

ST PETER'S CHURCH HERSHAM



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
21st May 2023**

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Agendas: Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023	2
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2022	3
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022	4
Reports that must legally be presented	8
I. Report on the Electoral Roll	9
II. Summary of the Proceedings of the PCC	10
III. Care Team Report	11
IV. Share Team report	13
V. Grow Team Report	16
VI. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church	19
VII. Deanery Synod Report	22
VIII. Safeguarding Report	23
IX. Financial Statements <i>(see separate report – Parochial Church Council's Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022).</i>	<i>Separate report</i>
Vicar's Report	24

Introduction

In many ways the events of 2022 highlighted the importance of the Parish Church in the community.

At the beginning of the year the world witnessed the atrocities of war in Ukraine. St Peter's held a moving Prayer service in March, where we were joined by members of our local community to pray for peace.

In June, we once again welcomed the community into our church in a celebration of 70 years of service of HRH Queen Elizabeth 2nd, holding both a special morning thanksgiving service and a community picnic on Vauxmead, which was attended by over 500 people.

When the Queen died in September, the church became a place where local people could light a candle, or sign a book of condolence, as we remained open to the public during the time of national mourning. Many attended the Thanksgiving for the life of HRH Queen Elizabeth 2nd in a moving evening service a few days after she died.

During the year, we were blessed by a growing congregation and an increased appetite to deepen our spirituality and worship in St Peter's, which I describe in my Vicar's report.

Many thanks to the ministry team, the Church Wardens, Deputy Warden, the standing committee and PCC. Thanks also to our administrator, those who help to keep our church and our worshipping life in good order, the congregation, and the wider community for your continued support.

I am confident that the foundations that we have put into place with mission and worship priorities and the desire to grow Spiritually in 2022 will grow fruit in 2023 and beyond and I continue to be grateful that I am lucky enough to be your vicar.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15: 4-5

Jackie Richardson
Vicar

Agendas:

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 21st May 2023; to be held in the church.**

Annual meeting of Parishioners

- 1) Welcome and Prayers
- 2) Appointment of Clerk
- 3) Apologies for Absence
- 4) Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2022
- 5) Election of Churchwardens for 2023-2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Reports that must be legally presented
 - I. Electoral Roll.
 - II. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.
 - III. Care Team Report
 - IV. Share Team Report
 - V. Grow Team Report
 - VI. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
(Churchwardens' Report)
 - VII. Deanery Synod
 - VIII. Safeguarding Report
 - IX. Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022
(see separate report – Parochial Church Council's Report and Unaudited Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2022)
5. Elections and Appointments
 - 5.1. Members of the Parochial Church Council
 - 5.2. Appointment of Independent Examiner
 - 5.3. Deputy Churchwardens
6. Vicar's Report
7. Health and Safety Report
8. AOB

St Peter's Church Hersham
Minutes of Annual Parishioners' & Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th May 2022
Held in Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome and Prayer

There were 20 parishioners present. The Chairman, Jackie Richardson, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Appointment of Clerk.

The Chairman proposed Margaret Hicks as Clerk, which was proposed by Clare Warne and seconded by Malcolm Reid and unanimously approved.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Election of Churchwardens for 2022-2023

Andrew Strong was proposed by Malcolm Reid and seconded by Paul Adams to remain for a fourth year and Lynne Watson was proposed by Jane Anderson and seconded by Pat Shore to continue in role for a third year. There being no other candidates, Andrew and Lynne were both re-appointed. Jackie extended her thanks and there was a round of applause.

**St Peter's Church Hersham
Minutes of Annual Parishioners' & Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th May 2022
Held in Church**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Meeting Held on Sunday 23rd May 2021

The minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd May, 2021 were agreed and signed.

2. Reports that must be Legally Presented

I. Electoral Roll

The number on the Electoral Roll in April 2021 was 158 with 106 residents within the parish and 62 out of the Parish. On the Electoral Roll in April 2022 were 160 with 103 residents within the Parish and 57 out of the Parish. Jackie acknowledged the dedication and hard work Sarah Tourell put into this roll and thanks were extended.

II. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

There were no questions and Karen Richards was thanked for compiling the report.

III. Care Team Report

Thanks were given to all who have contributed to the Team's work including the Pastoral Team.

IV. Share Team Report

Recognition was given to the community involvement and supports both locally and in other countries. There is great support to all ages within planned activities and wider outreach.

V. Grow Team Report

During Covid and stepping out of the restrictions enormous growth has been achieved and continues.

VI. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Andrew was able to present the report with no further comment.

VII. Deanery Synod

Lulu presented the report and Lynne was also thanked. Those present were encouraged to think about joining the group as there is a vacancy and Jackie gave encouraging thoughts about how interesting the deanery Synod meetings had now become.

VIII. Safeguarding Report

Lynne thanked everyone for their continued support in keeping St Peter's safe for all.

