



Bathampton Parish Church

Annual Review 2022 (for APCM 2023)



**St Nicholas Church
Church Close Bathampton BA2 6TU
Website: www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk**

Background: St. Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operation with the Revd. Jonty Frith, Incumbent, in promoting our Mission Statement that “We are a church focused on Jesus so that we love one another, serve the whole parish and touch the world.”

Charitable Status: The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church representation rules.

Bankers: Current account held with National Westminster Bank, Bath. Deposit and Investment accounts held with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England (CFB), London.

Independent Examiner: Andrew Morrison

Financial Review: The full financial report is presented separately.

Reserves Policy: It is PCC policy to balance general income and expenditure each year and to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. The PCC policy is to maintain, if possible, a balance of unrestricted funds equal to six months’ unrestricted payments to cover any emergency that may arise.

The PCC has three Charitable Trusts which donate money to the work of St. Nicholas Church, for which the rector and churchwardens act as Trustees:

- The Barlow Trust for the benefit of the sick and poor of the parish.
- The Ramsbottom Trust for the maintenance of the churchyard.
- The Rhodes Trust for Sunday School work in the parish.

PCC Members April 2022- April 2023

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens and Diocesan and Deanery Synod members are *ex officio*. All elected PCC members are volunteers.

Several changes took place at the APCM on 24 April 2022. The following people served during 2022/23.

Rector:	Rev'd Jonty Frith	Chair (ex. officio)
Churchwardens:	Anna Young Paul Bryant	(to 2023) (to 2023)
Diocesan Synod:	Phil Edge	
Deanery Synod:	Anna Young Tim Laver	(to 2023) (to 2023)
Elected Members:	Tim Conn Hannah Findlay Hilary Crellin Carl Fullaway Nigel White David Peill Margaret White	(1 st elec. 2020, to 2023) (1 st elec. 2020, to 2023) (1 st elec. 2021, to 2024) (2 nd elec. 2021, to 2024) (1 st elec. 2021, to 2024) (1 st elec. 2022, to 2024) (2 nd elec. 2020, to 2025)
Co-opted Member:	Nigel Shepherd	(2022 - 2023)
Secretary	Ian Williams	(to 2023)
Treasurer:	Rita Warboys	
Safeguarding officer:	Hannah Findlay	
Reader Emeritus:	Peter Lloyd-Williams	
<u>Paid Staff:</u>		
Benefice Administrator:	Hilary Crellin: 10 hours per week	

PCC Review of the Year:

PCC met formally six times during 2022. Besides the regular items (including finances, safeguarding and reports from subcommittees), the PCC has discussed a variety of matters.

- We agreed to continue with livestreaming of morning services on Zoom, subject to availability of enough trained people to provide this facility every week, to switch serving coffee in church from before to after the service, and we discussed post-pandemic communion arrangements.
- The Diocese had recommended the Vicarage to be heated to a minimum of 20° (day and night) to drive out the damp, which would have been impossibly expensive for the Friths, but PCC resolved to contribute the difference between what they had previously been paying and the new cost. However, for tax reasons, and after obtaining the advice of a chartered surveyor, we decided to buy a wood burner for the parish property rather than give a benefit to the Frith family. (Subsequently the Diocese's replacement of some failed window glazing, addition of some insulation cladding under the overhang, and reduction in water ingress through the roof have proved more effective measures.)
- We approved flying of the Ukrainian flag from the church tower, resolved to advertise for an Administrator and a Children & Families Minister, discussed allocation of the very limited number of remaining grave plots in the churchyard, agreed to adopt Dan Mak as a long-term mission partner, and to spread financial support for long-term mission partners over the year in monthly instalments.

- In anticipation of the bishops' presenting their post-LLF (*Living in Love and Faith*) proposals to General Synod in February, we considered several printed and video resources from the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC).

Ian Williams

Finance:

Following the pandemic share prices have fallen. At the end of 2022 the fixed assets (shares) held by St Nicholas have fallen by £ 7,820. The church was able to be used more in 2022 resulting in more Miller room bookings (£1,317) 2021 £ 90.

The receipts for St Nicholas in 2022 were £ 92,627 and the resources used were £ 92,066 giving an excess of £ 561.

