

New Windsor Team Ministry

Working together to make God's love known in Windsor



The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting of Parish of St. John the Baptist with All Saints

14th May 2023 at 11.30 a.m.

At All Saints' Church, Frances Road, Windsor

AGENDA

1. Annual Meeting to elect Churchwardens
 - A. Minutes of meeting 3rd May 2022
 - B. Election of two Churchwardens
2. Annual Parochial Church meeting
 - A. Minutes of meeting 3rd May 2022
 - B. Matters arising from the Minutes
 - C. Parish Report from the Rector
 - D. Churchwarden's reports on the fabric, goods and ornaments of both churches
 - E. Deanery Synod report
 - F. PCC Secretary's report
3. **Financial Report** – to include a Report on the financial affairs of the PCC and presentation of the audited accounts of, and statement of funds and property held by the PCC.
 - a) Confirmation of an Independent Examiner.
4. Other Reports:
 - A. Electoral Roll
 - B. Hall Committee
 - C. Music Report
 - D. Children, Young People and Families
 - E. Messy Church Report
 - F. Report from Tower Captain: Windsor Parish Church
 - G. Mother's Union
 - H. Mission Giving
 - I. Any Other Reports
5. Elections:
 - a) Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod
 - b) Representatives to the PCC
6. Becoming One Parish
7. Following the main meeting there will be a short meeting of the PCC:
 - Election of Vice Chair
 - Election of PCC Secretary
 - Election of Treasurer
 - Election of Deputy Churchwardens
 - Election of Vergers
 - Appointment of Sidespeople for the Parish Church and All Saints
 - Appointment of Team Council Reps
 - Date of next meeting

AOB – To be agreed in advance

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The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting of Parish of St. John the Baptist with All Saints

3rd May 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

At All Saints' Church, Frances Road, Windsor

MINUTES

Attendees: Revd. Sally Lodge, Don Church, Jill Church, Estlyn Davies, Jean Lightfoot, Les Lightfoot, Michael Bailey, Mary Delaney, Michael Harding, Veronica Stabbins, Adrian Stabbins, Ian Mawhinney, Revd. John Quick, Anne Casson, John Casson, Robin McConnell, and Katy Kerr (minutes)

Apologies Karen Allott, Kate McQuillan, John Halsey, Sally Merrick, Margaret Parsons, and Christine Heybourne

The Meeting opened with a passage of scripture and prayer

1. Minutes from the Annual meeting to elect Churchwardens

Minutes from the Annual meeting to elect Churchwardens held on 15th June 2021 – were accepted as a true record - proposed by Mary Delaney, Seconded by Estlyn Davies passed unanimously with 6 abstentions due to non-attendance.

- a. Election of 2 Churchwardens - Karen Allott (AS Church) was proposed by Kathryn Kerr and seconded by Michael Bailey. Michael Harding (Parish Church) was proposed by Mary Delaney and seconded by Les Lightfoot - they were both elected unopposed.

Sincere appreciation was extended to both Michael and Karen for all their hard work and the list of their tasks was read out so that everyone could understand the breadth of their workload and offer support.

Matters arising – none

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Reports were circulated in advance.

Minutes of the APCM meeting held on 15th June 2021 – were accepted as a true record - proposed by Mary Delaney, Robin McConnell seconded and these were passed unanimously except for 6 abstentions due to non-attendance.

No matters arising.

- a. The Rector's report was circulated prior to the meeting and time was given during the meeting for people to read the report. Revd. Sally was thanked for a comprehensive report and she highlighted the Messy Church initiative. Sally thanked Anne Casson for all her work with children's ministry and leading Church Club on a Sunday. Anne spoke about this work and the importance of support for children and their parents so we worship together. The meeting gave a huge vote of thanks to Revd. Sally for all that she has done since joining New Windsor and for all those who have supported the Parish through 2021.

- b. Churchwardens Reports –

Michael Harding (Parish Church) had provided a detailed report for 2021.

Karen Allott (All Saints) had also produced a detailed report and they both thanked all those who had assisted her during the year.

c. Deanery Synod Report – Robin McConnell and Estlyn Davies have attended all the Synod meetings and a report was circulated prior to the APCM. Robin informed the members about the direction that the church is hoping to develop as a result of reflection by the Bishop in light of the pandemic. Robin signposted to useful resources that are available through the Oxford Diocese. The next meeting will be in person and all are welcome to attend.

d. PCC Secretary Report – Summary report circulated.

3. Financial report – circulated prior to the meeting. Ian Mawhinney spoke to the report and explained that income was flat over the last 2 years but expenditure was up due to new boilers and organ repairs. Parish assets are mainly in the buildings. Hire income starting to increase now with more bookings.

