



**BRANKSOME, ST. ALDHELM'S CHURCH**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

[www.st-aldhelm.com](http://www.st-aldhelm.com)

**PARISH REPORT &  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

together with reports from church organisations

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

**VICAR**

Rev. Philip Martin

**CHURCHWARDEN**

Ian Gray

**HONORARY TREASURER**

Peter Sharp

**HONORARY SECRETARY**

Samantha Waldron



**BRANKSOME ST ALDHELM'S CHURCH**  
**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
**AND**  
**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2023 HELD AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE**

## **AGENDA**

### **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. To elect 2 people to the office of Churchwarden

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

3. To receive the updated Electoral Roll and Report
4. To receive the Annual Report and accept the examined Accounts for 2022
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report
6. To receive the Churchwarden's Report
7. Vicar's Report & Memorial to the Departed
8. To receive the Deanery Synod Report
9. To elect members of the laity to the PCC & Sides Persons
10. To accept the minutes of the APCM for 1st May 2022
11. Matters arising from the 2022 minutes
12. Closing Prayer

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
**AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2022 FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

The meeting began at 11.05am and minutes were kindly taken by Christine Shaw.

Churchwardens – Peter Sharp stepped down as Churchwarden but will continue as the Hon. Treasurer. Ian Gray will continue as Churchwarden; a second Churchwarden can be chosen later in the year. The Crisis Committee will continue as a backup to the Vicar and Churchwarden. Thanks were given to both Ian and Peter.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

To receive the report and accounts – proposed by Clair Eaton and seconded by Graham Wright. Unanimously agreed.

Treasurer - A question about finances going forward came from Judith to Peter the Treasurer:

Reply: improvement. Expenditure on the building to come of necessity.

£6000 deficit in Unrestricted funds. There will still be a deficit this year, more needs to be raised. Christmas Tree Festival – it was substantial but not much profit. Pip was disappointed by the response to the renewal of Giving. Annual invitation needs to be made to encourage this.

Churchwarden- Ian said many projects could be undertaken. The next Quinquennial Inspection is not that far away, 2023 and some progress is needed. The report suggested that photos should be taken of all the windows to form a record both for the archives and as a working document to assist with maintenance/vandalism. For the right person, this job would be relatively easy. The estimate for the glass repairs was £15,000.

Safeguarding – Rona has undertaken training. All PCC members have been appropriately vetted. There have been no safeguarding issues in the past year.

PCC Members – members already will continue with the expectance of Jackie Ree and Peggy Elliott who are standing down.

Nominations for new PCC members – Heather Brown, Jennifer Hamblin, Charlie Kendrick

Sidespersons – All existing sidespersons to continue with the exception of Donna Noonan who is stepping down and Dave Marsh -RIP.

Ian Clothier and Jane Rosewarn are to become sidespersons.

Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting – Clair Eaton – proposed, Diane Eaton – seconded, unanimously voted, no matters ongoing.

### Other Matters –

Ann Ballett – asked if PCC minutes could be available for everyone, it could be helpful to get more involvement. Pip replied – could be put on next newsletter/email/website. Everyone agreed.

John Smith – asked about Pottery Junction – could the minutes be included here? Is it making a profit?

Pip – didn't really want PCC minutes in a community document, copies of the magazine go to school & local families.

Fr Stephen is leaving after June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Live Streaming – work in progress, Diocese involved, will continue.

Andrew Dray – asked if the agenda for the PCC could be available at least a week ahead of meetings.

Ann Ballett – Christmas Tree Festival – need to bring in more of the community, then more money will follow.

Father John – thanked everyone for their welcome.

Wendy Brooke – we need to return to getting the uniformed units back to church. All Age services to be revived? Need to get the school back more.

Someone asked if we could start reusing the service books again.

Jane Rosewarn/Ann Ballett – said they hadn't received the Parish Report by email.

Ann Ballett – thanked Pip for his leadership – this was unanimously agreed by all.

Pip – we need new hymn books – updated – they need to be fully inclusive – larger print versions needed for those with impaired vision – though united a discussion is needed.

Meeting ended at 12noon with prayers.