The parish share to the diocese remained the same as 2021 (£57,645) £3,361 was given to charity.

Rita Warboys

Churchwardens' Report:

After two years of rapidly changing restrictions, 2022 felt relatively normal and we were able to resume most of our pre-COVID church activities. While most people have been able to come back to church in person, there are handful of people who can't join us in the building for different reasons and so we have continued to stream services on Zoom. We are grateful to Nigel White for overseeing the tech team and streamlining the processes in various ways. In late-2022, the tech team was bolstered by Albie, who is volunteering as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

After seven years at St Nicholas', Jonty had an extended period of leave (a combination of annual leave and ministerial development leave) from mid-June to mid-August. We are grateful to clergy from across

the Deanery who took services over the summer.

After overseeing a significant period of change in the office, our administrator Hilary Crellin handed in her notice in the Autumn. We are immensely grateful to her for her diligence and perseverance in getting things running smoothly again after the disruption of 2020 and 2021. It had become apparent that several areas of church life require more administrative support than had been possible in 10 hours a week (most crucially Safeguarding). PCC therefore decided to advertise for Hilary's replacement to work 20 hours per week. We had also advertised for an Intern to start in September 2022, but not appointed anyone. Recognising the strategic importance of work with children and families in the Parish, the PCC approved a new post of Families' and Children's Minister (also 20 hours per week).

At the end of 2022 we had our first 'normal' Christmas in a while, and it was great to see the church busy again for the Christingle services, with lots of people from the village enjoying a Bathampton tradition once more. Also in December, we discovered a leak in the central heating system, and so services during the Christmas period were heated by a hired gas heater.

Anna Young & Paul Bryant

Rector's Report:

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love." Psalm 145:8

For the second consecutive year, we took a Theme Verse from the Psalms reminding us what God is like and what we experience him to be like in his dealings with us. His attitude towards us is fundamentally loving in the face of our undeserving and even our rebellion against him. His anger, though slowly kindled and not his desired inclination, is real and we must fear him in his blazing holy purity. But as his

treasured people who have experienced his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus, our overwhelming experience is of his amazing grace. And this is what we want to reflect in our relationships with one another and as we touch the world beyond the church.

He graciously delivered us from a pandemic. 2022 seems to have been the year in which we finally put it behind us. We give thanks for the protection afforded to us through the vaccines. And over all of that we give thanks to God. There was no single moment of the end of covid. Indeed it is still very much with us and has drastically affected many people's lives. But I think we have reached a point where the Book of Common Prayer's provision of a *Thanksgiving For Deliverance from the Plague, or other common Sickness* is helpful to us:

O LORD God, who hast wounded us for our sins, and consumed us for our transgressions, by thy late heavy and dreadful visitation; and now, in the midst of judgement remembering mercy, hast redeemed our souls from the jaws of death: We offer unto thy fatherly goodness ourselves, our souls and bodies which thou hast delivered, to be a living sacrifice unto thee, always praising and magnifying thy mercies in the midst of thy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

It's a reminder that we belong to him. Echoing Romans 12:1, in view of God's mercy, the transformation of our lives by the renewal of our minds is our spiritual act of worship. This is the right response to God's mercy shown to us in Jesus, and we're reminded of it by recent experiences of his mercy. So we are called to live lives that stand out from the world around us by our different values and priorities. This is going to be increasingly difficult as our society turns its back on God more openly. The church is tempted to follow and blend in. But God in his mercy has rescued us from where life without him is heading. His people must be different. All for Jesus.

Our financial giving is one aspect of that sacrificial response. Giving to the church is but a small token of our lives. God has richly blessed us all in various ways. I am grateful for those many church members that have returned that blessing in generous giving to the church. For the first time in my memory, we finished the year without a deficit. Reserves have still gone down because of investment falls, but that is not our responsibility. Thank you for you giving. This is far from a time for complacency though. Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, we face a bigger financial challenge than ever for two reasons.

One challenge is that whereas for the last few years we have not managed to recruit an Intern and so our deficit has been reduced by that salary not being paid, we have now committed to having two members of staff: an Administrator with increased hours, and a Children's and Families' Minister. This is significant extra expense, and we need to increase our giving.