Michael Bailey asked where items transferred from the Hall account were recorded in the report. Ian asked for this to be added in the minutes to clarify this as movement of money from one charity to another. John Halsey asked for clarification where donations to the Restoration and Organ fund which had been made towards certain causes are recorded. Ian will put together a budget for approval by the PCC. He explained that keeping funds in separate accounts cost us money to maintain so we work via a budget system in future so it is clear what is collected and spent.

A huge thank you was expressed to Ian for everything he does to help with this and to Neil Beaton for his ongoing support.

Confirmation of an Independent Examiner – Mr Kerry Nash was proposed by Ian Mawhinney, Michael Harding seconded - and unanimously agreed.

4. Other Reports – had been circulated in advance.

A. Electoral Roll - 73 members, 2 new additions. Margaret was thanked for her work and she wishes to stand down. Michael Bailey proposed Katy Kerr to the role, seconded by Don Church and all voted in favour.

B. Hall report – Roger Bowden provided a report. Thanks were given to Roger and the whole Hall Committee. Roger and Don were thanked for all they do for the maintenance of the Hall, church and gardens.

C. Music Report – John Halsey, Organist and Choir Master, had produced a very detailed report. Hopefully the organ in Parish Church will be ready for the celebrations in June.

D. Mothers' Union – Estlyn Davies sent a report, MU was hard hit in 2021. The Branch continue to support the Diocesan projects and offer fellowship to one another. New members would be very welcome and meetings are now possible in 2022.

E. Mission Giving – Estlyn explained why we offer support to the various charities including Number 22 Community Counselling Service.

5. Elections

Anne Casson becomes a member of the PCC as a Licensed Lay Minister. Sally proposed, unanimously agreed.

a) Deanery Synod Representatives – elections were not due for the Deanery Synod this year As the Electoral Roll is under 80 people we are only allowed two representatives.

Robin McConnell and Estlyn Davies will continue for three years (from October 2020).

Representatives on the PCC

b) Currently: 1 member had completed 3 years (Katy Kerr).

The PCC was entitled to have 9 lay representatives with an Electoral Roll from 50 - 100.

Re-elected – Katy Kerr (elected 2022) – proposed Jill Church and seconded by Mary Delaney - unanimously agreed

Continuing on PCC

Ian Mawhinney (elected 2020)

Kate McQuillan (elected 2020)

Mary Delaney (elected 2021)

Adrian Stabbins (elected 2021)

This leaves four vacancies – we need to recruit more people and this should be a priority.

The meeting finished with Grace.

Following the APCM there was a short meeting of the PCC.

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Annual Report for 2022

Team Rector's Report

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12.15)

It is one of the privileges of ministry to be with people at times of happiness as well as times of sadness. As I look back over 2022, I am struck by the contrasting joy and sorrow which permeated the year and in which all of us, as part of our church community here in Windsor, were touched in one way or another.

The year began with celebrations for Epiphany and Candlemas in January, and then on Sunday 6th February we marked the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II with a special morning service at Windsor Parish Church attended by children from St Edward's Royal Free Middle School, some of whom took part in the service. Lodges Brothers kindly produced for us a special commemorative order of service for the occasion. It was a time of rejoicing.

But February was also marked by the invasion of Ukraine. Our churches have been places where our Ukrainian friends have found comfort and love. The Ukrainian flags behind the altar at Holy Trinity Church have provided a focus for many.

Palm Sunday fell on 10th April and we were blessed with a gloriously sunny day for our Palm Procession from St Stephen & St Agnes to All Saints via Holy Trinity. After the covid restrictions of the previous two years, it was a joy to gather at Holy Trinity on Maundy Thursday for a Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper including foot-washing and vigil. On Good Friday at Windsor Parish Church we had the pleasure of hearing Haydn's Seven Last Words played by a string quartet organised by John Halsey, as well as readings and meditations and a traditional Liturgy of the Cross to conclude the Three Hours. Easter Day was celebrated with full ceremonies at St Stephen & St Agnes Church.

The following Sunday, Eastertide celebrations continued with a joyful Songs of Praise at All Saints' Church at which the All Saints' Lighting Appeal was officially launched. This project was possible thanks to a generous bequest from Tom Smith, former churchwarden. Throughout the rest of the year several other generous donations were forthcoming and bids were made to various trust funds. By the end of 2022, over 53% of the total required (£60,000) had been raised and All Saints' Church was well on the way to having good interior lighting in place.

With the Diamond Jubilee fast approaching, the RSCM held a well-attended Come & Sing event at Windsor Parish Church on 14th May. The Platinum Jubilee was celebrated at services at our Pentecost services at Holy Trinity and St Stephen & St Agnes on 5th June. During this time of national celebration, visitor numbers to Windsor Parish Church increased, including a noticeable increase in overseas visitors.

