# paper 2: Churchwardens’ report for APCM 23 May 2022

This has been a very challenging year, but as we approach ‘Holy Trinity 175 years’ we have much to celebrate and a great deal to thank God for.

## background

This report covers the main activities of our parish since our last APCM on 28 July 2021. During this period our parish has continued in vacancy. Chalfont St Giles was also in vacancy until Rev Dan Beesley was licensed as Rector on 27 January 2022. We have been delighted to welcome him to the Benefice.

# The leadership teams

As with most other activities in the country, Covid-19 made planning and delivering services unpredictable and at times very challenging. During these demanding times Holy Trinity has been excellently supported by the Benefice Assistant Priests Rev Jenny Tebboth and Rev Paul Henderson, both of whom have gracefully led most of our services throughout this period. Without their generosity, difficult days would have been even tougher.

Janna Holder has diligently and energetically led an All-Age service nearly every month and stepped up to cover morning services at very short notice. She has masterminded our AV operations and supplied all the music for our services, whilst continuing her work as our Children’s and Families Worker. Her support, enthusiasm, creativity, and loyalty have been invaluable. We have also been delighted to welcome from Chalfont St Giles, Lay Readers Peter Miles and Garry Walton, both of whom have been to preach, and Peter has led services as well. Our Licensed Lay Minister Linda West has also been able to support some services.

## Support from other clergy

During the autumn and early winter, we were able to secure support from clergy outside of the Benefice. We were fortunate to be able to do this as Amersham Deanery had 6 clergy vacancies, so clergy were a scarce resource! We were delighted that Rev Jennifer Locke was able to lead a couple of services. We also welcomed Rev Gill Lovell, the Parish Development Officer, who led 2 services as did Rev Sue Cady who also stepped in at the last minute to take a baptism. Rev Adrian Manning cheerfully led our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass despite travelling through some awful weather.

## PCC

The PCC have met regularly to discuss all aspects of our church life and how we may best manage our stretched resources. They have thoughtfully considered a wide variety of issues and considered how best to accommodate the challenges of demanding and changing times. We are blessed to have them serving Holy Trinity, they bring a wide range of skills and experiences and always endeavour to come to a wise conclusion. We are privileged to have Olwyn - as lay chair she brings a wealth of experience to the role. Audrey’s calm, practical and vigilant service as our long-term Treasurer is an inspiration.

Our PCC members are - Olwyn Davison Oakley (Lay chair), Audrey Hardy (Treasurer), Mark Webb, Nora Bennett, Sue Puttergill, Linda West (LLM), Janna Holder (Children’s & Families Worker) and Churchwardens Janine and Jane. Kathy Campbell acts as minute taker.

We thank Jan Payne, Lois Henley-King, Richard Campbell and Tim Worsfold for their diligent service as they step down from the PCC.

# Services and seasons

We have been able to hold and live stream all the services we planned. This seems quite remarkable considering the impact of Covid-19 on society generally, the fluctuating levels of infection and the resultant changing advice about easing restrictions and varying attitudes to risk when meeting others outside the household.

## Regular Monthly services

**8am:**

1st & 3rd Sunday-BCP Communion Service

**10am:**

1st Sunday-All-Age Service

2nd Sunday-Holy Communion Service

3rd Sunday-Morning Praise Service

4th Sunday-Holy Communion Service

5th Sunday-Holy Communion Service

## Other services

During the season of Trinity our Benefice clergy, Children’s and Families Worker and Churchwardens were able to establish a rhythm of service planning, organisation and mastery of Power Points and AV.

In August Paul Henderson led our Climate Sunday service.

In September we joined with SGBC for Paul and Alison Bosson’s commissioning service ahead of their departure to Uganda.

In October Janna led an afternoon All-Age Harvest Experience which gave an opportunity for all ages to come along and take part in activities in person.

The season of Remembrance began on Saturday 30 October with the opportunity to ‘Light a Candle’ to remember a loved one. The church was open 10am-3pm. On Sunday morning we held our All Saints Service and at 3pm our All Souls Service.

