



**St John's**  
**Brooklands**

Extending God's welcome to everyone

# **Annual Report**

# **2022**

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# St John's, Brooklands

*We believe that God is calling us to be the missional heart of our community as we invite everyone in Brooklands to hear God's invitation of a new relationship, belong to God's family, believe the good news about what Jesus has done for us, and experience the radical hospitality Jesus extends to everyone: an invitation to sit and eat in God's kingdom.*

## Our Vision

Extending God's welcome to everyone

## Our Mission

Welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together

## Our Values

We are a **welcoming** church...

**Worship:** growing as disciples formed by God's word and Spirit

**Evangelism:** making disciples as we introduce people to Jesus

**Liturgical:** living lives shaped by God's story

**Community:** belonging to our church family

**Outward-looking:** going out beyond our four walls

**Missional:** serving God's purposes for the world

**Invitational:** inviting everyone to know Jesus for themselves

**Nurturing:** equipping everyone for ministry

**Generous:** excelling in the grace of giving

## Our Strategy

welcome to the family → grow in faith → share life together → serve in God's mission

*Extending God's welcome to everyone* is our vision which sets the general direction of our parish and has been subdivided into four main priority areas to be worked on over three to five years:

- ❖ **Integrating newcomers:** This is all about welcoming new people into our church family and helping them to explore faith and grow in their relationship with God.
- ❖ **Identifying leaders:** This is about recruiting new church leaders and training existing ones to oversee the various aspects of our parish life. Some of our church leaders will be serving voluntarily and others will be part of a staff team, but both will be doing what God has called them to do.
- ❖ **Increasing worship opportunities:** This is about providing a variety of opportunities to gather together at various times throughout the week to worship God and to deepen our faith.
- ❖ **Investing in our facilities:** We have been blessed with a beautiful church building as well as a hall and hut. As we seek to resource our mission these will need to be maintained and developed appropriately.

# 2022 REPORTS AND MAIN AIMS FOR 2023

## VICAR'S REPORT

As we emerge into a post-pandemic world a series of crises were felt during 2022 with 'polycrisis' being designated the word of the year.

Throughout the year several changes occurred. A major geopolitical crisis came with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia which added further fuel to the flame of our cost-of-living crisis. Our national political life was further destabilised through three changes of Prime Minister, all against the backdrop of our mourning the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Looking ahead to 2023 we are living in a very different *world* than we were five years ago.



We have also experienced some changes here at St John's. In January 2022 we formed a Mission Community along with six other churches, and I was appointed the Mission Community Leader, my tenure of which continues until January 2025. During the Autumn I was able to visit most of the other parishes in our Mission Community.

We launched our mission Community at a special service on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and a vision day was held in October as we began the process of discerning our priorities as we look ahead.

This work fed into a Deanery Mission Action Plan outlining the direction of travel in forthcoming years and the clergy of our Mission Community will be meeting regularly during next year to work out the details at a parish level and explore those areas where we can work together across parishes.

The next phase, at an organisational level, will be for each parish to identify focal leaders who will, along with myself as the Mission Community Leader, form the leadership team of our Mission Community.

Looking ahead to 2023 we are living in a very different *church* than when I began at St John's some five or so years ago.



Amidst all of this change I cannot tell you what the future holds, but it is important that we discern it together. Recognising that we inhabit a new world, I have been struck by the encouragement from our Area Dean for the need to spending some

time to think about what our vocation is now. How can we become the church that God is calling us to be in this new world that we find ourselves living?



This year I celebrated being ordained 8 years and as usual I took some time to reflect on my own ministry by re-reading the Ordinal. As I did, I was struck afresh by the line describing the priestly responsibility of being those ‘watching for signs of God’s new creation’.

The language of new creation captures my imagination and stirs my heart with it recalling images of ‘the new heavens and new earth’ and the tree of life (Rev. 21-22).

The call to watch for signs of God’s new creation describes the need to learn to see the unfolding work of the spirit. It reminded me that we need to pay attention to the movement of the Spirit, taking time to notice signs of spiritual life slowly emerging in people and places where seeds of a new earth are beginning to take root and grow.



