



HORSHAM TEAM MINISTRY

Agenda and Papers for the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Horsham

To be held in St. Mary's Church, Causeway, Horsham

on Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm

These papers can also be read on our Church websites:

St. Mary's - www.stmaryshorsham.org.uk

St. Leonard's - www.stleonardshorsham.org.uk

Holy Trinity - www.holytrinityhorsham.co.uk



AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening worship
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 6th May 2021 – *see attached (A)*
4. Joint meeting with the Vestry for the election of **three** Church Wardens
5. Election of lay representatives to Horsham Deanery Synod
6. Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
7. To receive the Electoral Roll Report - *see attached (B)*
8. To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC - *see attached (C)*
9. To receive the PCC Annual Report for 2021 and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, as adopted by the PCC SC on 5th May 2022 – *see separate PCC Annual Report (D)*
10. Appointment of Auditor
11. To receive the Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the churches in the Parish - *see attached (E)*
12. To receive a report on the proceedings of Horsham Deanery Synod – *see attached (F)*
13. To receive the Youth report – *see attached – see attached (G)*
14. To receive report from Parish Safeguarding Officer (H)
15. To receive a report from the Mother's Union – *see attached (I)*
16. To receive a report from HCT – *see attached (J)*
17. To receive a report from St. Mary's Primary School – *see attached (K)*
18. Chairman's Comments
19. Any other business, of which notice must be given before the commencement the Meeting to the Chairman or Secretary.
20. Closing prayers

A) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Zoom on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Revd Lisa Barnett (in the Chair); Revds David Bouskill, Rebecca Tuck; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary) Greg Andrews (Hon. Treasurer); Nigel Stalley, Reg Haydon, Margaret Symonds (Parish Wardens); 29 parishioners;

1 OPENING WORSHIP

The Revd Lisa Barnett opened the meeting by sharing a song of worship and welcoming those present.

2 APOLOGIES

were received from 8 parishioners.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the APCM held on 23 September 2020 had been circulated. An error in item 14 was noted: 'peached' should read 'preached'. Subject to this correction the minutes were approved *nem con*.

4 MATTERS ARISING

None

5 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT THREE CHURCHWARDENS (PARISH WARDENS)

Valid nomination forms had been received for **Cath Hatton (St Mary's)**, **Peter Fruin (St Mary's)**, **Morag Davies (St Mary's)** and they had completed the necessary declarations. They were declared elected as churchwardens, which is the standard term for their role. The Chairman thanked them for being willing to stand and further thanked Nigel Stalley, Reg Hayward and Margaret Symonds for their service and their support for her. She added that St Mary's also wishes to thank Steve Benson who is standing down from his long held role as St Mary's warden. She was sure that they will all continue to serve the parish in other ways.

6 REPORTS ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

(Copies attached in the Minute Book.)

The following reports, having been circulated, were received and comments and questions invited.

a) **St Mary's.**

b) **Holy Trinity**

c) **St Leonard's**

The chairman thanked those who had produced these reports.

7 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Chairman said that this is not just a report on our finances but a summary of the life of the parish over the last year. She thanked the treasurer Greg Andrews for taking the lead on preparing this complex document.

Greg said that because of the Covid pandemic lockdowns they had envisaged a deficit. Some difficult decisions on staffing had been made. Because of this and other savings, the furlough scheme, the use of restricted funds and the £50,000 raised by the Covid appeal they had ended with a surplus of £33,000. St Leonard's had received a very generous legacy of £175,000 from a former parishioner. The largest draw on restricted funds was £16,000 to pay for the necessary new boiler at St Mary's. Most of the surplus will be devoted to topping up the fabric funds. He is budgeting for a £15,000 surplus for 2021. The parish share will be reduced as we are only paying ministry costs for two full-time stipends. He hoped that lettings will resume in June\July.

In answer to a question about the Thanks A Million appeal (page 9) and whether further fundraising is planned. Greg said that work will be done to improve the Church Centre within the funds already raised. The Chairman said that she had received an offer to top up the funds if they are not quite enough to do the necessary work.

The chairman thanked all those who had contributed to the Report, which has already been approved by the PCC. It is a document we can be proud of.

8 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

As set out in the attached chart **Paul Goodwin, Greg Andrews, Linda Goodwin, Keith Rayner, Margaret Symonds and Ray Hambling**, whose nominations had been agreed by their respective DCC AGMs, and who had completed the necessary declarations, were declared elected.

