

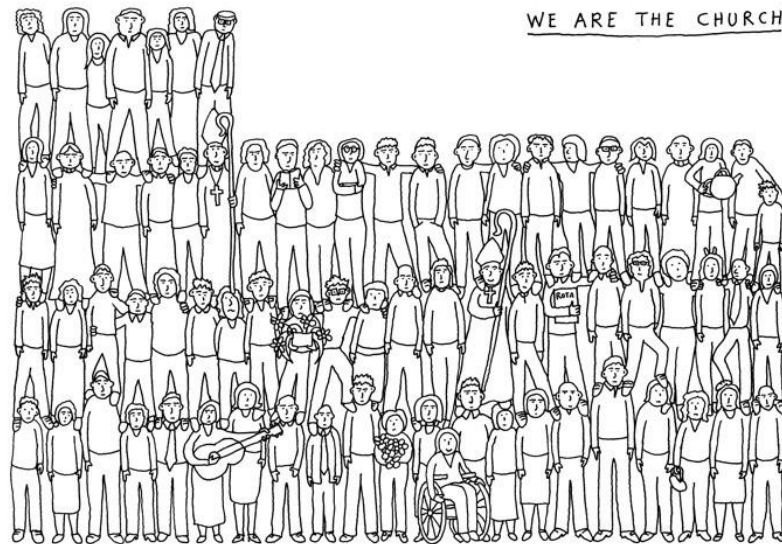
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

26th April 2023

IN the CHURCH

7.30 PM

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. BARTHOLOMEW
Hampton- in- Arden



AGENDA AND REPORTS



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Charity No: 1133937

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST.
BARTHOLOMEW
HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN
VESTRY MEETING AND A.P.C.M
26th April 2023
7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH**

AGENDA

- Welcome to those attending
- Prayers
- Apologies

- 1. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Vestry Meeting
 - i. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 April 2022 (in booklet)
 - ii. Matters arising
 - iii. Appointment of churchwardens for 2023/2024
 - iv. Close of meeting

- 2. The Annual Parochial Meeting
 - i. Minutes of A.P.C.M 6 April 2022 (in booklet)
 - ii. Matters arising
 - iii. Elections for 2023/2024:
 - a. P.C.C. 3 members can be elected
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Electoral Roll Officer
 - d. Deanery Synod members
 - e. P.C.C. Secretary
 - v. Reports (In this booklet)
 - vi. Care of the Churchyard
 - vii. Any Other Business
 - viii. Prayers and Close of Meeting

Newly elected P.C.C. members will need to sign a form after the meeting to confirm they can be Church Officers

Forms will be sent out to you by the PCC Secretary

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. BARTHOLOMEW
HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN
VESTRY MEETING AND A.P.C.M MINUTES.
6th APRIL 2022**

Present at both meetings in person Stuart Dimes, Chris Cluley, see list of attendees.

Apologies: Debbie Walker, Vicki Simkin, Debbie Read and Heather Bibbings.

Chair: Reverend Stuart Dimes

Secretary: Chris Cluley

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – VESTRY MEETING

Rev Stuart welcomed everyone and read from Psalm 62 in God alone my stillness waits. God is our refuge. Prayers were said.

Minutes from 2021/2022 These were approved by Nick Hodgson, Seconded by Darren Bibbings.

There were no matters arising

Thanks were expressed to Debbie Walker and Nick Hodgson and there being no other nomination for churchwarden, Debbie will be church warden and John Walker was asked to pass our thanks to her.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes from last meeting : Again approved by Nick Hodgson and Darren Bibbings.

There were no matters arising.

PCC Election – Nine elected members can be on PCC. Alison Dimes and Mary Charlton approved and seconded for Darren Bibbings.

Jess Woolley will be a co opted member as she had not been on the PCC for six months. – Mary Charlton approved and Clare Dean seconded.

6 members duly elected.

Deanery Synod. Mary Charlton and Mike Purcell were duly elected as Deanery Synod representatives for another year.

PCC Secretary: Chris Cluley was voted in for another year. Approved Alison Dimes and seconded by Darren Bibbings

Treasurer: Duncan Watson was duly elected and approved by Roger Charlton and seconded by Darren Bibbings.

Nick Hodgson was elected as Electoral Roll officer. Helen Wood approved and Clare Dean seconded.

Vicar's Report See Report Booklet

It had been a year of challenges and blessings too.

Stuart took us through his report.

Risk assessments - Stuart had been in touch with the Diocesan Assistant and someone will help doing our risk assessments. Thanks to those who had worked on this. A round of applause was given for those who had helped.. Thanks were expressed to Duncan Watson. The congregation were asked to use Amazon Smile. Finance Committee – huge thanks to Adrian Lloyd.

Barston had bought the livestreaming technology.

A huge thank you was expressed to Darren Bibbings for getting internet into church.

Thanks too for the support given by Clare, Sue, Robin and Stephen Mayes. With a vote of thanks to retired clergy.

Mary Charlton and Martyn Maxwell at Barston were thanked. Stuart encouraged people to go and try out the other churches on a Sunday occasionally.

A huge thank you to Priscilla for her work on J.A.M. and the J.A.M. garden.

The Easter Card designed by JAM was passed around.

Stuart asked us to hold Bickenhill in our prayers.

Stuart says the motorway service station when it is built should be moulded the best we can to fit in with our worship!

It is a joy to welcome the school children in church. A thank you to all those who are involved. Deb Purcell thanked Stuart for his work with the school.

All three PCCs have met up to plan the future. Only 6 Deaneries - we now have a full time Area Dean.

Quite a few people have been ordained locally. PCCs now meeting again.

Stuart would like the PCCs of all three churches to be proactive.

The last part of Stuart's sabbatical will be looking at where the churches are going.

Stuart listed all those who had died. Including Marie Langton, Alan Hadley.

Church Wardens report. There was no church warden's report due to ill-health.

Safeguarding Report: Vickki Simkin is willing to stand as our Safeguarding co-ordinator with Jess Woolley to be trained to take over at a future date.

Clare thanked everyone for the nurturing and support she had received. Stuart asked Clare how long she still has with us. She said about another year.

Treasurer's Report – Financial Review Duncan went through his report. See Report Book.

In 2020 we took money from our reserves, and last year we did not have our normal cash flow from the hall, weddings etc.

Electronic payments. Expenditure, the Common Fund reduced by £17,000. Last year we had major projects in 2020 but not much in 2021.

Our total reserves only dropped by £1,000 in 2021.

We have maintained our external giving.

Duncan said we need reserves to maintain this beautiful building and there are some major things about to happen.

Thank you was expressed to Duncan for the accounts.

Electoral Roll. Nick Hodgson will take this on now.

Health and Safety: Thanks were expressed to Heather Bibbings for all she has done.

Bell Ringers: We need more bell ringers. Stuart said it is a joy to hear the bells ringing.

Keep Watch and Pray:

Pastoral: Deb Purcell said thank you to all the members of the team, for all they were able to do over the past year. Stuart wanted to thank them all as well.

Mary Charlton wanted to thank Nick Hodgson. for his work as church warden.

Buildings: Water ingress. Mike said we had good people looking at this and how it can be solved.

Ladies Breakfast: Was doing well and well attended. Now providing cooked and well as continental breakfast.

