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| ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGReview of Year to 31 December 2022 |
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| 25 APRIL 2023ST MARY WITH ST ALBANTEDDINGTON |

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ELECTORAL ROLL

Jennifer Paynter – Electoral Roll Officer

Names added 12

Names removed 14

Net loss/gain (2)

Total number on the revised roll 364

As at 22 April 2023, there were 364 names on the Electoral Roll, 127 being in respect of people who reside outside the parish who habitually attend public worship in this parish. The names removed from the Roll relate to 2 people who have died, 2 duplicate entries and 10 who have moved away.

CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT

Carla Maroussas & Robin Field-Smith

In the absence of a vicar this report opens with a short piece from your churchwardens.

2022 was a year of real “highs” and “lows” both far and near. As we finally emerged from Covid restrictions, we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, formally opened the sensory area in the churchyard, received approval from the Council for *Building Anew*, and gave prayerful encouragement to our two ordinands, Sarah Williams and Sarah Rae. But along with millions across the world we grieved at the invasion of Ukraine and the sufferings of its people, and mourned the loss of our beloved Queen.

But as a parish and church perhaps the most significant event was the departure of our vicar, Joe Moffatt. Much has been written about this, and lots said at his farewells. We just want to place on record our gratitude for his 13 years of leadership, inspiration, spiritual nourishment, vision, and supportive friendship to so many. Kingston’s gain is Teddington’s loss, though we continue to benefit from so much of what he left in place.

To cope with the vacancy created we have been very fortunate to be joined in the parish leadership team by the Reverends Caroline and Mary, and Suzanne, enabling us to maintain a programme of worship, mission, pastoral support and parish activity through the autumn and winter months. Our thanks go especially to the clergy team, augmented by Ros, John, David, Chris and +Martin. The PCC members have also stepped up variously to help, along with the teams of welcomers, servers, cleaners, readers, intercessors, choristers, money counters, pastoral visitors, etc.

And now as we go to press, we are very pleased to say that we have got through the process of selecting a new vicar and look forward to welcoming the Reverend David Cloake and his family in a few months. In the words of Joe Moffatt as he closed his final sermon, “May the parish go forward in faith and friendship to build anew”.

2022 Proceedings of the PCC Katherine Matthews

There have been 25 members on the PCC who have committed to 6 PCC meetings over the last 12 months. We continue to offer the option to join meetings via Zoom which proves beneficial for many depending on their circumstances.

The first meeting, held on 12 May, opened with the PCC approving the appointment of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the chairs of the various working groups. The vicar noted that no-one had come forward to take on the role of churchwarden following the end of Robin’s 4-year tenure. Robin had agreed to continue temporarily but put forward the proposal that deputy wardens be sought to take on some responsibility for the organisation of church services and the maintenance of the church building.

The PCC ratified the church safeguarding policy following a presentation by Mary Field-Smith and the Diversity & Inclusion policy drafted by Chris Darling.

Steve Randall, chair of the Governance group for *Building Anew*, informed the PCC of some changes to the window designs in the proposed extension which were subsequently approved by the PCC. Other than this change, the governance group remained on track for submission of the planning application.

The second meeting in July was chaired by Carla Maroussas, vice-chair and senior churchwarden. This PCC meeting was the final one for Rev. Joe Moffatt before his departure from the parish following his resignation earlier in the year. He reflected on his 13-year tenure as vicar and offered a “Big Thank You” to the PCC, the congregation and the community from whom there had always been a positive response to new initiatives whether from Joe or others and, through effective teamwork and collaboration, had built and developed an effective church structure.

The vicar also encouraged to the PCC to look forward to the future but remain true to our mission devised over 10 years ago to “Foster Faith & Friendship”, a message so clear and effective that changes have not been deemed necessary.

Robin gave a presentation to the PCC about the processes to be followed and the extra duties which will fall on the churchwardens and PCC during the interregnum. He also explained the appointment process for a new priest:

The vicar explained that the administrative structure of the church has recently been addressed due to the forthcoming interregnum and the extra responsibilities taken on by some individuals. This included the formal appointment of deputy churchwardens as explained at the previous meeting.

Chris Darling gave a presentation on the use of *ChurchSuite* which the church would now use to simplify the processes of arranging rotas, timetables, distributing minutes, etc.

The PCC approved the Common Fund offer for 2023.

There were 2 meetings on the 11 September which together enabled the PCC to formally begin the process of selecting a new vicar. These meetings are known as the “Pre-Section 11” meeting and the “Section 11” meeting.

The PCC had invited Reverend Jonathan Rust and Rev Tim Garrett to the Pre-Section 11 meeting to explain the processes and steps to be undertaken in the Section 11 meeting which was to follow.

At the section 11 meeting, the PCC:

* Approved the appointment of our parish lay representatives, Carla Maroussas & Robin Field-Smith.
* Agreed the processes to oversee the production of the parish profile
* Agreed to request to the bishop to advertise the vacancy.
* Agreed to request the bishop for a statement in writing describing, in relation to the benefice, the needs of the Diocese and the wider interests of the church.

The 4th meeting in November thus marked the 1st ordinary meeting of the PCC since the commencement of the interregnum and the PCC spent some time reflecting on how the church had managed since Joe’s departure and how we might address the challenges over the next few months until the potential appointment of a new vicar.

Robin reported on the feedback following the parish visitation which had been very positive and encouraging.

The PCC approved the church Health & Safety policy and the appointment of a new QI architect.

Mary Field-Smith provided a safeguarding update with particular reference to the parish safeguarding dashboard, an initiative devised by the National Safeguarding Team which we are now expected by the Diocese to use. Mary set out a list of activities undertaken by the church which involve children, young people and vulnerable adults which the PCC formally approved.

Steve Randall was pleased to report that the application for planning permission for *Building Anew* had been submitted.

The first meeting of 2023 took place on 19 January with the focus on 2 matters – the good news that planning permission had been received for the building project and the disappointing news that there had been no suitable candidates applying for the incumbency vacancy.

The planning permission came with several conditions/provisos but the PCC was reassured that these were standard and no specific problems were expected when addressing them.

The PCC assessed the reasons for the lack of suitable candidates for the incumbancy in detail, particularly regarding the parish profile. It was agreed that the profile be rewritten and re-edited and a new timetable be devised for advertising the vacancy etc.

The final meeting took place on 14 March and Carla was pleased to report that there had been a much better response to the 2nd advert for the incumbency vacancy with 4 applicants being invited for interview later in the month.

The PCC approved the safeguarding policy for the recruitment of ex-offenders.

Steven Randall reported that a new architect had been appointed to oversee the building project during the next stages – particularly the construction phase. He also noted that progress is being made in responding to the queries and outstanding points raised by LBRUT when they had granted planning permission.

There will be several vacancies to be filled at the forthcoming APCM in April including the appointment of a churchwarden to replace Robin – who has continued for a further 12 months since no candidates came forward in 2022. There will also be vacancies for Deanery Synod and the PCC.

The PCC approved the 2022 Financial Statements & Annual Report and the proposed budget for 2023.

Fabric

Building Anew Steve Randall

2022 saw a major step forward for the ‘*Building Anew’* project in late December, when we received the wonderful news that Richmond Council granted planning permission for our proposed scheme.

After over three years work by the Project Team and Governance Group, this is a key hurdle cleared on our journey to equip our historic church with the toilets, kitchenette facilities and multi-purpose meeting room it needs to flourish into the future.

For the first few months of last year the focus had been working with the architect and engineering consultants on modifications to enhance further the sustainability of the new extension and reduce the carbon footprint of the materials to be used. Once the final scheme had been approved by the PCC in May, the team worked to finalise all the planning application documents required by Richmond Council – no fewer than 20 separate reports covering not only the proposed design but also heritage, archaeology, fire safety, flood risk, ecology, trees and traffic, to mention just a few!