Looking back over the past year there are various signs of God’s new creation growing in our parish. This is reflected in the expanding number of ministry streams: Bumps and Babies, Crafty Chat, Food Ministry, Little Blessings, Messy Church, Messy Vintage, Thursday Café, and Women’s Fellowship. There are reports from those involved in these ministries so please do read those to discover more about what has been going on.



As we look ahead to 2023 one of the areas that we shall begin to focus our attention on is worship. Our pre-pandemic pattern of public worship was uprooted by lockdown and the various restrictions that followed. As we continue to emerge into a post-pandemic world we shall be giving some thought to reviewing our worship here at St John’s. To help us in this we shall hold monthly ‘alternative’ Sundays to explore different ways of structuring our services and there will be opportunities to provide feedback. We shall have a summer series in where we’ll dig a bit deeper into what worship is all about. A Worship Review Group shall also meet monthly and in early 2024 this group will discuss its recommendations with the PCC for how worship can be developed with a new schedule of worship beginning around Easter 2024.



As we look to what has been and look ahead to the future there is much to celebrate and give thanks for and I am excited and encouraged that together we are on this journey of becoming a new church for a new world!

## ALM Report

During 2022, as part of my role as ALM, I was involved in the setting up and delivery of Messy Vintage on a monthly basis. (*See Messy Vintage report*)

The Lent Prayer book was produced for all members of the church family; those attending and those unable to attend church services. At Christmas-time copies of the Church of England 'Follow the Star, The Great Invitation', 12 Days of Reflections for Christmas and New Year were purchased for members of the congregation and posted to those who are no longer able to attend St John's.

During Holy Week I assisted the Curate, Father Lee Wood, with a service for the Stations of the Cross.

Also, in my role as an ALM I have continued to support church-based activities and groups.

In the wider Mission Community, I am part of a team from St John's who regularly help at the Saturday foodbank at St Luke's Foodbank, Wythenshawe.

As part of my personal development, I continue to meet with the Revd Richard Sherratt.

Sue Withenshaw

## Bumps & Babies Report

Bumps and Babies is our group for babies and their carers. Each week during term-time there are anywhere between 6-12 carers who come along to enjoy meeting up to chat and support each other during this life stage. Sessions include refreshments and typically finish with some singing of nursery rhymes and a sung blessing.

This is a valuable service we have been able to provide to our local community, however due to a change in the circumstances of one of our volunteers Bumps and Babies has been paused (from December) although we are hopeful, we will be in a position to restart in September 2024.

## Crafty Chat Report

Crafty Chat meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. We are a very friendly group and growing all the time. The chat is as important as the craft but you can bring your own craft or join in with the latest project. You can even learn how to crochet and knit etc. During lockdown a few members made Hero Bears which we raffled to raise money for the NHS and we were able to donate £440. We also made hearts and twiddle muffs for ICU patients. We made Rainbows and Bees and raised £360 for the Snowdrop Centre at Wythenshawe hospital. We have also been involved in making things for the Special Care Baby units at Wythenshawe and St Mary's Hospital. In December we raised £252 at the Christmas Fair. We had our usual Christmas get together and all enjoyed a traditional Afternoon tea. We are hoping 2023 will see more new members and become involved with more exciting new projects

Chris Padbury

## Eco Report

During 2022 we decided to take on the role of Eco Church Leads.

We conducted research into Eco Church and A Rocha UK and carefully devised a plan to help us become an Eco Church.

We set up a noticeboard about Eco Church and offered some tips on how to be more green as a congregation. We also documented the church's energy footprint.

We also completed the A Rocha UK survey (which was finalised and submitted by Lee) and we were awarded a silver award.

We are now taking steps to improve our score even further.

Nicola and Rob Ashton



## Flower Guild Report

There are now seven members who place flowers in church as Susan Wildman has joined us this year. We have a rota through the year to put flowers at the altar and around the candle every two weeks.

Through the year we decorated the church for eight weddings, which was quite an undertaking as we had to source the flowers from either the market or local stores. Whilst this was an enjoyable thing to do it had become very stressful and so we have decided that sadly we can no longer provide this service for any future weddings.

