

CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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Reg Charity No. 1133205

A Celebration and review of 2022 as we report back, look forward and give Glory to God.

The Annual Church Meeting will start at 10.15am.

You will be able to view this on YouTube (link will be emailed out on the Sunday morning)

Close of meeting at c. 12.00pm.

AGENDA 2023 AND ORDERS OF SERVICE

8.45am Holy Communion

10.15am Morning worship incorporating APCM

Opening Worship

Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Kingdom here and now

Vicar review and talk

Vestry Meeting – elect wardens

2 nominations for 2 vacancies

APCM

Prayers – intercessions led by Lisa Fairman-Brown

Apologies

Minutes

Matters Arising – no matters arising not covered in report elsewhere

PCC elections – Nominations for 5 Deanery and 4 PCC

Electoral Roll report

Accounts – presented and questions welcomed

Appoint auditor for 2023

Appoint stewards

Worship

Brief Reports:

- CYT team – highlighting Carousel
- Other initiatives – Pastoral Training, Alpha pathways
- Curate – handing over the baton

Closing Questions & Answers

Closing worship

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

OF CHRIST CHURCH, PURLEY HELD ON SUNDAY 8 May 2022 in church and live streamed on an unlisted but distributed to the congregation link. A zoom link was also sent but failed on the day.

This was a hybrid meeting which was chaired by Rev Doug McHardie

The meeting was recorded.

There were 118 people in the church.

Doug recommended reading the large and annual report.

Prayers.

VESTRY MEETING

ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Wardens are elected every year and Alison and Bob have presented as wardens so no election is needed.

APCM

APOLOGIES

Amanda Shortland, Peter Shortland, Rob Keeler, Karen Speed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 APRIL 2021

Note change to point 7 add – please get in touch with me.

The minutes were adopted as an accurate record with the above amendments.

Accepted by all
with no abstentions

Matters Arising

No Matters arising.

Terms of office now can be 2 terms since the last APCM

ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS

There were 6 vacant positions (6 PCC and 1 Deanery):

Terms of office now can be 2 terms since the last APCM

Stepping down Rebecca Burmiston, Anne Scoones

Nominations were received for

Louise Benn, Tiggy Claustres (2nd Term) Jenny Hird, Harriet Howgego, Mike Stenning

No election was needed so all 5 were appointed as PCC members.

The elected PCC members are therefore:

Bejoy Pal **	Kim Watts ***	Tiggy Claustres* (2 nd Term)
Christopher Hickin **	Mick Durkin **	Tom Griffiths ***
David Hunn** (2 nd Term)	Louise Benn *	Jenny Hird *
Harriet Howgego*	Mike Stenning*	

* First year of office

** Second year of office

*** Third year of office

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Church's finances were presented by Steve – ministry team leader for finance. The accounts (copy in minute file) were available on the website

The Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "you don't even know your way to the post office."

There are a lot of people who don't know their way around accounts, so, you will be relieved to learn that I will not be presenting an exposition or 10 power point slide review of the church accounts for 2021. This review has already been carried out by your PCC in their capacity as Trustees of the charity and by their delegated Finance Administration and Resources group. Instead, I simply want to spend a few minutes by way of explanation of the current position with regards the church finances.

Firstly though, I would like, on behalf of the PCC, and the whole fellowship here of Christ Church Purley, to say a huge thank you to all who have so faithfully and diligently given of your talents so that the ministry of sharing the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ as the one true hope and Lord, has continued both here in Purley, and beyond, through the support of the various mission partners we are working with, during this last year – and indeed for the 144 years this church has stood in Purley as a beacon for Jesus - the light of the world.

It has been a very hard two years or so for many what with the COVID restrictions – entailing, furlough of jobs; reduced hours; loss of jobs; changes to work practices, and now, perhaps even harder with the effects of the ever-increasing costs of energy; fuel, and basic food supplies.

So, your generosity is a testament to your dedication to God and of your service to Him in this place and beyond. And I thank you, and I applaud you for your resilience and graciousness in these difficult times.

Thanks to your generosity and the prudence of the PCC over recent years, Christ Church has, to a large degree, been able to ride these difficult last couple of years which have seen the income from hall lettings and the Foyer Coffee Shop decrease from £109,455 at the end of 2019 to £45,172 at the end of 2021, a reduction of some £64k – a significant sum of money, in fact just over 20% of our annual income.

Your PCC made the difficult decision for this year, 2022, to reduce our contribution to the Diocese, the Parish Support Fund, by £26,000 to £100,000. This money is used by the Diocese to meet the costs of paid parish clergy, as well as diocesan support staff. As a larger and more affluent church in the diocese our contribution is also used to help support those parishes who are unable to meet the cost of their clergy and so ensure that the mission of sharing the gospel continues in all areas across this diverse diocese and that churches do not have to close their doors on those amongst whom they want to minister and care for.

The PCC also unanimously declared its intention to retain our current staffing levels, despite the tightening of income, so that we too, can continue in our mission here at Christ Church.

Whilst we have been able to financially ride the events of the past couple of years, and to maintain our commitment to serving the

parish and this fellowship here at Christ Church, we will not be able to continue as we are for much longer.

For varying reasons, we have, in the past couple of years, lost quite a number of our members, several of whom were significant givers financially. There is a need to fill those gaps in our congregational income.

This morning is not the time for the launch of a stewardship campaign – that will be to come later in the year -, but I would say to anyone out there this morning that if you do not currently give financially to the work of Christ Church, then please do so, and for those others who already do so, thank you once again, and if you were able to give consideration to increasing your present level of giving, however small an increase, then thank you.

In his address at the laying of the foundation memorial stone for Christ Church on the 14th of April 1877, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said this – *"Let them see that this Church was a Christian rallying point for all the neighbourhood, so that they might help each other in the outward journey, and that when the Lord appeared they might find that a blessing had attended their work, and that many souls had been brought to the knowledge and love of Christ."*

May those words too, be our avow today, and for all days.

To God be the glory! great things he has done;

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the people rejoice

Give him the glory; great things he has done.

Kim will be in the Foyer after this service to speak with anyone who might be interested in either giving for the first time or who might be able to increase their current level of giving. Also, anyone who may

have moved address in the past couple of years can you also please speak to Kim about completing a new gift aid claim form in order to meet HMRC requirements. Thank you

The PCC approved the accounts on 7th March 2022

A question was asked about whether our giving to the diocese would be increased again.

Response – the finance committee were asked by the Archdeacon to explain the reduction. They responded that it was temporary decrease. The Foyer and increasing hire (initially by Chloe and now Magda) is increasing income. We want to support other churches and help in their mission.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDANT EXAMINER FOR THE 2022 ACCOUNTS

The Finance, Administration and Resources Committee recommended appointing Financial Examiners Langdon West Williams.

Steve Bishop proposed that Langdon West Williams now know Harmer slater limited as be appointed as Financial Examiners of the 2022 Accounts

Passed – all in favour

A round of applause was given for all those who serve

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM REPORT

Jude Barber gave a report.

Mission – going out to those not in church through live nativity, Easter events. Going into school as soon as they were able – school club and Peaced together.

Services – welcome back and bubble service, CCKids

A video montage was shown of the Children's work.

A request was made for people to join the team for Kids work and extravaganza.

PEACED TOGETHER

Anne Scoones talked about the changes that have occurred in Peaced Together which is a course that uses creative crafts and discussion to explore brokenness. When they switched to zoom the realised people did not have sewing machines. So, activities were altered to use things that people had at home

THE FOYER

Lynn Benn is now leading The Foyer phase 2 of opening up which is now open 5 mornings a week. There is still a need for more team members – listeners, prayers, cake bakers, people to service. Speak to Lynn if you would like to volunteer.

In the autumn the warmth, hot drinks and food will become more important.

CURATE REFLECTION

Doug McHardie reported that Lisa is here for 3 years and in this third year we need to help to make her the best vicar she can be

Lisa Fairman-Brown gave her report: This year has been fabulous. Moved to Purley and delighted to be here and see people in the building when started with 12 people only in church. Good to see you all.

GOODBYES

Doug said thank you on behalf of everyone to Steve Bishop who is moving away after 60 years involvement with Christ Church.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm and was followed by holy communion for those who wanted to stay.

Signed:

Date:.....

2022 was a year of opening up. It was a year of firsts (again) – “*This is the first time we have done this since lockdown*”. It was a year of innovation. It was a year of growth (from a low base).

It also had its lows. Spoiler alert - what follows is not a plea for sympathy but a case study from personal experience of what many have been facing.

In February 2022 I the two lines of a Covid test. I didn't feel too bad, a bit like a bad cold. Within 2 weeks I was probably back to 75% but easily tired and short of breath. That 75% lasted for about 3 more months. In August we had a wonderful holiday in the United States but also the sadness of leaving our eldest behind for her year away as part of her degree. By November family illness meant that I was unreliable about when I might be available in the mornings.

In short, it was a year of reduced capacity.

My experience was not unique. I could have told other stories from staff team or from members of the church. I don't recall it for sympathy, but to empathise with all who have had different stories to the same effect.