As you are aware from previous updates, this followed successful completion of both a lengthy pre-application process with Richmond Council and an extensive programme of consultation processes during 2020-21. The positive feedback received during these processes was extremely welcome and encouraging, including from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Historic England, The Teddington Society, our congregation and the local community.

Following submission of our planning application to Richmond Council on 2nd August 2022, the team responded to a stream of questions and requests for further information from the Council’s planning officers before receiving the very welcome news on 19th December that planning permission had been granted. As is typically the case, permission is subject to the fulfilment of several conditions, both prior to commencing and during the construction works. All the conditions stated are viewed as standard by our architect and the other expert advisers involved, with none expected to present any issues.

Since then, the Project Team and Governance Group have been preparing for the next phase of the project. This will include completion of the detailed design for the scheme by our architect and engineering consultants, launch of a fundraising campaign in the summer and, in due course, appointment of a main contractor and application for a Faculty from the Diocese of London. The aim is to begin construction in 2024.

Huge thanks are once again due to everyone involved in the Project Team and Governance Group for the immense amount of time and work they have put into getting the project through planning approval, especially to John Ramsay the Project Manager. Without their commitment, expertise and incredible stamina, none of this would have been possible. In addition, on behalf of the Governance Group, I would like to thank the Churchwardens, PCC and congregation for their guidance and support.

The Project Team is excited to be moving forward with the next contribution to the 800-year history of our church, which has been added to every century. The *Building Anew* scheme is the culmination of a long process of discernment, research, planning and consultation. It brings much-needed facilities to our historic building and enhances the way it relates to the beautiful churchyard around it.

Every generation has played its part in ensuring the building is fit for purpose in its time. We are confident *Building Anew* will be transformational, not just for our church and the facilities we can offer to our local community, but also in the way we connect with one another.

Church Building & Churchyard Robin Field-Smith

The church, as the Body of Christ of those living in and visiting Teddington, is focused around both a building, and churchyard, wonderfully located on a main artery for our community. A much-valued feature is that the church remains open every day, welcoming people of all faiths and none to come in to pray, light a candle, sit, or enjoy the many wonderful features. To keep this offer alive, we are indebted to three groups of volunteers:

* Those who, in the absence of a vicar, provide a rota to open and close the church each day and keep an eye out for any issues, as well as ensuring the votive candle stand is well stocked.
* The Holy Dusters, led by Ursula Midgley and Christine Casemore, who continue to clean and care for the church on Thursday mornings (but who will welcome some new members!).
* The Church Maintenance group, run by Nick Fenton as a deputy warden, who have a rota to check the building every couple of weeks and either deal with minor faults themselves or report them for professional attention.

We also depend on the commitment and devotion of our server team who ensure the church is set up for services, and that all necessary hangings, vestments, vessels and provisions are present and correct.

To all these contributing their talents in God’s service we say a big thank you!

We continue to take care to save energy costs, but our gas bill rose considerably during the winter. We regularly review the thermostat settings, and have had heating on at a low level only for services. We will rely on our dependable gas boiler for at least one more winter.

We now await the formal report from our inspecting architect who will carry out our quinquennial inspection in 2023.

The churchyard is walked through by hundreds every day, and some pause to feed their senses on the sights, sounds and smells around them. We are fortunate to have a good relationship with Richmond Council who keep the fences and walls secure, and assist with grass and leaf tidying, and garden rubbish clearance. The main effort to maintain, develop and enhance our graveyard is down to two groups:

* *The Holy Gardeners,* who meet regularly twice a month, led by Tony Swan and Sally Stones, and some of whom bring their green fingers to bear more often.
* *The Adopt A Grave* volunteers, now led by Alex Ruffer, who are progressively tidying graves, and showing care for those who have gone before us.

A key event in 2022 was the creation of the Sensory Area, enabled by a generous grant from the Richmond Council Local Area Fund, and opened by the mayor at the end of June. This is supported by audio and Braille information, and designed for easy access by any wanting some moments of enjoyment with God’s creation.

We also welcomed the mayor again to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee with the planting of two quince trees as part of the Queen’s Canopy, and found occasions to use the churchyard for outdoor services, social events and school visits, as well as marking the annual *Love your Burial Ground* week.

Parish Hall Jo O’Hagan

The Hall Committee has met three times during the year with regular contact taking place between myself and the Parish Administration Team to deal with ongoing issues.

The Parish Team has been increased with the welcome addition of Nadia Prince who co-ordinates and administers Hall Hire for our many regular and occasional users. Suzanne has continued to ensure that regular inspections and maintenance of all aspects of services and facilities is carried out alongside her many other duties and our Caretaker, Alex continues to use his skills to redecorate, repair and maintain the hall in the best possible condition alongside his other responsibilities.

The main hall floor has been transformed by the refurbishment carried out in summer 2022. Work continued throughout the year to upgrade the electrical supply to meet current standards and improve consumption with the fitting of more LED lights and a smart meter. The challenge of upgrading lighting in the main hall is an ongoing project as we seek a balance between functionality, cost and the carbon footprint of the building.

Fire safety remains a priority and various improvements have been made to the fire doors around the building. A Sunday morning fire drill highlighted the need to maintain a clear pedestrian access along the path to the side entrance of the main hall.

Overall, Hall income has now returned to and exceeded pre-pandemic levels, thanks to the income generated by the many and varied professional and voluntary organisations that use the hall on such a regular basis throughout the year alongside the many church activities.

My thanks go to the committee members, Fred Squire, Nick Fenton, Liz Leydon and Terry Brown for their continued commitment and advice and to Suzanne, Alex, Nadia and the cleaning team for all they do to keeping the hall a welcoming and central hub for the community.

Recording St Mary’s Sue Stevens

Although we had hoped to have the project finished in 2022, and the document printed, that has not been possible. We have had a few new acquisitions to record, especially from St Peter and St Paul, and had to remove from the record recently donated items, especially to our link parish, Pemba. Tying up the loose ends, ensuring that photos are correctly matched to text, and checking final facts has proved time-consuming. For much of this we are dependent on our Church Recording Society mentor, and she has had limited time over the last year.

We are hopeful that 2023 really will see the completion of this fascinating project, which has revealed so much about the history of our church and taught us a lot about looking after our church furnishings. We are grateful that Richmond Arts Society have continued their support and interest.

Worship & Nurture

Safeguarding Mary Field-Smith

*“The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.”*

*Promoting a Safer Diocese*, the Safeguarding Policy of the Diocese of London, with a foreword from Bishop Sarah, forms the cornerstone of our Parish safeguarding practice and can be accessed on the safeguarding pages of the Parish website.

Our PCC safeguarding policy was ratified at the first PCC meeting after the APCM last year where the Action plan resulting from the Self-Audit was also discussed. Some of the points from that, including the issue of Domestic Abuse Awareness, have been delayed as a result of the vacancy, but will be included during the coming year.

As a parish we have now moved to the new three-year renewal period for DBS checks and all PCC members have a current DBS check, thanks to our Lead recruiter Kay Cassidy, and have completed both the Basic Awareness and Foundation level safeguarding training. All volunteers working with children and/or vulnerable adults are required to undertake safeguarding training at the appropriate level. We are also asking our Welcomers team, as the “eyes and ears” during services to now complete the Basic Awareness course, if they have not already done so for another role.

We are working at Level Two of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard – although quite time-consuming, this is proving a valuable tool and checklist for what we should be doing. It also produces an action plan and will replace the need for the Self Audit once Level Three is reached.

Two members of the Diocesan SG team came to a well-attended meeting of the Deanery Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) Network to answer questions, particularly on the Dashboard. The Diocese are hoping to roll out this network model to the rest of the Kensington area as it has proved successful.

My thanks are due not only to Kay Cassidy, and to the other members of the Safeguarding Team, Ruth Chaperlin and Sarah Williams, for their invaluable support, but to all those volunteers who uncomplainingly fill in forms and complete safeguarding courses in order to carry out their role. Thank you for helping to make our church a safer place.

