



HOLY
TRINITY
CHURCH

Holy Trinity Church

Benefice of the Cookhams

Annual Parochial Meeting, 2023

**To be held in the Church
at 12.00pm on
Sunday 23rd April**

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Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 12.00 Sunday 23 April 2023

The election of two churchwardens to serve for the ensuing year.

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 23 April 2023

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 3 April 2022
3. Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll
4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022
5. The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2022
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of 4 representatives to the Deanery Synod from 2023 to 2026
8. Election of up to 15 PCC members (less Deanery Synod representatives)
9. Update on vacancy process
10. Any other business – by leave of the Chairman

Closing prayers

Date of the first PCC meeting: Following the APCM there will be a short meeting of the new PCC to elect the Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chair, and to agree membership of committees and trustee bodies

Date of next APCM: Sunday 14 April 2024



Holy Trinity, Cookham

Benefice of the Cookhams, Diocese of Oxford

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, 12.00 Sunday 3 April 2022

There was Fr Nick Plant and 24 parishioners in attendance at the meeting.

The election of two churchwardens to serve for the ensuing year.

Fr Nick proposed that disqualification of churchwardens after 6 years' service does not apply to this church. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

Fr Nick thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

He advised that nominations for the election of Churchwardens had been received from Mark Stockdale (after 6 years of service) and Bernadette Clark. Both were unanimously elected, Fr Nick thanked them for their work during the year.

The meeting closed 12.10.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 3 April 2022

1.	Apologies for absence Shirley Gostling, Bernadette Clarke, David Gaselee, Karel Spelina and Jennette Spelina.
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 4 July 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 4 July 2021 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Colin Tushingham, seconded by Malcolm Sturges.
3.	Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll Malcolm Sturges reported that the number on the electoral roll is 220 of which 80 do not live in the Parish. That is an increase of 9 within and 4 outside the Parish. Thanks were extended to Malcolm Sturges for his work.
4.	Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 The Treasurer gave a summary of the accounts included in the pack which had been scrutinised by the independent examiner. The accounts were approved at last PCC meeting and the examiner has agreed that they could be signed, although that has not taken place. He highlighted the assets, in cash assets and restricted funds and advised that the general fund had increased due to a legacy and income has exceeded expenditure. The increase in income was due to no vacancies in the flats or Broomhill, caravan rentals, Parish Centre activity, weddings and funerals and standing order donations. Thanks were extended to Tim Sharples.
5.	The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2020 Fr Nick advised that an essential part of the meeting is to receive the Deanery Synod annual report which begins on 8 in booklet. The report was received and acknowledged.

	<p>Other reports received were the Baptism and Baptism preparation and reports from the PCC committees and working groups including the stewardship report. He advised that there is a backlog of baptisms and individual services have been introduced. Services on Sunday evenings are under constant review by ministry team.</p> <p>Reports were also received from the Bell ringers, Ministry of Welcome, Churchyard and Estate Trusteeships and other community interests, Verger and Sacristan, Servers, Choirs and music, Safeguarding, Sunday School, Trinity Nippers, Open Minds, Cookham Kids Holiday Club, Ladies' Group, Men's Breakfast, Whitechapel Mission, The Darby Pension Fund, Pastoral Network, Rendezvous and Holy Trinity Schools with the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Welcome has not been reinstated as yet • Servers not in place at present • Sunday Club is resuming with stringent safeguarding guidelines • Trinity Nippers continues to be popular • Whitechapel Mission – the church is not directly involved at present. <p>The reports were accepted by all, proposed by Nicola Stingelin, and seconded by Colin Tushingham.</p>
6.	Appointment of Independent Examiner
	<p>Fr Nick thanked the independent examiner Roger Groeneweg for his work on examining the accounts and requested nominations for him to continue in this role which he is willing to do.</p> <p>Proposed by Tim Sharples and seconded by Mike Clark.</p>
7.	Election of 2 representatives to the Deanery Synod
	<p>Fr Nick advised that nominations have been received for Bernadette Clark and David Harrold. Further nominations were invited (up to 4), but none were forthcoming.</p> <p>Bernadette Clark and David Harrold were duly elected.</p>
8.	Election of 12 PCC members
	<p>Fr Nick advised that the Churchwardens, Clergy, and Deanery Synod representatives were ex officio members of the PCC with elected members making a total of 12. He thanked Colin Tushingham and Val Eckett who are stepping down for their contribution over the years.</p> <p>David Harrold highlighted the need for younger members of the congregation to join the PCC for succession planning and requested that parishioners spread this message.</p>
9.	Vicar's Reflection
	<p>Fr Nick extended his thanks by name to all those who have helped in the various roles within the Church and the community and for sharing their commitment to this Church, particularly during these challenging times. The Churchwardens and Parish Administrator have gone the extra mile during the pandemic. He thanked all for attending this meeting.</p> <p>He advised that slow process has been made since the outbreak of Covid and generous legacies have resulted in a financial surplus but those had not been received this would have resulted in a loss.</p> <p>The Church is open daily with an 8am service once month, evening Sunday services and Baptisms being held outside the regular Sunday services.</p> <p>A Remembrance service was held at the memorial and continued to the Church and the crib services and walk past seems a new way forward.</p> <p>Meetings continue via Zoom and in person and in person services.</p>

