2019, before the pandemic (542). For example, 173 people attended the Christmas carol service in 2022,

compared to 281 in 2019. The midnight communion service also saw a decline from 79 in 2019 to 44 in 2022.

Easter is a time to remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and to proclaim His victory over sin and death. We are thankful that more people attended our Holy Week and Easter services in 2022 than in 2021, except for the Maundy Thursday Communion. This service is a meaningful way to commemorate how Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and commanded us to love one another as He loved us. We would like to encourage more people to take part in this service next year. Perhaps we could have a meal together before or after the service, as Jesus did with His disciples on that night.

Easter Day attendance was 30% lower in 2022 than in 2019, which reflects the impact of the pandemic as well as the wider trend of declining church affiliation in our society. However, Good Friday's attendance was only 13% lower than in 2019, which may show that our regular members are still committed to attending our services. We also saw some fresh faces at our evensong that restarted on Easter evening. We hope people will find a home among us and grow in their faith.

These trends are concerning and challenging for our church and the Church of England. They show that we need to rethink our strategies and priorities for reaching out and ministering to our neighbours and young people. We need to have a vision for the future. We need to pray that God will continue to draw people to Himself and to our church as we share the good news of Jesus.

Leading Your Church into Growth LYCIG Course

To help generate a vision, Catherine Jeffries, Ruth Vaughan and Tony Grubb joined me in doing this course in March. The PCC then agreed to pray for growth in our church. This aligns with the Diocesan Vision, "Transformed by Christ", especially the section "Prayerful", which says:

"We will equip people in evangelism to find ways to share their faith during the week and be invitational to others to join the life of their local Church, recognising the particular need to engage with children, young people and families."

We recognised that people might feel uncomfortable with the term "evangelism", but one of the insights from LYCIG was that not everyone has to be able to explain or debate theology, but most people can invite others to events and be welcoming.

On children, young people and families, we discussed possible connections with the High School and opportunities for social and musical activities. We also thought about how we could reach out to the Colman schools, the Clare School, and Town Close School. Tony Grubb suggested organising events for young people at different

times or on different days might be more appealing. Geraldine Verschoor runs a 10am Sunday youth group for the four or so secondary school pupils we still have coming. We also have all age services throughout the year. We could offer a curate the chance to develop these links, as well as Baby & Me and other initiatives.

As a first step to generating a culture of growth, we asked Intercessors to include prayer for growth in their prayers and tried to avoid long services and prayers. These ideas were agreed at the 2022 APCM.

The Life Source Lent Course

I led this course as part of the Prayerful year for the diocesan vision and in response to the LYCIG course. It combined Bible study and discussion with a creative, hands-on exploration of five prayer patterns drawn from Christianity's rich heritage. The interactive sessions explored:

- Source of life - prayer as relationship. This session focused on how prayer connected us to God, who was the source of our life and being. It introduced ways of praying, such as adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.
- Source of joy - prayer as enjoying God. This session explored how prayer could be a way of delighting in God's presence and celebrating his goodness. It invited participants to try out different forms of praise and music.
- Source of light - prayer as listening. This session examined how prayer could be a way of hearing God's voice and discerning his will. It encouraged participants to practice different methods of listening, such as meditation, silence and *lectio divina*.
- Source of wholeness - prayer as honesty. This session revealed how prayer could be a way of being honest with God and ourselves about our struggles and needs. It challenged participants to express aspects of honesty, such as confession, lament and intercession.
- Source of love - prayer as care. This session showed how prayer could be a way of caring for others and the world. It inspired participants to engage in different acts of care, such as blessing, healing and social action.

Living in Love and Faith LLF Advent Course

Issues about identity, sexuality, and relationships have become increasingly prominent as society changes. The Church of England developed The Living in Love and Faith course as a way of exploring such questions in the light of Christian faith. The course aimed to help church members listen to each other's experiences and perspectives, learn from Scripture and other sources of wisdom like science and experience, and discern how God is calling them to live in love and faith. Alistair Bolt

and I put on the Loving for Life course together. We did some of the sessions online only, since I caught Covid.

Thank you

I want to express our gratitude to all the people who have contributed to our life as a church family. Here are some of the people I would particularly like to thank: -

- Sue Harris, for her faithful service as a vergers for funerals in our church, as well as keeping the church clean and tidy despite several major repairs that caused a lot of dust. As I write Sue is extremely unwell and in our prayers.
- Leisa Devlin and the team who run the Baby&Me group that has been a blessing to a small but loyal group of parents and children. We are aware that there is now another similar group at a nearby church at the same time and day, so we are considering how to best offer this ministry in the future.
- Steph Brookes, for organizing *Chat over a Cuppa* that meets on Mondays, even on Bank Holidays, showing how much people value it. We are also thankful for the £2000 Norfolk Community Fund Surviving Winter Grant that helped us pay for heating the church during the cold months. This was not the first time we received a grant from this fund, as they also supported us with the repair of Kinchen Hall Roof in 2013.
- Catherine Richmond, my wife, for preparing the Zoom service and hymn sheets and uploading them on the parish website, along with the Notice sheet, throughout the year. She also started using our new strapline, "Here for Christ, here for You" on our printed and online publications. Recently, she also starting using a modified logo that reflects the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Church, which we will celebrate in November with a visit from Bishop Graham.
- Ros Wright, for continuing to write articles about our church activities and events in local print media, even though she has been very busy with other commitments. She also helped Catherine Richmond increase our presence on Facebook, where we now have 292 followers, up from 276 last year. Our Facebook ads, such as the one for activity packs, have reached thousands of people. Catherine Richmond also maintained our Twitter account and kept me updated on the Bishop's tweets. I also continued writing my CCE Thought emails during the week, to complement the Notice sheet at weekends.
- Colin Way, our retired priest, Alistair Bolt, our Licensed Lay Minister, John Harrison, retired and active Lay Minister, Ros Wright, exploring her vocation, Robin Quine, trainee Authorised Worship Assistant, all of whom have taken services and preached and Maggie Diffey and Kate Belcher who kindly take 8am services.

