



REPORT

BOOKLET

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Vicar's Report

2021 began in a similar vein to much of 2020, with a suspension of public services on 6th January at Hughenden, with our parish continuing to be fed through online services, under the banner of St Michael's@10, for the entirety of January, February and March.

We were able to introduce live-streamed services in church, sadly without a congregation, which was a rather unreal experience, to put it mildly. I would like to pay particular tribute to Tony and the worship band, Neil and the choir, and our indefatigable technical team for going far beyond the call of duty – thank you all so much.

There was an upsurge in cases of covid, and fatalities across the nation over those difficult winter months, as we endeavoured to stay in touch with those who were struggling and in need of practical and spiritual support. Coffee & Fellowship continued throughout this period at 11.00 am on Zoom each Sunday morning, as a means of staying in touch with one another.

We also trialled an evening service online via Zoom at 6.00 pm on three different Sunday evenings, which were attended by 25-30 different people.

The much heralded arrival of Spring in late March, was accompanied by a more positive outlook, as covid cases fell, and the government was by now well into implementing its road map for recovery, including the welcome arrival of a covid vaccine at last.

Encouraged by these signs, with much joy and anticipation, church services at Hughenden recommenced on Easter Day, Sunday 4th April, with a Choral Communion service at 9.00 am, followed by an outdoor service at 11.00 am, accompanied by warm sunshine! 114 souls attended those morning services, which was a time of great celebration, both in rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and being able to worship together in person once again.

We continued with our revised service pattern for the remainder of 2021, which featured weekly 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.00 pm services. That was augmented in early June by the introduction of a new midweek Holy Communion at 11.00 am on Tuesdays. This service has been well received and appreciated by many, who prefer to attend midweek rather than a Sunday, due to family commitments, and an 11.00 am start time afforded us the opportunity, at TJ's suggestion, of introducing an occasional soup lunch together afterwards in Church House, with the opportunity to chat about

whatever the service theme had been. This was trialled during Advent, until it was curtailed by covid restrictions, but was well received by those able to attend.

July was a significant month in our church calendar for several reasons. On 2nd July, a presentation was made to Rev Helen Peters, in recognition of her remarkable ministry as Associate Minister in our parish, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of her ordination. Thank you Helen, your ministry is a great encouragement to us all.

Sunday 4th July was a memorable day for our church family as Alan Jaycock and Jan Elliott became husband and wife, and were married at our church. I am reliably informed that their feelings for one another became apparent and grew during our Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2020, and it was such a privilege to officiate at their wedding and pray for God's richest blessings on their married life together.

Our delayed AVM/APCM took place on 11th July, during which we re-elected Julia & Frank as our churchwardens. I would like to go on record in thanking them both for their sterling efforts and continued support during trying times.

It was our privilege to host Deanery Synod on 27th July, which included special guest Bishop Alan. The Synod was well attended in person, as well as attracting a high number of on-line participants, as we were able to live-stream the evening, which proved a perfect opportunity to showcase our newly installed cameras and live-stream equipment.

Gathering together for social events has become so precious, having been restrained socially for so long. We enjoyed several social gatherings including our now customary annual visit to the Thompsons garden and pool for a wonderful BBQ, which always seems to be accompanied by fine weather, and an equally delightful, but not quite so warm autumn BBQ and pool party for hardy swimmers at the Moseley home in October.

What a joy to be able to welcome in our local community in great numbers during the bank holiday weekend at the end of August, for a wonderful Flower Festival. There was a spectacular array of floral displays, depicting life during lockdown over the past 18 months, which were creative, original and memorable in equal measure. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to ensure that event was so well received in our parish.

Homegroups have continued to play an important role in the nurture and support of church members. Restrictions have necessitated a mixed economy between meeting in person and online. I would like to give a huge thank you to housegroup leaders for all your hard work and devotion during another challenging year.

TJ, our curate has risen well to the challenge of being a priest in our parish in difficult circumstances. I have been especially moved by her endless supply of creative ideas for service leading and speaking, including St Michael's@10 contributions in sometimes unusual locations, and her real devotion to the prayer stations in church. Thank you so much TJ for all that you do – we really appreciate you.

Sunday 3rd October marked the end of an era, as we said goodbye and God bless to our Youth & Children's worker Bex Hawes. Bex has served in our parish for nine years, and has had a significant impact upon the lives of our young people. Thank you Bex, we will really miss you. Bex has accepted an offer from Wycombe YFC to go fulltime, as she explores where God might be leading her in the future.

It was a relief that we were able to host Christmas services this year, although understandably numbers in attendance were reduced from our usual figures. We suspended the serving of refreshments in early December, which was a reluctant but necessary step, bearing in mind a rise in Covid cases once again.

I would also like to pay special tribute to two hard working saints – Arthur our Parish Clerk & Verger, and Lynn our Parish Administrator. Your hard work, diligence, and flexibility in unprecedented times have ensured that we have been kept on the straight and narrow. Much of your service goes on behind the scenes, ensuring that events take place smoothly – thank you both so much.

We lost many dear Saints in 2021, who were promoted to glory. These included Edie Sadler, Stan Cole, Eileen Dean, Bob Stone. Roy Bluett, Viv Hempel, Rose Kakol, Celia Dibden, Don Baker and Connie Belsham. Each of these dear souls played a significant contribution to the life of our church, and we will miss them a great deal.

Occasional Offices 2021

Funerals 25 Weddings 6 Baptisms 4

After a great deal of hard work, substantial renovations to our bell tower roof commenced in the autumn, following the securing of substantial grants from several fund raising bodies. We are thankful to God for his provision which was far beyond our expectations.