	<p>Fr Nick echoed the need younger people on the PCC to bring innovative ideas and advised that young families have joined the Church. He asked that we extend encouragement to these young families to make a commitment and for the need to be competitive and courageous for the sake of God's world.</p> <p>Mark Stockdale extended thanks on behalf of the congregation to Fr Nick and all the Clergy.</p>
10.	Any other business – by leave of the Chairman
	None.
11.	Closing prayers
	<p>Fr Nick closed the meeting at 12.47 with a prayer for new younger members to join the PCC, giving thanks those who give so much and those who are stepping down at this time.</p> <p>Fr Nick led the Grace with a message to help us to make this place a beacon of God's love.</p>
12.	Date of the first PCC meeting:
	The first meeting of the new PCC to elect the Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chair, and to agree membership of committees and trustee bodies will take place on Monday 16 th May 2022.
13.	Date of next APCM:
	Sunday 23 rd April 2023

Signed

Date

Ministry Team Report 2022

- The Ministry Team continued to meet regularly on Zoom. We endeavoured to keep up with the ever-changing advice from the Church of England and HM Government.
- 4th@4 All Age Service is proving popular – there were record crowds for Mothering Sunday. Pots of flowers were handed out (at all three services) rather than bunches – these were very much appreciated by the recipients.
- Holy Week and Easter services:
 - Mon, Tue & Wed of Holy Week – there were low numbers for the online evening worship, but this could be that people are getting fed up with Zoom.
 - Maundy Thursday with foot washing was a powerful service.
 - Good Friday – children’s service at SJB was attended by 3 families, six children, plus a few from the regular congregation. The Walk of Witness went well and the Liturgy was moving, as ever.
 - Holy Saturday – the Vigil service was poorly attended and it is thought to go back to the Dawn Eucharist next year.
 - Easter Sunday - 10 people attended the 8am. 9.15 SJB went very well, with about 70 attending and a number watched the recorded service also. The 11am at HTC was attended by nearly 200 and the evening carols by about 60.
- There has been a short service each Monday to pray for Ukraine, alternating between the two churches. Attendance has been about 10-12 each time.
- Jubilee weekend 2-5 June: the ‘Jubilate’ service at HTC went well and was attended by about 50. The Saturday afternoon ‘Happy & Glorious’ service in Cookham Dean attracted about 70 people, which was far more than anticipated; a very good event with excellent refreshments!
- The ‘Hymns and Pimms’ service on 21 August at SJB raised over £1,200 for WaterAid.
- The pilgrims had a great time in Oberammergau, a very thought provoking and meaningful experience for all.
- Clergy have hosted Harvest Festivals in church for both our church schools and one harvest festival in Herries school. Clergy are now back in all four local primary schools taking regular assemblies.
- Pastoral Care at The Hungry Hare went alfresco between May and October. During the heat wave over 40 litres of ice cream were consumed by those engaged in pastoral conversations.
- Harvest Festivals at SJB and HTC were well attended, providing good collections for Food Share. The 4th@4 All Age Benefice Harvest service was attended by 80 people. Of the 35 children attending, 14% were of secondary school age.
- Bishop Olivia was our guest speaker at our 4th@4 service in October where the theme was Animals and Creation. The service landed at the start of the half term holiday; despite this, attendance was good with 62 in total.

- Christingles at both churches were very good and well attended (140 for the SJB 4th@4), and the 'make your own' kits worked very well.
- We were pleased to welcome Herries, Cookham Dean and Holy Trinity schools back into church for their end of term Christmas services.
- Christmas services were well attended (190 at SJB on Christmas morning, 250 at HTC carol service); of particular note were the Crib 'walk pasts' at both churches but there seems to be a desire to return to crib services. Overall, the Christmas season went very well, with grateful thanks for all the hard work on the trees, cribs, flowers, music etc.
- Christmas online offerings were popular – e.g. 583 views for 'It's Christmas', 570 for 'Murmurs of Advent', 237 for 'Maybe...'
- There is an up and coming group of young people attending our churches regularly that are teenagers, or soon will be. They are keen to assist in leading parts of the worship going forward. All have already engaged in assisting leading parts of 4th@4 on welcome, intercessions and doing readings. Five of these young people are considering confirmation in 2023 and three are already confirmed and attending communion services regularly.
- We are planning a pilgrimage to Greece for June 2024.

