



Papers for the St. Mary's Church
Congregation AGM
23rd April 2023

Also available to read on the church website: www.stmaryshorsham.org.uk

**Annual General Meeting of
St. Mary's Church Congregation and Council**

The AGM will be held in St. Mary's Church
on Sunday 23rd April 2023 after 10am Service

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of AGM held on 28th March 2022
4. Items from the Team Rector including South Aisle Project
5. Reviews of the reports (all included in paperwork)
6. Financial Report
7. Nominations
 - a. Deputy Wardens : St. Mary's(3 vacancies)
 - b. PCC (3 vacancies)
 - c. St. Mary's Church Committee (8 vacancies)
 - d. Deanery Synod (4 vacancies)
8. Chairman's Comments
9. Closing Prayer

Parish of Horsham

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Church Congregation

Held in St. Mary's Church Thursday 28th April 2022

Revd. Lisa Barnett, (Team Rector and chair) along with 36 members of the congregation were present.

Peter Fruin, Morag Davies, Richard Pearson, Nicola Barber, Peter Stockwell, Barbara Stockwell, Revd. Bernard Sinton, Revd. Pat Sinton, Eric Williamson, Trudy Williamson, Stephen Benson, Josephine Benson, Val Burgess, Joyce Brown, Janet Palmart, Linda Goodwin, Paul Goodwin, Linda Emery, Hennie Sleeman, Linda Baker, Jean Mitchell, Vince Mitchell, Laura Fletcher, Sue Keegan, Michael Miles, Carol Stalley, Alistair Inglis-Taylor, Karen Inglis-Taylor, Greg Andrews, Angela Andrews, Sarah White, Graham White, Liz Hawkins, Maureen Muggleton, Nick O'Riordan, Nigel Stalley (acting secretary)

1. Opening Prayer

Revd. Lisa Barnett opened the meeting with a welcome and opening prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Brenda Large, Delysia Hill, Cath Hatton, Linda McLean, Emmanuel Holden, Jenny Holden, Ray Whitehouse, Pam Whitehouse, Keith Burgess, Karen Ind, Chris Sleeman, Andy Wolstenholme, Jude Wolstenholme, Chris O'Riordan.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 20th April 2021

Minutes of the 2021 AGM had been circulated in advance and were available on the Church website. It was agreed that these were a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Review of the reports

Those who had written reports were thanked for writing them. All reports had been circulated in advance and were available to view on the Church website. A question was asked as to whether we would be keeping the projection screen or returning to service/hymn books. Lisa said that it is intended that we keep a screen but that different screen options were being looked at by Sid Lobb to find something that best meets our needs. She explained that it was not the intention to return to service sheets as no one book could provide the range of songs and hymns that we choose to use. There were no further questions and Lisa said that if anyone had any questions later, they could contact her or the Church Secretary Linda McLean by email.

Morag Davies gave thanks for the lives of those from our Church family who had died in 2021 – June Ansell, Sylvia White, Olive Knight, Brenda Cheesmur, Jack Mills, Jean Norton, Margaret Thomas, Sheila Blye, Florrie Arch, Bob Bruford.

6. Finance report

Nicola Barber gave a short presentation in support of her written report. Last year there had been surplus of £42k which was more than had been expected. This was in part due to an increase in revenue from a variety of sources as we had started to open up again after Covid. This surplus had

enabled some monies to be transferred into Fabric funds, as work is envisaged in the coming years once we have had our quinquennial inspections. The great financial response to a Gift Day had enabled works to be carried out in the Church Centre and for improvements to be made to our AV provision in Church. The budget for this year is looking to break even, perhaps with a small surplus. There were no questions. Lisa said that the financial position was encouraging in that having stripped back, we are now in a position to rebuild.

7. Nominations

Deputy Wardens

Cath Hatton, Peter Fruin and Morag Davies were proposed, seconded and duly elected as deputy wardens for St. Mary's. All three are to be proposed as Churchwardens at the APCM. If elected, then the St. Mary's Church Committee will need to appoint three other Deputy Wardens. Linda Emery, Paul Goodwin and Nick O'Riordan are prepared to stand as Deputy wardens if the positions become vacant.

PCC

Three people - Sue Keegan, Nick O'Riordan and Alistair Inglis-Taylor were proposed and supported by the meeting to be elected onto the PCC at the forthcoming APCM.

St. Mary's Church Committee

Five people – Linda Emery, Joyce Brown, Nicola Barber, Hennie Sleeman, Liz Wingett were proposed, seconded and duly elected to serve on the Church Committee. It was agreed that Linda McLean would be co-opted as Church Secretary.

Deanery Synod

There were no new nominations, but St. Mary's do currently have four people on the Deanery Synod.

8. Chairman's Comments

Lisa said that 2021 had been a strange year with Covid restrictions being lifted then reimposed and then lifted again. She said that it was starting to feel that things were returning back to more like they used to be. Our Easter service was a good example of this. Lisa went on to say that she has been encouraged by the Church family welcoming new people and joining in the rebuilding process. Looking forward, 2022 was to be a year of showing hope and the response for help for the people coming from Ukraine has been extraordinary and beautiful to witness. More and more people are coming forward from within the Church family and the wider community to offer help and support to the Ukrainian refugees. Lisa explained that when she arrived, there were two major building projects being planned, one for the Church Centre and one for the South Aisle in Church. Last year saw a scaled down project completed on the Church Centre with new toilets being installed. Now the focus is to be on the South Aisle project. Plans have begun to temporarily remove 15 pews for two years from the South Aisle and the Southwest back corner of the Church. This will enable us to gain a sense of the possible space we could make available for such things as a Creche and refreshments to be provided in that area of the Church. Looking forward we hope to have a Gift Day in 2023 to raise monies to carry out the South Aisle works. A question was asked about what would happen to the pews. Lisa said that for the two-year temporary removal we are looking to store the pews off site in a container. If anyone has space to store a container, please let her know.