If anybody has any concerns about anything they see or hear in church, please speak to me or to a member of the clergy if I am not available. Safeguarding is part of our Christian duty – it is not an optional extra.

Children’s Ministry Ruth Chaperlin

The last twelve months have seen a concerted effort to resume and develop our regular children’s ministry activities following a difficult period of restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our main, regular Children’s Ministry activities are Church Mice, our midweek service for pre-school aged children, the 9am family service on Sundays, followed by Coffee and Craft in the Parish Hall, and the Children’s Church group during the 10am service on Sundays.

The 9am service on Sunday mornings remains very popular with families with young children, offering all-age worship for families in a relaxed and inclusive service. The clergy do a wonderful job leading these services, and welcoming children and parents alike. Many of those attending this service go across to the Parish Hall afterwards for Coffee and Craft. Since we were able to launch this properly eighteen months ago, Coffee and Craft is proving a great success with our 9am families, offering them a much-needed and appreciated space for fellowship after the service. The toys, craft activity (and biscuits!) are a hit with the children. A big thank you to a small but faithful group of volunteers who turn up bright and early on a Sunday morning to set up the hall, get the coffee on and serve tea and coffee to an appreciative group of parents. A very special thank you to Sidonie Kennan for her dedication to providing the children with wonderful craft activities each week.

During the 10am service on Sundays, we continue to offer a Children’s Church group in the Mina Hogan Room. Although numbers of children attending remain low, we have a core group of around 10 children who attend either on a regular or an occasional basis. On an average Sunday, we usually have 4-6 children in the group. Regular leaders for this group now comprise just me and Sophie Edginton, with clergy leading some weeks and parents and others supporting, as necessary.

In the early summer of 2022, with things back on track following the pandemic, it was felt we needed a re-launch of Children’s Church, in order to re-establish the routine, and to try and boost our numbers. During May and June, we publicised the re-launch in church, in the newsletter and through the distribution of flyers. Then, for the last six sessions before the summer break (from 12th June to 17th July) we ran the sessions, showcasing different types of Children’s Church activities, including Bible story and craft, Godly Play, drama (a thrilling re-enactment of David defeating our giant teddy Goliath), an active session doing a treasure trail in Udney Park Gardens, and an all-age service at the annual River Blessing service. The publicity flyer became a sticker sheet for the children to collect stickers as they joined the group each week.

The sessions were reasonably well attended, with an average of 10 children at each session, and in the final session (which coincided with Joe’s last service as our vicar) we had 17 children in the group. Most of the core group of these children has continued attending over the last few months, although overall numbers of school-age children at the 10am service remain low.

I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to Sophie Edginton who has been a driving force in the success of Children’s Church over the last year. She has approached all our endeavours with commitment, energy, creativity and drive, producing the publicity material for the re-launch last summer, and in the planning and delivery of many Children’s Church sessions, especially since my return to full-time work earlier this year.

I would also like to thank Mary Hawes and Caroline Halmshaw for their constant and active support of Children’s Church, both in their encouragement of Sophie and me and all our suggestions for Children’s Church activities, and for their support in delivering and supporting sessions when Sophie and I were not able to lead. Thanks also go to the parents and others who have stepped in to support with these activities when we have needed additional adults to ensure the sessions can still go ahead. With so few volunteers, it is not easy to ensure that we can run a full programme in term time, but we are committed to doing our best to continue this, and thanks to all those who help us to ensure that happens.

It is the case with all our Children’s Ministry activities that we are running with a small, and seemingly ever-decreasing pool of volunteers. We are always looking for more people to contribute their time and talents to all our children’s activities. The joy of these activities is that they offer valuable opportunities to connect with one other across the different age groups and congregations within our church community.

*Church Mice* Cathy Randall

Church Mice continues to provide a much-valued midweek toddler service each Wednesday morning. We run throughout the year, with just one week off after Christmas and after Easter, and we do not run during August.

We generally welcome between 4 and 8 families per week for the service and playtime afterwards. Most of these are regulars who greatly value what we offer, including the chance to get to know us and one another in a relaxed and supportive environment. Good friendships have been formed over coffee. Many parents return with their second child – we were delighted on a recent Wednesday when we had four mums returning with their second or third child. We ask for a contribution of just one pound a week per family, and no pre-booking is required, which makes it different from many children’s activities in Teddington.

This year we have sadly lost several of our leaders through relocation or new jobs, and I would like to record a big thank you to Rev’d Joe Moffatt, Anthea Bryan, and Ruth Chaperlin who were all much-valued members of our leaders’ team. I am very grateful that Sophie Edginton, Mary Hawes, Hannah Kennedy and Sarah Rae have stepped up to fill the vacancies in the Rota. Clergy have always played an important part on the Church Mice Rota, and so we will be again looking for more leaders once Caroline and Sarah Williams have moved on this summer. I would like to thank them too, in advance, for their wonderful contribution to Church Mice over the years.

Choir & Music Derek Saunders

With the Mass setting we have alternated between the Rizza and The St Thomas Thorne Mass. There have been some teething problems with the latter but during Lent, the Thorne was becoming more familiar and more accepted by the congregation.

DS has taken over the mantle of selecting hymns. He tends to follow the suggestions given at the back of the AM Hymn book.

With services that have taken place with singing the choir has been on average about 10 in size. This is well up on the previous year. This allows for a good repertoire and DS has made a point of introducing new pieces since September. We have had one significant new member become largely regular– Richard Fletcher (bass).

Rehearsals continue to take place Fridays 630 – 730. The choir also meets regularly at 9.30 before the 10 am service which has proved invaluable for tightening up in certain areas. Members of the congregation have spoken how they enjoy hearing the rehearsal before the service begins.

An organ roster of some regularity and consistency has been established between Dean Ryan, Rachel Pickering and Edward Buxton. They are covering most services and are establishing a good relationship with the musical director and choir.

DS is extremely grateful for the help of Susan Jacobs and Chris Miller for their help with organising the music library. The regular use of the black anthem book has meant we have done less photo copying and indeed there is now scope for reducing some of the music we have. There is also scope for digitalising what we have – this was started recently but soon got aborted.

Looking ahead, we are extremely grateful for the care and consideration given to music and the new extension. We can now see that there will be a larger space to rehearse in, more accessible music shelving and a larger robing wardrobe.

The choir has all but abandoned wearing robes – we wear a mixture of blue /black in most cases. If robes were to be re-introduced, we would like to look for a new style particularly for the female members

Two years ago, RF-M and Dean Ryan investigated the prospect of a new digital organ. The sooner this gets introduced the better. There is a case for raising the money for this as soon as possible and installing it

DS would like to further a previous idea regarding music to be used in reflective services. The original idea was to use a Sunday evening for such an endeavour. We did manage a couple of evensongs this year but did not progress those into a reflective/meditative process.

Whilst expanding the work of the choir and music, DS is always keen to point out the importance of music serving to enhance the message and words of the Church services. This is the main function of the music provided at St Mary with St Alban. DS is extremely grateful for the support of the team of clergy – this harmonious and good working relationship is key to the evolution of music at the Church.

The carol service saw the return of Janet Smith’s orchestra and I would like to express huge thanks to her for the amazing way in which she books all the instrumentalists and then cares for them so brilliantly.

*Other Extra events*: we have managed a few of these over the course of the year. We hosted the Deanery Ascension Day Service and we also produced a Platinum Jubilee service to celebrate the 70 years since the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II but only a few weeks later, a service in honour of her life following her death on 8 September. We then managed to squeeze in an evensong in October. On April 2rd 2023 we managed a second post-covid concert given by Teddington Churches Choir and Teddington Consort led by Janet Smith. The theme was Music for the Lenten Season and we performed admirably in the nearby St Marks Church. Kay Cassidy was again instrumental in organising all this – huge thanks to her.

*Final thanks*

My thanks also go out to all the choir – particularly the regulars but also to some notable irregulars. They have been a source of tremendous strength and their love, friendship and good humour make them wonderful musical companions. This comradery has helped us all get through another extraordinarily challenging year.