---

Vicar 30th April 2023

## **BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM'S CHURCH**

Annual Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31st December 2022

### **Administrative Information**

Branksome St. Aldhelm's Church is situated in St. Aldhelm's Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset. BH13 6BT and is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. Correspondence should be addressed to The Parish Office, 401 Poole Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset. BH12 1AD.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Charity Number: 1130874.

PCC members who have served from May 2022 until the date of this report was approved are:

### **Licensed Ministry Team**

<b>Incumbent</b>	Rev. Philip Martin, Chairman
<b>Curate</b>	Rev. Robyn Golden-Hann (joined in Sept 2022)
<b>Licensed Lay Reader</b>	Rona Orme

<b><u>Pastoral Team</u></b>	Joy Warne, Jackie Ree, Tim Mitchell
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------

<b><u>Churchwarden</u></b>	Ian Gray
----------------------------	----------

<b><u>Deanery Synod Reps</u></b>	Andrew Dray, Gary Waldron
----------------------------------	---------------------------

<b><u>Elected Members of PCC</u></b>	Samantha Waldron, Clair Eaton, Diane Eaton, Ian Clothier, Tim Mitchell, Jennifer Hamblin, Charlie Kendrick, Denzil Sheppard
--------------------------------------	--

### **Officers of the PCC**

<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Peter Sharp
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Samantha Waldron
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Diane Eaton
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	Tim Mitchell
<b>Safe Guarding Officer</b>	Rona Orme

<b><u>Elected Sides Persons</u></b>	Christine Shaw, Ray Beverley, Lin Beverley, Isobel Woodbury, Lisa Stroud, Diane Eaton, Ian Clothier, Rona Orme
-------------------------------------	---

# **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

## **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Branksome St. Aldhelm's PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

St. Aldhelm's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Rev. Philip Martin, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, the Branksome St. Aldhelm Centre and its surrounding grounds.

The major risk to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures established to manage those risks.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

There are 142 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 54 of whom reside within the parish and 88 from outside the parish boundary. During the past year 2 parishioners have passed away and 1 has moved out of the area.

#### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

At the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting Mr Ian Gray was elected as Churchwarden for a further term of office. Mr Peter Sharp was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer.

The PCC held meetings in church throughout the year with the Crisis Committee meeting in between these meetings (Crisis Committee was the former name of the Standing Committee), minutes from the Crisis Committee meetings were taken to full PCC meetings for discussion where necessary.

#### **SAFEGUARDING**

Rona Orme was elected as Safeguarding Officer and has attended several training sessions. There were no safeguarding issues during this past year.

#### **LINKS**

Ecumenical links continue within the Deanery (Poole East Churches Together) as do our links with Busy Bodies Pre-School and Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School and our international links with the Anglican Church in Ecuador. The Parish supports the work of Poole Food Bank and regularly donates food which is then passed onto those in need within the Poole area.





## **Branksome St. Aldhelm**

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2022**

In the previous year's review it was noted that our finances had stabilised after the first quarter of 2021. This stability continued throughout 2022; Unrestricted Funds broke even. However, within that bald statement there were many differences from 2021 as normal life resumed after the pandemic.

Planned giving and collections, along with the concomitant gift aid, increased and came close to covering our diocesan share but the corollary of this is that nothing would be left for the day-to-day running of St. Aldhelm's. These costs are largely covered by the income we receive from hiring our premises which rose by 70% in the year. Our fundraising is important, too, with fairs and the Christmas tree festival back in full swing.

Apart from the inevitable increase in diocesan share, there were a number of major changes in our costs. Personnel expense rose sharply mainly due to the cessation of furlough payments. A reduction in the amount paid for heating was largely due to our successful application to the diocese's warm spaces fund. As the buildings get older, more is being spent on their maintenance. In 2022 this included such diverse items as the centre doors and the church drains. In 2023 we have already re-lit the church.

Virtually all the equipment purchases were made by the Friends. These included wifi improvements, new staging and part-payment for the new noticeboards. St. Aldhelm's Players have deposited £950 for the church to hold should they wish to re-form. If they have not done so within two years, then the money goes to the General Fund.

An additional financial challenge in 2023 is the change in arrangements for printing Pottery Junction. Once we have upgraded our equipment, the costs involved will not be too severe.

