



ST BARNABAS
with
CHRIST CHURCH
REPORTS 2022

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RECTOR'S REPORT 2022

One of the features of life in Worcester I've appreciated most since we arrived in February 2019 is the close friendship between the churches of our cluster. There are so many ways in which the lives of St Nicholas, St Barnabas and St Wulstans have woven together over the years and these connexions have been a real source of strength and encouragement for us all in the challenges of the last couple of years. Since Julieann's retirement in January 2022, those bonds have become increasingly significant. For the short-term, the ministry teams worked collaboratively to ensure continuity of several aspects of the life of St Barnabas, particularly in terms of Sunday worship, weddings, baptisms, funerals and importantly school ministry too. The more complex question has been about what happens next. We have been in a long conversation between within the cluster, the deanery and the diocese about what shape ministry might be able to take going forward. This has involved Canon Stephen Edwards and deliberations at a senior diocesan level. Diane Cooksey, the Area Dean, and I are pleased that it has been very clearly heard how we value our life as a cluster and also that we do not want to be in limbo when the opportunities for ministry and mission are all about us.

We are beginning to form a sense of what comes next. I was asked by the Bishop to play my own particular part in this by taking on the role of priest-in-charge at St Barnabas, alongside my responsibilities at St Wulstans. This has involved support from the Diane and from Andy Campbell, one of the new mission companions that the diocese has created. As all over the country, our diocese is looking very strategically about how to cover ministry posts as vacancies arise. The days of a like-for-like replacement have gone because of the realities of how far-stretched finances have become. The Diocesan leaders have recently written to the treasurers of the three parishes confirming that going forward, we will be asked only to



contribute Ministry Share that is equivalent to two incumbents, rather than three across the cluster. This means that in 2023 the Ministry Share request is £134,140 to be offset with £60,740 from a Lower Income Communities grant. Overall, this means that the parish of St Nicholas and this parish will be asked to contribute £31,000 and that £11,400 will be asked for from St Wulstans. John Preston, Diocesan Secretary explains:

We realise that this is the beginning of your working together financially and would like to offer support if you would find it helpful. In future years it will be up to your benefice to decide how the Ministry Share request is divided between the parishes. Given the economic deprivation in certain parts of your benefice, we believe that you are likely to receive a Lowest Income Community grant of £37,509 in all future years, and we will try to help with further grants where we can ... We understand that this is a particularly difficult time and the Diocesan team are wanting to support and engage with you, so that together, we're able to navigate this period as well as we can, and help to grow as Kingdom People."

As we look ahead, we can begin a more settled period in which long-held hopes and dreams can begin to take shape and bear fruit. I am also deeply grateful to the faithfulness of some many within the life of the parish who have ensured in the last year that we have been open for business! Our ministers and officers are truly amazing. All volunteers, they quietly beaver away and are such strong advocates for all that we hold dear at Christ Church, and at St Barnabas — hospitality, community, kindness. What they do makes it possible for us to be us!

Revd Sarah Northall



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2022

At the end of January, we said a fond farewell to Julieann, our Rector since 2014, and her husband Mark. We marked the occasion with a bring & share lunch in the church hall. We are very grateful for all that Julieann did in the parish and also for Mark - an ALM in worship. We were subsequently in a vacancy until we welcomed the arrival of our Interim Priest in Charge, Revd. Sarah Northall. Bishop John conducted her Licensing service on 17th August.

INVENTORY

This was checked in May 2022 in St. Barnabas.

FABRIC

We thank the Fabric committee for working hard to maintain our church building.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Sue Sykes & Judy Ford continued to lead Open the Book at St. Barnabas School every Monday.

Green Lane Pre-school still meet in the church hall on weekdays, enjoying using the Forest School area.

MUSIC & AUDIO VISUAL

John Hocking continued to lead our music worship on two Sundays a month, with the help of John Dentith. The band plays on the other two Sundays. We are grateful to our musicians & those who operated the laptop so services could be seen on the screens.

WORSHIP

Our services have been ably led by the Revds. Sarah Northall, Diane Cooksey, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon. Also Julie Berrow (LLM) & Sue Sykes. Thanks also to those who read & lead intercessions.

The 10am Wednesday service continued to be held weekly, with one Wednesday service per month being Lay led.

The house group at Andy & Margaret Gandon's home met throughout the year.

The prayer chain met regularly throughout the year to pray for those who have asked for prayers & for situations in the world.