Churches Together Malcolm Eady

*For over 55 years the different Christian churches and denominations in Teddington have worked together and supported each other under the framework of Churches Together in Teddington (CTT). They all have the same basic calling - to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people.*

The CTT Council is made up of representatives of the Churches in Teddington, Hampton Wick and Fulwell: the Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, Catholic, and the Church of England It meets four times per year and organises several joint services and events. Co-operation between the churches is good and attendance at the special services held in each other’s churches is high. The web site is: <http://www.teddingtonchurches.org.uk>.

The Chairperson this year was Anne O’Neil from St Mary with St Alban up to September 2022, then Alfie Evans from Teddington Methodist Church.

*Activities:*

Each year the council organise joint services at Easter and in the summer, at Christmas, Carol singing as part of the “Teddington Lights Up” event, a Christmas leaflet for the whole of Teddington, Lent courses, prayer walks and a street collection for Christian Aid.

The main event each year is the Christmas Day Lunch at Elleray Hall.

This year it was the responsibility of *Activate* to organise it. After 2 years of not being able to run this lunch in person, it was great to be able to return to normal and invite people back to the Hall. We did however also offer a delivery option to those who would not be able to get to Elleray Hall in person. For several reasons there were only 35 guests at the meal – 7 had dropped out at short notice from ill health and 4 did not show. Meals were also delivered to 10 addresses. There was a good, positive atmosphere from great volunteers, of which very few of them had done it before. The feedback from the guests was very positive.

The MP Munira Wilson visited and the mayor, because of a prior engagement, just gave a Christmas Video message to the guests.

As well as our main funder, the Hampton Fund, who gave us a grant of £900 to cover costs, we also received 80% of the food for free. This was from *Surplus to Supper*, a charity based in Sunbury, whose sole aim is to bridge the gap between food waste and food poverty. Not only did this help enormously with our costs, but also prevented food from going to waste.

The new big activity this year has been that CTT coordinated the local response *to WarmWelcomeUK*, a campaign to provide free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public in response to the energy and financial crisis this Winter. All the churches, plus *Activate*, collaborated to ensure there was a cosy space, a friendly face and a hot drink and snack for anyone that wanted it, every day of the week from All Souls Day to Easter. A big thanks is recorded to volunteers who gave their time and regular commitment to staff the spaces and to Richmond Council, who provided a generous grant so that we were able to offer free drop-in cafes, a weekly lunch and dinner, a school pick up play space and lots of other community get togethers, as well as free hot water bottles! The project was driven and coordinated by Anne O’Neil.

This Easter (2023) the **Good Friday processions and the Service** on the green, by the Methodist church, were able to take place as normal. One procession started from St Marks’s and was joined by our members at St Mary with St Alban to then walk down the High Street and Broad Street. The second procession came from St Francis de Sales, which joins that from St Michael to walk down Stanley Road. There was then a short service, followed a Vigil by the Cross, with each church taking a half hour period. The service and processions this year were well attended (about 160) and the weather was fine.

At the “**Teddington Lights Up**” evening members from various churches joined the Salvation Army band outside the Park Hotel for carol singing. The location was much less noisy than the High Street, but was felt to be out of the way and missing the atmosphere of previous years

**Christmas cards/leaflets**. These are in the form of a good quality A6 colour Christmas card and provide information about the Christmas services at all the member churches. Over 10, 000 cards are delivered. The cards are distributed by most of the member Churches and there was very positive feedback from residents.

For the **week of Prayer for Church Unity** in January there were short services held each day at one of the member churches, and this year the main Sunday service was held on 22 January at Peter & Paul Centre.

This year the **Christian Aid week collection** was only partially back to normal. We did a “delivery only” collection. A few CTT churches helped with this effort and about 4000 envelopes were delivered to selected roads in Teddington and Hampton Wick. There were instructions on the envelopes about how to return them to the local church which had delivered them. There was also a “Big Brekkie” on the Saturday morning at the Baptist Church to raise money for Christian Add with about 60 helpers and attendees

We are allocated 4 representatives on the council although we currently only have 2, Rev Caroline Halmshaw and Malcolm Eady.

**Nurture Courses**

**Advent course Rev Caroline Halmshaw**

This year our weekly Advent course focused on the beautiful book*, The Art of Advent*, written by Jane Williams. The book explores the great themes of Advent through to Epiphany with thoughts and reflections based on the paintings. The combination of an image and the wise and gentle words of Jane Williams made up an inspiring and engaging Advent course. In each session we had a time of prayer and discussion and included some quiet time for contemplation.

Between 15 and 20 people attended each week and the sessions were led by Sarah Williams, one of our ordinands and Rev Caroline Halmshaw.

*Bible Study* Sarah Rae & Clare Rider

In September, we ran a five-week course to complete our study of the Gospel of Mark, looking at the last five chapters. We started with Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem: his arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection, finishing with the three possible endings of chapter 16.

After we had finished Mark, there was a genuine feeling of disappointment that we had reached the end, so we decided to carry on and chose to study The Acts of the Apostles. Over a six-week period in February and March, we studied the first fourteen chapters of Acts, looking at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We then explored how the Holy Spirit guided and empowered Peter and then Paul to spread the Gospel message and help to establish the early church.

In most of the sessions, run on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, we had at least fourteen people joining and it was lovely to share our thoughts and interpretations of what Scripture was saying to us. Being on Zoom meant people could join the course from wherever they happened to be – one member of the group joined from France for most of the sessions.

We hope to reconvene this Summer to study the remaining chapters of Acts, starting with Paul’s second missionary journey through Asia Minor and Greece.

*Morning & Evening prayer*  Margaret Squire

Morning and Evening prayer were always said every day of the week, generally in church by the clergy, with very few people joining in.

One of the few good things that came out of Covid lock down was that Morning and Evening prayer transferred to Zoom, and continues to be available there, via an App prepared by the Church of England and Church House Publishing. Gathering on zoom for Morning and Evening Prayer has become an important part of daily life for a small group of people.

Morning Prayer is a contemporary language service from Common Worship Daily Prayer, and is a half hour service from 8.30am to 9am.Monday to Friday and beginning at 9am on Saturday. It consists of psalms, readings from the Old and New Testaments and intercession. Both clergy and lay members of the group lead the service, someone responds and others do the Scripture Readings. Prayers can be both lead and open, giving everyone the chance to bring concerns for both people and events before God.

Evening Prayer is very similar in form and starts at 6pm. Monday to Thursday and 5pm Friday and Saturday.

Both services are lead informally, and the choice just to listen or to read is up to individuals. However, the group is a very supportive one and would welcome others who would like to join.

*Parish Quiet Day/Lent course* Sarah Williams

Our Lent journey this year began with a Parish Quiet Day at the House of Prayer, East Molesey. 18 people gathered for a day of reflection and prayer which included the ancient prayer practices of *lectio divina* and imaginative contemplation, a form of meditation developed by St Ignatius of Loyola in the sixteenth century. It was a wonderful day of spiritual reflection and refreshment that allowed us to pause and make ourselves available to God, away from the busyness of our everyday lives.

Our Lent journey continued for the next 5 weeks, concluding in Holy Week, with a weekly discussion and prayer group where we explored the Church of England's Lent resources for this year, Dust and Glory, A Lent Journey of Faith, Failure and Forgiveness. The sessions consisted of interesting discussion as we grappled with the concept of failure in our lives, Bible study and periods of stillness. It was good to see how well attended the sessions were and to spend time together throughout the Lenten period.

Servers Mary Field-Smith

I would like to thank all those who volunteer as servers at the 8 and 10am services on Sunday and the 9.30am service on Wednesday – our regular adult servers include Jean Blanc, Malcolm Eady, David Matthews, Sue Lindenberg, Denis Wheeler, Vanessa Cozens. More recently our two ordinands, Sarah Williams and Sarah Rae, are also helping when they can. We are very pleased to have some younger servers, particularly at the 10am when we need three bodies. Esme, Hannah, Amy-Rose and James all do an excellent job!

