

ST MARY'S CHURCH WALBERTON APCM 5 MAY 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2021

These reports are supplementary to the Annual Report approved by the PCC and presented at the APCM on 5 May 2022. They are provided by individuals within the congregation rather than being PCC reports,

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1. Children's Ministry

During the recent Covid lockdowns the face-to-face children's work was suspended. Alison Phillips did a sterling job giving many excellent children's talks as part of the online church services – thank you Alison. During the year a number of services aimed at families with children were held including Mothering Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, a pet service, Harvest, Christingle, a Christmas Crib service and our traditional nativity play.

Sunday school restarted in the autumn with Sue Harris leading the Bubbles and Splash groups (under 7's) in the church room and Sandra Cooke leading the Xtreme and Pathfinders groups (8 to 14 year olds) in the back room of the village hall. The average attendance for this last term of the year was 6 in the older age group. Sunday school was run on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month using Scripture Union materials.

Sandra Cooke, Sunday School teacher

2. School Church Links

Since the last APCM our school has successfully navigated the problems of Covid. These inevitably meant restrictions on some activities and at times, quite a large number of absent children/staff.

Despite this, the strong links between church and school have been maintained. Our Foundation governors are Tim Ward, Di Rogers and John Wiles. School assemblies at times were restricted to one class only with other classes attending virtually. Pleasingly, we are now back to whole school assemblies. Our vicar Tim Ward, Pastor Ray Brinkley and Hugo van Driel have all supported the school worship on a variety of themes.

Over the last few terms activities have included a Harvest assembly with parents invited to attend, a special Remembrance Day assembly led by Tim, numerous Christmas events such as an in-school Christingle service, an infant nativity, Christmas assemblies led by Hugo and Tim (rather than the usual service in church), a carol service led by Key Stage 2 children online and carols in school sung by the school choir.

In March this year, the year 5 children wrote some very powerful and moving letters to National Highways and W.S.C.C. explaining why they didn't want the proposed A27 Grey Route to go ahead. Recently the school has been collecting donations for Ukraine which will be driven to Poland by one of the teacher's partners.

John Wiles

3. Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the first part of 2021 largely consisted of producing risk assessments for our normal activities in order to stay within the government's regulations for Covid. We completed such an assessment for the Easter Trail and Maze which was greatly appreciated by those families attending.

In late September Sunday school resumed led by Sue Harris and Sandra Cooke with Caroline Thorne, Ed Nichols, Kasia Nichols, and Emmie Huxtable acting as helpers all of whom were up to date with DBS and training. When none of the helpers was available a parent was invited in as a second pair of eyes as a chaperone. Kasia completed and renewed the C2 Leadership module as safeguarding officer in the autumn term. Adrian has since completed a DBS check as a helper.

From the beginning of 2022 DBS checks will be renewed every three years when each person's present five year certificate runs out. Last year's suspension on leadership training for PTO Readers is now lifted. The Basic CO and Foundation C1 courses are only available digitally online which presents a problem for some.

Tim Ward and Kasia Nichols

4. Worship

Our public worship at St Mary's is aimed at providing different services to enable people to approach God in a setting which is familiar to them. We also have some united services where we try to draw the whole church community, which is Christ's

body, together in the presence of God. We want our worship, whatever its style, to remind us of our strap line Loving God Loving Community. Our worship is both a response to our loving God and expression of our love as a community which overflows into our relationships

2021 was a difficult year. We celebrated the festival of Epiphany beautifully but then like most other churches in the area it was felt necessary to close for a period until the first vaccine had taken effect. So we returned to online worship for 7 weeks in January and February. Many thanks are due to Peter Allday for editing the services and to Jill and Carole for putting distributing them online. During this period, however, there was a day of Prayer for Ash Wednesday attended by 20 people in church and 65 online led by Bishop Michael. We returned to church at the beginning of March but were not allowed to sing outdoors until Good Friday and indoors until the 19 July. Thereafter we reduced the number of online services to two a month for the rest of the year except November when there was one. We continued with outdoor worship, which remained popular, until the autumn. Many thanks are owed to Chris Dart for helping to set up on Sundays. By October a fairly normal pattern of worship had been restored including a monthly Matins.

In October 2021 the average number of online views was 23 per service whilst the average attendance in church was 67 adults and 11 children per week during the same month.

We were very grateful to Andrew Naylor for playing each week both in person and online and then to Gaye Reynolds and Deirdre Christian who played once more in the latter part of the year assisted by John Wiles on the guitar and Alison Robinson on the flute. A small choir was beginning to practise again when Andrew fell ill in October and is presently in abeyance.