Fr Nick Plant

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2022

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to June 2023. At the end of 2022 the Synod had 71 members. Attendance varied from 35 to 43 over the year.

Elections for Deanery Synod lay representatives will take place during the first half of 2023 with effect from 1 July.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2022:

Tuesday 15 February 2022 on Zoom:

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod about the spiritual and practical Christian response to climate change, expressing the seriousness of this issue, why we should care as Christians, and how we can act personally, nationally and locally.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Bishop Olivia and to share comments.
- The two General Synod members from our Deanery, Gracy Crane and Daniel Matovu, reported on the February 2022 session of General Synod which had recently concluded, including the debates about racial justice, challenging slavery and human trafficking, the persecuted church, and Anglican Communion representation in the appointment of any future Archbishop of Canterbury.

Thursday 19th May 2022 at St Andrew's Church, Clewer:

- Archdeacon Stephen Pullin reminded the Synod about what Common Vision is, speaking about each of the five Common Vision focus areas and available resources in those areas.
- Stephen asked for parishes to have a reality check and to give input as to how well these resources are wanted and being used.
- Synod members discussed and gave written and oral feedback to the Archdeacon.

Tuesday 20th September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Maidenhead:

- John Sykes shared a brief overview of the Wycombe Deanery Discipleship Training Centre.
- The Synod spent time in small groups sharing encouragements, needs and struggles.
- Some encouragements and challenges were fed back to the whole Synod.
- The Synod spent time praying for some of the situations shared and for wider needs in the church and the world.
- Daniel Matovu, General Synod member, reported on the July 2022 General Synod sessions, including debates about climate change, affirmation and inclusion of disabled people in churches, assisted suicide, and safeguarding. Daniel also described the brief workshop which took place relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Despite a very simple agenda, many members found this meeting very encouraging.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing legacy of Covid-19, and the use of Deanery reserves, the Deanery paid 100% of its parish share for 2022, a total of £1,019,381. This was an increase from the £961,058 paid against an allocation of £1,020,191 in 2021. Richard Thorogood stepped down as Deanery Treasurer at the end of 2022 and the Deanery would like to thank him for his work over a challenging few years.

Baptism and baptism preparation

Post COVID-19 baptisms slowly got back to normal after the high demands in 2021 due to postponements in 2020. Though the majority of Baptisms in 2022 happened to be for one family at a time, on occasions families were happy to share the date (and font water) with another family. Baptisms, and time in preparation continues to provide a bridge between families outside the church or on the fringe.

Baptisms during 2022 have been offered during the main Sunday services on second Sundays or during a 13.00 bespoke short Baptism service. These new, short, stand-alone services were introduced initially to increase the number of Baptisms that could be offered post covid; they have remained a popular choice for families with lively toddlers and those who are not regular church goers.

Baptism preparation was provided by all three members clergy for individual families. This was done either in person with a home visit or via a Zoom video call if a member of the family had covid when the preparation appointment was due. Approach for preparation was at the discretion of the member of clergy carrying out the Baptism.

Rev'd. Helen Chamberlain

Reports of the PCC Committees and Working Groups

Notes from the Stewardship Committee

Membership

The following people served on the Committee during the past year:

Fr Nick Plant (Vicar) – ex officio	David Harrold
Mark Stockdale – Churchwarden (ex-officio)	David Gaselee
Tim Sharples – Honorary Treasurer (ex-officio)	Mike Clark – Chair
Co-opted members:	
Stephanie Diggon – Secretary	Lee Richards

Responsibilities

The Stewardship Committee is responsible to the PCC in three specific areas:

1. To provide practical support to the Churchwardens in the management of the church estate.
2. The day-to-day management of the PCC estate, consisting of the Parish Centre, including the flats and gardens, paddock and car park, and the property at No 53 Broomhill. The properties are owned by the PCC, with title held in trust by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. Day to day management of the Parish Centre, and the hire of its facilities, is devolved to the Parish Administrator and a caretaker.
3. Fundraising.

Committee Membership

Colin Tushingam retired as a member of the PCC at the 2022 APCM. We are most grateful for his past contributions and to all the other committee members who served in the previous year and who agreed to continue to support us over the past year. We also benefit immensely from the contributions of two co-opted members, Lee Richards, who provides invaluable support and advice on the building trades, and Stephanie Diggon who serves as the Committee Secretary and leads our programme of fund raising “Trinity Talks”.