Sue Liptrot has agreed to become a warden at Holy Trinity and they would like to nominate her to the PCC. Her election was agreed subject to receipt of a formal nomination and to her completing the necessary declarations.

9 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD.

Sue Lismer, whose nomination had been agreed by St Leonard's DCC AGM, and who has completed the necessary declarations, was declared elected to the Deanery Synod.

10 ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

On the proposal of Greg Andrews, seconded by Lisa Barnett, D A Clarke were elected *nem con* to act as Independent Examiner for the Parish. The firm is about to change its name and move offices but will remain the same business.

11 STATUTORY REPORTS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments invited.

a) Proceedings of the PCC

The Chairman thanked Brenda Large for preparing this and the Deanery Synod report.

b) Deanery Synod report

c) Electoral Roll report

The Chairman thanked Keith Rayner for completing this report and noted that the numbers have barely changed.

12 PARISH ACTIVITY REPORTS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments were invited.

a) Youth work

The Chairman said that Lee Buck has just had an operation for an injured knee. He is reliant for now on others to get him to Horsham but he is desperate to get back. In spite of the lockdown good things have been happening with the youth work.

b) St Mary's preschool

The Chairman congratulated Karen and Lai and her team for coping so well with the challenges faced by the Covid rules.

13 RELATED ORGANISATIONS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments invited.

a) Mothers' Union**b) Horsham Churches Together**

Manny Holden said that a circular had been sent to the Deanery Synod about the Horsham Debt Advice Service (HDAS). Was there any conflict between their work and what Horsham Matters does? Brenda Large said that Horsham Matters helps people with budgeting in conjunction with its foodbank and is linking with the CAB to provide debt advice when this is found to be needed. Contact had been made with HDAS but it had not been possible to work with them.

14 ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Report attached in the minute book)

Brenda Large said how proud she was that we had been able to provide good foundation governors for this school.

15 SAFEGUARDING

The Chairman thanked Richard Pearson for his work and commitment as the parish safeguarding officer. As his new job involves flying all over the world, he cannot continue to do it. At the last PCC Linda Goodwin took over this role, working with the church safeguarding officers. The new safeguarding document, with the contact details for the parish and the local safeguarding officers, must be displayed in all the parish buildings. It is known that when churches are upfront about their commitment to safeguarding it is a deterrent to those who seek to do harm.

16 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Lisa looked back over 2020 and assuming and live-streaming services. They had been forced to close and reopen in different ways. There had been significant financial challenges but we had been blessed by the £50,000 response to the appeal and the generous legacy from Enid Hayward. The churches have been working much more closely together in courses and in worship.

There has been recent careful work on governance. We had one PCC and three DCCs, but it has been discovered that our DCCs were never formally constituted. This gives us freedom to decide if we want them or not for the future. They can be useful but are very inflexible and hard to un-constitute. Detailed work continues.

We have a PCC Treasurer who works with and supports the church treasurers and a PCC Safeguarding Officer. We hope to have a PCC Health and Safety Officer and a PCC Buildings Officer to offer similar support across the parish.

We are sharing work across the parish. For example the only weekday service is at St Leonard's on Wednesday mornings. A parish wide Little Footprints has begun to meet at St Leonard's on Friday mornings and a toddler group at Holy Trinity on Thursday afternoons. We are trusting in the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit for our future.

In response to a question she said that we do intend to reopen the parish office but probably for fewer hours than before, as it is difficult to get work done with people popping in all the time. Laura has done a great job working remotely. She will have more time available in September and that is when we will review the parish office.

Nigel thanked the clergy team Lisa, David, Rebecca, Alan, Pat and Bernard, who have done a fine job in leadership and pastoral care in the parish.

A member of Holy Trinity asked if we have a vision for the whole of the parish and if pastoral care is a parish or a church responsibility. Lisa said that as far as vision is concerned, they aim to work more closely together and be more flexible. They had recently held a cross-parish meeting to talk about how this might be achieved. As restrictions are eased we need to flesh this out. It would be worth considering whether we should have an overall PCC Pastoral Care Officer.

She thanked those present for turning out to show their commitment to the parish.

Rosemary Hensor closed the meeting with prayer at 8.20 pm.

B) Electoral Roll Report 2022

The numbers on the Electoral Roll compared with those reported at the APCM last year are as follows:

Church	April 2022	April 2021
St Mary's	421	409
Holy Trinity	105	108
St Leonard's	42	50
Horsham Parish	568	567

The Electoral Roll is completely renewed every six years in accordance with Church Representation Rules. The next renewal will take place in 2025. In intervening years, a revision to the Roll takes place prior to the APCM when the Roll is brought up to date with changes since the previous revision. A revision is an opportunity for new members to join the Roll. The latest revision to the Roll was completed at the end of April 2022.