- Tony Grubb, our Treasurer, for his valuable contribution to the PCC and his expertise in managing our finances. He has also been instrumental in promoting the "Parish Giving Scheme", which helps us track giving and simplifies our Gift Aid reclaim process.
- Everyone who gives money to the Church. Your generosity enabled us to pay for the Zoom system, maintain our building and grounds, support our staff, pay parish share, and contribute to various charities and causes. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.
- Sarah Barley, our Finance Officer, for her diligent work in supporting both treasurers and both parishes with their financial needs. She has supported us through exceedingly difficult times and improved our systems.
- Catherine Jeffries, stepping down as Church Warden after six years of dedicated leadership and care. She has also reclaimed Gift Aid for us over many years.
- Ruth Vaughan, our continuing Church Warden, for her calm and competent handling of her duties, helping us make a seamless transition when Vivien retired.
- Mike Brookes, our finance officer, who has been such a huge help and has overcome various challenges posed by the maintenance and improvement of the church, Kinchen Hall and the Cottage.
- Vivien Humber, our Pastoral Coordinator, for her compassionate and thoughtful ministry to those who are isolated or in need of support. She has also been taking notes for various committees, leading the Mothers Union and the Magazine Team, and helping with the Friends group.
- Jacky Sutcliffe, Anna MacDougall and others who have assisted Vivien with pastoral phone calls and visits.
- The Friends group, for their fundraising efforts for the maintenance and improvement of Christ Church. We are looking forward to seeing the new path to the Garden of Remembrance completed soon.
- Phil Rodd, vicar of St Andrew's, for his friendship and collaboration in our joint ministry. He has generously covered funerals and services while I was on Sabbatical. His curate, James Cook, has also been a major help to me as Chapter Clerk.
- Richard Holcombe, for his financial guidance to Sarah in the Office. We appreciate his wisdom and experience.
- The Group Council, especially its chair, John Ladd, for their oversight and direction of our joint vision and mission.
- Patrick and Carmela Furniss, who have supported the church and particularly it's

music and choir. Carmela has been unwell for some years and they are hoping to move. Our prayers go with them.

Beyond Christ Church, I continue as Rural Dean of Norwich South, on General Synod and as Chair of the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod (please see the reports below) and therefore onto the Bishop's Council of Trustees. I continue as Chair of Science and Faith in Norfolk but, being without a secretary and on Sabbatical, we have not been active recently.

I have continued to suffer dermatitis on my hands and eyes, which has needed careful management but not been so severe that I could not function. It has improved during the Sabbatical.

Once again, I express my thanks to everyone who has supported us. I hope and pray that, as you read on, you too will be deeply grateful for all that has been done in 2022 and will be encouraged to think and pray about how we can all seek God's kingdom and grow in faith, service and numbers in 2023.

The Rev Dr Patrick Richmond - Vicar

REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2022

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working co-operatively with the vicar to promote 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, Kinchen Hall and The Cottage.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and tries to help people in the parish grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and in service to others. It maintains and develops the building and keeps it open to the public throughout the year, subject to Government restrictions and Church of England guidance.

The PCC met nine times in 2022 and mostly in Church. There were two Zoom video conferencing meetings, a short one to agree the accounts in May and another in December due to a coronavirus outbreak at the vicarage. The average PCC attendance at meetings throughout the year was nine out of 14 members (65%).

We gave thanks to Vivien Humber who came to the end of her wardenship in May 2022 and Catherine Jeffries who continues in her role as Church Warden. Thanks were also expressed to Ruth Vaughan who was elected to Church Warden in May to serve alongside Catherine. We much appreciate and thank Tony Grubb for his work

as Treasurer for the year and are grateful to Sarah Barley, our Finance Officer who has admirably supported him.

After being co-opted in December 2021 to serve as Treasurer, we thank Tony Grubb on his election to the PCC in May 2022. We welcomed Leisa Devlin and Caroline Crossley to the PCC at the APCM and thanked David Archer who resigned. We gave thanks to Sue Mitchell who also resigned in May 2022 and especially thank her for her time serving as the PCC Secretary. After a trial as minute taker for the PCC meeting in May, and the positive feedback on his minutes, Ian Parkes volunteered to take on the full Secretary role in June 2022 and was unanimously appointed. We thank all other PCC members as they continue to serve.

There are currently 141 parishioners on the Electoral Roll which is down five from last year with two people deceased and three who have moved away. The Electoral Roll will be revised for the next APCM in 2023. We thank David Archer who has served as Electoral Roll Officer this year.

The parish share has once again been paid in full, and early, to assist the diocesan finances. A budget has been prepared and the accounts for 2022 will have been approved by May. The Church Terrier and Inventories will be inspected and presented at the APCM and reports from PCC committees and other groups are in this Parish Review.

The Treasurer, supported by Sarah Barley our finance officer, has submitted regular and detailed updates on the accounts to 2022 meetings. A key issue this year has been the impact of higher energy costs which the PCC has been alive to and taken appropriate action. Gas and electricity costs have risen by 400% and 100% respectively since October 2022 and at each meeting we review our energy costs. We were successful in obtaining a £2k grant from the Community Hot-Spot initiative by the Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF) which will contribute to keeping the Church warm on Mondays until April 2023 for the Baby and Me and Chat over a Cuppa community initiatives. Tony Grubb has also been applying to other energy support grant opportunities and we have agreed to small increases in fees to church hirers to reflect our higher costs.

A frequent topic of discussion this year was the planned improvement to the path in the Remembrance Garden adjacent to the church. This project has been frustrated by water meter and water supply issues. We need to ensure these are resolved and any new water pipes are installed before we improve the path. We thank Alistair Bolt for his work and obtaining the Bronze Eco Church scheme award and his continued work in pursuit of the Silver award.

Having agreed the new church logo last year, this year the PCC spent time engaging with others to devise a new strapline for use beneath the logo. Our thanks go to Vivien Humber for her work on this. At the November meeting and building on the useful discussion at the successful Parish Awayday in October, the PCC unanimously agreed, "Here for Christ, here for you".

Minutes and reports were regularly received from the Kinchen Hall Committee, the Donations Committee, Eaton Parishes' Group Council, the Magazine Team, the Worship Committee, the Youth and Children's Committee, Norwich South Deanery Synod and the Diocesan Synod.