FINANCE

We said goodbye to Claire Summers, our Treasurer in July 2022. We appreciated all her hard work for St. Barnabas. We welcomed Aidan Melarkey as our new treasurer & appreciated his taking on this complex role.

January	Zoom coffee morning
	Burns night party
March	Pancake party
	World Day of Prayer



Love. Grow. Serve.

- Beetle Drive
Wedding preparation meeting
Mothering Sunday
- April St. Barnabas school in church to learn about the Eucharist
Litter pick
Bishop John took our 10am Eucharist
Holy week – Monday-Wednesday – Reflections & Quiet
Maundy Thursday service led by Archdeacon Robert
Passion play in Cathedral Plaza
Easter Sunday
APCM
- June Queen's Platinum Jubilee coffee morning
- July We were pleased to welcome Doug Chaplin & Stephen
Buckley as visiting priests in July & August
St. Barnabas school Year 6 leavers service
- September Pop up Café for Ukrainian families
Memorial service for the Queen
Julie Berrow's LLM licensing in the Cathedral
Harvest Festival followed by a bring & share lunch
- October St. Barnabas school Harvest Festival
- November Remembrance Day service
PCC training on Zoom
Christ church patronal service
- December Joint PCC supper with St. Wulstan's church PCC
Bishop Perowne C of E College carol service
Guides carol service
Worcester Concert Brass Band concert. Profits sent to Worcester Food Bank
St. Barnabas School carol service
Christmas shoeboxes for the homeless
Carol singing in the church hall (due to extreme cold weather)
Crib service
Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day Eucharist

We wish to thank everyone for their support and hard work through a challenging year.

Rachel Chalmers & Mary James

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022

The PCC met on the following dates: Via Zoom – 31st January, 21st March, 23rd May and 18th July; Extra Zoom meetings being on – 14th February and 4th April. PCC were able to hold meetings in church on 12th September and 7th November, with an additional meeting on 22nd June. The 2022 APCM in church was followed by a short PCC meeting to elect posts and was held on 24th April. Meetings commenced at 7:30 and ended by 9:30, unless it was agreed to extend the meeting.

Rev. Julieann Watson retired in January 2022 and did not attend the January meeting. Lay Chair led the meetings. Meetings began and ended with a prayer or the grace. Agendas, minutes of previous meetings and reports were sent to the secretary and circulated to PCC via email prior to each meeting.

The agenda followed the format as below, this being required for PCC meetings, with any additional items for the agenda added.

Apologies for absence

Approving minutes of the previous meeting

Matters arising from that meeting

Notifications of any other business

Safeguarding

Finance

Reports from Subcommittees

Electoral roll/Newcomers

Any other business

In no particular order of significance, items on PCC agendas, additional to items in sub-committee reports, during 2022 have been:

- Advice on listing of the church building
- Archiving of church records
- The return of using the 'Common Cup'
- The appointment of a new treasurer



- Welcoming of Revd. Sarah Northall
- Cessation of the team ministry at St Barnabas with Christ Church
- The large table by the corner back pinboards in church
- A prayer box on church outer wall next to the door
- Patronage scheme
- Contactless giving
- Mission Accompanier

Sub-committee groups in 2021 were:

Tolladine Mission (disbanded at the April APCM)

Parish Hall

Mission Giving

Worship

Events & Publicity

Pastoral

Outreach/Young People (renamed All Age Outreach)

Fabric

Eco

Attendance at PCC meetings during 2022 was approximately 80%

Judith Ford

FINANCE REPORT 2022

Treasurer's report available separately.

WORCESTER AREA DEANERY SYNOD 2022

There were three meetings of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod in 2022 with Representative numbers rising from 33 to 39 over the year. Understandably there will always be people who find that their diaries have a clash of commitments, but it is sad when one hears comments from people in parishes that they had not been aware of a recent initiative or change in Diocesan policy direction. The question usually then asked is why that PCC is not disseminating the information to parishioners given to them by their Deanery Synod Representatives? Of course, some churches cannot find anyone interested enough to volunteer to be a Deanery Synod Representative or if elected to



attend the very few annual meetings.

Our first meeting of the year was at St Wulstan, Cranham Drive on Thursday 28th April. Chosen especially so that there would be well lit streets to park in with a bright and cheerful building to sit in where we could be gathered in a friendly manner around tables, rather than serried rows of uncomfortable pews. Our Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey reported on the results of the 'Deanery Enquiry' questionnaire that had circulated. Unfortunately, some Parish representatives had either not consulted their parishioners or had declined to answer but there were 26 replies from a possible 31 Churches. The aim of the survey had been to get a 'Base Line' of what is happening around the deanery as we came out of the pandemic.