On 8th June, Fr Richard led a moving service of commemoration at Holy Trinity Church attended by the Mayor to mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, remembering especially those who lost their lives on RFA Sir Galahad. An example of our providing a sacred place to weep with those who weep.

There was rejoicing once again on Sunday 26th June in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Windsor Parish Church. A series of events took place in the preceding week culminating in a festal sung Eucharist when we were delighted to be joined by Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading.

Undoubtedly the most profound affect on my ministry was the unprecedented outpouring of grief following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September. I have spoken and written about this previously so will not do so here other than to express once again my gratitude for all those who assisted with stewarding at Windsor Parish Church during this remarkable period of public mourning.

There were traditional services of remembrance at Holy Trinity Church and Windsor Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday and the Eucharist at St Stephen & St Agnes was followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial. Again, our churches offered sacred places to weep with those who weep.

Christmas celebrations began shortly after Advent Sunday with the first of our school carol services taking place on 2nd December! This was followed by 15 separate Carol Services and Nativity plays across our 4 churches in the 10 days up to 16th December. At Holy Trinity the traditional Carols by Candlelight took place on both Saturday 17th December and Friday 23rd December with huge numbers attending on each occasion. Numbers were high too at our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. People of all ages were able to rejoice once again at Christ's birth in a way that had not been possible in the two previous years.

Throughout the year, ministry has continued in our schools with regular assemblies taking place at Trinity St Stephen's, St Edward's Royal Free, Queen Anne First School and Upton House, and the return of Open the Book to Queen Anne. These opportunities are a constant source of rejoicing. At St Edward's Royal Free, it was a particular pleasure to be involved in a day of celebration attended by the Bishop of Oxford and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, rejoicing in the ecumenical foundation of the school.

Amongst new (or renewed) initiatives in 2022 were the launch of regular social events beginning with the highly successful quiz night in October, and the "Sundays at 4" All Age service. Messy Church continued to take place every couple of months, the fellowship and fun enjoyed by the volunteers as well as the children and their families is wonderful to see.

In 2022 there were 44 baptisms, 3 confirmations, 8 weddings and 24 funerals. Thank you to all who assist in the smooth running of these occasional offices. Amongst the departed we mourned the deaths of Margaret Whale, John Bastow, John King, Frank Blagrove and Gerald Milne. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

I cannot conclude this summary of the year without mentioning the transfer of the leasehold of Holy Trinity Parish Room to Windsor Christian Action which was finally completed on 18th March. I am delighted that we were able eventually to navigate the hugely complex legal process involving three firms of solicitors. I rejoice that the plan to use the building for the benefit of the most vulnerable members of our community is nearing the completion. In the words of Bishop Steven, "this is an answer to prayer...a very impressive project... congratulations to [the] team for their patience and perseverance".

Ministry is a group activity which involves many people carrying out their tasks, often unseen or unacknowledged in what they do. I know you do these things tirelessly, without complaint. Please

forgive me those occasions when I have failed to thank or to acknowledge. Amongst you are churchwardens, treasurers, PCC secretaries, Parish Safeguarding Officers, PCC members, readers, intercessors, welcomers, caterers, stewards, cleaners, bellringers, technical experts, musicians, organists, Sunday Club and Messy Church volunteers and those who open and close our church buildings. Thank you to all of you for all that you do *together* to make God's love known in Windsor. Thank you to Victoria Stephens and Steve Smith for all the administrative assistance you have given. Thank you to our wonderful retired clergy, to Anne in her LLM role and to Fr Richard for your support and friendship. And thank you to John for accepting with such good grace another year of being a clergy spouse and for weeping and rejoicing with me at the appropriate times!

Thank you *everybody* for all that you do and all that you are.

May the Lord bless you and give you his peace.

Sally

Revd Canon Sally Lodge

3rd April 2023

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist

The current Quinquennial report highlighted repairs to the fabric which needed to be done. Outstanding work outlined in the report will continue to be carried out as funding allows.

The annual inspection of fire extinguishers has taken place.

The annual service of the lightning conductor has taken place.

The present boilers have now been serviced for the second time. Unfortunately some leakage of the cast iron heating pipes has occurred inside the church which have been repaired and further leaks can't be ruled out. New radiators and pipework still need to be installed at some stage before there is flooding in the church.

The Friends of WPC committee continue to be active and the following have been completed:-

A new main notice board at the front of the church

Repair work and improvements carried out to the car park posts and metal chains for health and safety reasons

Disabled access signs indicating access via the tunnel in Church Lane

Re-varnishing of book boxes and pew at West end of the church

A mobile mast is installed in the tower. An annual £10,000 rental continues to be paid quarterly which is used to help fund fabric repairs.