I would like to thank Alistair Inglis-Taylor and Paula McCarthy, Electoral Roll Officers at St. Mary's and St. Leonard's, for their help in promoting the Roll in their respective churches and advising me of appropriate changes.

Keith Rayner
Parish Electoral Roll Officer
April 2022

C) Report on the proceedings of the Horsham PCC 2021 - 2022

Membership of the PCC

For most of the year there have been 23 members of the PCC during 2021.

3 parish clergy *ex officio*, 12 lay members - 3 Churchwardens *ex officio*, 3 lay members of the Diocesan Synod *ex officio*, 3 lay members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*. Some individuals serve both as Diocesan or Deanery Synod members and there were unfortunately a number of vacancies.

Revd. Rebecca Tuck left the PCC during the year to take up the position as the Vicar of Warnham.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Officers

At the PCC meeting after the APCM on 6th May 2021, Mr Peter Fruin was elected as Vice-Chairman, Mr Greg Andrews was re-appointed as Treasurer and Mr Nigel Stalley as Secretary. Revd Canon Lisa Barnett, as Team Rector, is formally the Chairman.

Meetings

The PCC has met four times since the last APCM, each time on Zoom. All meetings open with an act of worship. The number of members at meetings ranged from 15 to 20. The Standing Committee has met once and there have been a few occasions when they have voted by email on urgent matters that have arisen between PCC meetings. The Treasurer chairs a separate Church Committee Treasurers' group which advises on the details of financial management.

Work of the PCC

Particular issues that have occupied the PCC this year have been the revision of our Team Ministry Governance policy, looking at Risk Awareness and dealing with matters issues related to the Covid pandemic. At our bi-monthly meetings we receive reports from the 3 churches in the team and the Pre-School. Our PCC officers (who oversee - Finance, Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Fabric, Pastoral, Youth and Children and Electoral Roll), present a report at each meeting. During the year we have approved a number of planned off-site activities. As part of our regular meetings we have a programme to regularly review our policies. During the year it was recognised that we needed to create a new position of a parish wide Premises Manager and in September Dan Britton took on this paid role for the PCC.

Sofia Silva-Duff was appointed a Diocesan Foundation Governor to St Mary's School.

I wish to express my thanks to PCC members and to the Church Committee secretaries for their support and assistance during the last year.

Nigel Stalley
PCC Secretary
April 2022

D) Financial Statement

Please see separate PCC Annual Report (Trustees Report and Independent Examiner's Report)

E) Fabric Report

1. The team commenced its operation across the Parish during 2021/22 and this report covers the outcomes and plans for St Mary's Church, Church Centre, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church.

Team composition: Dan Britton (Premises Manager, appointed by the PCC September 2021), and 6 volunteers: Ray Hambling, Paul Goodwin, Nick O'Riordan (chair), Nigel Stalley, Bob Whittaker and Nigel Winter. The team meets at 3 monthly intervals at which tasks are assigned appropriately and progressed.

Normal maintenance activities have been carried out by the team and term contractors throughout the year largely without incident and only exceptional items are reported below.

2. St Mary's Church (QI architect Simon Dyson, next report due October 2023)

2.1 Church Fabric

The Victorian misfit cinquefoil window in the South Aisle is currently being restored: this will reduce draughts in that area.

The wood beetle infestation in the roof of All Saint's Chapel appears to have been eradicated through the use of blue light during Spring/Summer 2021.

Quotations for the structural stabilisation of the Hoo Memorial canopied tomb have proven to be difficult to obtain, in common with other buildings works across the parish, due to overheated demand upon specialists as a result of the pandemic.

We await the opinion of the Diocesan Chancery on our application for the temporary removal of pews on the South Aisle to improve access and utility of that area.

2.2 Audio Visual

The pandemic provided the catalyst for live streaming of selected congregational services and there has been progress with the installation of digital video equipment in the Nave and a control desk adjacent to All Saints' Chapel. The provision of a large, unwieldy temporary projection screen to carry images for congregational services has become more of a challenge; some damage, albeit repairable, has been caused to the reredos at the base of the East window. An alternative arrangement is being sought. An 84-inch TV screen and stand has been purchased to supplement the temporary projection screen.

2.3 Churchyard

Through the Ecochurch/Caring for God's Acre initiatives, we have met with Horsham District Council (HDC) staff to improve enjoyment and use of the accessible spaces to the west of the churchyard area and to improve biodiversity.