IX. Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Malcolm Reid displayed charts on the screen giving a synopsis of where there have been variances over the past three years. Highlights showed that congregational giving had increased partly due to a successful planned giving drive. Three legacies have increased the fortunes by £70,000. Jackie was able to say that there was a moment when finances looked worrying, as we lost all of our hall income during Covid but then received the largest of the legacies from Mrs Blacker's estate and others followed, which allowed us to continue our ministry. Vauxmead usage remains a good investment and a long term letting of St Peter's Lodge. The Food Bank is now cash and food rich and the back office administration of the Trust of the charity has passed to Walton Charity and food will still be given out from St Peter's. Malcolm and Jackie remain on the Steering Committee of the Trust. COMMENT Sara Langley joined Jackie in thanking Malcolm for exceptional work he has achieved in finding grants that help run the church. Thanks were extended to the whole team. The Accounts were duly accepted.

3. Elections and Appointments

3.1 Members of the Parochial Church Council

Thanks were extended to Jackie Murphy who is standing down as a PCC member. Paul Hughes is standing down after many years. David Meador is also standing down after holding various positions that have kept the church running over many years. Jackie and all present extended their thanks.

Paul Adams is joining the PCC and was proposed by Tony Skrzypecki and seconded by Lynne Watson. Gillian Coates, who attends Breakfast Praise, was proposed by Lulu Button and seconded by Julie Whing. Malcolm Reid was re-elected to the PCC, proposed by Karen Richards and Seconded by Jane Anderson. There is still one vacancy on the PCC although no takers at the meeting.

3.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Malcolm Reid proposed that Frances Wilde (of Warner Wilde Ltd) be reappointed as the Independent Examiner, which was unanimously agreed. Seconded by Tony Skrzypecki.

3.3 Deputy Churchwarden

Tony Skrzypecki was re-appointed as Deputy Churchwarden and Jackie, with thanks, gave recognition of all that he achieves "behind the scenes". Sue Burke proposed and seconded by Jane West.

4. Vicar's Report

Jackie thanked everyone for the support and commitment all give to the running of the church and care of all who attend. Margaret was thanked for standing in for Karen.

Jackie has felt that this past extraordinary year had proved harder than 2020. Katrina joined in July and has brought laughter, singing and exceptional support. Sarah was thanked for all she achieves and is "worth her weight in gold". Jackie extended her thanks to our Churchwardens who work tirelessly even outside their job descriptions, and the PCC for being so supportive and enabling her to take St. Peter's forward, attracting and growing.

Jackie remarked on the impact of Covid during lockdown and restrictions. Coming out of Covid has seen the blossoming of group activities with increased numbers of participants from the wider community. Also, it was time to close some happenings as there is a reduction of volunteers and also chances to open new activities.

Jackie was pleased to show that on the national Church of England survey, St. Peter's reflects growth in attendance on Sundays as now there are three morning gatherings, the planned giving shows growth and volunteering needs encouragement. Spiritual growth is evident and an inaugural Alpha group is running successfully. Over the year there will be an Alpha group run in the evening at St. Peter's and then a day-time group in Whiteley village attracting residents as well as our church and community members.

A new Church Development Plan for St. Peter's was put through the mill by the Archdeacon's visitation during Holy Week and it has come out with flying colours. Jackie thanked all those who helped with the visitation and wisely there are three attainable targets using all the skills available.

The first is to build Spiritual Confidence and Grow Disciples (Making Disciples) thinking of running Alpha sessions, monthly prayer groups, Parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2023, visit to Wintershall and holding a Big Church day.

Secondly, Develop Intergenerational Worship and Fellowship (Growing youth and children's ministry) by receiving children in communion, involving children and youth in communion services, create opportunities for intergenerational fellowship = churchyard project, Harvest supper. Deborah and Rachel were recognised by Jackie for all their contributions.

Thirdly, Growing Community Relationships (cultivating community partnerships) through the Eco project that has started clearing the graveyard and now rewilding, Love Hersham, which will be regenerated next year, and also drawing all to the Platinum Jubilee event. This event will draw together Hersham with raffle gifts from the supermarkets, support from associations and a free day should be enjoyed and remembered by all. Jackie is enthused by this and delegated responsibilities encouraging people to use their gifts and talents.

Thanks were extended to Jackie.

5. Health and Safety Report

There were no comments from those present and Mark Hover was thanked for all he does.

6. AOB

Thanks were extended to Jackie for such a successful year of growth at St Peter's Church and in the community.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12:31

Agenda Item 4

Reports, which must legally be presented

- I. Electoral Roll.
- II. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.
- III. Care Team Report
- IV. Share Team Report
- V. Grow Team Report
- VI. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
(Churchwardens' Report)
- VII. Deanery Synod
- VIII. Safeguarding Report
- IX. Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022
(see separate report – Parochial Church Council's Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022)

I. Report on the Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll in April 2022 was 160

Resident within the parish accounted for 103

Out of parish = 57

The number on the electoral roll in April 2023 was 165

Resident within the parish accounted for 104

Out of parish = 61

Sarah Tourell
Electoral Roll Officer

May 2023

II. Summary of the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Overview

The PCC held seven scheduled meetings in 2022, including the short meeting following the APCM, which was held on 29th May.