The Bicentenary of the building of the present church was in June 2022 and a week of planned varied events took place during the week leading up to the Patronal Festival. These were very well received. Some plaster fell from the gallery ceiling in that week and repairs and painting on the South side should be carried out this year which will be an expensive project.

The full restoration of the 1906 Hunter organ continues to progress and It is hoped that Bishop & Son will complete the work before the end of the year.

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II last September an extraordinary week took place at Windsor Parish Church. Books of Condolence were set up, pictures of Her Majesty sourced and framed, candles lit by the thousand and the crowds came through the doors to pay their respects.

James Hayward continues to lock up the church and cover staging requirements and stewarding for concerts.

Finally, I want to thank all those who have assisted me as Churchwarden throughout the year in helping to maintain and develop the Parish Church, as I know that this support is crucial to both the day-to-day tasks and the bigger events. In particular I would like to mention my wife Anne who has allowed me to continue in my role, my Deputy Churchwarden Estlyn Davies, Treasurer Ian Mawhinney, Diane Plowman, Doreen Laity, Caroline Cope, Jackie Clark and Anne and John Casson together with others from across the Team.

Michael Harding, Churchwarden, 4 May 2023

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of All Saints' Church

All Saints Lighting Project

Following the launch of this project at the Songs of Praise service in April 2022, we faced the daunting task of raising the £60,000 needed to carry out the works. I am delighted to say that following several very generous donations, and the hard work of the Lighting Committee members who secured some generous funding from various trusts, we reached our target within a year.

In terms of personal donations, my particular thanks goes to the families of Tom Smith and John and Angela Drewitt, who I'm sure many of you will remember and whose contributions greatly boosted our fundraising efforts. The Berkshire Historical Churches Trust, the Englefield Charitable Trust, Prince Philip Trust and the Louis Baylis Trust were just some of the trusts we applied to and who gave generously to our campaign, thanks to John Halsey and Robin McConnell who spent many hours gathering required information and filling in all the necessary forms.

We are also grateful to St Stephens and St Agnes PCC who gave a generous donation and to all those who's donations contributed towards raising the full amount in such a short period of time.

The works are scheduled to start on 22nd May 2023 and will take approximately 5 weeks to complete. During this time the church will be closed although access will be possible for specific purposes such as use of the photocopier. The service on 11th June will also go ahead. I am very much looking forward to seeing the new lighting in action!

Hand rail into choir vestry

A request was made to put in a handrail on the steps from the Chancel down into the Choir Vestry, to make access safer. Following discussion, it was agreed that there should be a handrail on both sides of the steps and that Jason Gregory would fit these for us. The handrails have been ordered and

will hopefully be in place by the end of June. The Hall Committee have agreed to cover the costs and we are very grateful to them.

Servicing, maintenance and repairs

Regular servicing and maintenance of all equipment and appliances in the church, including the fire extinguishers and the heaters, has been carried out. The annual testing of the lightning protection system was also carried out and, as was the case last year, we were given a conditional pass. This is due to the fact that, whilst the systems structural protection is sufficient, some elements require improvement/maintenance in order for it to meet current minimum requirements of BS EN 62305. Due to our financial situation, we are currently unable to cover the large cost of these improvements. However, we are assured that the system is safe. In a bid to reduce costs where we can, we have signed up to a 3 year maintenance plan which gives us a 5% saving on the annual cost.

Hall

At the same time as the heaters in the church were serviced, we arranged for those in the hall to be serviced too. As a result, we were told that the 2 heaters in the hall were not safe and needed replacing. After considering the cost implications and volume of work, we decided to go with a like for like replacement. After some initial teething issues, the heaters are now in good working order.

Following the electrical survey on the hall in April 2022, which highlighted several serious issues, remedial works were carried out over the summer and we now have a safety certificate.

Repairs were made to the two playground buildings in Puddleduck's garden. Both had their rooves replaced by Jason Gregory.

Fence repairs

Parts of the fence surrounding the church grounds had been gradually deteriorating over the past year or so and several posts had rotted away, so we obtained a quote to repair what could be repaired and replace any parts that were too far gone. This work was completed at the end of March 2023 but it was identified that we would need 2 additional new posts to replace those on the Frances Road gate. These have been ordered and the work should be completed within the next month. This will be a much needed improvement and we are grateful once again to the Hall Committee for agreeing to fund these repairs.

External works on church

Following the theft of lead from above the side door to the church on Frances Road in 2017, work has finally been completed to replace it with a lead substitute. Costs, covid and illness have all played a part in the delay but it is good that it has now been done.

The high-level guttering of the church was cleared by Jason Gregory with the use of a Cherry Picker.