3. Church Centre (QI architect Robin Nugent, next report due January 2026)

3.1 Minor improvements

Thanks to the generosity of donors and the skill of SKA Construction, during 2021/22 we have been able to remove an asbestos ceiling, radically improve accessibility and natural lighting at the entrance and foyer, replace the aging toilet infrastructure with six gender-neutral installations, two of which are fully accessible and with baby-changing facilities, and to add a kitchenette to St Peter's Chapel. The reordered Church Centre was formally opened by Mrs Shirley Glaysher in October 2021. We are seeing the fruits of this labour in terms of increasing uptake in use of all the facilities in the building.

There is a need to renovate the carpeting, and the underlying latex substrate over the greater part of the floor of St Peter's Chapel: this will be progressed in 2022/23.

3.2 Change of Use

A small but still significant part of the motivation in the minor improvements was to enable the St Mary's Pre-School to use the Manor Room weekdays and the Barn on three weekdays, termly. Despite this aim being entirely compatible with the Deed of Gift under which terms the PCC was

given the Church Centre in 1971, HDC required us to seek a Change of Use through the formal planning process. This process has become stalled by the intervention of Natural England in requiring HDC to demonstrate water neutrality in non-domestic planning applications. Through our planning consultant we have supplied the necessary technical detail to show that we are indeed positively reducing water consumption through these works, however the matter remains unresolved within HDC's planning department.

3.3 Sound transmission control

Working with our party-wall neighbours at 31 Causeway, we have devised a trial acoustic panel installation. It is hoped that the trial will be underway shortly and from those results a permanent installation will be implemented.

4. Holy Trinity Church (QI Architect David Swarbrick, next report due September 2025)

4.1 Church Fabric

There has been little expenditure on the fabric of the church in the last year other than the repainting and bird proofing of the bell tower. Unfortunately the bird proofing of the tower has not performed adequately and we are negotiating with the contractor to return to site and rectify the work. In the meantime the mechanism to ring the bell has become very stiff and it is proposed to rectify this problem at the same time.

We have a number of carpentry and electrical matters which need attention, and we are gratefully to Dan Britton, our Parish Premises Manager who is assisting us in finding contractors to carry out these works.

4.2 Audio Visual

New Audio Visual equipment was installed in the church this year. Despite a few technical problems, which are being overcome within the guarantee period (to end of May 2022), the new AV system has provided excellent online access to our regular services for those who cannot attend in person.

5. St Leonard's Church (QI Architect Simon Dyson, next report due July 2023)

5.1 Church Fabric

Progress over the year has been made with the refurbishment of the external oak doors to the church and we await the final stages of the Faculty application so that work can begin. The main doors will become partially glazed and equipped with smart locks.

5.2 Hall acoustics

Since the renovations carried out in 2007/8 we have become increasingly concerned about sound reverberations in the Hall and on occasions it has resulted in loss of income when people/organisations have said the Hall is not fit for their purpose because the acoustics are so bad. Now, with the generous legacy from Enid Hayward and with advice from acoustic consultants we are actively exploring ways of improving the acoustics, thus making the Hall more user-friendly and enabling a wider range of activities and, consequently, the possibility of more lettings and higher income

5.3 Street frontages

We are investigating ways of improving the grassed areas, making them more attractive in a low maintenance and eco-friendly way.

6. Energy use and carbon footprint

In 2021 the PCC endorsed the General Synod's aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Over the latter part of 2021 we have seen increasing energy prices and that trend is likely to continue. We are therefore monitoring our energy consumption with increasing vigour. Heating system controls are set by our team and we rely on all those using the buildings to adopt the maxim: 'leave controls as you find them': our collective mission is to enable the increased use of the stewarded environment in our buildings post-pandemic. If you have any concerns or have suggestions for reducing energy consumption, then please tell us!

The following table shows our recorded energy consumption since 2019, together with the associated carbon footprint:

		2019	2020	2021
St. Mary's Church	Gas (kWh)	262000	122000	168000
	Electricity (kWh)	16800	10500	10200
Church Centre	Gas (kWh)	100000	59000	50000
	Electricity (kWh)	10500	7500	7600
	Total Carbon Footprint	73 tonnes	37.5 tonnes	44.5 tonnes
Holy Trinity Church	Gas (kWh)	40500	34700	39200
	Electricity (kWh)	5500	4310	4800
Church Hall	Gas (kWh)	2300	4300	1000
	Electricity (kWh)	8100	5600	6400
	Total Carbon Footprint	11 tonnes	9.5 tonnes	10 tonnes
St. Leonard's Church	Gas (kWh)	30000	53000	28500
	Electricity (kWh)	10000	2900	3800
	Total Carbon Footprint	8 tonnes	10.5 tonnes	6.5 tonnes

Through better, more mindful use of environmental controls and investment in more efficient heating and lighting systems, our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint to well below 2019 levels whilst increasing the level of use of our buildings, now that we are emerging from the effects of the pandemic.