As well as carrying out serving duties, four of the team also work behind the scenes, taking it in turns on Saturdays to set up for Sunday, ensuring that everything is ready for worship the next day. One of the servers is also normally present for funeral services.

If you have observed us in church and feel that this is a role you could undertake on an occasional basis, please get in touch. We would be very happy to have you in the team!

Pastoral Care

Working group report Sarah Williams

The Parish Visiting Team (PVT) is part of the church’s pastoral ministry and its role is to offer friendship and a personal link between the church and local community. Most of the PVT work involves supporting the church’s baptism ministry by making connections with our baptism families. We are also part of the church’s longstanding connection with Teddington Memorial Hospital.

Recently, we have bid farewell to three members of the team, Anne Johnson, Tricia Rawson and Anthea Bryan. Anne and Tricia have retired from the PVT and Anthea has moved away from Teddington. All three have been long-standing and committed members of the team. Between them they have visited dozens of baptism families and built wonderful connections with them. They will be missed but they go with our heartfelt thanks for the work, much of which is unseen, that they have done with such dedication over the years.

The church’s baptism ministry continues to thrive. 2022 was a busy year due to the previous disruption caused by Covid with well over 50 baptisms. We are continuing to receive regular requests.

***Work with the sick/lonely/vulnerable***

As noted above, most of the work of the PVT consists of baptism related ministry but as a team, we do keep on our radar anyone who may require pastoral support due to illness or loneliness.

***Teddington Memorial Hospital***

We are very pleased to retain our links with Teddington Memorial Hospital through Sue Stevens, a member of the hospital’s chaplaincy team, who provides regular updates on their work. Sue reports:

*The Teddington Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Visiting Team now has a very multifaith feeling with representatives of four different faiths.*

*The five members cover the week visiting patients in Pam Bryant Ward, an Intermediate Rehabilitation facility. They also liaise with staff, and, on request will visit a patient on Grace Anderson Ward.*

*The two chaplains on the team, one Methodist & one Catholic, can give Communion if desired. Patients and staff seem to appreciate the personal approach and time we can bring to this role.*

Community café Clare Rider & Sarah Rae

The Community Café, held weekly on Monday afternoons at the Peter and Paul Centre, continues to flourish. Since its inception two and a half years ago, it has been lovely to see an increasing number of people come, meet others and develop lasting friendships. Our customers range in age from nonagenarians to new-borns (accompanied by their parents!), with numbers peaking recently at 55 adults, 10 children and 2 dogs visiting over one three-hour session (1.30pm to 4.30pm) in March.

The Café offers a welcoming space with a friendly, calm and positive atmosphere, with many volunteers on hand to chat over coffee, tea and homemade-cake. From the outset we wanted the Café to be more than just another coffee shop, being there for anyone seeking warmth and company, particularly those feeling socially isolated and anxious. Given the focus on promoting mental health, we work closely with Ruils (Richmond-upon-Thames Independent Living Service) and RB Mind whose link workers often come to meet clients at the Café. The Café also signposts local community services and provides information about events and activities in the area. Card games are available during the Café and we also host a book swap scheme and offer greetings cards for sale at reduced prices.

During the winter, the Café participated in the Warm Spaces scheme offered by Churches Together in Teddington with funding from the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, to help those struggling to heat their homes because of rising energy bills. This grant subsidised our own heating costs and enabled us to offer free refreshments to all our Monday guests and to those joining us for an additional Warm Spaces session we offered on Friday mornings until 31 March.

We are immensely proud to have been nominated for a LBRUT Community Heroes Award in the *‘Communities Together’* category and are extremely grateful to our volunteers and cake bakers for making the Café such a success.

Memory Café Sarah Williams

Established in 2017, the Memory Café is a social space for those living with dementia, their carers and those who enjoy companionship. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays at the Peter and Paul Centre. We have a light-hearted quiz at each Café and a sing-a-long to some old favourites once per month. We have repeat guests at every Café who tell us they really appreciate the warm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy a good chat and refreshments. We continue to be well served by a very committed group of volunteers from SMwSA, as well as other churches and the local community.

Diversity & Inclusion

Working group report Cathy Randall

The Diversity and Inclusion Group has continued to meet regularly under the leadership of Chris Darling. The Group has a brief to help our local church and community to respond actively to issues of diversity, inclusion and equality. Because this is a very wide remit, we have decided to focus our efforts on three main areas*: Living in Love and Faith* **(**Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage), anti-racism and disability (visible and invisible).

Over the last year, we have worked to produce a church EDI policy statement and an Inclusive Church statement. The EDI policy statement was approved by the PCC and will be made available on the church website. The Inclusive Church statement will be discussed further, as required, with the PCC and the Clergy Team before it is published.

To mark Black History Month in October, we invited people to join us for a professionally guided walk around the City of London entitled “*Slavery and the City*”. This two-hour walk on a beautiful October afternoon took a large group of us around sites and institutions in the City with a direct link to slavery. The guide was extremely knowledgeable, and we all found it a very thought-provoking and worthwhile experience. Two members of the group subsequently spoke about the walk during a 10am service in church in October.

We have been making good use of our noticeboard at the back of the church, including displaying biographies of significant black figures from history for Black History Month. Other displays have been about Racial Justice Sunday, Autism Awareness week, Carers Week,andDisability Awareness Sunday. We also regularly provide input into the intercessions and ensure that all major public diversity and inclusion events are logged onto the church’s electronic calendar.

We are currently planning more events for the coming year, with the aim of holding at least one large event a year. Through discussion with others, we are looking for ways to make the website, church and church hall more welcoming from a diversity and inclusion perspective. We are always seeking ways to engage our church and congregation with issues of diversity and inclusion and would be delighted to welcome new members.

Sustainability

Working group report James Morris

Sustainability is important to this parish and will only grow in importance in the future as one would expect in a family-orientated community.

2022 was a successful year for us as we hosted the parish’s first Sustainability Festival in September 2022. In January 2023, we also hosted a “*Recycle, Reuse, Regift*” Festival at the Parish Hall. Both events were extremely successful with a great turnout at both, and support from several local business and organisations.

During the year the Parish has also hosted sustainability-focused services around the COP 26 conference in Glasgow in November 2021, as well as around World Earth Day. We also formed a Book Club and hosted a Sustainability Supper Talk. In addition, the parish was awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate from A Rocha in March 2022.

Looking to the future, the sustainability group plans to build on the initiatives completed thus far and maintain the momentum from the sustainability festival. As such, we plan to continue to work towards the Eco Church Silver award and in late 2023 we plan to run our first Carbon Literacy training courses in the community, supporting community members to increase their sustainability, and climate change, knowledge. Finally, we plan to host our second sustainability festival in June 2023 as part of Richmond Council’s Big Green Week.





Links

St Mary & St Peter’s School Rev Mary Hawes

St Mary and St Peter's School continues to be an important part of the life of our parish. The year has not been without its challenges - the underfunding of schools in general has impacted us, as has the increase in energy bills. Headteacher Ms Swain, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors have worked hard to trim budgets whilst continuing to ensure that the children get the best possible education.

Malcolm Eady stepped down as a Governor after many, many years of faithful service as our Deanery representative. We are grateful for all that he has contributed in so many ways.

All the local churches continue to be involved with leading Collective Worship weekly and being Chaplains to each year group. The school has brought several classes down to St Mary's to explore inside and outside the building and learn what it means to be a vibrant Christian presence in the community.