Church grounds

The Frances Road group, who help to look after parts of the church grounds, offered to buy a new tree to replace the prunus tree on the Frances Road side of the church, that was cut down due to disease. This tree has now been planted and is currently in bloom! My thanks to the group for their continuing support.

Michael Harding has looked after the gardens around the church for many years and has now decided to retire from this role. He has handed over the reins to Tristan Friend who worked with Michael to

keep the grounds looking tidy and smart and who now runs the company. My thanks go to Michael for all the hard work he has undertaken.

Miscellaneous

- Don and Roger have treated the main door of the church with a coat of teak oil. It needs another coat and this should be completed this month.
- 5 tons of additional gravel has been added in the car park, along with wooden sleepers at the Frances Road side.
- John Halsey arranged for the disposal of 341 various hymn books which are no longer used. Permission was given from the Area Dean and the books were sent to books for Africa.
- In June 2021, Elizabeth Gorsuch took the banner which was given in memory of her father Jeffrey Clarke, churchwarden from 1949 to 1962, in order for it to be cleaned and restored. The work was completed and in June 2022 the banner was rededicated during the Sunday service in All Saints.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in my role as churchwarden during this last year. As always, I am extremely grateful that there are so many people who are willing to put themselves forward when asked as I really couldn't manage without you. I would like to say a particular word of thanks to Gill Pengilley, Katy Kerr and Roger Bowden who, as Deputy Churchwardens, are always ready to help in whatever way they can. I would also like to say a very big thank you to both Roger and Don who give so much of their own time to complete a vast number of 'odd jobs' in and around the church, the churchyard and the hall. They can turn their hand to (almost) anything and I am grateful for their willingness to do this.

Karen Allott, Churchwarden, May 2023

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual Report for 2022

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to June 2023. At the end of 2022 the Synod had 71 members. Attendance varied from 35 to 43 over the year.

Elections for Deanery Synod lay representatives will take place during the first half of 2023 with effect from 1st July.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2022:

Tuesday 15th February 2022 on Zoom:

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod about the spiritual and practical Christian response to climate change, expressing the seriousness of this issue, why we should care as Christians, and how we can act personally, nationally and locally.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Bishop Olivia and to share comments.
- The two General Synod members from our Deanery, Gracy Crane and Daniel Matovu, reported on the February 2022 session of General Synod which had recently concluded, including the debates about racial justice, challenging slavery and human trafficking, the persecuted church, and Anglican Communion representation in the appointment of any future Archbishop of Canterbury.

Thursday 19th May 2022 at St Andrew's Church, Clewer:

- Archdeacon Stephen Pullin reminded the Synod about what Common Vision is, speaking about each of the five Common Vision focus areas and available resources in those areas.
- Stephen asked for parishes to have a reality check and to give input as to how well these resources are wanted and being used.
- Synod members discussed and gave written and oral feedback to the Archdeacon.

Tuesday 20th September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Maidenhead:

- John Sykes shared a brief overview of the Wycombe Deanery Discipleship Training Centre.
- The Synod spent time in small groups sharing encouragements, needs and struggles.
- Some encouragements and challenges were fed back to the whole Synod.
- The Synod spent time praying for some of the situations shared and for wider needs in the church and the world.
- Daniel Matovu, General Synod member, reported on the July 2022 General Synod sessions, including debates about climate change, affirmation and inclusion of disabled people in churches, assisted suicide, and safeguarding. Daniel also described the brief workshop which took place relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Despite a very simple agenda, many members found this meeting very encouraging.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing legacy of Covid-19, and the use of Deanery reserves, the Deanery paid 100% of its parish share for 2022, a total of £ 1,019,381. This was an increase from the £ 961,058 paid against an allocation of £ 1,020,191 in 2021. Richard Thorogood stepped down as Deanery Treasurer at the end of 2022 and the Deanery would like to thank him for his work over a challenging few years.

PCC Secretary's Report

Members of the PCC: Revd. Canon Sally Lodge (Chair), Michael Harding, Karen Allott, Mary Delaney, Estlyn Davies, Kate McQuillan, Robin McConnell, Ian Mawhinney, Adrian Stabbins, Anne Casson and Katy Kerr.

Grateful thanks go to all the committee members for their commitment, dedication and hard work. Financial decisions are made by the PCC, the largest of these relates to the ongoing extensive repairs to the organ at the Parish Church by Bishop and Son which are finally nearing completion. A fundraising campaign is underway to enable a much needed upgrade to the lighting system in All Saints Church. A separate group has been formed to manage the project. Further information on donations and spending is available in the financial report.