Church Hall. See report book

Deanery Synod: See report book

Music: More choir members are desperately needed. Kim Rawson was applauded for the wonderful work he does.

JAM. There was a round of applause and thanks to Priscilla for her sterling work..

Tea and Toast will start again hopefully.

Any other business.

2. The Food Bank. This has now come back to church from the Vicarage. The church is looking for someone to take the food from the back of church to the Food Bank. Alison Dimes volunteered. And Vickey Cardwell will help.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PCC Elections: Stuart explained about a change to the rules he would like to implement.

These were:

PCC to be elected for three years. Proposal: Proposed by Alison Dimes Helen Wood seconded.

All in favour 21 with 1 abstention.

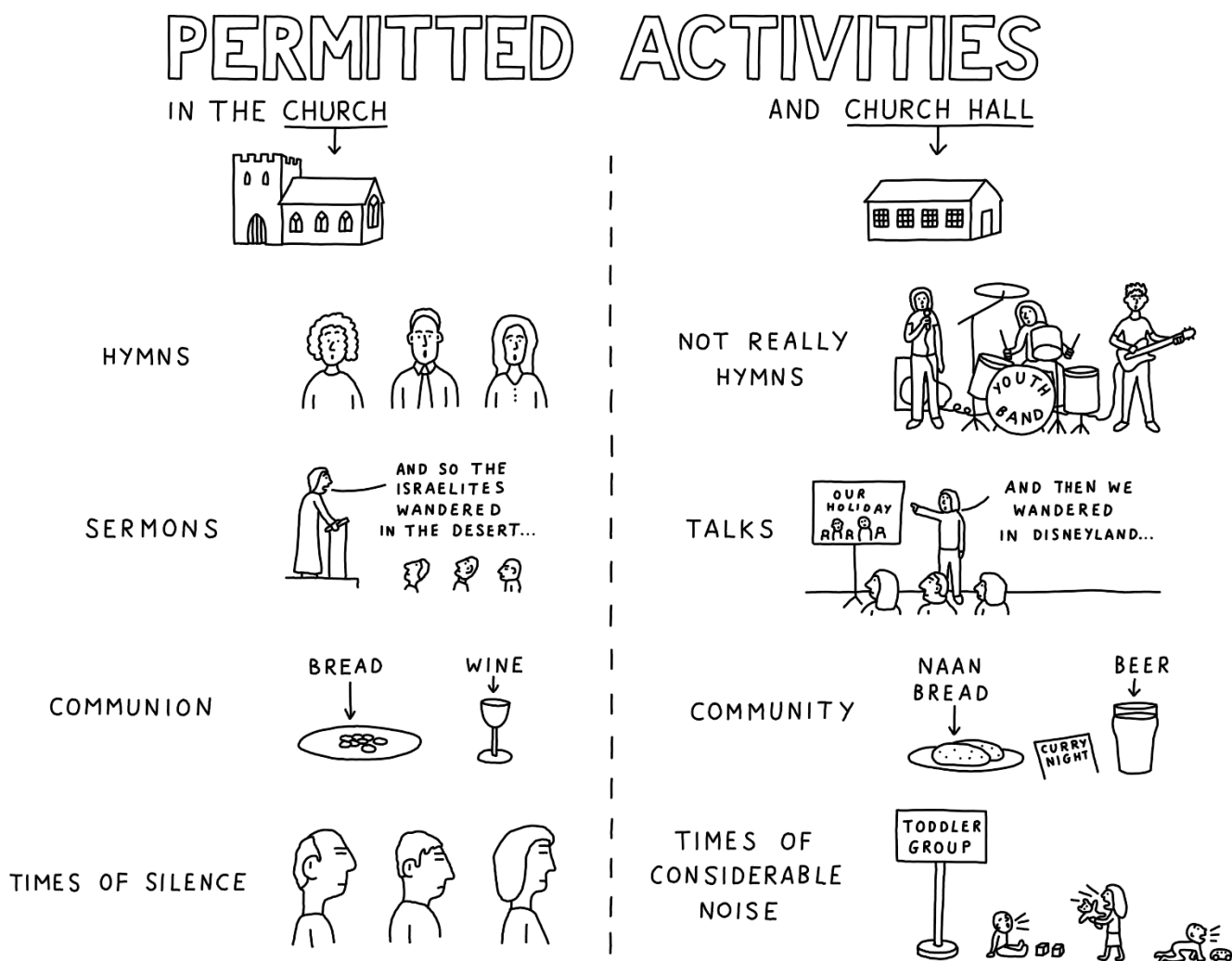
David Colman said that the congregation will need to be supported during Stuart's sabbatical.

He asked what would happen to the information collected by Stuart during his sabbatical. Stuart said he would report back via the Chronicle and perhaps sermons. Prayer G. will be available – there will be consultations and it will be provided to PCC. There will be a working document.

Improvement to noticeboards was required.

PCC Dates 11th May, 13th July, 28th September and 23rd November.

Prayers were said and the Grace



REPORTS 2022/2023

Vicars Annual report for 2022/23

I wish to start, by saying a big thank you to the church wardens, colleagues, PCC and everyone who has helped and supported the life of our church's congregations

and buildings. Thank you it is a privilege to be part of a team, part of a family that works together through the struggles and challenges that come our way. All three churches have, I believe, have continued to build on the past year and to feel as if life has become a bit more stable...similar routines in church life... that said we all face the challenges of the rising costs of heating and cost of living crisis which affects our income... thank you treasures for all your hard work in this area.

All three churches have faced a fair amount of frustration and up upset, in that plans for hoped for redevelopment of a church hall at Bickenhill came crushing down when we found out that it was all based on a lie; decorating work at Hampton is far more complicated than expected; and the chancel repairs at Barston have stumbled taking one step forward and two backwards at times...(as at writing this report, march 2023, we have the faculty to do the work). All three churches have been supported through these difficulties by the property and support team in the diocese heads by Dan Mayes. The green agenda and carbon zero targets for the CoE are still targets for us all and are still a challenge we need to address. We would greatly appreciate it if someone from the three churches would take up the baton of being our carbon zero, climate change champion and help us to reach the targets. All three churches now have safeguarding coordinators are getting on top of the safeguarding traffic light scheme...it is important to keep up to date with this. The church buildings have been maintained and looked after by the wardens and teams of volunteers who clean and help keep our buildings clean and welcoming. Health and safety is always an issue and thank you to those conduct regular H&S visits... at Hampton we had a visit and help from the diocesan H&S advisor to help us put a risk assessment together...he was impressed by how much we had done in this regard. It might be useful if we could have a H&S team covering all three churches. The finance of our churches is high in everyone's minds with coming out of Covid and all that that has cost us, and now with the rising costs of energy, and inflation putting pressure on our finances with increased spending and lower income. Can I thank on all our behalf's Duncan, Ian and Martyn our treasurers. Duncan will be stepping down as treasurer for Hampton and a huge big thankyou to you for all you have done for us, thank you.