We all suffered a reduction in capacity in 2020 and 2021 – lockdown did that for us.

And we can only operate out of our capacity.

Every win needs to be celebrated. Every success seen as a bonus and a gift.

So, what were the wins? Here are a few:

- Alpha courses where people met the real Jesus and were touched by the Holy Spirit.
- Healings.
- Carousel growing in number and spiritual depth with a clear pathway to joining the church.
- Foyer team coming together to offer free refreshments and a place to meet.
- Warm spaces in the Foyer every morning with free breakfast and a special place on a Friday evening.
- Prophetic words every Sunday and an increase in the experience of the presence and encounter.
- Gracious engagement with the issues facing the wider church around marriage and relationships.
- New partnerships with other churches.
- Diversity work emerging into an Anti-Racism group.
- Seasonal outreach events attracting ever more interest from people outside the church.
- A Prayer Course and a Bereavement Journey.

- Training new recruits to the pastoral team.
- Finances better than budget (but not there yet).
- Recovered centre lettings and an increasingly good reputation as a community space.
- A Deanery that relished praying together.
- God's Word speaking to us through Luke and Timothy.
- Individual growth through serving (e.g. at New Wine)
- Investing in two student placements.
- The flourishing of a curate who is getting ready for her next move (but not quite yet!)

It was a year that saw the celebration of a remarkable 70-year reign and the sadness of Her Majesty's eventual passing just a few months later. A portent of the ups and downs that many in the congregation face.

There were challenges of course. House Groups have a patchwork of experience of meeting and finding the balance between Bible study, pastoral support and fellowship. The ogre known as the "House Group Leader" remains a put off to many. We need to search new ways of extra gathering for the House Group is the lifeblood of discipleship within a healthy church.

An increasing number of people face challenging life circumstances. Capacity to care is restricted within the designated team. Many others step up just because that's who they are. We can do more to develop this caring and welcoming culture, making what is good even better.

Available Clergy was reduced when we sadly said goodbye to Steve Bishop as they moved near my old curacy patch in the southern border of the Diocese. Three services have been a boost to many and at last count more than a third of those at the third service come just for that service. It's beyond the capacity of leadership and band to do these all year round so they will be suspended in the summer. As I am about to find out a sabbatical is good. A field left fallow for a season comes back replenished and more fertile.

Which brings us back to capacity.

Most specifically, an encouragement that **you** can only serve out of your capacity. To try otherwise for any length of time leads to burn out. No good for you. Not God's will for you either. He calls you to rest, to slow down and to sabbath. It's good for the long term.

But for some there may be untapped capacity. To serve and to give.

Firstly serving. Who do you know needs encouragement? Maybe they are waiting to be asked. Well ask them (or tell the Clergy and they can ask them!) Rely on waiting for the single point of failure at the top and that capacity will remain untapped. And

God loves to use the unusual suspects to build his kingdom (Moses who couldn't speak, Jeremiah who was too young, Peter too petulant etc).

Secondly giving. PCC are acutely aware that costs are rising and that faces both the church coffers and the budgets of every individual that makes up Christ Church. Yet we are encouraged to be "joyful givers".

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:6-7)

He wants your first fruits – the first slice, the best bit of the harvest, for his glory. It is a response to his overflowing generosity and abundance to us.

I am not going to say here how much we need to close the budget (it's not a secret, see the accounts!) But appeal instead to your heart. Which of the wins above strikes a chord? What is not yet happening that you would love to see? Which fruit can you see budding that you would love to see turn into a harvest?

We would love to **more than** close the budget. We would love to be able to move it into abundance that we might give that away in love and share more of the Good News of the Gospel of Christ throughout Purley, Croydon and beyond.

Whichever you answer to the above questions, giving more provides more resource for the PCC to put into the ministry and mission of Christ Church as we seek to *Make Passionate Disciples for Christ*.

Consider your capacity.

To serve.

To give.

Thank you to all who have served diligently and given sacrificially.

The invitation now is to consider stepping up into more or to step back and rest.

Whichever applies to you, seek God's heart before you decide.

He is smiling upon you, whichever direction he points you and you obey. Do it joyfully.

Looking forward to a fruitful, Spirit filled 2023.

Amen.

Doug

Since reporting at last year's APCM that we were pleased to see the congregation numbers growing at the 9am and 10.30am services and a good number attending the new 11.30am service, we are very encouraged to note that numbers are increasing still further and a return to former times is very close.

The times of all the services have altered slightly to 8.45am, 10.15 am and 11.45am and numbers are reaching 25+, 120+ and 50+ respectively. It has been lovely to have the whole Church family in at the beginning of the second service allowing us to worship together before the children and youth leave for their various sessions. We have welcomed a steady stream of newcomers to Christ Church and have been encouraged to see that several of these have become regular weekly attendees.

Highlights of the year have been:

- the inclusion in our ministry time and PCC meetings of talks, discussions and question and answer sessions based on the Living in Love and Faith documents produced by the Church of England and adapted for us by Doug.
- the Sunday we gave over to racial justice with a showing of the film, 'After the Flood' about the Church and the Slave Trade. We then used this as a prompt for a whole church discussion with a panel which included our Bishop, Rosemarie, the Rev. Les Isaacs and our own Vicar. Thanks to Bej for organising the event and chairing the discussion.
- the introduction of Christ Church Warm Space in response to the energy crisis. It has been lovely to be able to reach out to non-church families in particular, providing them with a warm environment, hot food, a happy atmosphere in which to relax and a listening ear.
- the increasing popularity of the Foyer Coffee Shop with the lovely mix of young and old enjoying themselves over a cup of coffee and a slice of homemade cake.

What has really been noticed has been the sustained level of our Parish giving from the Fellowship, something for which we need to thank God for.

Going further into 2023, we would like to feel that the welcome Christ Church extends to all newcomers is a feature of our spiritual gifts and something for which we become well known.

Finally, we are conscious of the duty of care we have for our Vicar and his family, and are delighted that he is able to take a very well-deserved sabbatical with his family. We look forward to him coming back to us in the summer suitably refreshed.

Bob Benn
Alison Frost

Stewards

We would like to thank all those who provide a friendly welcome and help our services run smoothly. Our Stewards are:

Paula Reed
Steve Gilbert
Mike O'Connor
Richard Parris
Andy Hird
Rob Keeler

Our current Electoral Roll shows that we have 259 people signed up. However, this is not an accurate reflection of the congregation numbers, as not all our members are on the current Electoral Roll. If you are not on the Electoral Roll, your vote at the 2023 APCM will not be counted. Please check with me if you are unsure.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, do think about joining– you are eligible if you live in the Parish or have been attending habitually for at least six months (young people can join when they turn 16). It is not just a means of being able to vote at the Annual Church Meeting, or to stand for PCC or Deanery Synod; it is a way of showing belonging to the church. Forms can be found in the Church, in the church office or can be sent to you by email.

Jean Loh Electoral roll officer

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) and has safeguarding on the agenda at every meeting. All PCC members are required to hold a current a Christ Church DBS certificate and are asked to complete 3 online safeguarding courses.

We continue to receive monthly feedback from the Finance Committee, whose expertise is invaluable in helping us, as we seek to make wise decisions about expenditure.

The PCC has meet throughout the year and on one Saturday where there were discussions about LLF. Standing items for each meeting include Anti-racism, safeguarding, GDPR, School, Deanery and health and safety.

Please do not forget the PCC is elected by you and wishes to be representative of your views, so please do not hesitate to talk to anyone on the PCC anytime you have a concern or wish to just express a thought or an opinion or email christchurchpurleypcc@gmail.com

Jean Loh

Pastoral: Care for the Fellowship



It has been wonderful to get back to some kind of normality this last year. Things have been slowly coming together and we have been able to visit more freely, meet in the foyer and support many people through practical, emotional and spiritual care

Meals Ministry Pastoral meals are provided as a blessing to those who might have recently had an operation, are recuperating from illness or just for those times when life is difficult for a variety of reasons. We have gifted around twenty meals this year, lower than we would have expected but possibly due to our not always knowing where the needs are. If you know of someone who would benefit from this ministry, please let the office know. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated meals this year.

Amanda Shortland

Mid-Week Communion (monthly) followed by a tasty lunch has seen regular numbers coming along faithfully. Not only do they value the church service but also the delicious lunch (cooked by Lynn) and fellowship afterwards. Many thanks to Trish and Simon Vaal who co-ordinate this and to Ruth, Rowayda and Lynn for manning the kitchen.

Prayer Network We received 140 urgent and serious requests during the year. Those using this confidential network have expressed appreciation for the prayer support given in difficult times. We give thanks for the 53 pray-ers who have signed up to this ministry. **Pauline Chapman**

Bereavement Support

Monthly Support Group We have been blessed with good attendance ranging from 7-22 each month. Most of our guests are from outside our church fellowship and some have gone on to attend Alpha, Mid-Week Fellowship or other groups.