We continue to worship at both churches on a rota each month with the other churches in the Team. The PCC meet in person and are now participating in the joint PCC evenings. Part 1 allows time to discuss agenda items that relate to all the churches and reduces the amount of duplication for members of the Clergy. Topics that are more specifically relevant to this Parish are discussed and decided during Part 2 when the PCCs split into their separate groups. This format works well and it also allows time for people to come together for fellowship and worship across the Team.

All Saints' Church is now open daily in line with the Parish Church. It is important as it provides both witness and a place of comfort to the community. Both churches have had maintenance undertaken, dealing with a variety of matters as detailed in the churchwardens reports.

Safeguarding is an important issue and we have a dedicated agenda item on this at each meeting. All members of the PCC have completed DBS checks and have undertaken Safeguarding training. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

K. Kerr, PCC Secretary, April 2023

Parish Hall Annual Report

Mission Statement for the Parish Hall Committee:

'To provide a safe and well maintained Parish Hall facility, at a reasonable rental rate determined by the Hall Committee, and agreed by the PCC, in which people of all ages in and around the local community, can freely work ,learn, play or rest, all within the Christian ethos of making God's love known in Windsor.'

Hall Management Committee:

There have been no personnel changes on the committee this year although some of the committee work has been reallocated within the committee. Gill Pengilley has relinquished her position as the accounts' secretary for the hall and Karen and Roger have taken this on in a shared capacity. We would like to thank Gill for all her hard work over the last few years keeping the accounts in order. However, Gill has stepped in to record the minutes of our meetings.

Lettings & Bookings:

We have had a good year with the lettings which has seen a 25% increase in our Gross Profit compared to 2021. However, 2021 was badly affected by Covid so this increase was not completely unexpected.

Hall Maintenance:

The main upgrade this year was the replacement of both the gas heaters in the hall. We also had the roofs replaced on two outbuildings in the school playground (carried out by Jason Gregory). This has made both buildings usable by the school and the church. It has also made the buildings safe for the children who use the play area in which the buildings are sited. We didn't manage to get the lighting in the hall upgraded this year but hopefully we will get this done in 2023. Again, I would like to say a special thankyou to Don Church for all his help during the year on minor repairs and maintenance in the hall, church and gardens.

Gardens:

The 'Frances Road Group' managed by Susie Prichard continues doing a great job in bringing the gardens around the hall and church to life and I would like to say a big thank you to Susie for all her hard work. The Japanese Knotweed in one area of the garden continues to be treated.

Cleaning:

A big 'Thank You' is due to Justyna Rezcek who continues doing a great cleaning job in both the hall and All Saints church in addition to her work as the 'Bookings Secretary'.

Committee Members: *Rev. Sally Lodge, Michael, Harding, Karen Allot, Don Church, Gill Pengilley, Angela Bradberry, Eunice Stone, Justyna Reczek, Roger Bowden (Chair).*

Roger J. Bowden, Chair of Hall Committee 8th May 2023

New Windsor Parish Music Report

Music List

Selection of music for our worship is discussed and agreed between the Rector and the Director of Music. A Music List for the whole Team Ministry is published each month, including hymns, psalms, Communion settings and anthems. The Addington and Mass for St Thomas settings are sung in rotation, except for Advent and Lent when the setting by Dom Gregory Murray is used. Responsorial psalms from the lectionary are sung between 1st and 2nd readings on Sunday mornings.

A wide range of hymns is sung, drawing on the New English Hymnal, Common Praise, Mission Praise and other sources. 341 old and superseded hymn books were disposed of to Books2Africa during the year.

Sunday Club singing

During Sunday sermons, I often go to lead Sunday club singing. We sometimes rehearse music for the service, and sometimes different children's songs.

Choir

The voluntary Benefice Choir has had a good year, with most members singing regularly at Friday practices and at all four churches for Sunday 10am services, evening services, weddings and funerals. As the pandemic has eased, we no longer maintain Covid social distancing at practices. Despite increasing age and infirmity, attendance at practices and services has been good, and the

choir is in good heart. Our choral repertoire has slightly reduced because our capabilities have slightly declined, particularly in the Bass section, and it is better to sing simpler music well rather than stretch ourselves to perform music that is beyond us. The contributions of visiting singers have been wonderful on special occasions, including Toby Casson, Leslie Grout and Robert Opoku. Thank you very much. Welcome back to Carolyn Gower who has rejoined the choir. Thank you too to Katy Kerr and Anne Casson who sing in the choir when their other duties don't clash.

A most successful Choir Christmas Lunch was held at the Palmer's Arms, Dorney.

Special events

The centrepiece of the choir's year was the 200th anniversary of Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist, including a gala concert together with the Royal Free Singers and the Choir of St George's School, Ascot. The Parish Church also hosted a devotional performance of Stainer's Crucifixion with RSCM visitors in Passiontide, returning to our pre-pandemic pattern of performing this work once every two years. At All Saints, highlights included a several Choral Evensongs, plus a Songs of Praise and a concert by Jenny Thomas, Reiko Ichise and John Halsey in aid of All Saints Lighting Appeal.

