

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY, HANWELL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST
DECEMBER 2021



Our Vision is ‘to be transformed by Jesus, and to transform the world with Jesus.’

Incumbent (Rector)	Revd Andrew Dand (chair)
Associate Vicar	Revd Susy Dand
Permission to Officiate	Revd Helen Cosstick
Churchwardens	Helen White Tim Barnes
PCC Secretary	Beryl Bevan
Interim Treasurer	Chris Cosstick from March 2021
Deanery Synod Reps	Edsel Jodhan
Elected Members	Beryl Bevan Gareth Bevan Chris Cosstick Simon Croyden Neil Davies Hannah Foxcroft Tamsyn Kent Philip Phelan Susan Powrie David Sebuyira
Safeguarding Officer	Maria Barnes

Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the whole mission of the Church within the ecclesiastical parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It also has maintenance and safeguarding responsibilities for the Church Hall on Greenford Avenue, which is primarily let to community users, but also used for church activities and events, including the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter, our weekly play group Noah's Ark, and Make Lunch.

General Statistics

Church membership

As at 31st December 2021 there were 137 People on the Church Electoral Roll. Of these 66% were resident in the parish. Of the total Electoral Roll, 59% were female and 41% were male.

Occasional Offices

During 2021 there were 11 baptisms and 1 marriage in church, and the clergy conducted the funerals of 8 parishioners.

PCC & Key personnel

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (at which 4 new PCC members were elected), and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (at which two churchwardens were elected) were held on Sunday 23rd May 2021 in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and The Churchwardens Measure. The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance level of 88% In addition, we held a PCC vision evening in October.

In June Revd Susy Dand completed her Curacy and was then licensed to St Mary's as Associate Vicar by Bishop Pete from July 1st 2021.

Our Hall Administrator Lucy Rocques left in June as her family relocated outside of London. Susan Powrie joined us in July on a temporary contract till the end of 2021. Sophie Dand has continued in her role as Administrator.

Tim Barnes and Helen White continued in their roles as churchwardens and were joined by Gareth Bevan as a deputy churchwarden in May 2021. At the PCC's invitation Chris Cosstick took up the role of Interim treasurer.

Review of the year

2021 was once again dominated by the Global Covid 19 pandemic. We have put much of our learning from 2020 into action this year as we have seen no less than 3 significant waves of Covid infections caused by new variants of the disease (Alpha, Delta and Omicron). A model for understanding crisis has helped us work through 2021 and provides a structure to what follows as we have journeyed through the three stages of Response, Recovery, and Rebuilding.

Response - January to March

Amidst rising infection levels, hospitalisations and deaths our PCC took the decision to **suspend all public worship** in January 2021 at the request of our local health authorities. Our Sunday and Wednesday worship 'on site' restarted on Easter Sunday (4th April).

During this season we continued with our **Online @9 service via facebook** live, providing a weekly place for us to gather for worship and community. Alongside this our **Junior Church team** continued to offer **Junior Church Online** via Zoom.

Hall users had to stop their groups, and our **church hall** became a **Covid 19 vaccination centre in mid-January**. Led by Remedy Pharmacy, we provided the space and many of our church family volunteered at the centre. This continued until the beginning of September.

It was a season where we began to see, and to acknowledge publicly, the toll that the previous year had taken upon us, and the trauma we had experienced. During **Lent** we ran small groups via Zoom to study the **Prayer Course part 2: Unanswered Prayer** which around 30 people took part in, including a **new daytime homegroup** which has continued to meet throughout the rest of the year.

We continued to build on using online resources with a set of **daily video reflections during Holy Week** which we well received and engaged with.

During this season a number of our leadership team began an online version of the **GROW course** run by the diocese of London (delayed from late 2020). This has provided us with vital insight and tools to reflect on what has taken place this year, but also to hear what God is saying to us, and by the Autumn begin to action some of what we have learned.