In addition, during the year we have put in memorial pedestals for some members of the congregation and will continue to do this. We have arranged displays for all the major church festivals, i.e., Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, which the congregation seem to enjoy.

It is always joyous to see flowers in church and we feel they enhance our weekly worship.

### **The flower guild:**

Ruth Shaw

Lynda Tattersall

Marcela Payne

Judith Harwood

Lilian Swann

Hilary Hamblett

Susan Wildman

## Food Ministry Report

This year we partnered with the Foodbank at St Luke's in Benchill as we seek to find new ways to work together with other parishes as part of being a Mission Community.

Having been a collection point for foodbank donations for many years this seemed like a logical next step for us to take. A small team of volunteers from St John's now attend each week on a Saturday morning to welcome those who need help.

As we look to 2023 we hope to continue this ministry, and develop it further as we look to support the new Foodbank opening within our parish later next year.

During half-terms St John's was also able to serve as a collection point for Holiday Hunger packs.

## Little Blessings Report

Little Blessings began on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 – originally running from 10am until 11:30am. This after a few weeks of running was extended until 12noon due to it feeling quite rushed once the children had eaten snacks.

We usually have two volunteers in the kitchen, they prepare snacks for the children and also provide hot drinks to adults as and when requested. Each week snack compromises of a breaded item like toast and then a variety of fruit. This is purchased before the session fresh. I am currently in discussions with local stores regarding the donation of fresh fruit for the children weekly. This not only means we are cutting down on running costs but we are also preventing food waste by working with food suppliers. With the current living costs rising, ensuring we have a good and varied selection of fruit available is important for providing the children with nourishment whilst with us at the group but also provides the opportunity to try new things too. Trying to promote not only a healthy but also a varied diet to the children. Cakes are baked by volunteers on a weekly basis and are donated for use at the group. We aim to provide this to parents/carers.

We began the group with the hope that it offered a safe place for parents/carers to come with their children – without financial expectation. The idea is that parents/carers can meet others, create new relationships and feel welcomed, all whilst the children play in a fun and safe environment. Our new online registration form asks parents/carers if they would like to receive information regarding Baptism and other church services. Sessions include a theme and we try to incorporate God and what it is to be Christian into them. A recent example is a session based on the book 'The Tiger Who Came For Tea' by Judith Kerr. We are looking at how Sophie and her mum let in a hungry Tiger and without question fed him, and linking it to how we help feed people at foodbanks and we do so without question. We have found that the group now has its own community of parents/carers. They all intermingle and seem to look forward to seeing one another each week at the group. It also appears to have become a space where parents/carers can and are supporting each other.

We are still donation based and there is no set fee for attending the group. It is also not monitored as to who donates and who doesn't as to us it's not what matters. If anyone wanted to leave a donation towards the group running costs they can do via our donation points that are out during the group. We use a box for coin/cash donations and also have an electronic card reader available for card donations. We find both are regularly used. The coins/cash get bagged up and labelled weekly and go in the safe to be counted with the rest of the church donations.

When we began early September, 22, we had 9 children attend.

A month on in October we had 16 children attend.

The Christmas party he held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 22 was pre booked entry only and we had 29 children attend. The children loved that Santa, Minnie and Mickey Mouse were there. Each child received a story book from Santa about the Nativity story. For those who requested a non-religious book they received a story about being kind.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 23 we had a massive increase in attendance. We ended up with 50 children in total. This felt very busy and I felt it took away from the personalised approach and welcome we have been aiming to create. As of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 23, we have limited the number of children attending to 40. The sessions are now pre booked via Eventbrite. Recently we have been getting fully booked within days of the session opening for booking. Usually those looking to cancel their place do so by messaging me, which then allows for others to attend in their place. We are unfortunately oversubscribed in terms of those wanting to attend and those who manage to get a place.

We currently have a Facebook page (social media) for Little Blessings that has over 200 followers, with posts reaching up to 10,000 people. We also have a WhatsApp group that has over 50 members – this is used for information regarding the group and it has provided a way for parents/carers to communicate. Parents/carers are given the option to be added to the group on the online registration form. We have also got 93 families registered with us which is kept securely on Google Drive.

