



St. James

FLETCHAMSTEAD

"Deeper in and further out"

Annual Report 2022

Annual Parochial General Meeting

1.15pm, 2nd April 2023

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Annual Parochial Meeting Agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of 2022 AGM

Election of Church wardens

Appointment of deputy wardens

AOB

Annual General Church meeting

Agenda

Minutes

Reports

Elections:

Treasurer and secretary

5 PCC members

2 Deanery Synod members

Future vision

Vicar's Report 2022

'Deeper in and further out'

Empowering leadership.

Gift-orientated ministry

I begin with a thank-you to all of you and all who have given time and talents over the last year. Thank you to all who have ministered in leadership. In 2018 we created a new larger Leadership team. It has been exciting to work with this team and see them stepping up in leadership.

A new Pastoral team was created and trained and launched early 2020. This has taken up the need to connect with people and particularly those not in life groups during the pandemic. It has continued to connect by telephone calls and support. Anne and Helen have led this so effectively.

Passionate spirituality.

Our corporate prayer meetings on Thursdays at 7pm have been well supported. This has a faithful group who pray week by week.

I have been encouraged with the engagement by so many of the congregation with the bible readings and thankful for so many contributing to written reflections.

Inspiring worship.

22 was the year of returning in terms of congregation numbers. A gentle growth as the congregation found their way back to Sunday Gatherings. This showed at Christmas with the numbers at Carols and the early evening Christmas eve Communion.

We have been wonderfully blessed by our musicians of both generations leading us. We have made some tentative steps towards re-introducing Prayer ministry and in 23 we will take this forward. The Café time returned and has been a great way for encouragement and congregation meeting. We have seen many people share 'Faith stories' and use Spiritual gifts.

Holistic small Groups.

These groups are a key part of discipleship and fellowship. There were 5 running with over 40 people taking part in 22. We look forward to growing these in 2023.

Need-orientated outreach.

As a church we support the food banks. A Life Group has links with St. Judes, residential home. The community shop is a place where people can be supported. We were able to be generous in giving away profits to the



community. Jigsaw and Open Doors are activities where we invite in the community and continue to meet needs.

The group producing prayer shawls is thriving and these are being received with thanks. The 'Community fun day' in May was a great success. We have congregation members who work for Hope Coventry. It's a blessing to support them.

A group has taken part in the Evangelism Hub which ran from September 21 until September 22. We will continue to encourage people to engage with the 4 key activities: Pray for 5, take 15 minutes a day for scripture study/ prayer, share Faith Stories, and look for connections to invite others.

Loving relationships.

The pandemic saw many church members step up in showing love and care to congregation members and neighbours. This continued in 22.

Functional Structures.

The PCC along with the leadership team have meet and help to lead us forward. In September 2018 we had a church away day to look at vision. With two tracks of growth identified: **A. Growing as disciples who make Disciples, and B: Meeting and transforming the community.** We are refocusing on these again in 2023.

Personal Notes Firstly Thank you to Kathy for her support of me and her sacrificial ministry to the church. 2022 for us was a year of sickness. My thanks go to those who have encouraged and supported Kathy and I, and who have upheld us in prayer, please keep praying for us. We really value the encouragement.

Yours in the Father's love



Looking forward in 2023:

Continue emphasis on mission; re-introduce Prayer Ministry

Growing Discipleship: to use Life shapes and Father Heart of God teaching

Focus on: A: Growing as disciples, who make disciples, and B: Meeting and transforming the community.

Parochial Church Council

The Clergy: Steve Burch (Vicar since 2004)

Officers: Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019)

Des French (Warden since 2022)

Des French (Secretary since 2020)

Dave Cuttler (Treasurer since 2022)

Members: Emmanuel Davidson; Sue Clayden; vacancy. (Until 2025)

Anne Lancaster; Trecia Davdson; Marlene Pearson. (Until 2024)

Jonathan Burch; Dwayne Cooke; vacancy. (Until 2023)

Other Roles: Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Lancaster (since 2017)

Gift Aid Officer: Jonathan Burch (since 2016)

Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Clayden (since 2022)

Deanery Synod Reps: Tim Pollard; Jess Day Pollard.