This being our first 'in person' meeting for a while we were shown a map of the Deanery so that members could get an idea of the geography. We had: 42 Church Buildings; 31 Parishes; 12 Benefices. There are 14 Stipendiary Clergy; 4 Curates; 12 Readers with 4 in training; 27 A.L.M's but the number of clergy with 'Permission To Officiate' was not mentioned.

A lack of a cohesive Youth Programme was the main criticism and that funding an Outreach initiative would probably be the best way forwards for 'Growing the Kingdom'.

The meeting was handed over to guests, Simon Hill and his colleague Emma who passed out to the meeting identical sets of Lego © which were then used to express concepts that we were being offered on a range of subjects. The aim of this was to encourage people to respond to the question 'What is the deanery for now?' It certainly got people talking and feedback was collected afterwards for the Leadership Team to peruse later.

The 5th Session of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod: was held in rural splendour at St John the Baptist, Suckley on Tuesday 5th July. Revd Anne Potter was acting as Area Dean because Revd. Diane Cooksey had departed on sabbatical leave. Again, the meeting was in a comfortable hall and whilst it had required a little navigation to find, in my opinion, Worcestershire in July cannot be bettered. The meeting was opened by the Deanery Lay Chair, Robert Pearce who welcomed us and then asked the acting Area Dean to lead us in a short act of worship. We were shown a video of the local community and school.

We were then treated to an exceptional talk by Geoff Sansome, Head of Agriculture at Natural England who had worked in both Russia and Ukraine for several years, about the history, culture, and current situation in Ukraine. He went on to speak about the refugee and invasion problems caused by Russia and local efforts to help in Worcestershire.

Our 6th Session of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod in November was due to the need for parking and street lighting, held in St Stephen, Barbourne. The Area Dean having returned to harness welcomed us to the meeting and it was gratifying that more Synod representatives felt able to attend. Revd Andy Todd, the Vicar introduced us to the church building where although we were warm and well lit, we had to sit in pews.

Guest speakers, Sian Morgan and Helen Laird gave an input to the meeting about the 'Calling Young Disciples' Scheme. A short introduction and a short video included descriptions of youth work in: Kidderminster; Halas; Stourbridge; Leigh; and also Warndon. As we had discovered on the Deanery questionnaire post-covid this was the



area that all parishes in our Deanery wanted to develop. Members were then able to explore the opportunities offered and ask questions about the direction that their parishes could expand in.

On a slightly downbeat note, Revd Andy Todd gave the meeting the current Diocesan budget view on the new Ministry Share system. His message was clear. If you as a Church can meet the financial demand, then OK, if not then there may be repercussions about future levels of paid ministry. Some churches will become uneconomic. Unrepresented churches will lose that discussion opportunity.

Revd. Diane Cooksey spoke more on the 'three priorities' and Developing Diocesan Strategy document that is now available on the Diocesan website. The Kingdom People Vision had not been replaced by this, but the strategy highlights the direction of travel and intentionality in the use of resources to encourage and enable church growth. It was very helpful to have fulsome explanations of this. The continued diocesan vision for all churches to become Healthy and Sustainable reiterated the point that sustainability includes being able to fund the Ministry as well as the Mission.

One of the priorities focussed on connecting with children and young families with the possibility of employing some Children/Youth/Family Workers in a couple of parishes in each deanery. The hope is that across the diocese each major centre of population will have at least one flourishing church with children/youth and families. As always current and up to date information was provided to members to pass on to their PCC's and also to their congregations.

Another priority spoken of was around the developing New Worshipping Communities e.g., walking church; forest church; café church with the emphasis they will involve new people rather than recycling existing congregations. This is something that all parishes are being asked to get involved with and we hope to devote some time in Synod during 2023 to focus on this. Bishop John has made it clear that he intends that there will be training provided to support clergy and laity and we will pass this on as soon as we hear how that develops.

As ever, the ages of Deanery Synod members increases, and I urge you all to consider recruiting younger parishioners to take on the task ahead.