Ian Parkes - PCC Secretary

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults at Christ Church complies with the current requirements by the Diocese of Norwich. David Hughes at St Andrew's kindly completes the necessary DBS checks and securely keeps records for both parishes.

All volunteers who are working with children and young people or with groups which might include vulnerable adults should undertake training every three years. Basic Awareness and Foundation level training is available online on the Diocesan website and can be completed in one's own time. PCC members should also undertake Basic Awareness and Foundation level training. Those in positions of responsibility should undertake training up to and including the Leadership module which the Diocese runs on Zoom. A new online module for Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse is now available and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team is encouraging people for whom it might be relevant to complete this in 2023. There is also new Induction Training available for Parish Safeguarding Officers which I was able to do in December. It proved very useful and informative.

The Parish Safeguarding handbook and information about courses can be found on the Norwich Diocesan website/Safeguarding.

Thank you to all those who have co-operated with form completions and training sessions this year. Please remember that safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility.

There are first aid kits located in the kitchen cupboard above the sink unit and in the choir vestry.

Caroline Gibbs - Safeguarding Officer for Christ Church

CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT

This has been a more straightforward year for Christ Church as we slowly returned to near normal. At the start of the year, while those attending church in person had to wear masks, we were very grateful to have the ability for people to “attend” the services on Zoom. Those on Zoom were able to follow the order of service, with hymns, thanks to Catherine Richmond making them available to download from the website each week. Our thanks to her also for everything else she does behind the scenes to support the running of the church. Amongst other things, she produces the news-sheets and posters and sends them down to the Parish Office to print. We are extremely grateful to Jacky Sutcliffe who brings them and other post to Christ Church each week.

The year started with Vivien Humber in post, about to serve her last few months of her six years as Warden. Huge thanks are due to her for her sterling service. I was delighted that Ruth Vaughan decided to become a Church Warden again after a seven-year break.

The role of Church Warden at Christ Church is much less onerous than it would be in other Parishes. Much of this due to having many people to help and, particularly, Mike Brookes as Fabric Officer. He cheerfully joins the monthly Vicar/wardens meetings, to update us on the various repairs he has had to oversee to the church, Kinchen Hall and Cottage. Mike is ably assisted by Chris Mitchell and Ian Parkes.

Our four Deputy Wardens – Jeff Arden, John Harrison, David Scott and Ruth Vaughan (replaced by Vivien Humber in May) - provide us with invaluable support. We are also grateful to our sides people and to Alistair MacDougall as the co-ordinator of the team for 10.00 services and to David Edmonds who organises the rota for 8.00 services.

Our thanks to all those who help with the locking and unlocking of the church: Jeff Arden, Simon Back, Mike Brooks, Will Colman, Sue Harris, Tanya Page and Matt Wright.

Our thanks also to Richard Rivett as organiser of the team keeping the hedges tidy and of course Carrie and Ian Phoenix our wonderful gardeners; and then moving inside to the continuing diligence of Sue Harris as cleaner, flower arranger and verges for funerals.

Thanks to Alistair Bolt for all he does to help, whether it's repairing electronic equipment, operating the Zoom remote control, helping to retrieve things from the roof storage area and even finding a black cloth and photo of Queen Elizabeth, when she sadly died, to accompany the Book of Condolence.

Our church family saw several changes through the year. We are sorry to have had the deaths of some long-standing members of the congregation. They will be greatly missed but we are very pleased to welcome several new members. Caroline Gibbs and her team of coffee servers help provide a warm welcome to these new people and the whole congregation is very grateful for the after-service refreshments – thanks Caroline.

The new green chasuble, stole, pulpit fall and veil and burse were first used in February. The Cathedral broderers very cleverly transferred Renate Melinsky's embroidered designs from the old ones to new material which matched the green altar frontal. Thanks to all who donated to the cost. They look wonderful.

We are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to the church and its buildings and we will update the Terrier and Inventory before the APCM to be held in May 2023.

We are very grateful to Peter Gorringer for cleverly mending various wooden items on the Terrier which have broken over the year and to the teams who keep the brass clean and shiny. Lastly, but not least, thanks go to Hugh Back for putting the bins out each week.

We are so fortunate at Christ Church to have such a willing band of volunteers. We thank you all. It makes our role so much easier, and it is a pleasure to serve the church as your Wardens.

Catherine Jeffries and Ruth Vaughan - Church Wardens

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report will be provided with the accounts.

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

When I sit down to write these annual ramblings, I always begin by reading my report from the previous year. I then read through my little book of organ voluntaries to remind myself of services and then consult the choir's Facebook page. 2021 was strange, with the first congregational singing not taking place until August 1st and many months of Zoom services and socially distanced communions in church before that. 2022 was much more 'normal' though we were still finding our feet after the pandemic. Here's a little summary of what we've been getting up to.

We continued with Saturday rehearsals, generally fortnightly, reverting to our traditional Friday during the summer term and in December. Choir membership has

remained steady, but with some reassessing their commitments and others with health issues, there have been challenges when it comes to planning music. However, we still have a reliable core and quite a list of deputy singers to call on in emergencies and for big services. I'm so grateful to them all.

In terms of special services, we celebrated Candlemas and the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with Choral Evensongs, preceded by tea. Congregational Evensong made a return for Easter Day and then from June to October. The numbers are relatively small for this service, certainly too small to justify heating the church, so we're looking to return to church from Easter again this year and continue throughout BST. Thank you to David Uden for sharing the playing for this service and for covering my holidays. Thank you too to Neil Ricketts for his playing at various points throughout the year, most notably at Advent and Christmas, so that I'm free to conduct the choir. At the start of July some of us ventured to Sheringham for a joint Choral Evensong at St Peter's for their Patronal Festival with Patrick preaching and presiding. I've played for them a couple of times in the past (and know quite a few of the choir from my time as a RSCM examiner) and the tea after the service was as good as I remembered it, if not better. To say that it was lavish does it a disservice. Soon after, but not linked to our trip, we had quite an outbreak of Covid in the choir after generally avoiding it for so long. This meant we had to abandon our planned summer social, but I was so glad that it coincided with the hottest weekend of the year – choir robes are not nice over about 25C! Our Christmas meal took place at the George Hotel in January; in May the organ was subtly embellished for my big birthday and in December we sang carols at the Beehive.