The Bereavement Journey We are part way through the six week video course which we first ran as a pilot in Feb 2022. The ten participants, again mainly from outside the fellowship, have given very positive feedback so far. They are finding the video presentation very helpful but also appreciate the sense of belonging and support that is provided. We hope to run this course again at a future date and possibly in the evening.

Living with Loss Service This was held on 29th January this year and the sense of peace and hope it provided was commented on by several people who attended.

Sadly, a number of our fellowship have experienced significant bereavements this year and it is an ongoing challenge to identify need and offer appropriate support. We do try to keep in touch by phone or one to one meetings with anyone who would just like a listening ear but that is just a drop in the ocean. We pray that as a fellowship we will always be there to offer bereavement support for as long as it takes, to enable people to navigate with Christian hope, this part of life's journey.

Pauline Chapman

Learning Disabled Adults It is a privilege to welcome several members from our local learning-disabled adult community to Christ Church. They enjoy, with enthusiasm, worship and prayers. They respond positively to talking about ideas suggested and love being asked to share them with the microphone. They really enjoy the opportunities to engage in conversation with a variety of people in the foyer before and after church. It is positive to have contact with the managers of the settings our friends come from. It is good that one of our friends moved from the area but is still able to visit regularly and we have recently been able to welcome a new member. Although their needs are various and diverse they share their love of our Wonderful Saviour who loves us for who we are.

Margaret Hall

Visiting and Home Communion Visiting and giving Home Communion continues to be a real source of comfort to our older members who can no longer come to church. It is such a privilege to do this. Also, to listen and pray on an individual basis. So many are living alone and have mobility problems.

Mid-Week Fellowship (monthly) Our monthly Mid-Week Fellowship has continued to thrive. We have had an increase in numbers and many are increasingly non-church members, some travelling a distance. Our talks have included "Healthy Homes" by Croydon Council (advising us how to save energy in our homes) The History of Tea, The River Kwai Railway and Sir Christopher Wren. We had a delicious Christmas Lunch cooked by Lynn which was so enjoyed by all. In addition to the talk there is information share on relevant issues such as scams, phone numbers for reliable electricians, roofers etc! Also, we are able to share church events. This has enabled some to come on The Bereavement Journey and to Bereavement Support meetings. My thanks go to Nicola Hawes, Alison Frost, Monica Phillips, Gill Bell and Katie Swinnerton with valuable support from Christine Bull.

Holiday at Home Since last year's APCM report we have had three Holiday at Home events, all of which have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came. Of particular note was the Platinum Jubilee Party. During this, we wrote thank you cards to the Queen which were later sent to her at Windsor Castle. We were delighted to receive a lovely card signed by Her Majesty and a letter from one of her Ladies in Waiting. At our summer Holiday at Home, we were entertained with singing, dancing and an excellent interactive talk on cheeses. We had a happy Christmas Holiday at Home with games and a festive tea and, at the time of writing are looking forward to a Coronation Party on Wednesday 3rd May with Mid-Week Fellowship. ***Alison Frost***

Challenges I think there always going to be challenges with pastoral care. There is never enough time to minister to everyone. Also, we desperately need members of CC to be willing to give lifts to people on a friendly basis. If you could do this please call Jenny!

Looking Forward Our pastoral team is now somewhat depleted, so I am delighted to say that Doug has started a pastoral training course (monthly) as mentioned in last year's report. We have several members coming along plus two from another church in Oxted. We look at case studies, presence, provision, prayer and later on,

good listening skills and bereavement. By the end we hope to have Pastoral Assistants for affirmed ministry.

The Tuesday Tea Room has been operating since September 2022 and is an extension of the Foyer Coffee Bar ministry. The idea is to appeal to those in our community who perhaps find the morning coffee bar rather noisy. So, we discourage children, yet encourage conversation, games and craft activities, whilst enjoying tea, coffee, home-made cake and biscuits. Tuesday Tea Room meets from 2-4pm in the Lebanon/Nazareth room at the back of the church, so we are not disturbed. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly and welcoming – and we talk about all sorts of things! ***Debbie and Simon***

Lastly thanks you to all those who quietly support and care for so many in the fellowship including House Groups. We continue to see the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit at work in so many different ways. As always please pray for His wisdom and discernment in all that we do.

Jenny Hird (Pastoral Leader and SPA)

Pauline Chapman (Paediatric Lay Chaplain)

Welcome

What did you set out to achieve in 2022?

Welcome is essential to the experience new visitors to church have and we have an intentional approach to welcome. Assigned welcomers greet everyone at the door with a smile and a greeting and a willingness to answer any question. Directing newcomers to coffee, groups, and church.

What was new in 2022?

A work in progress is to establish the team of welcomers and hosts and stewards as one "Front of House" team is really to formalise what often happens. Ideally anyone new will feel welcomed and clearly directed at each stage of their journey from car park to seat! This is a work in progress because we changed the definitions from individual roles (steward, welcome) to Front of House team member before we had a chance to arrange a meeting to explain. This caused some confusion for which I apologise.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

Thank you to the whole team from welcome at the door to coffee to stewarding in the church. We have had a steady stream of people coming to us for the first time and the feedback is very often how warm and welcoming it was to come here. Not feeling pressured but that opportunities to become part of the Christ Church family are clear.

What were the challenges and struggles?

It remains possible even with the intentions of the team to be left alone in services or isolated over coffee. A warm welcome on the way in can be lost when left alone

in worship. It would be great to take what is good and make it even greater. Recent challenges through the Living in Love and Faith discussions have highlighted areas for us to work on related to the church and a range of life situations.

What are your hopes for 2023?

Build on what is already good. A radical new welcome for all, where the team is bolstered with even more volunteers, a renewed cohesion and team spirit that is complemented by a new outward focus inside – where no one is left alone in worship that wants company and fellowship. And that means that *all* of us have eyes for those who are alone. That welcome exudes more of the love of God and is unashamed to speak and live the Gospel.

Safeguarding Report APCM April 2022

The parish of Christ Church Purley takes the safeguarding and care of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. The church complies with the Church of England and the Diocese of Southwark's 'A Safer Church Policy' regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and the PCC has complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding.

All children and adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse and safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our church' safeguarding policy may be viewed by anyone and is on the home page of the Church website as well as posters displayed around the church complex.

Southwark Diocese provide safeguarding training for anyone needing it and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers are always available for advice.

What did you set out to achieve in 2022?

We successfully ran our own inhouse safeguarding training. We aim to repeat this again so more people can benefit from in person training.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

The number of people completing their safeguarding training in 2022.

20 have completed C0

23 have completed C1

1 Has completed C2

1 Safer recruitment and people management training

15 Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse

30 DBS completed

What were the challenges and struggles?

It is a requirement that all volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults have an enhanced DBS, complete Level 1 and level 2 safeguarding training and have two references for their ministry.

A big thank you to Jo Riches and Shelley Chattersingh for all they have done in supporting the church in its safeguarding needs. Welcome to Alison Flexman who will be a new safeguarding officer.

What are your hopes for 2023?

If you have any concerns or queries regarding Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, Disclosure and Barring (DB) forms please email safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk or if you have an urgent concern please phone me, Doug or Jean or contact the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor.

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Our aim continues to be to reach out to children and youth with the love and message of Jesus and to equip, enable and support each child and young person in their own individual walk with God.

Children

In 2022, we praise God that we were able to develop our Sunday ministry to allow for more age-targeted teaching to take place. We were able to separate our primary aged children into EYFS & KS1 and KS2 due to our incredible team! We have deliberately developed the roles so that we are able to rotate team into different age-groups, roles and tasks and have begun to have termly team meetings which are a blend of worship, training and food! Our syllabus has followed 'Connected hearts' to enable us to have unified teaching 0-18s and to embed and solidify our grounding in Holy Spirit ministry in each age-group. From this basis, we aim to build a firm foundation of scripture and the Christian faith. We have seen growth in numbers attending and pray this trend to continue as well as the continued deepening of faith for those present.

As part of our Sunday provision, in June we started to include 'mini-ministry' during our 'Altogether time' in church. This is part of the first 15 minutes of the service whereby we collectively have a time of worship, teaching and ministry together. This has been a huge success, with all ages enjoying engaging together and ministering with and to each



other in various ways. There has

also been an intentional move towards more age-diverse teams, most evident in our worship bands and holiday club, but is an area which continue to press into. We know that God invites us all to follow Him, irrespective of age, and so we plan to continue to seek ways of enabling all to step into their gifting.



In January, we had our first 'Winter walk.' It was a lovely time of church family coming together to blow away the cobwebs on a beautifully sunny and muddy walk in Coombe woods. We also had a church family outing to see 'The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe' which proved to be an amazing production and a wonderful time of chatting and building relationships.

We were delighted to welcome 350 children, parents and adults to our Easter family funday in which we were able to bless our community with hot cross buns, crafts, VR experience, animal corner, prayer tent, worship and an Easter message! It was a wonderful time with a beautiful and joyful atmosphere which led to several families discovering the church and in which we now have the joy of knowing them as our church family.