On Sunday 14 November, Remembrance Day, an outdoor service for the village was held at the War Memorial, attended by over 400 people. This was led by Rev Louise Gilbertson, and supported by Rev Jenny Tebboth and Janna Holder.

## Advent and Christmas

After much deliberation we settled on, and were able to hold:

* An All-Age Christingle Service in person
* A Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols was also held in person and online
* ‘A village nativity, Take 2’ online only
* Christmas Eve Midnight Mass in person
* Christmas Day Communion online only

## School service

In March we were delighted to welcome Seer Green School for a service in church for the first time in over two years. See Janna’s report for lots more information about her work in schools.

## Easter

This Easter we were delighted to have a full range of services and events, starting on Maundy Thursday evening with a shared meal accompanied by reflections in the Three Horseshoes. This was a new venture with over 20 people gathering.

On Good Friday we were once again able to hold our joint service with Seer Green Baptist Church at Holy Trinity followed by a Walk of Witness finishing at the Baptist Church with refreshments.

‘An Hour by the Cross’ in the afternoon was a quiet reflective service.

On Easter Day we held 8am BCP Communion Service and at 10am All-Age Easter Day Service with Communion followed by an Easter egg hunt.

## Special services

We have held one wedding this year with three more to come. We have a brisk schedule for baptisms which Jenny Tebboth and Janna are managing.

We have held two memorial services and one funeral.

## Benefice Services

As in recent years, we have alternated hosting a Benefice service for Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day with Holy Trinity hosting an Ascension Day Service in the morning service. This is a new time.

# Activities and new ventures

## September tea party

In September we were able to finally gather for a belated farewell tea for Cassa, Myles, and the girls and to say hello to people we hadn’t seen for a while. It was lovely to be together in the September sunshine.

## Toddlers in the woods

Is an exciting new venture which started in autumn term. It is led by Ali Cork and is supported by an enthusiastic group of regular helpers.

‘We don’t go outside, we are outside’ is for all pre-school children accompanied by a responsible adult. It is every Friday in termtime, 9.30am- 10.30am in The Centenary Clearing, Crutches Wood, Jordans. Listen to Ali’s interview with BBC 3 radio and read the article on the Diocese website.

## Pastoral Care Group

This established caring group, facilitated by Heather, have continued to offer support to those facing difficult times.

## Prayer Group

Led by Linda, Muriel and Ali, members of the Prayer and Intercession group pray daily and in strict confidence for those who request prayers.

## 8 O’Clock Club

Led by Monica Sado, the 8 O’Clock Club started again in October, meeting monthly in the Seer Green Baptist Church. We are very grateful to Monica for her amazing work and the variety of speakers and subjects that she selects.

## Care for the Environment & COP 19 & 26

See Nora’s excellent report detailing our care for the environment initiatives. We have been delighted to use the Diocese resources in this matter to encourage interest and understanding of climate issues. These resources were helpful during the run up to COP26. At Christmas we highlighted ‘glitter free’ Christmas tips.

## Wednesday study group & Thursday discussion groups

These have continued uninterrupted taking place on Zoom and more recently in person. Janine was able to continue her support and membership from South Africa.

## Alpha course

This spring Janna has led a course jointly with Louise Gilbertson SGBC.

## Bishop Steven’s visit to Amersham deanery

On 5th May a small group from Holy Trinity went to St Mary’s Chesham to attend a short service followed by a reflection from Bishop Steven and a Q&A session. Janna had created a story board about Holy Trinity for an exhibition for the evening.

# Vacancies

The two clergy vacancies during the pandemic have undoubtedly tested us all in many ways. We were blessed to have had Cassa and Ian with us, they achieved much, and they left us with skills, spirit and commitment to do our best with the opportunity and challenge created by vacancy.