But perhaps the most exciting news is that following a visit from OFSTED in the weeks before Christmas, the school was judged to be Outstanding. Congratulations to the whole community - children, staff, governors and parents. It's good to know that SMSP is a place which lives out its vision, that all in its community should have life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Hampton Deanery Synod Hilary Adamson

*Hampton Deanery Synod comprises 16 churches in our local area: St Michael and St George, Fulwell; St Mary’s, Hampton; All Saints, Hampton; St James, Hampton Hill; St John, Hampton Wick; St Richard, Hanworth; St Mary with St Alban, Teddington; St Mark, Teddington; Holy Trinity, Twickenham; St Mary, Twickenham, All Saints, Twickenham; St Stephen, Twickenham; All Hallows, Twickenham; St Augustine, Whitton; SS Philip and James, Whitton; SS Peter and Paul, Teddington (now Peter and Paul Centre incorporating the Activate Mission Hub).*

*Each meeting comprises a welcome by the Area Dean, who in 2022 was Reverend Tim Garrett from All Saints, Twickenham, short worship and an introduction to the host church, usually led by a minister of that church. Apologies for absence are noted along with the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting with any matters arising dealt with. Every meeting has a theme on which the guest speaker will make a presentation. The meeting concludes with prayer.*

*St. Mary, Hampton. February 22nd 2022*

*National Trends in Youth. Jimmy Dale, the National Evangelism Officer*

Jimmy Dale, the National Evangelism Officer at the Church of England for 6 years, explained the background to his role rising from the recognition that the church needed to do more with its young people.

The number of volunteers has declined, particularly in youth ministry.Further, the largest group which has not returned to church are young parents. There is a risk in being driven by numbers and perhaps it is better to recognize that the church is doing that only the church can do, that is allowing young people to encounter/talk about Jesus/God. Youth culture & behaviors have changed and there is a need to find places where young people meet & then connect to grow the ministry. Mental Health issues are also growing among young people.

There is also a big decline in paid youth workers, so it is necessary to invest in those in post.

Collaborative youth ministry between churches could be the way forward for growth and there must be good leadership from the Vicar.

In response to the presentation, Rev. Garrett commented that it would be lovely to see some active collaborative ventures for children & youth work in the Deanery.

*St Philip and St James Church, Whitton. May 25th 2022*

*Safeguarding. Caryn Webber, Kensington Safeguarding Advisor*

Caryn Webber, Kensington Safeguarding Advisor, gave a short introduction to her background and safeguarding role in the Diocese. Caryn had experience in social work and served as a Parish Safeguarding Officer before taking on this role. She supports training and how to make it easier for those on the ground who handle safeguarding.

The Diocese has invested in a Safeguarding Dashboard which aims:

* to make safeguarding simpler for parishes;
* to measure and report parish compliance – with parish data being automatically collected, and
* to provide Parishes with everything in one place.

The dashboards are based on the requirements set out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and include features that support the new Learning and Development Framework, and the new Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance, and will help navigate all the training people need.

*St John’s, Hampton Wick. November 3rd 2022*

*Vocations. The Reverend Cannon Miles Baker - Area Director of Ministry, Kensington*

Reverend Miles Baker gave an engaging presentation on vocations. He outlined his background and current role which included: the new discernment process; supporting curates; post ordination training and study leave.

Miles’s experiences had indicated a need to invest in people to draw out their vocation and he 3 gave examples of three people who had flourished: one who took on an administrative and safeguarding role; a retired teacher who took on children’s work in the church and schools; and another who is now a curate.

Miles advocated looking for the vocation in what God has provided for you (the congregation and people in the parish), to look within and promote vocation through simple steps: step up (God calling us), step into (filling the gaps) and step through (a door that God has opened to us). He added that working with children and families outperformed all other areas in encouraging growth.

Vocation was alive and the Kensington Area provided more candidates than any other Diocese in the country (only Oxford was close).

*St James, Hampton Hill. February 21st 2023*

Revd. Derek Winterburn, Acting Area Dean, and incumbent of St James led the meeting. He reported that there was a nomination for the Deanery Governor vacancy at St Mary’s and St Peter’s Primary School, Teddington, Matt Young, a member of St Michael & St George, Fulwell and the Assistant Head Teacher at St Paul’s Juniors, London.

Katie O’Connor, Children’s Ministry Support Worker and Apprenticeship Coordinator, London Diocese; Revd. Donna Williams, All Saints, Hampton gave a presentation on Children’s Ministry providing tips and advice on how to approach this, including focus on our welcome, engagement with parents and the wider church body, engaging volunteers and how we teach children about faith through fellowship, learning, fun, prayer & mission.

2nd A Teddington Guides Kathy Gold

*Rainbows*

2022 was a year packed with activities!

In Spring, we had lots of fun learning to work with each other as part of a team and by leading a team through several different activities.

We decorated fans for Mothering Sunday and hunted for eggs at Easter and decorated cakes for the Queen's birthday. In summer, we learned to fix things, work with money and eat healthily. We had 9 new Rainbows throughout the year and saw 5 of our older Rainbows move to Brownies which we celebrated with a Pot of Gold party. In Autumn, we learned about exploring our local area and going somewhere new. We made our own fireworks for Guy Fawkes and had our traditional Riverside moonlight walk to raise money for Children in Need. We finished the year decorating jars for tea tree lights to decorate our home at Christmas.

*Brownies*

At the beginning of the year the Brownies worked on the First Aid Skill Builder and completed it by the end of the Spring Term. We also found time for some Valentine’s Day Baking with heart shaped cookie cutters and celebrated Chinese New Year with themed craft activities. In the Summer term we were given a fascinating tour of the Churchyard and held a street Party for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, went on a hike along the Thames to Kingston and played water games in Udney Park. We continued to tend our 4 adopted graves with regular weeding and some new planting. Finally, in Autumn, we focused on the environment, with a litter pick, run by Geoff Howland from the Teddington Society, a discussion about waste and recycling and a session creating interesting outfits from waste materials followed by a junk fashion modelling show.

*Guides*

We began our New Year with a Burn’s Night of dancing and furry Haggis fridge magnets. We celebrated Chinese New Year and had our own indoor Winter Olympics, including skating on homemade cardboard skis. We concentrated on the environment, looking at packaging, upcycling and our carbon footprint. We ended the term by building bird boxes and making wax wraps.

In the summer term we had a cookout at the hall, played games on the park, enjoyed a penny hike which ended at the local chip shop and learnt new exploring skills. We had a wet but fun day completing the Guiding London Challenge, stopping off for hot chocolate in St Martin’s in the field. We made bespoke cupcakes for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and attended the church parade to celebrate. In July we headed off to Boro camp for an exciting and exhausting weekend with all the other Guide and scout groups in Richmond.

In September we were very excited to award our first 4 Gold awards from the new Guiding programme. Lucy, Isabella , Katie and Grace had been loyal guides all through lock down and finally managed to complete everything needed and were presented with the award on a special evening at Guides. We also celebrated 6 Jack Petchey Awards this year. The guides took part in a quiz and made the Elizabeth tower and Big Ben clock in biscuits for Parliament week. We helped at the Church Bazaar and fitted in another penny hike at the girls’ request. December was action packed with Christmas card making and Ice Skating at Hampton Court. Our Christmas outing was to see the Girlguiding Matilda showing at the Rotunda followed by bowling and a lunch at Pizza Express.

*Rangers*

Our Gold guides and 2 others moved up to Rangers this term and have started working on the Ranger programme as well as joining in with many of the Guide activities.

1st Teddington Scout Group Alex Reynolds

*Scouts (10½ -14 years; Leaders - Alex Reynolds & Miles Barker)*

This year, our fourteen Scouting boys and girls have enjoyed a full programme both locally and further afield, including hiking in the Brecon Beacons. More locally, we have challenged them with indoor climbing, paddle boarding, and air rifle shooting at Ham. They have also had fun with seasonal sporting activities such as ice skating, and refreshed their camp cooking skills by making pancakes, including some interesting topping combinations! Thanks to the 1st Twickenham Scout Group, some of us were privileged to attend a mountaineering talk by Simon Yates of “Touching the Void” fame.

There has been something of a changing of the guard this term, with a cohort of older Scouts moving on and younger Scouts moving up from Cubs. We have appointed a new generation of Patrol Leaders who have benefitted from the Richmond District Patrol leaders' course, and we will be developing their leadership skills over the coming year.