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Its business is to “work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,” by working with the Vicar and the leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The PCC met 5 times in 2022 . Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items. A number of items were discussed/agreed, including staffing, services, link to the ‘Bridge’ group of churches, Leading Evangelism course, Warm Space; Gas, electricity and telecoms contracts.

Our charitable giving in 2022 included: Core Charities: Coventry City Mission £1000; Coventry Youth for Christ, £1000; Gilead Health Development, £1000; Bible Society, £1000; Theophilus Bible Club, £500; HOPE Coventry. £1000; Thrive, £1000; Resource Centre for the Blind, £500; Light House Trust, £500; CPAS, £500; Food Bank, £1000; Open Doors (replacing Barnabas Fund) £500; Toilet Twinning, £180. As well as support for individuals.

Buildings report: In 2022 a number of electrical jobs were carried out including blanking of sanctuary lights, corona removal and repairs to upstairs sockets and lights. New front sign, replacing Hall boiler electrical board.

Des French

Safeguarding

No new safeguarding issues or concerns have been raised.

Four people have renewed their DBS certificates.

One person has completed Basic Safeguarding Training, one has finished Foundation and one has completed Leadership.

The safeguarding core group consisting of Anne Lancaster, Sue Clayden and Steve Burch has met 7 times during the year. Helen Kearney has agreed to join the group. The Social Media Policy, Responding to Concerns and Allegation, Revision of risk assessments for all church activities involving children and vulnerable adults and Ex-offenders Recruitment Policy have all been approved by the PCC. All church and non-church activities that involve children and vulnerable adults have been approved by the PCC.

Our Safeguarding Records comply with GDPR regulations and are retained according to the diocesan guidelines. We follow the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Action Plan is regularly reviewed and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding. My special thanks to Steve and Sue Clayden for their invaluable help and support.

Anne Lancaster

Prayer Ministry

The Emergency Prayer Chain

The Emergency Prayer Chain has been a great means of support to many. Urgent prayer requests for Church members are quickly passed round the congregation by email or text message. If you would like to join please speak to Anne Lancaster.

- Anne Lancaster.

Church Wardens' Report

I have been serving as Church Warden for just over 3 years now since 2019 – and been a part of PCC for much longer. However, I still feel like I've not really learnt how to 'warden a church' fully.

As such I want to start by thanking all the many people who have been involved in running the church over this past year – especially as it often feels as though Covid isn't that far in the past and we are new to "in person church". Between Des, Dave and myself we have held the roles of Warden, PCC-Chair, PCC-Secretary and PCC-Treasurer – and I do think they have done the majority of the 'hard work' so I want to record a thank you to them for the various ways they've helped.

Also thanks go to the deputy wardens, who are often proactive in making sure that someone is around to lock up (even when I once forgot my keys...) which has been a great help knowing there is one less thing to worry about.

Maintenance of the buildings is a topic touched upon in PCC meetings – earlier in the year Des and I inspected the cracks in the church hall – and I have gone back to record them on several occasions to confirm they are not growing. Needless to say, while not in imminent danger, the church hall could benefit from a lot of upgrade work.

Perhaps most notable improvements to the main building have been (internally) the removal of the old light-corona, and (externally) the new sign. The design was deliberated over a few times – and hopefully will last now many years looking smart, professional, and importantly welcoming.

Finally, I want to thank again all those who give their time to the life of St James – both those who have helped in the organisation/functional roles of church life behind the scenes, as well as those who have helped with other vital roles (such as church youth).

- Tim Pollard

Buildings & Fabric Report:

In 2022 a number of electrical jobs were carried out including blanking of sanctuary lights, corona removal and repairs to upstairs sockets and lights. Also replacing Hall boiler electrical board.

Also last year it was decided to replace the front sign with a new front sign and has been well received.

An inspection of the church inventory was carried out by Tim in March – including photographs of all valuables. All items of value were accounted for, including new materials/toys for the church youth.

The revised inventory has been presented to PCC prior to AGM.