At Holy Trinity we have had much work to do. Firstly we contributed to the search and recruitment of our Rector, and it was with delight we heard that Dan had been appointed. In January our vacancy group began work on our profile, we have now advertised our vacancy and are in the interview process stage.

# Communications

Holy Trinity uses many ways to communicate with congregation, community and beyond. We have been able to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We continue to live stream nearly all our services to our YouTube channel, and we hope that this offers access and a feeling of inclusion to those unable to come along in person, whatever the reason. We also stream special occasion services such as weddings, baptisms and funerals if requested. We have a small team who have brilliantly acquired new skills and quietly cope with the vagaries of technology. Thank

you Janna, Janine, Carole and Lois.

Zoom has continued to serve us for study groups, PCC meetings, Benefice planning meetings, vacancy team meetings, meetings with the Deanery team, Section 11 & 12 meetings and of course our APCM meeting this year.

Janna maintains our lively Facebook page which posts news of all we do and highlights prayer suggestions, for example COP26 and Thy Kingdom Come, the 10 days of prayer. David Wall maintains our website and brilliantly keeps it up to date. We are deeply grateful for his diligent and resourceful approach.

The Parish Magazine team have been able to produce and distribute all editions as planned. In the summer the marvellous magazine editors organised afternoon get together tea parties for distributors and contributors. These events were very much appreciated and enjoyed. The editorial team of Sue, Carol and Phil are to be congratulated, every month they produce lively, interesting and colourful editions that appeal to all ages.

Our very hard-working pew sheet editors Geoffrey, Pam and Nora produced a pew sheet nearly every week last year. We have moved to monthly editions this year which we are trialling. These are emailed to about 125 households with 8 delivered by hand.

Finally in late November we delivered to every household in both villages our joint Christmas card which details Christmas services at Holy Trinity, SG Baptist church and the Quaker Meeting House in Jordans.

# Returning to church

We have been delighted to see more people return to church in person, it is lovely to be together for worship. We hope that more of the congregation and new members will come along.

We are very glad to have among our number, those who take pride in creating a welcome, comfortable, clean and attractive church. Thank you to our lovely side people(welcomers), our conscientious cleaners and our fabulous Flower Guild. Thank you to those who read and those who prepare prayers(intercessors), and thank you to Ann our Sacristan. Thank you to those who open and close the church daily. These are all such important services that contribute to and enrich the life of our church and community.

As you read this report, we hope that you too will find much to give you comfort and confidence about the life of our church, which despite the demand and difficulties of the last year is still a warm welcoming and busy place, that is still aiming to ‘live and share Christ’s love’.

***Jane Spoerry and Janine Dunnell, Churchwardens***

***7 May 2022***

**Paper 6: Annual Buildings Report 2022**

The following is a summary of the works undertaken on the Church, Churchyard and Parish Church Hall between August 2021 and May 2022.  Further details are available in PCC minutes and also in the record of works log.

During 2021 and 2022 the church and buildings were insured once again by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Regular maintenance was undertaken as required.  This included fire extinguisher servicing, heating servicing, and air conditioning servicing (Church Hall).  There has also been clearance/tidy-up of hedges at the Parish Church Hall, and repairs to roof tiles on the church, and to the toilet door lock in the vestry.

Some light fittings have been replaced in the church to allow LED lights to be used, and broken bulbs have been replaced with LED lights wherever possible.

Dennis Munden has continued the maintenance of the churchyard, cutting the grass, evening out the bumps, and planting some bulbs along the fences.  Our grateful thanks to Dennis for all his hard work.

Many thanks to **all** who help with the upkeep of the buildings, in particular Mark Webb.

***Janine Dunnell***

***Churchwarden***

***May 2022***

**Paper 7: Amersham Deanery Synod Report 2022**

The Amersham Deanery Synod meets quarterly and from September 2021 has met in person

again. Peggy Ludlow is the sole Area Dean as Martin Williams resigned on 16 September

2021 due to work and family commitments. Lawrence Tebboth (Jenny’s husband) continues

as the Lay Chair. Our Deanery Synod is a dynamic, outward looking gathering at which we

learn about issues important to church life, including the mysteries of the workings of the

Church of England!