Finally, a highlight of the year was the arrival of Nora Rechel as our organ scholar – a Christ Church first. Nora made a big impression with her personality and musicality and started with a single hymn and pre-service music in February, adding hymns and voluntaries during the spring and summer with the aim of playing a full service in September in advance of organ scholar auditions. This she achieved with aplomb, and we were delighted to hear that she'd been awarded the organ scholarship at St Peter Mancroft for the new academic year (where she has organ lessons) and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge from 2024. We were sad to have lost her, but she made a return in November and is always very welcome to play (and sing).

Matt Wright - Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church

BABY&ME

We are pleased to report that our numbers have picked up after the slow restart we had in 2021.

There is a regular core group of babies on a Monday morning. Our highest number was eleven babies though our average is about six. Of course, the group is very transient; as the babies grow up and start to walk confidently we can't safely accommodate them in the church. We also lose babies when their mums (or fathers) return to work. It is a real privilege to see our babies mature over the months that they are with us and also to see friendships develop between the parents. It is always sad to see them leave.

We are pleased to welcome new parents/carers and their babies, so please do spread the word.

Catherine Jeffries (on behalf of the team of Alison Green, Carrie Phoenix, Dee Scott and Ruth Vaughan and with special thanks to our organiser Leisa Devlin)

CHAT OVER A CUPPA

Post Covid have seen our numbers steadily increase to generally between 20-25 each week.

It is a very friendly afternoon with plenty of chat and tea and we always welcome old and new members.

Many thanks to the band of volunteers who make the afternoon fun and run smoothly.

Steph Brookes

PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

It has long been the church's tradition to take gifts to those in the community who are frail or housebound, unwell or lonely and to residents of local care homes and hostels at major church festivals.

As the world returned to some degree of 'new normal' pastoral and community care work has slowly returned to a pattern more usually seen before COVID lockdowns.

The most significant pastoral care project was probably the "lockdown" Quilts of Kindness, set up in Spring 2020, inspired by the Changi quilt made by women interned in Singapore during World War 2 who took what little they had to make a

work of art, using it as a way of alleviating boredom and anxiety during their confinement.

The Quilts had already been displayed in Christ Church on 19 and 20 November 2021 - the textile Quilt was also shown in Bungay that autumn. This was followed by a display in Peter Mancroft in Spring 2022 as part of the Norfolk Makers' Festival (9-20 March) and St George's Tombland in the autumn (9-17 September) as part of the annual Heritage Open Days. We were also able to offer gift cards based on the Quilts and a chance to 'make your own square'.

The men's fellowship group, also set up in 2020, meets regularly for fellowship.

The giving of gifts at major church festivals continues to include people who were not included on the list before the pandemic.

At Easter, Harvest and Christmas, an expanded care pack is offered. As well as the usual plant and greetings card, other items are included which we hope are useful to those who still have concerns about returning to life as it was before COVID.

At Harvest, produce (similar to items requested by the FoodBank) has been taken to local hostels (Leeway, YMCA My Place, Archway and St Martin's Housing Trust) and a range of presents for adults and children was donated at Christmas.

Pastoral and community care is only possible because of the contribution of many in the church family and we hope we continue to meet the challenges of a 'new normal'.

Particular thanks are due to members of the Pastoral Care Team and those who helped prepare and distribute gifts. I am also grateful to the team at St Andrew's with whom we work so happily over the Harvest and Christmas gifts to local hostels.

Vivien Humber - for The Pastoral Care Team

CHARITABLE GIVING 2022

Charity of the Month

Donations to the Charity of the Month have picked up during this last year, although not quite reaching pre-COVID levels. The Donations Committee met twice in 2022 to discuss which monthly charities to recommend to the PCC. Our aim continues to be to balance local, national and international concerns and to support mainly Christian charities. Christ Church has traditionally supported five or six priority charities every year, indicated by an asterisk in the list below showing the amounts sent each month from the cash collection at the back of church:

MONTH	CHARITY	AMOUNT
January	Children's Society	£130.00 (plus £8 reclaimed tax)
February	Magdalene Group*	£124 (plus £19.75)
March	Salvation Army Appeal for Ukraine	£436 (plus £35)
Mothering Sunday	Mothers' Union	£66.00 (plus £13.75)
April	Embrace the Middle East	£135.00 (plus £11.25)
May	Church Army*	£110.50 (plus 12.50)
June	Break/Family Centre*	£80 (plus £7.50)
July	Mercy Ships	£155 (plus £2.29)
Sea Sunday	Mission to Seafarers	£40 (plus £5)
August	Scripture Union*	£100 (plus 9.50)
September & Harvest Festival	Tearfund* (including £220 profit from Harvest Supper)	£370 (plus £80)
	DEC collection for the Pakistan Flood Appeal	£60 (plus £15)
October	College of St Barnabas	£85 (plus £14)
November	Bible Society*	£75 (plus £10)
December	Hope Into Action	£155 (plus £17.50)
Christmas Collections	St Martin's Housing Trust	£404.15
	Christian Aid	£404.14
*Priority charities which receive a donation every year		

Other charitable giving from Christ Church includes donations at the Lent Lunches, organised jointly with St Andrew's; £546 was raised for the Bishops' Lent Fund Appeal and £714 for the Barnabas Fund.

Each year £700 from church funds go to our CMS Mission Partners Dick and Caroline Seed in Cape Town. The Spring Coffee Morning, organised jointly with St Andrew's, raised £770, and the Autumn Fayre in mid-November raised £1,310, to be shared equally between our mission partners and Global Mission through Local Leaders.

Every year our Harvest Festival gifts of food are boxed up and distributed among the hostels Archway, Leeway, YMCA/My Place and St Martin's Housing Trust. At Christmas we donate toys, toiletries and other suitable presents for the people living in these hostels. Many thanks to Vivien Humber for co-ordinating the collection and distribution of these gifts.

In September Christ Church was open for the annual sponsored Bike Ride in aid of the Norfolk Churches Trust. Alistair Bolt and Ros Wright valiantly took to the road and visited seventy-two churches between them, raising over £500 from sponsors.