Over the past couple of years, we have been considering how our vision might evolve as a church, and what our priorities should be in the future. Our Vision group organised a Vision prayer day on 16th October, which included 12 hours of prayer for different aspects of our church and community life. The results from this day, together with church family and community consultation, guided by the Lord, will hopefully inform our future vision into 2022 and beyond.

I continued to be moved and encouraged by the faith of the Body of Christ at our church. We have been reminded in the past couple of years just how precious it is to be able to meet together freely in person to worship the Lord Jesus. Let us hold onto that joy as we explore how we might share the Good News beyond our church walls in our local communities in the future.

Rev Keith Johnson
Vicar

Churchwardens' Report

Julia Grant

It is hard to believe that I have now been a churchwarden for five years. Two years ago we went on the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and returned to the start of the Covid pandemic. We could not have imagined then that we would still be living with the pandemic two years later and the effect it has had, not only on our church, and the whole world, but us as individuals. It has been a particularly challenging time to be a churchwarden!

However, we are fortunate that our church has continued to grow in a different way with the development of online services and the running of the PCC and all the committees with zoom meetings. We have become used to making risk assessments and changing what we are doing depending on what the government and diocese guidance dictate. Thankfully apart from the first lockdown, we have been able to keep the church open, even if at times services have not taken place. It has always been my belief that this is so important for our congregation's faith and well-being. And at a time when many churches have struggled to survive we are indeed hugely blessed with our clergy, all of our tech team and, worship leaders and all who have been so dedicated during this time.

The past 2 years there have been very different requirements as a churchwarden and now as the covid situation is easing in England, we are finding the way forward in a different world. It has been agreed that coffees and meetings can start again as these are so important for fellowship. Individuals will have to make their own assessment of what they feel safe with.

Thank you to Keith and all of our clergy for their dedication and commitment during the last year. Thank you also to Lynn Brooks as our admin support for her flexibility under difficult circumstances. Lynn played a very important role during the 'lockdowns' taking bookings for services when numbers were limited.

It has been great to work with Frank during this time and other PCC members on various projects and is exciting that the Bell Tower work and other previously identified maintenance tasks are now underway.

It has been a challenging year but I still feel humbled to be able to serve God and our church as a churchwarden.

Frank Hawkins

I am now in my second full year as a churchwarden and it has been a privilege working with Julia again during this strange time that Covid has placed on us all. However, with the wonderful enthusiasm of our parishioners, PCC and clergy it has been a time where some exceptional activities have taken place including a team that have been reviewing the vision for our church going forward that has taken much hard work and many hours of prayer and discussion to move forward. I would like to thank everyone on this team and those who have contributed ideas to this for their help. It has not proved to be an easy task but a most important one for the progression of God's work in Hughenden Church and with the community. There will be more on this soon from Keith.

We do need to maintain the church in good condition and the work that this has involved in 2021 has been considerable. As will be seen in the financial report the grants that have been achieved by our treasurer toward the restoration of the bell tower has been exceptional and we would like to thank Brian Morley and all those involved for their work on this project, but especially Richard Peters whose project management has been exceptional.

I would also like to mention all those who have worked so hard to facilitate the technology we now have live-stream services. Thank you to those who donated to help provide the equipment and for those who spent so many hours bringing it into life. We also have some dedicated people who manage it and run it for services and a big thank to these teams as well.

Lets hope that in 2022 our church activities will be both restored and reinvigorated.

From Us Both

As Churchwardens we do need to be aware of every area of our church and churchyard need to be kept carefully maintained and we would like to thank Arthur Johnson for all his devotion to this over many years. In terms of the churchyard, we do need more people to offer their services for grass cutting etc and additional volunteers would be most welcome.

We are extremely grateful to the many people who offer themselves as Stewards and welcomers for all of the services. (Thank you Amanda for organizing the 11.00 am service.) The duties for these roles have changed at different times, depending on Covid guidance from the diocese and they have done a great job in working with us to make sure we keep everybody as safe as possible.

However, there are never enough willing volunteers, and we continue to seek support help and service in the church in many areas as we are gradually returning to normality. Please come and talk to us if you would be willing to help in any way. We

have endeavored to continue as many of the areas as possible with 'Zoom meetings' as we manage the different aspects of our church, finance and buildings.

As churchwardens, We would like to thank the many people in our congregation who work so hard in different roles to serve God and our church and make the churchwarden's job so much easier.

We look forward with confidence to the year ahead as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic.

Julia Grant & Frank Hawkins
Churchwardens

Finance

After the Covid-hit deficit of 2020, we made a surplus of nearly £19,500 in 2021, although there were many variables that would not normally be there.

Thank you all so much for once again keeping the standing orders flowing. They stood at £90,778 and they are our financial lifeblood. The main item they cover is parish share, which is the regular payments that we make to Oxford Diocese to cover vicars' salaries and other administrative items. To give you an idea, our parish share payment totalled nearly £77,000 in 2021.

Other income was again significantly down on two years ago, because of the Covid impact on visitor church attendance and visitor income during the year. For instance yellow envelopes generated £3,739, compared to a budgeted amount two years ago of £9,500, while cash collections were under £1,000, compared to £8,000 budgeted two years ago. What we are seeing is a steady increase in contactless, with £2,158 coming in and I would expect this to be over £3,000 in 2022. So, to a certain extent, there is a natural shift away from cash to contactless going on. We do hope and pray for a more normal 2022, with a consequent positive impact on other income.

As I said at the last APCM, we installed our streaming equipment in Q1 last year, at a cost of £15,610. This was partly covered by Covid grants of £8,500. This was split Allchurches Trust (£3,750), Bucks CC (£3,750) and Oxford Diocese (£1,000). We also had generous donations totalling £5,000 from three members of our congregation. So in aggregate, the streaming equipment only cost the church itself a little over £2,000.