The worship life in all three churches has returned to the pre-pandemic rota of services for Sundays. The worship in all three churches is supported by clerical colleagues Rev Clare, Rev Sue, Rev Robin and Rev Stephen, (and others who helped out when the vicar went on sabbatical... more of that later); as well as Lay Readers Mary, Martin, Stephen and Carol. We also have others who help out leading worship at Barston, members of the congregation that help lead and occasional preach. The music in all three churches adds a great deal to our worship and thank you to Kim at Hampton who plays, leads the choirs organises occasional service and gets lots of people in the choirs for weddings and funerals as required...At Bickenhill we have Martyn and Alison who play the organ and at Barston we have Craig on the guitar, Chris on the keyboard and occasionally the organ and Michael Carter who plays the organ. Martin helps out with the Bass at times... we also have teams of people who look at live streaming and the projector and microphones at Barston... thank you. All this adds to a rich variety of worship across the three churches... thank you. One area of worship that we struggle with is the evening worship at Hampton... we still have the healing communion and evensong; however, we struggle with the other Sundays... I am open to suggestions as to what we can do...

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The Children's work has continued and is growing at Hampton with our Sunday school (JAM), Tea and toast and Tiny Tots (the after-school provision at GF school have brought the children along to Tiny Tots...) Thank you Priscilla, Vickki and teams for taking on the work at Hampton and encouraging our children and thank you. Also at Barston with Rachael and co leading the Sunday school.

Disruption in the villages continues with the Relief Road and HS2. There have been some huge changes and we wait and see how these will impact the village and the lives of our churches... I fear for St Peter's Bickenhill as the village will be cut off when the road has been finished with just one road in.

For Hampton the road closure continues and the challenge with a new proposed housing development adds stress to the infrastructure and services the village provides, the school and the GP surgery...with the new Hampton green development and the proposed new development there is opportunity for mission engagement with new people and showing God's love. several mothers with small children who moved into the village during covid or just before, are only now discovering how to get to know people and some have started coming to tea and toast and tiny tots.

Talking of mission and engagement we had our first Easter trail on Good Friday which saw large numbers of families coming and taking part as they learnt the Easter story. Thank you to Clare and the enthusiasm you gave the team of volunteers. This followed on from the success of the nativity trail, which was repeated again this year.

It looks like these will become a permanent fixture in the life of the church at Hampton...any one is welcome to help...

For Barston the church and wider community are concerned about the future of St Swithin's house, the former vicarage and the trustees have been asked to convince the diocese why the peppercorn rent should continue. We are still awaiting a decision as to how long and what terms the lease will be. Thanks to Nick Parker, the Area Dean for joining the trustees, and the input he has given us...

We have all engaged in the community in a variety of ways in the groups societies and clubs we are part of and I continue to be involved in several... it is important that we are visible in our communities showing the face of the Christian Faith. We are often the first 'bible' people read as they see how we live out our faith in our communities.

The school is a vital part of our mission and service and several of us are involved as governors and go in to school on other occasions... the opportunity to take assemblies has not come back to pre-covid levels, there has been a change in the leadership team with one long standing member of staff, who was the main contact and religious lead in the school, leaving and new deputy starting along with a lot of other changes of teaching staff. One thing that has changed which is exciting is that the school have come over to the church on more occasions... with Easter, Harvest services and Christmas concert, which was a first (it was a logistical challenge getting four year groups in, about 120 children and then their parents, grandparents).

It is always a joy to see the church full of happy people

Some of the events and activities our churches and PCCs have been engaged in the past year in no particular order

Deanery synod, Men's breakfasts, Ladies' breakfasts, Big breakfasts, Churches together

Memorial evensong, PCC Meetings, St Swithin's house meetings, Barston Charities

Safe guarding training, Weddings Faculty meetings with DAC, Governor's meetings

School visits, Parish magazine, Eastcote Park services, Confirmation services, The bible course

Concerts, Reader placement, Reader training, MP visit +David's leaving do, Historical society

Parish council, Archdeacon's visits, Panto, Uniformed organisations, Lent course LLF

Queen Elizabeth the second memorial events, Transforming church action plans, Discipleship training

Sabbatical cover (thank you everyone especially Clare), Remembrance Day parade

Easter and Christmas services, Wedding Preparation Day, Oversight area plans

Tea n toast, Tiny tots, Choir, all ages aloud. Church cleaning, Building repairs, Social parties

Fun.

And that's not an exhaustive list...we are active and engaged...

The PCC's have met and discussed governance issues such as finance, fabric, safe guarding health and safety, and other issues as they have arisen, future developments, mission and ministry TCAPS etc. The PCCs performed their statutory duties in regard to Safe Guarding. All three parishes now have parish safeguarding co-ordinators, thank you Caroline, Helen and Vickki. The PCC is reactive and managerial. Some of this is essential, however I would like the focus of the PCCs to become more proactive and looking ahead. To this end the number and nature of PCC meetings will change for 2023 with three combined PCC meetings where a theme, topic is presented by an outside speaker and discussed before splitting up into individual PCCs. Topics such as discipleship, Transforming Church action planning, local ministry teams and oversight, will be looked at

We had 14 (10) weddings, 24 (14) Baptisms and 14(20) funerals (last year's figures)

Sadly, again all three villages lost longstanding and beloved members of our churches and communities Alan Warren, Maggie Woodhouse, Philip Russell, Adrian Lloyd, Jo Catton They will be sadly missed.

SABBATICAL...

Last year I was privileged to be given a sabbatical. I wish to pass on my thanks to Clare and everyone who supported her and help the mission of the church for those three months...

The topic of my sabbatical was firstly a continuation on my research work regarding Eucharistic prayer G and the paragraph.

'From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.'

I have written this up and copies of my notes can be sent to anyone interested... I talk about Liturgy the place it has in our life and worship...(its not just the words we use, but a way of living), how creation may worship and show us how we should include all aspects of God's creation in worship, the place of the created order in God's salvation plan, the concept of time and eternity (bringing in Einstein's theory of relativity) drawing on a large variety of traditions and looking at the crown of creation and the image of God.

If you are having trouble sleeping give it a read....

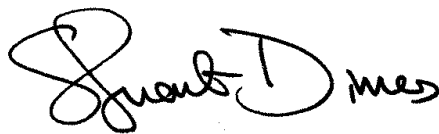
Another aspect of the sabbatical had to be abandoned as both Alison and I got covid. That was the retreat part where we were going to a convent for a couple of weeks to discover more about each other away from the busy demands of parish life on both of us.

The final part was about planning for retirement...don't worry it still is a way off, we were looking where we may retire to and the requirements we may wish to have in deciding where, such as distance for our children...

Finally, I am conscious that I may have missed something out and so I apologise if I have, but please thank you to everyone to you all and those volunteers who help behind the scenes often unseen. Those who keep the church clean and tidy, getting them ready for services, arranging the flowers, doing the administration, serving the teas and coffees after the service and many more.

Thank you all again for all the work many have contributed, to the life of our churches sustaining us and challenging us and equipping us to be God's children together in Hampton, Barston and Bickenhill

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN



CURATE'S REPORT

It is with some sadness that I realise that this will be my last report as I near the end of my curacy and discern where God might be calling me to serve next.

Although my curacy began in June 2020, at a difficult time for us all, I have developed and thrived over the past three years notwithstanding the challenges of covid. I have been very fortunate to have received tremendous support from so many including fellow ministers, both lay and ordained, churchwardens, PCC members, musicians and numerous others who help keep the church going. I am grateful for your encouragement, prayers and forbearance whilst I have been learning and particularly appreciate the many practical things that people did to support me whilst Stuart was on sabbatical.

