



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

The Parish of Boxmoor Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

in St John's Church, Boxmoor

Sunday 23 April 2023 at 11.00 am
following the Parish Eucharist

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The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday 23 April 2023

After the 10.00am Parish Eucharist in St John's Church

A G E N D A

The Goals in our 2021-2024 Mission Action Plan are:

- To ensure that within two years the parish will have arrived back at the "new normal" with activities on a broad front in better shape than they were before the pandemic.
- To have by June 2022 an enhanced ability with new equipment to stream services online with people fully trained to operate it.
- To create by June 2022 a parish contingency plan of actions that need taking in the face of another pandemic.
- The creation by end-2022 of a church-based Youth Club, meeting regularly, with a dependable attendance of more than ten.
- The Director of Music invited to present to the PCC a strategy for the future of the choir. This strategy to be in place and underway by June 2022.
- To restart, regrow, and nurture our Junior Choir, including a recruitment drive in our local primary schools, to begin by September 2021.
- To arrange and conduct a Discipleship course for existing members of the church, an Enquirers course for new people, and a Bible study course, before June 2022.
- To set a measurable target to reduce our carbon footprint by end-2022, to be achieved by end-2024, and to take part in the Eco-Church Initiative.

1. Apologies for Absence

Meeting of Parishioners

2. Election of Churchwardens

(To be entitled to vote one must either be on the revised Electoral Roll or live in the parish and appear on the register of local government electors).

A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards and available on the parish website until immediately before this meeting. There are two Churchwarden positions.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24 April 2022 with the Vicar's report for 2021.

To accept these minutes and the Vicar's report as a true record of the last APCM.

4. Electoral Roll.
To receive the updated electoral roll, which has been displayed in our three churches before this meeting.
5. Proceedings of the PCC.
To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2022/2023
6. Safeguarding.
To receive a report stating that the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on *Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults*
7. Financial Affairs of the Parish.
To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish.
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2022 and Budget for 2023.
To receive the accounts for 2022 and budget for 2023.
9. Independent Examiner.
To appoint an independent examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year.
10. Fabric, Goods & Ornaments.
To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments for 2022 from the Churchwardens.
11. Election of lay representatives to the Deanery Synod (*To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll*). There are three places to fill. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the notice board until immediately before this meeting.
12. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC
(*To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll*).
There are five vacant places. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards and available on the parish website until immediately before this meeting.
13. Deanery Synod.
To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
14. Vicar's Report.
To receive a report from the Vicar on the calendar year 2022.
15. Any Other Business.
Any other legitimate APCM business.
16. Date of next APCM.
The next APCM has been provisionally set to follow the 10.00am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 21 April 2023 in St John's Church.

Special meeting of the Parochial Church Council

(Only members of the incoming PCC are entitled to vote)

17. Election of Lay Vice Chair
18. Election of Deputy Church Wardens. Two places to fill.
19. Election of Honorary Treasurer
20. Election of Honorary Secretary
21. Appointment of Standing Committee
(*The Standing Committee consists of the Chairman, Churchwardens, Deputy Church wardens, Treasurer and Secretary all ex-officio, plus two others*). Two places to fill.

22. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

23. Co-options to PCC

(The incoming PCC is entitled to make up to three co-options, should they wish, now or during the year ahead)

24. Appointment of Sides People. To appoint the sides people for the coming year as proposed on the list of nominations below.

25. Any other legitimate PCC business

26. Date of next PCC meeting.

Members of the incoming PCC may care to note that its first substantive meeting will be on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 8.00pm in St John's Church.

Richard Lyne
PCC Secretary

Active Sides people seeking appointment/re-appointment at St John's:

Rosie Akeroyd	Chris Angell	Garth Bridgwood	Marion Cowe
Alan Darville	Marian Davies	Jo Fisher	Philippa Graham
Bob Hammond	Jean Hammond	Mark Harbour	Catherine Holness
Marion Howard	Andreas Ioannou	Lorraine Ioannou	Noel James
Sheila James	Marion King	Graham Liddle	Eileen Martin
Pat Moran	Lana Munford	Yvonne Munford	Ian Packe
Janet Packe	Rob Porter	Yolanda Porter	Cathy Shaw
Di Tovey			

Sides people seeking appointment/re-appointment at other locations or services:

Paul Davies	Christingles only
Alison Hart	SJB baptisms only
Jill Moore	SJB 8am only
Julie Barton	SFH
Trevor Standen	SFH
Yvonne Laidlaw	SFH & combined
Job Rombout	SFH & combined
Ken Farmborough	SSC
Jean Garner	SSC
Anne Lyne	SSC
Connie Shaw	SSC
Richard Lyne	SSC & combined



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- To restart, regrow, and nurture our Junior Choir, including a recruitment drive in our local primary schools, to begin by September 2021.
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MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH BOXMOOR FOLLOWING THE 10.00 AM SERVICE ON SUNDAY 24 APRIL 2022