The Revd Nick Plant made a very positive contribution to the Committee during his tenure as Vicar. We will miss his wisdom and advice now that he has retired. The Vicar is an automatic ex-officio member of the Stewardship Committee and we look forward to his successor joining us.

The Church

The Stewardship Committee continues to work with the churchwardens developing clearly defined plans for a major restoration and re-ordering of the church. These plans focus on two key issues: a new, robust and “future proofed” heating system, and a toilet in the church tower.

In 2022 we reported on the positive progress we had made in agreeing out outline plans for the re-ordering of the church. Had we managed to arrive at that situation a year or so earlier, we might have hoped to now be explaining our plans for the delivery of the work. Consequent upon the Church of England introducing its recent net carbon zero policy, elements of our plans, drawn up in consultation with respected consultants, have been rejected and we have had to completely reconsider our proposals, eliminating any use of carbon-based fuels. Whilst the PCC is entirely sympathetic to the objectives of the Church of England’s policy, it is not supported with specific advice. Regrettably, the Diocesan Advisory Board are not able to provide us with any examples of the use of alternative energy sources in the Oxford Diocese and some of the ideas given to us have

been rejected by our consultants as almost uniquely unsuited to an ancient medieval church. We are currently progressing plans using ASHP (air source heat pumps), to provide underfloor heating combined with electrically powered overhead infra-red heaters. The Committee has been very active in reassessing our plans and particular thanks are due to Mark Stockdale and Tim Sharples for their hard work and diligence in trying to meet the DAC's often nebulous aspirations.

The final project costs will need to be reassessed in the light of the final plans, but the imminent sale of 53 Broomhill will make a major contribution to achieving our financial target.

The tower floodlights having come to the end of their natural lives, they have been replaced by new LED units. The result is much better lighting and an environmental gain. The lights not only greatly enhance the appearance of the building but act as a deterrent to thieves.

The Churchyard

We are grateful to our contractors Holdford's, who have continued to keep the churchyard looking trim and tidy. Feedback from the congregation, community and visitors is encouragingly positive.

Fundraising

Stephanie Diggon runs her programme of "Trinity Talks" at Bel & the Dragon. These are well received and raise something like £3,000 p.a. for church funds. Following a change of management at The Old Swan Uppers, the annual whisky tasting did not take place in January 2023, but it is planned to reinstate this major fund raiser in 2024.

Mike Clark

Annual Reports of the Organisations

Bell Ringers

The Holy Trinity bellringers ring to announce and welcome people to the services, mainly the 11.00 am Eucharist and 6.30 pm Evening Service, but also for special services when asked and to mark special village events. We also usually meet on Tuesday evenings from 8 to 9.30 pm for practice.

This year ringing has returned to a more normal pattern with regular ringing for Sunday morning services and practice nights. We have managed to ring for most of the morning services but are still not ringing in the evening with the exception of special services. We were pleased to be able to ring for all the Christmas services and to ring the New Year in as a band. In June our bells rang out with joy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This changed to sorrow as we rang fully muffled to mark the death of Her Majesty in September, also ringing on the day of her funeral. Open ringing marked the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III and we will be ringing for his Coronation in May. Additional ringing this year has been for seven weddings and three memorial services.

Our membership is currently fifteen. We have been delighted to welcome Kay Weallans back to the tower this year and we also have one new learner who has recently joined us and is making excellent progress.

Mandy Salter

Churchyard and Estate report 2022

The Paddock

As effective owners of the Paddock, the PCC agreed a strategy for our future relationship with Reading University Archaeology Department, and we put this onto a contractual basis from this year, which ensured mutually smooth running. The Archaeology Department and partners, led by Associate Professor Dr Gabor Thomas, carried out an extended period of excavation in the Paddock in summer 2022 which also provided practical experience for students. More artefacts were found this summer. Given the extended excavation period this summer, it was not possible to reinstate the turf, so the excavation area was successfully re-seeded. The Friends of Cookham Abbey was set up to support this and other archaeological work in Cookham, and members of the PCC planned to meet this group early in New Year 2023.

The Parish Centre

Dave Simpson has taken over as the parish centre caretaker and has made a positive contribution to the management of the building. Bookings for the centre are relatively strong. The old folding chairs have been replaced by aluminium stacking chairs, to the same design, but a different finish, to those intended for the church. Early feedback has been very positive. The old chairs are being sold via E-Bay and have moved from the parish centre. The three flats are currently all let and there seems to be a steady demand for properties of their type

Car Parking and Access

The new all-weather access to the paddock has been successfully constructed, but any further plans for all-weather parking on the paddock remain on hold following the archaeological discoveries.

Rental Properties: three flats above the Parish Centre and flat in Broomhill

The tenant in Flat 1 changed, resulting in some maintenance costs and a short vacancy. There were minor plumbing issues in 53 Broom Hill and some minor wind damage due to the Broom Hill tornado. The properties' Energy Performance Certificates were all renewed during the year. We will need to do some significant work on Flats 1 and 3 to bring them up to the minimum level required for renting before 2025, unless the legislation provides for some exemption for listed buildings.

It was decided to put 53 Broom Hill up for sale in the summer to help fund the church heating project. We have a serious offer, and the matter is with solicitors. We expect contracts to be changed in March or April 2023. The net rental income for 2022 was significantly above the amount budgeted.

Mike Clark, Tim Sharples and Mark Stockdale

Trusteeships and other community interests

The PCC is a registered charity, and all PCC members have a responsibility as individual trustees. On joining the PCC, members are required to register as trustees and to confirm that they meet the necessary legal requirements. They are provided with information concerning their duties and conduct. This was covered in more depth at our first PCC meeting, and will continue to be brought to the attention of new PCC members at the first meeting each year.

Holy Trinity Church also has trustee responsibilities in the wider community. The trust deed for **Pinder Hall** requires that the Vicar and current churchwardens of Holy Trinity shall act as the trustees of the hall. The premises include an adjoining house which is used as the residence of the

caretaker. Supervision of the hall's accounts, ensuring that the charity is financially sustainable, with reserves maintained at an appropriate level, and the maintenance of the building and its fabric, are important issues for trustees. Mike Clark, Bernadette Clark and Mark Stockdale have been active members of the Pinder Hall Management Committee and the Vicar and churchwardens normally attend the AGM and scrutinise and sign off the annual accounts.

The Vicar serves as the Chairman of the **Kings Hall Trust**, the charitable trust which owns the old King's Hall, which now houses the Stanley Spencer Gallery. The trust negotiates the rent for the building and receives rental income from the gallery. After allowing for appropriate costs, the trust distributes any surplus funds to charitable causes in the local community. The church is obligated to provide two other trustees. The PCC has nominated Mike Clark and Tim Sharples to fill these positions.

Cookham Voluntary Services (CVS) is an independent non-profit, self-financing community organisation, providing transport for patients from the Cookham Medical Centre who, for whatever reason, are unable to provide their own transport to get to medical appointments. Since it was established, it has been the practice that the Vicar serves as chairman of the management committee. The Revd Nick Plant continues this practice. CVS is not a registered charity and the chairmanship does not carry any trusteeship responsibilities.

Mark Stockdale

Verger's and Sacristan's Report

Our dedicated church cleaners continue to keep Holy Trinity Church in order, and my sincere thanks go to all of them for the effort they put in once a month to make our church look good. If anyone would like to join the rota, then I would be pleased to hear from you.

I would also like to thank Kay Weallans for standing in for me as Verger when I have been away; it is good to know that this is in her safe hands.

I was grateful to Bernadette Clark and Vicky Wood for sourcing safer battery-operated candles to go into the candle stands on the pews which has avoided the risk of candle wax dripping onto the clothes of worshippers at the special Christmas season services.

Thanks also the Churchwardens for attending weddings and funerals and for looking after the visitors. I am grateful to Fr Nick for giving me the opportunity to serve my church.

Malcolm Sturges

Servers' Report

Those of us that assist at the Eucharist services consider it an honour and privilege to be able to do so. Since the pandemic, the number of servers has decreased, and I would like to thank those who have now decided to stand down for their service in the past years and to thank those who have decided to continue.

We were delighted to be able to provide a full team of servers on the occasion of the special High Mass for Father Nick's last service on his retirement.

Now that the pandemic is over, we have been able to resume our activities in a simplified manner, in accordance with the current method for the administration of the bread and wine. However, it is fortunate that with this current format, only one of us is needed at a time.

We are always looking for additional people to join us in this special role. Please come and talk to one of us if you would like to become a part of the team.

Martin Gostling

Choirs and Music

2022 was a much more 'normal' choral year, but with changes and new ideas taken on board as a result of the restrictions placed on everyone during the previous two years.

The four choirs continue to work to a schedule which aims to keep commitment regular but not too much – covering each Sunday morning service and the twice monthly evenings. The forces of four choirs means that service allocations can be spread around, but the work of sustaining different music for these groups is considerable.

During 2022 the evening service continued as the newly scheduled twice monthly. This has been working well to encourage slightly larger congregation numbers. The Men's Choir started the year off with the Epiphany Carol Service and the boys took on a 'Rejoice in the Lord' later in January.

As an extra initiative, we held a midweek Candlemas celebration service on 2nd February, inviting all those who had been involved throughout Christmas.

Online offerings continued alongside our 'in church' work and recorded special services. These were: a presentation to mark the anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II; 'Five Boys and a Packet of Biscuits'; 'Lead Kindly Light' - prayers and music for reflection at the outbreak of the war in Ukraine; a playlist of music for Holy Week; 'God Is Gone Up' for Ascensiontide; 'Love One Another' – music from the Girls' Choir; a specially videoed Service for the Feast of Mary Magdalene; 'Perfect Peace' – dedicated to the memory of Ricky Lonmon; 'Our Queen' – marking the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; 'To Autumn'; 'The Singing Mums' – a specially video recorded service of Compline; 'Murmurs of Advent' and 'Maybe' – two short offerings for the season of Advent; 'It's Christmas' – carols and readings (with special guests).

All of our online offerings with slides are only possible thanks to the collaboration, time and skills of Andra Rigby, our Parish Administrator.

In April the Men's Choir sang for the Maundy Thursday Eucharist; the Choristers' Mums' Choir sang for the Good Friday Liturgy; the Girls' Choir and Boys' Choir sang for the Easter Day Parish Eucharist; and the Men's Choir sang for the Easter Carol Service.

In May the Choir Quartet gave a concert, 'Singing Through The Church's Year', as part of the Cookham Festival. This included slides, beautifully crafted by Andra.

On June 2nd we held a special Thursday evening service, 'Jubilate', to mark the Queen's Jubilee. We were delighted to have a very good congregation in church. Music was led by the Choir Quartet.

In July the Men's Choir endured the sad loss of long-time chorister and friend Ricky Lonmon. The Quartet gathered to sing at his Funeral Service at Slough Crematorium in August and the Men's Choir pulled out all the stops in his honour for his Memorial Service in October. We also dedicated the Christmas Day Carol Service to his memory, as well as the special August online offering 'Perfect Peace'.

In November we marked All Souls with our annual evening service of remembrance. Unfortunately, due to illness, the Advent Carol Service had to be cancelled. But the online offering we had fortunately prepared in advance was perhaps even more gratefully received as a result.

In December, the Choristers' Mums' Choir provided the music for a special service taking us through Advent and looking towards Christmas – 'Rumours of Christmas'. Refreshments served after the service gave a very celebratory feel. The Choristers' Mums' Choir also sang for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. The Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir & Men's Choir were on duty for our customary Christmas Day Carol Service, which raised £681 for Thames Hospice.

In March we presented our five long-serving members of the Boys' Choir with a medal in recognition of their continued commitment.

We were then delighted to welcome Max into the Boys' Choir.

Amelie was admitted as a full member of the Girls' Choir.

Jess, Maddie and Tabby were appointed as Head Choristers of the Girls' Choir, as a mark of their long service and superb membership. They joined Caitlyn, Hannah and Izzy in this role.

Thank you to all our choirs for maintaining their dedication and energy, despite many other demands on their time and attention.

Sara and Victoria Wood

Annual Safeguarding Report 2022

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The PCC operates a Safe Recruiting process, which aims to keep a balance between safe recruitment and not creating an onerous bureaucratic system. The recruitment of new volunteers involves informing the recruiter so that the necessary details and references can be obtained. Procedures are always monitored to ensure that checks and training for volunteers are delivered in a timely manner and the cooperation of volunteers in this is much appreciated. We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021.

Bernadette Clark is the named recruiter for Holy Trinity Church. She also acts as verifier and is responsible for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Services for new and established volunteers with children and vulnerable adults at Holy Trinity. Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) is the recommended DBS Umbrella Body for the Diocese of Oxford. We have used them to undertake these checks since 2017.

We have been proactively using the *Parish Safeguarding Dashboard*, an online system that gives assurance to parishes that they are complying with statutory requirements and Church of England policies. It also enables dioceses and the national church to oversee compliance, and to focus their support on the areas of greatest need.

Safeguarding training modules and expectations: The Church of England's Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development (2021), provides a clear framework for safeguarding training across all Church of England communities. The resources and training equip our church to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a

practical and theologically informed way. A range of safeguarding training modules are a mandatory requirement for particular Church Officer roles. Safeguarding training should be renewed every three years.

All safeguarding training records being kept securely by the Parish Administrator and people are asked to forward their training records once completed.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Huw Thomas

Trinity Nippers

Trinity Nippers is a parent run toddler group with weekly input from clergy. Nippers meets in Holy Trinity Church at 10.15am on Tuesdays in term time. Following the service in church the group move to the parish centre for free play and refreshments. The children enjoy action songs, a short Bible story and prayers. They are invited into our wider church family and encouraged into child friendly services such as the All-Age monthly 4th@4 service and activities such as Christmas tree decorating, and crib walk throughs. Father Christmas even paid a visit this year to their Christmas party with a suitable gift for each child.