Paul Fulbrook (Worcester Area Deanery Secretary)

WORSHIP GROUP 2022

The church entered into vacancy on 1st February 2022. The pattern of Sunday Eucharists and Wednesday services continued, covered by clergy from St Wulstan's (Revd. Sarah Northall), St Nicholas (Revd. Diane Cooksey and Revd. Rosie Moss), and Revd. Andy Gandon (retired priest in the parish), including Hoy Week, Easter and Christmas. One midweek service per month was a Service of the Word led by Julie Berrow LLM or Sue Sykes.



Visiting clergy included:

Bishop John: 5th Sunday of Lent (3rd April).

Archdeacon Robert Jones: Maundy Thursday (14th April).

Revd. Doug Chaplin: (2 services July/August)

Revd. Stephen Buckley: (2 services July/August)

Seasonal and other services:

Final service marking the retirement of Revd. Julieann Watson (30th January)

Ash Wednesday: Revd. Sarah Northall (2nd March)

Mothering Sunday Eucharist: Revd. Andy Gandon (27th March)

Christian Aid Sunday: lay-led team service for Christian Aid Week including a "prayer tree". (15th May)

Pentecost: Eucharist and Thanksgiving for the Platinum Jubilee of HMQ: Revd. Andy Gandon (5th June)

St Barnabas patronal festival (12th June)

Revd. Sarah Northall licensed as priest-in-charge of St Barnabas w Christchurch by Bishop John (17th August)

Harvest Festival Eucharist: Revd Rosie Moss (18th September)

Celebration for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth: Revd Sarah Northall (16th June)

Memorial service: Julie Berrow LLM (30th October)

Cluster Service at St Wulstan's (6th November)

Remembrance Sunday: Revd. Sarah Northall (13th November)

Christ the King patronal: café-style Eucharist at the Tolly Hub: Revd Sarah Northall (20th November)

"Something Else Sunday": lay-led team service (5th December)

Services were held for St Barnabas Primary School and Bishop Perowne C of E College at Easter, Christmas and a Leavers' service.
Julie Berrow

PASTORAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

Home Visits and Home Communion

Home visits and care home visits have continued and include those who are unable to get to church, both from the St. Barnabas and Christ Church congregations. Home communion has been provided, when requested, by two authorised members of the committee.

Baptisms

Members of the committee have supported 12.00 noon baptism services in church whenever possible. They help to welcome the families, set them at their ease and present a baptism candle, along with an illustrated children's bible to mark the occasion.

Prayer Request Box

The PCC approved a request from the Pastoral Committee to fix a Prayer Request box to the outside of the church building to enable people to leave requests at times when the church itself was closed. A suitable box was sourced, with the cost being met from a private donation. The box is checked regularly with requests incorporated into the mid-week Eucharist service.

Virtual Coffee Mornings

These were very much a feature of the pandemic restrictions and were appreciated by attendees when opportunities for social contact were reduced. However, with the return to a more familiar pattern of social gatherings, interest in a web-based format reduced and the last virtual coffee morning was held in January.

Prayer Chain

It is now more than two years since the St. Barnabas prayer chain was established. Pastoral Committee members, together with other members of the church family, continue to meet regularly to pray. Included in our prayers are those who have requested prayers, those who are ill or facing difficulties, families and friends of the recently bereaved, families and friends of those whose anniversaries occur at that time, those who have been baptised and those preparing for marriage. Additionally, we pray for those who are known to us, but may not wish to be included in the weekly pew sheet.

Julia Adams 22/03/2023



OPEN THE BOOK REPORT 2022

2022 saw the 14th year of Open the Book at St Barnabas Primary School. As Covid restrictions were lifted assembly moved back into the main hall, but we had two sessions, first key stage 2 and then key stage 1 and reception. We meet every Monday in term time with few exceptions. We have embraced technological change and backdrops etc are now digital, though we still have the overhead transparencies that we were using when we first started.

At the end of the summer term Mrs Pauline Spencer, who had been the “link” teacher for OtB since we started, finally retired. We owe her a huge debt of thanks for all that she has put into Open the Book over the years, guiding us to cope with all the changes, not to mention dealing with Covid. We wish her every happiness in her retirement. Mrs Spencer’s role has been taken on by Mrs Jenny Oakley and September 2022 saw the start of our 15th year and I am very grateful that Mrs Judy Ford was then able to come back to help with OtB in person, rather than just online.

All the staff at St Barnabas school are very welcoming and I would like to express my thanks to them all for their support and encouragement over the years.