Chair: The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar of Boxmoor

Present: Clergy 1, Parishioners 43

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from Trevor Boyce, Katherine Cox, Ian Packe, Janet Packe, James Proehl, Godfrey Rock, Rosie Shaw, and Gill Williams.	
Meeting of Parishioners 2. Election of Churchwardens	Two nominations had been received to fill the two Churchwarden posts. These were for Job Rombout (nominated by Yvonne Laidlaw and seconded by Trevor Standen), and for Marian Davies (nominated by Di Tovey and seconded by Jo Rhoden). Both were declared duly elected.	
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 3. Previous minutes and Vicar's report.	The minutes of the APCM held on the 25 April 2021 and the Vicar's report for 2020 were considered and agreed to be a true record.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-U
4. Electoral Roll	The report from the Electoral Roll Officer, Ian Packe, was read out by the PCC Honorary Secretary. Overall, the total number on the Electoral Rolls for our Parish of 3 churches was 177 in 2022 compared with 180 in 2020. This was made up of 16 in both years for St Francis and 161 for St John's and St Stephen's together for 2021 compared with 164 in 2021. The net decrease of 3 comprised a reduction of 4, mainly members who have passed away, with 1 new joiner. There were no questions or comments from the meeting. Ian was thanked for his work. He had confirmed he was willing to continue in post and was duly re-elected.	
5. Proceedings of the PCC	The PCC Honorary Secretary, Richard Lyne, had provided a brief report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during the year 2021/2022. There were no questions or comments, and the report was accepted by the meeting.	
6. Safeguarding	The Chairman drew attention to the Safeguarding Report provided by the Safeguarding Officer, Marian Davies. There were no questions or comments.	
7. Financial Affairs of the Parish	Chris Angell, PCC Honorary Treasurer, drew attention to a typing error on the balance sheet for the church of St Francis. The cash at bank and in hand should read £11,811, which made the sheet add up correctly to the total figure of £49,916.	
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2021 and Budget for 2022	<p>Chris drew everyone's attention to the 2021 accounts which had been confirmed as complete and correct by Roger Taylor, the Independent Examiner.</p> <p>Chris had circulated the Budget for 2022 before the meeting. He explained that this was a "break-even" budget which had been approved by the PCC. To break-even depended on fundraising of £17,000 this year which, although a tough ask, the Fundraising Committee had plans in hand to achieve. The general financial situation had been eased by two legacies in 2021, from Anne Higham and Stella Chandler, and we had received a further legacy from Linda Gair, which we hoped to devote, along with a generous gift, to the youth group.</p> <p>Alan Darvill asked after the current position on charity bank accounts. Chris said there were changes in the paperwork required to prevent money laundering, which we could handle. But the NatWest Bank were threatening to charge us for transactions on our charity account, which we calculated would cost us some £500 per year. We had objected strongly to this and, so far, no such charges had been made. The Diocese had advised us that HSBC had been summoned to appear before a Parliamentary Committee for imposing charges on charities and it was likely that NatWest were</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
	<p>awaiting the outcome. Meanwhile, we were reducing our bank transactions in case these charges did start to be imposed.</p> <p>Roger Taylor said we were blessed to have Chris as our Treasurer and proposed a vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation. The acceptance of the accounts for 2021 was proposed by Chris Angell, seconded by Jo Fisher and carried unanimously.</p>	
9. Independent Examiner	The Chairman said that the accounts had been examined by Roger Taylor and, highly commendably, agreed before the APCM. Roger confirmed that he was willing to undertake the examination of the 2022 accounts and was thanked for his work and duly re-appointed Independent Examiner.	
10. Fabric, Goods & Ornaments	The meeting received the churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments. The Chairman thanked the churchwardens for their report and for their support and guidance and expressed his thanks to all who were keeping the church and grounds well maintained.	
11. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC	<p>The Chairman thanked all those whose terms of office had ended. There were five vacant places all for the full three-year term and one to complete a two-year term remaining after a resignation. Six nominations had been received prior to the meeting – Rosie Akeroyd (proposed by Marian Davies and seconded by Paul Davies), Philip Barton (proposed by Job Rombout and seconded by Yvonne Laidlaw), Sandy Cutts (proposed by Carole Lewis and seconded by Jo Rhoden), Mark Harbour (proposed by Job Rombout and seconded by Peter Garner), Rosalind Shaw (proposed by Carole Lewis and seconded by Joanna Fisher), and Diana Tovey (proposed by Graham Gibbs and seconded by Ian Packe). All six were duly elected with Sandy Cutts taking the two-year term by agreement.</p> <p>The Vicar welcomed those elected and re-elected and said he was very glad that the PCC were all working so well together.</p>	
12. Deanery Synod	The report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was received. The Vicar noted that the Rev Richard Graham was leaving Adeyfield and there was a new Priest, Alice Jolley, soon to arrive at Bennetts End.	
13. Vicar's Report	The Vicar's report for 2021 was accepted as a written report. The Vicar was thanked most warmly for all he does among us, in a sensible and caring way, much of it unseen outside the church, and not least for his leadership during the pandemic. He said that he felt blessed to be our Vicar.	
14. Any other business	The Vicar was asked when the Parish might resume taking wine from the cup. He said he was taking account of views closely. The	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
	Cathedral had resumed using the cup and about 75% of the congregation there did so. Nothing was decided but he thought Corpus Christi in mid-June might be the moment for us to resume.	
15. Date of next APCM	The next APCM has been provisionally set to follow the 10.00am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 23 April 2023 in St John's Church. This is St George's Day.	
	The meeting closed at 11.40 am.	

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2021

(to be given at the 2022 APCM)

I concluded last year's report by stating:

"Moving forward is not going to be an easy task. We don't know what the future holds or when society will fully re-open. Covid-19 shows no signs of departing although the arrival of effective vaccines is to be lauded and celebrated. The task we face as a Church community is one of rebuilding: rebuilding our fellowship and social activities; rebuilding our links with schools and societies; rebuilding confidence; rebuilding our finances."

As a Church community we are not afraid of taking on a challenge. In the last 20 years you have raised over a £1million and successfully seen many building projects come to fruition. But the early days of 2021 almost took us to our limits. Predictably, Covid-19 was once again out of control following a Christmas "break". The infection rate and mortality numbers were the highest recorded during this pandemic despite the vaccine becoming more widely available. Schools were ordered to close. And we too, once again, closed for Public Worship in the interests of public safety. In a change to Lockdown 1.0 St John's remained open every day for Private Prayer, with St Francis' available on a Wednesday afternoon – welcome oases of calm and peace – and were much used and appreciated by our local community. During this time services once again became virtual with services pre-recorded to our website.

Towards the end of March Public Worship resumed – although under quite strict restrictions. With singing prohibited indoors many of our main services during Holy Week and Easter had outdoor elements. This not only enabled us to sing together once again but it also served as a powerful witness to our community – The Church is still alive and kicking despite everything! Easter Sunday in particular was a real joy and, even though it was unseasonably cold, our hearts were warmed by the resurrection. In the following months, this mixed mode of events taking place both indoors and outdoors continued, firstly with an al fresco lunch for St John's Day and a thoroughly entertaining cricket match against the Boxmoor Occasionals/Odd Sods!

By the time summer appeared we were more confident about organising larger outdoor events and our Summer Fayre provided a welcome tonic of social interaction within our community and an opportunity for fundraising. Thankfully the sun shone upon our endeavours helping to create a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere. We had also grown in confidence indoors, with singing returning behind masks for the general congregation and Choral Evensong returning – sung by our splendid choir. Particular highlights included the Services of Thanksgiving for the life of Stella Chandler, and for Carole Lewis' 25th anniversary of public ministry as a Lay Reader.