Peter Fruin, on behalf of the Churchwardens, pointed out that since Lisa has been in post she has had a very challenging time, with very few months of what might have been described as normal Church life. He went on to offer a vote of thanks to Lisa for her leadership and stewardship during the last year. The meeting showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

9. Closing Prayer

We all joined in by saying the Grace.

Report

Reports for AGM 2023

WORSHIPING AND PRAYING Mission Team

PRAYER REPORT

Our regular prayer meetings and ministry have continued with our monthly Parish Prayer meeting on the 1st Sunday of the month, morning prayer on Tuesdays at 9am and laying on of hands during the 10am Eucharist.

There have also been some specific times during the year to focus our prayers:

Thy Kingdom Come Virtual Prayer Room

A 24-7 prayer rota was set up across Horsham Churches Together between Ascension and Pentecost. The Horsham virtual prayer facebook page was used for people to encourage each other in prayer.

Flower Festival – 70 Glorious Years

Alongside the flower displays, interactive prayer stations for all ages were set up to support and inspire our many visitors to pray.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Members of St. Mary's church again joined alongside members of other churches in daily prayer meetings, culminating in a service at St. Mary's on the Sunday evening.

Read the Bible in a Week

Much prayer went into the preparation of this week and we continue to pray that the words people read during the event and the bible activities which our visitors and children took part in will have taken root and continue to speak to them.

Horsham Churches Together Worship and Prayer

HCT have begun a short series of services to enable and encourage Christians to come together to pray over our town and villages, exploring ways we can walk, serve and work together, making Christ known in our community. The first of these was attended by over 200 people.

Karen Taylor

SERVER'S REPORT

The serving team provides servers for all the main morning Sunday services and additional services as required. We have welcomed several new team members over the last year, including two teenagers, and the team currently has 12 members. We continue to look for new members, and operate with a reduced three person server team for the 10.00 Eucharist services.

The team remains very dedicated, and it is through their support, enthusiastic hard work and commitment that we can help support St Mary's worship.

Chris Button

Choir Report 2022/23

St. Mary's Choir is an integral part of the church and provides a valuable leadership with regards to all aspects of music within the service. As Director of Music it is my job to provide the music to the best of mine and the choirs ability.

In September 2021 we managed to start a junior choir, who, take part in the informal service on the second Sunday of the month. This has slowly been increasing in numbers and of 2023 we have up to 18 joining us on Wednesday evening rehearsals. From that we have managed to move some of them into probationers in the main choir and look forward to more moving up more in due course.

Alongside that, Zoe Eborn and myself together with help from Lisa and Bram staged a version of 'Wizard of Oz' named 'From Horsham to Oz and back', with 38 children from local Horsham schools gave two performances to a packed church on 25th March raising over £700 for charity.

The choir trips we have had to Cathedrals has been a highlight of mine and the choirs. It is always nice to sing and perform in different environments, and in the Summer of 2022 we spent six days singing the services at Exeter Cathedral. Great singing, socializing, team building etc was all fantastic!

A big thankyou to all that took part and especially to Steve and Jo Benson for organizing all the accommodation for us. It is great for the choir to have such a team!

The choir would not run effectively without other key members and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking everyone especially :-

Mike Overend, our Assistant Organist continues to provide excellent support in all areas.

A big thank you to all the ladies who kindly feed us before choral evensongs and important occasions. Jenny Watts for keeping our robes up to date and of the right length. To our Chairman, Steve Benson, our treasurers Jo Benson and Louise Bidlake, Valerie Lintott our choir secretary and Zoe Eborn our social secretary. Also, not forgetting all the choir members, who, without them, we have no choir!

I still think the choir do a fantastic job and the standard of singing remains generally very high. I am looking forward to continuing this for the remainder of 2023

Jeremy Weaver
Director of Music

BELLRINGER'S REPORT

I think we have had a good year we rang for a lot of weddings and we rang or attempted several ¼ Peals.

The bells continue to be well maintained by members of the band.

Several of us continue to help out at Rusper and Lower Beeding who without our help would not be able to ring.

On Practice nights we regularly ring Cambridge and Yorkshire Major, Stedman and Grandsire Caters.

Several of us enjoyed a Tower Dinner in November.

We sent a donation of £100 to Cancer Research instead of sending Christmas Cards.

One Sunday afternoon we showed Children and their Parents around the Belfry and gave a demonstration.

In February 2023 we had an Open Morning when we showed over 60 people around the belfry this was very successful. From the Open Morning and the publicity about Ring for the King we have had several new Recruits along with a returning ringer.

Unfortunately, just after the open morning we had an accident in the belfry resulting in the 4th bell breaking fortunately nobody was hurt. The order for a new bell has been placed and this will be covered by insurance

My thanks must go to the Committee for all they do.

Val Burgess Tower Captain

Flower Arrangers report to St.Mary's AGM

I would like to thank the small group of flower arrangers who every week arrange, water and look after the flowers in our Church.

We have changed where we get the flowers from and this is proving very successful, the flowers are fresher, and we have more choice.

In 2022 we did extra flowers for the Queens Jubilee and this year we will be doing arrangements Red, White and Blue for King Charles Coronation.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join our group no experience necessary.

Val Burgess

GROWING Mission Team

Children & Families Work Report

Sunday Club

This year we have been continuing our journey through the life of Jesus using TrueWay Kids New Testament lessons. Sessions open with the Lord's Prayer, usually a chat about something we're grateful for that week & a mindful moment. Then we have the story, a

related game and finally a craft. We've welcomed a few new families some of whom have become regular members. Numbers fluctuate but on average we have a dozen children.