Please see below for the feedback received from parents/carers regarding the group.

*'I have been bringing my Grandson for a while, I love it as much as he does. On our first time there we were made really welcome, the playgroup leaders and volunteers are friendly. There is so much space, lots for the toddlers and babies, the wide variety of snacks is brilliant. Best playgroup I've been to, thank you to all you lovely people x'*

*'It has been a great pleasure to attend Little Blessings with my granddaughter each week. So well organised and I can see how much thought, planning and care goes into each week's activities. I have spoken to lots of parents and grandparents who come and they all are impressed with the group and feel very welcome and valued.*

*The organisers deserve recognition for providing this very valuable Christian service to the community.'*

*'As a Christian Mum, I really love that the sessions have a Christian theme. I specifically come to Little Blessings for the biblical aspect, it sets it apart from other 'stay and plays' for me. Another aspect I like is that the helpers/volunteers are really friendly and welcoming. I find going to a new group can be a bit daunting, but Phoebe and I have always been made so at home at Little Blessings - thank you. Little Blessings being free is also a huge bonus for Phoebe and I. As a single parent money is tight, so to have such a great group to go to for free is a real blessing! Thanks for all your hard work and efforts, we love Little Blessings!'*

*'We came for the first-time last week and we absolutely loved it.*

*My children are 3 and 1 so finding somewhere on one level is really helpful as they both run around and it's easy to lose them when places have different levels.*

*Little blessings is so welcoming and the choice in activities for the children is amazing.'*

*'We really enjoy the group, everyone's so sweet and lovely and the little snack time is a winner with Ava & Sofia (I just wish they would be so well behaved sitting at their table at home) I always find it a bit tricky having twins as usually I'm restricted where I can go where*

*I can keep an eye on them both but it's great as they can play safely together or with others if they chose so it works really well. Thank you for organising its fab! xx'*

*'It's only been a few weeks but we love coming. It's the same thing for us that a couple of people have mentioned. It's a nice safe place to bring my baby & 2-year-old without having to worry about the difficulties of managing 2 children out & about. Everyone is very friendly which is lovely for the mums. It's great that it's free or donations, it can be expensive taking 2 children to playgroups or soft play. The coffee and cake is a winner too! Graziella particularly enjoys the crafts table & the different themes. Thanks for offering something great for the community'*

*'To all the volunteers thank you so much for all your effort. Lennon and Evangeline get so excited when they realise we're on our way to Little Blessings every Friday morning. So much thought is put into the activities and the snacks are amazing. It's the perfect place for their age group x'*

*'After attending Bumps and babies with my son Alexander, whilst on maternity leave, I was thrilled when I was told that the Little Blessings toddler group would be starting. It has given Alexander the opportunity to engage and develop with other children in an environment that he was already happy and comfortable to be in. It has given me the opportunity to continue to develop my relationship with the church and the local community. As well as meet lots of new people and catch up with people from my past (my teacher Mrs Herd). Sophie has done an amazing job with the different themes that she has incorporated into the sessions. The wide variety of toys, crafts and messy play activities has been amazing. It is always aimed at supporting a child's development. The format of how snacks are give to the children is great and I feel it has supported Alexander in trying different things and sitting nicely with other children.*

*I am also incredibly appreciative of the group being donation based. It can be incredibly expensive to go out with a child and with the cost-of-living crisis alongside going part time has meant I am not always able to do all the activities I'd like to do with Alexander.*

*I'm so grateful and appreciative to be able to attend and particularly to Sophie, Lindsey and the other volunteers for giving me as Alexander this opportunity.'*

Sophie Wood

## Messy Church Report

Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality, and celebration. In each session there are a variety of activities and crafts based around a theme. At the end of the session we eat together.

During 2022 we met six times including: **Messy Lent** in March; **Messy Easter** on Good Friday in April attended by 27 children and 25 adults; **Messy Pentecost** in May attended by 11 children and 4 adults; and, **Messy Advent** in November attended by 18 children and 12 adults. In October we held a Pumpkin Party at which 100 children attended.

## Messy Vintage Report

Messy Vintage is Christ-centred fellowship, an informal, accessible and creative way of church, with hospitality and celebration, and open to all. In February 2022 we held our first Messy Vintage meeting. Messy Vintage takes place on the second Wednesday of each month 2.00pm - 4.00pm. The afternoon begins with Welcome and a short time of worship, Holy Communion or occasionally a Service of the Word, and brings together the theme of the session.

The service is then followed by hands-on creative activities to explore the Bible story. Fun and fellowship are enjoyed through the crafts and activities as we chat and share our experiences. The crafts/activities are followed by refreshments of tea, coffee, biscuits and cake.

Thank you to all who have supported and shared in this new venture of Messy Vintage as we look forward to continuing our journey of faith together in 2023.

Sue Withenshaw

## Thursday Café Report

Our Community Cafe started after the COVID 19 Pandemic in a new format and has grown in numbers and support. Since its relaunch in Summer 2021, we have had a regular and like minded group of volunteers who seek to serve the needs of their local community by providing a space where all are welcome. We aim to provide hot drinks and Cake, toast and biscuits on a donation basis. This has provided an effective way of financing the cafe without charging for drinks etc.

Over the past 18 months, volunteers have come to the conclusion that the cafe is a great benefit to those that visit us and we continue to attract new people. The decision was made to remain open as much as possible and so this includes holidays and half term periods. This is because of 2 reasons, both relating to community engagement. Firstly, half term is when we can engage with young families the most and secondly that holidays and half terms have no bearing on those who may be lonely and so seek some fellowship. We have seen weekly numbers rise from around 20, up to as many as 40-50 people on any given week including those who may just “drop in” for a quick coffee.

In the early days, a service of morning prayer preceded the service with a start time of around 0950 hrs for 10 minutes and in July 2022 it was decided to change this to a midweek service of Holy Communion to serve those attending the cafe but also the wider parish and we now have people attending Holy Communion who do not stay for the cafe and on some occasions, this is their only weekly service. It was also originally decided that these services would continue whilst a curate was available in the parish to allow the service to take place and so it was a time limited service, separate from the cafe. The parish Bible Study sessions after the cafe have been equally successful and are in a similar position. We have also had a lot of engagement with families asking about baptism, visits from local nursery groups, Foodbank Managers, Social Workers and local Police Community Support Officers. We

installed a small community library where we aim to turn around the books and have an arrangement with a local bookshop and Oxfam. Along with Live music with a great thanks to Angela Murhead playing piano weekly, we started a second-hand bargain stall with occasional (Monthly) raffle. This was intended to be a draw for others and just give them something to look at and browse as they very much missed the “Good as New” aspect. Not only does this add to our Eco-Church award but it has been a huge financial success and our thanks are owed to Carol for this. In late 2022 we also registered with “Warm Space” and “Fair Trade” and we are on their list of registered spaces and activities as well as listed in local and borough wide community publications aimed at particular demographics we seek to serve.

Overall, the Community Cafe is exactly that and is embraced as such by both the community and the volunteers who help so much and run their own rota. Some more long term planning of who picks up supplies will need to be discussed soon but can be done so informally by the current cafe volunteers. However, some wider support around advertising, social media presence and website updates will also be required upon Fr. Lee’s leaving the parish. That aside, this space will continue to run itself with continued commitment of amazing volunteers long term and is a space that can still grow, advertise church activities and embrace the community pastorally.

We take this opportunity to thank all of those who have given their time over the past 18 months to make the Cafe such a success and I am personally very thankful for the support I have received in leading the Cafe and for the continued commitment of volunteers who both keep things running smoothly and engage with the community whilst supporting and enabling myself to do the same. The cafe really does live up to the Gospel message of love of neighbour, hope and support of others as well as a dynamic balance of prayer, spirituality and yet a warm welcome to the whole community, regardless of church engagement. May we continue to be blessed with such an amazing group, run by amazing, Christ-like people.

Lee Wood

## Welcome Ministry Report

The **Manchester Marathon** took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and our grounds were used by the organisers. We were also able to connect with residents and other spectators serving them refreshments as they cheered on the runners. We provided space for a couple of Ukrainian families to have a stall to raise funds for much needed supplies back home

Our **Garden Party** took place on 16<sup>th</sup> July which was brilliantly organised and provided a wonderful opportunity to spend time with new faces and old friends. There was a wide selection of refreshments available including cakes, tea, coffee, and Pym’s which went down well since we were in the middle of a heatwave. There was also plenty to keep the children busy too in the children’s area and we were joined by a few new families who had connected with us through having come along to Bumps and Babies.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we held our **Christmas Fair** which was well attended by members of the parish. We hosted a choir who sang some festive favourites and a certain chap with a white beard made an appearance too! The most moving thing was the fellowship and the amount of time, help and donations given by the stallholders to make this so successful.

## Women's Fellowship Report

Women's Fellowship continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, but we now meet from 2-4pm and not in the evening.

We have had an enjoyable year with a variety of activities. In addition to quizzes, bingo, games afternoons and a Christmas craft meeting with mince pies, Christmas cake and carol singing, we had a classical guitar recital from a member of the congregation, two videos of past events at church – the pageant and various Garden Parties. These were nostalgic and good fun as they brought back memories of members in their younger days.

In December we went to Mersey Farm for our annual Christmas meal which was enjoyed by everyone as usual.

In January we were treated to a taster of Burn's Night Food. The meetings are pleasurable and friendly. Fellowship is open to everyone, not just church members. It would be really good if we could welcome new members from the local community in 2023.

Carole Herd

## Buildings Report

Leaks continue at the junction of the two split level roofs in the hall and near the rooflights and we are hoping to replace the hall roof this year. We have now received three quotes though some further assessment is needed by the architect to confirm they all meet the specification required. Total cost (including VAT) is likely to be in the region of £70,000. Grants may be available to assist with this. Once repaired, we can look to upgrade the hall itself, kitchen and toilets which are in a poor state.

Various electrical repairs recently include bulb and light fitting replacement and a new security light on the cellar approach. The step lights outside church (mainly on the North side) are still under consideration from an aesthetic point of view.

Work to replace some tiles and clear gutters on the main roof was recently completed, but this crossed over into 2023, due to the weather.

In the grounds, a new contractor was appointed in 2022 and some savings have been made here. We have now received approval from Trafford Council to prune or remove branches from 5 trees near the roadway. Further pruning of other trees is also required.

The first quarterly grounds working party took place on 18.2.2023. This coincided with a spring clean inside church. A further grounds working party will be schedule for late April/May.

The hut is in a dire state. The kitchen and toilets especially are woeful, so an action plan is needed here. The flooring also receives complaints so consideration is being given to carpet tiles , bearing in mind a potential issue with asbestos in the current tiles , although the most recent inspection declared this to be low risk. Rental charges here are minimal and reflect the poor state of the facility.

### **Other future works**

1. Overhaul of lychgate
2. Cleaning and re-oiling of main doors
3. Pot hole repairs
4. Decision on metalwork over steps near cellar
5. External lighting to north side of church
6. Re-carpeting of church or re-stretching of existing carpet

A good number of hymn books are now in need of some running repairs, which will be effected. The other goods and ornaments of the church appear sound and the wardens are not aware of any missing items, though a full check will be made before the APCM.

Phil Dykes  
Church Warden



## Finance Report

2022 represents a continuation of the post-pandemic recovery which was beginning to emerge during 2021. Planned Giving has grown by 6.3% on last year, and we continue to be incredibly grateful to all those members of our community and congregation who are able to contribute and support us.

Our normal community outreach events and church groups have been well-attended throughout the year and particular thanks is owed to those organising Thursday Café, Bumps and Babies, Messy Church, and the Pumpkin Party. Our groups and events income has increased approximately 1.5x on last year as both we and the wider community became more confident in both running and attending events.

Income from life events and rent of our extended premises held up, other than a reduction in premises rent owing to a large, one-off film production which took place during 2021. We were very grateful to receive a legacy from the late Arthur Hargreaves and this has been added to the designated General Legacy Fund to be used for specific items or projects.

In 2019, the PCC agreed to partner with other local churches to support Christians against Poverty with the setting up of a local operation and we committed to paying £1,500 per year for 3 years. The final contribution was made this year and the PCC formally agreed to support food ministry within the local area. Funds are expected to be donated to this end during the 2023 calendar year.