In the autumn, more of our 'normal' activities resumed: Junior Choir and Junior Church returned following the example of Tiny Tots who resumed in May – holding their little service of actions songs outside (when possible) to enable singing without face coverings. Harvest Thanksgiving returned with a Quiz evening, School visits, and a bucket collection. The Royal British Legion Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and in St John's resumed. Plans were put in place to maximise our outreach at Christmas whilst acknowledging that Covid infections might rise again. To that end we doubled-up on services to mitigate for loss of seating due to social distancing; all services over Christmas were ticketed using TicketSource; the Christmas

Tree Festival returned to something like its former glory with more trees inside and more trees were added outside to create a fabulous garden of light; and many services were live-streamed to our website. This all created a fair amount of extra work, and at times volunteers and helpers were distinctly lacking! But with the help of a few people going the extra mile it all came good. Our ability to live stream services was greatly increased by the installation of new cameras, microphones, mixing equipment, and internet access, for which the bulk of the work was completed just before Christmas. Thankfully the system worked well over Christmas and enabled those unable to join services in person to join live virtually.

Other signs that we were returning to something like normal included the PCC resuming its responsibility for governance by once again meeting in person. Our thanks to the Standing Committee for shouldering this responsibility during lockdowns via Zoom meetings. The PCC immediately set about planning for the future producing a Mission Action Plan to highlight our priorities over the coming years as we recover from the effects of the pandemic and strive to grow – spiritually, numerically, and financially. With prudent financial management and an increase in Stewardship thanks to a moderately successful Stewardship Campaign we were able to pay our considerable Parish Share once again, after defaulting by some £50,000 the previous year – 10% of the total diocesan deficit! Schools work returned with a number of schools either coming to church for visits or services or inviting me in to help with the curriculum.

As restrictions eased in 2021 so Pastoral Offices steadily returned to church. A growing confidence in being able to plan ahead led to 7 weddings, 14 baptisms, and 31 funerals or memorial services. This compares to 4 weddings, 7 baptisms, and 30 funerals (most of which were at the Crem) in 2020. It is interesting to note that despite the national death rate being so high in both these years our funeral ministry has shrunk. This has nothing to do with the ministry we offer (which we know to be greatly appreciated) but more to do with an increase in funerals conducted by Civil Celebrants and ‘Straight to Crem’ funerals where no funeral or minister is required. Inevitably we did say ‘farewell’ to some of our friends in 2021, amongst them Sheila Charge, Peter Wing, Kenneth Warby, and Baby Emily Cox. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

2021 was another hard year but in amongst the gloom and difficulties were moments of joy and hope. The task of ministry and our common goal of witnessing to Jesus were made easier by our partnership in the Gospel. I should like to express my sincere thanks to our visiting clergy who enable worship to take place when I am either not available or leading worship in a different church; to Carole for her insightful preaching and considerable sharing of the pastoral load; and our Lay Leaders of Worship for their prayerful leadership of the flock at St Stephen’s. I should also like to thank our churchwardens, Marian and Job, for the unstinting support I receive from them and who do an incredible amount for the life of the parish. My thanks and gratitude also go to myriads of others (the list is too long to name you all) who help our common task with children and young people, communicating our services/events and message, singing God’s praise, maintaining and cleaning our churches and grounds, fundraising, enabling fellowship, financial planning, governance and safeguarding, administration and forward planning, pastoral care, and offering hospitality and welcome. However, I should like to offer particular thanks to Keith Beniston for not only being our superb Organist and Director of Music but also for the way he has enabled the ministry of the

church to be virtual. His ability to multi-task at the organ bench, juggling pre-recorded and live music, accommodating my whims and wishes, and editing and uploading services is really very impressive – and that's not to mention the way he leads our choir from strength to strength. Thank you to all of you for making our Parish the joy it is to minister within. I remain incredibly proud to be called to be your Vicar, and I hope and pray that I will continue to be able to serve with and among you for a long time to come. Please continue to pray for me in the ministry laid out before me.

All of the above only goes to show how far we have come in 2021 from the void which was created in 2020 when we were ordered to 'stay at home' and lock our churches. Rebuilding is underway. Of course more was going on behind the scenes than I am able to express succinctly here, and more will be required to counterbalance the effects of the pandemic but we need to remember this is a marathon not a sprint. It is likely that 2022 and the years that follow will throw-up new and unexpected challenges, not least as Covid-19 continues to evolve and mutate. But we will need to find ways to live with the virus, continuing to help and encourage those who are struggling and working towards a brighter, more hope-filled future. May the Lord bless us in this task as we go about his work transforming communities, making new disciples, and going deeper into his love. May the Joy of the Gospel be ours as we live the Easter faith, for:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. A long, horizontal line is drawn underneath the name, extending from the left side of the signature towards the right.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC): 2022 – 2023

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets in principle on the second Tuesday of every other month. Written minutes are kept of all PCC meetings and these are distributed to all PCC members and to any parishioner on the church electoral roll upon request. A shortened version of the PCC minutes is published in the church magazine when possible and appropriate. Six ordinary PCC meetings and one solely to appoint officers, were held during 2022 – 2023, with attendance by PCC members throughout averaging out at 67%. There were six meetings of the PCC Standing Committee.

As a matter of routine, the PCC approved minutes of previous meetings and monitored progress on action points. It also ratified decisions taken by the Standing Committee through approval of its minutes. Reports from the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer have been received at each meeting. Progress on our current Mission Action Plan has also been monitored, each goal considered individually meeting by meeting. Reports have also been regularly received at each meeting from our daughter churches of St Francis and St Stephen and from all the various PCC committees: Communications, Finance & Giving, Fundraising, St John's Hall, MASJ, Pastoral, Social, Worship and Youth. Regular reports have been received in addition on the activities of the Deanery, Pray Hemel and Churches Together.

Substantive ad hoc matters considered by the PCC during the year have included monitoring the relaxation of pandemic restrictions and the resumption of the Common Cup, a possible pastoral re-organisation, the teething troubles with the major project to install new streaming equipment into St John's (subject of the 2021 Easter Appeal) and the related urgent need for a high-speed fibre internet connection, safeguarding (including the imposition of new rules by the Diocese at short notice), the planting of trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the abolition of the Parish Buddy Scheme post-pandemic, a CCTV project, the acquisition of a defibrillator (subject of the 2022 Easter Appeal), and housing of Ukrainian refugees in the Curate's House and the consequential delay of a plan to try to recruit a "House for Duty" priest to ease the Vicar's workload.

The PCC have considered a paper on Succession Planning and acknowledge the difficulties that a lack of volunteers for key roles is likely to pose in the future. A first look has been taken at what the Parish might do to mark the 150th anniversary of the St John's building on 7 April 2024.

The parish finances have been closely observed by the PCC over a difficult year coming out of the pandemic, and the determined fundraising in difficult circumstances during the last year applauded. The PCC has approved the annual accounts for 2022 and the budget for 2023 for presentation to the APCM.