On the first Sunday of the Easter holidays both children and young people met together for cake decorating and craft which worked very well. We hope to more of this in the future.

We do need some new volunteers to help and I am beginning the new safeguarding procedures with a couple of prospective helpers.

At present we also welcome mum's & babes in arms or toddlers up in the Leslie Room. Hopefully with more volunteer support we will be able to run a creche in the future.

Informal Family Service – 3.30pm

We now have a regular set of families who come along to enjoy songs, stories, prayer and craft along with the very popular tea upstairs afterwards. Those who provide the teas are much appreciated and we hope to get some new faces to come along and help with that.

First Holy Communion Course

Which was held last Spring @ St Mary's and had over 10 children taking the course and being part of at Special All Age service to receive their first Communion.

Little Footprints

Josie Collis, who has done a sterling job of leading the toddlers group stepped down recently as her daughter has outgrown the group. She is also about to start lambing and has invited the families from the Informal Service to visit her farm once they are born. Most of the other volunteers have also stepped away as their children are too old to attend now. Although some new volunteers have come forward there is at present no one to administer the group apart from me as yet.

School, Beavers & Cubs Visits

During the Bible Marathon we were pleased to welcome St John's, Arunside and St Mary's Schools into church to enjoy the various activities and learn more about the bible.

QE11 school have also visited church along with a couple of Beavers and Cub Scout groups. I went into Kingslea to talk to year 2 about Easter.

As always, we hold services at the end of term for St Mary's Pre-school & School.

The church comes alive when these young people visit and it is a privilege to give them a taste of what it means to be a Christian and to show them our beautiful church.

Christmas Nativity Service

As usual our two nativity services were extremely well attended. Many of our regular church children presented the story of Christmas and we all enjoyed making a craft, lighting candles and singing carols together.

Good Friday Family Activity Morning

We welcomed 70 children and their families into church for creative prayer, Easter garden making, Holy Week calendar colouring and an Easter Egg Hunt. Lisa got us off to a great start with her presentation and an action song before everyone dispersed to the various activities.

Open the Book

Delysia continues to do an amazing job leading the team. Throughout the year we have continued to present bible stories involving the children on a fortnightly basis.

Church Team Assemblies at St Mary's School

Alternating with Open the Book the church team (Zoe, Lee, Christine, Linda & Sam) have been going into school to present an assembly on a Wednesday on the school's theme of the week.

We are excited that starting from next term we will be working more closely with the new headteacher, Emma Mclaughlin to present a more cohesive programme.

Messy Church at Holy Trinity

I was pleased to open the worship at Holy Trinity's recent Messy Church by telling the Easter story using a collection of props concluding with a Hosanna procession. (Which incidentally I presented to the Informal Service, QEII School, St Mary's Pre-school)

Horsham Churches Together Collaborations

We enjoyed being central to last summer's Royal celebrations in the Carfax as part of Horsham Churches Together. The stall was crowded with happy families from the time we set up to the end of the day. Children decorated crowns with jewels and drew a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II for a competition judged by the new leader of Horsham District Council. We used up all 300 craft crowns and ended up with a wonderful display of portraits of the late Queen.

On May 7th we will be involved again with the Carfax celebrations at the Horsham Churches Together stall to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

Flower Festival

Sunday Club was involved with doing an arrangement for the Celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

Future plans

Lee and I will be holding a joint Sunday Club/The Core on 16th April during the 10am service up in the Leslie Room. This is a precursor to our exciting plans to meet together in the Barn for a celebration involving both children and teenagers.

We're also planning a volunteer evening to drum up some much-needed support for our work.

Linda Baker Children's & Families Worker

Youth work 2022

Overview

In 2022 we said goodbye to our intern Ruby who helped serve the for youth for 2 years. We have been able to slowly grow with our volunteers and start to rebuild our youth work. We have had our first camps and retreats since 2019 and been able to engage this year more than we have previously. 2022 has been a great foundation for us to continue to grow our youth work.

Outreach

We have continued to run our youth club while having some support from young leaders who are volunteering for DofE (Duke of Edinburgh) We have continued to grow a core group of young people who have enjoyed attending week in and week out.

This year we finished our first ever D of E Bronze group. They all passed and 6 of 7 have signed up for Silver. We are also offering Bronze to our young people and have another 7 signed up for 2022/23. Doing DofE allows us to build rapport while walking and teaching them. It's a huge bonus that we can offer such a great service to our young people.

We also started a Girls group for year 9+. We have a lot of them spread around Churches and different groups. So we put together girls group to help link them all instead of them having no idea who each other are. We have gone for pudding as Kaspas, rollerblading and Christmas shopping. We have had between 6 – 12 girls attend the sessions. The girls that attend do enjoy it and we have seen friends be invited along.

We have started a lunchtime club at Milais secondary. We see 10 – 15 young people come and join us. A few our those in youth group of DofE. We are starting to get to know others as well as the staff at Milais. We are hoping this can lead to more work happening at Milais. They also promote TGIs (youth group) in form time and on screens around the school.

Towards the end of the year, we started board games and pizza after Church at St Mary's. We are trying to bring those we engage with at youth club and other outreach groups and get them into the Church on a Sunday morning. This is new but numbers have been good and have interest from other youth that would like to attend.

Religious activities

We have started and finished a youth Alpha course which saw 14 young people finish, the Bible Course with Mark Lavendar. Both have helped educate young people about Jesus and God plan. We also took a group away to lodge hill activity centre to finish our youth alpha course.

Our once-a-month youth service café Connect has slowly been growing. We saw a huge drop in numbers after Covid and struggled to get numbers up. We have now been linking in with other groups like Warnham and Southwater to join us. We hope to have Holbrook and Rudgwick join us soon. We now see 20 young people attend these services. Wendy Andrews has started leading worship for us and our leaders have started to grow. We have also

started getting another young person involved in leading worship. Café connect is full of games, food, worship, prayer, biblical topics and discussions.