Deanery Synod

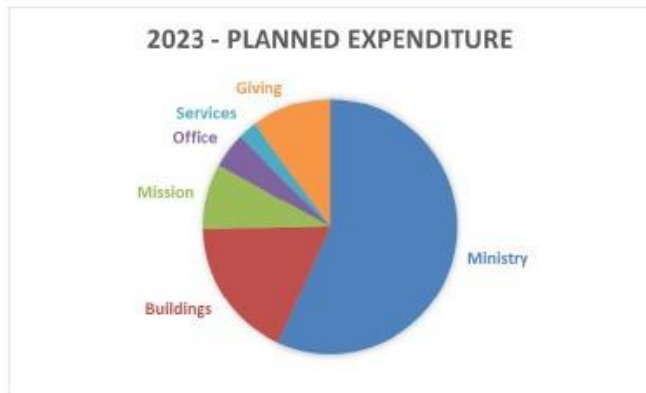
Deanery Synod had three meetings in 2022/3 which included talks on [Eco-Church, Support for Cost of Living, and Mission Hubs]. Also, this year we have a new Area Dean (David Hammond – also Vicar of the Bridge-Benefice Coventry), who is also Area Dean of Kenilworth Deanery.

A new structure for synod meetings has been trialled recently, this includes a parish presentation from the church we visit, followed by 3- short (under 5 minute) parish presentations. This is then followed by time to pray for the 4 churches, in this way we hope to cover all churches in the deanery in prayer over the deanery cycle. We then have a 10-minute slot for local business before ending with a main speaker. This new structure will be reviewed over the next year.

- Tim Pollard

Accounts

Income	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Collections	75078	82469	75000	72000
Fees and Rents	17289	17520	13850	13330
Misc	8648	3185	1500	1830
Donations	0	241	0	0
INCOME TOTAL	101015	103416	90350	87160
Expenditure	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	budget	Budget
Contributions to wider Church	50235	52840	52840	54000
Ministry Expenses	985	316	2000	1750
Church Buildings	8039	9833	11950	11400
Worship resources	1186	1393	1800	1950
Hall	3226	3843	3750	5250
PCC houses	2932	384	850	900
Vicarage	803	795	0	100
Parish Office/ Communications	5668	2118	5175	3975
Fees	784	1902	0	0
Mission	7325	7181	7500	8175
Education	100	360	400	400
Giving	9988	10330	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social	19	166	50	50
Other	0	519	400	400
Expenses Total	91290	91978	96715	98350
Excess (Income - Expenses)	9725	11437	-6365	-11190



Expenditure - Budget 2023		
Ministry	£ 55,800	Parish Share, Interns, Minister, Pastoral & Social
Buildings	£ 17,650	Church, Hall, Houses
Mission	£ 8,175	Family & childrens' enabler, Materials
Office	£ 4,375	Staff, Equipment & Services
Services	£ 2,350	Licences, Organ, Supplies, Education & Training
Giving	£ 10,000	Home & Overseas
Total	£ 98,350	



Income	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	
Collections	£ 82,469	£ 72,000	Regular, Gifts & Rebates
Donations	£ 241	£ -	
Fees and Rents	£ 17,520	£ 13,330	Church, Hall & PCC House
Misc	£ 3,185	£ 1,830	Grants, Interest & Misc
INCOME TOTAL	£ 103,416	£ 87,160	

Children, Youth & Families

Youth Group

Youth Group began at the end of 2021. It runs fortnightly on a Sunday afternoon as an informal space for young people aged 10 and above to chill with their friends and play games. The team of adults, myself, Dave, Arthur and Jess are available to join in or organise games and to listen to the young people.

We began by sharing a meal each time but in early 2022 the Covid advice for churches was not to share food so we moved to snacks and that worked better for all.

In the Spring we ran a Youth Alpha course in the hour before Youth Group.

Numbers have steadily grown over the year with a core of about 15 children coming regularly and others coming occasionally. We start 2023 with a successful grant application for updating equipment.

Season family activities

The first seasonal event of 2022 was Love your Mums which was cancelled after I contracted Covid. We went on to have a successful 'Tombraders' on Good Friday and a very well attended Scripture Union Summer Holiday Club. Wonderzone allowed the children to explore Science and Nature whilst noisily and messily learning about God's wonderful creation. We made rainbows, explosions and even stepped inside a bubble. For the Light Party this year I changed the Pumpkin Heroes format and ran a worship disco with flashing lights and glow sticks. In Advent, instead of having a Christingle service I put on a Christmas craft afternoon. One of the crafts was to make a Christingle so when I saw that everyone had made one, we had a little impromptu Christingle service. We finished the year with children's carols and had a lot of fun dressing up and using the Bible Society pop up Nativity script to act out the Christmas story.