Richard Lyne
PCC Honorary Secretary
March 2023

Safeguarding report

The Church of England has recently refocussed its attention on safeguarding matters. Its previous 'laissez faire' attitude has been called into question as various scandals have come to light as highlighted in the ICCSA Report. Abusive behaviour is not always easy to spot, which is why training is essential.

In the Parish of Boxmoor Parish safeguarding is reviewed at each PCC meeting and essential training is given to all trustees and anyone working with children and vulnerable adults

Life is not static and, for various reasons, members of our congregation may become vulnerable. We must be aware of this and act appropriately involving the clergy and lay officers.

Marian Davies, 14 March 2023

Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish 2022

The attached accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 have been approved by the PCC for presentation at the APCM and independently examined by Roger Taylor. Both those for St John's and St Stephen's and those for St Francis' have been prepared in the format required by the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, detailing gross income and expenditure. A consolidated Parish Report and Accounts for 2022 will be prepared for submission to the Charity Commission. Results for 2022 and Budgets for 2023 are also provided in the simpler Management Accounts format.

My thanks go once again to Janet Packe for dealing with St John's weekly and miscellaneous takings; to Garth Bridgwood for performing the role of Covenants secretary; to Hilary Kemp for managing the office fees account; to Graham Liddle for managing St John's Hall bookings and income; to Alan Munford and Sally Bates for collecting revenues from Magazine sales and advertising respectively; to Jean Garner for looking after the St Stephen's Hall and Church income and expenditure; to Jo Fisher for maintaining the accounts for St Francis; to Paul Davies for managing the bookings of St Francis Church Hall; to all involved in Fundraising and finally to Roger Taylor for taking on the independent examination of the final accounts.

Our finances were again adversely affected by the aftereffects of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, the financial results for 2022 showed continuing improvement over those for 2020 and 2021 for both St John's and St Stephen's and at St Francis', and most areas of income recovered further. As a result, both St Francis and St John's and St Stephen's were able to meet their Parish Share in full. At St Francis the deficit on day-to-day activities (unrestricted funds) was reduced to just £443 whilst St John's and St Stephen's returned a surplus of £17,710. This latter figure was, however, only achieved as a result of the receipt of a significant legacy and major one-off donations, without which we would have remained in deficit.

Budgets for 2023 envisage continuing deficit positions with attempts to "balance the books" being deferred to 2024 in view of the likely impact of the current cost of living crisis on household budgets in 2023. 2024 will be St John's 150th Anniversary and major celebrations are being planned together with Stewardship and Fundraising campaigns.

At St John's the Fabric Fund was used to pay for the installation of a new broadcast system, although the full benefits await optical fibre links reaching

the church. A Defibrillator was also acquired and installed at St John's benefitting both Church and Hall users.

Chris Angell
Honorary Treasurer
March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
Incoming Resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	112,556	1,545	-	114,101	93,782
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	19,488	1,573	-	21,061	44,813
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	54,976	-	-	54,976	18,291
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	2e	3,512	1,293	-	4,805	4,520
Total Incoming Resources		190,532	4,411	-	194,943	161,406
Resources Expended						
Grants	3a	3,936	-	-	10,792	2,597
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	153,266	6,692	-	153,266	132,488
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	3,460	164	-	3,460	4,676
Church management and administration	3d	12,160	-	-	12,160	9,458
Total Resources Expended		172,822	6,856	-	179,678	149,219
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources		17,710	(2,445)	-	15,265	12,187
Gains and Losses on Investments						
realised		-	-	-	-	-
unrealised		-	-	(34,580)	(34,580)	44,681
Net Movement in Funds		17,710	(2,445)	(34,580)	(19,315)	56,868
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2021 (2020)		27,601	513,604	327,695	868,900	812,032
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Balances carried forward		45,311	511,159	293,115	849,585	868,900

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	493,474	493,474
Investment Assets	5b	293,063	327,643
		<u>786,537</u>	<u>821,117</u>
Current Assets			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	7	6,138	6,092
Short Term Deposits		52	52
Cash at bank and in hand		57,888	42,639
		<u>64,078</u>	<u>48,783</u>
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 year	8	(1,030)	(1,000)
Net Current Assets		<u>63,048</u>	<u>47,783</u>
Long Term Loans		-	-
Net Assets		<u>849,585</u>	<u>868,900</u>
Funds	6 & 9		
Unrestricted		45,311	27,601
Restricted		511,159	513,604
Endowment		293,115	327,695
		<u>849,585</u>	<u>868,900</u>

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023 and signed on its behalf:

M.Macey
Chairman

PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997

The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
2. Incoming Resources					
<i>2a. Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Planned giving	72,483	-	-	72,483	74,102
Collections(open plate) at all services	17,281	-	-	17,281	13,317
Sundry donations	22,792	1,545	-	24,337	6,363
	<u>112,556</u>	<u>1,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,101</u>	<u>93,782</u>
<i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Appeals	3,126	1,573	-	4,699	16,439
Legacies	5,000	-	-	5,000	15,000
Fêtes & other fund raising events	11,362	-	-	11,362	13,374
	<u>19,488</u>	<u>1,573</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,061</u>	<u>44,813</u>
<i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>					
Magazines	1,892	-	-	1,892	1,755
Coffee	1,078	-	-	1,078	335
Church halls lettings etc	18,456	-	-	18,456	5,628
Fees	31,500	-	-	31,500	9,264
Merchandising & Printing	2,050	-	-	2,050	1,309
	<u>54,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,976</u>	<u>18,291</u>
<i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i>					
Insurance claims & settlements	-	-	-	-	-
<i>2e. Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	3,512	1,293	-	4,805	4,520
Total Incoming Resources	<u>190,532</u>	<u>4,411</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>194,943</u>	<u>161,406</u>

PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ending 31st December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
3. Resources Expended					
<i>3a. Grants</i>					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas					
missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-
relief & development agencies	690	-	-	690	220
Home missions & other Church Societies	3,246	-	-	3,246	2,377
	3,936	-	-	3,936	2,597
<i>3b. Activities directly relating to work of the Church</i>					
Ministry: diocesan parish share	83,792	-	-	83,792	84,192
clergy expenses	3,754	-	-	3,754	3,177
Church - running expenses	44,918	-	-	44,918	22,107
Church maintenance & Repairs	4,506	6,692	-	11,198	8,752
Expenditure on parish magazine	1,048	-	-	1,048	1,047
Church hall running costs	3,020	-	-	3,020	1,127
Music	12,228	-	-	12,228	12,086
	153,266	6,692	-	159,958	132,488
<i>3c. Fund-raising and publicity</i>					
Costs of fêtes and other fund-raising events	3,460	164	-	3,624	4,676
<i>3d. Church management and administration</i>					
Administration:					
Printing & stationery	4,916	-	-	4,916	3,972
Telephones	651	-	-	651	346
Administrator	6,593	-	-	6,593	5,140
Loan interest & costs	-	-	-	-	-
	12,160	-	-	12,160	9,458
Total Resources Expended	172,822	6,856	-	179,678	149,219

4. Staff Costs

Music expenses include payments made to St John's Director of Music and Administration costs include payments made to the Parish Administrator. Church hall running costs include payments made to the Hall caretaker and Hall cleaner.