Parish Church Organ

Restoration work by Bishop & Son organ builders has been in progress throughout 2022. Progress has been much slower than expected. To the end of 2022, £167,000 of the contract price had been paid, 81% of the contract price, with the balance to be paid on completion. VAT has been paid and reclaimed on the £167,000. We have a small contingency reserve of just over £1,500, which will be needed for upgrading organ blower electrics and console mirrors. A 3-manual electronic organ, provided free of charge by the organ builders Bishop & Son remains in use pending completion of the restoration.

All Saints' Church Organ

The organ is in reasonably satisfactory working order. There will be a need for thorough cleaning of the instrument in coming years in order to improve the reliability of the action. I propose we aim for this to take place by 2031 as this will be the centenary of installation of the organ and gallery. A modest restricted fund is accumulating, with monthly donations from two parishioners. In the shorter term, it is planned to ask Bishop & Son to do a small job to regulate the manual keyboards. This will be done after the Parish Church organ restoration is complete.

Organ loft lighting was condemned and has temporarily been replaced by two lamps. Organ loft lighting will be upgraded as part of the All Saints' Lighting Project.

Keyboard and piano

The Kawai keyboard is in good order. It continues to be kept in the All Saints' Choir vestry for security, and is carried to the chancel to accompany the choir in services. The Parish Church Yamaha grand piano is also in satisfactory order.

Organists

For Sunday 10am services at WPC and AS, and for Evensongs at AS, John Halsey usually both plays the organ and directs the choir. We are fortunate that John and Oliver Lomberg can often deputise for each other across the Team Ministry if one is away. We are also fortunate that there are several

other organists in and around Windsor who can usually deputise when needed. We are rather fortunate in this regard, as several local parishes have been looking without success for a regular organist.

Organ teaching

I have had three organ pupils during the year. Two prep school boys preparing for Eton College, and one secondary school music teacher aiming to transfer his piano skills to the organ. I am grateful to the PCC for permitting me to use the church organs for teaching as well as for my own practice.

John Halsey, Organist & Choirmaster, New Windsor Parish; Director of Music, New Windsor Team Ministry May 2023

Report on Children, Young People and Families

I am pleased to report that our churches work with children continues to grow over the eighteen months I have been working in Windsor. There is still a long way to go. Penny Wells has written a report on Messy Church and I know she agrees that we need prayer for the churches work with the children in Windsor. Without this, and the continuing care, concern and generosity of our volunteers, progress will stall.

Open the Book started again after a Covid break. This is a delightfully successful mission opportunity for us. 150 children attend a short portrayal of a Bible Story, with an introduction and closing prayer, every week in term-time. We use materials from the Bible Society. The children listen enrapt. With more volunteers we could reach more children in other schools.

In September, we started an afternoon service for all ages, not just children, as an attempt to involve those who have lost touch with the church or who are new to Christian worship. Our themes have been, Love of Creation and our pets, St Nicholas including a gift service, Jesus in the Wilderness and St George (and the dragon). This service too is dependent on a good crowd of regulars who provide the welcome and the tea.

I have been running Sunday Club now for 18 months. It was wonderful when Estlyn came on board to provide a most skilled extra adult, whom we needed to ensure our safeguarding was adequate. This extra help is essential if parents of older children are to be able to leave them at Sunday Club and enjoy adult worship.

After 70 weeks with Sunday Club, I am taking a bit of a break and will run a Sunday Club with Bible teaching, worship, games and craft on two Sundays a month. Estlyn plans to cover a more streamlined session on the other Sundays. Sunday Club is labour intensive since we never know how many, or what age, children will attend and materials on a relevant Christian theme have to be prepared every week. The age-range of two to eleven is not ideal either. Parents come to Sunday Club with their children and seem to enjoy their time with us, but very few return. We need to think carefully why this might be and how we proceed with this aspect of our children's work.

Your ideas and prayers are always welcome. Do come and talk to me.

Anne Casson, Licensed Lay Minister, April 2023

Messy Church Report

Our Messy Church work with children has become embedded in our church life in a short period of time. It is supported by a loyal group from across the churches and truly represents how we are coming together to work as one parish and one community.

Each event is themed with a bible story, singing, presentation, crafting, act of worship ending with a communal meal with the children, parents and helpers. We hold these every 6-8 weeks and past themes have included the Epiphany, Palm Sunday, Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, Jesus – light of the world and calming of the storm, featuring exciting crafts such as star making, crowns, models of the Queen, donkeys, lighthouses and the absolute favourite, decorating biscuits!

