

CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Brighton Road • Purley • CR8 2BN • T: 020 8763 8291
E: office@christchurchpurley.org.uk
W: www.christchurchpurley.org.uk
Reg Charity No. 1133205

A Celebration and review of 2021 as we report back, look forward and give Glory to God.

The Annual Church Meeting will start at 10.30am.

You will be able to view this on YouTube (link will be emailed out on the Sunday morning).

A Zoom link will also be provided which will allow people to speak to the chair (the Vicar).

Please note that now that restrictions have been removed **only those attending the meeting may vote.** This is the requirement of the Church Representation Rules that govern all churches.

Close of meeting at c. 12.00pm.

AGENDA 2022

Opening Worship

Reading : Revelation 4:8, 8:1-5

Collect: unity in prayer

"Who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God , now and forever"

Vicar review and talk

Vestry Meeting – elect wardens

APCM

Prayers

Apologies

Minutes

Matters Arising – no matters arising not covered in report elsewhere

PCC elections – 5 for nominations for 6 spaces so no election

Electoral Roll report – 253 (251 April 2021, 240 in November 2020, 233 in 2019)

Accounts – presented and questions welcomed

Appoint auditor for 2022

Worship

Brief Reports:

- CYT team
- Other initiatives
- Curate

Closing Questions & Answers

Holy Communion

Closing worship

Goodbyes....

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

OF CHRIST CHURCH, PURLEY HELD ON SUNDAY 25 April 2021 by Zoom webinar due to COVID 19 lockdown

The Zoom meeting which was chaired by Rev Doug McHardie

The meeting was recorded.

There were 81 people on the Zoom meeting.

Doug explained that the annual report had been written by him in these strange times and if anything has been missed out it was a complete accident and not deliberate. Any information missing will be shared in the Newslink.

If there are any questions type them into Q&A on your screen.

Prayers.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes were adopted as an accurate record with no amendments.

Accepted by all
with no abstentions

Matters Arising

Electoral roll now 251 and increase of 8% since 2019.
67 live in the parish – 27% with 73% living outside the parish.

Terms of office now can be 2 terms since the last APCM

New noticeboard are now in place.

Coffee bar – a team is looking at the opening of the Foyer.

2. ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Wardens are elected every year and Alison and Bob have presented as wardens so no election is needed.

3. APOLOGIES

Olivia Griffiths

4 ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS

There were 6 vacant positions (5 PCC and 1 Deanery):

Stepping down Amanda Shortland, Pamela Roper and Trevor Jones – Thank you was said to all of them.

Nominations were received for

Mick Durkin, David Hunn (2nd term of office), Bejoy Pal and Christopher Hickin

No election was needed so all 4 were appointed as PCC members.

The elected PCC members are therefore:

Anne Scoones***	Julia Waterson **	Tiggy Claustres***
Bejoy Pal *	Kim Watts **	Tom Griffiths **
Christopher Hickin *	Mick Durkin *	
David Hunn*	Rebecca Burmiston**	

* First year of office

** Second year of office

*** Third year of office

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Church's finances were presented by Steve – ministry team leader for finance. The accounts (copy in minute file) were available on the website

Thank you to all the fellowship partners who have made their regular payments. There has been loss of income through missed hall lettings income of £85,000 - £90,000. It dried up last year and has there has been none this year. So, will be using reserves – which is what they are for to for the budget deficit of £80,000 this year. If there was another lockdown would need to ask different questions. This is a conservative estimate

The PCC approved the accounts on 8th March 2021

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDANT EXAMINER FOR THE 2021 ACCOUNTS

The Finance, Administration and Resources Committee recommended appointing Financial Examiners Langdon West Williams.

Steve Bishop proposed that Langdon West Williams be appointed as Financial Examiners of the 2021 Accounts

Proposed Chris Hickin

Seconded Andy Leigh

Passed – all in favour

6. CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM REPORT

The team shared a video montage of Children's work.

Changes – now online services, Onesie church, Instagram, Facebook – the world of social media being used, Bubble church – families working together, work in schools cake ministry now to school and Purley Nursery.

Assemblies – now expanding and includes Manchester as online. Christ Church School produced art work for the Easter Windows where all children were involved, Holiday Club, Charlotte joined team on 1 May.

Thank you to the Kids' team,

Youth – originally had Sunday service but now using Instagram and Zoom for cells during the week.

There is lots going on

Thank you to Chuk and Youth Team

7. CURATE REFLECTION OF NEARLY ONE YEAR IN POST

TSP

T- Thank you, S- Sorry, P-Please

Thank you to all for such a warm welcome.

Thank you for meeting people. Moving into parish next week and looking forward to meeting people. Thank you to Doug as training incumbent.

Sorry not to have met you all yet booking looking forward to meeting you and joining in making Passionate Disciples for Christ.

8. VICAR'S REPORT

Reading Ephesians 6: 10-20

Making passionate disciples for Christ – ministry to and to each other. Thank you to pastoral team and house groups.

Discipleship course will be restarting.

Mission is reaching out, evangelism and community engagement

A clip from Robin Hood Prince of Thieves (1991) was shown showing the training montage. The archer pulls back the string and at the right moment will release with the maximum power.

We need to be ready for what will happen next. This is the time for getting ready. Is Christ Church up for this – in the centre and in the world?

From May the congregation meetings will resume

9. QUESTIONS/ ANSWERS

Deputy Wardens are there some? – Doug needs to meet with Wardens to discuss this but not appointing today.

Peaced Together started a course on February 2020 but then had to change to online due to Covid. Latest course started in March 2021 online. Already have 3 people signed up for the September course.

Thank yous were given to all the leadership for all and the tools that you give us that is done on behalf of Christ Church. The church feels more unified that it has for a long time even though we are separate.

Doug said thank you on behalf of everyone.

If you are engaged the first mission field is to get people who are not engaged but were in gathered church and then the rest of Purley and people that you know.

The meeting closed with the blessing given by Doug followed by unmuted applause by all at 12.55pm.

Signed:

Date:.....

The Apostle Paul wrote many letters to churches. In them he set out to do various things depending on their situation:

- Encouraging unity and that the gospel invitation is to everyone
- The importance of faith to salvation and obedience as the outworking of that faith
- Living the way God intends, not adopting the ways of the culture that surrounds us; being holy, that is set apart from culture
- Staying focused on Jesus when times are tough
- Keeping sight of true faith and practice that is true to Christ
- Thankfulness for faith and encouraging perseverance in that faith
- Avoiding syncretism, mixing non-Christian practice and beliefs with the truth of the gospel
- Practical instruction and encouragement to young newly formed churches
- Encouragement of hope, that Jesus is coming again to make all things new
- Encouraging leaders to stay true to faith, to scripture and to challenge and correct false teaching
- Encouragement to press on and keep up good work in the face of oppressive forces; recognising a spiritual battle is raging but that God is on our side and he wins!

A special prize if you can identify which one comes from which letter!

All of these speak to our current situation in one way or another. Different messages speak to different people as we all face different situations in life. How this speaks to us as a body and to us individually depends on how we have been affected by recent events.

What has not changed is the Gospel, is God, is faith, is hope.

In 2020 we had to do the unthinkable, close down. We could not meet and had to make it up as we went along, discovering technology and its uses in ways that we were not aware of before. We watched statistics, wore masks, stayed at home, went to work in very unusual and often stressful conditions. Things started to look brighter but then a second lockdown, and then a third. Christmas services cancelled. Vaccines rolled out and things started to improve. We found ways to meet outside and then inside at a distance, then the distancing reduced as vaccines rolled out more. 2021 closed with hope for a move into a new normality, with Covid but not oppressed by it.

Meanwhile the clouds of war loomed in Europe. By 2022 invasion and our screens filled with damage, death and destruction.

Christian truth has not changed but cultural perceptions have and the threat of unintended consequences of a well-meaning law could make prayer illegal or worse. Disagreements about sexuality and marriage let alone how to define gender rage in the church (not just the church of England) and the body of Christ is

separated into camps behind metaphorical barricades. The unity of the body for the sake of Christ never looked further from reality.

If any of this makes you feel jaded or downcast, read on.

Let me encourage you.

Recognising the soundtrack to all that appears in this annual report this year you will still find harmony and sparkling music to the ears. They are trying times and to brush over that would be unhelpful. Yet, alluding to JRR Tolkien's fictional world, things in Middle Earth are dark and dangerous **but** here in the Shire things are looking up as we respond to our local community, to our friends, brothers and sisters, pray into the difficulties of life here and across the world and worship our Lord who is sovereign creator, King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. And we invented (or sometimes stole someone else's ideas!) Zoom church, home based worship leading and recording, streaming, one handed communion distribution, car park worship, garden worship nights, Black History Month and Racial Justice Sunday, Mission Partner Sundays, online Alpha, Bereavement Journey, training a curate, online Peaced Together, two way orientation in church, three services, worship word ministry in the morning, Bronze eco-Church, Living with Loss service, live nativity, welcome back services that were intentionally age-diverse, Food Hub delivery, Daily Devotions by the congregation for the congregation, write your own House Group material by House Groups, recorded Collective Worship for schools and and and.....

The future is bright as we continue to innovate.

Everyone is invited each month to *Be part of the conversation*. Congregation meetings are a way of encouraging all to not only hear what is going on but also to contribute ideas, encouragements and suggestions.

Everyone is also invited to *Be part of making passionate disciples*.

In 2019 we launched *Commitment 2025* which was an invitation to reconsider our commitment to the church and God's mission each year. It is still as valid now as it was then. There were three categories of commitment to look at:

https://christchurchpurley.org.uk/Groups/333145/Christ_Church_Purley/Church_Life/Commitment_2025/Commitment_2025.aspx

GROWING

Equipping – courses and learning new skills, new confidence for a new season; what is God calling you to?