No National Insurance or pension contributions were payable in respect of any of them in 2022 or 2021

PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC

5a. Tangible fixed assets

Buildings - St John`s Hall & West End £493,474 (2020 £493,474)

5b. Investments

14,195 shares in the CBF Investment

Fund (historical cost at

31st December 2022: £26,788)

Market Value	
2022	2021
£	£
293,063	327,643

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund				
Fixed Assets	-	493,474	293,063	786,537
Current Assets	46,341	17,685	52	64,078
Current Liabilities	(1,030)	-	-	(1,030)
Long Term Loans	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance	45,311	511,159	293,115	849,585

7. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments of insurance	2,575	2,348
Gift Aid Claim	3,563	3,744
Other	-	-
	6,138	6,092

**8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due
Within One Year**

Creditors for goods and services	1,030	1,000
	1,030	1,000

PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

9. Fund Details	Balance at 31/12/22 £	Balance at 31/12/2021 £	Movement £
Restricted Funds			
Building Reserve	493,474	493,474	-
Fabric Fund	5,736	9,729	(3,993)
Music Fund	329	260	69
Discretionary	8,202	6,909	1,293
Social Committee	393	557	(164)
Wedding Advances	1,400	1,400	-
Memorial Window	350	-	350
Holiday at Home	1,275	1,275	-
	<u>511,159</u>	<u>513,604</u>	<u>(2,445)</u>
Endowment Funds			
Centenary Fund	136,330	150,096	(13,766)
Rolph Bequest	43,439	49,206	(5,767)
Freeman-Rolph	113,346	128,393	(15,047)
	<u>293,115</u>	<u>327,695</u>	<u>(34,580)</u>

The movement on the Fabric Fund comprised:

	£
Opening Balance 1/1/2022	9,729
Donations	1,195
Churchwardens' Appeal	1,504
Expenditure on Broadcast System	(5,062)
Defibrillator purchase/installation	(875)
Expenditure on Repairs	(755)
Closing Balance 31/12/2022	<u>5,736</u>

PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****10. St Stephen`s Income and Expenditure 2022**

Income	2022 £	2021 £
Collections	874	897
Planned Giving	4,196	3,335
Hall Lettings	3,479	743
Donations	120	20
	<u>8,669</u>	<u>4,995</u>
Expenditure		
Heat & Light	594	379
Insurance	660	633
Maintenance & Sundries	401	189
	<u>1,655</u>	<u>1,201</u>
Contribution to Boxmoor Parish	<u>7,014</u>	<u>3,794</u>

11. Missions and Charitable Giving 2022

Beneficiary	Gross Donation £	Collection £	Allocation from PCC £
Bibles for Children	764	14	750
Bishop's Harvest for the Hungry Appeal	236	236	-
Childrens' Society	814	814	-
Churches Together	60	-	60
DENS	686	686	-
St Mungos	686	686	-
Disasters Emergency Committee	690	690	-
	<u>3,936</u>	<u>3,126</u>	<u>810</u>

St John's PCC Budget 2023(v3)

ITEM	General Fund Budget Holder	Year	
		2022 Actual £	2023 Budget £
INCOME			
Missions	Finance Committee	3,126	3,000
Collections	Treasurer	17,281	17,000
Planned Giving	Treasurer	72,483	70,000
Interest	Treasurer	139	500
Donations	Treasurer	24,488	2,000
Fees (net)	Churchwardens	13,382	14,000
Fundraising	Fundraising Committee	7,902	10,000
Coffee	Y.Porter	1,078	1,000
Magazine (net of printing costs)	Comms. Committee	844	1,000
St Stephen's Hall	J.Garner	3,479	2,500
St John's Hall (net of maintenance)	Hall Committee	11,957	11,000
TOTAL		<u>156,159</u>	<u>132,000</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	Treasurer	83,792	85,100
Missions	Finance Committee	3,936	3,500
Vicar	M.Macey	2,221	3,000
23,Beechfield Road (net of Rolph Bequest)	Treasurer	3,540	4,000
Visiting Priests	M.Macey	1,533	2,000
Music	K.Beniston	11,328	13,000
Organ Maintenance	K.Beniston	1,114	1,700
Sanctuary	G.Gibbs	1,506	1,700
Heat & Light	Churchwardens	7,107	9,000
Insurance	Churchwardens	4,925	5,500
Maintenance	Churchwardens	3,391	3,000
Reader Training	M.Macey	-	-
Printing (net of receipts)	Administrator	2,866	3,300
Telephones	I.Packe	651	1,000
Sundries	Churchwardens	3,946	3,000
Administrator	M.Macey	6,593	7,000
Transfers to Fabric Fund	PCC	-	-
MAP Goals	M.Macey	-	1,000
TOTAL		<u>138,449</u>	<u>146,800</u>
Surplus + / Deficit -		17,710	- 14,800
General Fund			
Opening Balance		27,601	45,311
Closing Balance		45,311	30,511

Chris Angell, Treasurer March 2023

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
Incoming Resources						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	4,764			4,764	4,527
Other Voluntary incoming resources	2b	300			300	443
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	5,496			5,496	2,977
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	1,000			1,000	0
Income from Investments	2e	890			890	756
Total Incoming Resources		12,450	0	0	12,450	8,703
Resources Expended						
Grants	3a	505			505	481
Activities directly relating to the work Of the church	3b	12,388			12,388	11,228
Fund-raising and publicity	3c					
Church management and administration	3d					
Total Resources Expended		12,893	0	0	12,893	11,709
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		(443)	0	0	(443)	(3,006)
Gains and (Losses) on Investments						
Realised						
Unrealised				(3,465)	(3,465)	3,716
Net Movement in Funds		(443)	0	(3,465)	(3,908)	710
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2022 (2021)		19,055	1,300	29,561	49,916	49,206
Transfers between Funds						
Balances carried forward		18,612	1,300	26,096	46,008	49,916