The work on the repair of the bell tower, some other stonework and the Disraeli memorial started in November. We originally estimated this work would cost around £140,000, including professional fees. We have been blessed by offers of grants totalling £134,072, split £10,000 from Bucks Historic Churches Trust, £96,072 from Heritage England, £20,000 from The Garfield Weston Foundation, £5,000 from the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation and £3,000 from Allchurches Trust. Until the works are completed, hopefully in Q2, we don't know what the final cost will be, so consequently we don't know how much of the grant offers we will draw down, but it looks like we will cover almost 100% of our costs with grants. I will tell you what the final outcome is later in the year.

We are going to need to have further heavy expenditure later this year on items like replacing the inside and outside lighting. We are unlikely to get any grant money for this and while our balance sheet is currently strong, we know there will be further expenditure required into 2023 and beyond.

Inflation is currently running at over 5% and some costs, such as heating and lighting, are rising significantly faster. Please do prayerfully consider whether you would be able to increase standing orders, maybe by 10%, 20% or even 50% to help with these various cost increases and heavy expenditure. Most of us set our standing order levels up to a decade ago, when there was almost no inflation, but the economic environment has changed. We do understand that some people are finding the economic situation extremely challenging and we respect that not everyone can assist in this way.

Thank you all so much for all you are doing to help financially and all you will be doing. We prayerfully and hopefully look forward to a more normal year.

Brian Morley
Treasurer

PCC Report

From July 2021, the PCC was constituted as follows:

Vicar: Rev. Keith Johnson
Associate Minister: Helen Peters
Curate: Rev. Tracey Jones
Lay Reader: David Tester
Churchwardens: Julia Grant & Frank Hawkins
Treasurer: Brian Morley
Secretary: Susan Brice
Diocesan Synod: Christopher Tyrer
Deanery Synod: Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Christopher Tyrer
Elected Members: James Gamon, Clare Godfrey (Lay Chair), Antony Rippon,
Ben Sharp

The APCM was held on Sunday 11th July 2021 in church.

Thereafter there were meetings in July and September followed by two in November 2021. The September and November meetings were held in Church House.

James Gamon resigned from the PCC and was thanked for his enthusiasm and hard work.

Richard Peters visited the meetings on more than one occasion as he led the bell tower project. Once Brian Morley had very effectively secured grants to pay for the restoration, the work was able to begin in the autumn.

After Bex Hawes left in October 2021, Helen Peters agreed to take over as Children's Advocate.

Susan Brice
PCC Secretary

Safeguarding

Introduction

Safeguarding is a standing item at PCC meetings.

Additional safeguarding meetings are held periodically with the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and church leaders and Diocesan Safeguarding Team members.

The church works in line with CoFE Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Formal Obligations

With due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, Hughenden PCC complies with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Safeguarding Roles

Roger Grant, 07909 960938, safeguarding@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk is the current Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Recruiter and Verifier.

Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

The Church of England Safeguarding Policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church', was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 15 July 2021. It is displayed in the entrance to the church and on its website. Several additional safeguarding policies are currently under consideration.

Safeguarding Learning and Development

The CoFE recently changed DBS renewals from 5 to 3 years and ensuring compliance with this requirement, and training levels for ministry teams, forms the backbone of the current work of the PSO. With regard to the former, compliance should be achieved by Easter 2022 and training levels by the summer. The latter is helped in that both Roger and his wife, Julia provide face to face safeguarding training at all levels, for the Oxford Diocese.

Safer Recruitment and People Management

This is an area of safeguarding that has undergone major revision within the CofE, including new training materials and detailed guidance on the recruitment process for workers and volunteers. It will be a focus for development going forward.

Concerns Raised

Two referrals have been made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Next Steps

- Raise the profile of safeguarding across the parish
- Promoting and working in line with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook
- Full DBS and training compliance for all workers and volunteers
- Ensure all safeguarding and related policies are in place
- Complete Safeguarding Audit (22 Feb 2022)
- Make effective use of the electronic safeguarding dashboard.

Roger Grant
Hughenden Parish Safeguarding Officer

Diocesan & Deanery Synod

Diocesan Report

It is well known that the Diocese of Oxford has more parishes and churches than any other diocese in the Church of England. It serves a population of 2.5 million people, has 28 deaneries, 285 benefices, covering 615 parishes and 815 churches, 650 of which are listed. There are around 51,000 people on parish electoral rolls, 600 parochial clergy, assisted by retired and other clergy with PTO (Permission to Officiate), around 300 LLMS (Licenced Lay Ministers), 100 Youth/Family/Children workers and a significant input to church schools at which about 58,000 children are educated.

The Diocese of Oxford is the brand name. It covers all the clergy, all support clergy (Area Deans, Archdeacons and the four Bishops) Church of England schools, two Schools Trusts and support staff at Diocesan Church House and Area Offices in the four Archdeaconries.

There are four distinct organisations in the Diocese: the ODBF (Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance), responsible for financial support services, Human Resources, Communications, Finance, Glebe and Buildings and the Department of Mission, which includes discipleship and social justice, formation for Ministry, vocation and ordinands and new congregations, as well as parish support; ODBE (Oxford Diocesan Board of Education), which supports the Church of England schools in the Diocese and acts as Local Authority for 200 of them, as well as receiving support from the ODBF; ODST (Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust), which looks after Multi Academy Schools Trusts and provides full support to over 30 Academies; ODBST (Oxford Diocesan Buckinghamshire Schools Trust) doing the same work as the ODST, but for our county.