Peter Sharp—Hon. Treasurer

**BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM  
CONSOLIDATED FUNDS YEAR TO 31/12/2022**

<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>		<b>Actual to 31/12/2022</b>	<b>Actual to 31/12/2021</b>	<b>Change 2021&gt;&gt;2022</b>
<b>11,901</b>	<b>53,487</b>	<b>Reserves at 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>65,388</b>	<b>61,893</b>	
39,678	2,388	Planned Giving	42,066	35,160	6,906
10,105		Collections	10,105	8,178	1,927
11,177		Gift Aid Received	11,177	11,867	-690
3,167	1,060	Bequests & Donations	4,227	10,562	-6,334
6,175	7,149	Fundraising Income	13,323	11,846	1,477
1,875		Fees Received	1,875	2,889	-1,014
30,518		Hire of Church & Hall	30,518	17,777	12,741
682	1,000	Sundries	1,681	268	1,413
<b>103,376</b>	<b>11,596</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>114,972</b>	<b>98,546</b>	<b>16,426</b>
61,824		Diocesan Share	61,824	58,878	-2,946
283		Fundraising Costs	283	55	-228
	1,000	Grants Given	1,000	1,705	705
15,971		Personnel Costs	15,971	9,565	-6,406
1,421	86	Travel & Expenses	1,507	727	-780
1,023		Postage & Telephone	1,023	1,007	-16
2,142		Printing & Stationery	2,142	1,877	-265
214		Bank Charges	214		-214
2,562		Gas, Electricity & Water	2,562	6,566	4,004
4,818		Insurances	4,818	4,452	-366
1,864		Services & Refreshments	1,864	1,674	-190
814		Cleaning & Bins	814	1,124	310
8,171	69	Repairs & Maintenance	8,241	5,875	-2,365
844	11,335	Equipment Purchases	12,179	882	-11,297
293		Licences	293	302	9
275	3,502	Sundries	3,777	362	-3,415
<b>102,518</b>	<b>15,992</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>118,510</b>	<b>95,051</b>	<b>-23,459</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
<b>12,759</b>	<b>49,091</b>	<b>Reserves, 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>61,849</b>	<b>65,388</b>	
		HSBC Current Account	4,228		
		HSBC Deposit Account	22,010		
		CofE Deposit Account	35,512		
		Petty Cash	100		
			<b>61,849</b>		

**BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM**  
**Unrestricted Funds, Year to 31/12/2022**

	General Fund	Parish Centre	Vicar's Fund	TOTAL
<b>Reserves at 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>-10,692</b>	<b>22,361</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>11,901</b>
Planned Giving	39,678			39,678
Collections	10,105			10,105
Gift Aid Received	11,177			11,177
Bequests & Donations	3,027		140	3,167
Fundraising Income	6,175			6,175
Fees Received	1,875			1,875
Hire of Church & Hall	5,122	25,396		30,518
Sundries	672			672
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>77,830</b>	<b>25,396</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>103,366</b>
Diocesan Share	61,824			61,824
Fundraising Costs	283			283
Grants Given				
Personnel Costs	10,341	5,630		15,971
Travel & Expenses	1,421			1,421
Postage & Telephone	1,023			1,023
Printing & Stationery	2,142			2,142
Bank Charges	214			214
Gas, Electricity & Water	247	2,315		2,562
Insurances	3,854	964		4,818
Services & Refreshments	1,864			1,864
Cleaning & Bins		814		814
Repairs & Maintenance	4,909	3,262		8,171
Equipment Purchases	844			844
Licences	231	62		293
Sundries	275			275
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>89,471</b>	<b>13,047</b>		<b>102,518</b>
<b>Reserves, 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>-22,333</b>	<b>34,710</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>12,749</b>

**BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM**  
**Restricted Funds, Year to 31/12/2022**

	Church Energy	Maroy Fund	Organ Fund	Ecuador Fund	Friends	Players	TOTAL
<b>Reserves at 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>17,608</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17,568</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>16,657</b>		<b>53,487</b>
Planned Giving	1,800		408		180		2,388
Collections							
Gift Aid Received							
Bequests & Donations		60			1,000		1,060
Fundraising Income				1,035	6,114		7,149
Fees Received							
Hire of Church & Hall							
Sundries			50			950	1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>7,294</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>11,596</b>
Diocesan Share							
Fundraising Costs							
Grants Given				1,000			1,000
Personnel Costs							
Travel & Expenses		86					86
Postage & Telephone							
Printing & Stationery							
Computer Bureau							
Gas, Electricity & Water							
Insurances							
Services & Refreshments							
Cleaning & Bins							
Repairs & Maintenance					69		69
Equipment Purchases					11,335		11,335
Licences							
Sundries			3,502				3,502
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>11,404</b>		<b>15,992</b>
<b>Reserves, 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>19,408</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,525</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>12,546</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>49,091</b>