After leading the Scouts section for many years, Alex Reynolds will be stepping down and passing the baton to Miles Barker, who has helped with Beavers and Cub sections for the past five years and is now stepping up to lead this section. We would like to thank Alex for all his energy and humour over the years and wish Miles every success. Of course, we could not deliver the programme without all our volunteers' enthusiasm and we thank them for their cheerful input.

***Cubs (8-10 ½ years; Leader - Ed Wilson)***

This year has been another successful one as we have delivered the programme to over twenty young people. We have been lucky to be supported by a great leadership team of four. This is a slightly lower number than previous years, owing to leaders moving away but we have not reduced our programme. We again managed to take the young people away on an adventure weekend which allowed them to complete the adventure challenge and outdoor challenge badges. Other highlights have included teaching the cubs how to cook using different methods. Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

***Beavers (6-8 years; Leader - Martin Smith)***

Our fifteen Beavers have collectively earnt 120 badges in the last year - including 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards - the highest award available to them. We have been able to have nights away with other Beavers from the District at Walton Firs, working towards their Adventure and Outdoor Awards. The Beavers have learnt safety skills, health & fitness, navigation and cooking. We have welcomed several new members and new helpers, which is wonderful for the diversity of experience, support and opportunities this brings to the Young People. It has been very rewarding to provide opportunities for the Beavers to build their confidence, enabling them to stand up and present what they have learnt from the Disability Awareness topic. We are looking forward to an imminent camping trip and visit to Brooklands Air Museum. The Beavers went home for Easter with runner beans growing and tomato seeds germinating in plant pots they had made - quite literally green shoots for the future! Thank you to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

Activate Anne O’Neil

*Background:*

In April 2020, *Activate* was set up as an incorporated charity under a Bishop’s Mission Order to help Deanery churches engage with local communities in new ways, through sport and wellbeing. Activate is a Deanery Mission Project and is the Diocese of London sport pilot project in the Church of England Sport Learning Community. It is also an Ecumenical collaboration. The original BMO and pioneer license was extended in May 2022 and runs until July 2024.

*Activate* receives funding from a variety of sources – the local authority and national grant bodies, Christian funders, as well as financial support from many generous Deanery PPCs and the Diocese of London.

Trustees are drawn from inside and outside the Deanery. Two trustees stepped down this year - in July 2022 Rev Joe Moffatt handed the role of Chair of Trustees to Anne O’Neil, and in January 2023 Rev Tim Garrett (Area Dean) moved to a new post out of the area. The project is led by Rev Chris Kennedy supported by Operations Manager Sarah Hallett.

In the past 12 months, *Activate* focused activity on three key areas – worship, well-being and youth.

Worship:

1. Midday communion service every Thursday. Hosted at the Peter and Paul Centre
2. Active! Church - a Sunday afternoon sport-based service for young families, followed by a meal. Hosted at St Mark’s Church.
3. Active Fit – a new early Sunday fitness and prayer session at the Peter & Paul Centre.
4. Psalms & Stretch – in conjunction with St John’s Hampton Wick

Wellbeing:

1. Weekly exercise classes ‘Soup & Stretch’ for the elderly, followed by a soup lunch.
2. The Bereavement Journey course and Bereavement café.
3. The Teddington Community Café moved to under operate under the Activate ‘umbrella’

Youth & Schools:

1. Mindful Ninja sessions combining martial arts training with anxiety management strategies, to increase wellbeing and confidence with young people who are struggling at school
2. Weekly football sessions on the Addison estate, giving young people a safe place to play.

Outreach

1. Delivered food parcels during school holidays to those families in need identified by schools.
2. Organised the local Elleray Hall Christmas Day lunch for anyone alone on Christmas Day.

*The Future:*

After three years of hard work, outreach and learning, the project is moving into a new phase. Pioneer Sports Minister Rev Chris Kennedy will move to a new ministry role from July 2023, and Operations Manager Sarah Hallett leaves to begin a course at the Royal School of Needlework. The Trustees of *Activate* have met to discuss 2023-24 plans. We remain committed to the original vision of the project and affirm the need for pioneer ministry. We will be communicating plans for taking the project forward after our May Trustee meeting. Until July, when Chris Kennedy steps down Activate will continue to run activities that focus on community, well-being and invigorating faith.

ALMA Suzie Gordon

The Alma Group has continued to meet this year and we have managed several zoom calls with Father Bulaki and indeed his churchwarden Gabriel Matumba.

We have also been exchanging a lot of photographs and we sent them pictures of us celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee, planting the trees and the visit by the deputy mayor in June. They sent us pictures of the celebrations of their patron saint Santa Maria Madelina in July and the new building of the school at Chimoio which is slowly progressing!

At the end of July the annual Alma Sunday service was held at St Paul’s Cathedral but sadly Bishop Manuel was unable to arrive until a few days later as he had a problem with his visa but he did attend the Lambeth Conference. Robin Field-Smith met the Bishop at Heathrow on his return to Mozambique and gave him a chalice and paten in a case which we have given our link parish on permanent loan alongside a suitcase of spare vestments which the Bishop had requested!

Many problems remain in our area of Mozambique with killings and displacement of people, consequently many in the population are suffering from post-traumatic stress. The highlight of the year has been the visit in November by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Rob the bishop of Edmonton who is also the Alma Bishop and John Tasker who works for Alma and Manna. I met with John Tasker and gave him an easter candle which they had requested and an aspergillium plus some shirts, cottas and chasubles which he very kindly took with him. We have recently had a visit from Bishop Rob and John Tasker who told us all about the visit and showed us lots of photographs. This is very helpful as Caroline and Mary had kindly agreed to make the Bishop of London’s lent appeal “*Healing the Memories*” the focus our lent appeal this year. We raised £1,015 on the day and are hoping to raise nearer to £5,000 which will be sent to train people to work with all the displaced people.

The Alma Group is a very small group and l have appealed on several occasions for members of the congregation to join us and it would be particularly good to have some younger blood!! However, so far no-one has come forward but hopefully the new vicar will take a big interest in this Association?

Fairtrade Susan Jacobs

With the gradual easing of Covid restrictions in 2022, several *Traidcraft* stalls were held in the Hall after church on Sunday mornings at which fairly-traded grocery goods generated interest and sales. There was also a table selling *Traidcraft* items at the Sustainability Day which was well patronized. As in previous years “Real” Advent Calendars and “Real” Easter Eggs were also sold in good quantities at the appropriate time of the year. Caterers for parish events are encouraged to use fairly-traded produce where possible, and the Hall uses fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar (and toilet paper…) for office and parish meetings and for the Community Café at PPC.

As the parish’s nominated representative for *Fairtrade,* I have been much assisted at all events by Angela Kipling to whom I am very grateful.

*Postscript:*

Sadly, December 2022 saw the demise of *Traidcraft* which had not managed to overcome the many extremely unpleasant effects of Covid, War in Ukraine, huge hikes in utility costs and the economic disruption to their business caused by delivery, transportation, and credit difficulties. The company went into liquidation and all *Fairtrade* outlets were stood down with immediate effect. This means there is no longer a “one stop” supplier of *Fairtrade* goods so it will be not feasible to hold after church sales in future.

I do my best to buy fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, wine, chocolate eggs and Advent calendars myself, so please ask me if you would like to buy through me. I encourage everyone to do their best to seek out the *Fairtrade* logo whenever shopping – most supermarkets supply some goods and the Co-op many.

First Wednesday group Susan Jacobs

The First Wednesday group meets on the first Wednesday of most months (excluding Lent, Advent and a break in August) at lunchtime in the Mina Hogan Room in the Parish Hall. Participants are encouraged to bring their own packed lunch and a friend. The topic to be discussed is chosen and advertised on the church website, e-bulletin, the weekly pew sheet and individual email (where known) in advance to facilitate informed debate and questions. Numbers attending vary from between single figures to high teens with an average of 12 depending on the topic and people’s availability. The atmosphere is informal and open to all.