Nick O'Riordan

April 2022

F) Report on the proceedings of the Horsham Deanery Synod 2021/2022

The main functions of a Deanery Synod are to discuss and reflect on matters of the Church of England as they affect the deanery, and generally 'to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. Deanery Synod acts as a forum for the airing of parish views on any common problems, the communication of diocesan synod decisions, the consideration of relevant business and the referral to Diocesan Synod of matters of concern. Horsham Deanery Synod now includes the 16 parishes of (* in vacancy) Billingshurst, Broadbridge Heath, Colgate and Roffey, Holbrook, Horsham, Itchingfield and Slinfold, Lower Beeding and, Cowfold, Nuthurst and Mannings Heath*, Rudgwick, Rusper, Shipley, Southwater, Warnham and West Grinstead.

All 19 licensed clergy in the deanery are members of the House of Clergy. It is good to see most of the vacancies filled. There are now 35 elected members of the House of Laity, but sadly 31 vacancies. The 4 elected lay members of the Diocesan Synod are ex-officio members, and 3 of these, Nigel Stalley, Val Burgess and Brenda Large are from Horsham. But Horsham can elect a further 8, and have only 1, Manny Holden.

Revd David Beal, Vicar of Billingshurst, is Rural Dean, Martin Hennock of Itchingfield is Lay Chairman, Brenda Large is Secretary and Val Burgess is Treasurer.

It is perhaps not surprising that there has been little interest in the Deanery Synod recently as we have not been able to meet in person, and the Rural Dean did not feel that Zoom meetings were of particular value for us. But the work of the Deanery has been going on behind the scenes. The Deanery Treasurer has a key role in implementing the allocation of the Parish Share and this year she, the Rural Dean and the Lay Chairman have been visiting all the PCCs to discuss how the Parish share works in their Parish. In spite of the lockdowns most Parishes have managed to keep their finances stable enough to make a fair contribution to the Diocese, which in turn pays for the clergy and supports the work of the churches in numerous other ways. But it is not all about money. Parishes have perhaps been forced to work more closely together and share resources in these difficult times. A tiny example of sharing resources occurred recently at St Mary's, when we, unusually, were not able to field enough singers for a choir for a funeral, but choristers from Holy Trinity and Rudgwick joined us. We all found this a valuable service and hope we can assist each other in similar ways in future.

We do now have a date for a live meeting of the Deanery Synod - Wednesday 18 May 2022 at St Mark's, Holbrook at 7.30. We are looking forward to seeing each other again and catching up with the many successful initiatives that the parishes have used to keep our people together to worship and to serve. Meetings of Deanery Synod are open to all, so perhaps you might be interested to come along and see how it works.

Brenda Large
Horsham Deanery Secretary.
April 2022

G) Youth Report

Youth Work overview

We began 2021 in our 3rd Lockdown and were back connecting via Zoom. As most of you are aware this had become rather tedious at this point. Nonetheless, we continued to make Zoom as fun and engaging as we could. At long last March came and our time of being stuck indoors was finally over. Unfortunately, our youth Worker Lee Buck suffered a knee injury and was confined back inside. We were able to get some activities and groups running again and before long we were regularly seeing familiar faces and enjoying interactive with young people face to face once again.

Since then, we have been growing our current groups and starting new groups such as DofE (Duke of Edinburgh) Award and Youth Alpha. Looking forward into 2022 we have more groups running and soon we will be off on our summer camps.

With these new adventures, there is a great opportunity to make God our focus and to help our young people on their journey through faith.

TGI's

TGI is our open-door youth group which has grown from online Zoom sessions into a busy in-person event. In July we invited several primary schools to our trial evening and had 68 young people attend. This was a huge success! We have continued to see many of these young people at our weekly TGI sessions and some have now signed up to join us at May Camp and other Church related groups. TGI's initially struggled to grow due to COVID but is now up and running and we are seeing growth and new faces.