Two new members were elected to the PCC at the APCM, one of whom has not previously served on a PCC. A third PCC member whose term expired in 2022, was re-elected.

Safeguarding continues to be given a high priority within the PCC to ensure all required training is undertaken, policies are in place and in action. All PCC members completed the on-line "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" during the first half of 2022.

The PCC has maintained financial vigilance of the accounts to ensure prudent use of the available funds.

Highlights

- The Church Development Plan was finalised and implemented
- The Archdeacon's visitation during Holy Week was extremely positive
- A successful community celebration was held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Vauxmead
- A well attended trip to Wintershall to see The Life of Christ
- Two Alpha courses run (one in church and one at Whiteley Village)
- New services successfully introduced (eg Tenebrae)
- Children received into Holy Communion

Future

Throughout 2023 the PCC will be integrating a session from "PCC Tonight" within each meeting. This is a resource from CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), designed to help PCCs operate as effectively as possible, clarifying their purpose and finding new ways of putting their vision into action. The Church Development Plan will continue to be monitored and reviewed regularly by the PCC. The PCC will act to ensure that projects identified as priorities will be progressed in as timely and efficient a manner as possible. The smooth day to day running of the church and the successful implementation of the Church Development Plan; to make and grow disciples, grow youth and children's ministry and cultivate community partnerships, relies on many volunteers who work both in teams and individually, contributing thousands of hours each year to the service of God. We give thanks for the continuing commitment of all our volunteers, in whatever capacity they serve.

Karen Richards
PCC Secretary

January 2023

III. Care Team Report

Our worship committee, chaired by Lynn and Suzanne, met three times to explore ideas for sermon series, music and AV. During the year we introduced several new services. The Tenebrae service during Easter week was extremely moving and will undoubtedly become part of our annual calendar, as will the Sunrise (5.45am) Easter Day Vigil and Service of Light communion service (followed by bacon rolls for breakfast). Other highlights in worship during 2022 were the introduction of our first child to communion during our Patronal festival, led by Martin Breadmore our Arch Deacon; the well-attended service to commemorate HRH Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee (before the community picnic); and Katrina, our curate, presided at her first communion service after her priesting in July. In September the music group led us in Creation Praise after their summer workshop.

We witnessed first-hand the importance of the parish church in the community when Queen Elizabeth II died in September. Our church remained open for the community during the time of mourning and on the Sunday following her death, many people from the local community attended an evening service of thanksgiving for her life of service. The Queen's passing led to the rescheduling of the Pet Service and Harvest Festival which were held in October. We joined up with the Treble Clef choir and introduced a new intergenerational Carol and Christingle Service at Hersham Centre for the community, which was enjoyed by all ages. Our Carol service was excellent, and we had better than expected numbers at all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, with a total of 800 people attending.

Prayer

At the beginning of March, we held a creative prayer evening for the people of Ukraine and the congregation were joined by several people from the local community. Sue also led a quiet morning in St Peter's at the beginning of Advent. The ministry team, along with others, continued to meet for Morning Prayer each Monday morning. During the year, we introduced prayer ministry after our Sunday 10am service and we are hoping that more people will join us for this ministry in 2023. We are also looking forward to a new monthly prayer group starting early in 2023.

Flowers

We are grateful to Margaret who has taken over the coordination of our flower arrangers. She and Julie, along with a few other talented volunteers, have ensured that our church remains beautiful throughout the year.

Bells

Bells continued to be rung for 10.00 am Communion throughout the year and on several special occasions and weddings. At the request of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, a bell was tolled half muffled for an hour for the passing of Her Majesty the Queen and followed the next day by open ringing to celebrate the accession of King Charles. The bells were rung half muffled in mourning and tolled for an hour again on the

day of the funeral. The bellringing team would welcome new members to ensure its continuation at St Peter's.

Welcome and Integration

Several of the initiatives mentioned in last year's report now form a strong part of the St Peter's Welcome. Wellness Walks (both short and long) and the Women's Breakfasts are well established, and the recently re-formed Men's Group has begun to meet regularly. The Team spent some time considering its place in the newly emerging, post-Covid world of 2022 and beyond. Much that was planned and discussed could easily fall under either *Publicity* or *Social*. As a restructuring of the church's wider management team meant that Katrina needed to step down as Chair of the team, the question was raised as to whether St Peter's still needed a Welcome Team. With the Vicar's support and agreement, the members of the Team agreed that the St Peter's Welcome had outgrown the need for a formal committee and that the Welcome and Integration Team should be wound up in favour of a more relaxed approach. Thanks should be extended to all who have served on the Welcome Team over the last few years. It could be said that the team is a victim of its own success as its work is now carried out as a matter of course.