We are also grateful once again to Julie Allday, Esther Langrish and Kevin Durban Jackson our Readers for ministering regularly to us throughout the year and to Bishop Michael for his contribution in the Spring term.

Tim Ward

5. Pastoral Action Group

The members of this group are Tim Ward (Chair) , Andy Blumer (Convenor), Jean Strickland (Churchwarden) , Scilla Page, Caroline Sewell, Gaye Reynolds and Helen Pilling.

Parish Prayers on Zoom takes place from 8 am to 8.45 every Tuesday and there are usually ten or more people who meet.

Home Groups Gaye Reynolds is the co-ordinator of one group which meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm to 9 pm. In the Snowdrop Office. Jean Strickland and Di Clack also run a group on Wednesday evenings. Tim Ward has run an Alpha group which has been greatly appreciated and became a home group Martin & Caroline Sewell hosted a group which followed the 'Living in Love and Faith' course for 5 weeks.

Mothers Union has been active – see separate report

Keeping in touch with those not coming to church. A number of folk have not been to church or home group since Covid began. Members of the group were asked to contact them to keep in touch, hoping for their return to St Mary's.

The Mission Action Plan was discussed and we were asked to consider how St Mary's could be more open and more engaging to those not coming to church.

These thoughts were considered and fed into the process for consideration by the PCC:

- a) Removal of pews and heating under them and have comfortable chairs in place
- b) Introduce a listening group on a monthly basis
- c) Courses with themes lasting for a month. The small Hall could be used
- d) Invite visiting groups from other churches to assist us
- e) Fundamentally there is a lack of people in the younger age groups bringing children to the Lord. What can we do about the shortage of young men and women?

Andy Blumer

6. Outreach Action Group Report

The Outreach group met five times during the year. Tim, Kevin, Emma and Julie were joined this year by Scilla with updates on Mothers Union outreach activities in the village and further afield. It was not possible to plan events in the early months due to Covid restrictions and July events were further postponed. The 2020 Alpha course restarted in the Vicarage garden from June onwards and has continued to meet as a weekly home group since then. In August Kevin organised a Texas scramble at Avisford Park Golf course which was very well received. In September we held a Pet Service after a break of two years. The Songs of Praise in the Village Hall, postponed from July, attracted over 70 people and feedback was very positive. Regrettably the Healing service planned for late November had to be postponed due to Covid. Tim visits Walberton Place Care Home once a month to take Communion and a group sang carols in the courtyard for residents in the run up to Christmas. As the Mission Action Plan was being developed towards the end of year the group has not met since late 2021. Outreach to the new housing developments and attracting young families remains a focus for future activities.

Julie Allday

7. Mothers Union

Due to the continuing Covid pandemic restrictions, several items on our programme had to be cancelled. We did hold a sociable meeting in a member's garden in August. In September a heating engineer, a member's husband, spoke in village hall about conserving heat in the home. In October one of our members, Gaye Reynolds, spoke and played musical memories from two world wars; we sang and laughed in the Hall. In November we gathered in a member's house, well-spaced out, to pack 23 shoeboxes with varied gifts. These would be driven and given personally to families in rural Ukraine, and in Eastern Europe.

Clay poppies, which members had made the previous year, were a lovely addition to the Remembrance Church Service and we held our Christmas Eucharist in Church. This was followed by traditional Christmas lunch in our local pub, accompanied by husbands.

Throughout the year we continued to collect and deliver gifts of baby clothing and adult toiletries to Baby Baskets charity warehouse, now located outside Runcion village. When we could not meet, we kept in personal contact with members by telephone and the occasional Zoom. Sandra Pegram also produced a splendid newsletter updating us on all that was happening, with prayers, poems and items of interest and amusement, so none of our members need feel out of touch.

Jean Lane

8. RAFT

During the early months of the year, in lockdown, we held a number of Zoom get togethers. Caroline Sewell kindly opened up her garden in July, our first meeting in person since January 2020. We met for a meal again in November. RAFT members supported the Bags of Education project for schoolchildren in Bulgaria in May, and the shoebox appeal in November, both headed up by Liz Walby. Over the summer months, we also supported the Mothers Union fundraising events at Bunn Leisure providing cakes and helping in person. If you would like to join the RAFT email list or WhatsApp group please let us know.

Julie Allday and Sandra Cooke

9. Barnabas Fund

The continuity of help from Barnabas Fund in Pakistan extends from the sponsorship of food parcels to supporting the children through school, college and apprenticeships. Young children are held back in their education if they don't attend a Christian school but this year five new Christian schools have been built in the Punjab for the children of brick kiln workers and five more are under construction. This will help eradicate the fear of a Christian child not fitting into a non-Christian school. School leavers can become apprentices for a trade. Barnabas Fund provide a monthly stipend whilst they are learning and a mentor to give them pastoral encouragement.