**Pine Garth, 23 Lindsay Road, Poole BH13 6AN  
Tel : 01202 751553**

To: The Vicar, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council and members of Branksome St.  
Aldhelms Church, Branksome.

I have examined the bank statements, receipts and payments for the year to 31 December 2022  
and the records have been well maintained by the Church Treasurer. .

I can confirm that, in my view, the accounts correctly present the status of the parish finances for  
the year ended 31 December 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John E Sprackling', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Sprackling  
23 Lindsay Road, Poole BH13 6AN  
02 March 2023

## **VICAR'S REPORT**

St Aldhelm's Church seems to shelter a diverse and rich assortment of God's people. During the past year we heard from Ruth Wilde, national coordinator of Inclusive Church. The organisation exists to encourage Churches in welcoming all people regardless of age, gender, sexual identity or neuro diversity. Every church describes itself as welcoming but I hope our affiliation to Inclusive Church will help us evaluate and to extend our welcome to those on the margins.

We are both venue-provider and partners to both St Thomas' Indian Orthodox Church and also the Mustard Seed Chapel with its roots in the African Pentecostal movement. More integral to our life as a church is our ministry to the Spanish-speaking community, chiefly in the form of twice-monthly Eucharists celebrated on Sundays at 1pm. Palm Sunday saw all three communities worshipping at the same time, variously in the Hall, Hall Lounge, Church and Jubilee Garden, each with their distinctive worshipping and musical style. Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many rooms...' and in this respect at least St Aldhelm's is perhaps a good foretaste of heaven.

Our Spanish-speaking ministry has benefitted by the arrival among us of Beatriz Brooks, who is bi-lingual and recently completed a course of preparation in Lay Pioneer Ministry to equip her to serve beyond the usual or familiar remit of parish churches. This box our ministry to Spanish-speakers most certainly ticks. Later this year we hope to arrange an occasion when these communities and others who are – literally or metaphorically – 'under our roof' can meet and celebrate together.

Other partnerships enrich our life as well. Our Church Hall is venue for a wide variety of local and community activities. These provide a modest but helpful source of income to the church and at the same time enable much good to be done in the locality. In this – as in so much that pertains to our Church – we are indebted to Sam Waldron whose cheerful and innovative forbearance as well as administrative acumen keeps the show on the road. Within the church the Orchestra, and the Tuesday lunchtime recitals, provide rich and mutually beneficial opportunities. I want in addition however to here honour and celebrate the continuing contribution of our organist and choir: they combine a constant commitment to good music with cheerful and patient good humour. I love to join them for the easy bit of their weekly practice when they run through the upcoming hymns.

During 2022 we sadly bade farewell to Fr Stephen Flatt after he and his partner moved to retire up north. Rona of course remains a mainstay: her thoughtful, succinct, powerful sermons are a model for all who attend to the craft of preaching. She also gives a lead in identifying and welcoming strangers, and her wisdom and honesty are a frequent help to me. But in addition the past 12 months has seen a remarkable influx of others willing to support our ministry. I have already mentioned Beatriz. Two recently retired priests, Karen Kriwald and Belinda Marflitt, have found their way to us; Bishop Mark Santer, formerly Bishop of Birmingham (and a College Principal in Cambridge in the distant days when I was there as an undergraduate) brings his combination of modesty and immense experience; and Gary Waldron has embarked on training for ordained ministry (although this last is a mixed blessing for St Aldhelm's because while his ministry is intended ultimately to serve our parish he in the meantime must undertake training that gives less time for his activity here and then a curacy that will of course be at another, fortunate, church for perhaps a further three years.)