Recovery - April to August/mid-September

Our **10:30am service** restarted on Easter (Sunday 4th April) and has run uninterrupted since. During this season numbers 'on site' were relatively low as people began their own journeys back towards more normality. This service has continued to try and reflect our both/and approach to older and newer styles of worship, and within the ever changing Covid restrictions we have had music from our **band and choir** alternately (all in varying sized groups as per guidance throughout the year)

We spent time through Sunday teaching, provided resources for personal reflection, and offered small group sessions helping people to process our experience of the previous 15/16 months.

We took time to **reflect as a Leadership team, PCC and Church family** on what God had been doing and saying to us during the pandemic and how we might move forwards, what

changes to embrace, what we long to see return. We launched a **congregation survey** which 67 people took part in and ran 3 additional evenings in smaller groups with the PCC.

Through this term we acknowledged the **growing role of technology in church life** and looked at how this might develop as the year progressed and particularly sought guidance from God on how our Sundays might look in the **emerging hybrid landscape**. Crucially our reflections led us to feel **called to a season of 'faithfulness'** with our worship offer on Sunday's. As many churches prepared to scale back or drop online service, we felt called to keep our mix of 'online' and 'onsite' and that the coming season would prepare us for longer term plans.

Recover and beginning Rebuilding - September to December

While Covid was still to play a disruptive role, the Autumn into early winter provided a **season of relative stability** compared to the previous 18 months where many aspects of church life were able to restart or grow again.

We saw a gradual return of more people to services 'onsite' at 10:30am, and the balance between attendance Online and Onsite changed accordingly. By the end of the year there was a clear pattern of **both/and** for Sundays with a number of people choosing one option or the other, and an increasingly large number of people taking a 'mix and match' approach to where they choose to worship by attending both services across a typical month.

We have seen people who joined St Mary's via Online services come to services onsite and continue to see Online as a place of outreach, functioning as 'a sofa behind the back pew' from which new people worship with us.

We enjoyed a **church BBQ** together in early October to celebrate being able to do so safely and welcomed back vital aspects of ministry such as **Noah's Ark** at the hall on Mondays, **Family Services**, and the full return of **Junior Church** alongside our 10:30am service. **Baptisms** became a monthly occurrence as we worked our way through a long list of families who had patiently waited, and bookings quickly stretched well into 2022.

As part of being faithful this season we were able to continue the work begun in late 2019 on vision and growth. In October an additional '**Vision Night**' was held for the PCC and we formally adopted our vision statement '**to be transformed by Jesus, and to transform the world with Jesus.**' This will help shape our ministry over the coming years and we will spend 2022 sharing this vision with our church family as we look at moving vision into action.

We ran an online course **Parentalk: The Primary Years**, from Care for the Family, which was attended by 6 families on Zoom. This had the aim of supporting parents and creating a space for many of the newer people at St Mary's to get to know one another.

Remembrance Sunday took place in a new way this year as an outdoor service by the Scout Memorial in Churchfields, which allowed people to participate in greater numbers in a Covid safe way.

St Mary's Players were able to return to the stage 'in person' at the church hall, and **Dick Whittington** was well received and enjoyed by cast and audiences alike.

Just as we were beginning to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel a new more transmissible variant (Omicron) emerged and wrought havoc upon our **Christmas** plans as many were ill and/or isolating. Our **Carol Service** was cancelled due to cases within the choir but has been rescheduled for Candlemas. Similarly, our **Christingles** planned for the Church Hall carpark had to be cancelled due to illness of key people.

However, as we look back at this season of more stability, we see an emerging pattern of **growth**. Autumn 2021 saw us connect regularly with more adults each Sunday/week than we did in 2019 (Sundays **2019 - 89, 2021-103**; Weekly (inc. Wednesdays) **2019 - 104, 2021 - 115**).

The autumn term has given us the clearest indication yet of what the **'new normal'** may look like in terms of a hybrid approach to church services/ministries, (services offered both online and onsite) and insight into the ways in which people may choose to engage with church in 2022 and beyond.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Co-ordinator Maria Barnes, on behalf of the PCC states that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

There were 3 DBS checks carried out in 2021.