At the September 2021 meeting, there was a presentation from Brian Ludlow (Peggy’s

husband) about Occupational Health issues in the pandemic, and especially stress, and

whether these were balanced or worsened by faith. Gill Lovell also presented some

learnings and questions as churches recover and rebuild after the pandemic. Jane Spoerry

attended this meeting on behalf of Holy Trinity.

At the November 2021 meeting the focus was on the finances of the Deanery, and the

Parish Share allocation. Appointments were made to the Mission and Pastoral Committee

within the Deanery. There was also an update from Honduras. No one from Holy Trinity

was able to attend this meeting.

At the March 2022 meeting there was a presentation from the Wycombe Deanery

Discipleship Training Centre that runs a one-year course for young people interested in

ministry. There was also an introduction by the LLF Advocate for Buckinghamshire on the

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) course from the Church of England. There was discussion

about this course in small groups. Very few parishes have run the course, mainly due to

other priorities during the pandemic.

Slides of presentations can be found on the Amersham Deanery Synod website.

The Deanery pilgrimage to Oberammergau scheduled for June 2022 is now full.

All Deanery Synod meetings are open, though only Synod members can vote, so do watch

the pew sheet for any talks which interest you. The Deanery Synod is an important part of

the working of the Church of England, so please do pray for its work, your present

representatives and for more people in our congregation to become interested in being

Synod members.

***Janine Dunnell***

***Deanery Synod representative***

***May 2022***

**Paper 8: Eco Church Annual Summary, 2022**

Activity since 2021 APCM report - categories are those used by the Oxford Diocese at their

online Eco Hub.

**1) Liturgy -**

a. **Holy Climate Sunday service, 15/08/2021**, including a recording of the sermon given by

Rev Dr David Gregory at CSG’s Climate Sunday service and slides/music selections.

b. **COP26 related** -

i. **Sunday communion 31/10/2021, the opening of COP26** - prayers for its success

were offered as part of our Sunday communion service and information was

included in notices read out.

ii. **Pew sheet prayers** - Throughout the run-up to COP26 and during the

negotiations, the pew sheet regularly included prayers for its success.

**2) Teaching and learning –**

**a. COP26 related** –

i. **Facebook page** - Teaching and self-examination points, relating to COP26 and

stewardship of the environment, were offered weekly on the Facebook page for

two months starting 16/08/2021.

ii. **Bulletin board** set up at the back of the church during this period with

information and QR code links about COP26.

**b. Pew sheets** currently regularly include a link to the Diocesan Environment hub, and Jane

has included helpful tips, e.g. ‘glitter free Christmas’ ideas

**c.** **Eight O Clock Club** – this club is sponsored by Holy Trinity although hosted at the Baptist

Church; it regularly offers speakers on nature and environmental issues, e.g. the

February 2022 talk on Global Warming by local expert Bob Hall. Many thanks to Monica

Sado for running this organisation.

**3) Outreach –**

**a. Sandwich board for COP26** - Beginning 31/10 and for several weeks the sandwich board

outside the church alerted those using the footpath about CofE’s position on the

environment crisis and COP26 and provided QR links to information.

**b. CSG Eco-church committee** - online meeting 9/11/2021, attended by Nora Bennett as

HT’s Eco-church member. I am on the online mailing list and attend these when I can to

share information and inspiration – I was unable to attend the February 2022 meeting.

**c. Meeting with Louise Gilbertson** – Nora met Louise, the minister at Seer Green Baptist

Church, 15/11/2021 to discuss cooperation on environmental matters between the two

village churches in the wake of the Baptist Church gaining their A Rocha Bronze award in

2021. Louise expressed interest in the two churches holding joint outdoor services, and

two have been scheduled for May and July 2022.

**d. Meeting with Marion Cox** – Nora met Marion, Baptist Church Eco Church champion,

30/11/2021, to learn more about their experience and investigate possible joint action.