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5a		
Investment Assets	5b	<u>26,096</u>	<u>29,561</u>
		<u>26,096</u>	<u>29,561</u>
Current Assets			
Stock			
Debtors	7		
Short Term Deposits		8,657	8,544
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>11,255</u>	<u>11,811</u>
		<u>19,912</u>	<u>20,355</u>
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 year	8	-	-
Net Current Assets		19,912	20,355
Long Term Loans			
Net Assets		46,008	49,916
Funds	6 & 9		
Unrestricted		18,612	19,055
Restricted		1,300	1,300
Endowment		<u>26,096</u>	<u>29,561</u>
		<u>46,008</u>	<u>49,916</u>

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023 and signed on its behalf

Rev'd Michael Macey
Chairman

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Account Regulations 1997

The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost conventions

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
2. Incoming Resources					
<i>2a. Incoming Resources from donors</i>					
Planned giving	2,458			2,458	2,932
Collections (Open plate) at all services	2,306			2,306	1,595
Sundry Donations				0	0
	<u>4,764</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,764</u>	<u>4,527</u>
<i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Appeals				0	0
Legacies				0	0
Fetes & other fund raising events	300			300	443
	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>443</u>
<i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>					
Magazines	15			15	0
Coffee				0	0
Church hall lettings etc.	5,481			5,481	2,977
Candles				0	0
Merchandising & Printing				0	0
	<u>5,496</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,496</u>	<u>2,977</u>
<i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i>					
	1,000			1,000	0
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>2e. Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including any Reclaimed tax	890			890	756
Total Incoming Resources	12,450	0	0	12,450	8,703

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ending 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
3. Resources Expended						
3.a Grants						
Missionary & Charitable giving:						
Church overseas						
Missionary Societies						
Relief & development agencies						
Home missions & other Church Societies						
	10	505			505	481
		505	0	0	505	481
3.b Activities directly relating to work of The Church						
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share						
		4,359			4,359	4,151
Ministry: Clergy Expenses						
		1,458			1,458	1,498
Church - running expenses						
		6,068			6,068	4,883
Church maintenance & repairs						
		503			503	695
		12,388	0	0	12,388	11,228
3c. Fund-raising and publicity						
Costs of fetes and other fund-raising events						
3d. Church management and administration						
Administration:						
Printing & Stationery						
Telephones						
Administrator						
Loan repayments & costs						
		0	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended						
		12,893	0	0	12,893	11,708

4. Staff Costs

There were no staff costs payable in respect of 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ending 31st December 2022

5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC

5a. Tangible Fixed Assets

Buildings

5b. Investments

1,264 shares in the CBF Investment
Fund (historical cost at
31st December 2022 - £734)

Market Value	
2022	2021
£	£
26,096	29,561

6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund

Fixed Assets

Current Assets

Current Liabilities

Long Term Loans

Fund Balance

Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £
		26,096	26,096
18,612	1,300		19,912
			0
			0
18,612	1,300	26,096	46,008

7. Debtors

Prepayments of Gas & Electricity

2022 £	2021 £
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**8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due
Within One Year**

No liabilities falling due within one year

9. Fund Details

Endowment Funds

Gulliver Bequest

Balance at 31/12/2022 £
26,096
26,096

10. Missions and Charitable Giving 2022

Beneficiary	Gross Donation £	Collection £	Allocation from PCC £
St Johns Boxmoor Christmas Tree Festival	45		45
Hospice of St Francis	300		300
Churches Together	20		20
	365	0	365

Other Charitable giving of £140 was given by the Church during 2022

Accounts for St Francis Hammerfield 2022 and Budget 2023

	2022	2022	2022	Variance	Year
Income	Budget	Actual Total	Budget	To Total	2023
	£			Budget	Budget
Giving	3,500	4,764	3,500	1,264	4,000
Hall Lettings	5,000	5,481	5,000	481	5,500
Fundraising	350	300	350	(50)	350
Coffee, Magazines etc.	0	15	0	15	0
Gulliver Bequest	700	777	700	77	700
Interest - CBF Account	10	112	10	102	30
Credit on Energy bills	0	1,000	0	1,000	0
Total	9,560	12,450	9,560	2,890	10,580
Expenditure					
Parish Share	4,359	4,359	4,359	0	4,511
Sanctuary	100	-	100	(100)	100
Gas	1,000	2,060	1,000	1,060	1,500
Electricity	1,000	843	1,000	(157)	1,500
Insurance	950	1,031	950	81	1,200
Water	200	230	200	30	250
Maintenance & Repairs	750	503	750	(247)	750
Sundries - cleaning	600	388	600	(212)	600
Forward in Faith	150	135	150	(15)	150
Churches Together	25	20	25	(5)	25
Charitable Giving	350	300	350	(50)	350
Petty Cash	0	1,500	0	1,500	0
Music	500	66	500	(434)	500
Total	9,984	11,435	9,984	1,451	11,436
Running Total	(424)	1,014	(424)	1,438	(856)
Restricted Income					
Carter Trust	0	-	0	0	0
Joyce Ralphs Bequest	0	-	0	0	0
Michael Abbiss Bequest	0	-	0	0	0
Sheila Howe Bequest	0	-	0	0	0
Donation towards new vestments	0	-	0	0	0
Donation towards cost of ramp	0	-	0	0	0
Total	0	-	0	0	0
Restricted Expenditure					
Clergy	1,200	1,458	1,200	258	1,500
Total	1,200	1,458	1,200	258	1,500
Balance on Carter Trust		-			
Total 2022/2023	(1,624)	-443	(1,624)	1,181	(2,356)

no money left in Carter Trust hence no budget
£1000 still to be used
£300 still to be used

Funds for clergy payments will be taken from the main account

2022 – 2023 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT on the Parish Fabric Goods & Ornaments

We are very grateful to all the support of volunteers who have been maintaining our buildings and churchyards which have been looking well-maintained and attractive.

At SJB the alterations of the choir stalls have been fully completed. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who, to begin with fortnightly and now weekly, keep the Church clean.

SJB Fabric, we have had some issues with the drains, which have been cleared. The gutters have been cleared, some were defective and required fixing. A quote was obtained from stone masons for repairing damaged blockwork, pointing and erosion under the east side and east window which has been completed satisfactorily. Some plumbing repairs have been completed in the hall kitchen, flower cupboard and west-end toilet.

The Church Wardens Easter Appeal 2021 was to fund AV equipment enabling services to be streamed live and recorded, this system eventually went live just before Christmas 2021. One outstanding element is a fast fibre internet connection which requires the support of BT Openreach, three times we have been advised that SJB was in their plan only to be told that their plans had changed. This continued to be pursued. The current G4 wireless broadband connection works but can be subject to very occasional interruptions.