Most importantly, of course, our Ministry Team, and our life as a church, have been transformed by the arrival of a curate. I constantly remind myself, and others, that Robyn is here primarily to learn and to be formed for lifelong, sustainable and sustaining ordained ministry. In the process, however, Robyn's ministry here has already brought, and been, a huge blessing to us. One of the reasons I wanted to become your vicar was the hope of working with a curate. Once here I quickly sensed both

what a great context for a curacy this would be and also how much I thought our parish would benefit from such an experience. Mother Robyn's ordination as priest takes place in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 4.30pm and I hope we will be there in numbers. Her First Mass next morning will be to lead us in our annual Dedication Festival, remembering the occasion of our Church's consecration by Bishop Wordsworth in 1894. The shared lunch to follow will, I hope, be a celebration of the diversity of St Aldhelm's Church and community.

We have welcomed Bishop Karen to baptise and confirm during the past year, but it was of course also wonderful to welcome a former vicar, Fr Stephen Lake, as our new diocesan bishop, when he came in December. Other visitors of note were Fr Carlos Villacis and Reverenda Gina Angulo, helping give a real face, and smile, to our link with the Anglican Church in Ecuador.

We face challenges: a lack of volunteers able to support several important roles within the church, and collectively our financial giving to the church is inadequate. I avoid saying what we 'ought' to do. The root of generous giving is not any 'ought'. The root of generous giving is thankfulness. For where there is a thankful heart, there is usually a generous as well as glad heart. The PCC Interim Committee will focus on the need for a concerted attempt to encourage such thankfulness and generosity among all our supporters, but always according to people's means (so that some may rightly even if reluctantly reduce their giving to the church while others will I trust gladly increase theirs.)

Finally, a big challenge is this wonderful building: a challenge and an opportunity – and a privilege. We are so fortunate to be the stewards of such a magnificent, awesome place of prayer and worship and fellowship. The challenge is for us to be good stewards who can pass it on to the next generation in an enhanced state. The Parochial Church Council recently came up with a dream list of wishes for the building. They were asked to be ambitious but not fanciful, to think big but to think realistically as well. They came up with the following thoughts but it is not an exhaustive and certainly not a final list. We won't agree with all and nor do I agree with them all. I read it however to encourage you to dream a little bit as well. For only if we are all excited by the possibilities will any of them come to fruition.

I quote from the minutes of the meeting and these items are not in any order of priority or importance: *Cleaning or renewing the curtains behind the altar...heating system...painting the walls...washing the flags above the war memorial...solar panels...toilets...sink with hot water...glass vestibules...clean the stained glass windows...repair loose windows...insulate in some way...destratification fans... variable lighting...external lighting...storage areas...new clock...extend set of altar frontals...cleaning the stonework of the font...sanding the floor...lighting above each of the stations of the cross pictures...more plugs and sockets...painting the bosses on the ceiling (no two are the same)...scaffolding tower.*

What is on your (ambitious but realistic) 'dream list'? How can you play a part in caring for and enhancing this house of God? Will we be faithful stewards of what he has entrusted to us?

We have doors open to all.

We have minds open to questions, to tradition and to the challenge of the new.

Let us most of all be open to the God whose human face is revealed in Jesus, let us trust in and be faithful to him who calls us now to trust and follow him. Amen.

Rev. Philip Martin



## MEMORIAL TO THOSE DEPARTED

*Names of those departed since the last Annual Meeting*

*Adele Josephine Northway*

*John Nation-Grainger*

*Muriel Clarke*

*Heather Anne Brown*

*Thomas Fredrick Vennell*

*Stuart James Banks*

*Iris Mist*

*Jean Margaret Chapman*

*Shirley Kilgore*

*June Louisa Lewis*

*Jeanne Clark*

*Rowan Bagshawe*





## **CHURCHWARDEN REPORT**

This report represents the first full year post pandemic. Like the rest of society the church has had to face many changes and challenges. I hope that I have addressed what I can, but there is always more to do.

A number of maintenance projects have been successfully completed. Remedial work has been undertaken to the paths and car park area. The vestry window has been restored. Much work has been undertaken to prepare for replacement of high level lights and the restoration of an outside light missing since an act of vandalism some time ago. The store has had new doors and frame replacing badly worn fittings. Work has continued apace in the garden leading to its dedication during the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June 2022, re-naming it 'The Jubilee Garden'. It was subsequently entered into the local authority blooms competition.