Giving – we both thankful for the continued generosity of many and conscious of a financial deficit; can you increase your giving?

Sabbath – do you need to rest after this busy time of serving?

House Group – the life blood of prayer, care and growing in the bible; can you join one this year? Could you lead bible study or host?

SERVING

Call – what is God calling you to? Pray with someone else to discern. Speak to me about next steps.

Gifts – ask for gifts or ask what gifts God wants to give you; then put them into practise (ask about this, join a house group or share with your house group).

GOING

Witness and evangelism – have a go, take the opportunity to speak about Jesus, get trained to build your confidence.

Social action – join the existing teams or if you see a need ask how we can support and start a new project

Pioneering and planting – do you feel called to reach out to those outside the church walls? Maybe being part of a new congregation? Ask how this might happen.

We are coming out of an enforced sleep. Much has fallen to the usual suspects and especially the clergy and staff team. That is not how it is supposed to be. Either on stage in worship or in the activities, services and events that we offer. Many have found a place again.

And God wants more.

Come Holy Spirit. We want more of you. In us and through us. That we might be more for you.

What might 2025 look like? Deeper disciples in the church, bulging services, busy church centre, overflowing outreach and souls saved.

Bring it on....

Finally, some thanks for the past year. I won't name you because you know who you are and if I highlight special thanks for anyone then I will forget someone.

Please know Christ Church that you have been well served by wise, patient, passionate, selfless, dedicated, gracious, light hearted, big hearted, tireless brothers and sisters.

I give you thanks and give God the glory.

Yours in Christ

Doug

This is our first 'in person' AGM although we have both been in position since November 2020. Our main focus, since Covid restrictions were first relaxed and then lifted, has been the Church's return to normal and the new opportunities that the restrictions during this time have given us. We have been pleased to see the congregation numbers growing at the 9am and 10.30am services and a good number attending the new 11.30am service. It has been a joy to stand at the Church door welcoming back old faces and greeting newcomers. We hope this continues through 2022 and beyond.

Each year, the Church Wardens are required to present to the PCC a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church. They then present this report to the Annual Meeting on behalf of the PCC and the Meeting is free to discuss the report. We would like to thank Tom Griffiths for the following report from the Church Fabric Team.

'Our team has two aims: to keep the Church and Halls in good condition, and to make sure the various missions and activities of Christ Church are fully enabled and supported.

Routine maintenance has been carried out, repairing things as they go wrong. This included a new tap for the foyer kitchen. The following major maintenance contracts were carried out:

- Boilers, heating and control systems for the halls complex.
- The hot air heaters for the Church
- "PAT" checks of mains cables, extensions, and portable equipment.
- Annual check of security systems

The roller shutters and lightning conductors have been visually checked by us.

Work planned for the spring/ summer:

- Replacing failed batteries in the emergency lighting
- Replacing the exterior lighting to the church with modern equivalents, for security of our property and the safety of people using the car park by vehicle, or passing through as pedestrians.

The work of keeping our gardens and grounds clean and looking good continues, with the principal input being the care of flower beds and borders, trees, and the grounds in general. On behalf of the Fabric Team this is organised currently mainly by Anne Scoones and Cynthia Smith. The magnolia tree has been trimmed. The eagle-eyed will notice improved composting, an insect habitat created jointly with Christ Church School called "Bug-ingham Palace", and a number of bird boxes in our trees.

The PCC has given its approval for a significant refurbishment of the Church interior. The various mission teams have given their outline requirements for how they would like to be able to use the Church in the future. The Congregation will be asked for input and ideas during April 2022. The Archdeacon supports the refurbishment, and will be engaged together with Diocesan advisory staff during 2022. The aim is to have a specification for works within our budget capability by

the end of 2022 ready for the submission of the relevant approvals: Church faculties and Local Authority building control.

Our former Inspecting Architect having retired, his company Thomas Ford put forward a suitably qualified and experienced replacement who is on the Diocese approved list. The PCC has voted in favour of appointing her, and the appropriate request has been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

This year we will arrange a 5-yearly Architect's Inspection of the entire site by our new Inspector.'

***Bob Benn
Alison Frost***

Stewards

We would like to thank all those who provide a friendly welcome and help our services run smoothly. Our Stewards are:

Paula Reed
Steve Gilbert
Mike O'Connor
Richard Parris
Andy Hird
Rob Keeler

Our current Electoral Roll shows that we have 253 people signed up. However, this is not an accurate reflection of the congregation numbers, as not all our members are on the current Electoral Roll. If you are not on the Electoral Roll, your vote at the 2022 APCM will not be counted. Please check with me if you are unsure.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, do think about joining– you are eligible if you live in the Parish or have been attending habitually for at least six months (young people can join when they turn 16). It is not just a means of being able to vote at the Annual Church Meeting, or to stand for PCC or Deanery Synod; it is a way of showing belonging to the church. Forms can be found in the Church, in the church office or can be sent to you by email.

Jean Loh Electoral roll officer

It has been another interesting year during which the PCC met in every second month of the year. The meetings have been varied with discussions and decisions made on a range of issues including: a very thought-provoking Diversity training session with Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett. If you would like to view a recording of this please email at the address below. The PCC has discussed at length in many meetings the safety of our congregation and centre users with regard to the wearing of masks and the impact of the pandemic on services and what we can offer safely at Christ Church.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) and has safeguarding on the agenda at every meeting. All PCC members are required to hold a current a Christ Church DBS certificate and are asked to complete 2 online safeguarding courses.

We continue to receive monthly feedback from the Finance Committee, whose expertise is invaluable in helping us, as we seek to make wise decisions about expenditure.

Please do not forget the PCC is elected by you and wishes to be representative of your views, so please do not hesitate to talk to anyone on the PCC anytime you have a concern or wish to just express a thought or an opinion or email christchurchpurleypcc@gmail.com

Jean Loh

During the lockdown periods the pastoral team, house group leaders and the office did their best to keep in touch by sending Newslink out to those who are not online and by making regular phone calls. It was, for so many, such a difficult time especially for our older members. Sometimes pastoral care was going for a walk, praying, sitting outside or chatting on a doorstep! Keeping in touch was essential and still is! Zoom services were another way of keeping in touch.



Meals Ministry -Pastoral meals are provided as a blessing to those who might have recently had an operation, are recuperating from illness or just for those times when life is difficult for a host of reasons. Over the past year we have gifted around 60 meals to individuals and families. The freezer is usually well stocked with a good selection of sweet and savoury dishes, including some made for special diets too. Thank you so much to Lynn, Kim, Rowayda, Sue, Debbie and Amanda for responding so willingly to the call for meals. It is much appreciated. We don't usually hear where the needs are so if you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry please let Karen Speed, Jenny Hird or Amanda Shortland know. **Mid-Week Communion** followed by lunch has begun again and this is a wonderful way to support those who come, not just spiritually, but by offering a lovely hot meal (prepared by Lynn) It is perhaps one of the few occasions when some ,who live alone can eat with others. Thank you to Simon and Trish Vaal who co-ordinate this and to Ruth Laws, Rowayda and Lynn for manning the kitchen.

Prayer Network The confidential emergency email prayer network received 182 requests and updates during 2021. The requests were sent to 51 dedicated pray-ers. We thank God for their continual quiet and devoted ministry.

Bereavement Support The early months of lockdown in 2021 were particularly challenging for those who were bereaved and so we moved the monthly support group to zoom for the nine or so who were able to participate in that way. From May 2021 we were back socially distanced as we qualified as a support group and most months attendance was in double figures. We kept in phone contact throughout the pandemic with those who could not access zoom or felt uncomfortable meeting in person. We ran a service of Living with Loss in November, this was well received and appreciated by those who came. We welcomed several new people who came to us as referrals received from G. P's, our website, personal contacts and google search.



In 2022 we piloted the Bereavement Journey earlier in the year which was well received and some of these guests are taking part in a short course to explore the hope of the Christian faith. We were sad that a member of our support group for 8 years died recently and as a group we will be remembering her the next time we meet.

Marie Curie and the Church of England sponsored a second National Day of Reflection on 3rd March to bring people together in community to reflect and

remember those whose family, friends, colleagues or neighbours who they have lost. We marked this at Christ Church by inviting people to gather in the foyer from 11am, mark the day with a minute's silence, remember people on a "wall of remembrance" and join together in a short time of led prayers.

We plan to run the Bereavement Journey again, advertising it more widely across the church and the town and we would like to help more of us at Christ Church and in Purley to increasingly become a bereavement friendly church and town. If this is something you would like to be a part of, come and talk to Pauline or Lisa.

Learning Disabled Adults Thank you to Margaret Hall and others who faithfully and lovingly support our members with learning disabilities. Even through lockdown Margaret was able to send them notes of encouragement and show God's care for them by keeping in touch

Ministry to Elders

Visiting and Home Communion. After restrictions were eased, visiting and giving Home Communion again was very special. Sadly now, some of our older members have increased mobility issues so are unable to come to church. It is so important that their spiritual life is encouraged. Personal prayer is really valued after long chats! Regular phone calls are important too.



Mid-Week Fellowship It has been a joy to be able to meet again after so many months. We started back last September and managed to have our Christmas Lunch (with caterers) It was a very happy occasion. We have had some interesting speakers, for example "The Victorian Pharmacy", "The Land of the Rising Sun", "The Life and Times of Samuel Pepys" and "Christmas-a Festive History". We have been delighted to welcome some new members and had 37 at our last meeting. In addition to the talk there is information share re scams, booster reminders, reliable numbers for plumbers etc! Special thanks go to Nicola Hawes, Katie Swinnerton, Monica Phillips and Gill Bell. I am very grateful too, that Alison Frost has agreed to assist in running the group. My thanks too, go to Jean Phillips who has helped and encouraged for so long. She now feels it is time to step down.