Topics discussed during 2022:

January: Life After Death. [Also offered on Zoom].

February: Are Faith and Secularism a necessity for an equitable plural society? [Also offered on Zoom].

May: All Shall be Well – a discussion about Julian of Norwich, led by Sarah Williams.

June: Ukrainian Refugees and the Parable of the Good Samaritan

July: What is an Interregnum? Guided by Churchwarden Robin Field-Smith

September: For Everything there is a Season.

October: Re-writing History and making amends for the Past….

November: Prayer: how, why whether, when, where?

Handbells Sheila Insley

After a slow start, 2022 was the year that handbell ringing began to return to normal. The handbell team had been practicing regularly since the previous autumn but it was not until the spring that gathering with other teams became possible once more, but still with Covid-19 precautions. We participated in three day-long rallies within the SE Region and it was good to take part in the service at Guildford Cathedral which had been held annually pre-Covid. One team member attended the National Rally in Sheffield which had been postponed from 2020. Closer to home, in June we took part in the Jubilee Picnic in the Park and entertained in church for the Churchyard Teas event. We also entertained at various venues - Walton Blind Club, Twickenham St Stephen’s Lunch Club and Fullerton Court.

We were busy at the end of the year with carols at Squires Garden Centre, the Church Bazaar, Teddington Memory Cafe, Hampton WI, Fullerton Court and an evening with St James’s Weybridge Handbell Ringers. We were pleased to have a new ringer join us in the year and are looking forward to 2023 when we shall celebrate 20 years since the formation of St Mary Teddington Bells.

We appreciate the expertise and encouragement of our Musical Director Grant O’Sullivan, and, as always, continue to be grateful to St Mary’s for the use of the bells and the safe space in the Parish Hall for practice and storage.

Parish Plod 2022 - *Jubilee Greenway* Katherine Matthews

Having finally completed the Capital Ring walk in Spring 2022 (having had several delays during the pandemic), the parish plodders were keen to continue their ambles around London. The aim of the group is to walk in faith and friendship as we enjoy familiar, and indeed not so familiar, sights and sounds in our capital city and beyond.

The Jubilee Greenway was completed in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The walk is 60km long – one kilometre for each year of the Queen’s reign in her Diamond jubilee year and it links together all the major sites of the Olympic games - and it therefore seemed an appropriate choice in 2022 given the celebrations for the Queen’s platinum jubilee in June although this was sadly followed by her death in September.

The walk covered some sections walked on the Capital Ring but we were still able to enjoy many new sights on this circular walk which begins and ends at Buckingham Palace. We walked each month from May to December through all weathers – who can forget the hot temperatures experienced in July & August -along the Regent’s Canal towards Mile End and then Woolwich and back along the South side of the Thames towards Tower Bridge and back to the Palace.

The members of the group are of varying ages (around 28 years to 82) and its size comprises a core number of around 15 people but normally increased by friends and other family members on an ad hoc basis. There is no limit! Starting times and journeys to the start are notified in advance and each walk takes around 3-4 hours to complete with a lunch break.

The group seems to have filled a gap in the church’s outreach – gathering away from the church itself to enjoy gentle exercise, interesting conversation and have company while discovering more about where we live. The Plodders have recently started a new plod – the Thames Path – and anyone interested in joining in would be most welcome.

Parish Pub Lunch Trish Raffetto

2022 was a year of transition for our coffee/lunch group. The Covid pandemic had seen us hunker down to weekly zooms which provided a welcome and enjoyable lifeline, especially for many who were elderly and isolated from their families. We then gradually began to emerge to brave the elements and started to meet up in chilly outdoor spaces. Overtime, however, with the lessening of fears and government regulations, we felt more comfortable about meeting up regularly and about taking advantage of our lovely Teddington cafes and restaurants once again. For those more comfortable with remaining at home, we continued to have our weekly zooms.

As 2022 progressed we decided to cut back our zooms to once a month and to return to our pre-pandemic schedule of meeting regularly for both a coffee gathering and a lunch once a month. The support and camaraderie of these get togethers are much appreciated and we have also been delighted to welcome some newcomers during the year.

The function of this group is purely social and provides an opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed setting. All are welcome and we look forward to continuing this fellowship in 2022.

Plain & Pearl Suzanne Strachan

*Plain and Pearl* is a friendly social all-inclusive group of people drawn together through love of knitting and crafting.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at St Mary’s Parish Hall Teddington.

Since September 2022 when we resumed meeting in person, we have welcomed quite a few new members to the group bringing a lot of new ideas and enthusiasm. Our session attendance has increased, between 12-20 people, and sometimes more.

We have had a variety of workshops and events such as:

* Wreath making and Christmas social in December which is always popular and commands high turnout.
* January Knitting month where we held series of weekly knitting masterclasses for newbies as well as more experienced knitters. This proved so popular that the sessions were all sold out.
* Invisible and visible mending techniques for knitwear
* Framed flower embroidery with buttons and beads
* Candle making using vintage cups.
* Craft material swap - a well-attended event by not only members but many local crafters.

We also participated in the Teddington sustainability Festival and as well as St Mary's Parish hall pre Xmas bazaar where we sold our makes and raised funds for charity, £140 in the case of former and £1000 in the case of the latter.

Looking ahead we have few upcoming new exciting events including Japanese mending workshop and crochet squares for yarn bombing.

Anyone interested in joining our group, please contact: josie@teddingtonparish.org.

**Traherne Reading group Gerry Gregory**

We have continued our study of the poems and prose of TT as well as those of other writers (mostly, but not only, near contemporaries) on church and religious themes. We have also read some Old English, Middle English and 20th/21st century items on similar themes.

In addition to acknowledging very inspirational Traherne passages - especially those celebrating the beauty of the natural world - particularly as viewed in childhood - we have been struck by patterns in the *form* patterns in his work (including a tendency to offer *lists*); and dominant *inspirational* passages.

In reading the work we have been struck particularly by the extent of *change* in the English language that has occurred over four centuries.

We sometimes write and share TT pastiches to understand better the features of his work.

Welcare Margaret Squire

*Welcare* is a Christian family support charity and has supported families in south London and East Surrey for 128 years. Its mission is to help children and families overcome challenges and build a better future. This work is underpinned by its faith base and desire to respond to need with loving service. St Mary with St Alban and other Anglican churches in the Hampton deanery support the work to the north of the river Thames and enables the charity to continue to deliver a social worker managed, professional family support service for local children and families living in the London Borough of Richmond.

St Mary’s supports *Welcare* with two annual events: carol singing at the Anglers Pub in Teddington which raised £473 and the Lent Lunch which this year raised £760.

*Welcare* provides practical and emotional support and advice for families with children up to the age of 13 who have experienced domestic abuse and parental conflict, emotional and well-being issues, social isolation or the challenges caused by low income and the cost-of-living crisis.

In recent years *Welcare* has extended its care to children up to the age of 13, which has tended to be a forgotten group. They run a parenting course that reaches out to families from a wide range of backgrounds and problems, including the misuse of drugs and the experience of domestic abuse. One to one support as well as group work is available. In schools group work can be arranged for children experiencing problems at home, such as witnessing domestic abuse.

Trained Volunteer mentors can be arranged for children aged from 8 to 13, who have attended one of the groups, or whose family has been supported by *Welcare*. Mentors are closely supervised by *Welcare* staff, the objective being to build and enhance a child’s confidence and to find alternatives to challenging behaviour.

*Welcare* is grateful for prayerful support and financial contributions. If you would like to support *Welcare* in its mission to support vulnerable children and families, you can donate through the website at: <https://welcare.org/getinvolved/donate/>; sign up to the quarterly newsletter: <https://welcare.org/news-listing/newsletter/> or visit the website at: [www.welcare.org](http://www.welcare.org).

CHARITABLE GIVING 2022