Sue Sykes



OUTREACH REPORT 2022

During 2022 the outreach committee has met when there have been events to organise, which were as follows:

Saturday 19th March 2022: Family fun morning for Mother’s Day. A number of activities were arranged in the church hall. Two families and three children attended.

Sunday 4th September 2022: Pop-up café for Ukrainian families and host families (responding to a request through the deanery). Six families and fifteen children attended for a couple of hours in the

afternoon. Members of the congregation provided refreshments, there were play activities for older children and a session of songs and games in Ukrainian organised by one of the parents.

Sunday 11th December 2022: St Barnabas hosted a concert by Worcester Concert Brass Band to raise funds for Worcester Foodbank. Over £300 was raised through ticket sales and a raffle. Approximately 40 people attended.

The latter two events were organised in conjunction with the Events Committee.

Julie Berrow

EVENTS GROUP REPORT 2022

Various social events were held during 2022, including a Burns Night party in January, pancake making (& eating!) in church on Shrove Tuesday & a Beetle Drive in the church hall.

We joined the *Great British Spring Clean* by organising a litter pick in the streets surrounding the church, picking up a large amount of rubbish.

A *Platinum Jubilee* coffee morning was held after a Wednesday service in early June to which some neighbours & church members came to eat cake.

A bring & share *Harvest lunch* was greatly enjoyed with a quiz set by Jackie Campbell.

Our group & the Outreach group organised the refreshments for the *Brass Band Concert* in church in December. We also organised the raffle. All profits from the raffle & ticket sales went to the Worcester Food Bank.

Carols on the Green was held in the church hall due to the extremely cold weather. We sang carols accompanied by John Dentith on his accordion, with mulled wine & mince pies.

Mary James



ECO CHURCH REPORT 2021

In February the church was proud to be awarded the Silver Eco award from A Rocha UK. Achieving Gold will be a challenge, but we will not be deterred. Our Silver success was mentioned in a Diocesan newsletter and on their website.

Tammy Gooding interviewed Judith Ford on the local radio regarding being an Eco Church.

The wildflower area had to go on hold for the time being, but a Rowan sapling was planted in the ground in front of the church hall. This was to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As part of the Diocesan 'Living Gently on the Earth' Chris and Judith Ford visited EnviroSort, a green bin recycling unit, based at Norton. An article was written for the church magazine. Also they attended 'Act on Energy' held in the Cathedral Undercroft. This was about acting on home and building energy and was publicised at church.

Judith Ford met the Eco St Barnabas working party for the second time.
Judith & Chris Ford Church Eco Representatives

MUSIC REPORT 2022

Music over the last year has continued more or less as before with adaptations to the changes in services - notably at the first Sunday in the month, which in future will usually be non-Eucharistic. The recording facility on the digital organ has proven its worth with weekday services now having access to accompanied hymns as well as those Sundays when no organist has been available. Thanks are due to churchwardens Rachel & Mary who have shown their virtuosity in managing the sequencer system. The Viscount digital organ has now been in place for over two years.



The pipe organ continues to be used periodically though we were missed out in the annual tuning round in November/December. We are committed to continue tuning and minor maintenance on the organ and will arrange tuning in the Spring once the cold weather has largely passed.

Thanks are due to Brian, John, Andy, Guy and Steve who make a great contribution to the music on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and also to Brian for his support behind the scenes in developing the music selection system spreadsheet.

John Hocking

SAFEGUARDING 2022

During 2022, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (Rachel Chalmers) reports on any safeguarding issues at each PCC meeting. The parish Safeguarding Dashboard is used and regular Action Plans are produced. This plan is a helpful way to demonstrate strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding requirements and what needs to be discussed at PCC meetings.

Pippa Hawkins has taken on responsibility for Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance. Both Pippa and Rachel have completed the Safer Recruitment training course. This ensures that when anyone takes on a new role, they are aware of that role and they follow certain procedures before starting. This includes an application form, interview, references, having a DBS, and support in their new role.

Everyone who needed a DBS successfully gained one. These have to be renewed every 3 years.

Safeguarding training also has to be renewed every 3 years. Anyone in a leadership role (clergy, LLMs, ALMs, Churchwardens) have to complete an online Leadership Safeguarding training course. The two other safeguarding courses are: Basic Awareness and Foundation. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team hold regular network meetings on Zoom for PSOs when updates are shared. Useful discussions are held during these meetings when any problems or ideas are aired. The members of the Diocesan team are very supportive when advice is sought.