Pastoral Care

Our dedicated Pastoral team continued to take communion to those not able to attend church and to provide ongoing pastoral care and support for members of our community suffering from illness or bereavement. In October we held a well-attended memorial service for those families who had lost loved ones over the previous year. During the Christmas holiday, Jackie was given permission to obtain a special licence to marry a couple immediately, without reading Banns, due to a terminal illness in the bride's family. Thank you to all our pastoral team who show God's love in the way they continue to offer care and support to others.

The Deanery report will be a separate report.

Jackie Richardson

April 2023

IV. Share Team Report

The groups within the Share Team develop relationships with communities beyond St Peter's. We meet people where they are and share God's love through our care, commitment, and prayer.

Schools and Uniformed Groups

Jackie took two face-to-face assemblies a month at Burhill and Bell Farm Primary Schools. Every other week she recorded an assembly, which was played in the classrooms of Bell Farm on Wednesday mornings. The schools also came into church for services. Burhill held their Harvest service, their end of year service, and a Christingle service in church. They also decorated the church for Remembrance Sunday. Bell Farm had a Carol Service in church.

The Guides decorated a church window for harvest. Along with Rainbows and Brownies, they took part in the Remembrance service in church and the service in the Memorial Garden. They also came to the Christingle service. The Brownies and Rainbows helped with the churchyard project, litter picking and weeding. They made hedgehog houses which they positioned in the churchyard and spent an evening looking for bats.

The Cubs came into church for an evening when they had a tour of the church and took part in a bellringing exercise.

Morning Stars

The toddler group met on Monday mornings during term time and, encouragingly, the numbers of children, parents, grandparents, and carers grew throughout the year. Thanks go to Rachel who kept it going (as a volunteer) last term, along with Lulu and Sue, the regular volunteers, and several others who helped occasionally.

Publicity

Over 500 people, along with many community groups, attended a very successful community picnic on Vauxmead to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sarah Tourell and Sue Burke are the Publicity Team. Sarah updates the Facebook and Twitter pages and produces all publicity material, both printed and social media, for the congregation and the wider community. She has continued to update and maintain the churchsuite database to ensure the ministry team has accurate data for their use. Sue updates the website regularly. There is still a vacancy for a much-needed Publicity Officer to head up this team.

Mission Partners

Mission Support has maintained our standing links with Hersham Youth Trust (who also benefited from the Christmas collections) and 3 overseas charities. We modified our payment cycle slightly, by increasing funds to Casa Reom and reducing the contribution to

the Peace and Hope Trust, due to differences in their current project spend. We held special collections for Elmbridge CAN at the Jubilee celebration and at the Pet service, raising £868. Mission Aviation Fellowship have agreed to bring their demonstration aircraft to Vauxmead in March 2023 to re-launch our commitment to their work, and we will schedule speaking slots again during the year.

Foodbank

Responsibility for the Walton and Hersham Foodbank was transferred to Walton Charities in May.

Christmas Lunch on Jesus

Several members of the church helped pack and deliver Christmas hampers to people in Hersham. Church members also donated towards the cost of these hampers.

Hersham Churches Together

Members of St Peter's, Hersham Baptist Church (HBC) and All Saints came together on several occasions during the year. All Saints Church led the World Day of Prayer, which was written by women in Britain. We had a smaller version of Love Hersham, without the big launch and with fewer projects. More will be made of this next year. All three churches joined together for the Good Friday Walk of Witness, finishing with hot cross buns provided by All Saints. The Remembrance Service took place in the Memorial Garden, with Jackie giving the talk and Phil Fellows, from HBC, leading the prayers. The various Christmas services were advertised on the Hersham Churches Together website.

St Peter's Fellowship

The average attendance at the Fellowship was about 25, but some meetings had between 30 and 40 people. The programme included entertainment, talks, presentations, and other events. Students from the Yehudi Menuhin School entertained members, as did harpist Sophy Cartledge, and pianist Peter Toth. Charlie Menagh and Ronnie played 60s music. In May members enjoyed tea in the Vicarage garden. Several members of our congregation gave talks: Jo Wainwright on Knitting; Viv Guichard on Quilting; Sylvia Francis on Poetry; Zvart Shamlan on Iraq; and Lynne Watson on the rejuvenation of the graveyard and the planting of the Garden of Remembrance. Speakers came from local charities and other guest speakers included Pete Allen on the Drury Lane Theatre; and, at the meeting before Remembrance Day, John Colby spoke on *Finding Sapper Clay*. Maggs Latter rounded off the year with a humorous look at Christmas.