In August 2022 we had the Archdeacon's inspection, it was mostly concerned with safeguarding, the Parish MAP and how the three churches were recovering post-pandemic. The report was positive on the whole. The annual checks on the fabric have been maintained and recorded.

Energy, the Parish energy cost has risen quite substantially, all the supply contracts have been reviewed or changed with the support of a broker at "Church Group Energy and Energisave" to ensure that we have the most cost-effective rates and be energy eco-responsible. All three churches are now on long-term contracts and will have either SMART meters or AMR installed, we also can access and view energy usage and cost online in the Parish Office.

At SJB we will be installing secondary Perspex glazing in the lady Chapel aiming to reduce heat loss, the windows will be cleaned and any damaged glass repaired or secured with lead strips. To ensure that the secondary glazing can be easily removed it will be fixed to the wall by a minimum of fixing points. As secondary and not permanent fixed glazing, is permitted and is approved for use in Grade I and II listed buildings.

SFH, the fabric is in general in good condition, however, the flat roofs will need attention in the next 6 months on both the North and South side, with some repairs to the guttering, especially above the main entrance doors. The hall does require painting to ensure that it remains attractive for hirings.

At SSC the light in the storage cupboard has been replaced, the guttering on the roadside has been cleared, and some outstanding tasks for the spring, fitting new porch light and recoating the porch roof and checking the guttering all around the building.

Throughout the past year, the statutory tests have been taking place in all three churches, PAT testing, fire appliances, gas boilers and heaters at SJB and SFH have been serviced as well as the West door maintenance and lightning conductor at SJB as per schedule.

During this last year, we were also grateful to welcome Olha and her family to 23 Beechfield road, we appreciate all those who helped with preparing the house and garden. We hope the support of the Parish will allow them to recover and have a new start.

Appreciate all the support from the Parish

Marian Davies & Job Rombout

March 2023

Report of Deanery Synod proceedings (2022 - 2023)

This report covers the proceedings of the Hemel Hempstead Deanery Synod for the period from March 2022 to February 2023. During the year there were two Deanery Synod meetings, covering a variety of different topics. The key areas of discussion are reported below:

Tuesday 28th June 2022 at All Saints Kings Langley

We thanked Rosina Gaddes who had stepped down as Deanery Lay Chair.

We welcomed Malcolm Grant, Chair of Trustees of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Malcolm told us about the work of the Trust, including how they raise their funds and how the funds are distributed by the Trust in the form of grants. He explained the process that a church must adhere to in order to access a grant from the Trust. Churches were encouraged to consider participating in the Trust's 'Bike and Hike' fundraising event in September each year.

The Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon reported on deanery expenditure (covering Zoom subscriptions for the churches) and on parish share payment status.

We shared one joy and one challenge from each parish.

Father James told synod about 'Church in the Wild' at All Saints – a monthly family outdoor service with a story, related activities, and shared food or toasted marshmallows over a fire. We finished our meeting by experiencing Church in the Wild in the churchyard.

Thursday 23rd February 2023 at St Benedict's Bennetts End

We welcomed Mandy Davies, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, who gave us an overview of what she and the Diocesan Safeguarding team do. She shared information about their workload, and the kinds of things that they are dealing with day to day. She talked about Safeguarding Training and gave us some ideas of how to make the training less onerous, and how she could help.

Mandy then invited a Q and A from the synod members and safeguarding leads who were present, and answered several queries about training and certification. Positive feedback was given to Mandy that it is good to know there are experienced people at diocese level giving support where needed to parishes.

The Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon reported on deanery expenditure for the prior year, and parish share payment – a good result with only 2 churches not paying their full parish share (both with an action plan to tackle this).

We shared news from each parish.

Further Deanery meetings planned this year:

Deanery Synod
Wednesday 28th June
Thursday 19th October

Standing & Pastoral Committee
Wednesday 7th June
Thursday 21st September

Carolyn Andrews
Deanery Secretary

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2022

(to be given at the 2023 APCM)

I concluded last year's report by stating:

... [It] goes to show how far we have come in 2021 from the void which was created in 2020 when we were ordered to 'stay at home' and lock our churches. Rebuilding is underway. Of course more was going on behind the scenes than I am able to express succinctly here, and more will be required to counterbalance the effects of the pandemic but we need to remember this is a marathon not a sprint. It is likely that 2022 and the years that follow will throw-up new and unexpected challenges, not least as Covid-19 continues to evolve and mutate. But we will need to find ways to live with the virus, continuing to help and encourage those who are struggling and working towards a brighter, more hope-filled future. May the Lord bless us in this task as we go about his work transforming communities, making new disciples, and going deeper into his love.

As predicted, 2022 was very much a year of re-building, re-engaging, re-opening. Remarkably – considering that the rise of the then new Covid variant, Omicron, our churches remained open for the entire year. For the first time in 2 years nothing was cancelled due to a spike in infections or the Government imposing new regulations. That's not to say everything felt 'normal' but rather that our communal life and worship was slowly recovering. This was perhaps first characterised by the running and completion of a Lent Course – in person, in its entirety. Attendance was small, but we had started to do things again. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party was a triumph with hoards of children whilst adults enjoyed a Cocktail Evening.

Lent gave way to Easter which saw worshippers return in their droves. The pandemic necessity of lighting the Easter flame outside inspired us to do the same in 2022... but through choice – a public witness to the Resurrection, and the large numbers showed that social distancing was no longer a necessity. Gradually, from Easter onwards, our congregations began to feel more confident and comfortable in Church. At the Feast of Corpus Christi we reintroduce the option to receive the Blood of Christ. To begin with this was met with scepticism and a little fear, but come the end of the year at least 75% of the congregation were taking the Sacrament in both kinds.

Christmas 2022 was much more like a pre-pandemic Christmas. We returned to our 'usual' pattern of services which were all well attended. For some of our

more popular services we retained the ticketing element which seems to be greatly appreciated by worshippers who prefer knowing they do not need to queue in the rain to get a seat.

But these weren't the only great liturgical events of the year. In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a wonderful choral service and lunch – full of joy and thanksgiving for her long reign, only for our joy to be turned to grief in September with the death of Her Late Majesty, marking her extraordinary life of service with our own Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on the eve of the State Funeral.