The second is the major capital expenditure required on the heating system, which was just starting to rear its head at the end of 2022, as it leaked and we lost heating for Christmas. This is not the place to go into detail on that.

Looking back as we enter a new phase, now is a good time to "raise an Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12 for those who missed the explanation of this jargon in church): "Thus far the LORD has helped us." He has helped us particularly through the sacrificial service of Hilary and Becky, both spending themselves extraordinarily in the service of the church. Hilary never put herself forward or saw herself as particularly gifted for the role of administrator. But she was available and willing, and she turned out to be God's gift to the church for a significant period following Kay's retirement. Hilary has been just the person not merely to keep the show on the road, but to take hold of our administrative systems and set up procedures that enable the church to be well

organised, never content to overlook anything. She invested more of her time and emotional energy than was healthy for her and it was wise to take the firm decision to stop when she did. May God give deep refreshment to Hilary and her family. We are so grateful for the way she paved the way for her successor and offers ongoing support in handover.

Becky has “given herself fully to the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58) for the last eight years in the particular areas of Junior Church and Miniclub. These two areas are largely unseen to many adult members of the church, but are incredibly significant. I would normally say a Junior Church leader should not be out of the main service every week unless they can get to another service, but I failed to say this effectively to my very determined wife, who prioritises the children’s wellbeing above her own. I (and the church family) need to care for and appreciate Becky more. She is handing over much of the work of these two roles to our new paid staff member; Becky’s having done this same work for so long unpaid has not been recognised perhaps as it should. I thank God for her insistence that the children must be taught the Bible faithfully as the sure foundation for their lives. She continues to serve in the older group as the younger rota is given a boost by Rachel. Becky has also been key – with others – in encouraging volunteers especially in the younger group, to ensure that we have provision for the children without which it would be very hard for families to come to church at all. Miniclub has had a tough time recovering from the loss of momentum from the pandemic but Becky has been devoted to a small number from outside the church with whom she has maintained contact with hard work week by week. I remain grateful for the ever-supportive churchwardens; the PCC Secretary (Ian’s will be a hard act to follow); the PCC; Fabric Committee (for whom I think I have good reason to shorten their name to Fab); Stewards; Coffee and tech teams; cleaners; worship committee, musicians and home group leaders sharing so much ministry of the

word; pastoral visitors, and all who pray and encourage one another. I would love us to be more active in outreach. We have been through a struggle just to keep going, and now may the Lord help us onto the front foot!

Jonty Frith

Deanery Synod:

The main topic of discussion at the 2022 meetings of Deanery Synod was the 'Deanery Plan', a response to the Diocese's requirement that we cut the number of stipendiary ministers in the Deanery from the equivalent of 22 full-time posts to 17 by 2027. The Deanery Plan sets out criteria by which posts will be prioritised and requires all Parishes/Benefices to organise themselves into 'partnerships'. The plan was passed in the final Deanery Synod meeting of 2022, though not unanimously. The means by which partnerships are to be established and the relationship between the establishment of partnerships and the reduction in stipendiary clergy numbers remain unclear.

Anna Young and Tim Laver

Worship, Teaching and Equipping

Homegroups:

Our two home groups are vital organs of the life of the church. They are both great sources of support, encouragement, and deepening faith as they strengthen relationships. It would be good for those attending church and not yet in a group to join one, which probably means increasing the number of groups. In my view, launching a daytime group would be a great next step for those who can't come out in winter's evenings as well as others who are available during the day. Please talk to me if you might be interested in this.

Jonty Frith

Tuesday Group:

We normally meet at 7.30 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. We started the year meeting in Jan and Ian's new home but later switched to Phil and Molly Edge's home.

We have looked together at some of the training material from *A Passion for Life*, and the sermon series from Titus, Acts, Psalms and John.

We have been growing in prayerful support of one another, and have been open to receiving new members, subject to practical limits of space.

Ian Williams

Wednesday Group:

The Wednesday home group continued meeting fortnightly in person in Bathampton, led by Anne-Marie Conn and hosted by Anna Young. Numbers have been steady with some recent additions from new church members. We usually follow a programme of discussing the same Bible passages as the Sunday sermon, with some questions supplied by the preacher helping us take things further in applying God's word in our lives. Recently we met up for a pizza social, and will be doing more socials in 2023 - the next one is likely to be a dessert event!