There will be 2 DBS checks/renewals to be carried out in 2022

We have had 0 incidents to report to the Diocese Safeguarding Team in 2021

Conclusion

2021 has had many challenges as we continued to live through the Covid 19 pandemic but has also offered us many opportunities. We have been able to prayerfully reflect on its impact both positive and negative upon us and seen the beginnings of where God is leading us next.

It is hard to know what pandemic curve balls may yet come our way in 2022. I hope we have the opportunity to move from a 'reactive' phase of church life towards a season of being able to make more 'proactive' choices in following where God is calling, so that we can see our vision 'to be transformed by Jesus, and to transform the world with Jesus', move from vision to action.

Rev Andrew Dand
Incumbent and Chair
17th March 2022

Financial review for the year ended 31st December 2021

Overall income: £154,253

Income was £7,483 higher than the previous year; hall income was boosted by the use of the Church Hall as a vaccination centre.

A huge thanks to all who support the church through their giving via the planned giving scheme and our various online giving platforms.

Overall expenditure: £140,470

Expenditure was £17,874 lower than the previous year; the annual Common Fund payment to the Diocese was reduced from £85,000 to £60,000 by concession, although towards the end of the year it was possible to pay an additional £6,000 top up.

The Common Fund contribution for 2022 is agreed at £66,000 but it is anticipated this relief will not be extended so the budget for 2023 will need to reflect a return to previous levels.

Fabric Fund -balance carried forward £24,867

The annual grant from the William Hobbayne charity of £7,500 was received and £12,420 was spent on stonework work repairs to the church. It is anticipated a similar sum will be spent during 2022 on stage two of the repairs.

Reserve Fund-balance carried forward £27,000

Due to better than anticipated income, it was possible to top up the reserve fund to £27,000 from the previously depleted level of £15,000.

General Fund-church activities excluding the hall-deficit £17,191

This was covered by a transfer from the Hall fund.

Hall fund-balance carried forward £14,674

The balance carried forward was after covering the General Fund deficit of £17,191 and topping up the reserve fund by £12,000.

Legacies

Two legacies were received during the year totalling £2,500 of which £500 was applied to the Recovery Fund and the balance of £2,000 carried forward.

Chris Cosstick
Treasurer

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church for 2022

As Churchwardens our property responsibilities, on behalf of the PCC, include the buildings, plant and fabric and contents of the Church and Church Hall.

We completed the annual terrier and inventory check in November 2021 and confirm that the silver and other possessions of the church are complete and in good order.

St Mary's Church is a grade 2* listed building and natural weathering means that specialist work needs to be on-going and the archdeacon previously recommended that we budget 2-3 days of stone masons' time per year. To this end a survey of the stonework was carried out in 2020 and remedial work was done to the main body of the church in March of 2021 at a total of for the two of £14,970 (inc VAT). In June 2019 just over £1,000 was spent in replacing the movement to the tower clock.

The church is inspected by an architect every 5 years. The last inspection was carried out on the 15 March this year and overall reported the church to be in good condition and well looked after. The priority items recommended in this inspection have yet to be discussed and undertaken.

Our future planning still needs to consider a permanent extension to the Parish Room, to replace the 2 temporary huts - the Ark and the Cabin. This will be a major building project expected to be in excess of £1m.

At our church hall we had a new kitchen fitted costing just under £15,000 in August 2020, replaced the back door in March 2021 at a cost of £876 and had the boiler repaired in December 2021 for £437. The sanding and polishing of the hall floor is done on a regular basis by a member of the parish for material costs only.

The main work in the churchyard for the last 2 years has revolved around the project to survey and record the graves and inscriptions in and around the church. The costs of maintaining the churchyard are billed annually in arrears to the Council with the work being done by volunteers for which no charge is made. Spend for the year 2020 was £480.07. For 2021 spend was minimal at £37.08 petrol for the mower plus £66 in early 2022 for servicing the mower.

We continue to be fortunate to have many volunteers who help maintain our buildings and churchyard, as well as our dedicated teams of cleaners who keep the church looking beautiful. Their hard work and love significantly reduces our upkeep costs.

Helen White and Tim Barnes
Churchwardens
May 2022