Holiday at Home This took place in the summer with three afternoons of entertainment, fun, indulgence, and happiness. It was the first time for a long while that our older members had been able to meet up and everyone seemed genuinely delighted to be able to. There was an afternoon tea each afternoon accompanying firstly a games afternoon, secondly a session learning all about British sign language and thirdly an interactive musical concert. Holiday at Home is booked for 9-11th August this year, and all are welcome to join us for tea and entertainment. (Alison Frost)

Looking forward

Drop In. Due to falling numbers we decided to close our weekly ladies Drop-In in March 2020 and then, in fact Covid began! We keep in touch with some of our

members and they are keen to meet up in the foyer for a chat. This was such good news to hear! We will implement this soon.

Sunrise We have not been able to take any monthly services at Sunrise due to Covid but we are hoping to start up again with a new team.

Pastoral Care Course Our pastoral team is some-what depleted and we are keen to engage those in the fellowship who have pastoral hearts. Doug is going to run a taster course in May and hopefully a more intense course following on from that.

Lastly thank you to all those who quietly support and care for so many in the fellowship. We continue to see and experience God's Hand in so many ways. As always, we ask for ongoing prayer to make wise decisions, have discernment and to seek His will.

Jenny Hird (Pastoral Leader & SPA,) Karen Speed (SPA) and Pauline Chapman (Paediatric Lay Chaplain.)

Safeguarding Report APCM April 2022

The parish of Christ Church Purley takes the safeguarding and care of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. The church complies with the Church of England and the Diocese of Southwark's 'A Safer Church Policy' regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and the PCC has complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding.

All children and adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse and safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our church's safeguarding policy may be viewed by anyone and is on the home page of the Church website as well as posters displayed around the church complex.

Southwark Diocese provide safeguarding training for anyone needing it and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers are always available for advice.

This year xxx number of DBS checks and xxx references haven been processed. I have renewed my Leadership in Safeguarding from the Diocese. The annual safeguarding audit has also been completed.

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Due to lockdown, all volunteers who work with children and vulnerable young adults needed to renew their DBS checks along with new references.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

The number of people completing their safeguarding training.

39 have completed C0

36 Have completed C1

3 Have completed C2

1 Safer recruitment and people management training

40 DBS completed

A huge thank you to Jean Loh who spends a lot of her time doing DBS checks and chasing references.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Due to lockdown, at times it has been difficult to meet people face to face to complete ID checks for DBS as well as receiving references back for volunteers. It is a requirement that all volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults have an enhanced DBS, complete Level 1 safeguarding training and have two references for their ministry.

What are your hopes for 2022?

To appoint a Safeguarding lead on the PCC and review the induction process for new volunteers. Since lockdown, I have not been physically present in the church as much as I would like but am hoping 2022 will see a much more normal year for us all!

If you have any concerns or queries regarding Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, Disclosure and Barring (DB) forms please email safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk or if you have an urgent concern please phone me, Doug or Jean or contact the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor.

Jo Riches and Jean Loh Parish Safeguarding Officers

In 2021, we set out to equip and enable parents and children to go deeper in their faith journey with God.

Over the course of the year, our provision for families adapted and developed in line with the restrictions in place nationally, but always with a heart and a passion to reach children and their parents.



Therefore, we commenced the year with high-quality, engaging and fun age-targeted online content which was focused upon mirroring and supporting the wider church's teaching programme. This entailed weekly online content consisting of silly skits, games, crafts, challenges, storytelling, teaching and ministry time. We then moved into a time of hybrid online teaching and Zoom presence through our weekly 'Onesie church' which enabled us to have live interaction with families and wonderful opportunities for prayer ministry, discussions and building of relationships. As restrictions allowed, we moved on to alternating between fortnightly in-person 'Bubble church' and online 'Onesie church.' These were all met enthusiastically by families as well as by Charlotte and myself!



In September, we progressed on to 'Welcome back Sundays' with a very intentional move to be intergenerational in our approach whereby all ages worship together to bless and be a blessing. This



developed beautifully over the weeks to enable all to engage, deepen and support each other, so that all were able to worship God and encounter Him side by side.

In November, we launched our new children's ministry 'Christ Church Kids!' Due to the nature of the restrictions and size of team, the

decision was made to have just two groups: CCK Pre-school and CCK 5-11s. In the run-up, we recognised the huge advantage there was with families discipling their children as well as developing an organic cross-over between Carousel (toddler group) and Sunday provision. Therefore, the new model of 'CCK



preschool' was developed to enable parents to be alongside their toddlers to learn, pray and explore faith together and is thriving! CCK 5-11s deliberately focussed upon the key fundamental beliefs of the faith and continued to develop a culture of Holy Spirit ministry each week.



In addition to the Sunday provision, the wonderful Holiday club team planned, created and produced a high-quality digital Holiday club 'Starship: Promise' based upon faith, Love and hope identified through Jesus' parables. We also held a hugely successful 'Live Nativity' retelling the Christmas story also including activities, refreshments and donkeys! Although, numbers were restricted due to external factors, approximately 150 children and adults joined in the festivities!



Instagram posts and WhatsApp groups were developed as a way of staying connected to families throughout the week and to help reinforce teaching, celebrate moments with the children and to support one another. There have been many joys over the year, especially within the creativity of the teams and with being able to meet in person once more. God has been faithful and good in all things and we praise God for the children and their families who are a constant blessing. None of this could have taken place without the help and support of many people: all those who so faithfully and happily serve on CCK team, the holiday club core team, drama team and tech/props team, the church family as a whole for their commitment to help serve and lead in so many ways and of course Charlotte who is a huge blessing and invaluable member of the ministry leadership team.

A particular challenge continues to revolve around team numbers. We are so grateful for all that have served in the past and those who currently serve. We are ever mindful that everyone's circumstances have changed over the year. We love and value all our team members; whether currently serving, taking a break or have stepped down indefinitely – you are all awesome, and we really couldn't provide this ministry without you – thank you. We currently have just under half the number of team that we had pre-lockdown which has obvious impact upon the provision that we can offer at this time. Please can you join us in praying for team and signing up to be part of the greatest fun there is!

As we look forward to the forth-coming year, we hope to develop and expand our ministry to children both on Sundays by further developing our provision and launching groups that are for individual key stages, but also moving intentionally and ambitiously into the local community to identify, establish and develop ministries and outreach to families that do not yet know the love of Jesus.

Jude Barber Lead pastor – Children's, Youth and Families team

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Lockdown in 2020 proved to be difficult for all churches in youth work. Young people had disruption to school life as well as not being able to fellowship and worship together. Online life is for most youth more embedded than for later generations therefore online church was one of many channels they could explore and was less of an innovation than it was for others. The main thing that youth missed about church was physically being together.

The limitations of keeping safe online, necessary as it is to protect young people and leaders alike, meant that ways of reaching out to individual young people was also difficult making pastoral support and care not what the team would have wanted.

Therefore, the main aim of 2021 was to maintain contact and provide content for young people in the first half and aim to be able to bring them back together in a safe environment once restrictions allowed. When, in late summer, in-person cell was able to start again a palpable relief was sounded amongst both the leaders and the young people. We had buzz again and it was awesome!

Sunday youth church started again in the autumn and while numbers for all meetings are lower than they were pre-lockdown, a faithful gathering has been worshipping, playing, praying and socialising together.

A particular highlight has been the increased involvement of young people in the bands in the adult service which has blessed both the congregation and the young people. It is a visible sign of age-diverse worship and discipleship and we would love to see this extend and grow over time.

What are your hopes and aims for 2022?

The main change in 2022 is that Chuk, our Youth Minister, will be moving with his family to Canada to take up a role as an Assistant Pastor in a church there. This has been a real call on his life and an unexpected change of direction. We would all like to thank Chuk for what he has brought to Christ church and wish them all our love and offer our prayers for this next step in their journey together.

We are hopeful that we will have appointed a new Youth Minister soon after Chuk leaves us at the end of May.

The volunteer team is smaller and yet very dedicated to the young people. Having more people on the team will help us not only maintain but grow the ministry and allow us to do more things with and for them. If this might be you please contact Jude or Doug!

In 2022 we want to put in place some of the plans that have been on hold including working with local churches to offer young people across the area new opportunities. An example of this was the week away at Carrot Wood recently jointly with Purley Baptist Church. We would love to have more opportunities to serve, to integrate with the wider congregation and to grow the numbers of

young people in groups. Plans for activities away from the church centre are also a possibility including holiday conferences/events as well as developing opportunities reach out to our community.

Thank you to all the people who help with youth ministry at Christ Church.

Please pray for the young people and the team and for the appointment of a new Youth Minister to take all these plans forward. For his glory.

Doug McHardie and Chuk Egbunike

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

At the beginning of 2021 we entered a third lockdown. We had cancelled Christmas 2020 services at short notice and all seemed to be more of the same. So, the hope for 2021 was that restrictions would gradually ease and we could meet to worship regularly. Two sermon series nourished us over this period. Firstly, the continuation of *Luke's Distinctive Gospel*, looking at the bits of Luke that are unique to that evangelist took us to Pentecost. We then embarked on an Old Testament Journey through Genesis asking what it means to *Being Human in a God Shaped World*. Once we were able to meet in person it was also important to rebuild our intentional welcome as both regulars and newcomers returned to worship together.

What was new in 2021?

We met in limited circumstances in the first half of the year, using 2 metre spacing and sofas we could fit in up to 35. In the summer we tried a one-off car park service which allowed singing because we were outside. This proved so popular we did seven consecutive weeks outside (rain or shine) and it was a blessing. One evening the band leaders led us in our first 14:26 worship night which was lots of extended sung worship and sharing of words, scriptures and prophecies. This has also become a regular if infrequent feature. Autumn brought us back to intentionally all-diverse worship in our "Welcome back" series which began to get its own groove. We then moved to a 3-service pattern with Holy Communion, a service of the word and a new worship, word, ministry service. All 45 minutes long to minimise contact, we have continued these services into 2022. Christmas services took place for the first time since 2019 and despite some Covid disruption to service leaders were well attended. Weekly *Revival prayer* met through the Autumn term. We also marked Black History Month in October and Racial Justice Sunday in February 2022.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate (including appropriate thanks)?