Tim and Anne-Marie Conn

Music:

*The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will
take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you
with singing.
Zephaniah 3:17*

For the first time since I've been writing these reports, we can rejoice that over the past year we have been able to hold all of our services in church, in-person, while continuing to welcome several online attendees each week. We value this all the more, having had such a long period when this wasn't possible.

We continue to be blessed with the faithful service of a team of regular musicians, meaning that most weeks we are able to be led by voice, violin and piano, with drums and saxophone also a welcome feature whenever possible, as well as the regular playing of our organ. I am tremendously grateful to God for each of them, for the skills he has blessed them with, and for their generous willingness to share their time and expertise in this way.

This has enabled us to continue to sing a mix of old favourites and well-loved contemporary worship songs, and to expand our repertoire, to express our praise and thanks to God for his love, faithfulness and goodness to us. A highlight was once again our Christmas music when we were joined by others from the congregation, friends and family members, to celebrate the wonder of the birth of Jesus.

As the verse above from Zephaniah reminds us, we sing because God has first sung over us. We rejoice with wonder that he loves us as he does, and lift our hearts in praise and thanks to him in response. In words echoing our theme verse for 2022, we sing:

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all,
he has compassion on all that he has made.
As far as the east is from the west,*

*that's how far he has removed our transgressions from us.
As far as the east is from the west,
that's how far he has removed our transgressions from us.
Praise the Lord, oh my soul,
praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, oh my soul,
praise the Lord.*

*Margaret White
February 2023*

Prayer Meeting:

The monthly Prayer Meeting is for the whole church, on the first Thursday at 7.30pm for an hour. The Lord has blessed our little gathering, draws near to us and hears our prayers. If you don't normally come, come!

Jonty Frith

Prayer Ministry:

The rearrangement of some pews in the back corner of church is taking longer than hoped, and so we went ahead and re-started Prayer Ministry in the area around the Font in 2022. We also planned changes that are coming into effect very helpfully in 2023, linking the Prayer Ministers to the people leading prayers in services, and increasing the number of prayer ministers. One or two people avail themselves of the opportunity of personal prayer in this way each week.



Jonty Frith

Stewards:

The job of a Steward is very important - not only are they a help to the Wardens in making a service run smoothly, but they are usually the first people that visitors meet on entering the church for a service and therefore a bright cheery welcome is much appreciated. I think our Stewards fill that role well and we are grateful to them for their continued support. If you feel this is something you could be involved with and would like more information please let me know.

Jane Buckley

Worship Committee:

We regularly review and plan services. Developments in 2022 included finding a way to resume drinking wine from a common vessel in our communion services (following Anglican tradition and the Lord Jesus' command "drink this, all of you") that did not frighten away people concerned about risk of infection: we now serve the wine (after the prayer of thanksgiving) via little glasses. We have been encouraged to see numbers in the morning (10.45) service gradually growing again. Evening service (4pm wintertime; 6pm summertime) numbers have stayed very low indeed but we continue to offer this opportunity to gather as church for those who can't come in the morning. We also continued extending the regular service by Zoom thanks to the hard work of a devoted small team operating the tech.

Jonty Frith

Getting to Know and Care for One Another

Afternoon Break:

Some of the topics we discussed in 2022 included "Our favourite Bible verse", "In the News", Christmas Quiz and "Are you woke?" We enjoyed a Cream Tea at one meeting.

Another happy time was a trip down Memory Lane looking at the Community Banners (circa 1989) showing all the businesses, activities and clubs in the Village then and also the buildings and places of interest. There have been many changes since the banners were made.

We usually met in the Methodist Church.

Judith Book

The Luncheon Club (was Maxi Club):

We are delighted to report that The Maxi Club started up again in January 2022 with a new name. A new name – a New Year. As you will be aware we had been concerned for some time about our inability to attract new guests to the Club and after hearing many times phrases like 'it's not for me' or 'I haven't come to that yet' we thought that perhaps a change of name to 'The Luncheon Club' might have a better vibe. The response has been a little slow but we have a few new guests as a result. Sadly we have also lost a couple of stalwart members.