The Friends purchased new more manageable stage equipment along with new notice boards.

Work undertaken by Mr. D. R. Smith a number of years ago on the history of St. Aldhelm's and those churches carrying the dedication has been submitted to the small group on a project in Sherborne. A special day is to be held on Saturday 20th May 2023.

Investigations are taking place to allow better safe keeping of the works of art still held in the church.

Successful seasons of concerts have been held under the leadership of Ray and Lin Beverley. A Jubilee Picnic was held to mark the Platinum Jubilee and sadly in September special arrangements made to mark the death of Her Majesty.

A Fun Afternoon was held in the summer which proved very popular. This year marked the 20th year of the Christmas Tree Festival, thanks to Ann and Terry Ballett.

A successful visit to Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday 19th June 2022 for the Inauguration of the Ministry of the Right Reverend Stephen Lake.

Our new organist Jeff Williams has settled in well.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who volunteer for extra dates and responsibilities. I hope we can find some more.

Ian Gray—Churchwarden

## **CURATE'S REPORT**

Since ordination as deacon last year and beginning my ministry at St Aldhelm's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, I've received a very warm welcome into this church and have felt fully embraced by the community here. There have been many positive experiences to reflect upon from the past few months (it's impossible to include everything in this report) but before mentioning a few key points, should like to offer a wholehearted thank-you for the generous welcome I have received and the kind patience with which you have guided your new curate as I find my feet in order to better serve this community.

### **An open, inclusive, warm space**

The 'Open Door' policy and ethos that St Aldhelm's engenders is a considerable positive in the life and mission of God's church in this place, something we can be justifiably proud of, particularly as it is increasingly un-common among many parish churches. Keeping the building unlocked for the benefit of all speaks volumes about not only our approach to mission and ministry, but also that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is indeed Good-News for everyone. Building upon this open-door philosophy, we received a generous grant from the diocese last year to enable us to function as a community Warm Space, enabling us to do more of what we were already doing though with a more intentional approach. Currently we provide free hot drinks daily (which are often taken advantage of) and whilst the weather is now getting milder, we have begun something precious and valuable upon which to build next winter.

In addition, it seems only appropriate that St Aldhelm's will become part of the Inclusive Church network, following discussions at PCC and input from the Inclusive Church national coordinator Ruth Wilde who came as a visiting preacher in January this year. It is hoped that connecting with a nationwide network of Inclusive churches will encourage us to be more conscious of inclusivity and to help us to notice where we might be unintentionally exclusive. It has been a positive experience to engage in discussion together and explore the issues of inclusivity as a church.

### **Homelessness**

There is a long-standing record here of extending a welcome to the homeless, creating an evident culture of tolerance, kindness and patient generosity. A collection of blankets and other essentials are kept on hand for ad-hoc distribution to rough sleepers as need arises; simple yet practical resources which speak of the open nature of St Aldhelm's. Given the endemic issues with homelessness in this area (and the often-attendant issues of mental health problems) this is inevitably an important and challenging part of our ministry. Fr Pip and I also have some occasional contact with the charity St Mungo's who are contracted by BCP council to provide practical support for the rough sleeper population.

### **Worship & Prayer**

It is important to acknowledge the central role that prayer plays in the life of the church. The fact that prayer is said in the building daily and that space is provided for visitors to light candles and offer their own intentions, provides a solid rock upon which to stand. Further to the above, the open door policy enables the church to become a real powerhouse of prayer, creating an atmosphere of devotion and reverence; a fact often commented upon by casual visitors to this place. The church is greatly valued by many people in the community, even if they are not regular worshippers, or even consider themselves to be Christian!

Worship is reverential and traditional yet manages to maintain a relaxed character to it. Creative elements have found expression particularly within the First Sunday Mass of each month. I believe it is a particular challenge for St Aldhelm's to keep a healthy and creative tension between the traditions we have inherited and the need to be adaptable and innovative in order to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Nevertheless, there is an acute awareness that we need to revive a serving team who can be available at each Sunday Mass, and an awareness of the desire expressed by many to use the high altar on a more regular basis.