Following up on this, Nora submitted an article on the Baptist Church wildlife refuge

area for the Parish magazine but it was omitted from the May issue, editor says they will

publish it for July.

**e. Toddlers in the Woods** – Since September 2021 Ali Cork has run a weekly toddler group

in Crutches Wood, encouraging young children to love nature and be comfortable with

the outdoors. The group ran successfully throughout the winter and is now enjoying

warmer days. Assistants include Nora Bennett, Bridget Day and Rachel Gibson, and

Janna attends sometimes including the pre-Christmas 2021 and pre-Easter 2022

meetings.

**f. Parish magazine articles** relating to environmental issues – in addition to the features

listed here, the magazine provides monthly reports on the Allotment Association, Seer

Green Gardeners, and Toddlers in the Woods, all relating to our local environment.

i. May 2022 – local birds Red Kite and Crow; Jordans Climate Action; map &amp;

description for local walk; Eight O’Clock Club talk on local geology.

ii. Apr 2022 –LED lights in Holy Trinity; Bucks Council policy on Swift nest boxes

iii. Mar 2022 – Eight O’Clock Club global warming talk in February; local

Blackbirds; Ash Dieback disease

iv. Feb 2022: Dutch Elm disease; local bird the Great Spotted Woodpecker

v. Dec 2021/Jan 2022: Water Aid; local bird the Eurasian Jay

vi. Nov 2021: Recycling of small electrical devices; recycling of Parish magazine

vii. Oct 2021 – local bird the Redwing; map and description for local walk

viii. Sep 2021 – Holy Trinity wins A Rocha Bronze award; Toddlers in the Woods;

Churches Count on Nature event in June 2021

ix. Jul/Aug 2021 – local bird the Swift

x. Jun 2021 – Janna’s ‘Thought for the Month’ on nature in Seer Green; Wildlife

Detectives

**4) Advocacy** –

**a. Fair Trade** –

i. Holy Trinity hosted Margaret Dykes’ Tradecraft stall at Christmas and at Easter.

ii. Nora shadowed Margaret Dykes 29/11 when she presented Fairtrade at the CSG

primary school to see what advocacy for this would involve. Would benefit from

someone else being on the HT Eco Church committee to help take this further.

**b. Time is Now declaration** - as part of the Climate Sunday programme on 15/08/2021, the

PCC agreed HT ‘signing’ The Climate Coalition’s ‘The Time Is Now’ declaration calling on

the government to lead the world in tackling climate change.

**c. Global Day of Action** - Nora and Jenny Tebboth, CSG Associate Priest, marched in

London 6/11/2021 with a Tearfund group for the Global Day of Action for the Climate.

Information and an invitation to join them were provided to the congregation via the

pew sheet both at HT and CSG.

**5) Technical** -

**a. Parish return carbon footprint data** - Data on hours of use of the church in the past

year, and figures from the past 12 months’ utility bills, to be gathered and submitted to

the CofE as part of our online parish return.

**b. Church Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme** - £150 grant under the Church Energy

Efficiency Grant Scheme was received from the Diocese in January 2022, after prolonged

chasing, covering part of the cost of the updates done in 2019/2020 (weather stripping,

draft curtain).

**c. Churchyard** –

i. Following discussion of churchyard management at the 28/03/2022 PCC

meeting, a churchyard policy has been drafted and will be submitted to PCC for

approval. This is something A Rocha advocates, to aid in managing church land

in line with environmental principles.

ii. Initial research into costs for removal of the compost/turf pile in the southwest

corner of the churchyard was undertaken; suggested costs ranged from £450 +

VAT upwards. Operators expressed concern that the composition of the pile was

not fully known, and that costs could increase unexpectedly based on this. To

be discussed.