St Peter's Women's Breakfast

2022 saw the launch of St Peter's Women's Breakfast, a Saturday morning gathering for the women of Hersham to meet for a couple of hours over a simple breakfast. This was a time for sharing news, asking questions (big and small), making friends, learning something new, teaching something old, or just sitting quietly, away from the bustle of a

usual Saturday morning. Four were held over the year, in February, May, August and October, with an average attendance of 30+ women. There were several new faces as well as members of the St Peter's more established family. Feedback has been good, and the intention is to continue the initiative into 2023 and beyond. Thanks must be extended to the dedicated band of volunteers that make sure the Breakfasts happen: Lulu Button, Linda Evans (and Ollie), Sara Langley, Vicki Routh, Clare Warne, and Julie Whing.

Katherine Ind

January 2023

V. Grow Team Report

Having led the Grow Team since its inception, Jane Anderson stood down in the autumn in order to take up a new role in her working life. Many thanks are due to her for the commitment and inspiration she has given as Team Leader; she continues to be an active member of the Team. Katrina Jenkins has assumed responsibility for the Team in Jane's place.

Children and Youth

Breakfast Praise has continued to go from strength to strength, with a number of new families joining during the year; the service is joyful and energetic. In April Gill Coates, a member of the congregation, was elected to the PCC meaning that the Breakfast Praise congregation now has a voice in the church's decision making process. Since many of the children are now approaching school age, the plan for 2023 is to introduce a separate story time for them.

Bright Stars (our Sunday School) has continued during 2022. Sadly Rachel (our Children and Families' worker), resigned during the year, so Bright Stars is now being overseen by Deborah Lock (our LLM).

After consultation with the PCC, permission was sought from Bishop Andrew for St Peter's to be permitted to offer communion to suitably prepared children. This was granted so, during May and June, there were four sessions organised for the preparation of young children for first communion. Children were expected to attend all the sessions with at least one parent/carers. This process led to one child being admitted to first communion in the Patronal Service in June and it is intended that the course will run again in 2023.

TAG (Teenagers and God) continues to meet on the second Sunday of each month, except during holidays. Sessions in 2022 have included fun and games, involvement in the churchyard Eco Church initiative, and an outing to a trampoline park. The year ended with a Christmas dinner. The coming year will see a youth-led service on Sunday evenings; this will be a service of the word on all but the last Sunday of the month when a communion service will be held.

Young people have actively taken part in services throughout the year and there is a committed group of servers for Sunday morning communion. They also took part in the Nativity Service on Vauxmead on Christmas Eve, looking fabulous in new costumes, and processions with donkey and sheep during the carols, played by Rob.

Baptism

There have been 30 baptisms from 26 different families in 2022; of these, five families, with eight children between them, remain actively involved in church life (largely attending Breakfast Praise). Due to the suspension of baptism during Covid restrictions most of the candidates were toddlers rather than babes in arms, which made for some lively services.

Christian Development and Discipleship

During Lent we ran the Living in Love and Faith course online over five weeks exploring together Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. A group of twelve completed the course and valued the opportunity to learn together how we can live more fully in the way of Christ.

Another of the major events under this heading has been the introduction of Alpha to St Peter's. Following training, the Team, led by Jackie and Katrina, delivered the first Alpha course during the summer term. Meeting in the church, we shared a meal together and began exploring our faith together. A further course was held during the daytime, at Whiteley Village, attended by a cross-section of Village residents and St Peter's congregation members. Everyone looked forward to the sessions and the groups became safe places for us to ask questions about our faith. Alpha is to continue during 2023, with courses held alternately in church and at Whiteley Village, offering both daytime and evening options on different days of the week each time.

From September to November, a Youth Alpha course was organised for 11+ year olds. From this, one young person went on to be confirmed at the end of November, along with an adult member of the church family. The course will be completed during the spring term of 2023; all our young people will be encouraged to participate, discussing topical and engaging issues.

Leading on from Alpha, it became clear that there was an appetite to know our Bible better, so Sara Langley and Jane Anderson led the Bible Course in church on Thursday evenings during the autumn term. The group was encouraged by the course to read a Bible regularly and then come together to learn about the context and history of the books of the Bible. This in turn has sparked a desire to study more of the Bible, and in 2023 Sarah is leading a 6-week course on Romans.

The intention is for these Bible study groups to grow out of each Alpha course that we run, with members of each group being invited and encouraged to take the lead.

A group of us attended a Small Groups workshop led by the diocese mission enablers in December to assist us in how we grow/run small groups.

Intergenerational (established congregation)

We are continuing the culture of invitation to other church events and the Carols and Cake session which we ran during Advent was attended by two of our church families, who really enjoyed singing the carol and doing the angel craft. Children also love being able to borrow books from the library shelves at the back of the church.