Numbers attending in 2022 varied between 5 – 25 children with their parents/carer(s) most of whom stay for the delicious meals served by our catering team which has included such delights as pizzas, roast chicken, pasta bakes, curries and of course, favourite childhood puddings such as apple crumbles and jelly & ice cream. At the end of 2022, there were 72 children registered as having attended at least once.

We encourage parents to book their place but it is always somewhat pot luck with numbers but we still cope as we're blessed with fantastic enthusiastic volunteers who have great fun working with the children. We are so grateful for their dedication and support.

Our Messy Church brings the Christian message to children through relaxed teaching and participation, the meal is an important opportunity to come together as a community that rounds off the event very nicely. As we grow in numbers we would greatly welcome further assistance and would welcome anyone to join us.

Penny Wells, April 2023

Report from Tower Captain: Windsor Parish Church

The last year has been a year of change. Huge change.

Bell ringing returned to a more normal pattern of ringing after the severe curtailment during the pandemic but at Windsor the ringers themselves had changed. Vic Mitchell and Frank Blagrove had both retired from active ringing due to health reasons (something many ringers didn't think they'd ever see as they had both been ringing for seventy plus years) and then both died at the end of 2022. A tragic loss for their families but also the end of an era for the ringing community.

At Windsor, St John the Baptist, we set about continuing Frank's duties by looking after his bells. White's of Appleton (bell hangers) came and gave them an inspection and were realistic with their assessment saying that a great deal of the fixtures and fittings were close to the end of their usable time. We took that as a bit of a challenge and have completed many hours of tender care to get them back to a more friendly set of bells, ringable by all. The work continues and we have more experienced assistance booked in for later in the year.

We rang for the Queen's Jubilee, her sad death and for her funeral. We rang for all but one service in 2022, all weddings, had a branch practice, a youth practice and visiting bands of ringers and quarter peals.

We are looking for more recruits so if anyone would like to come and see what it is all about we would be delighted.

Vikki Bulbeck, Tower Captain 07768 272265



In Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Mothers' Union Report for 2022

It was with great joy and thanksgiving we held our first meeting this year at Margaret Parsons' home in February when Margaret Pettitt gave a fascinating account of her work in the NHS. We had not met face to face since the Covid Pandemic.

Our Lent Reflections were ably led by Anne Casson our new Licensed Lay Minister and MU member. The Rev Canon Jeremy Hurst delighted us with his talk on one of his favourite poets, Gerard Manley Roberts. We loved the rich language and topics of this Victorian Poet.

Mike Bailey told us all about his work compiling lists of the many Memorials in Windsor Parish Church. The slide show ensured a tour of the Memorials later in the year. Mike is truly a wealth of knowledge. We were intrigued by Sally Merrick's talk on her work as a secretary in the House of Commons and then her involvement in Riding for the Disabled and the Horse Sculpture on the roundabout near the Long Walk. Our new Assistant Priest, Father Richard with his very moving personal story certainly reminded us all daily to "Count your blessing name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done". None of us had visited Albania so we were delighted with the talk and Slide show by John and Anne Casson on their visit. We at last knew why Byron is held in such high regard there.

The excellent attendance at our Advent Service greatly surpassed our expectations. Our Speakers and many Friends joined us for the traditional Service, lighting off the candles and carols....They also rendered their favourite Christmas verses. It wouldn't be Advent without their contributions!

Our grateful thanks to all our Speakers for so generously giving us their time and expertise. We are also appreciative the many friends whose company we have enjoyed at our meetings. All meeting have been reported in the Church Magazine.

We have continued to help with teas when needed and some members have enjoyed being part of the Open the Book Team. We have also sent Christmas Cards to the youths at the Bullingdon Remand Centre and cards for the lads to send to their own Mothers on Mothering Sunday.

We are extremely grateful to all members of our four Churches who have continually supported for many years our annual collection of toiletries for the Diocesan MU support given to the Parents of very sick children at The Radcliffe Hospital Oxford.

We may be few but with the help of our many friends we are still able to serve others, helping where we can. We thank God for all his blessings, help and guidance and we pray He will continue to show us His Ways.

Estlyn Davies April 2023

Mission Giving 2022

LOCAL

Food Share.	£250
Homeless Project.	£250
Street Angels.	£250
Night Shelter.	£250
Number 22 - Community Counselling Service	£200
Crossroads.	£200

NATIONAL

Children's Society.	£200
Church House Trust.	£200
Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary.	£200

INTERNATIONAL

Bible Society.	£200
Fistula Hospital Ethiopia.	£200
Melanesian Mission.	£200
Mission to Seafarers.	£200
Congo Church Association.	£200

£3000

Estlyn Davies, Michael Harding, April 2023.