Café Connect

This group has continued to connect young people and God during the pandemic. For some it has been a time to be closer to God and for others a time to reflect on our lives and our faith. We are now meeting in person, enjoying food, fellowship and appreciating what we have.

DofE Award (Duke of Edinburgh)

We are one of a few Churches to be asked to be a part of the Dioceses' pilot scheme running the Duke of Edinburgh award. The award involves young people learning basic survival skills such as: cooking, map reading, using a compass and adapting a hike based on the weather. They are also tasked with volunteering, learn a new skill and doing something physical. This is an amazing award for young people. We currently have 9 young people from Horsham signed up and we hope to invite more next year.

The Core

This is our Sunday school at St Mary's. Ruby has been heading this up for us. She has been doing a great job keeping the topics relatable to the young people. We have covered a wide range of sessions. In one of the sessions, we looked at our environment and wrote letters to local charities/companies thanking them for the work they are doing. We have tried to bring The Core into our community and finds ways to link our young people to Horsham for them to grow and help others.

May Camp

Over the May Bank Holiday weekend, we will be taking 29 young people to Plumpton Racecourse for the annual May Camp event. There will be live worship, seminars, games, discos and loads of great activities for them to get involved in. We are looking forward to watching them grow in their faith and explore what God has got planned for them.

Lee Buck

Parish Youth Worker

April 2022

H) Safeguarding Report

Horsham Team Parish Safeguarding Team consisting of St Mary's Safeguarding Officer, St Mary's Safeguarding Training Officer & the PCC Safeguarding Officer, Holy Trinity's & St Leonard's Safeguarding Officers have met three times since the last APCM. The meetings have enabled the team to become more cohesive, to share working practices, to update on information received from the Diocese, to highlight any operational issues & to support one another in the important yet vital roles they each cover.

Since the reopening of the church & related activities St Mary's **Training Officer** & the Parish Safeguarding Officers of both Holy Trinity & St Leonard's have been putting in a tremendous effort & have been working hard to ensure that those requiring training/updates of previous training (every 3 years) is undertaken as required, sometimes facilitating, with the help of the PCC secretary, those requiring assistance to complete their online training thus ensuring an inclusive & flexible approach. After a degree of hesitation in the early stages, members of the congregation are becoming more willing to undertake the training seeing the benefits once they have completed it. With the arrival of Ukrainian guests & extra activities being provided, new volunteers are gradually completing the Basic Awareness (previously called C0) & the Foundation (previously called C1) depending on their role.

Each of the Safeguarding Officers has been working with the relevant personnel to obtain their **Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)** clearances. Since January 2022 DBS clearance only lasts for 3 years whereas it was previously 5 years. The DBS have recently announced that they will be reducing their fees for Standard and Enhanced DBS checks for paid workers and Basic DBS checks from 6 April 2022, with no fee for volunteer Standard/Enhanced checks.

ChurchSuite is a vehicle on which to keep DBS & Safeguarding training records, thus complying with Parish standards & GDPR requirements.

Both **training & DBS checks** are key to ensuring we have safe & caring churches. Therefore, can the team kindly & respectfully request that individuals respond at their earliest convenience when asked to undertake the training relevant to their role or are required to have a current DBS certificate as these are shared responsibilities with Safeguarding being everyone's business. Both training & DBS clearances (where required) are set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018 with which we need to comply/have signed up to.

Simple Quality Protects is required to be completed every year to provide assurance with regards to Safeguarding standards within our 3 churches. This was previously completed at a Parish level, but each church is now required to complete it. St Mary's was reviewed & completed in September & Holy Trinity's & St Leonard's are in progress.

New Safeguarding & Domestic Abuse posters have been erected in each of the 3 churches.

Since the APCM of 2021 there have been five potential **Safeguarding issues** which have been dealt with, referred on to the Diocese & have been resolved.

The PCC Safeguarding Officer would like to thank the Diocesan Safeguarding Team & the Team Rector for their advice & support in respect of Safeguarding matters. She would also like to thank the 3 Safeguarding Officers & St Mary's Safeguarding Training Officer as well as the PCC Secretary for all their efforts as well as all those who have completed their training &/or obtained DBS clearance during the past year.

Linda Goodwin
Parish Safeguarding Officer
29th April 2022

(I) Report from Horsham Mother's Union for 2021

During 2021 we were unable to meet in person until September due to the Covid restrictions. As we were unable to meet properly, we all made sure to keep in touch by phone, especially with those members who live alone. We had no AGM due to lockdown but did try a couple of meetings on Zoom which a few members took part in.