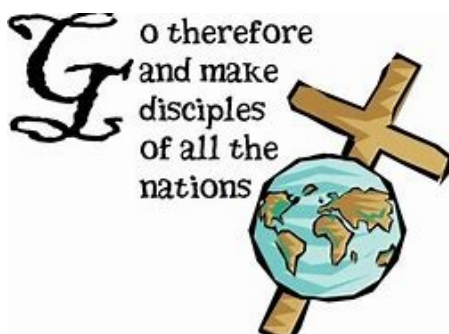
The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a vital part of



our work as a church. We need to promote a safe environment for everyone, offering support when needed. This is everyone's responsibility. If you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding issues, please contact Rachel Chalmers or a member of the PCC. There is also information on the board at the back of church. This gives details of local and national organisations as well as contacts in church and the diocese.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me through this year in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Rachel Chalmers



FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

Although there were no major projects delivered throughout the year the Committee met regularly to monitor the condition of the church to ensure it is maintained in a good condition. A detailed inspection of the roof was carried out by the church architect and the findings were reported to the PCC for further consideration. Examples of the issues considered by the Committee were: repairs to cupboards, installation of a new cue light and sound socket adjacent to the digital organ, application of new safety film to the wooden doors to the narthex and trimming of overgrown hedging. The Committee also ensured that the statutory duties were carried out in respect of health and safety, fire protection and legionella. The problem of dampness and mould growth at Christ Church was also discussed and arrangements were made for remedial work to be carried out the new year.

Philip Adams Chair, Fabric Committee



CHURCH HALL REPORT FOR 2022

The Pre School continue to use the hall Monday to Friday 42 weeks per year. The hall is also used for Church functions and private hire. Thank you to all who help to set up and clean afterwards. The hall was again used as a polling station by the City Council.

- The heating boiler had to be replaced in April at a cost of £9,278.11. The boiler and the kitchen hob were serviced and the safety certificates issued.
- The water heater in the children's toilet was replaced in April.
- The fire equipment was serviced in August. Two emergency lights had to be replaced.
- The annual inventory was checked and a Spring Clean took place with the help of many people from church.
- The window blinds were repaired during September. Thanks to Pam for sourcing the parts and for helping with the repairs.

We have been informed by Severn Trent that the water service pipe into the hall is lead and that it should be replaced to reduce to level of lead in the water. The level of lead is 5.85 micrograms per litre. The Department of Health says whilst there is no short term risk to health we should reduce the level of lead in the water as much as possible, especially if children and pregnant women are involved. The plumber has done some of the work but a date from Severn Trent to come to do the connection is still awaited as of 31st December 2022. Many thanks to the team who replenish the toilet rolls, paper towels and check the fire alarm, the carbon monoxide alarms and the emergency lighting each week and also check the water temperatures monthly to prevent legionella.

Bill Chalmers

MISSION GROUP REPORT 2022

Committee members are: Ann Bryant (Chair), Jackie Campbell & Marian Bailey

The Mission Fund receives 10% of the previous year's Planned Giving and the Sunday morning Plate Collection. The 2022 allowance, which is received on a quarterly basis, was £4,280 and there was £210 carried forward from 2021, bringing the total to £4,490.

The Mission Fund Group this year has had Zoom meetings to discuss donations for Lent, Harvest and Christmas. These proposals are then forwarded to the Church Secretary, who forwards to all PCC members, prior to the next PCC meeting. These proposals are discussed at PCC meeting and, once agreed, each charity is informed of the donation. The Mission Fund chairperson, Ann Bryant, arranges for the donations to be paid. Payment is usually made by bank transfer but, on occasions, a cheque has to be organised. Payment is organised via the church treasurer. A list and details of donations made are on the Mission Notice Board at the back of the church and also in the church magazine.

On 24th February 2022 the Russian invasion of Ukraine started. The Mission Fund donated £500 to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal/ British Red Cross.

The Pakistan flood disaster in August 2022 led to another donation to DEC Appeal Fund for Pakistan for £250.

During 2022, the Mission Fund made another 15 donations: 8 to local charities and a further 7 to National/International charities. The total amount donated during 2022 amounted to £4,000, leaving a balance of £490. £200 is put aside to be used during the year at the Rector's discretion, leaving a balance of £290 to be carried forward to 2023. A full list can be found at the end of this report.