My ministry became much more public whilst Stuart was away and it gave me the opportunity to lead the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and the Outdoor Service during the festival.

I am always very thankful for the input and steadfast support of Mary Charlton when creating our monthly All-Age Worship Services.

It has been a joy to be involved with encouraging discipleship amongst the parishes when for example, I co-facilitated the "Living in Love and Faith" course with Kathy Lloyd-Roberts during Lent 2022. It was well attended despite some challenges from covid and we gained much from openly exploring difficult issues in a respectful environment.

Our Advent Book study Group looking at "Bethlehem Bound" was well supported and it was good to be able to use the meeting facilities at St Peter's Bickenhill which are just the right size for a small discussion group.

I have a passion for mission, and I am grateful to those of you who are prepared to step a little bit out of your comfort zone and support my initiatives to reach the wider community with the good news of the Gospel.

We held a very successful Easter Trail on Good Friday 2022 which over 100 adults and children attended. It is intended that this will now be an annual event in the Hampton calendar, its success, however, relies on the contribution of many.

Collaboration is key to many of our activities, and it has been great to work with Vickki Simkin, Priscilla Ryan, Helen Wood and others to support "Tea and Toast and "Tiny Tots".

Our Monthly Ladies Breakfasts continue to be well attended and I enjoy developing creative ways to gently share the Christian message in that forum whilst also filling the essential role of coffee maker.

It has been a privilege to lead many of the occasional offices at Hampton over the last year as they are such an important part of mission and pastoral ministry. I am always very grateful to have the team of volunteers who tidy up, set up and welcome and also the support of the organist and choir who are key to weddings and funerals.

I enjoy ministry at all three churches and am glad to always receive a warm welcome. My ministry in the last few months has been more concentrated on Bickenhill and it has been good to get to know the congregation there better as they endeavour to keep going despite the numerous road closures. It was a great pleasure to lead the Christmas Carol Service at Bickenhill as well as take their Midnight Mass Service. I have spent much less time at Barston but it was good to lead their service on Christmas morning and preach the Christmas story using chocolate bars which was especially appreciated by their young people.

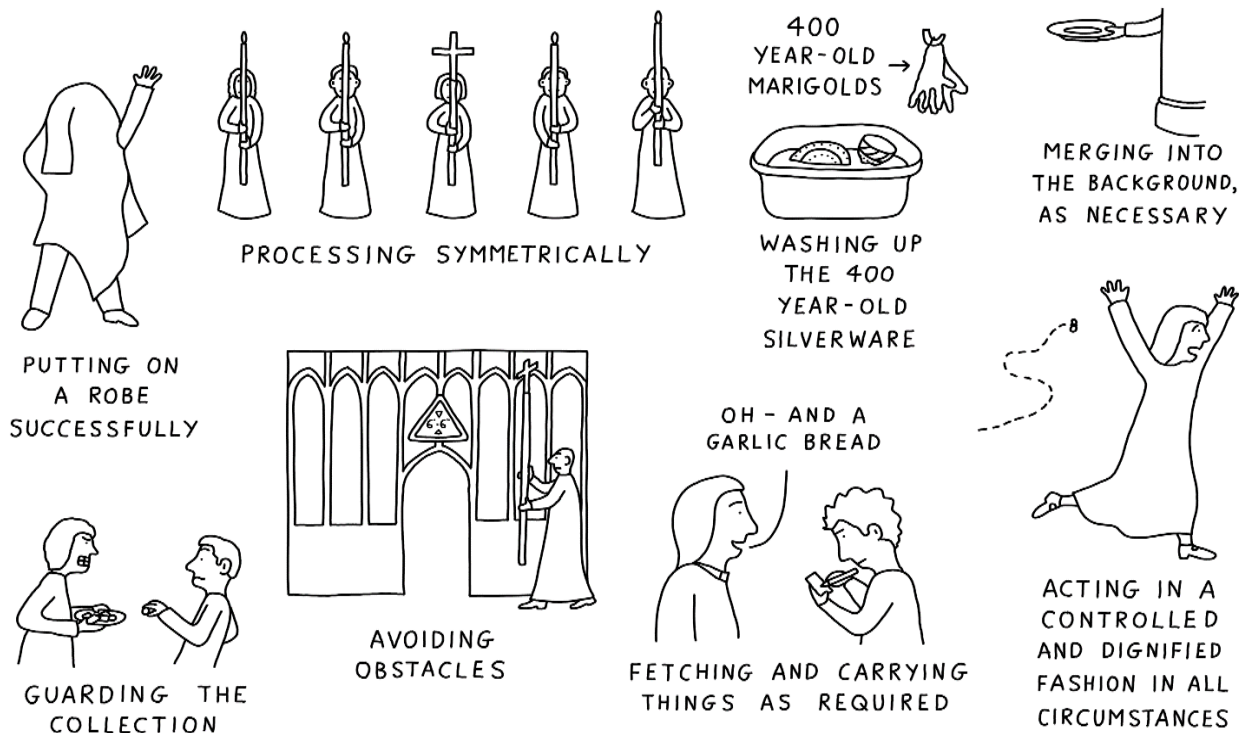
My experience over the last year has continued to affirm my calling to the priesthood and I feel very blessed by my experience amongst the three parishes. I very much hope that this continues in my final few months of curacy.

Clare Dean

Assistant Curate

SERVERS

THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES



TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022



SEE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR ACCOUNTS

Hampton in Arden PCC Financial Review 2022

2022 saw an improvement in our operating income after a stable 2021, partly due to increased legacies but also due to a normalisation of our fund raising, wedding activity and hall lettings. Unfortunately, our expenditure also grew significantly during 2022, largely due to increased utility costs, higher church and churchyard maintenance and a natural increase in the cost of maintaining services and weddings. As previously outlined in annual reports, 2022 continued a trend of our running costs far outstripping our regular income. The final outturn in terms of income and expenditure was largely as expected during the year and resulted in an excess of expenditure over income of just over £21,000.

We continue to be generously supported by numerous members of the congregation through regular planned giving and but at reduced levels compared to 2021. Sunday pew envelope and plate collections recovered relative to 2021, due to the return to a more normal pattern of Church services. We continue to look at ways of reaching out to the wider village community for additional support and to raise awareness of our continued need.

Unlike In 2021, the significant shortfall in our day-to-day income against our day-to-day running costs was not offset by positive financial market performance. The impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the global economy severely impacted market performance in 2022, and we returned a capital decrease of just over £16,000 to add to the running deficit of £21,000. This meant only a significant decrease in our funds and reserves of around £37,000. The decrease continues to emphasise the need to reverse the fall in our regular income if we are to continue all our charitable activities, welcoming worship and maintenance of the fine Grade 1 Listed Church building entrusted to our care. Our overall income was just over £85,300 (excluding the contribution to the Curate house rental) up from £77,300 in 2021.

There was no major project expenditure in 2022.

Fund raising from events and activities returned to some normality in 2022. Church Hall lettings also recovered in 2022. Chronicle income from subscriptions and advertising were stable with most advertisers continuing to support the publication.

Our total expenditure in 2022 was higher than in 2021, at £115,750. Our Common Fund contribution to Birmingham Diocese was £36,600, the same as in 2021.