At St Marys we have our Sunday school called The Core. We meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. We have had some amazing young people join us who are now regular servers at the 4th Sunday. We look at Characters of the Bible, themes young people want to cover and offer a place for prayer. We do struggle with leaders and regular commitment from the young people. We are however trying to get a core group together to help this thrive.

During the Easter period we had an Easter walk for 2 hours. We were joined by a few young people who enjoyed walking with us. We used this time to speak with them and grow our rapport with them. It has been requested again for next year. We also had a cinema evening in the chapel. We watched the Case for Christ which is about a true story and a journalist trying to disprove the resurrection. We felt this fitted quite well. Its full of evidence, professional insight, and the struggle to believe. This was of course done with popcorn and milkshakes.

Camps

We had 2 camps and 1 retreat this year. In May we attended May camp for the first time since 2019, I had just started the week before. For our team and young people, it was a first ever. We took 34 young people and we were able to take 4 Ukrainian young people with us. A great time was had by all. We received worship, prayer, discussions seminar and teaching about God. Loads of excitement is already in place for next years camp. We also had a service in St Marys and St Johns celebrating the good work God has done.

In the summer we attended DTI (Dream the impossible) We used to attend Soul Survivor which most of you would have heard. Sadly, they stopped in 2019. We decided to try DTI and took a small group of 3 young people with us. However, the impact it had on that group. We have seen one of them wanting to be confirmed, attending Church and our other groups. As well as another stepping forward for confirmation and delivering a seminar at our retreat. We heard about healing and how important prayer is. There is already word spreading for this years summer camp.

Our last big event was the October retreat. This was suggested by a young person at DTI. We then got on with getting others involved and going off what they want from the retreat. They asked for 2 worship sessions a day. We had 3 seminars a day delivered by Lee, Gemma, Rob Dillingham, Andy Poole and 3 of our amazing young people. Its amazing to see them preach the gospel to their peers. We were also joined by Warnham, which has helped grow relationships between the groups. This of course went with nerf wars, late nights cinema, pranks, dodgeball and loads of other shenanigans. We did a feedback form and 19 of those that attended would like to do it again in 2023. We also had a good outcome for those feeling closer to God.

All in all 2022 has been a great foundation for our youth work. Young people are already signing up for may camp and want to know where we are doing the retreat. Routine is

kicking in and we are looking forward to the year ahead. I would like to take a moment to thank the PCC for my role here in the parish. It has been lovely to serve Horsham and BBH. I would also like to thank those on our youth team. Without them none of the above can happen. Thank you!

Lee Buck

I would very much like to give my personal thanks to Lee and Linda for the wonderful work they both do individually and together with all the Youth, Children and Families in this Ministry. Also for the volunteers who, as Lee says in his report, without them a lot of this work wouldn't happen.

(Cath Hatton PCC Children & Youth)

St Mary's Pre-School Report

2022 was a very busy year with training and new projects and also reintroducing some of the positive things we had needed to stop because of COVID.

By the end of the summer term 2022, we had 47 children cared for by 13 staff. 22 of these children went on to 8 different local schools in September.

The number of children for the Autumn Term was again low with 36 as at 31st December 2022. We are now up to 47 children again and with existing children taking on more sessions, we are now full.

As a result of these large fluctuations in take up across the year, we have decided to offer fewer sessions in the Autumn term in 2023 (at least until most of the initial sessions are full) and offer extra sessions in January and April as more children become entitled to funding. We hope this will limit the effect these fluctuations have on our finances.

2 staff members completed the Early Years Teacher Status training in July. One of these is now working at Collyer's but has remained with us as our SENCO in the short term. The other one has been able to take on more responsibility in the setting as a result of her qualification. The course was packed with knowledge and ideas which are gradually being shared with all staff and implemented for the pre-school.

Staff are feeling more confident in their knowledge of child development as a result of the Area Improvement Board project. Again, there are further ideas from this which will be implemented over the next couple of years.

Challenges are the low levels of funding and the long waiting lists for additional support for children with additional needs such as speech and language therapy.

We had a fun Nativity Service in Church at Christmas and at this and the two Christmas social events, it seemed as if there was more of a 'community feel' returning to pre-school. We have changed our mid-term services to be a joint one with the reception class from St.

Mary's where the children get to find out more about the church and what it is all about in an informal way. The first couple of these have been very successful. At our Easter service, the children were extremely enthusiastic singing the Easter songs and, having heard the Easter story in pre-school sessions as well, the older ones were keenly talking about it and asking questions, wanting to know more.

A few quotes from parents:

St Mary's preschool - you rock! You do everything so well, I have loved being part of your community, my children could not have been in better hands, they have gained so much confidence and richness of life spending their time with you. Thank you so much.

All staff create a calming and happy environment and are always happy and friendly. Also pre-school is a safe and playful environment.

Keep doing all your amazing work! St Mary's really is a wonderful nursery setting thanks to all the great staff.

Thoughtful staff who genuinely care, and who make every effort to build rapport and relationship with each child (and parents too)

All the Preschool staff really helped our child to improve his communication. He is coming out from his shell and opening up. He started writing on his own. He narrates imaginary stories.

Thank you for all your support. Karen Taylor

BUILDING AND FABRIC

Parish Fabric summary annual report for 2022

1. This report covers the outcomes and plans for St Mary's Church & Church Centre.

Team composition: Dan Britton (Premises Manager), 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 was successfully restored in May 2022.

Quotations for the structural stabilisation of the Hoo Memorial canopied tomb have been obtained and we are seeking funding for the works.