Early in the Autumn term Kathy Ladd initiated a collection in church of food, toiletries and cash to contribute to the Colman Schools, which have been organising support for families struggling with the Cost-of-Living Crisis. This continued throughout the term and a special collection was made for Christmas.

Donations for hot drinks after the 10am service are sent to WaterAid and Toilet Twinning alternately. In October £244 was sent to twin our toilet with a fourth toilet block for a church and community in Panyagor in South Sudan. £250 was sent to Water Aid at the end of the year. There is a collection point at the back of church for unwanted spectacles which are recycled to fund Vision Aid Overseas (Jacky Sutcliffe). The collecting of stamps for Leprosy Mission continues (Vivien Humber), though it is to be discontinued soon because of a fall in the value of used stamps. The Food Bank collection continues at the back of church, thanks to Anna McDougall and Jacky Sutcliffe, and we are reminded that it is also possible to donate online at www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk or www.bankuet.co.uk/norwich

The Donations Committee would be glad to welcome new members. We have two meetings a year at most, and members take turns to write for the parish magazine about the Charity of the Month. Do let us know if you might be interested.

Caroline Gibbs - Donations Committee

(Committee members: Caroline Gibbs, John Harrison, Peter Smith)

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

For the past five years the Friends of Christ Church, Eaton have been raising money for projects related to the fabric of the church building; these are subject to the approval of the Parochial Church Council. Money is paid into a separate Friends fund (and may not be used for general running costs). The funds help towards meeting the cost of preserving the fabric of the church, necessary repairs and the replacement of major items.

The Friends' Management Team were able to meet three times during the year - in February, April and August, when the 2022 project and the programme for the year were discussed.

2022 project: as agreed, the 2022 project was a permeable, hard-standing, path to help mobility access (wheelchairs etc) to the Garden of Remembrance. The quote for the new pathway was £6,474 including VAT in 2022.

Progress has been glacial - although the Diocese granted a faculty some time ago, water meter issues (which had to be resolved before the path could be replaced) have resulted in very considerable delays.

Before starting work, Anglian Water was asked to confirm that connecting the water supply to the church's kitchen area to a meter would not involve digging up the pathway which we intended to replace. Communication with Anglian Water proved very difficult. However, a meeting with one of its engineers finally took place on 3 January 2023, and this confirmed that the new meter would be outside of the area of the new pathway; we are greatly relieved that work on the 2022 project will finally be able to proceed.

We will be also taking the opportunity to replace the wooden border edging around the Garden of Remembrance as this has decayed. Environmentally friendly edging has been identified and the cost is likely to be under £750.

The Third Annual Meeting and Garden Reception took place on 7th September at 383 Unthank Road. This was an enjoyable evening and social event and went well, although numbers remained lower than earlier Annual Meetings because of continued concerns about meeting safely for social events.

Finance: during 2022 all the monies (fundraising, subscriptions, gift aid reclaim) for the last two years were released from restricted funds for Friends' projects - the objective had always been to spend these monies on the purposes for which they were raised, not to hold them for any longer than was necessary.

We are very grateful to all our Friends for continuing to support us in the vital work of maintaining this much loved and valued building.

Membership of the Friends remained very steady throughout the year, with some welcome new members added.

Communication: throughout the year members were kept updated through newsletters and letters.

We are delighted that David Walker has kindly agreed to join the Trustees and look forward to working with him.

Management Team members, 2022

David Scott (Chair)

Roger Glenwright

Vivien Humber (Secretary)

Catherine Jeffries

Paul Lancaster

Carrie Phoenix

Sarah Scott

Rosalind Wright

We would like to record special thanks to Paul Lancaster who, sadly, had to stand down from the Management Team this year.

David Scott - Chair of the Management Team, Friends of Christ Church, Eaton

THE CHOSEN

At Christ Church, a group of us are watching the first series of “The Chosen”, a multi-season TV series dramatizing the life of Christ. We watched the first episode together in the church and now are watching one episode approximately every two weeks at home. Questions are sent to ponder after watching the episode and we get together monthly after church to discuss these for two episodes at a time. This has been a rewarding experience for all involved (there are currently fifteen signed up) and we have had interesting discussions about the historical and cultural aspects of the Gospels.

Geraldine Verschoor

FABRIC REPORTS

Church

The only significant project this year has been to replace the spotlights to the chancel with LED down lights.

A short length of copper was stolen from the lighting conductor, forcing the whole length to be replaced. It is now in aluminium which reduces the likelihood of theft. The major part of the cost was met from an insurance claim.

The anticipated replacement of the path to the Memorial Garden could not take place due to delays in establishing water meters and supplies to the property.

I am pleased to report that no further rainwater leaks have occurred this year. This has resulted in further drying out and redecoration to the wall of the north aisle.

Kinchen Hall

Replacement pebble dashing was completed to the south elevation. This only leaves the east end to be undertaken sometime in the future.

Ground works were carried out to trim trees and shrubs to the north of the property and the removal of a dead elm tree to the front of the car park.

Colman Road Cottage

Extensive damp repairs were necessary at the beginning of the year before the property could be relet.

In February storm damage resulted in the top twenty feet of a spruce tree flying over the boundary fence into the Kinchen Hall play area. Fortunately, little damage resulted other than having to make good the top of the tree and removal of the debris.

Extensive trimming to the boundary hedge with the playing field was undertaken. Beehives were very grateful as it improved their view from the office window!

Generally

I am very grateful to all who point out to me the inevitable problems that arise with old buildings.

Please do continue to let me know of any issues of concern.

A special thank you to Chris Mitchell and Ian Parkes for their continuing involvement.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

NORWICH FOOD BANK

Donations to Food Bank have gone down considerably since the Covid pandemic and the cost of living. Previously Christchurch were donating 3 - 4 bags of food each week. We now only collect once a month and the amount received is about the same 3 - 4 bags, but monthly. We were extremely pleased that the December donations amounted to sixteen bags, which was very much appreciated. Please do continue to donate whatever you can. Sometimes we receive food in the weeks in between the first Sunday of collection and this is perfectly OK as we can still take this.