During Christian Aid Week in May 2022 we held an envelope donation campaign at the Sunday morning service, which followed a charity breakfast and total raised was £438. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

Mary James once again organised the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for the Homeless in Worcester and over 50 were distributed to

St.Paul's Hostel, Maggs Day Centre and Women's Refuge. Once again, many thanks to Mary and everyone involved.

John Dentith is the organiser for the Children's Society Box Collection, which raised over £200 again.

Finally, on behalf of the Mission Fund, sincere thanks to the congregation of St. Barnabas with Christ Church for their continuing support.

Ann Bryant

St Barnabas with Christ Church Mission Fund.

2022 MISSION FUND DONATIONS with AMOUNTS

LOCAL:

Acorns Children's Hospice, Worcester	£200
Maggs Day Centre, Worcester	£200
New Hope, Worcester	£200
St. Paul's Hostel for the Homeless, Worcester	£200
St. Richard's Hospice, Worcester	£200
Farming Community Network	£250
Worcester Foodbank 2 donaions £200 + £250	£450
Sponsor for Worcester Passion Play (April 2023)	£100

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL:

Camphill Village Trust	£250
Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal for Malawi	£100
DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal/British Red Cross:	£500
DEC Pakistan Flood Disaster	£250
Friends of the Holy Land:	£200
Bishop John's Lent Appeal for Diocesan of Morogoro	£200
USPG (Partners in Global Mission) Harvest Appeal	£250
Water Aid' Harvest Appeal	£250
Woodland Trust	£200

TOTAL DONATED for 2022:

£4,000





CHRIST CHURCH

Ministry and mission at Christ Church has been low key since the pandemic. We enjoyed a lovely principal Sunday service there on 20th November to mark the festival of Christ the King. This occasion saw a few familiar young faces find their way in the door, and was a playful time of wondering and dreaming about how the facilities of the building might be creatively used in the coming year. It is intended that Christ Church will host at least one of the cluster services a year going forward, and the Something Else Sunday team members are planning several of their first Sunday of the month events there as well. We have begun thinking about what needs to be done to make the chapel space welcoming for midweek worship and wonder how we might begin to make use of the vestry as an administrative space.

Revd Sarah Northall

THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY & BEREAVEMENT CAFE

The Bereavement Journey is a six-week course sourced from *At a Loss* and developed by Holy Trinity Brompton. It enables people who have been bereaved to join with others in a similar situation and share experiences of their grief journey. The sessions consist of short films, followed by discussions and covers the effects of loss, the pain of grief, moving forward and an optional session on faith questions. The courses are a joint project by St Nicholas and the Lyppard Hub which started in 2022. As a result, a monthly Bereavement Café was established so that people could continue to meet. A team has been established to support the café and the course, including ministers, volunteers and the project manager at the Hub. Leaders attend online training and support is available from *At a Loss*.

In 2022, two courses were run. A further course took place in

February/March 2023 (led by Julie Berrow and Revd Rosie Moss) and another will commence in April 2023.

The course is advertised by the Lyppard Hub, targeting hospitals, hospices, GP surgeries, churches, funeral directors and community organisations. People self-refer or can be referred through GPs or social prescribing. It is made very clear that the course is not counselling and people may find they need one-to-one help as well. Anyone who has been bereaved at any point is welcome. Ministers in the cluster conducting funerals are able to identify people who might benefit from the café or the course, with some attending the Blue Service at St Nicholas, and the memorial services at St Nicholas and St Barnabas.

Attendance has grown since the first course, with nine participants for the most recent sessions. Feedback has been very positive. The groups bond well and some people maintain contact afterwards, as well as attending the Bereavement Café. Participants who have completed the course report feeling more positive, whilst understanding that they are on a journey. For some, the sessions have unexpected consequences such as uncovering unresolved grief from a previous bereavement. We have seen people struggle to come through the door, who by the last session are voicing hopes and plans for the future. The majority of participants are women, of varying ages and situations, and almost all attend the faith questions session. Leaders feel that they are making a difference for those who attend the course and are able to signpost to other services as appropriate.

There is a growing demand for the café and courses. Lockdown has compounded the grief process for many people so more support is needed. Waiting lists for counselling with other organisations are long and the criteria to “qualify” are tighter. The Bereavement Journey materials are being updated this year to reflect current needs. There are plans to run a Bereavement Journey in the evening to cater for people working during the day.

Julie Berrow, Licensed Lay Minister