We took the decision to maintain our giving in 2022 and made five gifts of £1,000 each to charities selected by the PCC, as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| • Breast Cancer UK | £1000 |
| • Versus Arthritis | £1000 |
| • Alzheimer's Society | £1000 |
| • UNICEF | £1000 |
| • Acorns | £1000 |

Fund-raising by the congregation for other external charities in special collections and donations, and at fundraising events during 2022 included:

- The Children's Society
- Acorns
- Royal British Legion
- Crisis (from Christmas collections)
- Shelter (from Christmas collections)

Reserves Policy for Hampton-in-Arden PCC 2023

The PCC's policy on maintaining reserves has been informed by the Guide published by the Archbishop's Council in 2016. The policy excludes Restricted and Designated Funds, so, for example, the Fabric Fund is set aside for what its name implies and income from the Investment Fund is an essential component in balancing the Parish Church's annual income and expenditure. The PCC aims to keep at least three months' running costs, i.e. approximately £25,000, in readily accessible unrestricted funds, as a reserve against any unexpected steep fall in regular income.

Duncan Watson, Treasurer

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

The congregation will be aware that Debbie Walker stepped down from the role of Churchwarden in 2022 due to ill health and was replaced by Nick Adcock, who is a regular member at our 8:15 services. Debbie remains a key member of our Church and we thank her immensely for the work and support she has given us. Nick A will be putting himself forward for re-election in April and thanks everyone for the warm welcome and support afforded him in his first few months. Nick Hodgson, who has served for over 6 years as Churchwarden is stepping down in April. Nick H will be replaced but will remain an integral member at 11:00 services and always be available for advice and support.

It seems we are recovering slowly from the Covid-19 pandemic and our congregation has not yet returned in numbers to previous times. We are thankful for Stuart and Clare's leadership and pray that our Church fellowship returns to growth. Nevertheless, we have strength in depth and it is a blessing that we have so many people who give their time, skills and energy to our Church to be thankful for.

Saying 'thank you' forms a large part of this report. We cannot thank everyone enough and forgive us if we have missed out any of our unsung heroes. We especially thank...

- Revd Stuart, Clare our Curate, Mary our Reader, Sue and all other clergy that supported us during Stuart's sabbatical
- Our PCC and Synod members who govern and oversee the safeguarding, finances and the practical and spiritual wellbeing of our Church
- Chris, our Parish and PCC Administrator, who works tirelessly to successfully ensure the administrative running of our Church
- All our welcomers, readers, intercessors, servers, coffee makers, Bridget and the bell ringers, Kim and the choir, April, Alison and flower makers, our fundraisers, food bank collectors and all the helpers at our own services as well as the many weddings, blessings, baptisms and funerals. The past Churchwardens who still give their time, wise counsel and support
- Our Pastoral Team who give so much love, comfort, support and advice to our Church and wider community
- Mike, David, John, our Cleaning Team and others who keep the running and fabric of our Church buildings in peak condition

- Priscilla, Vickki and all our wonderful youth workers who support the fabulous J.A.M, Tiny Tots, Tea & Toast, Family Services and events for our young people, the lifeblood of our Church

We always welcome and need additional people to help! – Please don't wait to be asked, just make yourself known to Stuart or a Churchwarden. It's our Church so let's take care of it together.

Nick Hodgson and Nick Adcock

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll has 109 parishioners registered.

I haven't been made aware of anyone being removed, but there are several who have sadly passed and these will be removed when the electoral roll is updated..

I've recently asked 4 people who are regularly attending to sign on but haven't received their forms back. I will chase these as soon as possible.

Nick Hodgson

CHURCH HALL REPORT

Although we had to stop hiring out the hall during Covid, we have managed to retain our regular users. Currently we have a craft group, the church Needles, Pins and Hooks group, a keep fit group, big band rehearsals, and Tai Chi, the Gardening Club and Tea and Toast. We have occasional children's birthday parties (under 10's only) and one off group meetings and we have hosted village pantomime rehearsals. It would obviously be beneficial to hire out more hours, but we are in competition with the rooms at Fentham Hall and the Scout Hut and we do try and keep our charges competitive because of this. We do not charge the Church groups for the use of the hall.

Chris Cluley

Hampton Society of Changeringers Report

At last, a year when we were able to ring with no Covid restrictions!

We are delighted that we have 5 people learning to ring and all are progressing well. Mike is now able to ring for Sunday Service and the others are not far behind. As always, we are helped with some regular visitors on practice night, some of whom also come on a Sunday to help when they can.

We rang for 12 weddings last year and currently have 13 booked for this year. We enjoyed ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and felt honoured to ring at her passing and on the day of her funeral. We look forward to ringing for the Coronation when all our learners will take part.

We did have an incident last year when someone in the church let a photographer onto the platform alone for a wedding with the bells up which is so very dangerous. I raised this with the PCC and explained the dangers. We have now taken to locking the door to the ringing platform when the bells are up and as far as we know there are only four people with the necessary keys.

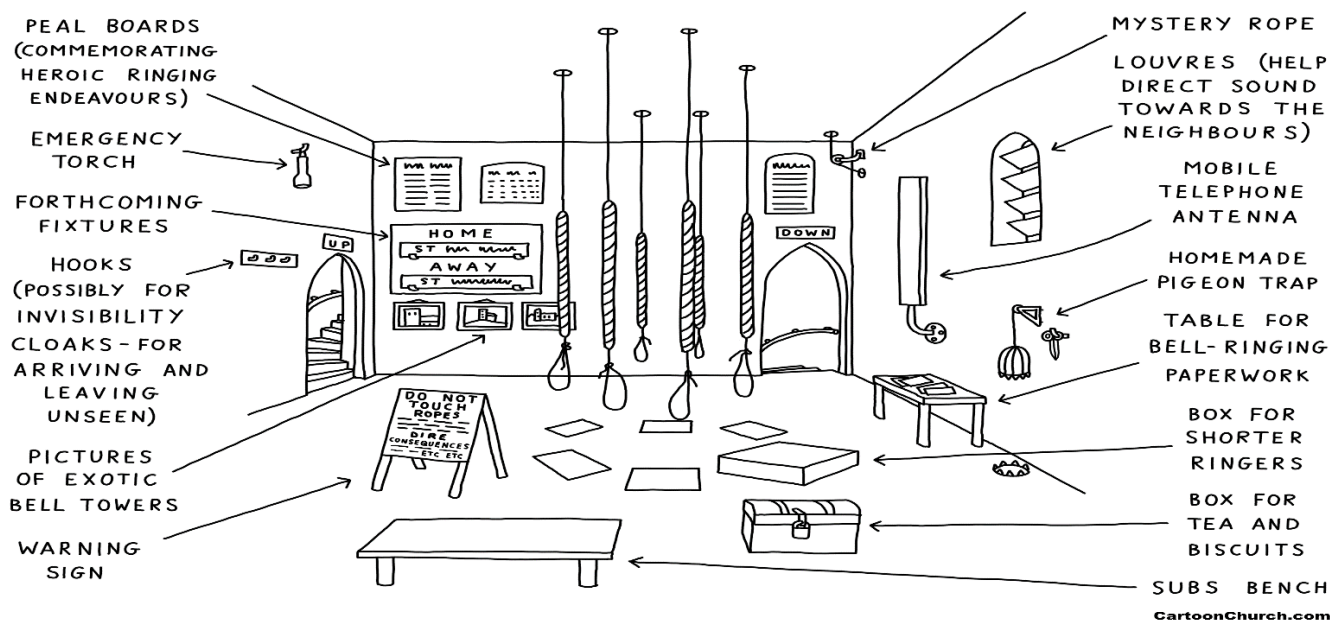
The Sunday Chiming Rota for 8.15 is still working well. The Tiny Tots Service has also been resurrected this year and one of the highlights for the children is 'chiming' the Treble and 2nd for the service. We've had up to 12 pre-school children helping and it's lovely to see them so excited.