Recently bereaved widows can provide for their families with the help of Barnabas Fund and the Project Partner encourages the importance of the bible and prayer in their lives. "Our project is not just taking care of their physical needs but spiritual needs as well".

We have continued supporting our five families each month and with the generosity of our members we have raised £125 for Zimbabwe from the Christmas Card; £150 from the Easter Appeal for Covid; £200 for Christian Education for Children; £130 for Afghan Christians; £131 for Water Aid and £100 for the Brick Kiln Fund.

I have never supported a project that has given me so much joy. It is so wholesome and simple, changing so many lives and it could not be done without you. God inspires us to give and Barnabas Fund uses those gifts in His Service.

I thank everyone for their generous and faithful giving. I hope the new leadership in Pakistan improves the conditions for Pakistan Christians, especially those in prison on blasphemy charges and the abduction and forced marriages of young girls.

Irene Howell

10 Churchyard

The churchyard continues to be maintained in accordance with a Management Plan drawn up in 2001. We feel that a country churchyard does not need to be pristine but is cared for in such a way that the whole of God's creation can be celebrated. The areas that are left unmown for periods allow **wildflowers** to prosper, attracting many butterflies and other pollinators.

The keen volunteers are very supportive of our approach. As an experiment, in 2022 we are going to see if we can create a separate small wildflower meadow in the new extension.

The number of bats roosting in the chancel roof is monitored each year – usually about 140 bats emerge in the evening.

In December the mowers were serviced and the gravestones were given a safety check; no remedial work was necessary. We experienced several periods of stormy weather, as we have at the start of 2022, but fortunately there was little tree damage.

Peter Brown

11. Walberton Bellringers

The bells have been rung again from June for practice and Evening services this year but still taking precautions against the spread of covid. All our ringers have now returned and we are enjoying ringing together again.

We also rang for two weddings, in August and September, and the regular 4th Saturday advanced practice began again in November.

We are looking forward to next year and to see if we can attract some new ringers to come and learn. Our thanks again to Tim and the churchwardens for their support.

Colin Spencer

12. Churches Together in the Six Villages

The group continued to meet regularly via Zoom throughout 2021 to encourage one another and to share what our churches were offering as the pandemic continued. This is the prayer we shared together for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2021:

Almighty ever-living God, you gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on all who follow your Son on their pilgrim path, that those whom one baptism has consecrated may be linked together by integrity of

faith and united in the bond of love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever, AMEN

Vanessa Church

13. Deanery Synod

No Deanery Synod meetings were held while Covid restrictions on gatherings were still in force. However, we did have the excitement of voting online in the Elections for General Synod. Only eight out of nearly 40 candidates could be elected for Chichester Diocese. Voting was complicated. We were required to submit our choice of 20 candidates in the order of our preference. With no personal knowledge of more than two of them, and that very scant, there was a lot of reading to be done before voting, to assess what each stood for, who might be 'inclusive' and who was not, who was experienced and who was not, and who seemed to be full of vigour and likely to be effective. FYI, Chichester Diocese General Synod Lay members are: Martin Auton-Lloyd, Catherine Butcher, Dr Simon Eyre, Camilla Foottit, Mary Nagel, Tina Nay, Bradley Smith, Jacob Vince. Four had been re-elected, four were new.

Only two actual meetings were held during 2021 and anxiety about finances was very much to the fore.

In September at St Wilfrid's Church, Bognor Regis, the Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager teamed up with Hannah Heron the Diocesan Finance Secretary to give us 'A Call to Generosity in an Age of Challenge'. Their message to the parishes was: please aim to pay **more** than your Share of Parish Ministry Costs (PMC) if you can.

The Bishop quoted John 3.16: *God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* In return, she said, this should mean joyful sacrificial giving on our part. However, the average giving in Chichester seems to be £14 per week per church member (population average income £15,500 pa. Up north, eg in the Sheffield Diocese, the average is £17 pw (population average income £10,500). If each of us gave 10% of our income, the diocese could raise £40 million per annum *EASILY*.

The Bishop assured us that the Diocese is making cuts where it can. At the same time, costs keep rising because more and more professional guidance is needed from experts eg on Safeguarding. We cannot expect professional standard help without paying for it.

In November, with the Bishop's words still ringing in our ears, we met to approve the Annual Deanery Budget. Approving the Budget includes a scrutiny of what each parish is pledging as its share of the PMC. As homework, a booklet was issued full of facts and figures. There are 365 parishes in the Sussex Diocese and diocesan costs are £18,000,000 pa. The average PMC per parish with one full time priest is £76,967. It was explained that during the pandemic various strategies had been employed to offer extra support to clergy and parishes but now the challenge was to invest in recovery. In response, this parish has pledged to pay £90% of its PMC in 2022.