The departmental structure within the Diocese is too complicated to reproduce but the detailed picture is available on the Diocesan website. It is a trim but highly efficient organisation providing value for money for every aspect that affects life across the Diocese, through the Archdeaconries, the Deaneries and individual parishes.

Diocesan Synod is the parliament for the Diocese. It meets quarterly – more recently by Zoom – to scrutinise the operation of the constituent parts of the diocesan machinery but also to look to our diocesan mission and purpose. Meetings always commence with prayer, followed by an address from the Bishop on current topics of

national interest. Bishop Steven is one of the Lords Spiritual, appointed to sit in the House of Lords and his podcasts from the House of Lords and elsewhere are a regular feature of diocesan life. He sits on a number of government committees.

The Diocesan common vision is for a more Christ-like church, for the sake of God's world, to become more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous. This is expressed in five key aims: environment action, Christian formation and discipleship, growing new congregations (to serve the new housing developments that are springing up everywhere), schools, children and young people and addressing poverty and inequality.

Recently the Oxford Diocesan Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has appointed, for the first time, a full time Chaplain for the hearing impaired, the Revd Dr Hannah Lewis. As the ODCD is an "assisted organisation" within the diocesan framework, although an independent charity, the new Chaplain will sit on Diocesan committees and groups concerning all aspects of the common vision. Her primary focus will be to celebrate the deaf community and to get members and their families involved in every aspect of our Diocese.

Deanery Synod Report

Our vicar is the Assistant Area Dean and we have four regular attendees to Deanery Synod Meetings: Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, our Associate Minister, the Revd Helen Peters and Christopher Tyrer. Meetings are held in churches in the Wycombe Deanery, including our own and the core aims are serving our fellowships, shaping our future, spurring on our friends and sharing the fire.

Whilst it is the forum for reflecting upon the aims and initiatives of the Diocesan Synod and, in turn feeding into them, its particular concern is with local efforts and programmes. There is a Wycombe Deanery Plan 2021-2025, in which the purpose and function of a Deanery Synod is neatly encapsulated: a Deanery is a geographical subdivision between a Diocese and a parish. In a Deanery, parishes are grouped together so that they can work together to see God's Kingdom come. The Deanery is the servant of the parishes. Its stated aim is to be largely invisible to the public, to enable growth, to provide structures that help and to increase faith in what God is doing. The focus of that aim is so that our churches can be more visible in their communities, grow and flourish as God intends, be free to do the work of the Kingdom and be encouraged to play their unique part.

The Wycombe area has the highest concentration of children living in low-income households, the most ethnically diverse community with lower levels of health and well-being, the highest rates of emergency admissions to hospital overall, both for adults and children, 14,000 residents living in households at higher risk of food poverty, a significantly higher proportion of unemployment benefit claimants

compared with the county average, a higher rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crime than the county average, a higher proportion of residents seeking support from the CAB compared with the county average and a higher number of adults and young people with issues of mental health and well-being.

Recent discussions have included the Growing Hope programme emanating from St James' Church, Downley and about which we have benefitted from a talk at both our morning services, environmental issues and initiatives, led by Mike Hill. There has been also an ongoing Rural Review and activity in relation to Schools/Youth Ministry in rural parishes.

The environmental initiative is significant: Mike Hill is the 'Environmental Advocate' for our Deanery and his role (as he describes it) is 'to encourage, advise and enable each church to implement its own environmental policy.' Every parish has a nominated environmental contact and there is an exciting and praiseworthy programme being pursued, affirmed by Deanery Synod in January 2022.

All the meetings of Deanery Synod are open and all-comers are welcome to attend and listen to presentations and take part in discussions that are directly relevant to and affect and enhance the work of our parish and our local community.

Christopher Tyrer
Diocesan & Deanery Synod Representative

Electoral Roll

At the close of last year's APCM on 11th July 2021 there were 177 people on the Electoral Roll. No applications were received through the last eight months. Up to the deadline date of this report booklet, one new application has been received; but the Roll is now open and being revised; and new applications must be received by 27th February. Forms are available behind the font or from me personally.

Being deleted from the Roll will be those who, after service on earth, have passed to higher service. We mourn their departing: Don Baker, Stan Cole, Eileen Dean, Vivien Hempel, and Edie Sadler.

This report will, as usual, be updated at the APCM on 13th March.

Arthur Johnson
Electoral Roll Officer

Children & Youth

A reminder of our vision, mission and objectives set in 2020:

Vision: *That children, young people and their families would know and experience God's love and transformative power in their lives.*

Mission: *To nurture faith development of children, young people and their families.*

Objectives:

- *Engage with the children, young people and families in our parish; through internal church events, community outreach events and schools work*
- *To provide a safe space and opportunity for children, young people and their families to ask questions and to explore and experience what faith in Jesus might mean for them; through teaching of the word, space to encounter God personally and being living examples of Christ's followers*
- *To provide space and opportunity for children, young people and their families to fellowship and journey together*
- *To advocate a culture where young people feel valued and welcomed into church*
- *To inspire confidence in our children and young people, in using their gifts and sharing their faith with others*
- *Recognise the ever-changing nature of children's & youth work and as such change and adapt provisions as directed by service users*

Update Since July 2021 Report

Children & Young People @ St Michael's (Sunday)

Due to national restrictions in the run up to July 2021 Bex sought to keep in touch via a weekly pre-recorded JC Club, and via Zoom sessions for older youth.

As restrictions lifted and outdoor gatherings were encouraged it was a pleasure to host a Sunday afternoon garden family picnic primarily for families of younger children. The aim being to help build relationships before the restart of Bubbles and JC Club in September 2021.