The 8am Prayer Book service is underpinned by faithful regulars; those who volunteer to read the lessons also reveal a depth of Scriptural knowledge in the thoughtful and well researched preambles they deliver. Thursday evening Mass attracts a good few regulars, (including those who prefer a quieter and more contemplative style of worship) and is especially helpful for those who cannot attend Sunday Mass due to other commitments. The bi-monthly Spanish Mass has a strong core of regular worshippers and offers a very valuable (international) fellowship for Spanish speaking residents of the BCP area. The group has been further enhanced by the arrival of our newly commissioned Lay Pioneer, (and native Spanish speaker) Beatriz Brooks.

### **Baptisms and Funerals**

Occasional services form an important part of the mission of the church, especially as they often allow us to minister to those who we would not otherwise come in direct contact with. I have experienced (and conducted) several baptisms and funerals in the past eight months which have been a privilege to be a part of, though regrettably, no weddings have come my way yet as in keeping with the national trend, fewer funerals and weddings are conducted in church these days.

### **Pastoral Ministry**

Pastoral visits to housebound parishioners and our regular ministry at Melton Court and Lindsey Care have provided valuable opportunities to offer care for the emotional and spiritual well-being of some of the older and most vulnerable members of our community; visits which I have found personally transformative and a great privilege to undertake. However, the need is great, and we recognise the necessity of encouraging members of the congregation to consider training to become Lay Pastoral Assistants to help with this vital ministry.

### **Ministry to the Young**

Busy Bodies have welcomed me into their childcare sessions on a regular basis to entertain the children by playing guitar and singing simple songs and have assisted with various craft and art activities. This is an area of ministry that is ripe for development as there is potential for bringing aspects of the Christian faith into this sphere in a gentle and respectful way, whilst being mindful of the multivarious backgrounds and faiths of the families whose children attend Busy Bodies. The children have responded exceptionally well to engagement with music and take genuine delight in being allowed to have a go at 'playing' my guitar!

Bishop Aldhelm's School are very pleased to welcome Fr Pip and myself to lead collective worship for the whole school every Monday morning. The school leadership readily encourage active Christian engagement and involvement in the whole of school life, something to certainly rejoice in as we enjoy a good relationship with staff and children there. School engagement with St Aldhelm's (with their various activities and services held in our church building) is a valuable foundational investment in the lives of hundreds of young people many of whom may otherwise have little regular contact with traditional church life. In 2022 I became a foundation governor of Bishop Aldhelm's and have now taken up the role of Co-Chair of Governors along with Fr. Pip and am looking forward to learning how best to fulfil this role in order to better serve the needs of the school and to further deepen our mutual relationships.

### **In Conclusion**

I am conscious that there are many other aspects of life at St Aldhelm's that I cannot do justice to in this brief report, including our relationships with the Scouting and Guiding groups, the extraordinary musical life here (lunchtime recitals, orchestra, and other concerts) and of course the famous Poole Beer Festival and the even more famous Christmas Tree Festival, both beloved of so many people from far and wide! Therefore, I apologise to those people and for those activities I have failed to mention. Nevertheless, St Aldhelm's is an open and friendly church with many vibrant and supportive relationships across the local community, truly fulfilling its remit as a *parish* church; a Christian presence which exists for the benefit of

the whole community. As a consequence over the past nine months, I've experienced a tremendous richness of life and ministry that often leave me exclaiming "*they never taught me that at theological college!*" and I trust this enriching and ever surprising paradigm continues throughout my curacy. This year, by the grace of God, I hope to be priested by Bishop Stephen Lake at Salisbury cathedral on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, and will then look forward to taking an even more active role in the Sacramentality of our worshipping life together.

Mo. Robyn Golden-Hann—30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE  
FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31ST DECEMBER 2022**

## **FRIENDS OF ST. ALDHELM'S**

The Friends have continued to meet mainly at the recitals and coffee mornings.

There are now 40 members and we welcome anyone who wishes to join us and is interested in partaking in our friendly and enthusiastic work in promoting our worship at St. Aldhelm's.

The recitals continue and are very well attended and the lunches are very popular.

We have now been able to fund new staging which is much more versatile and easy to move. New noticeboards have recently been erected at four different sites around the church grounds.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who support us at the recitals. Thanks go to Lin and Ray Beverley who work very hard to make the recitals such a success.