Financially we had expenditure of £1853.92 and income of £1977.00, leaving a balance at 31/12/22 of £4693.46.

Bridget Osmond

THE RINGING CHAMBER

HOME OF THE BELL RINGERS



P.C.C. REPORT

There have been 6 Hampton PCC meetings held since the last APCM in April 2022 with an average of 8 attendees. There has been one joint meeting with Bickenhill and Barston.

A big thank you to those PCC members who are remaining for another year or two, and to any standing down, for all they have done for the church and a warm welcome to any new members that may join the team. As I am standing down as PCC secretary after twelve and a half years, I shall miss being involved, however the deterioration in my health and mobility mean that my attendance reliability is not so good and sadly it is time for someone else to take on the role. I shall continue as Parish Administrator for as long as possible!.

Chris Cluley, P.C.C. Secretary

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PASTORAL TEAM REPORT: “KWP”



The pastoral team comprises 7 members : Vickey Cardwell, Mary Charlton, Clare Dean, Stuart Dimes, Deb Purcell (Chair), Vickki Simkin, Sheila Wyatt. During the past year two long-standing members of the group have chosen to stand down for a period.

The support that both Debby Read and Julie Moore have given the pastoral team over many years has been much appreciated.

The group meets once a month and any individuals who may need some additional support from Stuart and/or the team are identified. Confidentiality is of paramount importance and information is only shared within the group on a strict need to know basis.

The meetings always start with a Bible passage and a time of prayer. These times of reflection are a source of encouragement and guidance in all our deliberations and actions.

Deb Purcell and Vickey Cardwell are currently commissioned as Parish Pastoral Workers in this church and have completed the required training. They will be re-licensed in July 2023. If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Pastoral Worker they can discuss the matter with Stuart.

In November we were very pleased to welcome John Restall to our meeting. John is the Diocesan Advisor to Pastoral Care groups. He keeps in touch with all the pastoral groups in the Deanery he is responsible for and will visit us periodically as well as be available for consultation as and when needed.

Safeguarding is a very important part of church life in general and pastoral work in particular and we are very grateful for Vickki Simkin agreeing to take up again the role of Parish Safeguarding Coordinator. Vickki is supporting and mentoring Jess Woolley who has indicated an interest in taking on this role in the future.

There is a rota to cover sending cards to those who are unwell and /or bereaved whether they be members of the congregation or not. We always welcome suggestions from members of the clergy and/or the congregation regarding who might welcome a card : a reminder that the bereaved or the person who is unwell (short term or long term) are not forgotten and that we are there to offer any help they may need.

Various members of the group are involved in other church related activities such as support for those attending funeral services, helping out at baptisms, tea and toast, tiny tots, wedding preparation day, helping the clergy in setting up for weddings and welcoming family and friends attending the wedding, Ladies' Breakfast and many other aspects of regular church life. In the pastoral group we try to keep up to date with wider community activities such as the Fentham Trust coffee morning and lunch club and liaise regularly with Eve Hickman.

Stuart is in regular conversation with the Fentham Trust and the Parish Council regarding areas of mutual interest and concern in the community. The hope is that in the future we will be able to reach out and support Dementia sufferers and their families.

If you know someone who needs support, in any way, please get in touch with Stuart Dimes or Deb Purcell or any member of the Pastoral care team.

Sheila Wyatt

CHURCH AND VILLAGE CHRONICLE REPORT

Once again we would like to thank all our regular contributors for their support. We would also like to thank the teachers and pupils of George Fentham School for helping us find some wonderful artwork for our December/January edition.

We would like to increase our readers so please have a look at our next edition and see if you would like to take out a subscription, as this helps enormously. If you haven't seen a copy in recent years, you will find the content has changed and is hopefully of interest to all. If you would like to contribute a one off article now and again, or a regular article every month, do get in touch - chris.cluley1@gmail.com. Or if you are not comfortable with computers, I will type up your contribution if you leave it on my desk in the vestry.

Of course we are particularly interested in local happenings, both now and in days gone by, so if you have any ideas, do run them past us.

Again, a big thank you to those who deliver the Chronicle, all our Advertisers, and of course Stuart Wood-Eden our printer, who does such a brilliant job putting it all together.

We hold old copies of the Chronicle electronically now and copies are available for a small fee.

If you would like to take out an annual subscription, which will be £8 this year for 10 monthly editions, then do get in contact with Bridget. bridget.osmond@gmail.com

Thank you to every one of our regular readers – and let us continue to have a village magazine for another 100 years!

Chris Cluley & Bridget Osmond

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SIDESPERSONS

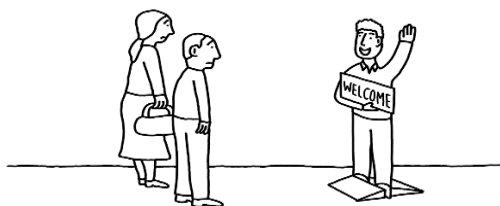
COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT



PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

REPORT FROM YARDLEY AND SOLIHULL DEANERY **SYNOD FOR HAMPTON IN ARDEN**

Hampton Parish Church currently sends 4 members to Yardley and Solihull Deanery Synod: Rev Stuart Dimes, Rev Clare Dean, Mike Purcell and Mary Charlton. There is a vacancy for a third lay (non-clergy) member.

Deanery Synod is a tier in the government of the Church of England. Quoting from the leaflet I mention below, "Being elected by your church to the Deanery Synod means representing your church's mission and ministry at Deanery level" and deciding "about resource allocation and opportunities for collaboration across your Deanery." Synod acts as a forum for discussion of matters of concern to our churches and can submit matters for discussion to Birmingham's Diocesan Synod (which, in turn, deals with matters referred by the national General Synod). Yardley and Solihull Deanery roughly follows the A41 and A45 from Central Birmingham to Temple Balsall via Birmingham City FC and the NEC/airport. There are 28 churches in our Deanery spanning a large range of social deprivation, ethnic diversity and worship styles. Increasingly, our goal is collaborative working with other parishes.

We have met on 3 occasions since our 2022 APCM. We are looking at the Church's Marks of Mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure) of each of which we saw examples from across the Deanery in our June meeting. In November our focus was "Teach" and Guy Donegan-Cross told us about "Opportunities for Discipleship and Learning," opportunities that we are thankful to see being grasped by members of our congregation. Most recently we discussed "Tend" (responding to human need by loving service) by discussing pastoral care and hearing about the Anna Chaplaincy initiative to support Spiritual needs of older people.

The "Oversight Areas" for our Deanery are finalised. Ours involves us and Churches of Barston, Bickenhill, Knowle, Balsall Common and Temple Balsall. The aim is that we may share resources and partake in joint initiatives but nothing is being prescribed or set in stone.