The liturgical life of this Parish is very varied; each of our Churches has their own style and ways of worshipping – for which we should be thankful. One of the greatest assets we possess is our musical heritage and throughout 2022 our Choir and musicians – in all 3 churches – did not disappoint. Although the choir primarily sang at evening services, the standard mirrored that on offer at Cathedrals and Greater Churches up and down the Land. The PCC recommitted to maintaining our musical tradition and to seeking new ways to enhance our musical life. The desire to have the choir back singing at the Parish Eucharist remains but work needs to be done to ensure that sufficient choristers are available to sing each week. I remain indebted to the skill and talent offered by our musicians – in all our churches – but especially Keith our Director of Music who always seems to know how to get the best out of our choir. I should also highlight our Junior Choir who are likewise going from strength to strength, first under Katherine's leadership, and then under Helen's whilst Katherine has been on maternity leave. Our Junior Choir brings a joy and freshness to our All Age Eucharist which I know is deeply appreciated.

Part of the recovery process in 2022 was to try and get our social life going again. Shrove Tuesday and the Jubilee lunch events formed part of this, but other events like the Annual Cricket Match (which we narrowly lost – again!), our Summer and Christmas Fayres, the Harvest Quiz and the Christmas Tree Festival all brought people together. St Francis also held a successful 'Open Day' to mark their Patronal Festival. As the year wore on, confidence definitely returned, which has been wonderful to see and experience. This perhaps has been seen most in the return of Friendship Teas which, when it first returned had 6 guests but come December was up to nearer 30. Thank you to everyone who has helped at, or attended these social events. They have helped us reconnect with each other and opened up the possibility to pray for each other.

The incredibly hot summer of 2022 brought both challenges and opportunities – for once we needed to work out how we could stay cool in church! But our open doors also enabled people to join our worship as they passed by. By the end of 2022 it was particularly pleasing to see new people joining our worshipping community on a weekly basis and sticking with us. God is at work among us in calling people to worship him; our task is to welcome them and help them to take their place within the household of faith. It was therefore very pleasing to host the Deanery Confirmation Service in November when 6 people from this Parish were Confirmed and 2 were Baptised by Bishop Christine.

As already mentioned, it was pleasing to hold a Lent Course again in its entirety. But this was not the only time we attempted to 'go deeper into God'. As a Parish we took part in the *Living in Love and Faith conversations* hosted by the Deanery. This was a way for the Church of England to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches on issues related to human sexuality and gender. But we also held a sermon series in the autumn on The Sacraments of The Church. For many, it was a long overdue refresher of their own confirmation classes; for others it was something new; but I hope for all it was a way of understanding how God imparts his Grace to us through the ministries of his holy Church.

One particular joy – although born out of great pain and sadness – was the decision to open our Curatage to a Ukrainian family seeking refuge following the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier in the year. My sincere thanks to our Churchwardens who worked extremely hard to facilitate this and who have helped this family to settle into the life of the Parish.

Another joy for me, personally, was the development of a partnership with The Hemel Hempstead School where I welcomed every Year 7 class (210 children) and both RE GCSE classes (60 teenagers) to St John's for sessions to help them with their curriculum and understanding. In recent years it has been a struggle to be involved with teenagers but this looks like an enduring partnership. Our links with the Primary Schools and Prep Schools in the Parish remains strong with regular visits, assemblies, and services.

One of the biggest concerns of 2022, and the difficulty of re-opening following lockdown, has been Pastoral Care of everyone. Pre-pandemic there were 2 clergy, assisted by a Lay Reader and a willing Pastoral Group who would keep an eye on people and take the Sacrament to people's homes. Canon Ruth was in the process of restructuring this group when the pandemic hit and then she retired. Now, we are left with one priest, a Lay Reader, and a Pastoral Group

that needs re-instigating. On the plus side, our telephone network worked incredibly well during the pandemic in maintaining contact and friendships. An attempt to continue this whilst re-opening took place during 2022 but the overwhelming response was that people wanted to reconnect in person via informal means. A task for 2023 will be to oversee the re-creation of a Pastoral Group that works for our current situation.

Our re-opening has not all been plain sailing. For instance, the usual Pastoral Offices of the Church (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) have not yet returned in number to the levels expected pre-pandemic. In 2022 7 weddings, 28 baptisms, and 31 funerals or memorial services were held in the Parish/conducted by the ministry team. This compares to 7 weddings, 14 baptisms, and 31 funerals or memorial services in 2021, and 4 weddings, 7 baptisms, and 30 funerals (most of which were at the Crem) in 2020. It is interesting to note that despite the national death rate still being higher than normal in these years our funeral ministry has shrunk. This has nothing to do with the ministry we offer (which we know to be greatly appreciated) but more to do with an increase in funerals conducted by Civil Celebrants and 'Straight to Crem' funerals where no funeral or minister is required. I suspect the rise in locations available for Weddings has also negatively impacted our position. Inevitably we did say 'farewell' to some of our friends in 2022, amongst them Ian Williams, Margaret Delph, Beryl King, Jean Stevens, Leslie Lunn, Rosemary Parish, and Una Higson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would be lying if I said that 2022 had not taken a huge amount of energy from me as we tried to emerge into a re-opened society and Church. It was a hard year. But as I have said before, the task of ministry and our common goal of witnessing to Jesus are always made easier by our partnership in the Gospel. I should like to express my sincere thanks to our visiting clergy who enable worship to take place when I am either not available or leading worship in a different church; to Carole for her insightful preaching and considerable sharing of the pastoral load; and our Lay Leaders of Worship for their prayerful leadership of the flock at St Stephen's. I should also like to thank our churchwardens, Marian and Job, for the unstinting support I receive from them and who do an incredible amount for the life of the parish. My thanks and gratitude also go to myriads of others (the list is too long to name you all) who help our common task with children and young people, communicating our services/events and message, singing God's praise, maintaining and cleaning our churches and grounds, fundraising, enabling fellowship, financial planning, governance and safeguarding, administration and forward planning, pastoral

care, and offering hospitality and welcome. Thank you to all of you for making our Parish the joy it is to minister within. I remain incredibly proud to be called to be your Vicar, and I hope and pray that I will continue to be able to serve with and among you for a long time to come. Please continue to pray for me in the ministry laid out before me.

My enduring memory of 2022 will be one of hope and possibility, mingled with hard work, realism, and slow progress. I remain confident that we will emerge more fully to being the Church we can be and want to be in 2023 but I am under no illusion as to the scale of the task. Mercifully, through prayer and trust, God will bring to fruition all that he has planned for us as we share in the work of his Kingdom. May the Lord continue to bless us in this task and may the life and joy of the risen Christ be ours as we live the Easter faith, for:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.