In September we were relieved to be able to hold a Social, as our first meeting back, with a Bring & Buy and a Raffle which was quite profitable.

In October Peter Schofield came to speak to us about Holy Trinity's involvement with St Nicholas' Orphanage in Nakuru, Kenya, and in November Carrie Cort, the Director of Sussex Green Living, came and talked about their green initiative in our county.

In December we held our Christmas lunch in the Barn.

Money was raised at our Social and at the Christmas lunch and this was donated to the Mothers' Union Diocesan Project AFIA . (Away From It All holidays). MU Chichester Diocese owns 2 static caravans in Selsey and Winchelsea Beach and offers free holidays to anyone who is struggling. Some members of MU also meet each month to knit items for the neonatal unit at East Surrey Hospital, or for local care homes as well as the Mission to Seamen.

All in all, we ended 2021 feeling more optimistic than we started, with an almost-full programme of events scheduled for 2022.

Win Fruin
April 2022

J) Report from Horsham Churches Together (HCT)

In October Richard Jackson was appointed as Development Co-Ordinator in Rosemary Couchman's place. Richard gets enquiries about youth clubs, Alpha courses etc and would like information from churches about where and when these are running.

The HCT website has been updated. After consultation with some churches, the weekly notices have been reorganised, but the project is ongoing and feedback is welcome.

The following projects covered are some of the wide variety of activities that have been supported by Horsham Churches Together during the last year.

Carols in the Street

The idea was very late in being publicised however several people took up the challenge of inviting a few friends and neighbours on a set date to meet and sing carols in the street. It is hoped that that the idea could be adopted on a wider scale this year.

One Good Friday

This event had to be put on hold again but there are hopes that it will finally happen on Good Friday, 7th April 2023. The steering group has begun to meet recently. HCT are holding funds for One Good Friday but there will not be enough to cover all the costs involved.

The Good Friday Service in the Carfax on 15th April went well with an estimated 400 people attending.

Ukraine Crisis

The following activities have been organised by HCT and are additional to the widespread prayer activities amongst member churches.

Following the Russian invasion, Pop Up Prayer Spaces were held between 8.30 and 9.00 for 4 weeks in the Human Nature Garden in Horsham Park.

A Silent Vigil for peace in Ukraine was held in the Carfax on 22nd March and was led by church and Council leaders. Around 150 people attended.

Led by Lisa Barnett, HCT have worked to provide a coordinated response to the crisis which has encouraged the sharing of resources and experience. Host families have been identified and community support has been set up including drop-in centres and language training sessions. All activities are being delivered in discussion with Horsham Refugee Support Group. The HRSG are also supporting other groups of refugees including those from Afghanistan.

Together in Horsham

This project has been run by the Fegans to support children in Horsham schools who desperately need counselling. More than 100 children have received counselling during a very challenging time. There has been very positive feedback from teachers and counsellors. The funding provided through HCT will last until October after which discussions are taking place on how this worthwhile project could be funded in the future. It is hoped that individual churches will wish to continue their support by developing direct relationships with the Fegans

Horsham Matters

The last few months have been testing as the demand for services including the foodbank have increased. Residents have already begun to feel the impact of cost-of-living increases and need support with the provision of food and fuel.

The Trussell Trust are leading a national campaign to ask the government to do more to help and Horsham Matters are supporting this.

The foodbank continues to advertise any items particularly needed.

The Connecting Café was launched on 8th March at St Andrews Church in Roffey and attendance has been beyond expectations.

ECCO Churches

HCT and ECCO Churches continue to support the Sussex Green Hub which is held every month at the United Reformed Church. The hub brings together a range of environmental services solutions and advice. Karen Park the lead for Horsham ECCO churches has a monthly stand.

The Horsham Community Fridge pop up events have become established across the town including Southwater, Roffey and Holbrook. The purpose of these sessions remains to freely distribute food which would otherwise have gone into land fill.

Libby Risby**April 2022**

K) Report from St. Mary's Primary School



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr A Bird

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Report to PCC

It's so nice to have had the children back in school much more normally this year. Prior to April and the 'Living with Covid' direction from the government, we were still providing remote learning to those effected by covid and indeed like the rest of Horsham had moments of outbreaks when many staff and pupils were off with the illness. However, we do seem to be on a much more 'even keel' at present.

We have spent our Catch-Up funding on employing experienced teachers and tutors in school to tackle gaps in knowledge as identified by each of the class teachers and have seen this have a real impact. That said – like all local schools our children are certainly not yet back where we would have expected them to be if we hadn't had a pandemic (but this is hardly surprising).