**d. Replacement of energy inefficient lighting** - the recommendation from our 2019

sponsored energy audit.

i. Local electrician Mark Podbury supplied and fitted 3x high level LED floodlights

in nave and choir including new dedicated fittings, and 2x LED replacement

round bulbs in the choir, for a total invoice of £324 (which Mark Webb

considered to be a fair price.) The work took Mark P and his assistant most of

the day. The invoice has been submitted and paid.

ii. Mark was unable to replace one of the lamps in the nave because the wiring has

perished and it will require a ‘scissors’ type scaffold and removing pews to

access it. Mark recommended local street and festival lighting firm SparksX

based in Wendover but they do not have a scissors lift and suggested we will

need a specialist church electrician. To await our new minister and the

opportunity for fundraising events.

Further potential work towards A Rocha’s Silver award:

**1)** **Register as a Fairtrade Church**. CSG have this registration. To achieve it would require us to

a. Get approval from the PCC

b. ONLY use Fairtrade products in church hospitality (e.g. biscuits and tea at services).

c. Provide advocacy about Fairtrade to local community groups. Means someone in HT has

to be willing to carry on with it, though Margaret suggests this could be somewhat of a

joint effort.

**2)** **‘Invest ethically’**. CSG are pursuing this by changing the funds they invest in. We don’t have

this option but could consider changing our savings/current account to an ‘ethical’

alternative. Would require investigation and approval by the PCC.

**3) Commit to ‘pray for’ a specific overseas environmental project**. The Baptist church supports

and prays for ‘Wellfound’. Nora to raise this issue at next meeting of Charity committee.

**4) Regular participation in ‘sustainability initiatives’** – suggestions from A Rocha are ‘Earth

Hour’ in March, ‘Plastic Free July’ in July and ‘Carbon Fast’ in Lent. Would require

PCC/minister’s approval and someone to organise information for pew sheet and Facebook

at relevant times.

***Nora Bennett, Eco Church member for PCC***

***1 May, 2022****.*

**Paper 9: Safeguarding Report 2021-2022**

Since the last APCM, all PCC meetings have continued to be online. Safeguarding continues to be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting, and this year there has only been one recorded safeguarding incident.

Much work has been done to ensure that the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is up to date and gives a strong picture of the priority that safeguarding is given in Holy Trinity. New sections are added periodically and these are worked though as they arise.

Following the update of the Safeguarding Pathway for Church Officers this year, it has been a priority that all PCC members have completed the Foundation Level training.

It was noted that during the year our Safeguarding Advisor became no longer available and that if contact was needed, we should use our Safeguarding Case Worker, Emma Hooper. On the occasions when I needed to speak to her, she was extremely helpful.

All DBS checks are now current, and Confidential Declaration Forms are in place for everyone. Safer Recruitment Guidelines are a standard procedure for all new volunteers.

The Pastoral Care team have met throughout the year, and I have been able to join these meetings. Safeguarding information has been added to their list of organisations that can be contacted for help.

Throughout the year we have been reminded on a number of occasions about the core safeguarding principles:

* Promoting a Safer environment and culture
* Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
* Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
* Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
* Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
* Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The 8 O’Clock Club has been reaffirmed as a church approved activity and safeguarding checks have been undertaken.

At last, the safeguarding file in church has been reorganised and many of the documents in there have been archived so that it is easier to check documents that are current. However, the vast majority of documents and records of training, DBS etc, are now kept online on a large spreadsheet, originally set up by Lois Henley-King and currently maintained by me.

Many thanks to everyone for their constant support this year.

***Olwyn Davison-Oakley***

***Safeguarding Officer, Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans***

**Paper 10: Electoral Roll Report, 2021-2022**

This year there has been a decrease in numbers on the roll by seven due to departures of individuals from the area and one death.

The attached figures indicate an overview of roll numbers since 2007/8.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2007/8 | 2008/9 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
| 107 | 129 | 134 | 138 | 134 | 106 | 106 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 Revision | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| 108 | 109 | 106 | 103 | 116 | 120 | 118 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021/22 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 111 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***Heather Rowe***

***Electoral Roll Officer***

***May 2022***