September began with the return of our in-person all-age service. It was wonderful to see many families return and young children and youth taking part alongside adults in welcoming, drama, puppets, music and technology. Feedback from the wider congregation being overwhelmingly positive – families and young people had been hugely missed.

Sadly for us, at the end of September Bex moved to work full time with Wycombe Youth for Christ. We said goodbye to her at our October Harvest celebration, followed by hot-dogs (thank you Frank and team!).

From the 1st October children and youth provision on a Sunday shifted to a slightly different pattern:

1 st Sunday	All-In worship, with participation encouraged.		
2 nd Sunday	Bubbles	JC Club	Youth Meet
3 rd Sunday	Bubbles	JC Club	‘Youth Serve’, active in all areas.
4 th Sunday	Bubbles	JC Club	Youth Meet

We are trailing new material for JC Club and Youth from [connected hearts.co.uk](http://connectedhearts.co.uk)

It has been a challenging few months, navigating Covid and its implications – with adults and children choosing for good reason to stay away or having to isolate. Numbers in sessions have fluctuated. However, we have also welcomed new children, youth and their families during this time.

As a church it is important to offer a warm welcome and appropriate provision for children and young people, every Sunday. I am incredibly grateful for a wonderful team who facilitate this. A huge thank you to the leaders of Bubbles: Lucy Rippon, Ester Comunello, Vicky Eaton, Diana Gibbons. JC Club: Steve and Shelagh Sheppard, with help from Richard and Helen Peters, TJ other occasional helpers. Youth: Ruth Bailey, Gwen Hill, Poppy Laight.

During December we held a Christingle Service, led by our young people. This was well attended and raised £199 for the children’s society.

On Christmas Eve we held a 3.00 pm Crib service (for younger children) followed at 4.30 pm by a Family Carol service, planned by TJ. Both services were well attended, primarily with people from the community. Two distinct services catering for different age groups worked well.

School’s Work in the Parish

Because of covid measures, other than the very beginning of September, we have been unable to take Collective Worship in our local primary schools. Keith & Helen

produced two online sessions (for teachers to use in their class rooms) to be used in Great Kingshill School in Advent and before Christmas.

In response to the St Michael & All Angels' Vision community questionnaire, we hosted and led a session for Naphill Brownies on 7th October.

This Brownie pack joined the Scouts and Cubs at their Christmas service held at St Michael & All Angels.

St Michael & All Angels played host to Pipers Corner School and parents for their Pre-Prep and Prep Christingle service.

WYFC Christmas Unwrapped sessions were held at St Michael & All Angels in December for Great Kingshill School year 6 and Hughenden Primary years 5 and 6. Thank you to Darren from WYFC and to everyone who volunteered their time to facilitate this – through welcoming, refreshments, crafts and technological assistance.

On 25th March 2022 High Wycombe Cubs (who meet at Kingswood School) will be visiting for their "My Faith" badge and the "Our World" Challenge Badge.

A number of factors lead to the decision in September not to restart Messy church. I would be happy to talk to anyone about how we came to this decision.

Wider Youth Work

Wycombe Youth for Christ has begun a new monthly initiative called 'Encounter'. An evening for Wycombe wide secondary aged youth to meet together for worship and teaching – lead by youth for youth. An opportunity for young people to give leading a go. Several of our young people have opted to attend and/or get involved in this.

The Way Forward

We are actively looking for two new volunteers to join our children's team, specifically for JC Club (school years 1-6). Please speak to me about this if you are interested.

Bex is greatly missed by our children, youth and leaders. Please join me in praying for discernment for our PCC, for the right person(s) to be found and recruited. We aim to meet the needs of our own children/youth and to reach out to those in the community we don't yet know.

Rev. Helen Peters
4th February 2022

Communications Group

This report covers the year up to December 2021.

Re-reading the report for last year's APCM created a certain sense of déjà vu, though the year has been a little less challenging for communications.

Online Services

(I should state that though it is convenient to report on tech through the communications group as the leaders are all members, this is basically an autonomous subgroup, led by Richard Peters with (sometimes transcontinental) assistance from Ben Sharp. He is supported by a growing number of tech operators for both the online aspect of services and Proclaim which feeds the audio-visual system for the 11.00 am service.) This year the pre-recording of services was no longer necessary, and the broadcasting of online services was stabilised at one of the Sunday morning services each week being broadcast, together with certain special services decided on an ad hoc basis.

Cards at Festivals

The Easter service card was produced by the group, and circulated by a commercial deliverer, but happily by Christmas, it was felt possible for the congregation to deliver throughout the parish. This was achieved in record time and thanks must go to all who tramped our streets to achieve this. The superb graphics for both leaflets were created, as ever, by Ben Brice.

Online Information

The website (also under the control of Ben Brice) has been a prime source of information in the last year, as previously, when physical attendance at church has not always been possible for some. Additionally ChurchSuite has come further into its own for circulating information, including latterly links to other sources of information or videos. However, we are conscious that members of the congregation without access to electronic sources may still struggle to be kept informed if they are unable to attend church regularly. This is a matter of concern, without an obvious remedy.

The church social media channels have been curated this year by Keith, who would love to hear from any adult member willing to assist him in keeping them up to date.

Welcome Screen

The group has, throughout the year, explored the possibilities and advisability of having a 'welcome screen' to give a warm welcome and information to visitors to the church. After agreement from PCC, a screen has now been purchased and will be installed shortly (possibly before the date of the APCM). One benefit of the screen will be to remove the need for some notices at the back of the church, and increase awareness of news.