I'm immensely grateful to everyone who has stepped in to help and support the activity days and holiday club.

Schools

After a long period of not being allowed into schools I was happy to be invited to do some regular weekly assemblies at Leigh School. Rosie and I have also joined the Academy Governing Committee there which we find very interesting. Steve remains a governor at Mount Nod School. For Harvest I was invited to take a special assembly at Leigh and also ran a Harvest after school club using their Forest School and Prayer Garden. Steve and I spoke at a Harvest assembly at Mount Nod School, which had to be repeated in order to accommodate the many parents that attended. At Christmas, Mount Nod school walked to St James for their Christmas service. It was wonderful to have the church filled again with hundreds of children and their staff and parents.

I joined Youth for Christ at Finham 2 for a session on Mental Wellbeing and hope to develop links there in the future.

Kids Church

We had a gentle start to the Sunday morning children's group in 2022. Steve began the year with more all age services, including an all age Holy Communion. As families became more confident to return to church, our numbers of children began to grow and so did the team. We had one group of children aged from 3 to 11 and tried to follow the same themes that Steve was teaching on. We were delighted to see some of our older children begin leading worship on a regular basis. They are extremely gifted! Two of our children were Baptised by full immersion. By the end of the year the group has grown to the point where we are now ready to have 2 age differentiated groups and so we are looking to grow the team even further.

Sue Clayden

Life groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our journey through life as a Christian. They are safe places where members can ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. They generally meet in people's homes and consist of about 6-8 people, meeting weekly or fortnightly.

We encourage everyone in church to belong to a Life Group, speak to Steve if you are not yet a member of a group.

Community Shop

2022 was a very strange year for the Community Shop, due to Covid and lack of volunteers. During lockdown we lost several of our staff, 2 long term ladies who left Coventry to be near family and sadly 2 others who caught Covid and were too afraid to return to the shop. We urgently need more volunteers to help for a few hours each week as at the moment we can only open Tuesday to Saturday 10am till 1pm.

The aim of our shop is not only to sell items at a reduced price but raise money for other charities and offer help and support to anyone who needs it, this could be just a smile, kind word, or even a hug.

During the last year we have noticed that some people come in regularly each week not necessarily to buy but to have someone to talk to, there has also been an increase of new people moving into the area from other countries who can not speak English and need our help. The volunteers are wonderful and always do their best to help.

A lot of hard work goes into the shop and over the last few years our profits have increased so much that at the end of 2022 we were able to share £10,000 amongst several charities, give money for a fun day trip for local children during the summer holiday and arrange a free trip to the Belgrade Theatre.

If you would like to donate items or help us in the shop for a few hours a week you will be very welcome.

Jackie Cashmore (Shop manageress)

Pastoral Care/ Bereavement Ministry

The Pastoral Care Team has continued to function throughout the year. We have had one meeting since the end of lockdown and we discussed those members we care for and their needs who are not in life groups. We have had people we care for who have moved house and also people who have passed away so our numbers have changed quite significantly.

We continue to have 7 members on the Pastoral Care Team who maintain friendships with those who are not in Life Groups and stay in touch with them if they are not in Church or unwell.

We are constantly assessing numbers of new members within the Church and encouraging them to become Life Group members so that Life Groups can stay in touch and for those who choose not to be in Life Groups then we as a team will befriend and stay in touch with them. We have had Lanyards made for our team members to wear in Church each Sunday and we ask that if you are concerned for the needs of someone else please let us know.

We pray that through the Pastoral gifting of our team, the needs of Christ's people are met.

Helen Kearney & Anne Lancaster

Open Doors

Open Doors is for people aged 50 years and over and we meet on Monday afternoons during school term times from 2.00pm-3.30pm. We have a regular attendance of around 28-30 members who are both regular Church members and non-Church members.

We are a friendly group who welcome new members to come in and have a chat over cake and a cuppa and engage in a range of activities.

These include Quizzes, Beetle Drives, Craft ideas, gentle armchair exercises, occasional outings, guest speakers, name that tune, music, skittles and seasonal meditations.

Over the past year we have had members leave the group and move to new homes. We continue to get new members who feel welcomed and soon settle in. If anyone would like to join us then you would be made very welcome.

Helen Kearney & Anne Lancaster

Jigsaw

God has continued to bless us as we have sought to provide a safe place where mums and toddlers (average attendance 58) can experience something of the Kingdom of God.

Our prayer time before each session has enabled us to draw on God's amazing resources to love as He has loved us, and from that has come increasing trust and willingness to share problems and joys and maybe ask for public or private prayer.

JIGSAW is prepared, run and tidied away by the following:

Rosemary, Helen, Heather, Sue Clayden, Diana, Sue Savage and the very welcome addition of Rosie Dalman, with Steve helping to move furniture and Irene providing emergency café support.

At JIGSAW parents/grandparents are encouraged to help their children learn to play safely, share toys and develop language and manual skills, and to enjoy craft sessions celebrating God's wonderful creation.

Tea/squash and toast time provides opportunities for building friendships and developing children's social skills, while tidy-up time tries to instil the discipline of returning the right toy to the right box. Song time at the end of the session is a special time to come together as the JIGSAW family to share information and prayers, celebrate birthdays and to enjoy songs and remind ourselves that our God is a great big God who holds us in His hands. This God has given us a greater freedom to talk about our faith as well as demonstrate it.

- Rosemary Line

Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry is still thriving, despite a drop in demand due to the pandemic.

In 2019 we gave out 68 shawls and 5 scarves, to both Church members and to people in the wider community, in times of illness and bereavement. Since fewer funeral services are now held in Church, we have not given out so many shawls, but at the Memorial Service in 2021 we gave shawls to those remembering loved ones lost during the pandemic.

Wherever they are given, the shawls are very much appreciated. One lady who had lost her husband was delighted with her shawl and was amazed that someone would knit one for her. She had no Christian faith, but has found so much comfort from her shawl that she shows it to friends and family, telling them all about it.

We feel privileged to be able to use the gift of our knitting skills to share God's love freely in this practical and tangible way.

As we do not sell the shawls, we aim to be self-financing through donations and fund-raising. We have received several donations recently which have kept us financially viable.

I should like to thank Steve again for his continued support and to thank all our knitters for the excellent work they do. Val, Carol Bloxham's friend, deserves a special mention for knitting so many shawls for us. We always welcome new knitters either to join the Church Knitting Group or to knit shawls at home.

Diana Bartlett

Knitting group

Knitting group meet fortnightly on Thursday afternoons from 1.45—3.30pm at church, we have about 8 regular members.

We knit shawls and scarves for the shawl ministry and we knit for shoe boxes, we also knit for ourselves.

We give a donation to the church and to shoeboxes.

We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat while we knit. New members always welcome.

Marlene and Carol

We celebrate all the good things that God does among us; the signs of his kingdom that we see. As you have read the reports you will see there is much to celebrate. So a very big.....



Thank you to all who have served the kingdom of God. Thank you for all the giving of time energy finances love and compassion. Thank you to those who serve in our structures on PCC and the leadership team. Thank you to those who support the children's and youth ministries. Thank you to those who are involved in giving pastoral care and support. Thank you to those involved in Sunday Worship gatherings up the front and at the back or in the kitchen. Thank you to those who have lead Life groups. Thank you to those involved in our outward facing ministries.



You will see that we need support in various areas as we seek to go deeper in and further out.

Teams for children and youth need further volunteers.

Musicians are required to develop the 10:45 music teams.

Welcome and café: Could you offer to help in the kitchen or greet people at the door?

Finances: We have a substantial deficit in the Budget for 2023.

Could you start giving or give a little more? If you don't gift aid could you?

Our Parish

From Hearsall Common, westwards to the city boundary.

We serve the communities of Tile Hill South, Tile Hill Village, Tile Hill Lane, the 'trees' and 'cotes', Mount Nod and Coventry Business Park.

Our Mission

The church we envisage is God-centred;

- that everything we do is rooted in him
- that we live out the Father's love and compassion with one another and the communities we live in
- that we are joyfully sharing the Good News about Jesus with everyone
- that we are seeing the releasing and transformation of lives in the power of the Holy Spirit
- that we are generously giving as we have received

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