Church Fabric expenses includes the cost of repairing some slates on the church roof and clearing the gutters. Our other costs have remained reasonably level overall against the prior year, with an uplift in premises expenditure beginning towards the end of the calendar year as we began to feel the effects of increased gas costs. This will be a more significant expense in the 2023 accounts which is reflected in the PCC's budget.

During the year, the PCC agreed to allocate amounts to certain designated funds, as they looked to finance anticipated expenditure deemed necessary for the future growth of the church. These amounts have been set out in Note 19 of the accounts.

James Merryweather  
**Treasurer**

## Facts & Figures

### Electoral Roll

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
137	TBC

### Usual Sunday Attendance

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2022</u>
Adults	82	56
Children	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>61</b>

### Occasional Offices

<b>Weddings</b>	8
<b>Baptisms</b>	14
<b>Funerals</b>	29

## PCC LEADERSHIP AND MAKE UP 2022

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

### Aim and purposes

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has a shared responsibility in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### Objectives and activities

At the heart of our church life is the worship of God, everything else comes from that worship. We seek to reach upwards to God in worship and adoration, inward to one another in fellowship and outwards to the community and the world in witness and service. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC is committed to promoting the work of the church in the following areas:

- **Worship, prayer and spirituality:** the maintenance and provision of regular Sunday and weekday worship, celebration of festivals, preparation for baptism, weddings and funerals and the nurture and teaching of faith
- **Social and Community Outreach:** opening the church building to the people of the parish for social and community events, social and fundraising events, the support and involvement in community activities
- **Pastoral:** visiting the sick and the housebound, support for those in need, prayer with and for those in need
- **Mission and Evangelism:** financial, prayerful and active support of world and national mission agencies, concern and involvement in local needs
- **The wider church:** the deanery, diocese and wider Church of England, ecumenical relationships

### Main things PCC did in 2022

There have been five full meetings of the PCC: January, March, April, June, and November. Items on the agenda this year included:

- Approved Annual Report and Accounts 2021
- Approved Safeguarding Policy (annually) and monitored its implementation (ongoing)
- Discussed parish priorities for growing, nurturing, and serving
- Discussed forming links with the St Luke's Foodbank
- Use of the chalice at Communion
- Approved Eucharistic Assistants
- Become an Eco Church
- Discussed worship review in 2023

## Membership 2022

Vicar:	Richard Sherratt
Curate:	Lee Wood
Churchwarden:	Phil Dykes (Vice Chair)
Churchwarden:	Janet Hunter
Deanery Synod representative:	Wilfred Darlington

***Elected members (until 2023):*** Debbie Gilpin

***Elected members (until 2024):*** Adele Lane (Treasurer)  
Phil Makins  
Angela Mather (Assistant Warden)  
Nwabugo Ubochi  
Susan Wildman (PCC Secretary)  
Caroline Windle (Assistant Warden)

***Elected members (until 2025):*** Nicola Ashton (Eco Champion)  
Kirstie Lea  
James Merryweather  
Rod Tattersall

## Other PCC committees/groups

The PCC at St John's has a Standing Committee. Membership of this committee along with its duties and is defined by law in the Church Representation Rules, abbreviated to CRR (**CRR M31(6)**). In addition to this committee there are four other committees appointed by the PCC under **CRR M32**. Upon joining the PCC each member shall join at least one of these committees, ideally the one which best reflects their gifts, interests, skills, and talents:

- (1) Operations Committee
- (2) Finance Committee
- (3) Governance Committee
- (4) Safeguarding Group

### **Buildings Committee**

Philip Dykes  
Philip Makins  
Rod Tattersall  
Nwabugo Ubochi,

### **Finance Committee**

Philip Dykes  
Janet Hunter  
Adele Lane (Treasurer)  
James Merryweather

### **Governance Committee**

Susan Wildman  
Nicola Ashton  
Angela Mather  
Caroline Windle

### **Safeguarding Group**

Nicola Ashton  
Angela Mather (Lead for Vulnerable Adults)  
Simon Mather (PSO)  
Caroline Windle (Lead for Children)