We ran an intergenerational day to decorate the church ready for Easter, the young people created the Easter Garden, and everyone enjoyed reflecting on the Easter story, doing Easter crafts, and eating delicious cake!

In June we made a parish pilgrimage to Wintershall to see the passion play, again it was lovely to see people from all generations in the St Peter's family coming together to explore their faith.

Summing Up

The past year has provided the St Peter's Grow Team with challenges, joy and encouragement. Thanks must go to the people, both paid and volunteer, who share their time and expertise to make all of the above happen. We look forward together to a 2023 of learning and fun, as we continue to pray, discern and listen to needs and suggestions that arise from meeting together on what we, as a Team, can offer to help the St Peter's family grow its faith in Christ.

Katrina Jenkins (Curate)

January 2023

VI. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church 2021

1. General

During the year Mark Hover took over from David Mealor as Fabric Officer and we are most grateful for the work they have undertaken in the running and maintenance of the church property.

The Health and Safety policy is available to read both at the Parish Office and on the website. We are grateful to Mark Hover who is also responsible for this issue.

2. The Church

a. Inventory

In January 2023 Andrew Strong inspected the church property listed in the Church Property Log Book and an NADFAS register. Generally the property was found and in good order. Certain items were not found, and if they fail to be found in the months ahead the log book will be updated accordingly.

b. Heating

The new boiler has worked well during the year, however the central heating joints and valves failed for part of the church, and thus the church was colder than normal in the autumn and early winter. Work has been commissioned to rectify this problem.

c. Roof

Roof alarms have been fitted to vulnerable areas of the roof. This is a theft deterrent and maximises our insurer's liability in the event of theft of metal from the roof.

The north aisle roof let in some water and was repaired.

The gutter and down pipes have been professionally cleaned and cleared.

d. External notice boards and lych gate

These have been repainted during the year.

e. Windows

A broken stained-glass window in the south aisle was spotted and replaced with clear glass whilst a suitable replacement is made.

f. Quinquennial inspection

The next inspection is due in 2023, and an architect has been appointed for this purpose.

g. Energy

The cost of energy is at an all-time high largely as a result of the Ukraine invasion. Energy usage has been closely monitored and the front of the church floodlighting has been hugely reduced. An energy efficiency report was commissioned and delivered. A number of the report's recommendations will be implemented.

3. The Churchyard

a. Volunteer work

Lynne Watson has led a large community team of volunteers who have continued the previous years' work in restoring order and beauty to the graveyard, previously neglected by the council who have statutory responsibility for its maintenance. Our sincere thanks goes to all those involved

b. Lawn of Remembrance

Volunteers have also worked at the Lawn of Remembrance, with fresh planting and new plant support structures, thanks to a generous bequest, the area has been transformed.

4. The Church Hall

a. Windows

Planning permission was sought to replace the existing wooden windows in the offices with UVPC double glazed windows.

b. Decoration

A group of volunteers painted firstly the kitchen, followed later in the year by the toilets

c. OPM

The oak tree at the front of the hall was treated for Oak Processional Moth (OPM)

5. St Peter's Lodge

a. Kitchen

The kitchen was outdated and worn and was replaced with a modern equivalent with new appliances.

6. Vauxmead

a. General

The church is very grateful to the committee of Vauxmead Trustees who work so hard to maintain this beautiful green space. The trustees continue to

maintain and invest in upgrading the site subject to the needs of its users and available funds.

The space is used for sports, games and community events. The buildings are let to the Burwood Preschool, the Foodbank, and the Guides also rent the land for their building.

During the year, an application was made to the Charity Commissioners to confirm the charitable status of Vauxmead and to bring its stated aims and powers up to date. These changes have been approved by the Guildford Diocese and the Charity Commissioners, and the administration to enact the changes has been almost completed.

b. Noticeboard

A new noticeboard was installed close to the main entrance.

c. Trees

Work continued feeding and improving the soil surrounding two oak trees on Vauxmead that had not been thriving. Several trees were treated for OPM.

Churchwardens – Lynne Watson and Andrew Strong

Deputy churchwarden –

January 2023

7. Goods and Ornaments

On 23rd January Lynne Watson and I inspected the Church Property and found it to be present and in good order with the following exceptions.

An item which were not in the original NADFAS register of property but were added to the Terrier (*Terrier being old English for record*) in 2016 could not be found:

- A silver plate paten with Greek inscription

Also, the NADFAS register had not been amended to show that the following piece of furniture was no longer in the vestry, and indeed had not been there for many years:

- 348 A washboard cupboard

The NADFAS register and Property Terrier have been updated.

Andrew Strong and Lynne Watson
Tony Skrzypecki

Churchwardens
Deputy Churchwarden

January 2023

VII. Deanery Synod Report

This year's Deanery Synod meetings were very different but interesting. Rev. Andrew Cowie continues as Area Dean and Brian Howell is now Deanery Lay Chair. As the meetings move around the Deanery one learns what the churches are focusing on and a little of their history and present format. We are brought up to date on changes and plans around the Deanery.