Church Information

During the year, the short history leaflet was replaced by 'What to look for at St Michael & All Angels', and the 'In memoriam' booklet was upgraded. The Vision leaflet was produced on behalf of the Vision Group and circulated parish wide, again by commercial distributors, who had some difficulty in fulfilling our time scale, because of a sudden short – and unexpected – heat wave.

The bigger church history booklet is in the process of being redrafted and upgraded to a full colour version.

The group regular updates local publications in Naphill and Hughenden in particular, with News from St Michael & All Angels, though for much of the last year this has been focussed on what services are taking place, and how to keep up to date.

Future Matters

Plans are in hand for the revamping of the notice board at the gate, to make the information easier to update, easier to attach notices and more secure from adverse wind and weather.

When the welcome screen is in situ, appropriate use will be kept under review, together with the best use of the storage and displays at the back of the church.

Social Events

As we emerge into a more 'normal' life, we need to ensure that notification of events is consistently and timeously circulated (Outlook, website, AV, welcome screen, ChurchSuite, pew notice sheets, and posters (if necessary)).

Membership

Current membership of the group is: Ben Brice, Richard Peters, Alison Stacey, Guy Mannerings, Andrew Collard. My thanks go to all for their contributions, their patient explanation (sometimes) of tech speak, their rapid response to (sometimes incomprehensible) emails from me, and generally being good sorts. Especial thanks

of course to Ben Brice, and to Richard Peters for his ability to juggle his many commitments with a smile

We have managed one real life meeting this year, but Zoomed otherwise, and emailed for scrutiny of text etc., which is probably most effective for that task. I look forward to having meetings in 'real life' ere long (with cake).

Continued thanks to Susan Brice, who continues to oversee the appearance of notice boards on the group's behalf, with her excellent 'eye' for clarity and neatness.

Postscript

All members of the group (and indeed other members of the church) have been endeavouring to 'keep a lid on' the numerous leaflets and posters placed in and around the church. Could we please ask you to remove any material you put in church when it becomes out of date, or uncollected by the intended recipient?

Jane Tyrer (Group Chair)
February 2022

Mission Support Group

The aim of the MSG is to inform, inspire and encourage the St Michael and All Angels church family in the support of Christian mission, near and far. We focus on a different mission each quarter, inviting a visiting speaker to talk on the organisation's work on one Sunday in that period. The focus is introduced by articles in Outlook and on the church website, and by displays on our mission noticeboard by the font. This last 12 months, we have focused on: Kevin and Jennifer Cable (our church mission link partners) in Apr-Jun 21; Wycliffe Bible Translators in Jul-Sep 21; Children's Society in Oct-Dec 21; Growing Hope in the first quarter of 2022.

Forthcoming

We have a mission focus programme mapped out for the rest of this year. In the quarter Apr-Jun we intend to look at Christian Aid (Christian Aid week is 15-21 May). For Jul-Sep we hope to feature New Leaf (this to be confirmed as their work had been put on hold by COVID). Then for the last quarter, we will focus on Project Possible (formerly ROPE).

Church Funding

In addition to the above, the MSG advises the PCC how to donate the church funds it allocates to mission causes. Last year (2021), the £2,000 was donated as follows:

- £800 to Church Mission Society (CMS), as the first of regular, annual donations to support the Cables directly.
- £100 to each speaker's focus charity in 2020: CMS (for its general funds), the Cables, Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the Children's Society.
- £200 to each of 4 charities, which we decided would be Christian Aid, Ebenezer, One Can, and Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

Christmas Collections

The MSG also chooses the causes to be supported by our collections over the Christmas period. The total was again reduced by COVID, but we are pleased that £765 was divided equally between: Mission Aviation Fellowship, Shelter, and One Can.

Additional giving by the church. It should be noted that the church also makes direct donations to more local causes decided by the PCC: Wycombe Youth for Christ, Love Wycombe, and Lighthouse. This year (2022), the PCC has also agreed to donate money to support the restoration of St Peter's Anglican church, Jaffa, the church Kevin and Jen Cable are working to reopen. This donation is to reflect God's generosity in providing the resources to repair the bell tower without recourse to internal fundraising as well as to support a sister church that does not have access to the grant-making bodies we have been able to use.

David Tester

Social & Outreach Team

The 21/22 programme saw an eclectic mix of activity as the church strove to re-build its congregation in a year of continued pandemic restrictions and ongoing protection for the vulnerable and loved ones.

With the relatively late APCM of 2021, and hence the previous report including activity to the end of May, the first social event was a very different affair: Nature Quest saw the churchyard come to life with people of all ages searching for fauna and flora amongst the graves, hedges, trees and paths. The event proved to be an excellent opportunity for the church to engage with people who were 'just passing by' and was a great success. Our thanks to Mike Hill for his organising.

Next on the programme was something that has now become a delightful annual tradition – the summer BBQ at the Thompsons in Walters Ash. As always, such generosity of their time and provisions was shown by the hosts, Anu and her family, with everyone having a thoroughly great time and many enjoying a dip in their wonderful pool.

At the end of the summer, the flower festival, run by the flower team (great friends of Social & Outreach) displayed 32 exhibits and reached out to people of the community and beyond had a very positive impact on the community from an outreach perspective as well as raising £2,000 for church funds. Our thanks go to Sylvia Clark, Ben & Susan Brice and Penny Austin for planning and running this event.

Bat Watch ran next, with around 34 people joining in for a talk with an expert and the opportunity to spot bats at dusk, which was 'topped off' with hot-dogs for everyone, courtesy of Frank. Again, Mike Hill ran this event, continuing the theme to highlight God's creatures in the church setting.

The Harvest Festival brought out the hot-dogs again, as we said goodbye to our Youth Coordinator, Bex Hawes. Later in October, Liz Moseley and husband Stuart, put on a late summer BBQ – another most generous affair, with many enjoying another round of great food and drink and for the children, another swim.