Deterioration of the Horsham stone roof of the church, in the form of continual spalling and erosion of mortar, continues. A significant hole has been given a patch repair and this will be fully repaired in 2023.

We have been granted a Provisional Faculty for the temporary removal of some pews in the South Aisle until 17 August 2023. This has enabled archaeological inspections to be made beneath the raised timber deck, revised plans drawn up by JDClarke architects of Eastbourne and a formal cost estimate produced by QS Harrabin of Handcross. A Confirmatory Faculty for the removal of all 20 pews in the South Aisle is in preparation.

2.2 Audio Visual

The pandemic provided the catalyst for live streaming of selected congregational services and this has continued. An automated, rising projection screen has been installed at the main altar and it functions well.

2.3 Churchyard

Through the Ecochurch/Caring for God's Acre initiatives, we continue to meet 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

There remains a need to renovate the carpeting, and the underlying latex substrate over the greater part of the floor of St Peter's Chapel: it has proven difficult to obtain acceptable quotations for this work but it will be progressed in 2023.

We have seen increased usage of the Church Centre in 2022, returning to pre-pandemic levels, and it has formed a vital and continuing part of the integration of Ukrainian refugees into Horsham District following the intensification of the Ukraine-Russia conflict in February 2022 .

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. This required a Planning Change of Use and the process has become stalled by the intervention of Natural England in requiring HDC to demonstrate water neutrality in non-domestic planning applications. Despite numerous letters to HDC,

councillors and our MP, this has proven to be a difficult obstacle to overcome. Nevertheless, in July 2022 a water meter was installed by Southern Water so that actual usage can potentially be monitored and behaviours adjusted in accordance with the aims of Natural England.

3.3 Sound Transmission

Working with our party-wall neighbours at 31 Causeway, we installed a trial acoustic panel in November 2022. Tests have shown that the acoustic panel works and this will enable a permanent installation to hopefully be installed in 2023, subject to agreement with HDC Conservation officers.

4. Energy use and carbon footprint

In 2021 the PCC endorsed the General Synod's aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A particular challenge has been that the Parish has eight fossil fuel-based heating systems across its five buildings, of which only one can be considered modern and efficient. Through the year all of our heating systems have required repair and careful attention, against a backdrop of changes to Faculty rules in mid 2022 that no longer permit a straightforward like-for-like replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems.

We were 'insulated' from energy price rises in 2022, despite the rapid rise in commercial energy prices, due to our low price contracts with existing suppliers. However those contracts expire in mid 2023 and considerable rises in energy costs are anticipated for the final quarter of 2023.

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

2019 2020 2021 2022

St Mary's

Church Gas (kWh) 262000 122000 168000 180000

Electricity (kWh) 16800 10500 10200 13000

Church

Centre Gas (kWh) 100000 59000 50000 91200

Electricity (kWh) 10500 7500 7600 9200

Total Carbon footprint 73 tonnes 37.5 tonnes 44.5 tonnes 55.3 tonnes

2019 2020 2021 2022

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.

The Fabric team is committed to drawing up a plan for the logical phasing out of as many of our fossil-fuel heating systems as possible over the next eight years.

Nick O'Riordan

9 March 2023

CARING Mission Team

Caring across the parish is going well, we have good contact links with Holy Trinity and St. Leonard's and working as a team. As a parish we are now visiting several of the nursing homes to deliver a service of Holy Communion, also taking Communion to church family who are now housebound. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who may benefit from this.

We have lovely trained pastoral visitors who give their time and talents, with much love, to visit those who are sick or housebound for any reason.

Recently several pastoral ministers have attended training workshops run by Rev. Steve Gurr dealing with bereavement support and we have another session booked in June on "Self care."

As a result of this training we have reinstated the bereavement support group "Stepping Stones"

This will be an informal coffee morning open to anyone recently bereaved to offer friendship and support. The first meeting will be in the Leslie Room on May 4th starting at 10.30.

The prayer chain is still ongoing with requests for prayer in the event of any sickness, bereavement, sudden emergency etc. Very quickly some thirty intercessors will be holding the request up in prayer. We have to make sure that any requests adhere to GDPR, there must be a connection to St. Mary's and known to us, also permission from the person concerned or their next of kin.

With prayers for the sick again complying with GDPR we only give the Christian names. The list is long at the moment as those named are receiving long term treatment.

Prayer Ministry at the 10o'clock service is available for anyone needing prayer for themselves or others.

The Caring Team would welcome new members, to support each other and create new ideas for going forward in looking after each other. A DBS check is required for any pastoral work.

ST. MARY'S ALMSHOUSE REPORT

St. Mary's Almshouse provides ten, one bedroom flats at a beneficial rate. One flat is occupied by the Resident Warden. The accommodation is split between east and west houses situated on Normandy. The flats cater for the older person of limited means, still wishing to lead an independent lifestyle. St Mary's Almshouse is a separate, registered charity, run by Trustees who are in post by virtue of their office: the vicar and three churchwardens, plus a co-opted Trustee. This report is an opportunity on behalf of the church family to thank all those who help in the running of St. Mary's Almshouse. Thanks go out again to our Resident Warden, Joanne Kinsley-Smith. Her diligence ensures the

almshouse runs smoothly. Joanne and her partner Gill, also take responsibility for the garden. One cannot fail to notice the well-kept gardens and planters, when in full bloom, outside west house on Normandy. We receive numerous compliments for Joanne and Gill from the residents. Joanne is on call for our residents, seven days a week. A number of works were carried out in 2022: • The failed rendering on the west wall of East House was completely replaced • New French doors were installed to the Resident Warden's flat • The kitchens in Flats 14 and 15 were refurbished with new sink-unit cupboards, new sinks, new worktops and replacement tiling • Flat 15 was redecorated • The barge boards & window frames were redecorated on East house west wall • Essential tree surgery was carried out • The carpets were replaced in Flat 4 • A new washing machine was installed in the Laundry room. Thanks must also go to Linda Goodwin, our Pastoral visitor, who regularly visits the residents with a listening and caring ear. Thank you to Janet & Clive Palmart, our honorary treasurers, who maintained the accounts in 2022. Our treasurer team also assists the residents with benefits claims. The Almshouse accounts are independently examined by Mark Thompson (Kestrel Accounting). Finally, a vote of thanks to our Clerk to the Trustees, Michael Miles.