In March we learned from the Diocesan fresh expressions enabler about the new "greenhouse" Deanery initiative. The idea is that a parish can grow a new initiative into something much bigger to share their faith and serve their community. The Church of England and the Diocese are keen to support them so churches with similar new initiatives will meet up two to three times a year for mutual help, support and training as they grow into an intentional worshipping community. In June we heard that six churches joined a "greenhouse" and meet termly.

At the June meeting we met to discuss how we can respond as a church to issues of domestic abuse and rising levels of mental health issues and also how we can promote well being in our congregations and communities. It was led by the Diocesan consultant psychiatrist and by a GP with special interest in supporting people who have suffered domestic abuse. There was a general discussion on mental health issues and how there is now a greater acceptance of these, the abuse of power, adolescent health services, pornography and the place of faith in supporting those affected.

A course has been delivered within the Deanery called "The well being journey". This is designed for churches to use within their community to help people improve their physical, mental and spiritual well-being for both youth and adults and to help on their journey to discover more of God's plan for their well-being. Alongside this, there are wellness walks, supportive cafes and 'drop ins'. Holy Trinity Claygate, also delivered The Hope 'Kintsugi' Course, which covers different aspects of mental health including disappointment, loss, worry and resilience. We were assured that the Diocesan Domestic Abuse course is very good and as good as anything in medical practice.

The October meeting was led by Alex Tear, ex-head of Esher High School and now Diocesan Director of Education. He covered the history of church schools and how they are financed and inspected. There are 23 church academy schools in the Diocese and it is hoped that more community schools will join the Church Academy Trusts. Our local Church Academy Trust is the Good Shepherd Trust. He encouraged us to continue welcoming children, young people and families to church and to help and engage with our local schools, to help with assemblies where possible so that children receive accurate religious information. In addition, he encouraged people to consider being a church governor of their local school and to pray regularly for them. He said "children who experience faith in school or their home, in conversation with parents and grandparents are far more likely to return to or develop a faith later in life."

VIII. Safeguarding Report

During the year we have striven to ensure that Safeguarding is at the core of all we do. And with this in mind, we have put up protective barriers in the following ways.

- We have a Parish Safeguarding Policy which we review annually and display on our Parish noticeboards.
- The PCC has Safeguarding as a standing item on its agenda and in any decision making, we are mindful of the Safeguarding implications.
- We have a Safeguarding Committee who evaluate how Safeguarding is managed within the various Church activities. They are responsible for proposing any changes that are deemed necessary.
- We monitor all Church activities with an eye to them being in line with agreed policies and procedures.
- Any new staff or volunteers are appointed in accordance with Safer Recruitment criteria.
- We encourage a culture and leadership which is Safeguarding focused.
- We ensure that everyone receives regular, appropriate Safeguarding Training.
- We are measured/monitored via the Diocesan Parish Dashboard. (This is a management tool which provides a full audit of Safeguarding within the Parish)
- We held a very successful Safeguarding Sunday which focused on Safeguarding within St Peter's Church.

We have set certain Safeguarding objectives in terms of St Peter's going forward:

- We hope to provide a strategy to support and help those who have been abused in the past. (The Safeguarding Committee plans to formulate proposals to achieve this early next year.)
- We intend to provide more resources to inform about abuse and where people can get assistance. Some new hand-outs are already available in the Church.

During the year we have encourage members of the congregation to keep others safe by:

- Speaking up publicly and privately about abuse and the need for change.
- Putting survivors and their needs first, both in prayers and actions.
- Concealing nothing.
- Taking responsibility for and acknowledging their own failing that abuse has been allowed to occur.
- Making change happen and encouraging others to do the same.
- Holding each other accountable and challenging poor practice wherever we see it.

Lynne Watson Safeguarding Officer.

January 2023

Agenda Item 6

Vicar's Report

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 5:9-10

2022 I am pleased to say, was a time of growth, both spiritually and, as we journeyed through the year, numerically. After our first PCC meeting with the mission team of the diocese at the end of 2021, we began the year by planning and putting together our priorities for the next two years.

They are ...

1. Growing disciples/deepening spirituality.
2. Becoming more intergenerational in worship and fellowship.
3. Reaching out to our community.

Growing disciples/deepening spirituality

We held our first two Alpha courses, which were followed on by The Bible course and further studies. Our hope is that through a regular pattern of meeting together during the week, as well as our regular Sunday worship, we can grapple together with the Bible in a way that we don't have the space for on Sundays and our faith and spirituality will continue to deepen. Thanks to all those involved in the Alpha and Bible studies, particularly Sara, Jane and Katrina.