November saw the church present a One Man Play about Benjamin Disraeli written and played by Jeff Rosla. Approximately 65 people attended with half of them from outside of the congregation, thus realising a great opportunity to engage with our community. All thanks to Frank's excellent contacts and organisation skills.

Frank Hawkins with Liz Moseley also launched the Hughenden Community Singers with around 40 people of all ages and singing abilities both from the community and the church congregation in November attending the regular Monday slot. This is continuing regularly in 2022 on Monday evenings in church at 7.30 pm and any new singers of any standard are very welcome. This is a community led project that really appreciates the help from St Michael & All Angels church to allow it to practice there. We hope to encourage more community projects as the year goes on.

With Christmas seeing the pandemic rise again, the decision was taken not to have the annual New Year's Day walk but anyone who loves a good walk, should join us for the Parish Boundary Walk in April (details to follow).

As we look forward to 2022, the team met in January to set the programme for the year ahead with the two-fold objective to:

1. Re-establish church relationships with some 'internal events' thus building our strength to reach out to the community; and
2. Reach out and start to involve our local community more as covid risk ebbs away.

We do hope you'll manage to join us for some if not all of these activities and we wish to thank the volunteers of the team and all those others who assist and everyone who attends making events both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Take care and God Bless,

Antony Rippon
on behalf of the Social & Outreach Team

Church Flowers

Despite the ongoing pandemic we have managed to maintain a display of flowers in the church throughout the year, Lent and Advent excepted, with special displays for the main festivals.

Christmas 2021 decorations looked very attractive with festive greenery, gold leaves, cones, seed heads, etc and red and white flowers. Easter will be the next 'big day' when the church will be widely decorated in celebration. We would like to see a few more helpers joining us as for various reasons, our numbers are a little down. Men as well as women, can make excellent flower arrangers (see online flower arranging videos) so maybe we could have some volunteers. Some basic instruction would be given and expenses can be claimed.

Sadly, the distribution of daffodils on Mothering Sunday had to be cancelled in 2021 because of the risk of spread of the infection. However, we are hoping it will go ahead this year. In July 2021 the Flower Team did the flowers for the wedding of long-time church members Alan Jaycock and Jan Elliott. The church looked very beautiful with deep pink roses, blue delphiniums, etc.

Our Flower Festival held over the August Bank Holiday, 28th - 30th August, was a huge success. There were 32 entries with many different interpretations of the theme, 'reflections and memories of the past months'. Ben Brice produced a colourful guide booklet to take visitors round the displays and a group of volunteers was on duty to welcome people into the church and answer any questions. Entry was free, as were tea and cakes made and served by a wonderful team of volunteers, with visitors being invited to make donations. Some 500 people plus, came over the three days and around £2,500 was made for church funds. A huge thank you to all who helped in so many ways.

Our thanks to all those who have carried out this very rewarding ministry of flowers throughout the year.

Sylvia Clark
March 2022

Friendship Morning

Once again due to the continuation of the Covid Pandemic of 2020 the Friendship Group was prevented from meeting in Church House until September 2021. We had to review the situation month by month. During the Spring and Summer months I kept in touch with the members by phone and as the weeks became warmer, I arranged to meet up with small groups of 5 or 6 members at the Village Shop under the marquee or at the Magnolia Park with plenty of space and air, which they all enjoyed very much. In July and August approximately 20 members were able to meet in the Mothers Union Garden with the chairs and tables spread well out. There was a real buzz as they all wanted to listen to each other's stories of the previous months. In September and October, we were able to hold our meetings inside Church House with restricted numbers so as to keep everyone at a safe distance. Some members were very wary of meeting up again which was quite understandable.

We felt able to discuss plans for our November Annual Lunch and members were happy with our suggestion of hiring Naphill Village Hall, a large spacious area. We arranged for individual portions of fish and chips to be delivered and we purchased a choice of gateaux and drinks. Cathryn Carter, our lead caterer, kindly over saw all the arrangements for this event for which I would like to thank her very sincerely. It was a great success and 30 members managed to enjoy a very communal time together along with Keith and Helen.

In December, back in Church House, restrictions had become more severe again and 15 members were invited. We all wished each other a better year ahead. Unfortunately, welcoming in the New Year 2022 meant that we were once again prevented from meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember our members who, over the year have sadly passed on - Beryl Bacon, Bob Stone, Audrey Tricker, Edie Sadler and Rose Kakol. They will all be dearly missed. Thankfully, none of them suffered from Covid.

During the year more people in our community have sadly lost loved ones and we have welcomed 6 new people into our group. The membership has reached 38 and if all were to come on the same day there would not be sufficient room for them all. There will always be one or two who are not able to come to the Third Thursday of every month but even so there is a concern that the group is needing a more spacious room than Church House is able to give us. It is now a dilemma as to whether we go back to being an open house for members, only to find that we cannot accommodate them all or whether we should do it by invitation only which means that someone who is in great need might get missed out. There is no easy way of limiting the numbers.

As the weather improves, I do hope that we will be able to return to our regular meetings throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all my helpers who bake scones and cakes each month and serve everyone at each meeting and leave the Kitchen clean and tidy before leaving Church House at the end of the morning. They are Cathryn, Carol, Ann, Alison and Yvonne. I would also like to thank all those who kindly offer to help with transporting members who would not be able to come if they did not have a lift to the group.