The gradual reopening and return of increasing numbers of regulars as well as continued engagement online has been a real encouragement. Young Adults have faithfully supplied impactful and insightful messages as part of Worship Night online. God has spoken to us powerfully through many of the readings in Luke and Genesis. God has also spoken to us through gathering in small numbers just listening out for his voice. We have been welcoming newcomers of all ages who have been joining us in slow but regular flows. The restrictions also forced us to experiment with new ways of worshiping and praying which has been often fruitful.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Singing was the thing most missed but Holy Communion has also been absent for many people for over 2 years. We have had to make judgement calls every month about how best to open up within restrictions and PCC are to be applauded for the way in which they have engaged with those difficult decisions on behalf of everyone else.

What are your hopes for 2022?

Restrictions are now removed and so we are hopeful of finding a stable way of worshipping and welcoming that captures the fruit of our enforced experimentation. We hope that we will hear God more clearly and powerfully and that we grow in number and in depth of discipleship. We hope to strengthen our welcome including more follow up for newcomers and welcome meals to integrate all into the marvellous family that is Christ Church. Looking forward to a Black History Month celebration in 2022 that will be led by and honour our black brothers and sisters.

Doug McHardie

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Our key objective as a (sung) worship team in 2021 was to continue to provide ways by which the church family could enter into God's presence in worship together, even when we were all sitting in our own homes.

What was new in 2021?

From the first lockdown, we continually experimented with new ways of leading sung worship online; and gradually got better at understanding the technology. We built up a bank of worship songs on YouTube, recorded by the team to use in online services. We learnt how to lead worship in the church car park in the summer, and following a donkey back from Tesco's just before Christmas. And Doug introduced a new format of worship-based evening service ("14:26", named after the approach set out in 1 Corinthians 14:26), designed to be outside whenever the season allows.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate

It was wonderful to be able to sing praise and worship together in the summer Car Park services, reminding us how much we had missed being able to do that. What an important part of our life together it is! Similarly, it was a great joy to be led by a choir in our Carols for Candlelight service for the first time in two years – as always, ably prepared and conducted by Richard Slade - and they sounded heavenly!

I must pay tribute to the other band leaders - Sue, Laura and Frank - who persevered faithfully in recording songs for the services, even though it proved surprisingly stressful and time-consuming at times; and a special mention to Martin Ryan, who put an immense amount of time and energy into overcoming technical difficulties and building up the bank of YouTube songs; and Ben Winkley, who generously gave us the benefit of his technical expertise. Once back in the church for services, the sound desk and projector teams also had to learn lots of new tricks, and have done an amazing job at getting us to the point where we can stream live on YouTube, so a big thanks to them.

What were the challenges and struggles?

2020 and 2021 were hugely challenging for the (sung) worship ministry at Christ Church, with periods where we could not gather at all, and other periods where we could gather but not sing – thus depriving us of one of the best-loved ways to express our worship to the Lord. I've already commented on the toll it took on band leaders – not easy at all.

What are your hopes for 2022?

It feels like 2022 is a time to re-emerge after hibernation. We've been able to bring the whole worship team together in person again already, re-building our sense of 'team'; and we are really enjoying the contributions of the young people who have been part of worship bands over the past few months. We have plans to learn more about the skills involved in leading worship well, whether that is as singers, instrumentalists or how to play together in a band. And we are excited about new people joining the team, and settling them in.

Graham Duncan

We are amazed and so thankful that the house groups have continued to meet during the last 2 long years. This has been thanks to the wonders of technology, the diligence of the house group leaders, the willingness of the members to experiment and the Holy Spirit Who is the only One who has no problems with Zoom!

We set the bar quite low - simply to keep meeting, having fellowship, praying for each other and being inspired by the Word – but that is quite a bar!! Many of the groups were able to meet for a short while, in various ways, during the summer and most of us have been back on Zoom since the autumn.

There have, of course been difficulties: the number of house groups and house group members has sadly diminished over the past 2 years - some have simply not been able to meet online or in person – such as TFX – and some of our longstanding, faithful leaders have stepped down: James and Mary Ganpatsingh, Simon and Lucy Harding; Mike Stenning and David Waterson. We are so grateful to them all for the many years (around 50 combined!) that they have served. Well done you good and faithful servants!

Some of those unable to join with a group have greatly enjoyed Doug's online Bible studies and have found a community of fellowship and support through that. Thank you, Doug.

We greatly enjoyed getting to grips with the gospel of Luke. One challenge set by Doug – and to which he and Lisa were considerable contributors – was for each group to set the questions on a passage in that gospel. Thank you to all those groups who contributed.

In the latter part of the year most of the groups was involved in looking at the lives of the patriarchs. Jacob has been a particular joy as we have been able to identify with his weaknesses and failings and been encouraged by God's great grace and patience with him. Many of us particularly identified with his experience in **Genesis 31:40** as a picture of what we have gone through in the past 2 years! He strove so hard to be blessed by God but spent his last years pouring that blessing upon others. May we be enabled to follow suit.

We are so hoping that the house groups will be able to start meeting face to face next term and to grow in numbers and depth of fellowship.

Martin and Sara Ryan

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Christ Church Courses sets out to provide training across a range of areas of discipleship growth including witness, evangelism, ministry, pastoral care, bible study and other areas. The switch to online allowed us to complete the Witness Course (now called *Exploring your faith*) for most of those who began the course just before lockdown. None of the other planned courses have got off the ground partly because some really need to be done face to face (e.g. prayer ministry). Continuation of online Bible Studies and Morning Prayer have enabled some to explore the bible in a collaborative way. All are welcome!



What was new in 2021?

The main innovation in 2021 was our version of *Living in Love and Faith (LLF)* which ran in October-December 2021 (completing one session in January 2022). LLF is a national Church of England project to encourage churches to discuss marriage, sexuality, gender and identity. A very large suite of materials was produced which included a 500-page book and a 5-session course. As clergy we looked at the course and decided to write an alternative one, based on parts of the original, to run here at Christ Church. The course we followed explored the current teaching of the church and its pastoral implications and then the case for change and the implications of any change. We also spent one session considering gender. The course notes including links to videos etc are all on the church website and

later this year a series of video reflections will be made available to Christ Church members.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate (including appropriate thanks)?

LLF was a success in that we were able to tackle very sensitive subjects gracefully and all were more informed at the end than we were at the beginning. The witness course was a delight to run and was appreciated by those who took part. We have yet to monitor if it has led to more sharing of people's stories of faith but anecdotally I do know of some who have gained greater confidence in their walk with Jesus which is fruit in itself.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Time devoted to other priorities and inability to meet in person have limited the courses that we could run in 2021.

What are your hopes for 2022?

In 2022 it is hoped to gather people for courses in Exploring Faith, leading bible studies, evangelism, prayer ministry and pastoral ministry. The option to affirm locally trained pastoral assistants is particularly exciting and having developed a syllabus we hope to be able to take this forward with some members of Christ Church this year. Having spent some time exploring issues of marriage and sexuality on the course it is hoped that the video reflections on LLF will help all of Christ Church appreciate the current teaching of the church and the implications of any potential changes that will affect all churches whatever happens in General Synod – change or no change.

Doug McHardie

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

A group called Ignite for 20s-30's formed in 2012 and operated on many levels for many years. It was thriving in number and range of activities including fun and fellowship, worship, serving and mission. Ignite were the prime movers behind evening services and Worship Night. At one point several active people moved on for different reasons as life stages changed.

By the time of the lockdown in 2020 we had a small group of young adults who were meeting as a House Group. The previous vitality was less evident but there was a commitment to mutual support, bible study and especially the monthly Worship Night.

By 2021 the existing group of young adults was reformed with some newcomers. Lisa enabled "The Gathering" for a few social meetings so that this

wider group could get to know one another and decide whether they would like to continue to meet up. That group has faithfully met on Zoom throughout the 2021, every two weeks.

The focus is bible study, mutual support and prayer. Sharing the leadership of the bible studies between the group worked for a while however a leader could make this easier for group members. One member supports older youth who have gone off to university.

Other than the House Group there was not a meaningful ministry to or for young adults in 2021.

What was new in 2021?

The new wider group was forming at the end of 2020 and continued to meet together in 2021. At the end of 2021 I met with the group to ask them how they were, what their hopes were and how we could support them some more. After a helpful discussion I offered to lead the group for a period no less than the end of summer 2021. My hope was to provide some input and explore different ways to be House Group together. To pray for and with them and (selfishly) to learn from them!

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate (including appropriate thanks)?

Forming the new group has been a joy and built new friendships and a greater stability and depth to the group. The ability to maintaining contact and to meet online has been great (and sometimes has its advantages being able to stay at home but still meet!) Really looking forward to meeting in person again after managing a few outdoor gatherings in summer when it was warm, a real blessing.

The group agree that it is good to identify with people in same age group, especially when new to a church. It's a "*big win to plug into a small group to build friendships*".

What were the challenges and struggles?

The group feel that they really struggled without someone else to lead. They found that attendance was lower at that time as other priorities took over. Planning for bible studies became a burden on those leading that week sometimes taking many hours out of already busy and draining work lives.

What are your hopes for 2022?

The group hope to expand with **more members, especially men and couples** (speak to Doug if you are 20-30's would like to join this group). Looking forward to in person meeting and the ability to do more fun stuff together (e.g. a bake off!) Also looking to find a sustainable model for next phase when I step back from leading the group.