Susan Martineau

14 Church Outward Giving

Charity	Amount
ABC Animal Sanctuary West Chiltington	£30.00
Action around Bethlehem	£200.00
Barnabas Fund	£570.00
Childrens Society	£39.50
Christian Aid	£100.00
CPAS	£200.00
CYE	£200.00
Embrace ME	£203.51
Farm Africa	£157.08
Littlehampton Food bank	£300.00
Living Waters	£1,120.70
Mediaserve	£200.00
Mission to Seafarers	£84.00
Mothers Union	£141.55
Royal British Legion	£140.00
SGM Lifewords	£100.00
SIM Niger	£200.00
Snowdrop Trust	£465.87
St Barnabas House	£110.00
Stonepillow	£80.00
Tear Fund	£157.08
UCB	£100.00
Grand Total	£4,899.29

Tom Evans

15 Living Waters

We have a staff of 38 at present.

LIVING WATERS PRE, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

The number of students registered in pre, primary and Secondary schools in 2021 was a total of 422 students. In the pre and primary School 342, plus 80 in secondary school.

- A new class, Form Four was started. Twenty students from our first Form Four class sat for their National Exams. Seven students got Division Two, two students got Division Three and eleven students got Division Four.
- All 23 students in Form Two did well in their 2021 National Examinations. We had 11 First Division, 8 Division Two, 1 Division Three and 3 Division 4.
- All of our 52 Standard 7 students passed their 2021 National Examinations to go on to Secondary School.
- The playing field was badly damaged and continues to cost enormous fees to repair, even still to date in 2022. However we have not done very much in the way of repair this year.
- **A long time prayer and dire need is still to be able to serve lunch to all students. Living Waters needs to continue raising donations toward this need.**
- **One of our academic strategies has always been to develop our secondary school slowly as we did the primary school. This will enable us to develop slowly and offer quality education. Therefore, advanced level was not started until we ensure our ordinary level is well established.**
- **In the Secondary School there are still various needs to finish classrooms and a kitchen plus dining hall.** Visitors were limited because of Covid-19 as many visitors usually come.

THE BIGGEST NEWS

Michael and Michelle Clifton along with Jenifer Schwan visited Living Waters in 2022 as well as all the Trustees when we had an Annual General Meeting so we were all together to review their call of The Lord to join Living Waters Ministries. Their visit was good and positive. They will join us permanently in September 2022. To have almost all the Living Waters family here at once was a tremendous Blessing for all.

We nearly completed the construction of the new staff house where they will live.

Hopefully they will visit St Marys this year so that you can meet and pray for them.

LIVING WATERS CHILDREN'S HOME

There are 38 children from Living Waters Children's Home. We have 5 homes designed to offer a home environment whereby each home has 5 to 8 children with a house leader. They receive parental guidance, care and a Christian environment.

Maria Kusaya, Devoto Jackson and Doto Pius have been sponsored to attend colleges and universities.

One of our children's home orphans, Bernard Kusaya is now teaching in Living Waters Secondary School after completing his university studies through Living Waters sponsorship scheme.

Our children's Home sponsor is retiring which means Living Waters Children's Home needs sponsors in order to continue providing the needs of this ministry.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Our secondary school building needed a lot of attention as part of the building had a severe case of rust because when it was built the proper marine paint was not used. We have managed to repair most of the worst areas. Buildings continue to need attention every year and we are thankful that Living Waters manages to stay on top of most needs.

CONSTRUCTION

We have been busy building the boundary brick wall that surrounds the large plot of Living Waters. We were able to do this because of a generous donor in ICF Church. This will reduce the problem of snakes and other predators. We hope to complete this project before the summer. This was a huge undertaking being done through generous donations.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AT LIVING WATERS MIISTRIES

We are very blessed and encouraged with the results of our meetings and the message Living Waters preaches through the power of the Holy Spirit at 7:00 A.M. We have Devotions most mornings before our day begins.

The Monday Evening Outreach is our main service and well attended by all at Living Waters and we hope that soon others from outside of Living Waters will attend and benefit from the gospel. We envision a Living Waters Church in the Lord's perfect timing. In these meetings many give their lives to Jesus. We had another Baptism Service at the shore of Lake Victoria this past year when more than 40 converts were baptized.

Our Sunday Children's Church continues and needs to develop to reach out more to neighbouring children. Living Waters greatly appreciates all that the Trustees and other churches in UK, Germany and Canada do for the ministry of Living Waters.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2022!

Thank you for your prayers!

Carolyn Philpott