Penny Austin
February 2022

Parish Magazine

After the pandemic year of 2020, oh how we hoped that 2021 would bring us back to some sort of normality. But not so. Although from time to time restrictions were eased, we were faced with yet another Coronavirus variant towards the end of the year, though thankfully not another lock down. Despite all this, Outlook has continued with many and varied articles thanks to our contributors on whom we rely for items of information, interest or amusement – or all three! Thanks to these, plus ever-improving and colourful layouts by Ben Brice, Outlook came 21st out of 300 entries in a national parish magazine competition. Huge thanks to Ben; we shall enter again this year and hope for an even more favourable rating. We have increased our print run to 12 editions per year, one for each month with no problem in getting enough copy for the January magazine. Following a PCC decision made during the year, Outlook is now free to all.

Our grateful thanks to Andrew Cole and his team who print the magazine each month and to Andrew who also delivers bundles of Outlook to distributors. A big thank you too, to the distributors themselves for popping copies through letterboxes. Andrew has also taken on the job of posting copies of Outlook to various parts of the country, following the sad death of Stan, his father, who had done this for very many years.

The editorial team meets from time to time to discuss all aspects of producing Outlook and to pool ideas and we are always open to constructive suggestions from the readership.

Sylvia Clark, Christopher & Jane Tyrer, Susan Brice
Editors – March 2022

Mothers' Union

The year 2021 was once again a time when things were very uncertain and some people were still hesitant about gathering. However, we were able to meet most months and indeed had some very interesting speakers. There were also two very successful coffee mornings which raised money for MU charities at home and abroad.

The Mothers' Union enjoys being actively involved in many church activities such as the Tiny Tots picnic as well as offering cards and greetings to families at baptisms and to wedding couples. The latter has this year been particularly special as many people have had their weddings delayed by Covid restrictions. At Easter we delivered small bunches of daffodils to our members and at Christmas we offered small holding crosses to people who had been having a difficult time in one way or another.

Throughout the year many of us have been busy knitting for Baby Basics. This involves making hats for premature babies, and cardigans and scarves for toddlers. These are made up into parcels for families staying at the Ronald MacDonald house. More knitting took place in November when we were asked to knit chain links as a symbol of release. This was part of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence. These links are now part of an exhibition that is touring various churches. Then in December we knitted stars for Christmas for Children which focuses on the children of those in prison.

One very special occasion took place in July when MU member Jan Elliot married Alan Jaycock, who is a long-standing supporter of our group. It was a really beautiful day. However, there have also been many sad losses. Dear Edie Sadler, who will always have a place in our hearts, passed away, as did Celia Dibden. Bob Stone and Stan Cole died and will be sadly missed. Both their wives were fully involved with the Mothers' Union.

We remain committee led and this works well. We would always welcome new people and we have indeed enrolled two new members this year with another joining at our AGM. We are fortunate to have wonderful support from all our clergy and this is much appreciated. MU is a global charity and a lot goes on in branches within this country and abroad, much of it quietly in the background. We can of course only do this with God's strength not our own. We pray that 2022 will be a better year for us all.

Tiny Tots

March 2021 saw the Tiny Tots team discussing how we could begin meeting in person, safely, as soon as possible.

Government restrictions changed in April 2021, allowing toddler groups to meet indoors with social distancing measures in place. The Tiny Tots team concluded we could not be 'covid-compliant' using North Room without severely reducing numbers. Instead we chose to begin meeting outside in the MU garden.

On 22nd April the team set up gazebos to welcome parents, carers and toddlers back (10.00 - 11.30 am). Individuals bought their own refreshments with distancing encouraged. These gatherings proved popular. We were keen to keep numbers small and manageable although several new families joined us through 'word of mouth' recommendation, which was encouraging.

Scaled down Tiny Tots services continued:

- May brought a deluge of rain, the story could not be heard, the adults huddled to avoid puddles from the gazebos whilst the children appeared unphased.
- June was dry and warm. We welcomed Mike Hill who talked about the upcoming Nature Quest, set up a pine cone treasure hunt and helped the children find creepy crawlies.
- July we held a scaled down Teddy Bears Picnic, for regular members. As ever, the wonderful Mother's Union supplied their warm and kind hospitality and sumptuous consumables. A huge thank you to them.

We continued to meet outdoors through to the final session of the summer term, 29th July. It was agreed that the MU garden, on a warm summer day is far more attractive than North Room! Thank you to all who kept the MU lawn cut and weeds at bay.

As the temperature dropped, it was good to be able to meet inside again in September. By this time several families had only been outside, so venturing into the church was a new experience for them. The transition went smoothly.

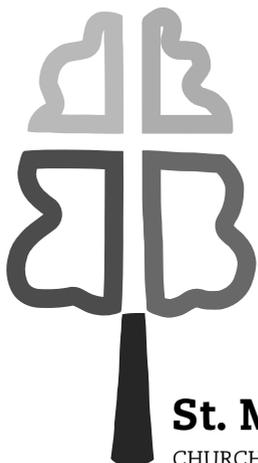
Full monthly Tiny Tots services resumed, with the team able to offer extravagant hospitality again.

- September Nicky helped us considered God's amazing creation.
- October we heard about Martha and Mary.
- November we hunted for lost coins
- December we revisited the 'Knitivity'.

As covid infections rose again over Christmas and restrictions increased we took the decision to close Toddlers for January 2022, opening instead on February 3rd. We very much hope to remain open throughout 2022!

Thank you to the Toddlers mums who take turns setting up, bringing refreshments and tidying away. Thank you also to the Tiny Tots team who support on a weekly basis and facilitate the monthly session: Nicky Fairbairn, Christine Powell, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer, Barbara Willson and Helen Peters.

Revd. Helen Peters & Nicky Fairbairn
4th February 2022



St. Michael & All Angels
CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING