

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF HUCCLECOTE, ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES

England & Wales · Charity number 1133978

Details

Other names	HUCCLECOTE PCC, GLOUCESTER, Hucclecote PCC St Philip and St James Church
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Philips & St. James Church Larkhay Road Hucclecote Gloucester GL3 3NS
---------	---

Phone	01452372177
-------	-------------

Email	STPANDSTJ.HUCC@MAIL.COM
-------	--

Website	www.hucclecotechurch.org
---------	--

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£126,666	£139,972	-	-
2023-12-31	£143,925	£138,040	-	-
2022-12-31	£126,969	£130,292	-	-
2021-12-31	£123,430	£113,653	-	-
2020-12-31	£122,002	£127,740	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Preece		2023-03-29
Christopher John Brookes		2019-04-30
DOREEN ELIZABETH MCLELLAN		2016-07-13
David Plant		2024-04-10
Dr Alison Jill Dight MA DPhil		2016-04-27
Jackson Andre Soares Klein		2024-04-10
Jane Elizabeth Stock		2023-03-29
Kevin Hobbs		2023-03-29
Lee Alan Thornton		2020-10-07
Margaret Edwards		
Marion Gilda Cook		2020-10-07
Rev Duncan Hutchison		2016-04-27
Rev Joseph Mottram		2024-09-05
Rev Miriam Davis		2021-06-27
Susan Delaney		2025-05-14
Tom Brown		2024-04-10

Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council
Of
St Philip & St James
Hucclecote**

**Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2024**

VACANCY / PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT 2024

January – August:

The start of the new year brought new adventures for us as a church. With the parish profile being completed and interviews for our new Priest-in-Charge we began heading to a new era, one with hope and anticipation.

During this period, it was important to ensure that we maintained a clear sense of identity whilst looking to deepen our understanding of and relationship with God. I believe that we achieved this well and the life of the church continued to flourish.

The first few months were not without their challenges; however, I am very grateful for the support of the congregation during the time of vacancy. Hucclecote is truly a wonderful place to minister.

Highlights included Easter services with Hillview school and the wonderful working parties to ensure that the church yard and premises were maintained in top shape. Thank you, to those who helped with the clean-up, especially the interior walls of the church.

Interviews for our new Priest-in-Charge took place with a great deal of excitement. It has been wonderful to see that months of prayer, preparation and hard work paid off and we were able to appoint Joe. Joe joining in September was a great blessing and I know that he will continue to take the church, with your support, to a deeper place and connection with God.

The church can now look towards the next adventure in our time together. Whatever this journey may look like, over the next few years and where-ever it takes us, is completely in God's plan. However, this is a journey which is filled with Easter hope, rooted in the resurrection power of Christ and under Joe's capable leadership. I trust that people will support him, in prayer and participation in the same way that people supported during the vacancy.

Rev. Duncan Hutchison

September – December:

My first 3 months as your Priest-in-Charge have flown by. My licensing service had a wonderful, upbeat energy and it feels as if I have been carried along by that energy throughout the rest of the year. A huge thank you to all who have made myself, Kirsty, Arthur and Dougie feel so welcome and at home so quickly. It is a privilege to serve God and our community alongside you.

I was conscious of making every effort to get to know people and the various groups and activities that take place throughout the week and year. I'm grateful for people's patience as I've tried to focus on listening when some will undoubtedly have been impatient for change.

I will comment more on individuals, opportunities, successes and challenges in other places below, but I have felt a deep and constant sense through these months that God is at work in and through all of these. I'm also encouraged by our collective willingness to talk about difficult things (e.g. bereavement, safeguarding, finances) in a careful and courageous way.

As I look ahead, I am impatient to explore the broader vision for who God is calling us to be and what we will be called to do in the coming years with the whole church. However, this must be in God's timing, rather than our own. I get the sense that in the first few months of 2025 we need to do the important work of preparing the ground and deepening our connection with and reliance on God. In so doing, we will ensure that we have the deep roots needed to support the new life and future growth that I hope and pray lies ahead. I don't know exactly what shape that will take, but I am excited to find out.

Rev. Dr. Joe Mottram

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The highlight of 2024 was the recruitment of our new priest in charge, Revd Dr Joe Mottram, and his licensing and installation by Bishop Rachel in September. It has been a great joy to welcome Joe and Kirsty, Arthur and Dougie into our church family, and to see them settle in so well to life in Hucclecote.

Huge thanks to our parish profile working group for producing such a high-quality profile which certainly had the desired effect of encouraging applications, and to Alison Dight and all who were involved in the recruitment process and the preparations for the subsequent licensing service. We would particularly like to thank our PCC secretary Margaret Edwards and our administrator Louisa Scrivener for the many hours preparing invitations and orders of service. Also, we thank the many people from our church family and local community who took part and welcomed Joe to his new role. It was a hugely uplifting and inspiring service.

We particularly want to thank Duncan and Miriam for encouraging and leading us through the vacancy period and getting us across the finish line. Their commitment, dedication and leadership has been outstanding, especially with Duncan continuing to work full time in education. We would also like to thank Jane Twitty who shared leading and preaching with Miriam at the 8:30 service.

The advice from Bishop Rachel was for us not to be vacant during the vacancy, and it has been very encouraging that we as a church family continued with our regular activities and more during the period. We would like to thank the many people who contribute to the life of our church, and those who are involved in our outreach to our local community.

Churchwardens - Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative Information

St Philip & St James is situated in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

Church Office
Stone Building
18 Larkhay Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3 NS

Telephone: 01452 372177

Website: www.hucclecotechurch.uk & www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14161/

Social Media: Facebook: "St Philip and St James Church Hucclecote"

Instagram: "Stpandstj"

E mail: stpandstj.hucc@mail.com

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
21 Eastgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1NY

Independent Examiner: Tina Knight

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until 6th May 2025, when this report was approved, are listed on page 5.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC 2024 - 2025 (after APCM on 10th April 2024)

St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote

PCC 2024- 2025

Ex Officio:

Incumbent -	In vacancy January 2024 – until September 5 th
Revd Dr Joseph Mottram	Priest in Charge. From September 2024
Revd Duncan Hutchison	Associate Priest from June 2023 (From November 2024 on placement to Benefice of Hardwick, Elmore & Longney)
Revd Miriam Davis	Assistant Curate from June 2021

Churchwardens

Mr Kevin Hobbs	re-elected APCM 2024
Mr Chris Brookes	re-elected APCM 2024

Deanery Synod Representatives

Canon (Mrs) Margaret Edwards	elected 2023	*PCC Secretary & Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Doreen McLellan	elected 2023	
One vacancy		

Elected Members of the PCC (up to 12 in number)

Mr Tom Brown	elected 2023	
Mrs Marion Cook	re-elected 2023	
Mrs Pat Dabbs	elected 2022	
Dr Alison Dight	elected 2024	
Mr John Grime	re-elected 2022	
Mr Jackson Klein	elected 2024	
Mr Alan Preece	elected 2023	
Mr Steve Plant	elected 2024	
~~Mrs Katherine Robinson~~	elected 2024.	Resigned March 2025
Mrs Jane Stock	elected 2023	*Electoral Roll Officer since Sept 2023
~~Mrs Jean Thomas~~	elected 2023.	Died June 2024
Mr Lee Thornton	re-elected 2023.	* Treasurer

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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.

The PCC is supported in its work by sub-teams whose views and recommendations are considered by the PCC when making decisions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Philip & St James PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Philip & St James Church and associated property. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners and all members of PCC are Trustees of the Charity; as such Hucclecote PCC must adhere to Charity Commission rules and regulations.

During 2024, the PCC met in January, March, May, July, September and November; on the alternate months the Standing Committee met to discuss matters needing attention in the interim before the next PCC. Extra PCC meetings took place in February for the Vacancy process and the Standing Committee met frequently to make final arrangements for the Interview Day on May 3rd. PCC members and other community representatives were invited to lunch on the interview day to meet the candidates. An appointment was made on that day and our new Priest-in-Charge was Licensed by Bishop Rachel and Installed by Katrina Scott (acting Archdeacon of Gloucester), on September 5th.

2024

The normal pattern of Sunday services on Sunday continued during 2024, with 8.30am Holy Communion every week and Morning Worship for most Sundays, with Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Baptisms, when booked, took place on a first Sunday of the month at 10.30am when the service follows an All-Age format with no Junior Church on that day.

Additional services in 2024

28th March - Maundy Thursday, evening service with Holy Communion

29th March - Good Friday, a quiet reflective time of prayer

3rd November - Memorial service

Christmas Activities

Christmas Make It – 22nd November. An evening of Christmas crafts.

Messy Christmas – Saturday 14th December.

Nativity on a Lorry – 12th & 13th December; we hosted the refreshments on 12th December

Carols at The Wagon & Horses- 19th December, singers from 3 Hucclecote churches

Christmas services

Christingle Service – Sunday 8th December at 4.00pm

Christingle service for Hillview School – 19th December

Carol Service - Sunday 22nd December

Christmas Eve - 4.00pm – Crib service & 11.00pm – Midnight Communion

Christmas Day - 10.00 am Holy Communion service

Achievements and performance

Sunday attendance figures have remained fairly steady through the year and we have seen some new members at both of the congregations. 2024 has been a sad year since several members of our church family passed away some in close succession, namely Nancy Lockwood, Mervyn Reynolds, Janet White, Jean Thomas, Phil Rodford and Max Aziz.

The leaders of our church activities continue to take as many opportunities as possible to share their faith with those attending the groups.

Margaret Edwards

PCC MEETINGS

During 2024, the PCC continued to meet bi-monthly and the Standing Committee (Associate Priest, Assistant Curate, Lay Chair, Treasurer, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Administrator) met on the alternate months; the latter group discuss the general running of the church and the financial status together with any areas of concern and then makes recommendations to the PCC for further discussion.

PCC Agenda items always include a financial report, Safeguarding issues and updates as well as reports from the Standing Committee, the Mission team and Deanery Synod and the Grounds and Building team.

At the APCM on April 10th 2024, Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes were elected to stand as Churchwardens for the year 2024-2025 and the PCC elections were as follow: newly elected were: Dr Alison Dight, Jackson Klein, Katherine Robinson and Steve Plant. The vacancy on Deanery Synod was not filled.

The Electoral Roll was 105.

The Statutory and essential reports had been accepted and adopted by the PCC at the meeting on March 13th 2024 in readiness for the APCM.

During 2024, a huge amount of work has been undertaken by our two Churchwardens and other volunteers to care for and maintain our church and buildings as much as they are able.

The secretary would like to thank PCC members for their commitment to their duties and attendance at meetings. Also, huge thanks must go to all those who volunteer for our church services and the many regular activities taking place on the church site or the ones off-site but under the church umbrella. The giving of time and talents by so many volunteers, means that we can honour God in all we do as a worshipping community.

Margaret Edwards

STATUTORY REPORTS

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

Commentary on Income & Expenditure

Total income in 2024 from all sources totalled £126,666 which is a £12,766 (9.16%) reduction in income from 2023.

Breaking that down:

Voluntary income Total of £95,163 was £9,818 less than in 2023. This variance was mainly due to:

- The regular giving has reduced by £2,305 during 2024.
- In 2023 we had benefited from a large one-off gift of £8,250 (including gift aid)

Activities for generating funds: We have benefited from a smaller level of grants in 2024 at £560 whereas in 2023 we had received Grants totalling £10,556 with the majority being for a community garden project & to support energy costs

Investment income – Dividends on our funds held in banks increased by £1,193 to £4,380 in 2024

Income from Church activities: This shows an overall increase of £5,748 driven by both;

- Net PCC fees for weddings, funerals, etc.
- Hall hire and income from other church activities, with hall hire fees having recovered to pre-Covid levels

Total Expenditure - In 2024 our expenditure totalled £139,972 an increase in cost of £6,425 (4.8%) on 2023

Charitable Activities: The spending in this category increased by £5,616 and was driven by:

- **Parish share.** This is our largest expenditure and increased slightly over 2023 to £70,000. This contributes towards the provision of clergy and associated support and services across the Diocese. Whilst this is a large sum, it falls short of the overall value of support received.
- **Church running costs:** these increased £4,424 during the year and include a number of elements.
- **Maintenance** - Expenditure on our buildings has started to gradually increase during 2024 in order to address some of the issues with our buildings and this will increase in 2025. We spent £8,042 during the year, an increase of £4,349 on 2023. However, the majority of this increase was for a new boiler in the Youth block at a cost of £3,180 as the original could not be economically repaired.
 - **Heating and lighting** – The total cost of heating and lighting at £10,977 was £1,454 more than 2023 and will only continue to increase during 2025, with the latest contract renewals having much higher standing charges. *(To give some context, since 2022 these energy costs have increased by 76% from £6,248).*
- **Charities and Mission Giving (Tithe):** The direct tithe giving has reduced during the year, but there has been direct fundraising to support the partner Gloucester City Mission with £1,450 raised as part of their sponsored sleep out event.
- **Churchyard maintenance:** £4,960 was spent on churchyard maintenance, an increase of £2,610 on 2023 and largely driven by the cost of a major boundary hedge trimming. We will need to address maintenance of the stone churchyard wall in the coming years.
- **Local Mission and evangelism:** The expenditure in the category is supported by specific funds and overall, it was lower than in 2023, with the major expense in 2024 being for the Community Garden, drawing down restricted funds received in 2023 in the form of grants.

Income over Expenditure

In 2024 our expenditure exceeded our income by £13,306 (10.5%) with all three types of funds (*General, Designated & Restricted*) having deficits, so reducing our overall reserves.

In 2023 by contrast we had generated a surplus of £5,885.

Analysis of movements in funds

General Fund - It is from our General Fund that we pay for main operating expenses for running (*but not maintaining*) the Church and our other buildings. This had a deficit for the year of £4,994, leaving us with a General Fund balance of £27,457 at the end of 2024. This balance has been declining gradually over the years as our operating costs have

outpaced our income. During 2024 the PCC discussed this and has made the decision to adjust the Tithe calculation to deduct certain expenses in 2025, rather than base the calculation purely on percentage of income.

Designated funds - these showed an overall movement creating a deficit of £6,371 but this was reduced after a £3,085 movement between fund categories to a deficit of £3,286 and a closing balance of £23,825. The movement between fund categories was mostly for the essential maintenance fund to be topped up in line with a PCC mandate with the source being the Restricted PCC fund (*which is the fund of Net fees retained by PCC for funerals, weddings*). Going forward the PCC has agreed to prioritise making more funds available to repair and maintain our buildings.

Restricted Funds - created a deficit of £1,941 during 2024, which increased with a transfer to Essential Maintenance to £5,026, resulting in an end balance of £87,281.

Some of the activity from the Restricted funds in 2024 includes:

- Expenditure of £950 for the purchase of electronic drum kit (Music & Worship fund and Olive Withycombe bequest)
- Payment for building work on the Community Garden covered by grants made in 2023
- Donation of £2000 to the Gloucester City Deanery for funding of youth and children's worker
- Clearing down of the negative balances on the Restricted Fund and Coopers Edge Mission which had been carried forward for a number of years using the PCC Fund balance (*surplus monies from Funerals & Weddings*)
- New funds established for specific donations made for Church interior decorations and Technology in Church.

Other notes

The PCC's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis using the Finance Co-ordinator accounting software.

To align with the Diocese Cashbook that most churches in the Deanery use, total Fees retained by PCC are displayed on a 'net' basis.

Values are shown in pounds, so there may be minor variance to totals if they were in pence.

Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on 6th May 2025

St Philip & St James Church Hucclecote - 1133978

Balance sheet (Separate funds)

As at: 31 December 2024

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted	At 31/12/2024 £	At 31/12/2023 £
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
Unrestricted - General fund	27,455	—	—	27,455	32,450
Designated					
Designated - Community Garden	—	888	—	888	942
Designated - Teddy Bears	—	1,636	—	1,636	2,083
Designated - Coffee Pot	—	799	—	799	549
Designated - Messy Church	—	348	—	348	384
Designated - Lunch Club	—	767	—	767	170
Designated - Essential Maintenance	—	10,359	—	10,359	13,786
Designated - Depreciation Fund	—	1,511	—	1,511	1,682
Designated - Computer Fund	—	1,346	—	1,346	1,346
Designated - Social Fund	—	1,641	—	1,641	1,641
Designated - Treasurers Discretionary Fund	—	4,525	—	4,525	4,525
Restricted					
Restricted - PCC Fund	—	—	7,602	7,602	9,089
Restricted - Community Garden Restricted	—	—	—	—	5,563
Restricted - Tanzania Fund	—	—	2,534	2,534	1,934
Restricted - Childrens Worker	—	—	2,363	2,363	4,268
Restricted - Music and Worship Fund	—	—	245	245	891
Restricted - Olive Withycombe bequest	—	—	—	—	304
Restricted - Local Mission	—	—	697	697	1,438
Restricted - Building Fund	—	—	64,173	64,173	61,613
Restricted - Churchyard Fund	—	—	11	11	11
Restricted - Wardens Discretionary Fund	—	—	500	500	4,175
Restricted - Restricted Fund	—	—	—	—	-1,815
Restricted - Coopers Edge Mission	—	—	—	—	-282
Restricted - Ann Smith Bequest	—	—	4,352	4,352	4,352
Restricted - Boiler Fund	—	—	520	520	770
Restricted - Church interior decorations	—	—	610	610	—
Restricted - Technology in Church	—	—	3,675	3,675	—
Total funds	27,455	23,825	87,285	258,566	271,876

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
INCOME					
Voluntary giving					
Regular giving	73,180	-	600	73,780	76,085
Collections at services	3,489	-	91	3,580	2,197
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including	522	-	210	732	8,671
Gift Aid recovered (regular giving and one-off)	16,071	-	-	16,071	18,028
Legacies received (capital value)	500	-	500	1,000	-
Total voluntary giving	93,762	-	1,401	95,163	104,981
Activities for generating funds					
Grants (include recurring and one-off)	560	-	-	560	10,556
Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	282	567	629	1,478	1,035
Income from investments					
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	863	276	3,241	4,380	3,187
Church activities					
Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	-	-	4,059	4,059	2,358
Hall hire & other church activities	17,026	4,000	-	21,026	16,979
Other incoming resources					
Other income	-	-	-	-	86
insurance claim	-	-	-	-	250
Totals Income	112,493	4,843	9,330	126,666	139,432
PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE					
Charitable Activities					
Parish share	70,000	-	-	70,000	68,519
Church running costs	19,680	8,073	2,495	30,248	25,824
Churchyard expenses	4,960	-	-	4,960	2,350
Donations/grants to charities & mission giving	8,180	-	-	8,180	9,610
Local mission & evangelism	-	2,177	6,776	8,953	11,668
Children/youth work costs	-	964	2,000	2,964	1,284
Clergy expenses	321	-	-	321	859
Fundraising costs	104	-	-	104	-
Total Charitable activities	103,245	11,214	11,271	125,730	120,114
Management and Administration					
Salaries and wages	8,102	-	-	8,102	6,596
Administration costs	2,122	-	-	2,122	2,335
Insurance costs	3,978	-	-	3,978	3,838
Sundry expenses	40	-	-	40	664
Total Management & Admin	14,242	-	-	14,242	13,433
Major repairs	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	117,487	11,214	11,271	139,972	133,547
Income over Expenditure	- 4,994	- 6,371	- 1,941	- 13,306	5,885
Funds Opening Balance 1.1.2024	32,451	147,111	92,307	271,869	265,984
Movement between fund categories	-	3,085	- 3,085	-	-
Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2024	27,457	143,825	87,281	258,563	271,869
Purchase value of Church Centre	-	120,000	-	120,000	120,000
Net Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2024	27,457	23,825	87,281	138,563	151,869



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charles Nichols

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF HUCCLECOTE, ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES

On accounts for the year ended

31-December-2024

Charity no
(if any)

1133978

Set out on pages

[Download](#) the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: T. J. Knight

T. J. Knight

Date: 09/03/25

Name: Tina J. Knight

Tina J. Knight

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

DEANERY SYNOD

Doreen McLellan and Margaret Edwards are the Parish Representatives on Deanery Synod.

The Synod convened 3 times during 2024: February, July and November

There were other gatherings for worship and discussions open more widely to our PCCs/members of our congregations.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there was an opportunity to hear and pray about developments in youth work in the Deanery: one of the priorities in our Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP) This was at St Catharine's, London Road on January 21. There was quite a crowd of young people from St Andrew's Churchdown as well as from our local churches, so there was a lot of energy in the building. Barrie Voyce, Connector for Youth Work in the Diocese is keen to initiate some liturgical/sacramental youth work to complement the Youth for Christ's less formal style. Work is going on in secondary schools to restart Christian Union groups which were disrupted during Covid lockdowns etc.

20 February at St Philip and St James' Church Hucclecote: The speaker was Lisa-Jayne Lewis, the Stewardship and Giving Officer who introduced herself and enthusiastically spoke of her role in the Mission and Ministry department. She was keen to visit parishes to offer ideas and advice to congregations or PCCs on the values of the Parish Giving Scheme. She would also be offering workshops on grant applications and funding bids. She promised that she would be available if we wanted to tap into her skills. We only have to ask.

Before the next Synod there were 2 opportunities for worshipping together. On Easter Day, 31 March, there was a Sunrise Service at 6 am on Robinswood Hill. Then on Ascension Day, 9 May, there was a Eucharist and a social get together at St James' Church, Upton Street

As well as prayer and praise gatherings there has been another underlying theme during 2024. What else could it be but Parish Share (PS)? The City Deanery is heavily subsidised by the other deaneries in the Diocese but is still unable to meet its allocation. This fact underlies much of the Deanery's concerns. (In 2024 we fell £59k short) There were plans from the Diocese that there would be a new approach to the allocation of PS ready for 2025.

Deanery reps along with incumbents and interested parties were invited by a team from the Diocese to attend a consultation evening on the new parish share model on 3 June at St Catharine's. Our parish was represented by our Treasurer. The planned new approach got delayed in implementation after the consultations to address questions arising. This meant that it was not in place by August to be ready for 2025 allocations. A detailed proposal for the new approach was sent out at the end of 2024.

17 July: This Synod was held in the nave of St Mary de Crypt where members of Synod and our speakers enjoyed a splendid buffet prepared by a team of volunteers. It was generously acclaimed.

Dean Andrew and Canon Craig had come from the Cathedral. Canon Craig spoke to a power point presentation about the mission and ministry of the cathedral and their strategic priorities. In many ways they are very similar to those of the parish churches in the rest of the city. Dean Andrew and Canon Craig expressed their eagerness to build connections with our deanery: another of the five priorities of our DSP. A lively Q and A session followed. The Dean indicated that there would be an Evensong with special reference to the City Deanery on 30 September at 5.30 to be followed by a glass of wine and nibbles. This duly took place and was much appreciated.

During the Autumn some parishes in the Deanery had committed varying sums of money for the employment of a youth worker for 2 days a week. Revd. Helen Champion, Priest in Charge (0.5) at Upton St Leonards was appointed to this post. This was a significant implementation of our DSP now standing for Do Something Positive.

7 November: This Synod was planned as a time for members to assess how we were progressing in the implementation of our 5 priorities and to pray. The meeting started with a time of prayer arranged by 3 of our newest curates. Each spoke of the needs of different sections of the communities in our Deanery. There was then time given for reps to pray in small groups: voiced prayers or silently.

The Business Meeting followed a coffee break. Among topics discussed were Parish Share Planning, DSP implementation and a report from the Diocesan Synod. One of the tasks of the members of Deanery Synod is to elect the Diocesan Synod for the next 3 years. This was duly done. 6 lay reps and 8 clergy reps were elected.

Report by the Deanery Secretary Justine Sullivan

CHURCH FABRIC STATUTORY REPORT

Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measures 1991

St Philip and St James Church, Hucclecote

In the Fabric Report for 2023 we reported that the most visible area of concern in the church was the black mould and flaking paint on the internal walls. During 2024 in preparation for the licensing service we made good progress with deep cleaning the black mould on the internal walls, using extending window cleaning poles. A lot of flaking paint has come off during the cleaning and has continued to fall off since. Some areas need more work, particularly the high section of the nave west wall. We produced a technical specification for the redecoration works and submitted a list B application for approval. DAC approved our application and advised that we can go ahead providing the work is carried out by an experienced contractor.

Problems with mould on the walls prompted us to look at how we could improve ventilation in the church. Articles by church organisations recommended that we ensure air-flow through the building at all times, not just when the church is open. Following approval by PCC and a list B application, stained glass specialist SDL have refurbished the vents in the two-vent window in the north aisle, so that they can now be kept open during the week but closed for services if required. The vents have been de-rusted, re-painted with three coats satin black, and new cleats and cords fitted. A broken pane of glass was also replaced. This is one of the 2021 Quinquennial Report recommendations. The polycarbonate sheet on the exterior of the window fell off in high winds; we are planning to replace it with stainless steel window guards in 2025.

A revised specification has been produced for repairs to the inner vestry ceiling and submitted to the DAC for approval. We are waiting for their response. This is one of the recommended tasks in the 2021 Quinquennial Report.

Work has been carried out on the inner vestry wall to investigate damp problems on the inner vestry and toilet walls. The damp is occurring because there is no end stop on the gutter in the vestry roof. A temporary repair using flashing tape has been made around the gulley which should reduce water ingress during the winter. The cracked concrete channel and damaged grate to the left of the vestry door has been repaired.

The south porch ceiling plaster has been checked for stability. Although there are hairline cracks, there appears to be no movement in the ceiling.

Gutter clearing has been carried out by Forrester Access. In the process several missing tiles were replaced, and some damaged stonework on the chancel east gable was removed. A detailed report with photos was provided and shared with the PCC and the church surveyor.

The annual gas safety inspection on the boiler was carried out. The annual fire extinguisher inspection has also taken place.

It has not been possible to address all the Quinquennial Report recommendations during the year; we plan to take items forward in 2025 subject to finance.

Churchwardens - Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes

SAFEGUARDING

At St Philip & St James Church, the PCC take seriously their legal duties to promote a safe environment for all, working closely with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Gloucester, in our responsibility for the protection both of Vulnerable Adults and of Children & Young People (Under 18s). We follow closely the advice given to PCCs and the necessary legal documents are on display in church and in all our church buildings where our activities take place.

Safeguarding Training to at least Foundation level (the second training level) is mandatory for all PCC members, as they are Charity Trustees, with training now including Domestic Abuse Awareness as essential.

Appropriate Safeguarding Training is necessary for all our church volunteers and all new volunteers are required to go through the Safer Recruitment process.

During 2024, under the guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding team, we have been working towards getting accreditation on the Parish Data Dashboard for Safeguarding. This has involved a lot of work and a lot of reading on the part of PCC members, to ensure that all our policies, guidelines and procedures, concerning Safeguarding are all fit for purpose and standardised. We have also needed to produce Role Descriptions for all activity leaders and helpers. These will be issued as soon as they have been finalized.

We have a legal duty to produce the statutory documents (as listed below) in time for the APCM and in this Annual report and then display them in public area of our church buildings. Approval and adoption of these documents by the PCC was sought at the meeting on April 9th 2025.

The full versions of the documents are available in the Church Office or available electronically on request by contacting the church office or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The following documents need to be on display on all our Noticeboards:

- 2025 Safeguarding Policy.
- Promoting a Safer Church - Parish Safeguarding Handbook (Oct 2018 version)
- Types of Abuse (including signs and symptoms)
- Poster with details of Safeguarding Officer
- Supporting Survivors of Abuse
- Guidelines for Working with Children & Young People
- Guidelines for Working with Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding Sunday on 17th November 2024 was acknowledged at both services.

Canon Margaret Edwards
Parish Safeguarding Officer

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

January – August:

Ministry continued to flourish during the first few months of the year. Whilst no large changes were made to what we did within the church, it is true to say that we did not stand still. We held the charge that was presented to us by Bishop Rachel not to be 'vacant during the vacancy'.

I am hugely grateful to so many people who did so much during the vacancy to enable the church to continue to work in the way that it did.

Thanks go to Chris and Kevin, as church wardens who worked faithfully and tirelessly ensuring the smooth running of the church. Thanks also to Lou, in the office, who made sure that everything was well organised, and everyone was kept well informed as to the day-to-day ventures.

My thanks also to Miriam, who was a great support and partner in ministry as we traversed the rocky undertaking of the vacancy. It was wonderful to share in services with colleagues who share a deep love for God and this church.

Service patterns continued as they had been and I was grateful for the support of Lee and Ceci in leading us in sung worship. During this time, we made the transition back to sharing the common cup, something that we had not done since COVID. This was a successful re-introduction and I am grateful to everyone for their positive approach to this transition.

Now under Joe's leadership we are ready to take the next step at looking at where we as a church go in ministry and discipleship in the service of God.

Rev. Duncan Hutchison

September – December:

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to contribute and share in the leadership and ministry of our Church, both during the vacancy and following my arrival.

Special thanks go to Chris and Kevin as Churchwardens. I have been so encouraged by your faithfulness in every sense of the word, be it praying before services or diligently sorting out practical matters behind the scenes. Your calm presence has made the transition far smoother than I had any right to expect. My thanks also to Margaret as PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer, both large roles which can be rather thankless at times but so very essential for the life of our church to thrive.

It has been wonderful to share in leading services and other aspects of ordained ministry and leadership with my fellow members of clergy. Thank you for your support, your insight, and your willingness to help me get up to speed.

There has been some change in this time within the clergy team, with Duncan being seconded to Hardwick, Longney & Elmore from November and Jane having to step back from ministry for a while due to health issues. Both of you are missed and we look forward to when you will both be ministering among us again. Thank you to Claire for agreeing to step in to take the joint service on the last Sunday of the year, which was very much appreciated. Last but far from least, a huge thank you to Miriam for all the many areas of Ministry that you're involved in. I have learned from and been encouraged by each of you, even though it's only been 3 months.

The life of the church is enriched by the gifts that each of you offer and by having different voices and perspectives present within it. My hope is that as I settle in, we'll be able to find a good balance that sees everyone's gifts and talents used and celebrated in appropriate ways, while not expecting more than is reasonable or sustainable.

I'm also grateful to PCC for the way we have responded to the challenges in front of us and embraced having difficult conversations, particularly around buildings and finance. Our meetings have included important questions and while we have had to make some hard decisions, particularly around how we support our mission partners, I feel we have been able to listen to one another and disagree well when we could not reach unanimous consensus.

On Finance in particular, having seen a significant decline in general funds over recent years, it was important for us to challenge ourselves to plan for a surplus in 2025. We have done this by setting targets around fundraising, by considering our outgoings when calculating the Mission Tithe, and by reviewing how we advertise the hiring our buildings. We also considered how we might raise funds in different ways for mission partners and consider other ways of supporting them. While these may not have been decisions we wanted to make, I think we have been realistic, prayerful, and courageous in how we have responded.

Thanks also go to those who lead and volunteer across our various groups and activities, be it Coffee Pot & Teddy Bears, Junior Church, Core Group, Messy Church, Lunch Club, Tuesdays at 2, Tea and Toast, the Community Garden, Bible study and home groups, the Flower team, the various volunteers within services, Open the Book, the Foodbank or any other aspect of church life. Engaging in what God is doing is for everyone, and it's been so encouraging to be part of a church where so many are actively involved in living out their faith through acts of ministry, mission, service and discipleship. It is also important that, while some activities might be targeted at particular groups of people or ages, taken together we share our faith with and meet the needs of the widest possible cross-section of our community without bias or restriction. In this we are building God's Kingdom in line with the priorities Jesus taught.

One of the things I became aware of is the need to facilitate communication and coordination across so many different groups and activities, and so at the end of the year Standing Committee looked at how we might group areas of church life into sub-teams. In the coming year the hope is that this will enable our church to flourish and grow in healthy ways.

Rev. Dr. Joe Mottram

2. PRAYER AND WORSHIP

January – August:

We were able to hold both 8:30 and 10:30 services weekly during the vacancy months till September without calling on outside help with our team of three ordained clergy – Duncan, Jane and myself. My thanks particularly for Duncan who gave so much to leading the church while working fulltime and for Jane's experience, wisdom and support. We were also very aware of the loving support of our church family in what were a challenging few months. This included not just the vacancy process, but the deaths of six dearly loved church members, three of which were unexpected.

We saw the numbers of volunteers for Sunday rotas – welcomers, PA operators, readers, prayers, coffee makers etc – increase and are very grateful to all who contribute in these vital roles. But we would love to welcome more to ease the load on those already volunteering. Lee and Cecilia continued to lead their respective music groups in providing wonderful music for our 10:30 service. Duncan was our fall-back guy with his guitar when neither Cecilia nor Lee were available. Organ was the main instrument for 8:30 services with the occasional piped music. An ongoing prayer is the need for more organists and it would be good to see new members contributing to our music groups at 10:30.

The vacancy process and preparing for our priest in charge to be was the big focus of our prayers on Sunday mornings and in the two weekly (Monday and Saturday am) and once a month (first Wednesday evening) prayer groups. Those prayers were amply answered on and following the interview day and we were delighted to welcome Joe in September. In addition to the regular prayer groups, we held our second Church Prayer Breakfast in January. This took a different form to the first one as four church members shared something of their experience of prayer. This was followed by table discussions around a Bible reading on prayer and closed with a time of prayer in the table groups. Numbers were slightly lower than 2023 due to last minute illnesses but attendees felt a strong sense of God's presence as they prayed. Church was open for prayer on the third Saturday each month from 9-11am. The occasional outside visitor was a good reminder that having church open as often as we can is in itself a witness to the community that the church is alive and active.

Miriam Davis

September – December:

A big thank you to Miriam for playing the Organ and Lee and Ceci, who lead our contemporary worship groups, along with all those who contribute to the different styles of worship on offer at our services. The ability to show videos and play music through the AV and sound systems gives further capacity to respond in prayer and worship. This breadth is a real strength and encouragement, allowing us to offer a range of worship that suits different circumstances and styles, from Messy Church and intergenerational worship, to more formal services. The range of volunteers also adds to the sense of the whole Body of Christ being part of worship and is very much appreciated.

We have established the pattern that the same person will preach at both the 8:30 and 10:30 service for all weeks except the first of the month, to provide continuity between the two congregations. On the first Sunday, we have begun the move towards having Intergenerational worship at the 10:30am service regardless of whether there is a Baptism or not. The hope is to make this service more intentionally intergenerational, and to include more people including children and young people in leading different parts of it, in 2025.

Our Harvest Festival on 20th October was joyful, and our annual Memorial service on 3rd November was a moving and poignant opportunity to prayer and reflect with those who have lost loved ones. It was a privilege to lead our 8:30am service on Remembrance Sunday and then for Miriam to lead the 10:30 service in church while I was part of the civic service at Hucclecote War Memorial together with representatives from Hucclecote Methodist Church and Hillview Evangelical church. We then marked Safeguarding Sunday on 17th November.

Services through Advent and Christmas included an afternoon Christingle service on 8th December for the first time in some years. The turnout was promising, and leftover Christingles were gratefully received by various people over the following week so did not go to waste. Messy Christmas was a hit once again, and both the Carol and Crib services were well attended, as was the Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve and the Joint Family Communion service on Christmas day. Indeed, numbers were up across all our services, continuing a trend of rising attendance over the past few years.

Prayer has been a constant throughout these three months, with the weekly Monday morning prayer group a wonderful way to set the day and week in its proper context as belonging to God. The Wednesday monthly prayer group continues to meet faithfully, though numbers are small. Prayer on Saturday mornings is also going well, though with small numbers, including the monthly time in Church. On 21st September we had an extended morning with opportunities to pray in different ways for the new season our church is stepping into. Thank you to everyone who contributed and came, and for all the hard work in organising the morning and prayer stations.

Rev. Dr. Joe Mottram

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN

JUNIOR CHURCH (SUNDAYS)

During 2024, our Junior Church has followed the same pattern of the children leaving the 10.30am service, to have their own time of teaching and activities in the Church Centre. The volunteer team who has taken responsibility for Junior Church continue to struggle with the large age range, sometimes 3 years to 15 years, in the one group, we also have the difficulty of not knowing how many young people we will have on any one Sunday. It is, however, a privilege to be building relationships with the wonderful young people we have in our church family.

We have been using the Scripture Union material, called SPLASH! and although it is aimed for 5-8 year olds, it is a starting point on which to base the lessons. If we could have another regular volunteer, it would enable us to hold two groups and so separate the age range.

Margaret Edwards + team (Pat Dabbs, Tina Knight, Judith Manns, Doreen McLellan, Judy Preece, Chris Scourfield).

COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot is one of the church's outreach activities for pre-school children and the adults who bring them – Mums, Dads, Grans, Grandads and child minders. Based in the Church Centre, we are open from 10.00am to 11.30am every Tuesday in term time.

We try to ensure that the Christian ethos is evident in all we do and say and in the ways in which we interact with everyone. Each week there is plenty of time for play, to participate in craft activities, share snacks, listen to stories and sing. Over the year we will hear a mixture of stories around a termly theme, some of which will be from the Bible. Three times a year we have a short service – at Harvest, Christmas and Easter – led by one of the clergy team and we were joined by children from Abbeymead Under 5's on 2 occasions in 2024.

It is always sad to say goodbye when children leave us at the end of the summer term, but we have had the privilege of watching them grow and develop over the time they have spent with us and can look back at the many conversations we have had with the adults who brought them: these are memories which remain.

Coffee Pot could not run without its team of volunteers – Rhianydd Warren, Linda Weedon, Susan Taylor, Josie Cumberbatch and Pat Peachey – thank you all for your commitment week by week and for your care of our families.

Peggy Brown

P & J TEDDY BEARS TODDLER GROUP

During 2024, Teddy Bears has continued to flourish as a Parent/Toddler group, catering for our 25 families, meeting every Friday morning in term time at Pineholt Village Hall. Although priority is given to families with church connections, or those who live in the Cranham Gate/Coopers Edge areas, we have had referrals via Hucclecote surgery, for families who would benefit from our services.

The parents/grandparents/carers who bring their pre-school age children along, all enjoy chatting and supporting each other, with many of them now sharing their worries or problems with team members and asking for our prayers.

The children all enjoy the activities on offer and join in with 'Amen' at the end of the prayer time following the story and they especially love the actions to the Christian songs we sing at the end – "Our God is a Great Big God" is a firm favourite.

Most of our TBs families attend our monthly Messy Church and some attended services over the Christmas season. We were all very sad during the year to lose Jean Thomas, our regular refreshment lady, following her sudden death, with many of the parents still talking about her and missing her.

Huge thanks, as ever, to the loyal and committed volunteer team, without whom Teddy Bears would not operate: Kay Galling, Chris Scourfield, Susan Taylor, Wendy Vickers, and Rhianydd Warren.

Margaret Edwards

MESSY CHURCH

A question...how many picnic bags do you prepare when you don't know how many children will turn up on a Messy Church Saturday? 30? 40? 50? I don't know but sometimes there has been an urgent trip to the shop for extra supplies. It can be a bit nerve wracking when we don't know how many to cater for, or if anyone is going to turn up, but God always sorts it. Each month invitations are sent to the local schools and children's groups and we wait expectantly at the church door to welcome our guests.

This year we started with the story of the young Jesus visiting the temple and created our own painting of a journey, made an indoor camp and tried keeping fit to help us grow healthily. The session for both Lent and Mother's Day had us putting a chocolate in a box and waiting weeks to eat it and creating a beautiful flower as a special gift for mums. We heard about the faithful friendship of Ruth and with bare feet and paint we made a pathway. We heard how faithfully Hannah prayed to God for years and we made and then watched our prayers on paper hands open up as we dropped them in a pool of water. We acted the thrilling story of beautiful Esther and how she prayed to God to help her be brave. Creating portraits, bead jewellery and even a miniature throne room helped us to get into the story. Later in the year we explored Jesus as a vine, a light and a good shepherd with a riot of fruity creations, lanterns, lighthouses and Christingles, and sheep made out of paper, pom poms and cake (not all at the same time).

How does this happen? Only with a brilliant team of 20 plus regular helpers who express by their genuine welcome and infectious enthusiasm their own faith In God. They are always willing to try new things and encourage the children to join in. There is a great fellowship with our team of helpers and a sense of joy as families arrive and get stuck in! Underlying all the planning, preparation, and the activities on the day itself, is the strength gained from the prayer support of the Church family. Thank you.

Judy Preece & Dianne Brookes

OPEN THE BOOK

Another year of early morning gatherings at Hillview Primary School for Judy Preece, Jane Twitty, Philip Wenham, Chris and Dianne Brookes. Sadly, we lost our faithful storyteller, Jean Thomas during the year. She was always willing to slot in wherever needed irrespective of whether she had been able to rehearse. Her long experience of being part of the team carried her through and she stayed calm whatever challenges were presented to the team.

Our stories through the year ranged from the adventures of David to women who dared to do right and lots more stories about Jesus. The reflections from these stories gave children time to think about trusting God for the future, asking for help when they don't know what to do, valuing everyone in the school, being brave enough to make the right choices and most important of all that they are all, each and every one, precious to God. Some of the stories would help the children to think about their own behaviour especially towards others. Is it right to laugh at someone who is different to them or be mean to them? Are there times when they should stand up for their friends? Can they do something to help families who are hungry or homeless? The short closing prayer is a place where these subjects can be mentioned in an accessible way.

In case you think that Open the Book assemblies are serious places then be reassured. We try to have the children taking part every week and as the classes come in their hands go up even before we ask for helpers. Some teachers keep a list to make sure everyone gets a turn. The children love to get dressed up and take part without rehearsal, just gentle pushes in the right direction. Swords are very popular so it's good that the Roman army were posted to Jerusalem in the New Testament.

As a team, we are thankful that we have this opportunity to go into the school and tell the Bible stories that we know and love. We tell them in an interactive way to capture their imagination and embed them in their memories. One day a story will pop up in their heads just when they need it.

Dianne Brookes

4. MISSION

OUTREACH

January – August:

During the first 8 months of the year, church members continued to reach out to our local community through a wide variety of activities including Coffee Pot and Teddy Bears, Open the Book, the community garden, Tuesday at Two, Cameo, Lunch Club, Food Bank and the Warm Space (January to March). These have their separate reports in elsewhere but a very big thanks to the many organisers and volunteers who gave unstintingly of their time and energy to demonstrate the love of Christ and the presence of the church in our community.

The positive relationship with Abbeymead Under 5s continued to flourish and it was also a delight to welcome KS2 from Hillview Primary along with many parents to church for Easter on the last day of the spring term. Year 4 children gave their presentations and Duncan thoroughly engaged everyone's attention with the story of Easter. There was much positive feedback from staff and parents and I am very grateful to Duncan for taking time off work for this.

The 6-week Start course which ran in April and May was an effort to follow up on contacts from Messy Church, Coffee Pot and Teddy Bears as well as baptism families. I've reported on this in more detail and on the follow-up course, Moving On, in the report on discipleship. Expressions of interest from parents regarding baptism for themselves and for their children, and from parents of a Catholic background for First Communion for their children, didn't translate into action in 2024 but we continue to foster relationships and pray on for contacts to deepen their connection with Jesus and with us.

Miriam Davis

September – December:

Many of the activities across our church community touch on outreach, whether formally or informally. I won't duplicate the reports by Coffee Pot and Teddy Bears, Open the Book, Messy Church, Lunch Club, Tuesday at Two, or the Community Garden, but I would like to add my thanks to all involved. Each in its way provides a space for those who are in need of community and support, and places where faith is seen in action.

The Foodbank continues to meet the needs of both parishioners and those from further afield, and is an amazing point of shared outreach and mission by the churches in Hucclecote.

Not long after I arrived, I was approached by Doreen and Philip McLellan about re-starting the warm space alongside the Foodbank. It was felt that the low take-up in previous years had been in part due to how it was named and publicised. It was therefore re-branded as 'Tea and Toast', a Wednesday morning drop-in coffee morning in the church centre kitchen between 9am and 1pm, with posters and publicity arranged. It has been wonderful to see how it has grown and flourished

as a result, popular with both existing church members, those coming to other groups like the community garden, and others from the local community seeking companionship. My deepest thanks to Doreen, Shelley, and the others who volunteer their Wednesday mornings to support this important and now thriving outreach.

Outreach with Hillview Primary School has continued with KS2 coming to church for Harvest and Christmas services. I also helped to lead a Service of Remembrance on 11th November for the Year 5 class at the War Memorial. We also had joint toddler services for Harvest and Christmas with our toddler groups and Abbeymead Under 5's. The hope is to build on these outreach opportunities to include more of the nursery settings in the parish, develop links with Dinglewell Infant and Junior Schools, and to expand beyond key festivals as opportunities and capacity allow.

Rev. Dr. Joe Mottram

THE HUB

The Hucclecote Hub operates between St Philip & St James Church, Hillview Evangelical Church and Hucclecote Methodist Church. We aim to work together to promote the Christian faith across Hucclecote. This is done by working together across a number of activities. Identified below are ones which happened in 2024.

Christmas 2024:

We produced a joint newsletter to go out in December to promote the various services and other activities going on in the churches.

Nativity on a Lorry. Once again members of the churches went around Hucclecote, some dressed as biblical characters, whilst others gave out sweets to local families, and generally tried to both promote the Christmas message and raise the profile of the three churches.

Members of the churches also sang Christmas carols at the Wagon & Horses pub – again seeking to promote the Christian Christmas message. Thanks to Ruth Thornton for organising the concert.

Hucclecote Foodbank Hub:

Volunteers from the three churches run a hub of Gloucester Foodbank from the hall of St Philip & St James Church. We aim to provide enough food & toiletries to support individuals and families for three days. Those in need are identified by around 300 organisations who provide a voucher which can be “exchanged” for food etc. People are encouraged to collect supplies from our hub. We do run a delivery service for people who cannot travel to the hub. We normally support around twelve to fifteen people each week; some are individuals, others family groups. The Hub additionally gave out Christmas food in December to help clients.

Thanks are due to the volunteers, and also to the many members of our congregation who donate food & toiletries. Special thanks to Mike Webber from Hillview Evangelical Church who co-ordinated all the hub activities.

Tea and Toast:

Over the 2023/24 winter months there was a warm space provided in the Church kitchen. This was not very successful. It was decided to “re-brand” for 2024.

After much discussion the name was changed to Tea & Toast. The “new” name was advertised widely on social media, via local newsletters etc. It operated every Wednesday morning from October to December 2024. The aim was to provide not only a hot drink etc but also to allow people who are church members, and those who are not, to engage with other people. On average 16 people attended each week.

Thanks are due to the small group of volunteers who helped to run Tea & Toast.

Philip McLellan

MISSION TEAM

In 2024 we continued to support our five mission links from the church tithe – The Diocese of Western Tanganyika (four theological students, Lake Tanganyika Theological College in Kasulu and our link parish, Mwilanvya); OMF International and the Pawsons in Japan; Scripture Union UK and the Reaching the 95% of children and young people not in church project; Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank.

Japan and OMF:

- A second, very successful, 'A glimpse of Japan' event was held in church on Sat. 3rd February 2024 with a number of Japanese families from Worcester. This event drew in around 60 people and fulfilled its purpose of deepening our understanding of the culture in which our mission partners, the Pawson family are working. Another purpose was providing an opportunity to connect with many in the community who would not usually come to church.
- March 2024 saw David and Manuela Pawson with Esther, Gideon and Daniel complete four years of ministry in Japan with OMF International and return to UK and Germany for a year of Home Assignment. We had the privilege of welcoming them to Hucclecote from 10th-24th May during which they shared on a number of occasions including Sundays and weekday small groups.

Gloucester City Mission:

- In addition to our tithe, Margaret Edwards organised another Sleepout in church on 10th October 2024 and more than £1,300 was raised through sponsorship.

Foodbank:

- We continue to support Foodbank through our Wednesday 11-1pm Foodbank Hub, through church members who volunteer with Foodbank both locally and centrally and through individual donations. At our Harvest Festival on 20 October 2024 134.25 kilos of food was donated. This is sufficient to feed about 40 people for three days. Although the Foodbank budgeted £100,000 for food the estimated spend will be £75,000. This is partly due to increased donations of food and partly due to increased financial income.

Tanzania:

- Two of our four LTTC students graduated and were ordained in June. We took on 2 new students in August maintaining our support for four students.
- Alison Dight hosted Bishop Ephraim from Tanzania for four days in November. He was able to meet Revd Joe, attend lunch club and visit the community garden.
- Alison and Judith Manns continued to be very active as part of the team that promotes the link with DWT on behalf of Gloucester Diocese.

Scripture Union: Hannah Legge, Mission Enabler for the SU Central England Team.

- It proved difficult to maintain a personal contact with Hannah and in October she moved to New Zealand. It seemed timely to move our interest in children and young people's ministry to a new partnership with our city deanery Youth connector, Revd Helen Champion. Our mission tithe commitment to SU hence came to an end as 2024 closed, following the approval of PCC at their November 27th 2024 meeting.

We continued with a monthly mission slot in services on the third Sunday of each month. A big thank you to the mission team members and all who volunteered their time to help host events and to all who gave generously.

Miriam Davis, Mission Partnerships Team Chair

5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship takes place in a variety of contexts both formally and informally through Junior Church, Core group and four home groups (please see separate reports on each of these activities.) We are deeply appreciative of all the hard work, prayer, time and energy that the leaders and volunteers put into these groups.

We did not run any Lent or Advent courses in 2024. However, we ran the 6-week excellent Start course in April and May. The inspiration for this was a Mum from one of our toddlers' groups who expressed a desire for baptism for herself and children. It was also an opportunity to invite Messy Church adult contacts and parents of children who were being brought for baptism. While there was no take up from baptism families, Margaret Edwards and I welcomed a group of up to six participants (including one observer from Hillview Church) during the course. In the autumn, we were delighted to go through the 7-session follow-up course 'Moving On' with 2 of the mums from 'Start'. 'Moving On' focuses on aspects of life as a Christian – church, prayer, Bible reading, fellowship etc -and was challenging in its content. But both courses are easily accessible and the video material is well presented and engaging. It is to be hoped that these courses can be used again in future. A very big thanks to Margaret for her support throughout.

Revd Miriam Davis

HOME GROUPS

Four home groups met regularly for bible study and fellowship throughout 2024. Three groups met in the evening – two on Thursdays and one on Tuesday. One Thursday group and the Tuesday group met on zoom with an occasional in-person social. The Wednesday afternoon group met at 2:30 in the Church Centre Kitchen.

The Tuesday evening group on Zoom: 'In 2024 our home group studied the following:

1. Philippians for Everyone by Tom Wright which we found very accessible.
2. Encountering the Risen Christ by Mark Bradford, which we found very helpful, a book you would want to come back to a number of times as there was so much in it to take on board.
3. In between we also did some sessions as a follow up on the Sunday service sermons, and sessions on Advent in December.

We also restarted sharing the leading of the sessions. We visited Mike and Joy Noah in Malmesbury for a tea party in July. We also met socially for tea parties at Jane Stock's and enjoyed a Christmas meal at the pub. (contribution by Chris and Dianne Brookes).'

The Wednesday group was appreciated by its seven members. We aimed to meet for an hour only and continued studies in the gospel of John and then the letters of John through to summer. On a couple of occasions, we used the Lectio Divina approach to our Bible passage and this was much appreciated. A variety of resources were used in the autumn with Advent studies at the end of the year. The group had a summer tea-time social inviting others and in December we visited Pam Henning to sing carols.

The Thursday evening group at Rachel Cooke's home: 'We met on Thursday evenings 8-10pm. The group at present consists of Paul Springham, Chris Scourfield, Sue Lyon, Steve Plant, Brian Trott and myself. During 2024 we have lost Ruth Holman (moved to a care home) and Phil Rodford. Both were valuable members of our group and are greatly missed—Ruth especially for her outstanding knowledge of the Bible and Phil for his long friendship and valuable contributions to discussions. Phil, Paul Springham and myself had been together since Spring 1995 when the Home Group was formed after completing the Alpha course. Phil's death was unexpected and a shock and we miss him. We have used booklets—often Cover to Cover booklets-- on Romans, Isaiah and Luke. We start each meeting with updates on all things going on in our lives, friends and families while enjoying a coffee and open with a short prayer time before starting the Bible Study. The fellowship we share is really important to us all as we pray for each other and support

each other in prayer. We always end with prayer-- hopefully for 10 minutes, but discussion time on the study sometimes dictates this (contribution by Rachel Cooke.)

Thursday evening group on Zoom: 'We have 6 active members. In 2024 we studied studies in Isaiah: The Sermon on the Mount (C. Leonard); a study book called 'Encountering the risen Christ' and 'Advent Journey to Christmas.' Some of the things the members appreciated about the group were as follows: 'It's good to get different views on things I wouldn't necessarily have thought of myself;' 'I appreciated the fellowship within the group and everyone's concern for each other;' 'I appreciated the prayer time and sharing things of concern;' 'I appreciate the confidentiality within the group, and being able to text/email urgent prayer requests at other times too;' 'I found it very helpful sharing leading the studies with several others.' (Contribution from Marion Cook)

A big thanks to all our group leaders. All groups are open to newcomers and are a great way of supporting one another and deepening our faith. Please speak to Miriam if you are interested in joining a group. We add regularly to the Bible study resources for home groups (also great for individual use) on the shelves in the outer office of the Stone Building, and anyone is welcome to borrow these for personal or group use.

Miriam Davis

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team has been in existence for three years and although it is a small team, it is a very caring and dedicated group. There are several groups and activities happening within the Church life and the leaders of those groups are responsible for the care of their members.

The Pastoral Care Team aims to keep people feeling loved and connected with church life when members are not able to attend either through illness, frailty or general circumstances either temporarily or permanently. Several church members have had spells in hospital this last year and visits have been made to different hospitals across the county. Holy Communion can be taken to members who request it, at home or in hospital. Several much loved and key members of our church family died in 2024, some unexpectedly. They are each greatly missed.

Everyone in the Church has a role to play in pastoral care and can care/phone/visit people who have not been to church or are in need. Please let Miriam or Pat know if you are doing this.

All members of the fellowship are encouraged to love, care for and support each other. This is our church family and sometimes people who are attending week by week need a caring ear.

We continue to knit the small "prayer squares", embossed with a cross, that we give to our members that we visit, together with a note reminding them of God's love and our prayers.

We also contact bereaved families after a funeral service has taken place in the parish and on the first anniversary of the death. We attend the annual memorial service, being available to pray with anyone and giving the prayer squares.

Pastoral care is a privilege and a great joy getting to know members of our fellowship in greater depth, hearing the wonderful stories of their childhoods and youth. The team is dedicated and committed. Please pray that God will lead our actions/visits/words/prayers, that we may be sensitive to the needs of the people being visited and their partners and that we may have the gift of love and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pat Dabbs - Coordinator

6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

GROUND AND BUILDINGS

Stone Building, Church Centre, Youth Centre, Gordon Rooms & Site.

Church Centre

The church centre is in need of a major overhaul inside and out.

Prior to the licensing service we painted the south door, the surrounding external wall and window frames and the rail to improve its appearance.

PAT Testing of the electrical appliances in the Kitchen resulted in several failed tests, we had to purchase two new kettles and a microwave.

Stone Building

The Stone Building is in fairly good condition. Externally we have painted the window frames on the south and east walls. The lime plaster on one wall in the church office was in a very poor state, so we cut out the plaster back to the stonework and brought in a lime plasterer to replaster that section of the wall. Subsequently we repainted the wall with Potmolen paint. The office is now looking much improved.

Youth Centre

Following concerns raised by the PCC, a structural survey of the Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms was carried out in January by a surveyor with experience of Horsa buildings. The life of the buildings has been well exceeded. The surveyor advised that in his view the buildings are still usable but they have a limited life. While there is no immediate danger, the surveyor advised that the risk would be increased in the event of a heavy snowfall in which case the buildings should not be used. The surveyor recommended planning for their replacement in 10-15 years, providing that recommended maintenance work is carried out in the meantime.

Based on the surveyor's report we carried out a detailed inspection of the building and compiled a list of repairs. Following approval by PCC we have started on the repairs, initially with items we could do ourselves at low cost. More than half of the windows on east wall have since been caulked. Spalling has been removed on one of the external uprights and the steel treated. However there remains a lot to be done.

Following repeated breakdown of the boiler, PCC agreed to purchase a new gas boiler which was installed by Gloucester Gas Services in April. AU5 Playgroup are very pleased to have reliable heating and hot water.

A faulty electric socket has been replaced. We repainted the staff toilet floor. We had problems with a squirrel who tried to set up home in the youth centre and Gordon Rooms roof space, so we installed more galvanised wire netting in the ventilation gap. We also had a problem with the east gutter overflowing in heavy rain and a leak in the roof. The gutter, downpipe and drain have been cleared and the roof has been repaired.

Gordon Rooms

The Gordon Rooms are in worse condition than the Youth Centre, and much work needs to be done. We receive an income from the building as Sportily hire the main hall to store their sporting equipment. They reported rain coming through into the hall after heavy rain. Two broken panes of glass have been replaced to stop the leak. The former caretaker's office has been cleaned up and scrap removed so it can be used as a tool room. Sportily have requested additional space but we haven't been able to do this yet.

Site

The annual boiler service has been carried out for the church, stone building and church centre. The annual fire extinguisher service has been carried out across all buildings. Water testing has been carried out across the site.

Grounds

Grass cutting has been carried out by Greenfields regularly from March, but because of heavy rain early in the year the grass was overgrown quite quickly and we received complaints. The garden of remembrance has been maintained. The

churchyard hedge was cut back in January by Greenfields. Following a complaint from a family member about a hidden gravestone, the north hedge has been cut back further and memorial stones under the hedge have been trimmed. Working parties were carried out twice in the year and a lot of foliage removed.

The garden around the Stone Building and the peace garden border have both been cut back and tidied up. Work has been carried out to strengthen the peace garden fence posts following a complaint from a neighbour. The area between the Horsa buildings has also been tidied up and a tree stump removed.

Work is required to cut back the lower branches of the yew trees where they overhang gravestones.

Team

The Grounds and Buildings team consists of Tom Brown, Kevin Hobbs, Steve Plant and Chris Brookes, and recently Joe has joined our meetings. Many thanks to Graham White who stood down in the year, and to Tom who has handed over leading the team, for their commitment and expert knowledge. We welcome new members to join us, whatever your experience, you will be greatly valued.

Chris Brookes, Grounds and Buildings Team Chair

7. ADMINISTRATION

STAFFING

We currently have just one paid member of staff, our Church Administrator Louisa Scrivener, to whom we all remain extremely grateful for her loyal and dedicated service. 2024 was a challenging year for Louisa as she had to cope with the extra work in preparation for the Interview day for the candidates to be our new Priest-in-Charge. Then once appointed, it was again another busy time to get out all the invitations sent out and the administration done for the Licensing and Installation service in September. Louisa coped with all these new and sometimes daunting tasks so well, with her usual calm demeanour and everything went very smoothly. Louisa is an asset to the smooth running of all our church services and activities and is so pleasant as our “public face” of St Philip & St James, both in person to callers at the Church Office and also during phone calls. Huge thanks to you, Louisa.

We are also very grateful to all who serve in voluntary capacities to enable St Philip & St James Church to function, but we must acknowledge that many of our volunteers are ageing. While they are currently still able to do all the necessary tasks, we need to plan for succession, and have new volunteers shadow during the next few years, so the transition will be a smooth one. Thank you to all volunteers for all you do.

Margaret Edwards for PCC

8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNICATION

We have worked hard this year to continue to raise our profile in the community.

Our team account on Canva has proved successful and we have been able to produce prominent posters in order to publicise events and services throughout the year. These posters are displayed around the church grounds, as well as being published on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Miriam updates our social media with regular posts, which ensure our pages continue to appear on users’ feeds and keep us known. Posts are regularly forwarded to three local Facebook

noticeboards – What's On in Hucclecote, Hucclecote Noticeboard, Hucclecote Community Group, the Hucclecote Hub (the three Hucclecote churches) and when appropriate to the Events in the Diocese of Gloucester page.

Once our church profile on A Church Near You (ACNY) got up and running, we cancelled our subscription on our original website. Web traffic is now directed straight to ACNY and this is our sole webpage. This has made it easier to ensure that all information is kept up to date and relevant, and has also saved us money, due to ACNY being free for churches and we no longer need to pay the cost of our previous website domain.

A weekly notice sheet continues to be created, which includes the readings for the forthcoming service, a prayer list, weekly calendar of events and details of regular groups. This is printed for church and emailed to our church distribution list.

We currently have around 100 people signed up to our email distribution list. As well as the weekly notice sheet, which is sent each Friday, we also regularly send out our posters for events and services and any other relevant information about our church or our mission partners, thus ensuring regular contact is made with these members of the church, and wider community.

Joe, Miriam and Jane Stock met in November and created a plan of action around communication via ACNY. Jane is now writing news articles about the church and these are then posted onto ACNY. A write up about the Gloucester Foodbank was shared in October, and an article regarding Advent was posted in December. Further news reports are planned for 2025.

Work continues into the next year to ensure we remain well-known in the community, and up-to-date and relevant with our communication methods.

Louisa Scrivener

CHURCH FLOWERS

We continue to arrange flowers in church each week and have been blessed with two new members joining the team this year– Katherine Robinson and Pelagia (Peggy) Maenzanise.

Although we only had one Wedding last year, which we enjoyed doing, we still of course arranged flowers for special occasions such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas and 70 Mothering Sunday Posies as well as arrangements in memory of loved ones, when requested.

Thanks to all who give donations to the flower fund, with the cost of flowers increasing, it is much appreciated, and a big 'thank you' to the whole team who willingly give up their time to enhance our beautiful church.

Jenny Barton

LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club met on twenty-two Thursdays during 2024, serving a total of 432 meals to our happy and appreciative group of guests! The meal is always preceded by the saying or singing grace and that has even been spoken in Japanese and when we welcomed Bishop Ephraim from Tanzania, in Swahili!

Not only are the guests so appreciative but so also are their supporting family members, who frequently call voicing their grateful thanks for the love, care and the opportunity to get out, to meet and share a meal and fellowship together.

As always, guests have received birthday cards, Easter and Christmas cards, and have been kept in touch with what else is happening in our church.

In December the choir from Hillview Primary School came to entertain and lead us in the singing of Christmas carols, when guests and team members sat down to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner.

My grateful thanks to all the Lunch Club team who work so well together.

Margaret Wenham on behalf of the Lunch Club team

TUESDAY @ TWO

Tuesday @ Two has met twice monthly throughout the year with an ever-increasing number coming to join together in an afternoon of fun and fellowship whilst enjoying playing cards and board games. On some tables there has been quiet concentration while others have become quite excited!

The afternoon always finishes with everyone sitting down together, chatting and enjoying a welcome cup of tea and slice of home-made cake.

Newcomers are always welcome.

Margaret & Philip Wenham

HUCCLECOTE COMMUNITY GARDEN

2024 saw the completion of some major projects in the garden. The first was Phase Two of the refurbishment of The Cottage. Alan made and fitted a wheelchair-wide door; Dave Limbrick rendered the exterior walls, and installed solar and mains power, and a kitchenette; and Marilyn Sharland painted the outside. The Cottage is a marvellous addition to the garden, offering shelter in inclement weather and, most importantly, being a place of companionship and chat. It is much used and valued.

Another major project was to lay a seating area near the entrance. Phil Rodford started us off by hiring a digger to mark out the area, and two local neighbours donated their annual 'volunteer' day from their respective companies to help dig and lay the foundations. Another volunteer was able to source a whacker plate. But we needed professional help to lay the bricks, and this was provided by local company Greenfields. The patio looks splendid, and is ready to be well used for years to come.

A third major project was the development of a wood-carving workshop in the double garage. This has been spearheaded by David Shale, and a small group of men are meeting there each Tuesday and Thursday. The workshop is a work in progress, but tools, work benches and battery lighting are in place, and beautiful walking sticks are being hand carved there under David's tutelage.

A significant development was an extension to the garden on the west side as the adjoining bungalow was sold. The boundary fence was repositioned, creating enough space to develop a flower garden.

In keeping with our ethos to be as self-sufficient and environmentally friendly as possible, two 1000-litre tanks (recycled food containers) were installed. This means that no mains water is used on the garden.

Our first plant sale in May was a great success. We welcomed over seventy people who clearly loved their visit, and the tea and cakes that were provided. For a second year we arranged a family event in August; but on a bigger scale than in

2023. As well as the sale of garden produce, plants, jams and preserves, we had a musical interlude, a children's story and other activities, a bric-à-brac sale, an 'Ask the gardening expert' facility, and a demonstration of how to make a walking stick in the workshop, plus tea and cakes. Once again, we were well supported by the local community – over a hundred people came – and the two events meant that we were able to raise funds for our ongoing projects. More significantly, our number of volunteers has increased as the garden is becoming better known.

In November we were delighted to welcome Bishop Ephraim of Lake Rukwa diocese, Tanzania, on a visit to Gloucester after a conference in Canterbury. He insisted on doing some work! On the last day before closing for the winter, we held a Christmas wreath-making event, led by Emma Crofts, Social Prescriber at Hucclecote Surgery. In the bitter cold, we still had several who came along to join in the fun.

Amidst all the progress and joy, the year was tinged with sadness at the loss of Phil. A faithful friend to the garden from the beginning, he was always ready to help, give advice, and contribute in any way he could. We miss him terribly.

Alison Dight, Alan Preece

Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council
Of
St Philip & St James
Hucclecote**

**Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2023**

VACANCY REPORT 2023

At the end of 2023 it is a good time to look back and reflect on everything that we have achieved together for the kingdom but also to look ahead to 2024 with hope and excitement for what lies in wait for us.

2023 has again been a year of challenges. We are still recovering both in terms of numbers and energy from COVID. We have not fully recovered but there are signs of encouragement throughout what we do. Many of our ministries are blossoming and are seeing real signs of growth. Furthermore, there has been a real passion to see God known throughout the community evident through many of our prayer days and community events.

We have faced many changes this year. We welcomed our new administrator, Louisa, who has done a brilliant job settling in and keeping us all organised. And of course, Mark, moving on in the summer. This was a tremendous loss for us as a church but a significant blessing for the community in Exeter School where he now serves.

Despite the challenges and changes I truly believe that we are growing and moving as a people who love God, love one another and want to see him known in this place. It has not been easy leading through this time of vacancy but it has been a blessing and I hope that through the journey we have all been able to see more of where God is leading us.

One of the key parts of the year has been finding the balance between not starting new things in a vacancy whilst at the same time not standing still. We continue to hold this balance and continue to seek God's face in all that we do, so that we might grow and flourish together.

I do not know what 2024 has in store for us. We continue to navigate the vacancy process and pray that the right person can be appointed later in the year. But through it all God still calls us, walks with us and is at work within us as we take these next steps into the unknown. This process continues to be challenging but also continues to be a beacon of hope, hope of what is here and hope for what is to come in this community.

Rev Duncan Hutchison

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

We were sad to see our priest in charge, Mark, leave us in August after six years to take up a new role as chaplain to Exeter School. This was a double blow as we also said goodbye to Amy, Archie and Mabel, who were such an active part of our church life. Thankfully we have been blessed to have Duncan, Miriam and Jane lead our church services through the vacancy period to date. Huge thanks are due to them for their commitment, dedication and leadership, especially with Duncan continuing to work full time in education.

Our readers Allan, Tim and Ruth Holman stood down after long service to our church, and our church administrator Liz also moved on after many years. Huge thanks to Margaret Edwards and others who filled in until we were able to recruit Louisa as our new administrator. Louisa has settled in well and quickly got up to speed with the many varied aspects of the role.

We would like to thank the many people who contribute to the life of our church, and make this such a special place - our music groups, flower team, coffee makers, pastoral care coordinator, junior church leaders, home group leaders, and of course our church treasurer Lee, church secretary Margaret, our PCC, social committee and grounds and buildings committee. Thanks to Rhianydd and Peggy who stood down as churchwardens during the year, for all they have done, much of which goes unseen.

Grateful thanks to those who are involved in our outreach to the children and families in our community through Messy Church, Coffee Pot, Teddy Bears and Open the Book. We have also welcomed Hillview School to services in church including Harvest Festival and Christingle, as part of our reaching the 95% Scripture Union project. Thanks also to those supporting the community through our Foodbank Hub.

The advice from Bishop Rachel was for us not to be vacant during the vacancy, and it has been very encouraging that we as a church family have continued with our regular activities and more during this period. Huge thanks to the parish profile working group which has been making great progress on our profile for the forthcoming recruitment. Thanks also to Brian who has taken over leadership of the CORE youth group, and Jane who has taken over Christmas Make It. A communications team was formed and has been doing a great job keeping us informed through the weekly notice sheets. Lunch Club restarted in September with a five-star hygiene rating, it was a joy to see the members enjoying their meals and fellowship again; thank you to Margaret Wenham and the team of cooks and helpers.

Churchwardens - Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative Information

St Philip & St James is situated in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

Church Office
Stone Building
18 Larkhay Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3 NS

Telephone: 01452 372177

Website: www.hucclecotechurch.org & www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14161/

Social, Media: Facebook: "St Philip and St James Church Hucclecote"
Instagram: "Stpandstj"

E mail: stpandstj.hucc@mail.com

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
21 Eastgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1NY

Independent Examiner: Janet Wilce

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until 13th March 2024, when this report was approved, are on page 6.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC 2023- 2024 (after APCM on March 29th 2023)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC 2023-2024 (after APCM on March 29th 2023)

Incumbent	In Vacancy from August 2023	
Ex Officio	Revd Duncan Hutchison	Associate Priest from June 2023
	Revd Miriam Davis	Ordained Local Minister (OLM) from
	June 2021	

Churchwardens	Mr Kevin Hobbs	elected APCM 2023
	Mr Chris Brookes	elected APCM 2023

Deanery Synod	Canon (Mrs) Margaret Edwards elected 2023	
	* PCC Secretary & Safeguarding Officer	
	Mrs Doreen McLellan	elected 2023
	One vacancy	

Elected Members of the PCC (up to 12 in number)

Mr Tom Brown	elected 2023
Mrs Marion Cook	re-elected 2023
~~Mrs Josephine Cumberbatch~~	elected 2022. Resigned March 2024
Mrs Pat Dabbs	elected 2022
Mr John Grime	re-elected 2022
~~Mrs Joy Noah~~	*Electoral Roll Officer until September 2023
Mr Alan Preece	elected 2023
Mrs Jane Stock	elected 2023 *Electoral Roll Officer since Sept 2023
Mrs Jean Thomas	elected 2023
Mr Lee Thornton	re-elected 2023. * Treasurer

Co-opted member Dr Alison Dight from July 2022

I Vacancy on Deanery Synod
4 Vacancies on PCC

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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.

The PCC is supported in its work by sub-teams whose views and recommendations are considered by the PCC when making decisions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Philip & St James PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Philip & St James Church and associated property. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners and all members of PCC are Trustees of the Charity; as such Hucclecote PCC must adhere to Charity Commission rules and regulations. The PCC meets in January, March, May, July, September and November; on the alternate months the Standing Committee meets to discuss matters needing attention in the interim before the next PCC. Extra PCC meetings have been required since Mark's departure, which have all been related to the Vacancy process. These extra meetings will continue until the appointment of a new Incumbent.

2023

The normal pattern of Sunday services on Sunday has continued during 2023, with 8.30am Holy Communion every week and Morning Worship for most Sundays with a Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Baptisms, if booked, take place on a first Sunday of the month at 10.30am when the service is an All-Age format with no Junior Church on that day. The Sunday evening service of Worship and the Word was suspended.

Additional services in 2023

6th April - Maundy Thursday

7th April - Good Friday

5th November - Memorial service

Christmas Activities

Messy Christmas – 9th December. A very packed church once again and the tree was decorated

Christmas Make It - 24th November. An evening of Christmas crafts.

Nativity on a Lorry - we hosted the refreshments on 14th December

Carols at the Pub - The Wagon & Horses had invited church members to sing, on 15th December

Carol Service - Sunday 17th December

Christingle service for Hillview School – 21st December

Christmas Eve (Sunday) - 8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

4.00pm – Crib service

11.30pm – Midnight Communion with Bishop Rachel

Christmas Day - 10.30am Holy Communion service

Achievements and performance

Sunday attendance figures have remained fairly steady through the year and we have seen some new members at both of the congregations, some returning to church after many years. The leaders of our church activities continue to take as many opportunities as possible to share our faith with those attending the groups, following the decision in 2022 to make all our activities more God-centred.

Margaret Edwards

PCC MEETINGS

It is usual for the PCC to meet bi-monthly and the Standing Committee (Vicar, Associate Priest, OLM, Lay Chair, Treasurer, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Administrator) meet on the alternate months; the latter group discuss the general running of the church and the financial status together with any areas of concern and then makes recommendations to the PCC for further discussion.

PCC Agenda items always include a financial report, Safeguarding issues and updates as well as reports from the Standing Committee, the Mission team and Deanery Synod and the Grounds and Building team.

At the APCM on March 29th 2023, Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes were elected to stand as Churchwardens for the year 2023-2024 and the PCC elections were as follows: Marion Cook, and Lee Thornton were re-elected for a further 3 years; and newly elected were: Tom Brown, Alan Preece and Jean Thomas. The two remaining vacancies and the vacancy on Deanery Synod were not filled.

The Electoral Roll was 103.

The Statutory and essential reports had been accepted and adopted by the PCC at the meeting on March 8th 2023 in readiness for the APCM.

During 2023, the setting of the heating clocks has been done Kevin Hobbs, who has taken over from Tom Brown to whom we owe huge thanks for doing this task for many years.

The secretary would like to thank PCC members for their commitment to their duties and attendance at meetings. Also, huge thanks must go to all those who volunteer for our church services and the many regular activities taking place on the church site or the ones off-site but under the church umbrella. The giving of time and talents by so many volunteers, means that we can honour God in all we do as a worshipping community.

Margaret Edwards

STATUTORY REPORTS

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

This is the second full year that the church's usual services, activities and events were not directly disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Total receipts in 2023 were £143,925 and total payments were £138,040 giving and overall surplus across unrestricted, restricted and designated funds of £5,885, compared to a deficit in 2022 of £3,323. The 2023 surplus was driven largely by grants and one-off donations to restricted funds.

The unrestricted (general) fund on an income & expense basis had a small deficit of £609, however when taking into account transfers to the designated maintenance fund, the overall movement in the unrestricted general fund is a reduction of £3,109

Receipts

The largest amount of the church's incomes continues to be from planned giving and other donations. For the Unrestricted (General fund), voluntary income (*Ex grants*) had a small decline from £95,740 in 2022 to £93,882 in 2023. We received a couple of one-off donations totaling £8,250 for use on specific purposes in the church (e.g. improvements to audio-visual, internal decorations)

The amounts generated from hall lettings increased from £10,587 in 2022 to £13,219 in 2023 and we envisage this to increase further in the coming year

A grant was received in 2023 to help with the energy costs in the church for £1,850.

The Community Garden has continued its work of self-funding through donations and grants and this year sourced grants totaling £8,575 for specific projects

Expenditure

The largest item of expenditure in 2023 was the Parish Share at £68,519 which is paid to the Diocese; this was an increase from 2022 of £3,263

Church running costs have increased significantly, from £17,735 in 2022 to £21,999 in 2023 (*excluding the investment in audio/visual changes*), with over £3,300 of the difference being attributed to higher energy costs.

Salary and wages costs were lower during the year due to the time gap with the changeover of administrators and hours of work reduced

A total of £9,025 was donated as part of our tithe, in line with the budget to: OMF International, Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Foodbank, Scripture Union, a partner church (Mwilanvya in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, Tanzania) and all to support four students at Lake Tanganyika Theological College. In addition, a further £250 was donated to Gloucester City Mission from the Jazz concert.

Minor repairs and routine maintenance across the site totaled £3,693 which was slightly less than the prior year.

Reserves

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance of Unrestricted Funds that equates to a minimum of two months' operating costs, and this is comfortably met. Following the PCC decision in 2019, £3,000 was transferred to the designated essential maintenance fund from the unrestricted general fund.

Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on 13th March 2024

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Statement of asset and liability balances as at 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds	31.12.23	31.12.22 £
Charitable Funds					
Restricted Funds					
Ann Smith Bequest	0	4,352	0	4,352	4,352
Boiler Fund	0	770	0	770	20
Building Fund	0	61,613	0	61,613	59,720
Childrens Worker	0	4,268	0	4,268	4,264
Churchyard Fund	0	11	0	11	11
Community Garden Restricted	0	5,563	0	5,563	4,763
Coopers Edge Mission	0	-282	0	-282	-282
Local Mission	0	1,438	0	1,438	1,643
Music and Worship Fund	0	891	0	891	891
Olive Withycombe bequest	0	304	0	304	304
PCC Fund	0	9,089	0	9,089	6,947
Restricted Fund	0	-1,815	0	-1,815	-1,815
Tanzania Fund	0	1,934	0	1,934	1,669
Wardens Discretionary Fund	0	4,175	0	4,175	500
Designated Funds					
Coffee Pot	0	0	549	549	349
Community Garden Designated	0	0	942	942	0
Computer Fund	0	0	1,346	1,346	1,785
DChurch Centre	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Depreciation Fund	0	0	1,682	1,682	2,221
Essential Maintenance	0	0	13,786	13,786	13,654
Lunch Club	0	0	170	170	0
Messy Church	0	0	384	384	610
Social Fund	0	0	1,641	1,641	1,477
Teddy Bears	0	0	2,083	2,083	2,419
Treasurers Discretionary Fund			4,525	4,525	4,525
Unrestricted Funds General Fund	32,450	0	0	32,450	35,960
	32,450	92,311	147,108	271,869	265,987
Represented By					
Bank Term Deposit Accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Current Accounts	32,450	92,311	27,108	151,869	145,984
Petty Cash	0	0	0	0	0
Total Bank and Cash	32,450	92,311	27,108	151,869	145,984
Liabilities Creditors	0	0	0	0	0
Net Current Assets	32,450	92,311	27,108	151,869	145,984
Fixed Assets retained by the charity					
Land and Buildings at historic cost	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Total Net Assets	32,450	92,311	147,108	271,869	265,984

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 total £
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Tax efficient planned giving	69,425	0	0	69,425	71,255
Other planned giving	6,060	600	0	6,660	6,665
Other giving and donations - non-recurring	2,277	7,487	1,104	10,868	2,011
Other giving and donations - recurring	0	0	0	0	0
Special appeals	0	0	0	0	0
All tax recovered through Gift Aid	16,120	1,657	250	18,027	16,789
Legacies received	0	0	0	0	0
Non-recurring grants	1,981	8,575	0	10,556	8,000
Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund raising events	620	0	415	1,035	206
Hall lettings	13,219	0	0	13,219	10,587
Income from other church activities	1,459	0	2,300	3,759	1,843
Investment Income					
Dividends and interest	796	2,185	205	3,186	919
Income from Charitable Activities					
Total Parochial Fees income	0	6,854	0	6,854	7,800
Service fee reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Other Incoming Resources					
Insurance claims	250	0	0	250	0
Other income	67	0	19	86	894
Total Receipts	112,274	27,358	4,293	143,925	126,969
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities					
Fundraising costs	0	0	0	0	0
Donations/grants to charities & mission givi	9,025	335	250	9,610	9,687
Local mission & evangelism projects	1,224	8,775	1,668	11,667	7,457
Parish share	68,519	0	0	68,519	65,256
Clergy expenses	859	0	0	859	1,082
Church running costs	17,882	4,224	3,717	25,823	17,735
Churchyard maintenance	2,350	0	0	2,350	2,712
Children/youth work costs	30	0	1,254	1,284	1,294
Parochial fees	0	4,496	0	4,496	4,642
Management and Administration					
Salaries and wages	6,596	0	0	6,596	11,480
Support costs	0	0	0	0	0
Administration costs	1,896	0	438	2,334	2,163
Insurance costs	3,838	0	0	3,838	3,740
Sundry expenses	664	0	0	664	3,044
Total Expenditure	112,883	17,830	7,327	138,040	130,292
Receipts over Expenditure	-609	9,528	-3,034	5,885	-3,323
Funds Opening Balance 1.1.2023	35,960	82,984	147,040	265,984	269,319
Net movement between fund categories	-2900	-205	3105	0	0
Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2023	32,451	92,307	147,111	271,869	265,996



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote,
Gloucester

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31-December-2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1133978

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2023**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me
cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: J Wilce

Date: 14/02/2024

Name: Janet Wilce

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod representatives are Margaret Edwards and Doreen Mclellan. Jean Thomas completed her term of office during 2023.

At the February meeting we had a presentation from Rev. Dr. Canon Sandra Miler, who spoke about using our baptisms, weddings and funerals as stepping stones to growing faith. These life events provide opportunities to engage and create relationships.

The May meeting began with a Eucharist, followed by a short business meeting.

At the July meeting Rev. Jo Pestell, Area Dean, and Andy Wilson, Church Army officer, led a discussion looking at different ways we are being church across our Deanery, including joint mission events we engage in with other worshipping communities (within the Church of England and ecumenically). At this meeting Mary Gould and Andy Wilson were re-elected as Lay Chair and Deputy Lay Chair respectively. Justine Sullivan was appointed as secretary and Dr. Jane Orr was re-appointed as treasurer.

At the November meeting we had a presentation from Jodie Calcutt from Stroud, who spoke about collaboration across Stroud in life events, hall hire and administration. This was followed by questions and discussion.

The Diocesan Strategic Plan was discussed at each meeting and quarterly updates were issued. A prayer cycle to pray for each parish in the Deanery was set up and Hucclecote offered to be the first parish in the cycle.

Doreen Mclellan

CHURCH FABRIC STATUTORY REPORT 2023

Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measures 1991 St Philip and St James Church, Hucclecote

The most visible area of concern in the church is the black mould and flaking paint on the internal walls. Earlier in 2023 a budget was agreed for the architect to advise on the redecoration of the walls. The architect visited in August and took samples for testing. Subsequently David Arnold, our surveyor, invited a representative from Keim Mineral Paints Ltd to visit our church in October to see if their paint system would meet our needs. Their recommendation is to remove all mould residue and loose paint, apply a fixative solution to the sound paint to bond the paint layers to each other and to the underlying plaster. When this has cured a top coating of permeable paint can be applied. A church redecoration proposal has been approved by PCC. In 2024 we plan to prepare a technical specification for approval by the diocese, then start fundraising and seeking grants.

The under-sink storage water heater in the kitchenette was replaced as it was faulty. The annual gas safety inspection on the boiler was carried out, as well as the annual electrical earth safety check. The fire extinguishers have also been inspected.

Our video projector was proving to be unreliable, so the projector and screen were removed and replaced with a wall mounted HD computer monitor, connected by HDMI cable to the computer. A connection box on the wall below the monitor enables laptops to be connected at the front of church. In the process of installing the new monitor it was found that our hearing loop did not meet current regulations, so a new compliant hearing loop was installed at ground level. These changes have resulted in significant improvements to the visual and sound quality for our church family. In both cases, List B applications were made and approved by the diocese.

The following urgent tasks listed in the 2021 Quinquennial Report have not been carried out during 2023: removal of moss and debris from gutters (carried out since), check loose/displaced stonework on Chancel East Gable, check stability of ceiling plaster in South Porch. The following overdue tasks are outstanding: minor repairs to roof tiling and cover flashings, investigate condition of West Porch timber roof deck, re-roofing of West Porch roof, urgent repairs to rainwater goods, Chancel East Gable stonework repairs, repairs to Vicar's vestry lath and plaster ceiling, minor repairs to surface water drainage, point up movement cracks in South Porch. We will endeavour to carry out as many of these tasks as possible in 2024 subject to availability of funds.

Churchwardens - Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to leadership and ministry in our church over the last year. My thanks need to go to Kevin and Chris for their leadership as Church Wardens this year. Their calm, pragmatic and faithful approach to their roles have been a real source of blessing. They have been a great support to me and ensured that the church has continued to move forward during this time of vacancy.

A huge thank you to Miriam who has been a great source of support and encouragement over this year. It has been wonderful to see her many gifts on display and has really added to the depth of preaching and leading not just on a Sunday. Thank you too, to Jane for her involvement in Sunday ministry as well as funerals and being part of the Messy Church team. Messy Church has been something that has continued to go from strength to strength and I am really grateful to Judy, Dianne and the whole of the Messy Church team for their continued efforts and the blessing that they are on our families. We have also been blessed by Lee, Cecilia and their music groups. This aspect of our worship is a real strength and continues to be a blessing to our congregation week by week.

One of the many positive aspects of our church, at the moment, is the number of ministries that continue to speak hope and love into the lives of a wide section of our community. Thank you to everyone who is involved in an aspect of ministry in church. Whether it be Lunch Club, Community Garden, CAMEO, Flowers, Teddy Bears, Coffee Pot or any other aspect of church ministry life I want to thank you all for your hard work, commitment and desire to see Jesus made known.

We have worked hard this year to increase our presence of prayer and it has been wonderful to see the number of times members of the congregation gathered for prayer increase. The monthly prayer days have been a real source of encouragement to all.

Another new aspect of our ministry this year has been our increased focus on children and young people. We have continued the wonderful work started by Amy with our youth work in Core but have also returned to having children's groups in the 10:30 service. Although there are only a small number of children and young people, I feel that this has begun to ensure that our children and young people can encounter Jesus at a level appropriate to them. Thank you to all those who volunteer to work with our young people. This will continue to be a big part of our focus as we move forward into 2024 and beyond.

One big change this year was stopping the monthly Sunday evening service. We will wait to see how things may change again when a new incumbent arrives.

Rev Duncan Hutchison

2. PRAYER AND WORSHIP

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

A huge thank you to all those who have contributed to the leadership and ministry of the church in 2023 especially as the church went into vacancy at the end of August. Duncan finished his curacy and became Associate Priest in June 2023 in time to take on many extra responsibilities in leading worship and preaching along with Miriam and Jane from August when we bid farewell to Mark to his new post as chaplain at Exeter school. Archdeacon Hilary took two services for us in October. Bishop Rachel took a service in June to celebrate the community garden and led and preached at our Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. Christmas services were much better attended in 2023 than we had seen since pre-pandemic. Part of this may have been due to publicising through social media and local Facebook community groups as well as more active use of our website on A Church near You.

Most Sundays at 8:30 our hymns were accompanied on the organ. Our two able and committed worship groups led by Lee and Cecilia lifted our hearts in worship at 10:30 services while Duncan stepped in on the guitar or keyboard when neither Lee or Cecilia were available.

Many other volunteers helped our services happen and we are very thankful for each one who serves on a rota. We tried to spread the load by approaching new people to take on different roles and are grateful to several who agreed to step up. There is still a need particularly for intercessors at 8:30, and PA and computer operators at 10:30.

Without prayer our work for the Lord is in vain, so we continued in our efforts to increase the level of corporate prayer happening in and around our church community. The meetings initiated in autumn 2022 – a weekly half hour prayer on a Monday morning at 9am and ¾ hour on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm – have continued with encouraging response. The Saturday morning prayer group takes place on Zoom on the first, fourth and fifth Saturdays of the month and in church the others.

New prayer initiatives in 2023 were as follows:

- 40 attended our first Church Prayer Breakfast in January where we prayed for each church activity and its leadership and volunteers.
- In addition to the Saturday morning prayer in church on Messy Church days (2nd Saturday), we trialled a monthly drop-in to church for prayer from 9am-11am on the third Saturday of the month. It was encouraging to see a number come in although towards the end of the year there were fewer, perhaps understandably considering weather and the busyness of the season.
- In September the 2-hour 9-11am time slot was extended to mid-afternoon with the theme of 'Praying for fruit that will last,' and a variety of optional activities such as prayer walking planned. One hour in the morning saw a good number of church members join to pray particularly for the vacancy process. The morning was more popular than the afternoon.

Our Monday, Wednesday and Saturday prayer times are open to all. There is no agenda. We generally read either a psalm or a selection of the reading from the previous Sunday and pray as led with the focus on church life and activities. There is no compulsion to pray aloud. If you have never attended any of these groups, why not give it a go in 2024? It is so good to bring issues to the Lord together in prayer and when the disciples prayed together in Acts 4, the whole place shook! May the Lord himself fuel our prayers and use them for his glory.

Miriam Davis

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN

JUNIOR CHURCH (SUNDAYS)

Apart from an All-Age service at 10.30am when there is a Baptism, the children attending church leave to have their own time of teaching and activity in the Stone Building. They return at the end of the service in time for the last hymn, or Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday. Mark, Amy and Duncan used to take charge of this but obviously alternatives were needed after the departure of Mark and Amy, and Duncan being occupied leading the church service. The Standing Committee felt we needed to keep this going, because although we only have a small number of children and young people, they are valued and important. A team of volunteers work in pairs to help out with Junior Church and we, as a church, are very grateful for their preparation time and commitment to this ministry. The age range of possible attenders on a Sunday morning is from 13 years to 2 years so the preparation, planning and delivery of the subject is very challenging, but we are building good relationships with them and we continue to pray that more children and young people will join us.

Margaret Edwards + team (Pat Dabbs, Tina Knight, Judith Manns, Doreen McLellan, Chris Scourfield. Judy Preece)

COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot is based in the Church Centre and runs from 10:00am until 11:30am on a Tuesday morning in term time. We try to show the love of God to all who attend through our care and consideration for them regardless of who they are or what their circumstances.

The number of families fluctuates from week to week but the atmosphere is always welcoming and friendly. This past year it has been a blessing to see the children change, almost week by week, as they grow in confidence, and to watch friendships develop amongst the little ones and those who bring them. There is plenty of time for play, to participate in craft activities, share snacks, listen to stories and sing. Over the year we will hear a mixture of stories around a termly theme, some of which will be from the Bible. Three times a year we have a short service – at Harvest, Christmas and Easter – led by one of the clergy team.

On a personal level, I would like to say a huge thank you to my team - Rhianydd Warren, Linda Weedon, Susan Taylor, Pat Peachey and Josie Cumberbatch - who selflessly give of their time week in and week out to ensure that all who attend are supported, encouraged and helped where necessary.

Peggy Brown

P & J TEDDY BEARS TODDLER GROUP

2023 was another busy and successful year for our group meeting at Pineholt Village Hall. We usually have 15 families attending on a Friday morning, with many of those families having more than one child including two sets of twins. If all 22 of our registered families came on the same day, we would be seriously overcrowded but God provides the right number of families and the correct ratio of volunteers, each week.

The children enjoy a themed craft activity, Playdough, lots of toys and puzzles, a story (with lots of actions and characterisations) followed by a short reflection and prayer, then a snack time. We end the session with singing which now includes a selection of Christian songs with actions.

Most of our families attend the monthly Messy Church sessions and some attend other social events put on at Church. Having introduced a box for Prayer requests we now find that the adults just ask us to pray for their particular needs, rather than using the box. They know and trust us and we feel they are moving, albeit slowly, in their faith journey. We have built up very close relationships with the families, as they have with each other and many of them meet up regularly during school holiday times, to support one another.

Huge thanks as ever, go to the team of regular and committed helpers – Kay Galling, Chris Scourfield, Susan Taylor, Jean Thomas, Wendy Vickers, Rhianydd Warren.

Margaret Edwards

MESSY CHURCH

Another year has slipped by and 10 Messy Churches have taken place. To be clear, not every activity is actually messy but we do try to have crafts and games to suit children of all ages and abilities.

We started the year with a glorious variety of flying birds, insects and animal masks for Creation. Then arks, doves, rain makers and rainbows followed with edible sausage arks with cheese slice sails. Easter came along and crosses were created using nails, gems and stained 'glass'. Little cakes to celebrate the church's birthday were eaten at Pentecost and the church was afire with flames of paper, paint and tissues. Our ingenuity was tested for creating galaxies to illustrate God's promise to Abraham, but they came to life in bottles, painted pictures and biscuits. A large collage picture of Joseph's coat for our next story was created with ribbons and his brothers came to life with thumbprints. We also tested their 'wine' tasting talents with a selection of fruit drinks. Basket making with paper strips brought us to the first part of the Moses story but making an edible toffee crisp basket containing a jelly baby was extremely popular. For the Exodus part of the story, we had the children enjoying the plagues by sampling some dubious smells, painting boils and making Origami frogs. When the Joshua story came around the children had great fun building the walls of Jericho with cardboard boxes and knocking them down with great gusto. They were also encouraged to make a lot of noise with the handmade instruments as they marched around.

None of this would be possible without the amazing team of faithful, enthusiastic and dedicated helpers. They have welcomed lots of families during the year to join in the fun and share the fellowship. The parents feedback has shown that they appreciate the hospitality (especially the hot drinks in lidded cups) and that we are doing something special for them. Saturday afternoons have become a happy meeting place. We pass on one child's comment, "I wish it could be Messy Church every week!"

Judy Preece

OPEN THE BOOK 2023

In January 2023 Open the Book restarted in Hillview Primary School. The team of six storytellers: Philip Wenham, Jean Thomas, Judy Preece, Jane Twitty, Chris and Dianne Brookes, set out to tell 'A Tale of Two Houses' with some trepidation.

Although Open the Book had been taking assemblies in the school for many years, Covid and lockdowns had caused a break for almost 3 years. Consequently, we were aware that the current Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had no experience of Open the Book and didn't know what to expect. With sensitive support from the headteacher, Mrs Helena Armstrong, the children quickly got used to the format of an introduction, a story, a quiet reflection and a simple closing prayer. The children helped with telling the story by being the walls of the houses and creating the sound of the rain. As we left, Helena set a challenge, "I look forward to seeing what the children will do next." Over the next 23 stories we met that challenge ensuring that even the littlest Reception child got to take part.

The team has been challenged, too – many times. We have been shipwrecked from a cardboard boat, thrown into jail (bars made of a painted stair gate), cast into a furnace (a cardboard circle of painted flames), thrown down a well (complete with dangling spiders) and beaten by robbers (not very ferocious Year 2 boys).

Sometimes the stories have many more characters than the six of us can cover. Quick costume changes enabled Jane to appear from 3 different doors to refuse invitations to 'The Big Party' and for Philip to nimbly cross the 'stage' to portray not only the priest and the Levite but the Good Samaritan too.

We do all we can to bring these key Bible stories alive for the children. We have fun doing it but we believe that engaging with the stories will enable the children to remember them. They may not be able to come to church so we are happy to take church to them.

Dianne Brookes

4. MISSION

OUTREACH

Outreach takes place both formally and informally through many activities hosted by our church. In 2023 the Foodbank Hub continued to provide an ever-growing need and was supplemented by the provision of a Warm Space during the winter months in the church centre kitchen next door. Numbers making use of this were low possibly due to poor advertising, something that hopefully will be more effective in future. Thank you, Philip and Doreen McLellan, for your hard work in running this.

Lunch club moved to a new footing as a church ministry in 2023 and was able to restart its provision of delicious hot meals in September after going through a lot of hoops to ensure compliance with the ever-increasing rules and regulations regarding health and safety.

Relationships with Abbeymead Under 5s were strengthened and it was a delight to welcome them and many parents into church for their Nativity in December. Key stage 2 children from Hillview primary school plus many parents also came to church for Harvest and Christingle services. The latter was literally standing room only! Miriam took two assemblies in the autumn and a brief service with Year 5 at the War Memorial.

Many other outreach activities such as Coffee Pot and Teddy Bears, Open the Book, the community garden, Tuesday at Two and Cameo are reported on elsewhere in these pages. Each has an important part to play in connecting with the community.

Miriam Davis

THE HUB

St Philip & St James Church, Hillview Evangelical Church and Hucclecote Methodist Church have worked together for many years to further Christian ministry across Hucclecote. The Covid pandemic brought many challenges and it is only in the past year that the churches have been able to co-ordinate more activities. There are currently two main on-going areas of co-operation.

As before we organised NOAL in December (Nativity on a Lorry) where a group of hardy souls dressed up as characters from the Christmas story to bring the good news of Christ's birth (and chocolates) to folks living in Hucclecote. In advance we had produced a newsletter which was delivered to every home in Hucclecote detailing Christmas church services and other Christmas activities. A choir (from the three churches) visited a local pub to sing carols.

The other main area of working together is the Gloucester Foodbank hub which operates every Wednesday morning at our church hall. It is staffed by volunteers from all three churches. It was initially very quiet but is now much busier. A decision was made in Spring 2023 that we would deliver food and toiletries as well as helping people who come to the hub. We now normally help up to 30 adults and children each week. Many of these live in Brockworth, Churchdown and Coopers Edge.

Thanks to all the people from the three churches who have worked together over the past year to further spiritual and practical ministry in Hucclecote. Special thanks must go to Mike Webber from Hillview Evangelical Church who has co-ordinated our work together.

Phil Mclellan

MISSION TEAM

In 2023 we continued to support our five mission links from the church tithe – The Diocese of Western Tanganyika (four theological students, Lake Tanganyika Theological College in Kasulu and our link parish, Mwilanvya); OMF International and the Pawsons in Japan; Scripture Union UK and the Reaching the 95% of children and young people not in church project; Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank.

2023 spring saw David and Manuela Pawson with Esther, Gideon and Daniel move into their fourth year in Japan with OMF International and their second year as part of the OMF church planting team in the largely un-churched city of Hanamaki in a rural area of N.E Honshu, Japan's main island. Despite some dips in energy levels for David during the year, he preached several times in Japanese and the family made many friends with neighbours and kindergarten mothers. They sent video updates and prayer letters faithfully throughout the year.

A very successful 'A glimpse of Japan' event was held in church in January 2023 with a number of Japanese families from Worcester, as well as the help of Wendy Vickers who introduced many people to haiku poetry writing, and Revd Oliver Strange, from the Evenlode Vale Benefice, who hosted a table about 'anime'. This event drew in around 60 people and fulfilled its purpose of deepening our understanding of the culture in which our mission partners, the Pawson family are working. Another purpose was providing an opportunity to connect with many in the community who would not usually come to church. The value of this was demonstrated, for example, when two local ladies commented 'We've only been to this church for funerals before. How do we find out about other fun things like this!'

Gloucester City Mission: Margaret Edwards organised an October Sleepout in church to raise funds for GCM and the Stolen Chocolates jazz concert hosted by the Thorntons was also very successful, both as an event attracting non church goers, and in raising contributions for GCM.

Tanzania: It was a delight to welcome Bishop Emmanuel to our 10:30 service in November during his visit to Gloucester Diocese following the Lambeth conference for new bishops. Alison Dight hosted him for several days and both she and Judith Manns continued to be very active as part of the team that promotes the link with DWT on behalf of Gloucester Diocese.

Scripture Union: Hannah Legge, Cheltenham based Mission Enabler for the SU Central England Team, inspired many of us at both Sunday services on May 21st 2023 and challenged us about the vital need to reach young people. Subsequently Chris Brookes gathered a number of interested people together

on two occasions for discussion on 'Reaching the 95%' (i.e. The children and young people who have no contact with church.) A number of great ideas were put forward though during the vacancy we do not have the resources to implement many. One step forward is being made in the effort to be more intentional in following up baptism families by, for example, sending baptism anniversary cards. Some were encouraged to be more intentional also with Messy Church and toddler group contacts.