Doug McHardie

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Evangelism is the intentional sharing of the gospel in word and deed with a view that people will come to know the living Jesus, their need for him and give their lives to him.

We continue to have a 5 strand Evangelism strategy.

1. Personal witness – everyone has a story to share about their walk of faith and relationship with Jesus; we seek to encourage and improve confidence in that story so that opportunities to share will grow

2. Evangelism and Apologetics – some will have the gift of evangelism, sharing the gospel story, and some more that of apologetics, answering the difficult questions; we seek to encourage and develop these gifts for those called to this ministry

3. Courses – Alpha and other courses are ways of walking with people on their journey of faith and generally offer the opportunity to make a commitment to Jesus along the way

4. Healing – prayer ministry offers the opportunity for people to experience the presence and wholeness that comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit; we want to encourage many to have the confidence to ask in general conversation outside of church “would you like me to pray for you?”

5. Pioneering – in an ever-changing world there are many who are seeking but would not think about entering a church; we want to look beyond the walls of Christ Church to take the good news where people are at

What was new in 2021?

Frankly not a lot. Opportunities to share the good news have not gone away and if anything, the results of the pandemic can open up conversations in which the hope that is Jesus can be plentiful. Highlights in 2021 are the online Alpha course and then one in person (see separate report on this). The Witness Course was also completed. Lisa Fairman-Brown, our curate, took on the lead role for Evangelism.

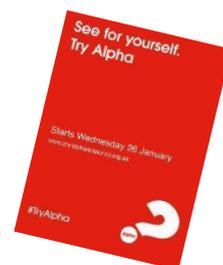
What are your hopes for 2022?

Enthusiasm to share the gospel and pray for people to build up again. Courses are offered and taken and that Christ Church becomes known as “good news” people who can’t stop talking about Jesus and praying for people inside and outside the walls of the church. That miraculous healings become the norm (not the occasion in a service – praise God when it does happen) and many are brought to a living faith.

Doug McHardie

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

We set out to relaunch Alpha as the principal way for Christ Church to share the good news of Jesus during and after a pandemic. A team willing to serve in this way was gathered, then the course was advertised online and through social media channels.



Alpha Online began in January 2021 with ten guests in 2 small groups with six hosts/helpers, plus a prayer team and house group online praying. Hospitality was inventive, with guests receiving a treat bag delivered to their door at the start of the course and for the Alpha 'Away' Day.

In response to a pastoral enquiry, a daytime Alpha Course was run in the home of a guest during the autumn/winter.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

Eight of our ten guests completed the online course. With one guest joining Christ Church once we returned to services. While others, renewed in faith, also gathered at Christ Church or their local church.



Our Autumn Alpha guests were touched by the presence of God. Two have started to come to Christ Church and the other two have recommitted to their local church with a renewed sense of peace and hope. This group continues to be disciplined and are growing in prayer.

Huge thanks to the team who accepted the challenge to serve online and in-home, we were blessed to see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of our guests.

What are your hopes for 2022?

That the current Alpha Course guests encounter Jesus and receive Him with joy and gladly follow Him.



That all of us who follow Christ, remembering who God is, want to share Him with others. A Post-It on my desk reads, 'Your job is to love them, I (God) will change them'. For each one of us, God has placed us in among people for us to reach them with the good news of Jesus. We speak of Jesus and pray 'Lord, open their eyes'. The results belong to God, He opens blind eyes.

Barna research in the UK says that 70% of people have a Christian friend with whom they are impressed. 20% of those 70% want to hear more. So, here's two questions I would love more of us to share more of the time so that we might meet our friends in their need: 1. What do I pray for you in the middle of what you are facing? 2. Can I open the Bible with you? – We are not all Bible teachers but we can all be Bible sharers. Then invite them to our next Alpha



Course!

Lisa Fairman- Brown

After almost 2 years The Foyer opened its doors to welcome all for coffee, tea and biscuits in February this year.

Many thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make this possible and to the wonderful team who have been serving this past 7 weeks.

We are planning and implementing Phase 2 and are preparing to re-open our doors from 25th April for 4/5 days each week offering hot drinks and cakes and biscuits. Our bakers are eager to start baking again and are dreaming up some super new recipes for all to enjoy.

Our hopes, as we move through 2022, are for The Foyer to offer a safe and welcoming space to meet, mingle and chat, to share the gospel appropriately and to engage with our local community showing God's love for all.

Lynn Benn



In 2021, we set out to support our local schools, especially Christ Church, in any way that would be a blessing to the pupils and staff especially during the pandemic.

As such, we continued to provide weekly online Collective Worship that was shared with schools in the borough as well as being uploaded onto our YouTube channel and accessed far and wide.

We also were approached by Christ Church school to help with the weekly lessons for RE throughout the spring term. We developed online digital lessons for both Key stage one and Key stage two following their syllabus covering the events of Easter and the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection upon Christian believers. These were welcomed enthusiastically and continue to be available today.

Over both the summer and autumn terms, we were invited to run pilot programmes of 'Junior Peaced Together' for up to ten pupils in year 6. This programme was intentionally targeted towards children who have experienced personal difficulties and/or low self-confidence. Both cohorts benefitted enormously and it was an honour and privilege to journey alongside children as they discover that they are valued, precious and of infinite worth.

In December, we presented 'Christmas Unwrapped' to local Primary schools, discovering, identifying and retelling the Christmas story whilst enabling pupils to visit the church as a place of worship and to reflect upon the Christian festival. It was wonderful to welcome approximately 150 pupils over the course of the week. It is with enormous thanks to the schools for welcoming us as well as the team members who have helped run Peaced Together, Christmas unwrapped and online collective worship. Special thanks go to Liz Sarkodie and Margaret Emberton for their weekly support as well as so many others who have supported and championed this ministry area!

Particular challenges have been in being able to return to in-person activities in schools due to Covid precautions and in having enough team members to support the programmes we offer. I am hugely grateful to Christ Church School who have enabled us to return swiftly into school, but also to our wonderful team members that help to make this all possible.

Our hopes for the forthcoming year are to continue to build relationships with schools that we are already visiting, but also to widen how we can better serve the schools, pupils, staff and families so that they may come to know God's love for them all. Please join us as we continue to pray for our school and others in our community, that we may be sensitive to all that God is doing and joining alongside him.

Jude Barber Lead pastor – Children's, Youth and Families team

Christ Church School has like all schools had a torrid time though Covid and lockdown. Remaining open for vulnerable children throughout and providing meals for many families the school then had to navigate ever changing regulations and restrictions often changing at short notice. The new Headteacher, Mrs Richardson, has started to build on the foundations of the school and the Nursery and through difficult circumstances the school remains a lovely warm place dedicated to the Christian ethos and its values.

Christ Church has been able to support the school in a number of ways including collective worship online and now in person, seasonal services (including YouTube link for parents who were not allowed to attend), cake Wednesday has been reinstated and of course we appoint several Foundation Governors.

There are many new innovations at Christ Church school especially to support the most vulnerable pupils and it is our privilege to partner with the staff, leadership, parents and pupils. We look forward to being able to strengthen and broaden that partnership in 2022 and beyond.

Please pray for the school and the nursery as they move forward with fewer restrictions so that the nurture of the children in their care may flourish and grow

Doug McHardie

Our objective in 2021 was to raise the profile of our mission partners to the wider church congregation. Our mission partners are supported by the Mission Partner Group with each mission partner or organisation having an advocate.

The Mission Partner of the month initiative was introduced in May 2021. We have tried to raise awareness through intercessions, including reports in Newslink and having visiting speakers or videos.

We were pleased to welcome Chris Elston in August 2021, who shared with us his work in Moldova.

Gill and Peter Boyd from the Oasis Centre in Luton came in December 2021. Gill spoke about their work with refugees during lockdown.

The £20,000 mission partner grant for 2021 was allocated to seven of our mission partners.

My thanks to all our advocates at Christ Church for liaising with our mission partners and organising the Mission Partner of the month.

A few of our mission partners have no advocates. If anyone is interested in joining the Mission Partner group you will be very welcome.

In 2022 we will continue with our Mission Partner of the month initiative and also invite a guest speaker to the morning services each month. We hope to update the Mission Partner page on our website and the notice board. The range of partners we support is reviewed each year.



Chris Elston leading a Bible study in Transnistria

Indrani Balachandran

After a quiet 2020, engagement with the community has gradually been re-established. It is good to see the centre getting busy again. Some of our initiatives have gone back to the way they were, others in a new Covid safe format and some yet to begin. The team have continued to provide a safe environment that has been greatly appreciated by our users.

It is heartening to see something on offer for a wide section of our community, from our youngest members, to the less able, the homeless and refugees. We look forward to the Foyer Cafe opening in 2022. The following capture a glimpse of the amazing work being done in the name of Jesus. My thanks to Amanda, Cynthia and Trevor for their contributions to this report.

Croydon Churches Floating night shelter - Once again this year we were unable to host the shelter at Christ Church due to the continued prevalence of Covid in the community. Instead, volunteers from all the participating churches were asked to support Croydon Nightwatch and the Evolve Housing 'Somewhere Safe To Stay' Hub for the homeless for a second year from early November to the end of March.



At Christ Church we had 32 volunteers making loaves of sandwiches and hot meals every Thursday evening through January and most of February. Others baked, shopped for vital extra items such as bottles of water and juice, treat items and fruit. In total we made 50 loaves of sandwiches for Nightwatch and 30 hot meals for the hub which were really appreciated.

The prospects for running our usual night shelter during winter 2022/3 are not looking good. Dormitory style shelter accommodation has definitely fallen out of favour with Councils in many areas who aspire to provide single room accommodation with en-suite facilities. All well and good but it's unlikely that sufficient rooms will be funded leaving many on the streets or vulnerably housed without sufficient food. Of course, we know that church shelters are **so much more** than a bed for the night, meals and a wash. It's a valuable opportunity for us to step alongside our guests at a low point in their lives to offer warm and generous Christian hospitality and prayer. We could not easily run a shelter without the support of the Council who provide initial screening and referral of our guests. So, we wait and pray for a sensible decision that will not leave many on the streets who would happily come to a church shelter.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for the homeless in our community, that they are able to access the help and support they need during these very difficult times.