If anyone would like to stand for Deanery Synod, please do. We are all happy to give you more details and I have uploaded a useful leaflet to our church website which will stay there until the end of May; we can co-opt members if they step forward after the APCM.

Mary Charlton (mcharlton@doctors.org.uk) on behalf of Hampton in Arden Deanery Synod Representatives.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

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

Not unexpectedly Safeguarding became less frontline during the pandemic and resultant lockdowns with most parish business consigned to zoom and the church building locked. However this year, since April 2022, has seen a reawakening of face to face interactions and a more forward looking approach to Safeguarding compliance. There has been a deal of catching up for everyone. All policies including Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse, Recruitment of Ex-Offenders and Managing Safeguarding Complaints have been reviewed, approved and updated by the PCC.

The Parish Dashboard is now up and running and we can proudly consider Hampton Parish to be among the higher percentage of parishes with good provision and compliance. Many DBS checks had expired since 2020 but are now mostly updated. Safeguarding Training is proving more problematic to update as on line training is not for everyone. Helen Wood (PSC Barston)

and Vickki Simkin (PSC Hampton) have now completed a course to enable face to face training to take place in both parishes. We shall be announcing dates and times after Easter. The PCC are required to ensure all church members partake in Basic Awareness Safeguarding Training.

Up to date Risk Assessments, Insurance, Registration for health, contact and GDPR are now required to be evidenced of the Parish Dashboard. These have been updated accordingly for JAM, Junior Choir, Tea and Toast and Tiny Tots as well as children attending church.

Next steps will include setting up a system of Safer Recruitment and People Management within the parishes as required by the C of E National Safeguarding Team.

Vickki Simkin

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

The most substantial work carried out in the past 12 months has been to the Church Room between the Church and the Vestry. The whole area was restored to its original condition and the flat roof had additional flashing put in place. The flat roof is an area that will have to have particular attention paid to it as it receives a considerable volume of water off the church roof. I have been advised that In exceptional downpours if the guttering is not absolutely clear a backup of rain water will occur and could lead to rain water getting into the timbers.

Minor repairs to the boiler (as always) have taken place. I have been told that the boiler requires a new pump, and it would be appropriate if this was completed during the summer months when the heating is not needed.

The position regarding the internal repainting of the church is still a matter of debate. The interior has been incorrectly painted with emulsion. There is divided opinion by experts and the diocese as to how we should proceed. Stuart is dealing with the matter in a most excellent manner and attempting to resolve the problem at a reasonable cost.

Other small work has been carried out to doors and fittings and electrics throughout the building

The building overall is in good condition , watertight but not windproof!

Many parishioners make valuable but often unseen contributions to ensure that the church is maintained, maintenance to the Churchyard and internally.

I would like to thank:

Daryl and Dot Stokes valuable help in maintaining the Churchyard.

April Worthington for organising beautiful flower displays in Church.

Many anonymous people who clean the church.

Mick Fuller who goes up to the top of the Church Tower to raise, lower and replace the flag.

Chris for her organisational help and timely reminders.

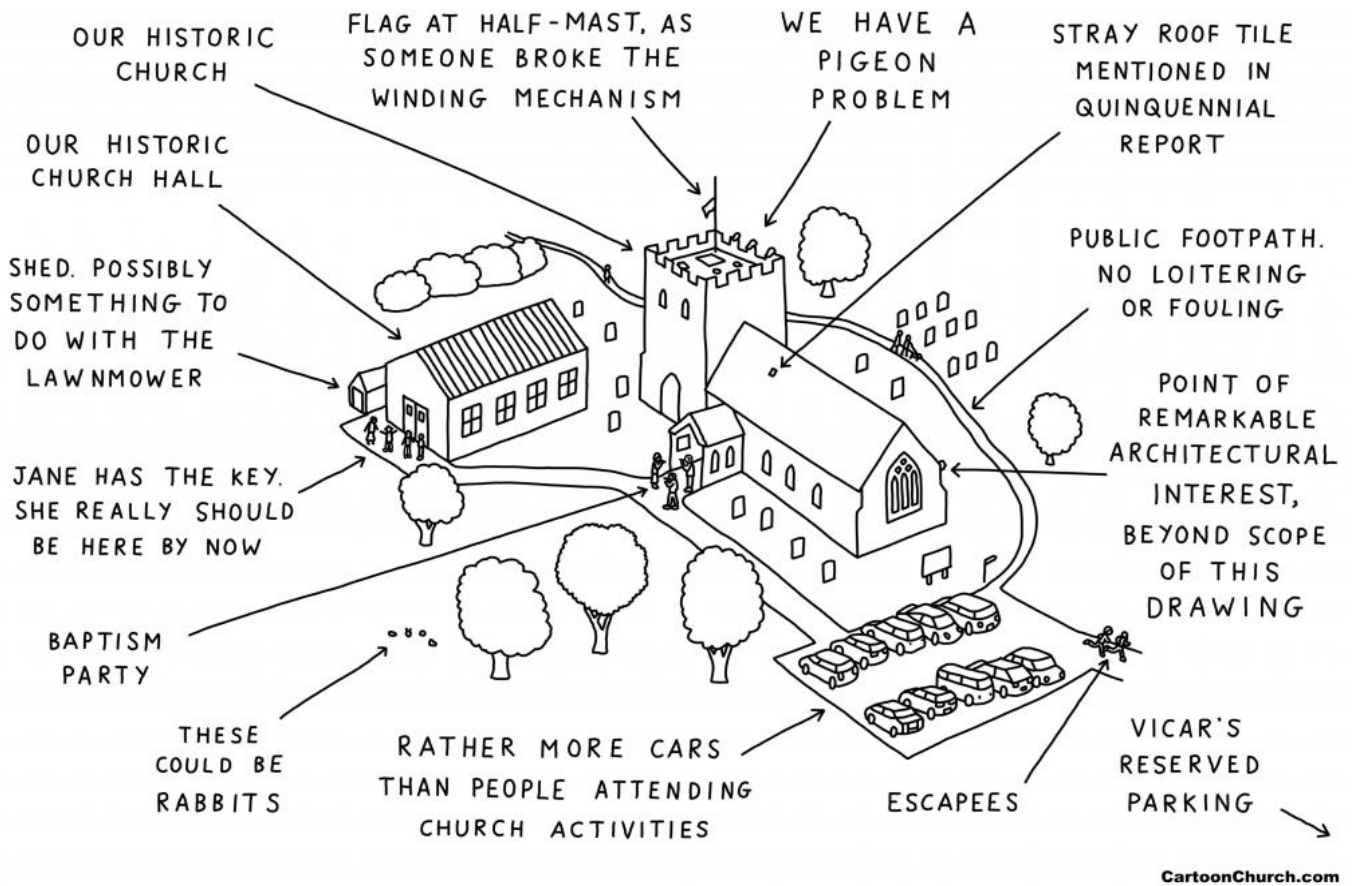
Duncan, who is now retiring, for his prompt payment of all expenses I incur in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Mike Purcell

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THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE



NEEDLES, PINS AND HOOKS REPORT

The Needles, Pins and Hooks group takes place every Monday except Bank Holidays, 7-9pm. We are made up of around 30; encouraging people drop in and out as they need.

Many folk have who come have unfinished projects sitting in their cupboards that are resurrected whilst others come specifically to learn something new or have a new project in mind and many in the group have a wealth of knowledge and patience to share; everyone is welcomed and encouraged by everyone else and do so happily.

The group have been represented both at the Hampton Festival last summer and again at the Christmas Fayre with successful sales tables, the proceeds of which have been donated to our Church. We also enjoyed making and displaying both the crochet Remembrance Day poppies that appeared on the Lychgate and the jolly pompom snowman 'Bob', who stood on the path beside the White Lion during the Christmas season. since which we have been asked to advise or assist with other projects and ideas this year!

Alison Dimes

MUSIC REPORT

Firstly, my thanks to all choir members of Hampton Church Choir, for their continued support, especially welcoming back Carole Orford – we're now SEVEN in total. Thankfully, several members of St Peter's Choir, Balsall Common, along with Steve Blaber and Anton Rawson, help out as often as they can, singing at evensongs, weddings, funerals and 'specials' (like the Nine Lessons and Carols and our Easter Celebrations).

Talking of choir numbers (!) ... over the last year or two, I've been meaning to make a couple of decisions about

(i) how long I continue to play/stay at Hampton, and

(ii) should I be looking for somewhere else to play ... based on the facts that:

(i) I have reached that age when maybe I should be starting to slow down (not, I might say, the speed of the hymns!!) and

(ii) the numbers in the choir are now VERY low ie without 'extras' (mentioned above) we have so few singers.

I have so much more to offer (I think) but with smaller and smaller numbers in the choir, each year, the items that we can learn are becoming fewer and fewer.

So, at this point, I repeat my annual message (as in similar to the 2008 report, and year in, year out since then) saying 'PLEASE join us' ... I honestly believe you won't regret it. Or just come along for a few weeks and give it a try. If you speak to anyone in the choir, I reckon they'd all say 'Come along' – so difficult to type with my fingers crossed!) – Friday evenings from 6.40 – 7.40pm plus whatever services you can manage. Particularly worrying, without the help of singers from other churches, is the number of singers Hampton choir can provide for weddings and funerals. Quite simply, if you can sing, we want you!! Please!

Like last year, I am pleased to report that the AAA (All Ages Aloud) choir (for people aged between 7 and 100) continues to thrive – we now have 22 members; we hope to sing at most/all Family Services (first Sundays of each month) when asked. We meet most Fridays from 5.30-6.30pm and again, we welcome anyone who enjoys singing. Our thanks go to Priscilla Ryan, Philippa Willets and Vickey Cardwell for their help in organising everyone.

At the Nine Lessons and Carols services (at Hampton and Balsall Common) along with the Easter services, both choirs (and for the Xmas services, the AAA too) make a superb sound – we can only hope that better numbers of congregation turn out to enjoy the services each time.

As always, my thanks go to:

- Stuart, Sue, Mary and Clare for their support for the music of the church,
- Graham Robinson and Eileen Lamb who play (and/or who are on standby) on Ash Wednesdays and Maundy Thursdays, Remembrance Sundays and Midnight Masses and also to Michael Carter, who helps out periodically.
- Duncan Watson for his help with many finance issues,
- Chris Cluley for sorting things out for us, especially when I'm late in submitting items (like this one, for example!!).

I repeat my thanks to Steve (tenor) and Anton (bass) for travelling long distances to Hampton, regularly, to sing with us. Sadly, Paulette Simkin left us last year after a short but awful illness.

We wish her husband, David, our sincere condolences.

We do hope that Evensong (3rd Sundays at present) continues, indeed survives, and ask again that more congregation try to support – it's a service with such a different atmosphere – do come along, please!

KA Rawson



J.A.M (JESUS AND ME) REPORT



2022 and going into 2023 has been fantastic for JAM. Continuing the theme of a varied programme of singing, games, bible stories and craft activities. We have had 22 children visit JAM over the past year some of these have been passing through seeing family but from that we have now between 6-12 regular children attending the sessions which takes place during the 11.00am service. A lot of children have come from other activities we run within the church and between us all this has helped all the groups grow. The children spend the first part of the service in church to share the first hymn and prayers, then leave to take part in their activities in the church hall. We are pleased to see Kim join us during part of our session to sing a hymn/song with us. The children then return to take part in communion and share what they have been doing with the congregation. JAM has grown and developed to suit the needs of all the varied ages from 3 years old to our oldest members of 13 years old who are Reagan Ryan and Francesca Ford who have been coming since they were 3 and now help out as well as participate.

I would personally like to thank Vicki Simkin & Jess Woolley who have supported me so faithfully during the last year, also I'd like to thank Mary Charlton & Clare Dean who have always been there when I need them, their help advice and appreciation has been greatly received.

There is also been a few of the mums who have also stayed to help and hopefully will be future leaders. We have been joined for part of the year by Freya Rideout who was helping as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. Freya has been very enthusiastic about her role, and it has been great to have a young person supporting and encouraging the children.

So, we look forward to the rest of the year with gratitude that we may continue to share God's word with young people and pray that others may come to. It is indeed a privilege to be able to see the children grow in confidence and maturity as they get to know what it means to be part of Christ's family.

Priscilla Ryan

TEA AND TOAST AND TINY TOTS REPORTS

TEA AND TOAST

This group resumed after Easter 2022. The mission remains the same – an outreach stay and play group for babies and toddlers, with their carers, from Hampton and the surrounding area supported by the PCC. Numbers have been high, beyond expectation, since the restart and have remained so. A gap identified and filled as there is no equivalent social provision for this age range in the parish.



TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots restarted in September 2022 after a break of many years and in response to numerous requests from parents. The mission is to provide a continuation between Tea and Toast and JAM, teaching Jesus to children aged 4 and under.

Activities are loosely based on the Diddy Disciples programme and include welcome, songs, Bible stories, prayers and the peace as well as a creative response to the teaching. We meet in church to focus on God's house as a special place. Bridget Osmond helps the children to experience ringing the church bells. There is a play area for younger children to play and adults to socialise. Drinks and biscuits are provided. Again the numbers exceed expectation, mostly due to the regular attendance of children from the Base at George Fentham School.

FOOTNOTE



Running groups for small children would not be possible without regular support from a large number of adults. In fact too many to name individually, who give of their time willingly and without entreaty. This means that at both groups there is always time to listen and talk. Thank you.

PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS



BUILT THE
TOWER



INSTALLED
GAS LIGHTING



MAGNIFICENT
BEARD



FOUNDED THE
SCHOOL



DID WONDERS
FOR THE ROSES



NAME ON
A PLAQUE



LARGELY
ABSENT



INTRODUCED
INNOVATIONS



ABOLISHED
INNOVATIONS



LEFT UNDER
A CLOUD



WROTE
A BOOK



BUILT CHURCH
ON NEW ESTATE



DAY OFF:
FRIDAY



UPSET THE
FLOWER ARRANGERS



PUB OUTREACH
MINISTRY



BEFRIENDED
THE METHODISTS



STARTED THE
FOOD BANK



KEPT THE
PLACE GOING

Thank you to everyone who has attended these meetings

We are grateful you have taken the time to be here

Will elected P.C.C. Members please make sure you have completed the relevant forms and returned them to the church office

Humorous cartoons of church life courtesy of Cartoon Church

St. Mary and St. Bartholomew Church is a Charity

Charity Number: **1133937**