We took a group of over 30 adults and young people to Wintershall to see the 'Life of Christ' in the summer, which helped to engage with the stories of Jesus and grow in fellowship. Many thanks to Katrina who organised this event. We are hoping to organise more trips like this and plan to go to see the Wintershall nativity in December 2023.

Plans were also made to begin a monthly, creative prayer group in 2023 and regular prayers are now held after the 10am service in the Lady Chapel.

Developing intergenerational worship and fellowship.

In the spring, we were given permission from the bishop to receive young people into communion, following suitable preparation, and so we began our first Holy Communion classes. This resulted in the first child from our church family being received into communion by the Archdeacon during our patronal festival in June. Thanks to Deborah for all her work to put these classes together. We already have several more children from our church family signed up for our 2023 classes.

Our youth group began plans to hold a regular intergenerational evening prayer service in 2023.

We held a variety of events where families and individuals could join together, such as Easter crafts and decorations; Christmas Carols and Cake; and the light party with

fireworks. In December we joined forces with the Treble Clef Choir to put on an intergenerational Christingle and Carol Service in the Hersham Centre for the Community. Thank you to Rachel, Margaret, Lulu, Sara, Jane and Deborah and everyone else who helped with these events.

Reaching out to our community.

We began 'Love Hersham' again in 2022, on a smaller scale than in our 2020 launch. At the time of planning, we were unsure about the COVID infection level and people were still understandably cautious about mixing in large groups.

Katrina launched our quarterly 'Women's Breakfasts', where we invite the church and wider community along. These have been received very well by all who attend.

Our Eco churchyard initiative is a way of helping to care for our churchyard and engage with the local community. During 2022 overgrown graves were restored and brambles and weeds were cut back. Funded by a generous legacy, our Garden of Remembrance had a complete overhaul and is now a beautiful, peaceful space for both the relatives of those buried there and the local community. The goodwill amongst the Hersham community grew throughout the year, with many stopping to compliment the workers and also sign up to help with the projects. We also had visits from our Brownie and Rainbow groups, who helped with a project too. Many thanks to Lynne and her army of volunteers, both young and old, who continue to work in our churchyard.

In 2022 we were also able to reach out to our community during the Platinum Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth 2nd, with a service of thanksgiving and a community picnic on Vauxmead. With help from RC Sherriff Trust, the Hersham Village Society and Girlguiding Hersham, we were able to put on an event with entertainers; a school choir; bouncy castles; and many stalls. Over 500 local residents attended.

At Christmas, a group of us joined with other local churches to help pack and deliver 1100 hampers of food to local people in need in an outreach project called 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus'.

During autumn we had to re-schedule the Pet Service and Harvest Festival as sadly Queen Elizabeth died. Many thanks to all those who helped to keep St Peter's open during the time of mourning. Thanks also to the bell ringers who came in to toll for both the period of mourning and ring the announcement of the new King, and to Rob, Lynn and the music group who, with just a couple of days' notice, put together the music for our service of thanksgiving for her life.

During 2022 we had a visitation from the Archdeacon (during Holy Week!) I am pleased to say that we had an excellent report.

Our work and relationships with the local primary schools continue to thrive and we take regular assemblies and they also attend St Peter's at Easter, End of Year, Harvest and Christmas.

Rachel, our part time Children's worker, left in September 2022 because of a planned family move to Yorkshire, but she kindly continued to organise the Toddler Group until December. Many thanks to Lulu and Sue for keeping this going until the end of the year, and to Deborah, who ensured that our relationships with our Sunday School families and Sunday School provision continued as normal. We are praying for the right person to join

us as a children and families' worker in 2023. In the meantime, our Breakfast Praise service for young children and their families has continued to thrive and grow in number.

There were many highlights in worship for me in 2022. We held our first Tenebrae service and Easter Sunrise Service of Light. The service of Thanksgiving for the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee and the Nine lessons and Carols were very well attended, as were all our Christmas services. For the first time since 2019, we needed to put out extra chairs for the Nativity service, as there was standing room only.

Another highlight of 2022 was seeing Katrina, our curate, priested in Guildford Cathedral in July. She has been a blessing to us and will remain at St Peter's until she is signed off in the first half of 2024.

I am convinced that the work and effort that so many put into our priorities for spirituality and worship will continue to bear fruit in 2023 and beyond.

My special thanks go to:

the wardens, deputy warden, treasurer, PCC secretary and the PCC, who continue to be an asset to St Peter's;

Sarah T, Katrina, Deborah;

occasional preachers, the pastoral assistants;

the music team, bell ringers;

Mark for his work on health and safety; the cleaners, coffee makers, flower arrangers, the Vauxmead team;

readers, servers, chalice assistants, and those who pray both during and after the service; and those who work behind the scenes.

It takes an army of volunteers to play their part in keeping our ministry thriving and my grateful thanks to all who contribute.

Jackie Richardson, Vicar

April 2023