Tea and Talk - In April 2019 Cynthia Smith (Mothers' Union) with help from Rev Linda Fox started a group to help asylum seekers and refugees learn English. The Group met on a Thursday afternoon at St Augustine's Church, South Croydon. St Augustine's is a convenient location for our guests who are based in a hotel nearby. Sadly, it had to be suspended in 2020 due to Covid. It was relaunched as Tea and Talk, a Mothers' Union project in October 2021. We have a relaxed afternoon with refreshments, offering friendship and support

and improving their English. Some have been in the hotel for several months and have got to know us well.

Some of the families have been attending the midweek service and lunch afterwards. One Muslim family has also started coming to Carousel and love it. Our small group of volunteers come from various churches in the South Croydon and Purley area. We are always looking for more volunteers. We are being blessed by these amazing families and it is an absolute joy to serve them.

We are thankful to St Augustine's for the use of their rooms and kitchen at no charge.



Purley Food Hub - This Churches Together venture has continued to operate in a Covid safe way by delivering food. We had hoped to reopen to clients coming to the church in early 2021, but with the rising Covid cases and the need to protect clients and volunteers the decision was taken to continue with delivery with the possible return of clients in spring 2022.

The Highs and lows in 2021 - Receiving thanks from clients and ticket partners, some examples below:

- **The client is very grateful for the help and support your team gave her not just with the food, but for the kindness and empathy shown to her. You are all wonderful!**
- Good morning Purley Food Hub, My family and I want to say a very big thank you for the support rendered the past months. We are immensely grateful. God bless. (Client)
- I just wanted to thank all of you for the bags and bags of food you gave us. I can't tell you how thankful I am for your help. Life is so tough right now for us all. (Client)
- Sharing the amazing blessings God has provided by supporting our partners at the Food Stops located at Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church, St Francis Monks Hill and other Food Banks including The Vine New Addington with food and financial support.
- A brilliant team of volunteers who manage the Food Hub; receive and sort donations; and deliver food to clients in South Croydon, Purley, Selsdon and Waddon.
- Seeing rising numbers of clients being referred to us, even as we move out of the Covid-19 Crisis due to the rising costs of food, travel and fuel

In 2022 we hope to continue to provide emergency food to those in need; To work with our partners and client support volunteers to help clients move on from emergency food provision and give them greater independence and financial resilience in difficult times by signposting to other support agencies; To hear and understand what other areas God is calling the Food Hub to serve in.

Indrani Balachandran

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Doug: Lisa had a difficult start to her curacy as she started in lockdown, wasn't ordained until several weeks into her curacy and wasn't even living in the parish. This year was about getting her settled into Purley with her family and getting to actually meet people as well as more experience of leading and being part of the face to face of parish life.

Lisa: It was so good to move in and we love living in Purley. Being priested in July was a significant step and so good to do this in company albeit still in very restricted numbers. It's been very important to me to meet with people in person. Highlights include meeting some of our oldest members, either at Holiday at Home or in their own homes and worshipping all together on a Sunday. Having said that, there are many of you I still haven't visited – let's set a date please.

***What was new in 2021?***

Doug: Lisa and I meet twice a month and explore a wide range of issues of ministry and the things that a curate needs to explore as God forms them into the leader he wants them to be. Lisa is a willing and inquisitive student and I would say that I have learned as much from these encounters as she has from me! Lisa has now found her niche in areas such as Alpha leadership, Town Chaplaincy, trustee of the Food hub and the Bereavement group. Lisa is growing in leading and preaching and is a valued member of the staff team. Not always getting her witticisms puts her in good company – they don't get me either!

Lisa: I just can't understand why my sense of humour isn't obvious!! I am so glad to be working with some wonderful people and want to thank our amazing pastoral team, especially Pauline for teaching me so much by example in the area of pastoral and bereavement care. Both Alpha teams and the hospitality team have been wonderful to work with - so welcoming and adaptable. Thank you, Christ Church.

What are your hopes for 2022?

Doug: Lisa is coming to the end of her second year of curacy and so later this year will be preparing her to move onto her next post. This will mean more exposure to the governance aspects and legalities of being an incumbent. Pray for her as she enters this new phase and as she discerns her future from mid-2023 onwards.

Lisa: When God moves you into a church family and you love that family with all your heart and strength, the thought of moving on is not at the forefront of my mind. However, in psalm 84 which is a significant Scripture to me, it speaks of those whose strength is in God and have hearts set on pilgrimage. I am therefore trusting Him to guide me through and lead us to the place and post to which He is calling me next. Pray that I have ears to obey Him and courage to follow Him when the time comes and until then I learn much and serve well right here!

Lisa Fairman Brown and Doug McHardie



In 2021 Anne and I set out to improve on, and continue to offer, the Peaced Together Zoom (PTZ) course which we had developed in 2020 during lockdown in order to complete the one started in February of that year.

Substitute craft activities were introduced to use materials found at home and videos demonstrating these were made and emailed out each week. We also researched and used new theme material for discussion purposes. We ran an Autumn and Spring PTZ in 2021.

While there were the usual, but thankfully very occasional, technological hitches, the main disadvantages to be overcome using the Zoom version of PT were:

- a) being unable to do some of the craft projects e.g. making a cushion, requiring the use of a sewing machine which not everyone possesses, and
- b) lacking some of the more immediate interaction that comes from face-to-face contact.

However, the advantage of the Zoom format gave members a lot of control over what they shared, especially given that there was, for some, the common problem of isolation. We found group members all willing to share their crafts, experiences and stories. In addition, having a craft activity to work on during the week between sessions, backed up by a demonstration video, was much appreciated.

The course started in the Autumn 2021 demonstrated the flexibility of using Zoom when we were able to welcome three ladies from Northamptonshire to PTZ. Following the course members formed their own WhatsApp groups in order to stay in touch. We look forward to meeting all the Zoom participants in person during the summer 2022.

Responses to the course are best seen through the feedback we received and which give a flavour of how positively Peaced Together is viewed.

Looking to the future we hope to return to face-to-face courses at Christ Church, but wish to keep open the option of further PTZ courses which also have the advantages of:

- 1) enabling people with mobility difficulties to take part and
- 2) providing more time for discussion and reflection.



"It has really helped me to make a big decision in my life. It feels a little frightening but I feel I'm stepping out in faith, and stepping in to a new chapter in my life."

"appreciated meeting everyone and seeing their crafts ... able to talk to different people away from the pressing present challenges of life"



"me time ... the opportunity to develop craft skills and having contact with others ... friendship and meeting each week helped to overcome feeling lonely and lacking purpose which has been painful at times"



With regard to healing "there is power in the small group format and crafting"

Fran King and Anne Scoones

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Purley and Kenley Churches Together (PKCT) exists in three forms. Firstly, as a group of ministers who meet monthly for mutual support, fellowship and to consider issues and events that affect all the churches. Secondly, as a lay group who liaise with the ministers in putting on events and activities jointly. Thirdly, the events and activities themselves. During 2021 the ministers continued to meet online and managed to do so most months. The lay group has not met for approximately two years. Joint activities continue including the Food Hub, Renew 23 and CAP services (see community report for details). No joint services were held in 2021.

What was new in 2021?

Ministers have been trying to get a balance between the mutual support, fellowship and prayer that proves so invaluable and the business discussions that are needed to enable joint working. We have not yet found that right balance but

we are working on it. At one time business dominated. During lockdown we usually shared our own struggles and prayed for one another. We have tried to form two sub groups for business – Events and Social Action. Busy diaries have prevented those two groups meeting. So, we have fallen back into meeting for prayer, fellowship and business.

In 2021 it became clear that the maintenance and annual repair of the Christmas lights was becoming too much of a financial burden as well as a logistical difficulty. It was therefore agreed to gift the remaining funds and lights to Purley BID who are taking responsibility for putting them up in the future. Churches will be represented on the committee overseeing this but we will not as Churches Together be leading on this annual project.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate (including appropriate thanks)?

A continued willingness to work together, a resilience and a sharpened focus on evangelism emerged through 2021. Churches have stayed together throughout the pandemic which is worth celebrating. The reopening of the CAP Debt Centre through a collaboration between Old Lodge Lane and Purley Baptist Church and with the continued support of PKCT is great news and could be a springboard for other fruitful activities.

What were the challenges and struggles?

The pandemic continued to put pressure on everyone and restricted opportunities to work together other than those already running, most notably the Food Hub which has continued throughout.

What are your hopes for 2022?

In 2022 as restrictions have eased we continue to look for ways in which we can work together either bilaterally (e.g. Good Friday service this year) or across all the churches. We have the opportunity to look again at the events and activities that we do together looking afresh at fruit and outcomes that can come from working together. In some cases that might just mean worshipping together in others it will be intentional about meeting need or bringing people to faith. Life City Church have moved into Purley, worshipping at Christ Church School on a Sunday afternoon. We look forward to getting to know them and the renewed enthusiasm that they bring to outreach.

Doug McHardie

I am indebted to Chris Babbs, the Secretary of the Deanery, for most of this report, which I could not improve upon.

The 18th February 2021 meeting, which still had to be on "Zoom", was the first for which all of the 2020-23 House of Laity had been elected at the deferred 2020 APCMs. We were therefore able to conduct the formal business required at the beginning of each triennium, including the election of Mrs. Indrani Balachandran (Christ Church) as Lay Chair and of the remaining officers of Synod and Deanery Leadership Team.

Rev Dr Raewynne Whiteley (Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry for the Diocese and Assistant Priest at St Mary's) gave a very enlightening presentation on the development of Lay Ministry in the diocese. The aim was to affirm, recognize and extend the various forms of Lay Ministry: nationally recognized (licensed) such as Readers; those recognized and commissioned at diocesan level, such as SPAs; and those locally blessed or affirmed, such as Street Pastors. Enhanced training was a key feature of the initiative. The session also included breakout sessions where we could identify issues of particular importance in parishes.

The 16th June meeting at St John's, Old Coulsdon, was the first physical meeting we had been able to hold since February 2020. A "Zoom" option was also provided. Rev Sue Thomas gave a very powerful presentation on the theme of Persecuted Churches. It brought home to us just how great and widespread a problem the persecution of Christian minorities is, and what we in the UK can do about it.

Synod also carried out the important formal business of electing our Deanery representatives to Diocesan Synod:

House of Clergy: Rev Fiona Weaver (St Mark's and St Swithun's), Rev Justine Middlemiss (All Saints', Kenley, and St Barnabas')

House of Laity: Mrs Rosemary Kempell CBE (All Saints', Sanderstead), Mr Nicholas Whitley (Christ Church).

Subsequently, clergy and elected members of the House of Laity took part in the on-line process to elect the Southwark members of General Synod.

Our meeting on 12th October at St Mary's, Sanderstead, was our first "all physical" one since the start of the pandemic. The Archdeacon of Croydon, Ven Dr Rosemarie Mallett, gave a very stimulating talk on the topic of "Engaging with Croydon" describing work with communities, in association with the police, the Council and other stakeholders, mainly in the north of the borough, and how this could be extended to cover all of it. Areas with which parishes could engage

included: Tackling Domestic Abuse; Refugees & Asylum Seekers; Community Safety; Support to Young People; Mental Health Issues.

The meeting also included the first of a series of updates on the experience of parishes with the "Living in Love and Faith" course, on issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The main theme of our 10th February 2022 meeting, at Christ Church was "How We Can Find Strength in Difficult Times" This was led by Rev Paul Roberts (Area Dean) and featured group discussions; reflections by Rev Doug McHardie; Prayer Stations devised by Rev Justine Middlemiss; a session on Praying in Solitudes led by Rev Lisa Fairman-Brown; and private prayer opportunities.

The meeting also included further updates on experience with the "Living in Love and Faith" course.

Our Synod has placed the church's mission in the deanery at the heart of its activity, and members of Synod seem to have embraced this willingly. There are differences of approach in the different churches, and by sharing these we have all benefited. God be praised.

Nick Whitley

We are very fortunate to have 6 thriving units for Girl Guiding and Scouting (boys and girls). We also have a district Ranger Guide unit (Spitfire Rangers) who meet at Christ Church.



Guides: What a lot has changed since I last wrote for the Church AGM of 2020. The pandemic stopped face to face meetings from March 2020 to Sept 2022. During the summer term of 2020 we sent out an activity pack, details of activity ideas and "Croydon Camp-In" where Girlguiding members from all over the county held "Camps" at their own homes. From September 2020 - July 2021 we moved to fortnightly shortened Zoom meetings so that we could have some real contact with the Guides and do some activities together over Zoom - pet night, cooking and quizzes being the most popular. We sent out activity packs every holiday with challenges and activities. From May 2021 we also held a few outdoor meetings at the park. September 2021, we returned to the hall with open door and windows, social distancing and lots of hand sanitiser. Girlguiding Croydon providing us with PPE in case we needed to administer first aid. The group who had stuck with us on Zoom had mostly reached 14 so have moved on to Rangers and being young leaders. This has meant it has been like building a unit from scratch, but we have a really lovely bunch of girls who are enthusiastic and enjoying Guides.

We have been working on the new programme, which had not long been introduced before the pandemic, and are enjoying the activities across 6 themes. This term we took action doing the "Make Change level 4" skill builder badge raising £246 for the World-Wide Fund for nature and we even managed an indoor residential weekend where we learned new life skills for our "Live Smart level 4" skill builder badge. Next term brings lots of outdoor activities and Camp at Half term as things gradually get back to normal.

Olivia Griffiths Guide Leader



7th Purley (Christ Church) Rainbows: Rainbows are the youngest members of GirlGuiding UK. We currently have 14 Rainbows and will be at full capacity of 18 from Easter. Like many organisations and groups, we were unable to meet due to COVID. It was lovely to be able to return to meeting face to face in September. Prior to this, we had been meeting online, which brought its own challenges. We did try and offer a weekly programme still, having delivered a package of craft activities for each girl to participate with for as long as they would like in our weekly meetings. When we returned in September, our Rainbows were pensive, having only ever seen us on a screen! This soon changed and the delight and enthusiasm from them made it even more special to be back meeting in person once again. Our main challenge were our numbers decreasing during the pandemic. Thankfully, they are now beginning to rise healthily through word of mouth from our wonderful families. We are still only two adults running Rainbows and our next challenge is to seek some more adult help, whether as a uniformed leader or as a unit helper, all information is on www.girlguiding.org.uk. We have continued offering a varied programme of activities for the Rainbows; ranging from crafts, games and over the coming months, lots of outdoor activities. We are blessed to have one Young Leader. These helpers are young women who are aged between 14-18; who are developing their leadership skills. All our helpers are required to undertake safeguarding training as well as other online and face to face modules to help achieve their understanding of working with our younger members.

I would like to thank all our families for supporting us throughout the pandemic and since returning; without your support and understanding we would not have been able to provide Rainbows remotely. Thank you to my wonderful assistant, Julie; again, without her support, Rainbows would be far less fun! To Megan, our wonderful Young Leader who is great at getting involved with the girls. And an extended thank you to the Church, who are a great supporter.

Franchesca Taylor Rainbow Guide Leader



Beavers: It has been a year of change for the Beavers Pack with two new leaders at the helm, in the form of myself (Ladybird), and the Assistant Beaver Leader, Charlotte (Butterfly). We currently have 18 Beavers on our books, a mixture of boys and girls, and one fabulous Young Leader (Rabbit).

We work on our Challenge Badges weekly alongside activity badges and ensure that the programme delivered is varied as well as being full of fun!

Once all six Challenge Badges are earned, the Beavers achieve their Bronze Award – which is the highest award for a Beaver. Since the last APCM in May 2020, I am proud to say that eight Beavers have been awarded their Bronze Award.

As we came out of lockdown, some of the Beavers enjoyed a District Day held in Bears Wood which was space themed, and we have explored the underground tunnels, traversing wall, and grass sledging at Frylands Wood. We have also attended the Remembrance Service Parade and Mother's Day Service Parade at Christ Church.

We have lots of exciting things planned for the coming term, including our first Beaver sleepover, litter picking at Sanderstead Rec, an adventure walk in Purley Beeches, and a visit from a London Ambulance Paramedic.

If you would like to know more about the colony, or have potential Beavers or leaders please contact 1stPurleybeavers@gmail.com

Louise Benn (Ladybird) Beaver Scout Leader



Scouts: The Scout section have had a busy if somewhat different year. We now have around 20 scouts with a mix of girls and boys in the troop.

The end of 2020 and the start of 2021 were filled with a lot of zoom scouting with the occasional in person thrown in as restrictions allowed. Once the restrictions eased, Scouts returned to meeting outdoors both in the grounds of our hut as well as making use of various commons, woods, and parks in our local area. With the final restrictions lifted indoor activities were also allowed. Troop nights have included cooking (on a fire and a camp stove), wide games, navigation, air rifles, archery, fires, games, trebuchet building and much teamwork. Outside of troop nights we have had several day hikes practicing map reading and navigation skills and then a night hike with a sleepover (the first night away in 2 years!). Last month we entered 2 teams in the County Night Exercise. This is a hike completed at night without their leaders. The Scouts had to navigate the route taking in 5 checkpoints and completing a challenge at each checkpoint earning points for their team. Both teams did incredibly well. We are now all looking forward to Summer Camp 2022. Many thanks to all the leaders, parents and scouts who have persevered over what has been a difficult couple of years in scouting.

Nicky Short Assistant Scout Leader

All the units exist because of the dedication of our amazing leaders. We have lots of fun – why not join us?

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Lockdown due to the pandemic obviously made letting out our premises impossible for much of 2020. The primary purpose of the Community Transformation project was to provide facilities that could bless our community through a range of groups making use of the facilities. It is also an income stream for the church. The impact on income of lockdown and continuing restrictions are noted in other reports. Here we will concentrate on the use of the building.

The importance of maintaining good relationships with our existing regular hirers cannot be over emphasised. Those that were still viable to return under Covid safe restrictions were keen to do so. Even though the centre is quieter than it was, most of our regulars have returned.

What was new in 2021?

A huge thank you goes to Chloë Lindsey who after many years' service in the office at Christ Church, latterly as the Lettings Coordinator, moved on to a new job serving a local Christian charity. Chloë and Mark made a great return to the centre under severe restrictions which was commented upon by hirers who use several premises – Christ church has been commended as one of the best organised and safest places to hire. We give thanks to Chloë for all she gave to Christ Church and wish her well in her new role.

We welcome Magda who joined us earlier this year and who has taken on a daunting task with great good humour and efficiency. It is great to have her with us in the team and Magda is really enjoying the challenge and the relationships that she has already struck up with staff, hirers and church members alike.

We are gradually building up the use of the centre including both external hirers and church groups alike.

What are your hopes for 2022?

We hope to continue to build up the use of the centre and to build meaningful partnerships with hirers and other groups so that we may both bless our community and find ways to serve in ministry and mission through the wonderful facilities that we have. Income growth will be a gratifying bonus from that increase in activity as we reach out to support our community.

Doug McHardie and Magda Faltynowicz



The Mothers' Union are an international Christian membership movement

supporting families and communities in need of support in the UK and worldwide since 1876.

Our members are active in 84 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities whilst offering Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background.

Although 2021 had its ups and downs, with Covid continuing to scupper many of our usual plans, we were grateful to still be able to run a few events (often socially distanced and slightly more restrained than normal!) and raise much needed funds for the MU. Our fundraising events have included a number of art sales thanks to Kate Buckley's skills, a cream tea in the Philippi garden and our Advent Family event. Most recently we have been able to help with the Mother's Day service at Church and put on a very popular Easter event for all the family. All our events are open to everyone and the proceeds go to the work of the Mothers' Union working both locally, as well as supporting worldwide projects.

We are particularly pleased that a small team of Branch members have been able to begin again with the Communicating English group based at St Augustine's South Croydon, which helps people from all nations who come to England without basic language tools improve their confidence and skills.

There are lots of ways to get involved with our Branch if you'd like to join and become a member. Becoming a member of the Branch is only £32 for the year and the money goes straight to the work of the Mothers' Union. The Mothers' Union website has further information, as well as a lovely gift shop!

www.mothersunion.org

The beginning of 2022 saw Chloë Lindsey and Margarita Polyviou step down as Branch Leaders after 3 years, but they have handed over to Fran King and Anne Scoones who are taking on the mantle very well already! If you'd like to get in touch or find out more, contact mothersunionpurley@gmail.com

Chloë Lindsey



Carousel's Mission in 2021 was to re-open and rebuild the group for a brand-new cohort of families, many of the previous children having grown and started nursery or school during lockdown. Purley Community's demand



for a Toddler Group has been huge so we are happy to say Carousel is back running at full capacity with 145 families passing through since September 2021 of which 75 families regularly attend.

The addition of ChurchSuite in 2021 to running Carousel has been a game-changer and my thanks to Jean Loh for her help setting us up to use it for rota scheduling, bookings and data-collecting.

Highlights have been:

- repeatedly seeing mums with tears in their eyes at being able to socialise their lockdown children
- mums with lockdown babies who, because of Carousel, have found friendship with other mums
- Gradually increasing the regularity of Bible Story Time and seeing an increase in those wanting to join in
- Attenders at Carousel learning of Sunday's Under 5's provision and joining the church on Sunday
- The little boy who brings his Ukulele every week so he can lead song-time like Frank!
- Growth in number of volunteers who go above and beyond serving every week. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Julie Cooper, Mandy Clay, Joan Bell and Mark Channon for all their many years of fantastic volunteering. We miss them very much but a massive welcome to Mary Sharpe, Gabby Welch, Julie Bleach, Mags Polyviou and Yvonne Brown to the Team.



Our challenge each week is too many families wanting to attend in our reduced space following the new-build of the office. However, a beautiful solution and my hope for 2022 is a separate Carousel New Parents group to run alongside Carousel, manned a separate Carousel Team to provide a dedicated safer space for first time parents to

meet, support and form lifelong friendships between each other, Carousel and the Church. Please pray and talk to me if this is a shared



by

vision. Christ Church's vision is to make pathways to membership so I'm keen to use ChurchSuite to inform families through automated emails to create engagement and build relationship.

Thank you so much Carousel Team - In addition to those above: Gill Bell, Cynthia Smith, Sheri Brown, Frank Coburn and Kate Buckley you go above and beyond in your joy in serving and the church couldn't be more grateful.

Charlotte Hunn

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

Baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as confirmation constitute the life events that we mark through worship. Continuing restrictions limited all of these in 2021.

What was new in 2021?

There were no baptisms in 2021. We had one wedding, Owen Griffiths and Jiamei wanted to go ahead and be married in church even with the restrictions in place at the time – 6 people including the couple. Many joined in on Zoom but it was both a sacred and strange experience. It was also a privilege to share that day with the couple and their parents. They have subsequently had an in-person thanksgiving for marriage!

Owen and Jiamei were the first entry in our last register of marriages. The system changed in 2021 so that while couples can still get married in church, the registration is done by the register office. We no longer issue marriage certificates, rather we supply certified information to the registrar who issues the certificates. So, Mr and Mrs Griffiths are the sole entry in our last marriage register! There is a new book to keep a record of marriages but it is not a legal register.

Funerals continued through the year including two much loved Christ Church members whom we remembered – Pat Oliver and Betty Smith. We were able to offer each a gathering to remember them which were both special events in the calendar of 2021. We also struck up a relationship with a local church by recommendation from the first family to another so that firstly myself and then Lisa got to work with Pastor Marva which was a delight.

What are your hopes for 2022?

In 2022 we already have two wedding enquiries. We hope that enquiries for baptisms and dedications will continue and that we can make preparations for confirmation this year with at least two adult enquiries so far. Funeral ministry is an opportunity not only to provide solace and hope at the most difficult of times but also to point in the direction of other support such as the *Bereavement Journey* course and the bereavement support group.

Doug McHardie

What did you set out to achieve in 2021?

The Governance of the church operates in several layers. The Vicar, known as incumbent, is the spiritual lead of the church and has the “cure of souls” invested by the Bishop. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are tasked with “working with the incumbent for the advancement of the whole mission of the church”. They are the trust board of the charity and have legal responsibility to make decisions about meeting our objectives and securing the use of assets (money and buildings). The Wardens are Bishop’s appointees to stand between the incumbent and the congregation and to maintain order and security of the chattels (e.g. the silverware!)

We also have a staff team who meet regularly to discuss operations in conjunction with the array of volunteer team leaders who run activities throughout the church. Meanwhile, the congregation and membership of Christ Church are both informed through regular updates on Newslink and consulted through occasional surveys and regular congregation meetings. Each year there is a requirement to hold an Annual Meeting (APCM) where reports are presented and elections made of wardens and PCC members.

What did we set out to achieve in 2021 – make this all work together well!!

What was new in 2021?

The main innovations in 2021 are within the PCC and across the church. The PCC has been formulated into two informal groups – ministry and mission. What was new was a new vigour in both taking on the brief to oversee and liaise with teams and a regular meeting and report back into PCC to help formulate strategic plans across the church which will culminate in a renewed Mission Action Plan (MAP). My thanks go to Julia Waterson and Lisa Fairman-Brown who coordinated these groups.

We have structured plans across 4 areas – Care, Worship and Discipleship, Evangelism and Community Engagement. We now have a head of each of these areas and we are formed into a Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The purpose of this group is to take the overview across the whole church, looking for opportunities and possible links and overlaps and making recommendations to PCC as they deliberate the way forward.

Regular Congregation Meetings were able to start up again, initially on Zoom but now in person, in 2021.

What are your hopes for 2022?

The pandemic has in the past halted much activity and planning. In 2022 the SPG has already met once and reported to PCC and will meet again soon. It is hoped

that we can start to form plans and put into action a joined-up set of activities with intentional outcomes to “Make Passionate Disciples for Christ” now and into the future.

Doug McHardie

The Office support team have continued to find that the nature of their roles has changed significantly.

Online production and social media – continues to be an aspect that is growing as we are now livestreaming Sunday services weekly on YouTube. We have been fortunate to know have new equipment in church to enable us to do this even better.

We have continued to develop our **Communications**. We are now using **Church Suite** not only as the primary source of information about church activities for members (e.g. directory, rotas, events, booking tickets, registering children, completing forms and more) but are now using it for service data, Carousel registering children at CCP kids and for schools to book into events. Please review whether you are displaying the personal information that you want to share because Church Suite default is “hide” so as to meet GDPR requirements! If you would like any help in using ChurchSuite please let Jean know.



The **Website** is regularly being updated to reflect what is happening at Christ Church. **Social Media** continues to be developed making use of Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and of course our content is now available as Podcasts. **Newslink** is now sent out by e-mail and is full of standing and news information. Have you tried clicking on some of the images in the emails?

A major change in the last year has been that Chloë Lindsey left her office role in the Autumn – we thank her for all she has done over the many years she has been in the office. On a positive note we were able to welcome Magda Faltynowicz as our new Church Lettings Administrator at the start of January 2022.

Jean Loh

Our team has two aims: to keep the Church and Halls in good condition, and to make sure the various missions and activities of Christ Church are fully enabled and supported.

Routine maintenance has been carried out, repairing things as they go wrong. This included a new tap for the foyer kitchen. The following major maintenance contracts were carried out:

- Boilers, heating and control systems for the halls complex.
- The hot air heaters for the Church
- "PAT" checks of mains cables, extensions, and portable equipment.
- Annual check of security systems

The roller shutters and lightning conductors have been visually checked by us.

Work planned for the spring/ summer:

- Replacing failed batteries in the emergency lighting
- Replacing the exterior lighting to the church with modern equivalents, for security of our property and the safety of people using the car park by vehicle, or passing through as pedestrians.

The work of keeping our gardens and grounds clean and looking good continues, with the principal input being the care of flower beds and borders, trees, and the grounds in general. On behalf of the Fabric Team this is organised currently mainly by Anne Scoones and Cynthia Smith. The magnolia tree has been trimmed. The eagle-eyed will notice improved composting, an insect habitat created jointly with Christ Church school called "Bug-ingham Palace", and a number of bird boxes in our trees.

The PCC has given its approval for a significant refurbishment of the church interior. The various mission teams have given their outline requirements for how they would like to be able to use the church in future. The Congregation will be asked for input and ideas during April 2022. The Archdeacon supports the refurbishment, and will be engaged together with Diocesan advisory staff during 2022. The aim is to have a specification for works within our budget capability by the end of 2022 ready for the submission of the relevant approvals: church faculties and local authority building control.

Our former Inspecting Architect having retired, his company Thomas Ford put forward a suitably qualified and experienced replacement who is on the Diocese approved list. The PCC has voted in favour of appointing her, and the appropriate request has been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

This year we will arrange a 5-yearly Architect's Inspection of the entire site by our new Inspector.

Church Fabric Team