Following our post covid re-launch in September 2021 Nippers has continued to go from strength to strength throughout 2022. Group numbers fluctuate as older children start pre-schools and new families join. Eight families attended regularly during 2022.

A donation to church funds is asked of £10 a term for those who can afford this; parents place their donations in the box in church as and when they can.

Rev'd. Helen Chamberlain

The Ladies' Group

The committee decided to run our meetings from April to October 2022 thus avoiding the darker colder month which we thought our members would want.

We were delighted to rebook some of our speakers from our previous programme, welcoming John Timewell "Two Old Houses and an Exercise Book", Lesley Thorogood "I was a high Flyer". Ted Harris gave us "Love, sex and sewerage" in his inimitable style. We had the garden party indoors as a tea party as the weather was not with us.

In September we gave our members a questionnaire to establish the direction they wished the club to take, and also to replace the Leader (Ros Joynes), Programme Sec (Tina Duncan) and Treasurer (Valerie Trodd) who all wished to step down.

The results were clear that the members wished to meet all year, on the 4th Wednesday of the Month at 2:30 for tea and a chat, no meeting fee and no membership fee. No one came forward to fill the committee.

The room is now booked for 2023, a programme of dates circulated (extras in the cupboard), one copy on the church notice board. The cupboard has tea and coffee.

The cash box had £434.84 cash in it which is now banked and the group decided to give £400 to The Thames Valley Hospice.

New members are always welcome to join for tea and a chat. We meet in the Parish Centre on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2:30pm.

Ros Joynes

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast has been running now for nine years and continues to be popular. We have maintained the same format throughout – breakfast followed with a talk given by a local speaker. The subjects for the talks have been very varied. Most recently we have had speakers from the local branch of the Samaritans, and talks on bell ringing, 'Why did we become Priests?', The Standard Motor Company etc. The talks always stimulate a lively question and discussion session at the end and often it is difficult to end the sessions on time.

I need to emphasise that without the support of a small number of dedicated helpers it would not have succeeded and so we need to thank all who provide their support each month in so many ways – washing up, cooking, putting out chairs and tables, collecting money, speaking, etc. We cannot mention all by name because there are so many but thank you to all who help. I believe that going forward, the Men's Breakfast will continue to thrive but we do need to ensure that its survival is not dependent upon one or two people and so we need to think about forming a small committee to ensure its vibrant future. Financially, the men's Breakfast is strong and consequently, in this year, we have been able to make a contribution of £500 towards a new cooker in the Parish Centre and also donated £100 to the Samaritans Charity.

Fr David

The Darby Pension Fund Annual Report

The Fund exists to provide payments each quarter to people in Cookham who are on low incomes and who meet the requirements set out in the will of the Darby brothers. Trustees, drawn from Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, and St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean, have the responsibility of administering the Fund.

The investments remain under the management of CCLA, a professional company which specialises in charities and church investments. Given the continued uncertainty in financial markets over the last year the Fund finances remained healthy with investment income matching that of previous years.

Fund income has exceeded expenditure in recent years due to the falling number of pensioners supported, as such the Fund currently holds an excess in its bank account. A decision was taken to utilise the excess to make an additional payment to all pensioners in the autumn in order to help with rising energy bills and the overall cost of living during the winter.

Sadly, one of the pensioners supported by the Fund passed away during the 2022/23 financial year; however, we have recently started to support two new pensioners. As such there were 21 pensioners supported by the Fund at the end of the year. The Fund still has capacity to support additional pensioners and continues to actively look for new proposals.

Kate Dilley

Pastoral Report

At the start of 2021, with the whole country in lockdown due to Covid, the Pastoral Network had never been more needed. Fortunately, we were able to keep in touch with quite a number of parishioners with the aid of the telephone and also the internet. Many services were relayed on You Tube and were gratefully listened to and watched by many. Sadly, all the churches were closed so everyone had to rely on zoom calls and many of us learned how to use the internet to our advantage.

When the churches were allowed to reopen in March there were still many restrictions including no singing and the compulsory wearing of masks, who would have thought we would still be wearing masks one year on!

Sara and her family and the clergy arranged for two or three services to be held in the churchyard on Sunday evenings which were well attended despite there nearly always being a pretty chill wind.

We have welcomed several families to celebrate the baptism of their little ones, the first one being on 13 June the one previous to this having been a year ago.

The Men's breakfast restarted and the numbers are increasing. The Friendship lunches also restarted after the summer break, being held on the second Sunday of the month. These are very popular and are now shared between Holy Trinity, St John the Baptist and The Methodist Church. These are specifically for anyone who would normally have their Sunday dinner alone.