In August, we buckled up with 60 children and jetted off to outer space as part of our holiday club to discover Jesus through incredible stories of love, faith and hope. It was an amazing time of spiritual encounter as well as a lot of gunge and laughter!

In November, a group of children join Purley Baptist Church as a joint residential at Carroty Wood. This was a wonderful time of climbing, archery, swimming and mud, as well as learning about Daniel and being courageous for God.

In December, we wrapped up warm and set off along Purley Highstreet with Pedro the donkey as we retold the Christmas story through acting, narration and carols. Several hundred people joined us for mulled wine and mince pies and the Christmas message of Jesus' birth!

In addition to our live nativity, we enjoyed a sheep hunt with local shops, Blessings tree in which many prayers of thanks were written and added, Christingle service in which we had a wonderful pop-up choir of 5-11yrs led by the lovely Lynn and Lou Benn, and our sheep-themed crib service in which the story of Jesus was revealed through the wonderful artistry of Kate Buckley.

Under 5's continues to go well with 20 children attending regularly together with their parent or grandparent. Adults help their child engage with the themed activities while getting time to build relationships with each other. Coffee, tea and biscuits are available and families encouraged to make the space their home. Themed activities include biscuit decorating, bible corner, sand/water play, ride-on toys and baby toys. A 20-minute story with puppet, multi-media and specially written songs throughout is presented followed by themed craft.

Growth in Under 5's is the heart of future growth in Children's Ministry at Christ Church so going forward we will look to engage more young families from Carousel Toddler Group, Purley Nursery and the local area through Outreach Events and social media.

2 has seen several changes for our young people within Christ Church. In January, we heard how Chuk and his family were being called to Canada as he accepted the post of Associate Pastor. We are so grateful to Chuk for his passionate concern for our young people, his heart for sharing the scriptures and for striving to open up the word to youth. We continue to pray for Chuk and his family in their exciting next chapter.

Chuk left the post in May, but we were delighted to welcome Ryan who started soon afterwards. Ryan is a wonderfully creative and gifted spoken-word artist as well as engaging and gentle man of God. Ryan helped to develop and continue provision for youth through weekly cells and Sunday provision.

In February, a couple of young people joined Purley Baptist Church for a joint residential at Carrotty Wood, whereby a lot of fun was had undertaking high ropes, BMX-ing, climbing, archery and swimming. Each day, we looked at influencers and the values of image, culture and faith through the life of Esther.

It was wonderful to welcome the youth as Junior leaders for our holiday club! They were a huge blessing and fantastic role models to our children, each so gifted and a joyful part of our church family.

In September, Ken joined the Children, youth and families (CYF) team as our Discipleship Year placement. This involves weekly ministry training at IMPRNT church, focusing on creative ministry as well as serving in youth and children. Ken is a vital part of the CYF team, assisting and leading in different roles and one that continues to develop and grow.

In December, we identified that Ryan is being called by God to step into spoken-word ministry as his particular gifting and calling. We are delighted for him and know that this is a crucial role at a significant time whereby we are beginning to see a significant move of the Spirit within youth and young people. We are delighted that he and his family, continue to be members of Christ Church and wish to support him in prayer at this vital time.

Our prayer is for all our children, youth and families, but in particular we pray for development of our youth ministry and youth team. This area is the most pressured and we'd love for you to prayerfully consider being part of the team to help as we expectantly and excitedly seek God in His way forward for our young people and youth ministry.



None of this could have taken place without all of the incredible work, support and assistance of an amazing team of people: Kids' team, youth team, schools' team and Holiday club team. There are too many to mention here, but we are so grateful for each and every one of you. You are all so greatly loved and valued – thank you. I particularly want to thank those who have been part of the CYF team: Charlotte for her endless commitment, joy and creativity, Ken for his boundless energy, willingness to 'get stuck in' and servant-heartedness, Chuk for his passionate concern for the young people and his willingness to follow Jesus' call across the pond, and for Ryan for his deep wisdom, gentleness and genuine love for the youth.

Jude Barber Lead pastor – Children's, Youth and Families team

What did you set out to achieve in 2022?

God's Word is central to our worship and Christian life together. We set out with a sermon series in the first half of the year that traced the meaning and impact of each step of the Holy Communion service and what it means to worship and apply that to our daily walk. A later series was planned on the letters to the churches in revelation and to start a series on Matthew's Gospel. Mission Partner Sundays ran throughout the year where the reading was chosen by our guest speakers. The Third service is less planned and sometimes the passage that we reflect on is not finally selected until Sunday.

What was new in 2022?

The original plan was adjusted near the end of the first sermon series in favour of following two of Paul's letters, to Timothy. This led us through the summer on to the early part of 2023.

We also started prayer gatherings on a second Sunday, spurred on by following the *Prayer Course*.

The prophetic nature of the Third service developed over the year.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

Mission Partner speakers were always stimulating and really brought home the ministries that we support as Mission Partners. The visit by Alex Boateng from Alive City Church was a joy as he brought a challenging message of radical discipleship from Matthew. Both series were challenging, nudging us all towards the challenges of church ancient and modern and the call to discipleship that Paul laid on Timothy and that our liturgy, that we can take for granted, lays on us week by week.

Many of the passages and words before the service through the year in the Third service were challenging and encouraging in equal measure. There was much about getting ourselves ready for what God is about to do.

Thanks, on behalf of all of us go to all who led us in intercession and shared God's Word with us.

What were the challenges and struggles?

In the background across the church is a debate about what the Gospel message actually is and how important Scripture is to our faith. Many of the verses we explored this year brought this background into sharp focus.

Maintaining three services throughout the year could be challenging. Summer 2023 will see only two so that the musical worship leaders can get a break.

What are your hopes for 2023?

As we embark on a new series from Matthew about the Kingdom that Word and Spirit will come together in a powerful way. That we will both be challenged and transformed as well as encouraged and lifted up.

What was new in 2022?

Christ Church continues to be blessed by the number of people who use their musical gifts to lead the congregation in sung worship. We have welcomed new members of the team this year and are enjoying the benefits of a more diverse team.

One theme for us in the past year has been 'training'. We benefitted from attending two workshops run by Purley Baptist – for keyboard players and vocalists – and have run our own 'new songs' workshop, as well as an open session for children and young people. There are more opportunities to learn in the pipeline.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate (including appropriate thanks)?

We greatly enjoyed taking part in extended worship times in the evening "14:26" services; and I think the worship bands have adapted well to the pattern of singing and playing at two services (10.15 and 11.45).

Richard Slade continues to bless the congregation, both in leading the sung worship at 8.45 services, and particularly in preparing the choirs for the Christmas carol service and Good Friday service. We are always looking for new members for those choirs, so do approach Richard or Liz Slade if you are interested (Christmas is only eight months away!).

Lynn and Louise Benn prepared a children's choir for the Christingle service, which I know was widely appreciated; and we have enjoyed taking part in the car park services.

The worship bands (and indeed, the whole Christ Church community) are indebted to the faithful service of those who operate the sound desk and computer which projects the words onto the screens Sunday after Sunday. Theirs is an unsung but crucial part of our worship, for which we are extremely grateful.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Unseen by most, there is a lot of practical work involved in preparing for Sunday services – by band leaders, Jean in the church office, and sound desk and computer operators. Sometimes, the burden can feel too heavy. So, we have been trying to find ways of streamlining, to reduce the burden on each of these people. I think we have made some progress but there is some way to go.

What are your hopes for 2023?

Our heart's desire is to serve the body of Christ so that we all lift our hearts and voices to worship the Living God wholeheartedly when we come together, and are touched by His Spirit in a way that spills out into the rest of our lives. May that be true more and more in the year ahead.

Graham Duncan

What did you set out to achieve in 2022?

It was hoped to run planned courses on understanding our faith (previously the Witness Course) and prayer ministry.

What was new in 2022?

The key areas in which resources and courses were available were in the areas of Living in Love and Faith, Anti-racism, Pastoral Care and Prayer. Firstly, the Living in Love and Faith course completed in January. Many asked me what I believed about the issues raised. I therefore wrote and recorded a series of reflections that concluded and these are posted on our YouTube channel and can be accessed via the Resources menu on the website. Secondly, we were invited to join the *Black Light* course that looked at the history of the church and race and how that can be lived out well now. Thirdly, we began the long planned Pastoral Training with a group of 6 people interested in finding out more about acting as Pastoral Assistants for the church. Finally, on Sunday evenings we followed the *Prayer Course*, a video course led by Pete Grieg. It was a wonderful stimulus for times of prayer about a whole range of subjects that the Lord laid on our hearts (e.g. one evening spent interceding entirely for Ukraine).

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

All of these courses have been stimulating and encouraging and those who attended have benefited from being part of them. *Black Light* in particular has taken our decisions about Ant-Racism on a few steps. It has been a joy to share experience and explore some of the opportunities (and boundaries) of good pastoral care with a dedicated group.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Living in Love and Faith continues to befuddle and stir up the more that what is involved comes into the light and deep divisions and hurt in the church are exposed. The exploration of racism is never going to be comfortable but fruit can come from it. Time constraints and priorities (and not least an extended period of recovery from Covid!) have derailed us from doing even more to invest in people in 2022.

What are your hopes for 2023?

A full suite of course to support evangelism, witness, prayer ministry and the other nuts and bolts of mission as we are called. Building on Black Light and even more take up this year. That all may be informed of the Biblical issues at stake with living in Love and Faith and come to an understanding of God's will for all people based on that understanding. Lots ...more... prayer!

We continue to rejoice and give thanks for the dedication of our house group leaders, and the participation of all the group members, whether gathering on Zoom or face to face, for it is in these meetings that friendships grow, fellowship increases and discipleship deepens. Here there is space to be real – to share pain, adversity and questions, as well as testimonies and answered prayers! We are delighted that, recently, a new group (the 11th) has begun, led by Josh Howgego and Lisa; Discipleship Explored, which has arisen from the last two Alpha courses.

In addition to the house groups there are also morning prayer groups which meet in the Foyer, from Monday to Wednesday, and an on-line Bible Study on Monday afternoons. We are grateful for those that lead them, for the support and encouragement that they give to those who may not otherwise be able to join a group. We are also immensely grateful to Doug and Lisa for the oversight, insight, input and prayer they give to the ongoing life of the house groups.

During the year we have been challenged in the groups as we have got to grips with Paul's 'pastoral' letters (to Timothy, Titus and Philemon). The warnings and witness, given to these 1st century Christians leaders as they struggled with a changing culture and believers turning away from Scriptural truth, we have found have great resonance for us in the 21st Century. We have followed this theme during Lent by examining All For Jesus, a five-part course from Release International, focusing on how Christians who are opposed/persecuted for their belief can not only endure but also live by faithfulness and continue in hope, no matter what the circumstances.

In week 5 we were exhorted by Hebrews 10:23 "to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess because He who promised is faithful." This is our prayer for the house groups for 2023.

Martin and Sara Ryan



Mission and Evangelism Report – APCM 2023

The *Talking Jesus Report* in 2022 uncovered some new things such as:

Conversations about Jesus – 55% of non-Christians, who know a practising Christian, have had a conversation with that Christian about faith. 33% of non-

People are curious to hear about Jesus!

Does that encourage us to start or keep reading it for ourselves and invite others to join us to read it too?

Christians, having had a conversation with a Christian are open to talking about Jesus Christ and 36% are open to experiencing or encountering him.

Amazingly, to the question 'How do people come to follow Jesus for themselves?' the second most given answer (24%) was by reading the Bible!

Alpha is one of a number of ways given to us to help us fulfil our mission statement to 'Make passionate disciples for Christ'. In 2022 an amazing team of 16 host/helpers and six cooks hosted four courses in the Spring and Autumn. In total we welcomed forty people to our Alpha Courses in 2022, some came from our fellowship, others were invited by a friend and a few enquired because of our publicity or via Alpha UK's search too.

The Holy Spirit Day held on a Saturday in April and November proved to be the highlight of the course for many.

Who might you begin praying for and inviting to our next course? How might you like to get involved in serving? (admin/welcome/cooking/serving/helping – speak to Lisa)

It's great to have a number of our guests now helping with the current Alpha course, becoming part of our Sunday fellowship and getting involved with serving elsewhere in the Church.

Hope Explored – This three-session introduction to the Christian faith was trialled as a follow on to The Bereavement Journey in 2022.

Christianity Explored - We loved hosting a joint partnership with Alive City Church to run this course on Saturday mornings in the autumn.

Town Chaplaincy – A small ecumenical team of us meet on Zoom to pray for Purley shops, offices and business once a fortnight prior to going out to bring the love of Jesus, hope and prayers to the centre of town. "*Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*" Jeremiah 29:7.

What aspect of mission are you passionate about? Let's talk about how that might happen.

Lisa Fairman- Brown

After a staggered reopening in February 2022, two mornings a week in term time, The Foyer successfully opened five mornings each week from April 2022.

Initially it was challenging having enough volunteers to support this opening, but our team of volunteers has grown steadily and there are now twenty-five to thirty volunteers on the rota serving tea, coffee, cake, and now breakfast!

It has been a joy to welcome so many people of all ages to The Foyer, and a particular privilege to meet three of our youngest visitors, born in December and January. From mums and children who come regularly for the many activities and groups using the wider church premises, to older members chatting before going to sing together, and even our regular morning prayer group – everyone is welcome, and the atmosphere is always warm and inviting.

Some days are busier than others and within each morning there are always quiet sessions but we decided to have an afternoon tea room for those who needed a quiet space. Led by Debbie and Simon, the Tuesday Tea Room now has a small group of regulars meeting weekly in the Nazareth and Lebanon rooms. The aim is to continue to be sensitive for the need to have a quiet and welcoming space, not necessarily always in The Foyer.

Alongside my thanks to all the volunteers, a particular thanks go to all The Foyer bakers for supplying so many delicious homemade cakes in all shapes, sizes, flavours and varieties. Thanks also to Kim who keeps us well stocked with all our essentials, including biscuits!

Finally, if anyone would like to join the team of volunteers please do contact me, we especially would like to grow a team of listeners.

Lynn Benn



Rock Choir flash mob in the Foyer

In 2022, our intention was to develop and increase our provision, support and work within schools and to continue to deepen relationships with Christ Church school post-pandemic.

We were delighted to have such a warm and open invitation to Christ Church School which enabled us to continue to run C4 (weekly Christian lunch club), weekly collective worship and host school services for Easter, Leavers', Harvest and Christmas. School prayers have taken place via Zoom throughout the year led by wonderful Charlotte and prayer notes sent weekly to those who support our school in this vital manner. We have an amazing team of bakers who bless our school each half term with 'Cake Wednesday' which is always very enthusiastically received by staff who literally come skipping into the staff room for the treat and the room fills with excited chatter and laughter! In September, we were able to offer 'Cake and a cuddle,' for our new Reception parents and as always, it is a wonderful opportunity for parents to build relationships with church and each other.

We had the joy of running 'Junior Peaced Together' both in the spring and Autumn terms. These were hugely beneficial to the pupils involved and in September we saw a change whereby we were able to host on the church premises. This had the wonderful additional benefit of enabling pupils to feel that church is a welcoming, safe and fun environment whereby deep and genuine relationships have grown with team and pupils.

We were invited to create, develop and run a 'Prayer space' in school as part of their wellbeing programme. We had the joy of creating a 'tabernacle' that was open to all pupils who were able to come throughout the week to explore and discover our God who is 'present' through creative and interactive prayer stations and immersive experiences. This was hugely well received with pupils and staff commenting how much they benefitted from the prayer space and with some stating how they 'felt different' afterwards. We even had reports of children repeatedly returning throughout the week!

We continued to lead weekly collective worship at Christ Church, but were delighted that over the year, we were able to return to two other local primary schools and we continue to rebuild wonderful relationships with pupils and staff.

After the disappointment of having to cancel our Easter schools' outreach project due to contracting covid, in late November, we were overjoyed to transform the church into Bethlehem for 'Christmas unwrapped.' Over the week, we welcomed over 330 pupils from Reception – Year 2 to discover the true story of Christmas through storytelling, crafts and immersive experience.

It was a pleasure to work in partnership with school to be able to invite families to join us for our 'Warm space' on Friday nights, providing a warm welcome, activities and a hot meal together as a way of supporting families during the economic crisis.

It is with enormous thanks and huge appreciation to everyone who has helped support the ministry to schools, whether it is organising, assisting, leading, baking or praying. We are so grateful and thank God for your servant-heartedness and

commitment – thank you. ***Jude Barber Lead pastor – Children’s, Youth and Families team***

Our Mission Partners continue to be supported by a small but enthusiastic Mission Partner Group. We progressed the Mission Partner of the Month introduced in 2021 by having a representative from an organisation speak to us on the third Sunday of each month. It is hoped that by raising the awareness, the wider church gained a better understanding of the work of our Mission Partners.

A decision was made in 2022 to add the Croydon Zimbabwe Link to our portfolio of Mission Partners. It is hoped that in due course we will be able to establish a link with a parish in Zimbabwe.

The £20,000 Mission Partner grant for 2022 was allocated as follows:

Chris Elston (Moldova)	£3,550
Boyd's (Oasis Centre)	£5,050
Emmanuel International	£5,050
Ascension Trust	£3,550
London City Mission	£1,100
Release International	£1,050
Mission Aviation Fellowship	£275
Faith in Later Life	£275
Croydon-Zimbabwe Link	<u>£100</u>
	<u>£20,000</u>

Some of our Mission Partners still have no advocates to look after their interests - in particular the Mission Aviation Fellowship and Faith in Later Life. If you are interested do get in touch. If there is a mission organisation you feel we ought to support please let us know.

We hope to have the occasional representative speak to us during a service 2023. We also plan to have some evening events to raise the profile of our Mission Partners.

My thanks to all our advocates at Christ Church for liaising with our Mission Partners and organising the Mission Partner of the month.

Indrani Balachandran

2022 saw us return to a near normal engagement with the community. Sadly, the one thing that will not return to pre Covid provision is the Floating Night Shelter as you will see from Amanda's report below. We continue to offer something to a wide section of our community in need of our care and support. The reports below are a glimpse of what our wonderful volunteers at Christ Church offer in the name of Jesus.

My thanks to Amanda, Cynthia and Trevor for their contributions to this report and to the many willing volunteers who make these initiatives possible.

Sandwiches for Nightwatch

We have been unable to run the floating night shelter since 2021. Instead, we've been making and donating sandwiches and other items to Croydon Nightwatch, the nightly soup run service which operates in central Croydon and this has been a huge help to them at this time of unprecedented need. Around 80 loaves, drinks, fruit, sweet treats and monetary donations have been provided by our 18 Christ Church Purley volunteers this year. Thanks so much to those who participated. It's very unlikely that we'll be running the night shelter again in our churches as this model of delivery is not supported by Croydon Council who are responsible for screening our potential guests. For as long as Croydon Nightwatch finds this offering from the Croydon churches useful each year, we will continue to support them. God bless them for all they do for our homeless and marginalised in the borough.

Amanda Shortland

Tea and Talk - Christ Church Mothers' Union Initiative supporting local refugees and asylum seekers.

We meet on a Thursday Afternoon at St Augustine's, South Croydon church halls. There is a Hotel in St. Augustines Avenue which houses refugees and Asylum seekers who are waiting on the Home Office for their decision on their future. Our purpose is to serve our guests who become friends, with the unconditional love of Jesus. We (5 women and 2 men) try to encourage our guests to speak English. We provide refreshments and sometimes we have new clothes to give and scooters for the children. In 2022 we held an open meeting at CC to inform all who attended the plight of refugees. 4 male refugees spoke that evening and one family from CC is still supporting one of those who spoke. One of our families who had been with us over a year moved to Portsmouth and a family from CC visited them and took furniture. Also 2 of our helpers visited by train. This family are opening their home to refugees in the area and recently another family has gone to Portsmouth and the families are supporting one another. During the summer holidays we took refreshments to the local park on a Thursday afternoon. We invited 3 families to one of our homes where the women cooked and we ate together. A few outings, such as walks and visiting blue bell woods were also arranged. At Christmas the MU funded Tesco gift vouchers for our regular families and we gave other gifts as well. When we look back over 2022 we have seen guests come and go and those who stay for well over a year become our friends. Looking forward we have more families joining us now and we pray for them and sometimes with them. We give thanks to Geoffrey the Vicar of St Augustine's for supporting us and not charging us

a hire charge. We give thanks to Christ Church members for responding to requests and their ongoing support for refugees. We give thanks for our faithful helpers and most importantly we give thanks to our new friends who have opened our eyes and blessed us. Thanks be to God.

Cynthia Smith

Purley Food Hub

What did you set out to achieve in 2022? Although the Purley Food Hub, doesn't have Mission Action Plan (MAP), but perhaps it should, its object is according to our Articles of Association, to advance the Christian faith by relieving persons in distress by the provision of food, co-operating with other charities or organisations and the provision of advisory services (sign posting).



So, we are certainly doing well on the last points, provision of food, working with others and sign posting, I also hope we are advancing the Christian faith through our witness, but perhaps only God knows this.

What was new in 2022?

Perhaps what was new in 2022 and disappointingly so, was the increase in number of clients needing emergency food has steadily increased with December 2022 being our busiest ever month since we began in 2013. Sadly, we do not see the numbers significantly decreasing as we move into 2023.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

We give thanks for God's continuing provision of food and finances through our very generous donors. And it is always wonderful to hear the responses of clients, with this one from Purley Food Stop hosted by Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church, who PFH support through food and finances.

'This is just a card to show my gratitude and to simply say thank you guys from the bottom of my heart. It was the first time coming and everyone was so kind. I felt so valued.

This is a very difficult season in my life and I was very worried about how I was going to provide food for myself. I believe in God and I truly believe God used you guys as an instrument of help in this season of my life.

I am forever grateful. I have enough food to last me for two weeks. God bless you all. I will never forget the kindness and support you've shown. I will always remember what the pastor said to me last Friday, hard times are only temporary'.

What were the challenges and struggles?

Sometimes the challenge is to find space for all the food donations, particularly around Christmas time, but we share with others all we have been blessed with and the pile diminishes as we go through the early months of the year.

There have been struggles sometimes with volunteers, particularly drivers in times of flu and holidays. We are also looking out for those who might consider being Client Support Volunteers to get alongside clients who have been identified as needing extra support, beyond the emergency food we can provide. Please get in touch with myself at pfhchairoftrustees@pfoodhub.uk .

What are your hopes for 2023?

To be able to continue to serve those who are referred to us, to work with our partner organisations and to be here as long as there is a need.

And finally, to mark our 10th anniversary with a service of thanksgiving in June at Purley United Reform Church on a date to be yet decided.

Trevor Jones

Curate Report 2022

Hooray – 12 whole months of in-person ministry and not a lockdown in sight. This was a gift and on so many days I would reflect how much I love being in ministry and doing what I am doing. No two days are the same although each one starts with the essential food and drink of John 6:35 – for me that consists of dwelling in the Bible readings of the Church, listening to Lectio 365, walking and praying (and yes, the dog comes too).



In 2022 for the first time I conducted four weddings. I prayed for and with the shops and businesses on the Brighton Road, I joined in over in the Rotary Field for the Platinum Jubilee events. Just once, I put myself forward to be gunged – been there, done it, ticked it off my bucket list! I did many other things besides. As long as I was with team or one or other of you and in the company of Jesus, I loved it.



Lisa



CROYDON SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD 2022-23

For completeness, this report covers the first Synod meeting in 2023, as well as all the meetings in 2022.

After two years of disruption, all the 2022 meetings were held on a “face-to-face” basis.

The main theme of our 10th February 2022 meeting, at Christ Church was “How We Can Find Strength in Difficult Times” This was led by Rev Paul Roberts (Area Dean) and featured group discussions; reflections by Rev Doug McHardie; Prayer Stations devised by Rev Justine Middlemiss; a session on Praying in Solitudes led by Rev Lisa Fairman-Brown; and private prayer opportunities.

On 8th June at St Andrew’s, we welcomed Rev Dr Tim Astin, Episcopal Area Environmental Adviser. Tim talked about Care for Creation (one of the Five Marks of Mission) and how churches could pursue that, in the context of the Church of England’s general aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. The focus was on the practical – what we could actually do to promote Care for Creation, which might often involve taking small steps first and building up to bigger issues.

The 11th October meeting was held at St Mark’s, Woodcote. The key theme was Inclusive Church – How to Make Church Worship and Activities Accessible. Rev Fiona Weaver and members of the St Mark’s and St Swithun’s teams gave us fascinating examples of how they were making church accessible, focusing on the Dementia Café at St Mark’s and St Swithun’s work with Carlen House, a care home for adults with a variety of special needs. A lot of practical examples and material was made available.

Synod also elected Mr Gerry Daley (St Andrew’s) to the Deanery Leadership Team, in place of Mr Peter Burton (also St Andrew’s) who had been compelled to resign for health reasons.

The first meeting of 2023, and the last of the 2020-23 triennium, was held at All Saints’, Kenley on 9th February. Jack Swan, Community Organizer for Croydon Citizens, and Alex Enaharo (St Luke’s, Woodside) gave us a very challenging and thought-provoking presentation on moving on from the “charity of mercy” (i.e. dealing with the symptoms of problems) to the “charity of justice” (tackling their root causes). This is the distinctive theme of Citizens UK, of which Croydon Citizens is the local association. Examples were given of work in Croydon North Deanery and in mental health. We need to give deep consideration to the implications for the southern part of the Borough of Croydon.

Also, in February we marked Rev Paul Roberts’ last Synod as Area Dean, with a reception organized by Rev Justine Middlemiss and the All Saints’ Kenley team.

Paul is standing down as Area Dean at Easter, prior to retirement from full-time ministry in September. Our lay Chair, Indrani Balachandran, is also standing down at the end of the triennium but, was unable to be with us at the Synod meeting. We are very grateful to Paul and Indrani for their leadership, particularly in the last few, very difficult, years.

This year's APCMs are due to elect members of Synod's House of Laity for the 2023-26 triennium. We do hope people will be minded to stand for election, particularly as we ended the 2020-23 triennium with a significant number of vacancies across the deanery. The diocese has published a leaflet giving information about Synod membership – featuring a photograph of one of our sessions and a quotation from Indrani – which is available in all churches.

I am indebted to Chris Babbs, Secretary to the Deanery Synod, for this report and for his excellent minutes throughout the year.

Nick Whitley

Beavers: The Beavers have had so much fun over the last year, it has been fantastic to be able to return to Scouting without any Covid restrictions in place. Our numbers have been steadily increasing and we have 19 Beavers and three Young Leaders in our colony. Our highlights this year have included a visit to Croydon Fire Station, a paramedic visit to the hut to teach us first aid and a virtual tour of the International Space Station! Badgework has included cooking, cyclist, money skills, photographer, fire safety, gardener, international and a whole load more besides! Heartfelt thanks go to my fellow leaders across all sections, parents who support every step of the way, and lastly to our wonderful Beavers who never fail to put a smile on my face. I am immensely proud of them all.

Scouts: The Scout section have had another busy year. We are very pleased to report that the number of Scouts have been increasing over the course of the year and we are now almost back to pre-Covid levels with a troop of around 30 Scouts. The number of girls in the Scout troop has also been increasing. It was wonderful this year to return to a full programme with highlights including the Summer Camp, County Night Exercise, Night Hikes, and the Winter Camp which included a visit to IWM Duxford. Troop nights have included axe, knives and saws night, fires, cooking, air rifles, movie making, beading, teamwork and badgework. Many thanks to all the leaders and parents who give their support throughout the year.

Brownies: As always, we set out to give our girls the space to be who they are, to explore different avenues and gain new hobbies. We were faced with the struggle of our leader in charge going on maternity leave and then stepping back due to wanting to spend more time with her beautiful baby boy.

We have gained some new leaders and young leaders which has been amazing – they're fabulous and we're so lucky to have them!

We are looking forward to hopefully expanding our pack in 2023, watching the girls achieve more and more badges and also, we are planning a sleepover or two!

Guides: We have had a great year enjoying getting back to normal. Last summer we gained Camp Skill Builder and Campfire Challenge badges, getting outside as much as possible. In meetings we lit fires, pitched tents, made bedding rolls, learned knots and lashings and gadget making and made our own obstacle course. We did wide games, rounders, climbing, assault course, caving simulation and sang lots of songs. We camped in tents at Blackland Farm in May going kayaking, bouldering, and doing the crate challenge and lighting fires for cooking and singing. In the autumn term we made our own butter, bird feeders, bookshelves, bionic hands and fishing nets. We went on a night hike, sorted tins for Nightwatch, played Human Hungry Hippos and sang carols at Abbeyfield. We had a fantastic indoor weekend in January gaining the Innovate Skill Builder using art, civil and mechanical engineering, sport and computer skills. In meetings we have played Quidditch, International games and learnt lots of First Aid gaining the First Aid Skill Builder. We are looking forward to a summer of outings, camp, and of course fires! We are looking to grow our leadership team. If you think you might be interested in volunteering with us, please get in touch. ***Louise Benn***

Rainbows: Rainbows are the youngest members of GirlGuiding UK. We currently have 10 Rainbows. Our numbers have slowly increased since COVID and we have quite a few that will be joining us after Easter.

We are still only two adults running Rainbows and our succession plan is to seek additional adult, all information is on www.girlguiding.org.uk.

We have continued offering a varied programme of activities for the Rainbows; ranging from crafts, games and over the coming months, lots of outdoor activities. We are blessed to have one Young Leader. These helpers are young women who are aged between 14-18; who are developing their leadership skills. All our helpers are required to undertake safeguarding training as well as other online and face to face modules to help achieve their understanding of working with our younger members. We have also welcomed two young external volunteers as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

I would like to thank all our families for supporting us, especially when we don't finish exactly on time! Thank you to Julie; again, without her support personally over what has been a challenging few months for me, I couldn't have managed Rainbows on my own. To Megan, our wonderful Young Leader who is great at getting involved with the girls. And an extended thank you to the Church, who are a great supporter.

Francesca Taylor
Rainbow Guide Leader

I took on the role of the Church lettings administrator in January 2022, with a fair dose of excitement mixed with a certain unease of stepping into someone else's comfortable and savvy shoes.

I must say that the past year has turned out to be nothing short of super support (and fun) from my team, who will go an extra mile to help a lost soul!

A special thanks goes to my colleague, Mark, for the tons of useful tips and practical help he has given me from his expert position of the Caretaker, as he has patiently observed my efforts with getting to know my new work place and guided me around, with humour.

Mark is the best person to contact if you have a query relating to our cark, repairs or anything else you are unsure of on-site. You can contact him at caretaker@christchurchpurley.org.uk.

2022 was a super busy year.

With the pandemic becoming less of a worry for the church hall users, we have started gaining momentum with the number of bookings coming in.

And so, currently we cater for the following:

- 18 regular weekly hirers, some of whom use the rooms twice a week or more;
- 8 additional monthly regulars;
- 7 private counsellors who use the rooms almost every day;
- 11 regular Church-run groups who meet on the premises weekly, monthly or bi-monthly;
- 4 uniformed organisations;
- One-off social events / training sessions on most Saturdays.

There are also a few new regular monthly hirers already signed up to start using our venues from September onwards.

If you would like to find out more about all activities and events taking place in the Church, please refer to the notice board in the foyer, go to our website or pop into the office for a chat.

I would like to point out that we have received plenty of excellent feedback from the one-off hirers, who have enjoyed hosting their small and big events at our church, and who often comment on our competitive rates, cleanliness, friendliness and an amazingly welcoming foyer.

This would not be possible without the lovely presence of our Coffee Bar Volunteers, whom we are blessed to have on board with us every day, and who would pop by the office with a cup of coffee when they suspect our energy might be dangerously low.

If you're interested in hiring a venue, please contact Magda on 8763 8791 or bookings@christchurchpuley.org.uk or come in for a chat every week day 9.30am

– 1pm. We run out of venue availability super-fast, so book a space as soon as you can to avoid disappointment!

Magda Faltynowicz Church Lettings Administrator

The Mothers' Union (MU) theme for 2022 was Transformation – Now!, relating to transforming ourselves, our communities and MU itself to be fit for the 21st century. The Purley branch focussed on raising funds to transform lives through MU projects and identified needs in our local community.

In 2022 Anne and I took over the exciting role of leading the CCP MU branch from Chloe and Margarita who finished their three year term of office at the end of 2021. Many thanks were expressed to Chloe and Margarita who worked tirelessly through the pandemic years of lockdown and social isolation, keeping us informed and running events as they were permitted.

With the relaxing of Covid restrictions in 2022 we were able to initiate four fund raising events to further the work of the MU. Our thanks go to all members who led, served and took part (names of leaders in brackets):

1. Easter Event: a great morning of craft, games, tea and cakes on the Tuesday after Carousel closed for the Easter break. (Margarita and Chloe)
2. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: on 4th June branch members marked this special occasion by serving hot drinks, home-made cakes and scones in the Church. This complemented the Rotary Field event organised by the Business Improvement District and Purley in Bloom. Many people enjoyed the treat, and learnt about the role of MU in improving life for families throughout the world. (Sue)
3. Mission Service: in July our branch led the monthly Mission Sunday Service. Sally Steele, MU Croydon VP, was interviewed on-line by our Vicar, Doug McHardie, on the work of Away From It All (AFIA), a holiday scheme providing breaks for those who would not otherwise enjoy a holiday. Also Cynthia described how she became involved in the MU and her subsequent roles. (Fran and Anne)
4. Oberammergau Talk: Cynthia and Kate organised an informal social evening to share their experience of attending this once in a decade Passion play performed in Bavaria. It was illustrated with photographs, and supplemented with Lynn Benn's delicious strudel!

Individual donations, together with money raised from the above events, enabled donations of £750.00 to be made to Away From It All and 4 x £20 Tesco Vouchers were given to families attending Tea and Talk, a weekly gathering at St Augustine's

for refugees and asylum seekers run by a number of local MU branches with the Purley branch led by Cynthia.

Other MU activity included:

- An evening talk, organised by Cynthia at CCP, entitled *Refugees: our Neighbours* was given by Ivanka Lennon, Croydon Refugee Day Centre and The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Canon Missioner, Southwark Diocese.
- Four members (Sue, Anne, Monica and Sheri) visited Frogmore House following an invitation from the MU's Patron, HM the Queen, and with thanks to Sue for finding her way around Windsor!
- Branch members served refreshments in the Foyer and car park at the Christmas Live Nativity.

At the beginning of 2022 Southwark Diocese MU organised a Zoom meeting on domestic abuse which was attended by Fran. Following this Anne and I sought permission from Doug to put flyers in both the women's and men's toilet cubicles with telephone number of organisations supporting men and women in this situation. After thorough research, including discussions with Diocesan safeguarding officers the flyer was written and put in place at the end of 2022. This can benefit all who visit CCP in any capacity, and facilitates access to support which can help transform the lives of those who are experiencing abuse.

We hope to encourage more people to join the MU in 2023 and to carry on the mission of Transformation – Now!, a theme that will last until 2024.

Fran and Anne

Overview:

Carousel continues to thrive in its core mission to grow relationships and in 2022 our primary focus has been to successfully develop a consistent, quality Bible Story Time.



Who's attending:

Around 90 people fill the hall each week and we have grown 40% from an average of 31 children a week last year to 45 a week since September and over 200 children together with their

parents, grandparents or carers have attended Carousel since September 2022.