Our core number of guests each month is about 15 and although lower than we would wish, those that come really do enjoy the experience and are complimentary when they leave. The helpers too are most enthusiastic and a good time is had by all. The Community Bus, transporting less mobile guests, is very well used and a major tool in maintaining these numbers. Transport costs have increased and we have received some support towards these from the Bathampton Parish Council for which we are most grateful.

Sara Fudge

Men's Group:

This is perhaps a little known and mysterious band of men joined together by their companionship and association with St Nicholas. We

meet on the third Monday of the month in each other's homes and the host will prepare the subjects for discussion. Like Pandora's box, once the discussion is activated, all sorts of subjects and many insoluble problems are generated. Consensus is rare but discussion congenial.

The Group continues to maintain a level of participation achieved at its launch some 30 years ago with around 12 members. We recently said goodbye to our dear friend Ray Book, a past member, and we welcome newcomers to join us for a relaxing evening out in good company.

Ray Bennett

Coffee Rota:

Following discussions and review, it was decided that coffee and biscuits should be served after the morning service. This has continued successfully all year. A trolley was provided to carry the cups and coffee round from the kitchen to the area by the Arthur Phillip chapel. It is slightly cramped there but it seems the best area of the church for the trolley. Chairs close to the trolley are popular with people to sit and chat with their cup of coffee.

A willing and reliable team of 7 volunteers to serve the coffee are now available so it isn't too onerous for the volunteers. Some are willing to serve more often than others and a rota is drawn up by myself every 4 months.

The volunteers provide the milk and biscuits themselves and do not charge the church for buying these. I do ensure that there are spare packets of biscuits in the cupboard in case anyone forgets these. I also order the filter coffee when supplies run out. This I do charge the church for because each box costs about £50. I also buy the tea bags when they run out.

The small glasses used for Communion are generally washed up by the

coffee volunteers as well.

Going forward, I do not foresee that many changes will need to be made this year. More volunteers are always useful as it would be difficult if we lost anyone from the rota.

Helen Williams

Pastoral Visiting Team:

The Pastoral Visiting Group forms part of the caring community of our church. We hope to visit people in their houses if they are unwell or have suffered bereavement. We also go and see many people regularly who are kept in their houses by ill health or disability, and try to visit anyone new to the village to make them feel welcome here.

We rely on other church members to let us know of someone who might like to see us for a chat, and a prayer. If so please get in touch with Jonty, Ray Bennett, Sylvia Perry, Mike Peddar or Angela Donald.

Angela Donald

Steps in Faith:

Just to confirm to you I am no longer leading Steps in Faith after so many enjoyable, and I hope helpful years for all our members.

Steps in Faith continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10.30am in the Bathampton Methodist Church : any enquiries should be addressed to The Reverend Simon Topping at Bathampton Methodist Church.

Peter Lloyd Williams

Outreach

Parish Outreach:

Distributing Easter and Christmas cards to every home, resuming opening the church midweek, and holding a Marquee Service following the Village Show have all helped to supplement the other ministries

reported on in this section. We had a week of more intensive outreach before Easter, for which we partnered fruitfully with St Bart's and North Bradley Baptist Church to put on a whole week of events for guests of all three churches, with evangelist Roger Carswell speaking and interviewing people whose lives have been changed by Jesus. This included at St Nick's: two evenings, a Breakfast, and a Sunday afternoon service.

Jonty Frith

Ladies' Events:

The Bath Women's Conference was a great day of teaching and seminars. Charlotte Cornes (Hugh's big sister) gave two excellent talks from the book of Ruth and there was a wide range of seminar topics to choose from. It was lovely that some of the ladies from St Nick's were able to go.

We had a great Christmas pudding evening again where numbers were good and Anne-Marie gave a very helpful talk sharing the gospel with everyone who came. There were more non-St Nick's people than St Nick's people which was great for an evangelistic event. Jan, Jan and Molly were wonderful hosts to help the evening run smoothly.

Becky Frith

Men's Breakfast:

We had just one Breakfast in 2022, with the aforementioned Roger Carswell. Most of the attendees were men, keeping some continuity with the Men's Breakfast although now open to women as well.



Jonty Frith

Marriage Ministry:

We held just two weddings in Bathampton in 2022, including one with particularly strong church family connections, which was a real joy.