Anna MacDougall & Jacky Sutcliffe

GLASSES FOR AFRICA

This is the first year after the Covid Pandemic that Specsavers have taken glasses for Vision Aid Overseas. Specsavers mend our old or broken glasses for the disadvantaged with poor vision in remote and isolated communities. In 2011

Specsavers set up a Training Centre in Zambia and regularly send optometrists to deliver essential eye care and tests.

It is with a very Big Thankyou to all at Christchurch who donated their old glasses that I was able to take 117 pairs this year.

Jacky Sutcliffe

PART TWO – REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH ST ANDREW’S EATON PARISHES GROUP COUNCIL

Mission Statement:

‘The Group Ministry of St Andrew’s and Christ Church seeks to Collaborate, Cooperate and Communicate in the Eaton Community.’

The Diocese established a Group Ministry for the Parishes of St Andrew’s and Christ Church in 2007 when the old parish of Eaton was divided into two. Its Group Council is the vehicle by which they ‘consult together on any matter of common concern’. It has no decision-making power and acts in a consultative and advisory role to the two PCCs. In 2010 the then Bishop of Norwich said that the Group Ministry should, firstly, facilitate what the people involved wanted to do to benefit and develop church mission in Eaton and, secondly, serve the future development of both churches.

Ongoing activities within the Group Ministry include:

- communications such as the parishes magazine, Christmas and Easter cards
- supporting Mission Partners, through prayer and fund-raising events
- joint children and youth activities including Saturday Workshops
- events such as the Garden Party, Remembrance Day, and Lent Lunches
- the Joint Parishes Office
- Groups, including the Mothers Union and the Julian Group.

These feature regularly on the agenda of Group Council’s quarterly meetings and the minutes of its meetings are circulated to both PCCs for report and/or response.

As other reports have indicated, 2022 began to see a gradual return to normal or a ‘new normal’, though there continues to be a degree of hesitancy about social

gatherings, meaning that some events have not yet resumed, or have currently resumed in a different format or venue.

The Lent Lunches (28 February to 4 April) started again, after a pause of two years, and were well attended. As usual monies are raised for two charities – in 2022 this was the Barnabas Fund and the Bishop's Lent Appeal (£1,034 was raised).

The Jubilee Garden Party took place on 4 June at 210 Newmarket Road; over £3,000 was raised for children and youth work in the parishes.

Eaton's Mission Partners have been supported through prayer and fundraising. The Seeds paid a welcome visit to Eaton in the summer when £825 was donated towards their work. The annual Coffee Morning took place on 23 April (£770 was raised) and the Autumn Fair on 12 November (£1,390 was raised).

We continued to communicate with a growing number of children. A cross-parish Eco-Trail for families was run on 7 May in the churchyard of St Andrew's. Face-to-face interaction with children was possible again and Activity Workshops for junior school-aged children took place at Easter, the summer holidays, Autumn half-term and Christmas.

The joint parishes Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial on 11 November with a very encouraging attendance, including a number of local schoolchildren; we are grateful to David Scott for continuing to organise these Services and for the clergy from the two parishes who lead them. Thanks must also be recorded to the War Memorial Trustees for completing necessary repair and restoration work ahead of the service at the Memorial. Damage from vandalism was also successfully mended.

The Parishes' magazine continues to run successfully with its team of volunteer editors and magazine advertising secretary. As usual, Easter and Christmas cards, with a message from the two vicars, were delivered to every home in Eaton.

More detailed reports on joint activities, e.g., Mission Support, children's and youth work, the Office and the magazine, can be found in other reports.

The following were elected or re-elected to Group Council at the APCMs: Jane Carey, Marilyn Evans and Chris Smith (St Andrew's), John Ladd (me), Catherine Jeffries, Vivien Humber (Secretary), David Archer and Tony Grubb (Christ Church). David Scott, Bridget Archer, and Alison Black all stood down, with our thanks to them for their time of service. My thanks also to all Group Council members - whether continuing, retired or new to the Group - for their continued enthusiasm and support.

John Ladd - Chair

PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM

The parishes' magazine is an important part of the Eaton churches' communications package, providing an accessible Christian message to a broadly-based readership. Its aim is to offer subscribers articles on subjects of interest ranging from church to local community matters, as well as information on the goods and services offered by advertisers.

The Team supports the magazine editors and the advertising secretary by reviewing contents, production, circulation, and revenues at the two meetings which are held each year. The Vicars are *ex officio* members.

During 2022 the magazine featured significant events in the life of the nation, with special covers in July/August (including a report on the Jubilee-themed Eaton Parishes' Annual Garden Party which took place during the four-day bank holiday weekend from 2 to 5 June) and the Queen's death in September. The October issue included a tribute to the Queen from the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd. Graham Usher, who said: 'As Supreme Governor of the Church of England she has spoken movingly of her own faith, and it is clear that she reigned out of a deep sense of God's calling upon her life, a life of anointed service... She has been held in special esteem and fondness in the County of Norfolk and Diocese of Norwich.'

We are grateful to all those who have contributed articles, with particular thanks to our regular columnists who were able to pick up key topics in the year whilst maintaining the local flavour which is so important in a parishes magazine.

As the world begins to return to a 'new normal' the on-line magazine posted to both churches' websites was discontinued as regular deliveries were resumed across Eaton.

I would like to thank all members of the team for their enthusiasm and commitment in 2022.

We are delighted that David Archer has re-joined the Team as an editor and are looking forward to working with him again in the coming year and beyond.

The magazine could not function without its advertising secretary, so thanks are due to Christine Mortimer, who works so efficiently with the advertisers and printers. We are also most grateful for the sterling work of those unsung heroes, the magazine distributors and the Office staff, who have worked seamlessly with them. Thanks also to the printers, BD&H, who maintained their excellent service, uninterrupted.

Finally, the magazine continues to generate a surplus which is used to support the work of the two churches. We are grateful to the parishes' Finance Assistant, Sarah

Barley, for her meticulously accurate financial updates, which informed the Magazine Team meetings.