Steve Benson, Co-opted Trustee

ST MARY'S MIDWEEK WELCOMER'S REPORT 2022

I am extremely grateful to each voluntary member of our St Mary's Welcomer's team for their individual gifts, each of them brings to this important Ministry and for their time. The fellowship and caring for each other in this team are wonderful. It is a privilege to work amongst them all.

We have had a busy year, greeting many visitors through our open St Mary's doors, through all weathers! Many people from our own Horsham Community, however some from many places around the world. Some of the most memorable times being, the celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and then sadly commemorating and giving thanks for Her Majesty The Queen, weeks later on the news of her death.

Many of our Welcome team also volunteered to do extra slots during the Flower Festival, and during the recent Bible Marathon whilst also making sure the side chapel was fully manned, for full days, so visitors could pay their respects to our late majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

Thank you to you all.

Cath Hatton

SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's Safeguarding Team consisting of St Mary's Safeguarding Officer, St Mary's Safeguarding Training Officer & the PCC Safeguarding Officer have met with both Holy

Trinity's & St Leonard's Safeguarding Officers three times (termly) since the last St Mary's AGM. 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. In January 2023 Jude Wolstenholme, as the replacement St Mary's Safeguarding Officer covering DBS applications as Lead Recruiter, joined the team when Alex Fletcher stepped down. Also, Laura Fletcher as another Lead Recruiter will assist with DBS applications in terms of ID verification if necessary.

The Training Officer has been putting in a tremendous effort & has been working hard to ensure that those requiring training/updates of previous training is undertaken. On three occasions both she & the PCC Secretary facilitated those requiring assistance to complete their online training thus ensuring an inclusive & flexible approach. Nevertheless, there are still 38 people at the time of writing this report who need to undertake Safeguarding training respective to their role. St Mary's Safeguarding Officer 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. St Mary's Safeguarding Officer will be checking through ChurchSuite to ensure both DBSs & the recording of the same are up to date.

Both training & DBS checks are key to ensuring we have a safe & caring church. 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. 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.

St Mary's SQP was reviewed by the Team Rector, the Team Vicar (Holy Trinity & St Leonard's), the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) & the Youth worker on 5th December 2022. This resulted in a few actions to further increase safety across the Team Parish including a review of recruitment processes & procedures. Another action was obtaining a printed copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook which is now situated near the welcome desk in St Mary's church. This will enable anyone, especially newcomers, to refer to it should the need arise.

Since the AGM of 2021 there has been one potential Safeguarding issue which has been dealt with & has 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 St Mary's Safeguarding Officer (previous & current), St Mary's Safeguarding Training Officer & the PCC Secretary for all their assistance/efforts as well as all those who have completed their training &/or obtained DBS clearance in the past year.

Linda Goodwin - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Serving Mission Team

Mission Partners for 2023

In August 2022 our church family were invited to make suggestions for Mission Partners in 2023. These were reviewed by our team who then made a proposal to the Church Committee. The Church Committee then approved the following Mission Partners for 2023.

- Lent Lunches – Roundabout Talking News (Local)
- Harvest gifts – Family Support Work (Local)
- Harvest donations – Engineering Ministries International (Global)
- Christmas Appeal – Home for Good (National)

Details about our Mission Partners can be found in the 2023 Mission Partners booklet, available in Church. The booklet also gives suggestions other organisations that people might like to consider supporting. The notice board at the back of Church is regularly updated by Hennie Sleeman which gives details of the Mission Partners we are currently supporting.

Rob Quail, from Engineering Ministries International, came and introduced himself and his wife Helen at our Epiphany Service in January 2023. Rob and Helen were in the UK for Christmas before heading back out to Nicaragua where they will be at Harvest time.

Our Lent Lunches in 2023 were again very popular and raised over £500.00, which will be given to Roundabout Talking News. We are very grateful to the teams, from across our Church family, who came along and prepared the food and provided hospitality each week. Thank you to Hennie for co-ordinating the Lent Lunch teams

Objectives for 2023

To continue to support and help to re-develop the regular hospitality activities and teams – Sunday Lunches, Coffee Mornings, coffee after Sunday services, Welcome Teas for newcomers, and to consider setting up other hospitality events such as afternoon teas for wedding couples.

To seek to develop greater engagement with our Mission Partners.

To encourage more social events to take place. A Quiz evening has been planned and it is hoped to have one of our popular Jazz evenings later in the year. A concert by Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Plinio Fernandes is being planned in conjunction between Horsham Music Circle and the Loiyangalani Trust (who we supported back in 2021) for 28th September 2023.

Looking forward, the Serving MAP Team would like to plan a few events that are likely to appeal to the wider Horsham community, with the emphasis on community engagement, and break-even rather than directly raising money.

We would love to have a few more people on our Serving MAP team, so if you would be interested in joining us, please speak to one of us or contact the Church office.

DEEPENING Mission Team

Homegroups have continued to flourish, with 7 groups now in operation with members of St. Mary's of which one new group started in January 2023.

Of these 3 meets during the daytime and 4 in the evening. There are a limited number of spaces available for any potential new joiners. Anyone who provides their details to welcomers in church is given further information about home groups in case they would like to learn more.