We hope to have a full season of recitals in the Spring and Autumn. Thanks to all the members who support us so faithfully.

Jackie Ree

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

Following on from the pandemic during 2022 we have enjoyed a full programme apart from an outing.

This year we have continued with our monthly Mass and have moved back into the Lady Chapel for our services. Thank you to Father Pip and Father John for taking the services and Mother Robyn who joined us in June for assisting at the services

In the afternoons we have had talks from Mark from Poole Wau partnership. Janet O'Connor on the hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful and also from Rona and Mother Robyn (part 2 to follow in 2023)

We hosted a soup lunch during Lent and enjoyed decorating our Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. In the summer we had a cream tea afternoon and a Christmas party in December.

We supported the Rockley Park mobile home by providing a Welcome pack for a family.

In December we said a sad Goodbye to Betty Magnall as she moved to Bedford to be nearer to her family but we also said Hello to Barbara M who will be enrolled in the next few months and Barbara S who has move to this area from Bury.

Many many thanks to Faye for organising and helping at meetings and Jane for keeping track of our Finances and all members for their continued support.

We are planning a full programme for 2023 and welcome you all to our meetings.

Please feel free to chat if you would like to find out more about the work of the MU or would like to come and be a Speaker at one of our meetings.

Diane Eaton

## GUIDING AT ST. ALDHELMS

We have 4 busy and active groups here at St Aldhelms, Rainbows aged 5-7 Brownies aged 7-10 Guides aged 10-14 and Rangers aged 14-18.

We have enjoyed lots of varied activities with all 4 sections and have completed lots of badges throughout the year. The girls have achieved lots of skill builders and have gained Bronze and silver awards.

We took part in lots of royal activities to celebrate the jubilee which included making bunting, crown jewels and royal games. We joined in the division Jubilee day at St Edwards school where over 200 girls came together and tried fencing, climbing, archery as well as crafts, food activities, toasting marshmallows around the campfire and completing the Royal escape room. The highlight was definitely when the ice cream van turned up as I think we had picked the hottest day of the year to celebrate!

Guide camp this year was in July and we took 18 Guides and Rangers to Buddens scout camp in Wareham. We had 7 action packed days pushing the girls out of their comfort zones and trying new activities, we tried mega sup, dragon boating, high ropes, climbing, abseiling rifle shooting and tomahawk throwing to name a few, as well as traditional camp craft and camp skills. We were extremely lucky with the weather, not a drop of rain all week, (dare I say it too hot at times) that's unheard of at Guide camp!

At the start of October, we held our annual sponsored bike ride in Poole park in Memory of our dear friend Dave, we had a great turn out and for the sun shone which makes a big difference to the day. We were presented with a cheque from Tesco for £680 towards our floor fund which was a very generous donation!

The Brownies enjoyed 3 nights away at Dudsbury Guide camp taking part in lots of activities with an under the sea theme, we made mermaids, jelly fish, had a treasure hunt and decorated treasure chests, we played glow stick Pictionary, Bingo and made oyster shell biscuits. The Brownies have to help with the day-to-day tasks and learn life skills such as cooking, washing up and basic cleaning skills! Most importantly they have lots of fun with their friends.

Remembrance Day saw all the uniformed groups back in church for a full parade which was great to see.

We held our Christmas Fayre at the end of November and the girls put their singing voices to the test as they entertained everyone with a selection of traditional campfire songs and some Christmas classics.

In December we enjoyed decorating our tree as part of the church tree festival which was very popular as always.

We took the Rainbows and Brownies to the Ugly Bug Ball at Dudsbury in March and took part in lots of bug related activities, we made bug hotels, bead worms, spoon spiders, we played lady bird beetle and went on a bug hunt! The day finished with a sing song which was great fun and proved the highlight of the day!

After 3 years of fundraising, we have finally achieved our goal and I'm pleased to say the new flooring is now down! We have so many people to say thank you to for helping make this happen but the **Biggest** thank you has to be to Our Dear friend and biggest supporter Dave Marsh whose legacy is now complete, and the new floor has been laid in his memory. Our Huge Thanks go to Barbara and all the family who have continued to support the work of St Aldhelms Scouts and Guides and help us achieve Dave's dream. Now onto the next project.....