Our newly reviewed curriculum was launched in September and a parent friendly version can be viewed on the website – monitoring so far shows it to be bedding in well. Wholesale changes have been made to the new Early Years Framework nationally, which has meant dealing with even more for our great team down there. One of the saddest changes in my opinion is the focus on solely teaching reading through phonics, which is resulting in all school having to invest in the approach of a particular scheme. We are hoping to stick with Song of Sounds, which is currently awaiting governmental approval. The sad thing about just using this approach is the lack of exposure to so many other 'real books' that our children have always enjoyed here – while still maintaining fantastic phonics scores/results. If the scheme is approved, we will need to invest more heavily in the matching Big Cat Phonics books to go with it.

On the premises front much of our spending will sadly go unnoticed this year – as we have had to update electrical systems and fuse-boxes, water heaters and boilers, replace computers to prepare for a Management Information System upgrade. All of which is of course important but doesn't create the same levels of excitement as our new outdoor climbing trail!

On the staffing front, we shortly welcome Mrs Mogridge back from her maternity leave, but will lose Mrs Woods for another maternity cover in September (Mrs Adams will be stepping into the breach here). Our maternity cover Mr Campbell didn't work out as planned this year – so I have been indebted to Mrs Sawyer and Mrs Mellor who've come to our rescue and have provided so well for the children in their care.

Our apprentice teacher has been progressing really well – such that the University Tutor (and Ofsted Inspector visiting her lessons) has said "No targets for improvement!" Our Early Career Teacher Mrs Smith has also settled in tremendously well with the West Sussex Teaching Hub (GLF) commenting on the "strengths in her practice... and the support offered to her from her mentor and other experienced professionals within the school community, recognising the positive impact that this is having on her practice." My thanks to Mr Ellis and Mrs Peel for overseeing her so well.

I should also celebrate the school office team who attended a ceremony in Brighton at the Sussex Teacher of the Year Awards, where they were runners up in the Team of the Year and I was one of three headteachers celebrated in the Headteacher of the Year category.

Pupil numbers

While we were warned that there was a big dip in the birth rate and to expect 20% of EYFS spaces to be vacant in Horsham schools this year – it really does feel very disappointing not to be expecting a full cohort in September. Obviously we can't be sure why this is – whether it was having to cancel open mornings due to covid outbreaks or people feeling they couldn't apply under the church attendees criteria again with so many people not necessarily attending churches in the same way through and to a degree post-pandemic or whether we just need a flashier website, I don't know. I certainly hope it's not down to any sense of decline our reputation!!!!

Clubs

Another factor that may influence school choices is the fact that we don't offer wrap-around care. We have researched this with the main companies that provide this – but it simply isn't economically viable offer them here. I am however, delighted with the quality of the clubs that we have on offer – which really do enrich the children's experiences. Horsham Sports Services have proved very good providers on this front and in addition to their range of sports we also run cookery, tennis, gymnastics, Rhythm Masters (percussion) and Explorers clubs running (Explorers being our children's' CU). This is so well attended we are looking to run to separate clubs during the week from September.

Sports

We are still hoping to get all of our KS2 teachers trained up by the range of Sport Governing bodies to gain coaching awards. But, this is also awaiting these courses being offered face to face once again post-Covid, when I am sure demand will be great! Currently, the main offers of training are online only (which just won't have the same impact).

Worship

St. Mary's Church continues to support the school in providing its weekly 'clergy' assemblies Lisa has managed to alternate the leadership of this between Open the Book and a variety of other speakers from the community (inc. Lee Buck, Linda Baker).

Church Support

As a Church-Aided School, the School does rely on and receive a great deal of support from members of the Parish churches and the Parish clergy team. The financial support in the form of a Deanery Grant is so very much appreciated too and I would like to record our thanks for these things. We are also very blessed by the significant numbers of governors from the St. Mary's congregation who continue to support me so well. For these folks I am so very grateful.

Thank you also to:

Our teaching and support staff who continue to work so very hard to give the children high quality learning opportunities.

The HSA whose financial and community building efforts are very significant for us. They are returning to offering some familiar events such as: an autumnal St Mary's FEST, a Christmas Fayre, St Mary's Got Talent, discos, quiz night, after school ice lolly & uniform sales and new for this year will be the St Mary's Proms!

The school very much values the role the Parish and its churches play in the life of the school and I have really appreciated the sense of community that supports the school so much!

Best wishes

Alex Bird
Headteacher
May 2022