In addition, a number of courses have taken place across the Parish:

- A course for new Christians was run in November 2022 and some of the attendees have gone on to join homegroups as well as becoming regular church attendees
- The Diocesan Lent course based upon characters from the Old Testament ran twice a week across March/April 2023

Anyone interested in joining a homegroup should email:

homegroups@horshamstmarys.org.uk

Linda Emery – Home Group Co-ordinator

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HEALTH & SAFETY

Accidents/Incidents

Our accident reporting system has recorded a number of accidents that occurred during the year, all of which were subject to a completed accident report form. These accidents have been investigated and, where appropriate, changes made.

Injuries sustained were in all cases minor, requiring first aid treatment only but in one case where a fall occurred off church premises in Normandy, the casualty, a member of our congregation, was driven to A&E by car.

First Aiders

A preliminary review has been conducted regarding the provision of first aiders across ST Mary's activities which revealed that we have a more than adequate total number of first aiders. However, the availability of first aiders in some activity groups could be improved, and this is being scoped at present.

Risk Assessments

Several risk assessments for offsite activities were approved by the PCC during the year. These relate to offsite activities undertaken by the Youth and Ukrainian Families Group as well as the St Mary's Choir.

No changes were made to any other existing risk assessments nor were any new risk assessments required.

Post Covid Service patterns

Service patterns have now returned to pre-Covid arrangements, and all restrictions lifted.

Covid is still present within our communities, and it has affected some church family members during 2022. Testing is now a matter of personal choice, but hand sanitizers continue to be available in church at the north door.

Church and Barn cleaning routines, whilst scaled back from the height of the pandemic, continue to be thorough and robust. Our thanks to John and the team at Atlantic Cleaning.

Further Covid-related action is not anticipated.

Peter Fruin - 18/04/23

TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 Results for St Mary's

The financial results for the Parish attributable to St Mary's are summarised in the following pages – we have shown the income and expenditure for 2022 compared to the 2023 budget in the form of pie charts to pictorially show the results and budget.

In Summary:

| | 2022 Actuals | 2022 Budget | 2022 Variance to Budget | 2023 Budget |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Income | £303,518 | £268,223 | £35,295 | £305,128 |
| Expenditure | £277,334 | £265,002 | -£12,332 | £296,468 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | £26,184 | £3,221 | £22,963 | £8,660 |

As a Parish we entered 2022 with a welcome surplus generated in 2021, circa £23,000 more than budgeted which undoubtedly helped with the increase in costs this past year, but as can be seen in the table above, we closed 2022 with a surplus of just over £26,000.

Planned & Other Giving income was £20,000 higher than budget, Rental & Earned Income was £4,800 higher than budget, Other Income was £10,800 higher than budget. Strong Q4 Hall & Church hire/lettings contributed to the increase in income.

Overall expenditure was higher than budget. Staff costs were higher than budget due to new staff and changes in the employees' working patterns. Buildings & Grounds expenditure was circa £11,000 lower. Youth expenses was £3,500 higher than budget, partly offset by grant income received. Significant organ repair works have been delayed to 2023 with plans to raise funds to cover this.

The final surplus for 2022 was £26,184, which, whilst around 60% of the surplus we entered the year with, this certainly was a great achievement following the unforeseen cost of living increases over the year.

In addition to our general funds, at the Year End the balances were held in the following restricted or designated funds:

| St Mary's Funds | As at 31-Dec-22 |
|---|------------------------|
| St Mary's Chancel Income | £7,703 |
| St Mary's Fabric Fund Restricted | £17,193 |
| St Mary's Fabric Fund Designated | £66,323 |
| St Mary's Restricted | £55,268 |
| St Mary's Church Centre Refurbishment | £5,441 |
| St Mary's Audio Visual Restricted | £565 |
| St Mary's Audio Visual Designated | £500 |
| St Mary's Organ Fund Restricted | £3,414 |
| St Mary's Organ Fund Designated | £691 |
| St Mary's Pre-School accumulated surplus Restricted | £23,280 |
| St Mary's Pre-School Fundraising Restricted | £14,121 |
| St Mary's Pre-School Hardship Restricted | £187 |
| St Mary's Music Restricted | £1,375 |
| St Mary's Youth Fund | £435 |
| St Mary's Youth Festival | £611 |
| Church Hall refurbishment designated | £81,578 |
| Total | £278,685 |

The St Mary's Restricted Fund benefited from a legacy of £50,000 during the year which is to be applied towards the reordering of the South Aisle.

2023 Budget

We are budgeting for a smaller surplus of £8,660 for the current financial year for St Mary's.

Regular stewardship is holding up notwithstanding the continued financial pressures that many are facing. Lisa's Money Sunday in January was extremely successful increasing regular giving commitments by £265 per month (equating to an additional £3,180 per annum). The South Aisle appeal has also raised £37,000 of the £50,000 target (to be added to the £50,000 legacy, for a total target of £100,000).

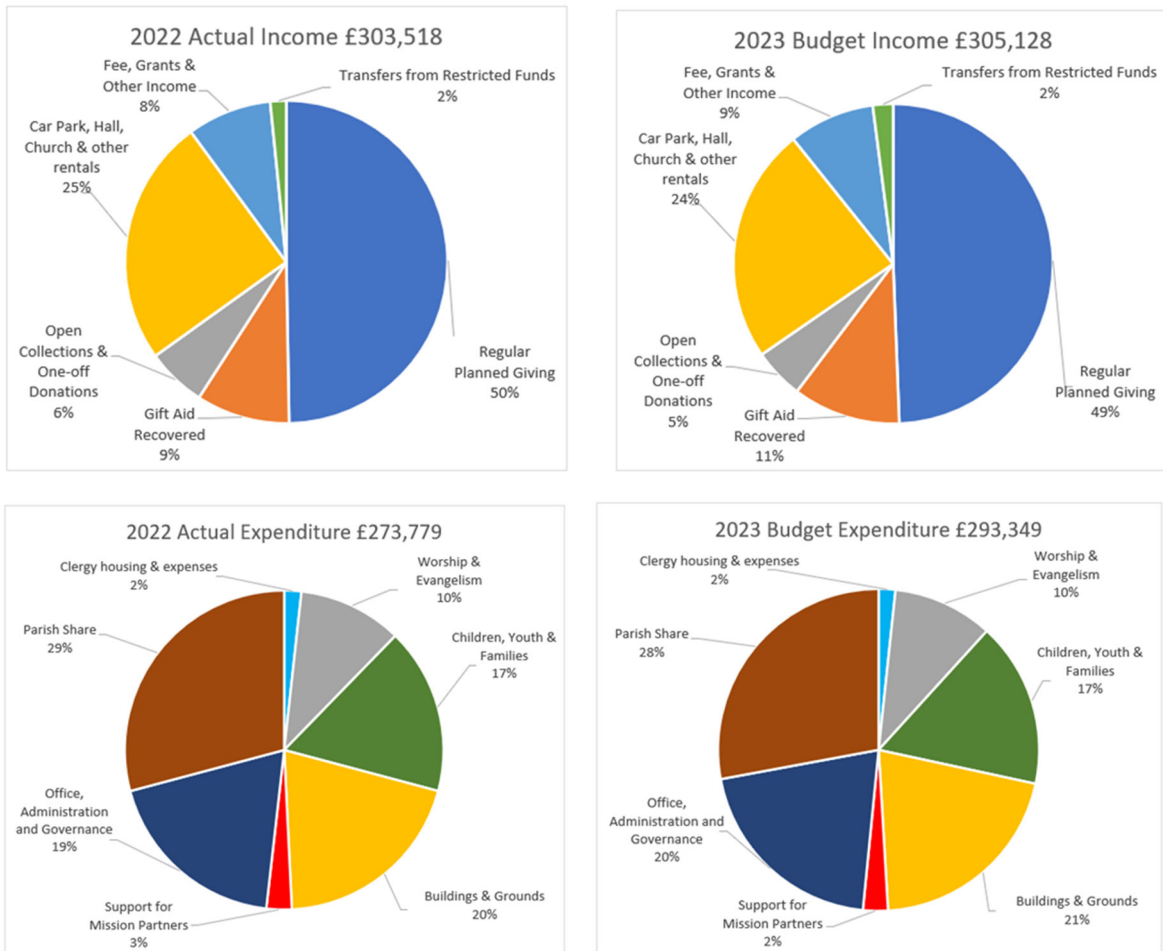
Nicola Barber

St Mary's Treasurer

Greg Andrews

PCC Treasurer

St Mary's Church – 2022 Actuals v 2023 Budget



Eco Church report

Team members: Richard Herrington, Nick O’Riordan, Hennie Sleeman.

Stephen Barnett has been a valued member of the Team until February this year, and we should like to express our appreciation for his contribution, especially to the churchyard wildlife survey last June.

Achievements in 2022

Information and communication

This remains work in progress but there is now an Eco Church web page on the St Mary’s website and some Eco Church information on a noticeboard in church. We have created a St Mary’s Eco Ideas leaflet (copy on the noticeboard) giving information about local resources and services which can help us all contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle. We are also

trailing a monthly Eco Church Newsletter, intended to go out alongside alternate church Newsletters with a few printed copies available at the Welcome Desk.

Churchyard wildlife survey

On June 4th 2022 the Eco Church Team organised a “Bioblitz” Wildlife survey in the churchyard. Members of the church family were supported by scientists from the Natural History Museum and some local conservationists to hunt for and identify plants, birds, insects etc to help us understand the biodiversity on our church land. A total of 155 different species of flowering plants and 48 species of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) were identified, as well as many old and interesting trees. Many thanks to Richard for his scientific expertise in organising the event, and for enrolling his expert botanist colleagues to help with species identification.

Lifestyle questionnaire

During the autumn we created a personal Lifestyle Questionnaire, made available to the congregation as a way of encourage interest in sustainable living and suggest ways in which individuals and households can contribute. There were 49 responses, heavily weighted towards the older demographic in the congregation and with no responses from the under 30’s. The results suggest the majority already consider an ethical lifestyle is part of living out their Christian faith. Sermons, eco-related talks, newsletter articles and church activities were by far the most popular activities felt likely to inspire a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Spring talks

A series of three talks was organised on Wednesday evenings in February, covering

- The use of global natural resources, the challenge of net zero carbon for governments and industries, and the positive impact individual choices can make,
- Biodiversity in Horsham,
- The challenge of net zero carbon by 2030 for Horsham Parish.

These were very well supported and provoked a lot of discussion and interest. The slides from all three talks are now on the web page for anyone who missed them.

Community engagement

St Mary’s is actively linked into the Horsham Eco Churches wing of Horsham Churches Together. Hennie has attended regular joint meetings during the year and helped to support the Horsham Eco Churches stand at the monthly Sussex Green Hub. She also contributed to a “Treasure, Safeguard and Care for Creation” Day Conference at St Mark’s Holbrook last October with a brief presentation about our Bioblitz.

Objectives for 2023

1. Review St Mary’s profile on the A Rocha Eco Church Survey. We are registered on the scheme, and have made progress in many areas over the last 12 months. It remains an unmet objective from last year to meet the criteria to apply for a Bronze Award.

2. Continue to improve and develop website, newsletters, general information sharing with the congregation
3. Consider another wildlife survey this spring / summer – perhaps bugs or bats.
4. Another short series of talks, or perhaps film nights, in the autumn
5. Increase the number of people in the Team!

Hennie Sleeman