Vivien Humber - Chair

EATON PARISHES OFFICE

After the challenges of working around the Covid situation for both 2020 and 2021, we hoped that 2022 would see great strides of progress in returning to normal working practices. Covid however, did not go away, and certainly for the first half to the year, Sarah Barley and I, Ruth Thorp, continued to work so that we weren't in the office at the same time as each other. I continued the pattern of working in the office on Mondays and Thursdays, when Sarah doesn't work, and working from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (Sarah also works Fridays, which is my day off.)

About half-way through the year, we were perhaps beginning to think that infection rates were more manageable and that I could start to consider coming in on days when Sarah was in – and finally try to find some sort of normal office atmosphere for Sarah to work in. (Remember, she had started in the first lockdown in 2020, and nothing had yet been remotely 'normal'!).

Regrettably, I suffered a year of ill health, meaning that from June until November, in two separate batches, I was off sick for long periods. I was immensely grateful to everyone who was so kind and considerate to me, in what was a very difficult time. Special thanks have to go to Sarah, especially in the autumn when I was off for so many weeks. She adjusted her working pattern and covered many of my duties (such as dealing with hall and church bookings, and doing the weekly printing). She really did keep things going – thank you, Sarah. I very much hope that 2023 will be much healthier year for me!

As reported last year, Sarah and I worked hard to hone many of the office procedures and processes, improving and tailoring existing patterns of work to better suit current needs, and also improving processes and record keeping to make the office run more smoothly. We have worked collaboratively to increase our efficiency in the often-complex world of church administration and finance. More progress has been made!

In last year's review of 2021, I wrote: 'In last year's review, I reported that "The main thing missing from office life in 2020 was - office life!" This continued for 2021, and we finished the year with normal office life still not having yet resumed. I sincerely hope that in my report of 2022, I will be able to report very differently!' Update:

we're still not completely there yet, but things are moving in the right direction, with some overlap with both of us in the office together now occurring.

I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and help with working around the challenges presented to the office team during and following the pandemic, and in particular on a very personal note, I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of support I received over my spell of ill health. Thank you all.

Ruth Thorp - Parishes Administrator

EATON MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union Norwich is a part of a worldwide fellowship. Through programmes, campaigning, community outreach and prayer Mothers' Union promotes stable marriage and family life. It works through local volunteer members to create lasting change for families and their communities. Members are driven by their faith but work with people of all faiths and none.

Its programme includes:

- **Away From It All (A.F.I.A.) holidays:** a MU project to provide holidays for disadvantage children in the UK.
- **Angel Tree:** a MU project connected with a local prison, enabling children of prisoners to receive Christmas gifts from their absent parent.
- **Cathedral Prayers:** on the first Thursday of every month MU Norwich meets in the Jesus Chapel at Norwich Cathedral for Midday Prayers, each time hosted by a different MU group.
- **Loving for Life:** an interactive and encouraging relationship workshop, facilitated by trained MU members to help couples build a loving marriage (email mulovingforlife@gmail.com for more information).
- **Refugee Resettlement:** members from our Branch have been involved in refugee resettlement, including bed making for their arrival.

Branch news: I am delighted to say that we were able to resume a (limited) programme of meetings in 2022, holding our meetings in large, airy, well-ventilated spaces during the day, rather than holding evening meetings in members' houses, as was previously the practice.

The Revd. Margaret Whitaker led us in an Advent Reflection on 9 March.

We attended the Annual Festival Service at the Cathedral on 5 May, celebrating our togetherness.

The Eaton Branch members enjoyed a well-attended social event (lunch at the Cellar House, Eaton) on 13 July.

We led the Mothers' Union prayers in the Jesus Chapel of the Cathedral on 6 October.

On 19 October Jon Spalding (Daylight Christian Prison Trust) spoke to us about the work of the Trust nationally and in East Anglia.

On 30 November the Rev'd Dr James Cook, curate of St Andrew's Eaton, led our Advent Reflection.

Our thanks to our clergy, who take the Holy Communion Service at 10am on the third Thursday of the month.

Angel Tree: we were also able to support the annual collection for the Angel Tree through which, working alongside The Prison Fellowship, Mothers' Union members buy Christmas gifts for children of parents in prison.

Refugee Resettlement: some Branch members helped sort and store bedding and make up beds. The Branch was also involved in the annual World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity in March.

Branch vision for the future:

- to continue to work for all that Mothers' Union represents supporting families and marriage.
- to provide inspiration for members in the year ahead.

We continue to maintain contact with Branch members and to disseminate useful information and news through emails and letters.

Vivien Humber - Branch Leader

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

There were four meetings throughout the year, and as with many other church activities, our meetings migrated from being via Zoom at the beginning of the year, through to being totally face-to-face by the end of the year. Most of the joint work carried out between the two churches was coordinated and carried out by Lucy Stone, St Andrew's Children and Families Worker, and the excellent team of people she has drawn together from both churches, until she left us to go on maternity leave in the summer. Our congratulations to her on the safe arrival of babies Micah and Madeline.

The other highlights of the year continued to be the seasonal half-day children's workshops, for primary age children, which were in many cases accompanied by activity packs, geared particularly to children who were not able to attend the workshops for any reason:

1. Pancake Party (no activity pack)
2. Easter Workshop (and activity pack)
3. Summer Holiday Club (no activity pack)
4. Autumn Party/Workshop (no activity pack)
5. Christmas Workshop (and activity pack).

This considerable workload was undertaken by the joint parishes Children's Action Group, which had been initiated in Autumn 2021 – and is now proving itself to be a massive force for mission and outreach in our two parishes, combining creative skills and much hard work to lay on these exciting events. The format of the workshops has now developed into a fairly stable pattern of Bible story, games, crafts, and singing. It was much to the Group's credit that they continued to develop this work even after Lucy Stone's departure, with each workshop attracting larger numbers, so that by the end of the year, we were having to place a cap on the numbers that could attend.

Our thanks to Vivien Humber who continued to serve as the Committee's secretary.

Phil Rodd - Joint Chair with Patrick Richmond

OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT

1. Our Church Mission Society (CMS) Mission Partners:

The Rev'd Dr Dick and Dr Caroline Seed

Dick and Caroline have been based at George Whitefield College (GWC) in Cape Town, South Africa since August 2018. They work with Overseas Council Australia's (OCA) Mile Deep Programme to run lecturer training courses in Anglican Universities and Colleges across Africa. Dick is an ordained clergyman in the Church of England and has a PhD in Theological Education. Caroline is a trained teacher with a PhD in Theology. The ministry they run is called Theological Education Development Services (TEDS).