Jonty Frith

Funeral Ministry:

I took six funerals in church in 2022, and one was taken by a visiting minister. Several of these involved cremation following, but we had no full funerals in the Crematorium. This seems to be part of a national trend away from religious funerals. Funeral directors no longer contact a parish minister for a crematorium service, unless specifically requested. This has narrowed down our outreach to bereaved families, to those with church links. It is still however a significant part of our serving the parish, and the congregations in funerals include more non-church-members than any of our other outreach events, including a strong proclamation of the good news of resurrection.

In addition we buried the ashes of three whose funerals had been elsewhere. When this happens on a Sunday it is a good opportunity for bereaved families to come to church, be welcomed by the congregation, and be reminded of God's love shown to us in Jesus.

Jonty Frith

World Mission:

World Mission Group 2022 – Annual Report

We focused on partnership with and support of – in prayer and financial assistance – six different organisations in two-monthly slots as follows. The financial support sent to each is to the right of each name.

Jan/Feb:	Open Doors	£888.78
Mar/Apr:	Wycliffe Bible Translators	£318.75
May/Jun:	The Genesis Trust	£250
Jul/Aug:	The Bread of Life Society	£250
Sep/Oct:	UCCF	£747.50 + £600
(directly to Bath Uni CU)		
Nov/Dec:	Samaritan's Purse	£262.50
	TOTAL:	£3,317.53

The World Mission Group consisted of Anne-Marie Conn, Hilary and Nigel White. In late 2022, Hilary wished to leave the group and, as it stands the group consists of two with interest shown by one other individual. This name will be brought to the PCC.



During the year we were informed that Mike and Vicky Tomlinson (The Bread of Life Society) will be returning to the UK in mid-2023. We had Dan Mak (a former intern at St Nicks and St Marys) in 2022 come and share his plans to go to Australia for 4-years at a Bible College in Sydney with a view to serving God in Hong Kong following this. The PCC agreed that Dan Mak be added to our rota of entities to support and that the financial support should be a monthly amount as opposed to a lump sum, the plan is that this would help Dan budget. The PCC agreed that as and when we decide to support individuals or couples as opposed entities, our financial support should be in the form of monthly donations.

Nigel White

Engaging Children and Youth

Junior Church:

I plough on with a small group of lovely secondary school aged boys, studying the Bible and strengthening relationships within the group.

Becky Frith

In the younger junior church we've had up to 12 children ranging from age 4-10. We've used Click bible based material and looked at Paul's letters from Acts pre-Christmas and Matthew so far this year.

Hannah Findlay

Mini Club:

We have struggled with numbers after covid and then having to stop again when we had no heating. We have built up strong relationships with the few mums and child minders who do come, and know them and their children well. We now meet from 10-11:30 to aim more at the younger age because the 3 year olds tend to leave for Bathampton Playgroup/Nursery. There seem to be fewer mums at home in the daytime than there were pre-covid.

We rely on our faithful and brilliant refreshment team of Sylvia, Jan Wilcock and Pippa, for whom we're very grateful. The snacks for the children each week are works of art - I never knew that fruit could be cut up and served so beautifully until we moved to Bath!

Becky Frith

Bathampton Primary School:

Links with the school, after a surge towards the end of 2021 under a temporary Executive Head, took another hit with further changes of leadership and the need to re-start building relationships. I was able to take only a few assemblies, but was warmly received. Having the children come into church for the Arthur Philip service, and packing in many families for the Christmas productions, have been a real joy and helped to encourage many families to come to the Christingle who wouldn't normally come to church.

The appointment of a Children's and Families Minister in 2023 will enable us to offer much more to the school and we pray for stronger links.

Jonny Frith

Support Ministries

Administration:

As hoped, 2022 proved to be a year of consolidation of the administrative changes and improvements established during 2022 as we emerged from Covid, and, due to the huge amount of support

received from the leadership team and many members of the congregation, things were able to run relatively smoothly, even during the summer months while the Rector was on sabbatical leave.

On the rector's return in September, preparations were launched to find a permanent long-term replacement Administrator to take over as from December 2022. In the event, no new appointee could be found to assume the permanent role until the spring of 2023, but Pippa Dowsett very kindly agreed to act as 'Temporary Administrator', and undertook regular training during November and early December to perform a 'bridging role' covering the interim period. We are extremely grateful to Pippa for doing this so willingly and energetically.