What's new:

In June 2022 we began a Bible Story resource called BibleBuds which links the calendar theme of a week with a Bible Story e.g. 'World Book Day' and 'Jesus loved to tell stories - The Lost Sheep'. It's optional and parents elect to bring their children into the small room off of the hall for 10-15 minutes. It has quickly grown from 6 to consistently 20 children PLUS their parents in that small space, EVERY week. It follows a pattern of puppet, TV presentation, props, role-play, how it relates to us and lots of specially written songs, finishing with a prayer sung over the children.



Team:

Kate Buckley will remain on hand to help when we're short-handed but has otherwise stepped out of leading Carousel. Our sincere thanks for all Kate's great leading over more than twenty years! Also, Julie Bleach returned to teaching so our thanks go to her for her time and enthusiasm.



Carousel has a super strong team of volunteers who bring each of their gifting to Carousel every week and huge thanks for all their hard work go to Mary Sharpe, Gabby Welch, Mags Polyviou, Yvonne Brown, Sheri Brown, Gill Bell, Cynthia Smith, Frank Coburn and Mandy James. The

church could not be more grateful.



Looking forward:

A Carousel 'New-Baby Group' remains an idea but we will look to develop opportunities for growing relationships with the parents through social events e.g.

Women's Breakfasts or themed events. Also, now Bible Story Time is established and since it deliberately parallels Christ Church Kids Ministry's Sunday Under 5's style of teaching, we will look to develop making it a stepping-stone-invitation for a family to Sunday's teaching and growing a family's faith.



Charlotte Hunn

Life events are occasional services that allow a parish church to serve the local community – known traditionally as hatch, match and despatch.

We had the following number of each:

Baptisms 3

Weddings 0

Wedding Thanksgiving 1

Funerals 9



In addition, we had the pleasure of taking 3 candidates to the Deanery Confirmation service at St Johns on 6th November.

Lisa, our curate was learning how to conduct weddings and had the opportunity to help out St Margaret's Chipstead with four of their weddings. They have a very experienced team there and Lisa did herself proud serving those couples both in preparation and on the days themselves.

These are one of the mainstays of Parish ministry, with parishioners having a right to these rites. We are seeing more people coming to bring their children for baptism or dedication or thanksgiving which is a portent of the work being done for the under 5's through Carousel and Christ Church Toddlers.

It is worth noting that where we come into contact with families grieving loved ones that both the Bereavement Group and new for this year The Bereavement Journey course have proved very valuable spaces to sit alongside people in a similar place. Thanks to Pauline and Lisa (and now others) in providing that space.

What did you set out to achieve in 2022?

We have various layers of leadership in Christ Church. The clergy including the Vicar as incumbent. PCC as trustees of the charity and the strategic decision-making body. Staff team who are employed by the Trustees across a range of roles. And the leaders of a range of ministry teams who volunteer to use their skills to bring those teams together. Our hope is that all of these leaders are able to coordinate and flourish in their roles.

What was new in 2022?

Rev Steve Bishop has been a very influential member of Christ Church as Associate Minister but also providing financial skills and experience as a member of the Finance Committee. Steve was also extremely aware of clergy welfare and was a friend and accountability partner to all the other clergy. Steve moved away during 2022 and we no longer enjoy these many fruits.

Our Youth Minister, Chuka, and family made a longer move, to Canada, taking up an Associate Pastor role. We successfully recruited his replacement, Ryan, who joined us in October after a prolonged wait for his DBS to come through. At the time of writing Ryan has moved on to a mission project, following the Lord's prompting, and we therefore have temporary arrangements in place as we decide how to best to proceed to invest in the youth.

What were the highlights and joys to celebrate?

Certain projects have advanced in 2022 including the work on Diversity that gained momentum by forming an Anti-Racism Monitoring (ARM) group in September. The aim of this group is to advise the PCC on advancing an Anti-Racism approach making use of the Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter. It is hoped that this will take us beyond seasonal events towards more of a cultural change for the better. This is part of the Social Justice agenda that addresses the fourth mark of mission "to transform unjust structures".

Extending this idea, PCC has introduced an agenda item since September called "Justice Focus". This allows the PCC to consider and act on a range of justice issues. This has been both challenging and stimulating.

My thanks go to all who have served to lead in whatever capacity. The joy of the staff team who are very supportive of one another and of others and do a great job of encouraging and directing volunteers. Thank you to all ministry leads, House Group leaders etc without whom many things just would not happen.

What are your hopes for 2023?

It would be great if we can get some more people coming forward to take on leadership, especially from younger generation and from more diverse ethnicities. Please help by identifying people with potential, encourage them, mention their names to the Vicar (!) Developing programmes as well as identifying opportunities to grow leaders will be a big part of helping us reach greater stability out of the shock that was lockdown but also in the new territory that God seems to be leading us!

The Office support team have continued to find that the office is always busy.

Online production and social media – We continue to show the Sunday services as an online option each week and have them available on YouTube and through the website. The sermons each week are also available as podcasts. There have been a few issues with the livestream failing but work has been carried out to resolve this.

We have continued to develop our **Communications**. We continue to use **Church Suite** as the primary source of information about church activities for members (e.g. directory, rotas, events, booking tickets, registering children, completing forms and more).



We would like to produce a printed directory (as we used to do pre Covid). In order for this to be a worthwhile document please can you consider reviewing your personal information so it is visible. It will only be seen by members of Christ Church Purley. **YOU ALL have the power** to make this directory a reality. You can choose how much you want to share as the Church Suite default is "hide" so as to meet GDPR requirements!

If you would like any help in using ChurchSuite please let Jean know.

The **Website and Social Media** is regularly being updated to reflect what is happening at Christ Church.

Do you read *Newslink*? It will be in your inbox each week full of information about what is happening and the weekly Doug's Blog, just waiting for you to open and read it! Make sure you don't miss out on any news!

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Jean Loh

Our team has two aims: to keep the Church and Halls in good condition, and to make sure the various missions and activities of Christ Church are fully enabled and supported.

Routine maintenance has been carried out, repairing things as they go wrong. This included repairing the two professional dishwashers. The following major maintenance contracts were carried out:

- Boilers, heating and control systems for the halls complex.
- The hot air heaters for the Church
- "PAT" checks of mains cables, extensions, and portable equipment.
- Annual check of security systems and fire alarms/ extinguishers. The security camera control computer was replaced.
- The lightning conductors passed an electrical test.
- Protective corners are now helping avoid wall damage.
- Multiple minor repair works and repainting.

The roller shutters, meeting room dividing door and bell-cote have been visually checked by us.

The exterior lighting to the church was replaced, and commissioned along with improvements to the electrical distribution boards in the foyer kitchen and church.

The 5-year Architect's "Quinquennial Inspection" was arranged, undertaken last summer, and the report received on 24th March this year. Recommendations for action were broadly in line with our own work planning for the next 5 years, and the full detail of the QI will be incorporated into our plans as the next year progresses.

Work planned for the spring/ summer:

- Repair to under-floor heating, and pressure pumps in plant room.
- Adding a security camera.
- Inspecting and cleaning high level church gutters.

The work of keeping our gardens and grounds clean and looking good continues, organised currently by Cynthia Smith. It is intended to pave the area where the newly rebuilt compost bins are kept, and make a small extension to the tarmac car parks.

The PCC has given its approval for a significant refurbishment of the church interior. The next step will be to explain our plans to the new Archdeacon.

TG Church Fabric Team

At the end of 2021 the Young Adults group of approximately 10 20s-30s were meeting fortnightly on Zoom. There was a desire to dig into the Bible and support one another in prayer as well as share life together. To give the group some input and direction the offer of being led by the Vicar for 6 months was accepted.

These are my reflections of that time.

We began by me sharing a bit of my life story and also a favourite Bible verse. This helped everyone on the call to get a bit more of an insight about where I come from but also helped open up conversations about where they are at.

Working life is tough for almost all in the group and there was much to share and much to pray into. We saw some light in dark places and answers to prayer even amongst the daily grind and difficulties.

Group members were invited to share their own favourite Bible passages or in some cases song lyrics and why they were significant. These sessions led to some very deep reflection and times of encounter, for me at least and I hope for the others in the group.

We then spent several weeks looking at Ephesians. It was much like the Zoom Bible Study approach of reading the passage, setting questions that arise and discussing them. It took little preparation for me as a leader and led to some very stimulating discussions. Some of Paul's denser theology did make for hard work too though, it has to be admitted!

By the end of the summer the group planned to meet in person for a worship night and to review where they would like to go next as a group. After sharing and reflection the decision was to share out leading and some of the administrative tasks within the group and to continue to meet in person.

I was relieved of leading and this is just as it should be.

It has been a momentous year in many ways with some moving away for new vocations, some joining and for some the beginning of the journey into parenthood (with three little ones making an appearance in the latter part of 2022!)

I wish the group well, thank you for all you gave me in our short time together, and hoping you, by the Lord's grace, to grow from strength to strength in 2023 onwards. There is much gifting and love in that group.