Things are gradually getting back to normal and we hope to continue with welcoming more and more people back into the church life.

Val Eckett and Fr David

Report to PCC regarding Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Number of pupils on roll – 207 (as of 02.03.22)

The Mission Statement of the school can be found on the school's website.

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School continues to thrive and provide a centre of excellence for pupils in the heart of Cookham village. Its popularity is evident with more applications placed each year than places available. The entire body of staff is committed to ensuring the school's vision and the Christian ethos remains at the forefront of all decision making. In March 2022 the school had an OFSTED inspection after which it retained its 'outstanding' judgement last given in the October 2015 inspection.

Following a change in the leadership structure which came about just before the end of the academic year 2019-2020, Miss Anna Smith has continued in the role of Head Teacher with Ms. Fiona O'Reilly, appointed September 2020, as the school's deputy headteacher. Staffing at Holy Trinity is stable with highly effective teachers and support staff in place across the school.

Since Holy Trinity's Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) in October 2016 Holy Trinity has continued to build on the 'outstanding' judgement it received in all areas. The school's agreed values of 'love', 'friendship', 'forgiveness', 'courage', 'sharing' and 'hope' are at the core and their positive impact on the school's Christian distinctiveness is felt throughout.

At the heart of the school's vision is a Biblical text from John 13:34-35

Jesus said...

34" I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

The school's vision goes on to state that 'rooted in our Christian ethos, we will provide the finest education, develop enduring values and instill ambitious life aspirations'. This vision is underpinned by a belief in key aims and values which the staff have for all the children, that of spiritual and personal well-being and fulfilment, respect for others and ourselves, justice and global citizenship and the courage to strive for excellence and seek high aspirations in all we do. Importance is given to the teaching of religious education and collective worship which continues to have a noticeable impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. This is led by a committed senior leadership team and strong governing body supported by the local clergy.

The links between school and church remain strong. Wherever possible, weekly acts of Collective Worship are led by members of the clergy and the school aims to visit Holy Trinity Church at least once a term for specific celebrations in the church's calendar. Father David Joynes along with a second Foundation Governor, Mr Chris Harris, sit on the school's governing body. Mrs Yasmin Thorn-Davis is the school's Chair of Governors and Dr. Huw Thomas, the Vice-Chair.

The pandemic caused considerable disruption but, for some time since, we have enjoyed a period of stability and normality. All regular aspects of school life have returned. That said, we continue to use 'Google Classroom' as an online learning platform for disseminating information, including weekly homework tasks, to the children. This has proved highly effective. Weekly collective worship sessions are also posted here for everyone to access. The challenges caused by the pandemic were enormous. However, a strongly committed and highly effective team ensured these challenges were met. Both then and now a regularly updated Continuous Improvement Plan identifies key priority areas and how they are to be tackled. National tests, cancelled because of the pandemic, resumed last year and while the children performed well, results demonstrated the adverse effect the considerable period away from school caused. Prior to this disruption, Holy Trinity's consistently high results demonstrated that pupils perform significantly better than pupils nationally with the school regularly listed in league tables of top performing schools.

The school has robust systems in place for monitoring lessons, assessing the children's progress and attainment, scrutinising marking, moderating teacher judgements and observing behaviour. The overarching policy of providing a sense of awe and wonder through the delivery of all lessons, ensures high levels of engagement. A number of themed weeks, notably 'Maths & Coding Week', 'Science & Technology Week', 'Book Week', 'Arts and Culture Week' and 'Sports Week', are timetabled throughout the academic year and continued throughout lockdown. With all restrictions lifted, staff are committed to working with the local community to use resources on our doorstep to strengthen the children's curiosity in specific curriculum areas. Developments to the school site over the last few years mean we have a large wildlife area plus other facilities where the children have continued to successfully engage in outdoor learning. Following the success of being awarded Green Flag status for environmental work in September 2019 the school's Eco-Council, made up of children from each class, continue to steer the school in a range of environmental projects through initiatives which all come from them. This year and last a considerable amount of effort has been channeled into reviewing and modifying our curriculum so that the children have access to a bespoke learning programme which reflects the needs of our community and prepares the children for life beyond Holy Trinity.

Our charity work also continues. Links with charities including Partners for Change, Ethiopia, MacMillan Cancer Support, Sport Relief, Children in Need, Save the Children, Maidenhead Food Share, Thames Valley Hospice and The Royal British Legion remain strong; all these charities have benefited from fund raising events in school in the last year.

For news of what is happening at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School the school website www.holytrinitysch.co.uk, where weekly newsletters can be found, has a wealth of information and school news is regularly published in the Cookham Parish Magazine.

*Anna Smith
Head of School*