Hilary Crellin

Safeguarding:

The diocese continues to support safeguarding through their newsletters and safeguarding team. Within St Nicholas, Hannah Findlay is the safeguarding officer. We continue to encourage those that volunteer to be aware of safeguarding and to carry out DBS checks on behalf of the diocese. It is planned that in 2023-24 the safeguarding team at St Nicholas will expand to improve delivery.

Hannah Findlay

Banner Group:

Sadly the Banner Group has not met together since the beginning of the first lockdown. We have missed the shared joy of creation through threads but know and rejoice in God's Creation.

The different altar frontals and pulpit falls, made by the Banner Group, can always be seen in church in their appropriate colours through the liturgical calendar.

Andy Lloyd Williams

Church Cleaning:

It's always a pleasure to come in and make the church extension clean and fresh for the church and community events. I'm grateful for the

opportunity to play a very small part in helping keeping things ticking over, even when it's freezing cold in the extension and I need to Hoover first with my gloves on to warm up! What a gift.

Rachel Rice

The Flower Team:

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in September of Joy Isaac. Joy had been a flower arranger at St. Nicholas Church for over 50 years and, of course, took over the leadership from Pippa, her daughter, when she moved up to Scotland. We are a small group and have continued to decorate the church with appropriate arrangements throughout the year. We would very much welcome new arrangers to join our happy team.

Andy Lloyd Williams

Tech Team

Nigel White heads up a wonderful team that serve the church wonderfully by enabling us to hear, see helpful things on the screen, and extend our reach to those live on Zoom and catching up on sermons via YouTube recordings. Nigel was not asked to write a report because this team is relatively new and each report booklet is based on the previous year's, but we note our gratitude for their weekly ministry and their thought and work in developing our infrastructure for continuing to make good use of technology.

Jonty Frith

Bellringers:

This has been a year of very intermittent ringing as we sadly now have too few ringers to ring regularly. We have managed to have a few practice nights at Bathampton but not rung for any services or any ringing at Claverton. We did ring to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II.



We have had been advertising throughout the year for new ringers and have been greatly helped by Christchurch, St John's Road who run training for new ringers. We are delighted to have two people currently in training and we hope to have a team available for ringing at the Coronation.

Candy McCabe, Captain of the Tower

Church Rooms Bookings:

There was steady, if only moderate, usage of the church rooms during 2022. The Craft Club continued to thrive, and there were occasional bookings from external organisations, as well as a number of post-funeral events. However, the manager of Harbutts found it difficult to attract sufficient numbers to warrant the regular bookings he had hoped for, and he has now sadly moved away.

Hopefully, as the long shadow of Covid continues to recede, there will be more uptake, of a variety of kinds, in 2023.

Hilary Crellin

Fabric Committee:

The Committee is responsible for the day to day upkeep of the church and churchyard and for the progress of the repairs and professional surveys listed in the Quinquennial Inspection reports. Work is carried out using in-house effort where possible but calling in contractor assistance where appropriate when funding is available.

The Fabric Committee has a team of hardworking and professional members who individually look after separate aspects of our work according to their expertise.

The Quinquennial Inspection works were all completed two years ahead of programme and the Church Architect was informed.

Storm tree damage was removed. An effort to remove years of accumulated leaves from the churchyard has greatly improved its

appearance. Vehicle damage to a churchyard wall and the Lych Gate was repaired swiftly. The Coronation Cross was cleaned and the brass plaque installed to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Churchyard lighting vandalism was repaired. The Miller and church external doors were repainted and routine internal redecoration carried out on scuff points. A new RCCB electrical distribution box was installed to protect the church from further faults in the old mineral wiring. Tomb safety inspection remains ongoing to maintain churchyard safety. Roof gullies, hoppers and drains and ground gullies are cleared regularly to keep the church dry. A WiFi donation has been installed in the church.

The glass doors project to improve the main entrance visual experience and disabled access remains deferred. Current thinking is that it may be combined with church electrical rewiring and redecoration as one project with a fundraising effort focused on UK grant organisations and the Australian community.

David Lascelles, Chairman



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