We receive frequent email updates from Dick and Caroline most months which is very helpful for our monthly Mission Focus Meetings.

Just two weeks into the New Year they ran Phase 3 (the final phase of the Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Higher Theological Education (Cert TALHITE) with the faculty at George Whitefield College (GWC) in Cape Town, South Africa. Although they could have had the sessions for this Phase of the Course face-to-face, the participants chose to have these online. This was an encouragement to the Seeds because it indicates that going online has not been detrimental. They were both amazed to see the change in many of the lecturers since they did Phase 1 in January

2021. At the end of this final phase of the Course the participants were full of praise for the Course and said that this training had helped to enthuse them and give them great hope.

After the Seeds had run Phase 1 of the Course at GWC, GWC gave them a new office with a soundproof booth for online teaching. They also have new computer hardware donated by OCA's new Local Online and Global Strategy (LOGS).

With the relaxation of COVID travel restrictions in the UK they were able to have their home leave between 10 March and 3 June 2022. This was three years since their last home leave. They were, at last, able to see their family and visit supporting churches and other supporters again.

They visited our two churches over the weekend of 19-20 March and spent Saturday night with a couple from St Andrew's Church. Caroline preached at St Andrew's 10am Service and Dick preached at Christ Church's 10am Service. St Andrew's Church then gave them lunch, attended by members of both Churches, in St Andrew's Church Hall. This was followed by a talk from the Seeds of the progress in their theological training in Africa and South America. An explanation of this talk was included in an article about their visit to us, written by Jane Saunders, a member of the Mission Focus Team, in the May 2022 Parishes' Magazine on Pages 24 to 26. The Seeds then had afternoon tea at my house before they left for Hertfordshire where they live when they are in the UK on home leave.

This was a very successful visit, and we were so pleased to welcome them, having not had a visit from them for three years because of COVID.

Donations collected for them during their visit totalled £825.00, which was sent to Church Mission Society for them.

Both Churches paid half of £140.85 for the total mileage for the Seeds whilst they were with us and to get from and to Hertfordshire and their hosts house in Cringleford.

The Seeds returned safely to Cape Town on 3 June.

Sadly, Dick's mother had passed away on Friday, 1 April, in South Africa, at the age of 91. It is a blessing that they were back in South Africa for her memorial service in Pretoria on 19 July.

We thank God that their flat and car in Cape Town were found to be in order after an attempted break in whilst they were away.

Their work after they returned to Cape Town

- a. Preparation for Phase 3 online (Kenya) and Phase 1 face-to-face in Egypt in the month of August.

- b. Meeting of the Generosity Gospels Project writing team online on 6th July. The team members came to GWC (George Whitefield College) in September - November. OCA (Overseas Council Australia) (now called 'Local Leaders International') had to raise the funds for this to happen.
- c. Caroline had an online meeting with the authors of the 123 John Commentary from Muslim contexts on 13 July. Caroline still had some theological reflections to write and little time in which to do them.
- d. Dick started a course in teaching methods at GWC on 26 July.
- e. Online lecturer training (Phase 3) from 15-19th August for lecturers from St Paul's University diploma colleges in Kenya and two new lecturers from GWC.
- f. Face-to-face lecturer training (Phase 3) in Cairo from 22-29 August.
- g. The Generosity Project* meeting took place on 5th to 17th September at GWC. Dick and Caroline are expecting seven participants from East Africa. Three will be remaining on sabbatical until the end of November. Another two will be joining them in October.
 * This was the project to write books and develop curricula exploring the concept of generosity as a response to the prevalent Prosperity Gospel teachings on the continent of Africa (and beyond). The participants were all senior academics from theological colleges and Christian universities across Africa. It was sponsored by OCA (now called Local Leaders International). They were coordinating the project at GWC for Local Leaders.
- h. Submission of the 1-3 John commentary on 30 September. Caroline was one of the authors and the project facilitator.
- i. The Seeds were hard pressed to prepare for all of this, but the Lord had been good in sending people and giving them the strength to work long hours.
- j. Seven new lecturers in Cairo were finishing their Phase 1 training online in mid-October with Dick and Karen, one of the Seed's assistants.
- k. Dick represented GWC and the Seeds' training programme at an international conference in Turkey in November (the ICETE conference).

2. Our Support for Global Mission through local leaders (Also through CMS)

We were still not receiving the emails concerning these local leaders. However, I have discovered that CMS in Oxford have been unable to prepare these during the Covid lockdowns. There is information about some local leaders on the CMS website. I understand that the emails are starting again three or four times a year and that CMS will send them to me when this happens. We were still receiving copies of the CMS Prayerlines and their Magazine four times a year. These included prayer requests and articles about some of the local leaders. I continued to mark these with a black 'X' and put them at the back of both Churches. I advised members

of both congregations about this through the weekly notice sheets so they can pick up a copy to use in their prayers.

3. Mission Focus Team Meetings

They were held every month except August and December.

Until June they were held in a team member's house or garden. Then we moved them to 2.00pm on the last Monday afternoon of the month (or the Monday before last if the last Monday is a bank holiday). From June they would just be for prayer for Dick and Caroline Seed and Global Mission through local leaders. So that others from both Churches might feel more comfortable in coming to these meetings we decided to hold them on alternate months either in Christ Church children's vestry or in the prayer corner in St Andrew's New Church. We had refreshments afterwards in Chat Over a Cuppa in Christ Church or I brought tea/coffee and scones, cakes etc. to have in St Andrew's. When we had to discuss other activities like fund raising events and visits of Mission Partners, we would hold separate meetings for this in one of our houses.

Our membership is now reduced to six from St Andrew's. We are hoping someone from Christ Church will join us soon. Our sole member from Christ Church left the Team this year.

The Spring Coffee Morning was on Saturday, 23 April and raised £770.

The Autumn Fayre was on Saturday 12 November and raised £1.350.

Both of these sums were divided equally between Dick and Caroline Seed and Global Mission through local leaders.

Jane Carey - Leader, Mission Support Group