We continued with a monthly mission slot in services on the third Sunday of each month. A big thank you to the mission team members and all who volunteered their time to help host events and to all who gave generously.

Miriam Davis, Mission Team Chair

5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE

DISCIPLESHIP

It has been wonderful to see signs of God at work in lives of people within the church. Home groups continue to be a big aspect of our discipleship programme and they are going from strength to strength. Through the help of Brian Trott and Chris Scourfield our young people continue to be discipled in their faith and are developing in their love of Jesus. It has been wonderful to see the baptism by full immersion of a member of own congregation and to witness the journey she has been on with her own faith.

Although they are often unseen, we cannot forget the depth of conversations that happen in Lunch Club, Messy Church, Teddy Bears and Coffee Pot. These may not always be seen traditionally as people being discipled, we know that a huge part of people's Christian journey is about belonging and acceptance. It is in the belonging of these groups that discipleship takes its early roots and although we pray for more opportunities to help people to grow and nurture their faith, I am truly grateful for these examples of the beginnings of a faith journey.

As we move through 2024, we continue to look a number of discipleship courses that we may use in order to support the development of faith. We hope that this will be a blessing to a many more people in our wider community, including those we have made contact with through baptism.

Rev Duncan Hutchison

HOME GROUPS

Four home groups for bible study and fellowship met regularly throughout 2023. Three groups meet in the evening – two on Thursdays and one on Tuesday. One Thursday group and the Tuesday group meet on zoom with an occasional in-person social. The Wednesday afternoon group meets at 2:30 in the Church Centre Kitchen.

The Wednesday group was the largest with numbers of up to 12 gathering. However, ill health, other commitments and a move out of the area for one couple meant that numbers dropped to around 6-7 at the end of the year. The group had a tea-time social in the summer inviting others and in December visited Pam Henning (the former leader of the group) to sing carols. Various people led studies from 100 Stand Alone Bible studies up to the summer, then in autumn the group started to read through John's gospel.

The Tuesday evening group went from 8 members to 6 when Mike and Joy Noah moved in December. Study topics included: Learning from the life of Jesus, 100 Stand Alone Bible Studies; Lent, 100 Stand Alone Bible Studies; themes from the four gospels, 100 Stand Alone Bible Studies; How to hear God, Pete Greig. Highlights for this group were

learning through Pete Greig's book about the different ways we can hear from God; using Lectio 365 app for daily prayers and social evenings.

The in-person Thursday group consists of eight members, one of whom joined during 2023 while another is currently housebound. Themes included 'Real Prayer', Church Feast Days and Romans.

The Thursday Zoom group is a small group of 6, not all of whom are able to meet every week. They have been studying the book of Isaiah.

A big thanks to all our group leaders. All groups are open to newcomers and is a great way of supporting one another and deepening our faith. Please speak to Miriam if you are interested in joining a group. We add regularly to the Bible study resources for home groups (also great for individual use) on the shelves in the outer office of the Stone Building, and anyone is welcome to borrow these for personal or group use.

Miriam Davis

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team has been in existence for two years and although it is a small team, it is a very caring and dedicated group. There are several groups and activities happening within the Church life and the leaders of those groups are responsible for the care of their members.

The team aims to keep people feeling connected with church life when members are not able to attend either through illness, frailty or general circumstances either temporarily or permanently. Several church members have had spells in hospital this last year and visits have been made to different hospitals across the county. Holy Communion can be taken to members who request it, at home or in hospital.

We have knitted some small "prayer squares", embossed with a cross, that we give to our members that we visit, together with a note reminding them of God's love and our prayers.

Everyone in the Church has a role to play in pastoral care and can care/phone/visit people who have not been to church or are in need. Please let Pat know if you are doing this.

We also contact bereaved families after a funeral service has taken place in the parish and on the first anniversary of the death. We attend the annual memorial service, being available to pray with anyone and giving the prayer squares. Pastoral care is a privilege and a great joy getting to know members of our fellowship in greater depth, hearing the wonderful stories of their childhoods and youth. The team is dedicated and committed. Please pray that God will lead our actions/visits/words/prayers, that we may be sensitive to the needs of the people being visited and their partners and that we may have the gift of love and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pat Dabbs - Coordinator

6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

GROUND AND BUILDINGS

Stone Building, Church Centre, Youth Centre, Gordon Rooms & Site.

Church Centre Site. Overall, the site is in an acceptable state and is generally clear of rubbish. A cracked drain cover in the car park requires replacing; a replacement is available in the garage. The garden areas have been maintained and the grass cut regularly. The Larkhay Rd boundary fence needs repainting. Weeds have been kept under control with weed killer but it isn't as effective as it used to be. The growth coming over the fence on the east side of the car park was cut back and weeds on the boundary in front of the Youth Centre cleared.

Heating and Fire Extinguishers. All of the heating systems had their annual safety checks in August and were satisfactory. The boiler in the Youth Centre was installed some 30 years ago and will undoubtedly need replacing at some point. It is living on borrowed time. Some of the fire extinguishers were due to be tested in August 2023 but it was considered more cost effective to replace them. The remainder were inspected and all found to be satisfactory.

Stone Building. The building is considered to be in a reasonable condition. The entrance door has been repainted blue and this has enhanced the look of the building. Further windows were redecorated leaving 3 to be done. Some re-pointing of the stonework is required, especially on the east wall and some of the coping stones on the south east corner will need replacing at some time in the future. There are some slipped tiles but there isn't any water ingress as there is roofing felt under the tiles. Inside the building there are some areas where paint and plaster are coming off the walls. There are also skirting boards that have been affected by wet rot and need replacing. The lighting in the office area has been upgraded to LED panels and a broken wall mounted mains socket replaced. The failed outside light on the east wall has been replaced.

Church Centre. The chimney breast and ceiling in the northwest corner of the hall requires redecorating. The exterior woodwork requires repainting. The roof has loose ridge tiles and broken tiles that need attention. The external walls around the ladies and gents' toilets need rebuilding and the toilets require refurbishing. The kitchen would benefit from re-modelling to bring it up to date in line with current standards and use. Basically, the whole building is in need of refurbishment and modernising. All of the curtains in the hall need replacing along with the curtain rails. Remedial electrical work increased the size of the mains tails on the 100 amp fuses to 25 mm and the old office circuit had an RCBO fitted as it wasn't protected with a residual current device. The failed outside light on the east side of the building was replaced. A hand operated fire alarm and fire action notices were put in place.

Youth Centre & Gordon Rooms. In both buildings the uprights on some of the reinforced concrete portals supporting the roof need repairing. This can only be carried out by specialist repairers. The corrugated asbestos cement roof panels on both buildings are deteriorating and need attention as they are starting to develop holes. In the Gordon Rooms remedial electrical work included the replacement of a bulkhead light fitting and securing loose wiring. Other minor repairs were carried out. There needs to be a decision about the future of these two buildings.

The Garage. The garage continues to be serviceable but has a temporary repair on the roof at the main door end. There are broken concrete panels in the wall, but the garage is still secure.

Planning for The Future. A long-term plan is required for the Church Centre, the Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms so that money spent on repairs isn't wasted by future changes.

Tom Brown
G&B Chair

7. ADMINISTRATION

STAFFING

Our priest in charge, Mark Close, left in August after six years to take up a new role as school chaplain to Exeter School. Mark will be much missed for his challenging evangelical sermons and humorous banter with his son Archie in our Sunday family services. We wish him every blessing in his new job. Huge thanks also to Mark's wife Amy who led our CORE youth group and organised the very popular Christmas Make-It event.

Duncan and Miriam have been doing a great job leading us through the time of vacancy. In addition to our Sunday services which they have shared with Jane, Duncan has also led on baptisms and Miriam on funerals as well as school services. It has been a great blessing to have three such experienced clergy during this time. Huge thanks are due to all three for their commitment and enthusiasm, especially with Duncan continuing to work full time in education.

Our administrator Liz left us at the end of 2022. We greatly appreciate the huge amount of work that Liz did running our church office and dealing with the many requests for weddings, baptisms, funerals and church centre bookings. Thanks to Margaret and others who filled in until we were able to recruit Louisa as our new administrator. Louisa has settled in well and quickly got up to speed with the many varied aspects of the role.

Huge thanks to Lee, continuing in his role as Treasurer, and to Margaret as our PCC Secretary, to Rhianydd and Peggy who stood down as churchwardens earlier in the year, for all they have done, much of which goes unseen. Grateful thanks also to our readers Allan, Tim and Ruth who retired after long service to our church.

Churchwardens - Kevin Hobbs and Chris Brookes

SAFEGUARDING

At St Philip & St James Church, the PCC take seriously their legal duties to promote a safe environment for all, working closely with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. In our responsibility for the protection of Vulnerable Adults and Children & Young People (Under 18s), we follow the advice given to PCCs and the necessary legal documents are on display in church and in our church buildings where our activities occur. Safeguarding Training to at least Basic level is mandatory for all PCC members and to Foundation level for those who volunteer with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding Training is available and encouraged for any of our church members who would like to know more.

We have a legal duty to have the statutory documents (as listed below) on display after approval and adoption by the PCC on their meeting on March 13th 2024.

The full versions of the documents are available in the Church Office or available electronically on request by contacting the church office or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

2024 Safeguarding Policy.

Promoting a Safer Church - Parish Safeguarding Handbook (Oct 2018 version)

Types of Abuse (including signs and symptoms)

Poster with details of Safeguarding Officer

Canon Margaret Edwards
Parish Safeguarding Officer

8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNICATION

Following the PCC meeting last May it was agreed that a Communications team should be formed, to explore how best to communicate internally to our church members, and externally to the wider community, also via social media and the church website. A meeting was subsequently arranged for 3rd July and following this meeting, we have been working hard to raise our profile via social media and improve all aspects of our communication.

We have added to our church profile on A Church Near You (ACNY); an online church finder tool run by the Church of England which offers free websites for churches. This enables members of the public to more easily find information about our church when searching for churches in this area. The long-term plan is for this website on ACNY to supersede our current website, which will save us money by not needing to pay the yearly subscription fee for the current church website domain.

Following consultation with church members, the weekly notice sheet has been resurrected. This includes the readings for the forthcoming service, a prayer list, weekly calendar of events and details of regular groups. This notice sheet is emailed to the church distribution list as well as posted online via the church website and the church profile on ACNY. Miriam Davis has worked hard to improve and widen our reach via social media, with regular updates being posted on both Facebook and Instagram and short news items about church activities on ANCY.

We have a team account on the website Canva which enables us to create eye-catching posters for events which take place here.

We are making more use of our public noticeboards and event notices around the church site. We have also purchased a Christmas banner which along with banners for Messy Church and Saturday Open for prayer Days are displayed on the hedge at the corner of Larkhay Road and the main Hucclecote Road, in order to attract interest from passers-by. We are planning to install a new administration system which will improve and professionalise internal communications from the church office.

Work will continue into the next year. The team are open to any other ideas and suggestions which will assist in continuing to ensure that our church is well publicised and that all communication is of a high standard and meets the church and church members' needs.

Louisa Scrivener

HUCCLECOTE COMMUNITY GARDEN

It has been another successful year in the Community Garden; our third since the start of the project in 2021. During 2023 we built thirty raised beds, refurbished a garage into a fully equipped potting shed, made a start on converting another garage into a workshop, and began the rebuilding of a derelict unit into The Cottage where we will be able to make cups of tea and shelter from the weather when needed. The garden also has a vegetable plot, herb garden, fruit trees and bushes, and several benches and seats.

We were thrilled to have two visits from Bishop Rachel (who planted a tree) and from Bishop Emmanuel of the Diocese of Western Tanganyika as part of his visit to the church in November. We also held two very successful Open Days in May and August when we welcomed new faces, provided tea and cake, and sold some of our produce, helping to raise funds for our ongoing costs. We successfully applied for several grants towards the building of the garden.

It is a joy to see church members and those of the local community working together on this project. Some value the garden for companionship and social interaction; some are finding it is increasing their confidence and skills after illness,

job loss, or while seeking asylum from religious persecution in their homeland; others like to feel that they're contributing positively to their neighbourhood. All ages and abilities have found something that they can do; such as gardening, painting, or being a friendly ear to those who call by for a chat. We do not aim to be overtly evangelical, but we can show that the church cares about the parish; and we are open to those who ask for prayer or are exploring faith.

The garden is open twice a week (Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon), while access is available at any time for those who have one of the raised beds to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Alison Dight, Alan Preece

MOTHERS' UNION

Although the members who attend the monthly meetings are small in number, they are committed and faithful. During 2023, we have enjoyed sessions led by our members and other members of our church family. Birthday cards are distributed to members and those who are ill are visited. Joy Noah had been responsible for this visiting until she and Mike moved away, at the end of the year. Although the move was good for them, we shall miss Joy so much, not only for this role but also as one of our regular attenders at meetings.

We have also celebrated the MU Wave of Prayer in early September and host a Summer of Hope Coffee Morning to raise funds for Mothers' Union Worldwide. On Mothering Sunday, flowers are distributed to the congregation at both services, together with a Mothers' Union bookmark. Our Christmas social was a visit to the restaurant at Prinknash Abbey and the group have met for coffee and cake at Coffee 43, to support local business. Three of our members attended the Annual Gathering in York in September.

Jean Thomas, Branch Leader

SOCIAL EVENTS TEAM

The social committee was reinstated in February 2023 with the aim of organising social events outside of mission planned events. Any proposed events together with details are presented to either PCC or Standing Committee for their agreement before progressing.

A coffee morning was held in May in aid of Christian Aid. In October a Jazz Concert was held in church featuring The Stolen Chocolates, money was raised for the Church and Gloucester City Mission. With cost in mind, a 'bring and share' lunch was held after the 10.30 service to celebrate Harvest. The final event for 2023 was a coffee morning/market which was held at the beginning of December which raised money for the Church and Food Bank.

Thank you to all the social committee for their help and support over 2023.

Rhianydd Warren

LUNCH CLUB 2023

2023 has been a year of highs and lows for Lunch Club. The year began well in January, with guests and volunteers returning after the Christmas break. At this time, we began looking at what measures needed to be put in place in order that Lunch Club could be officially recognised as being a part of St. Philip & St. James outreach ministry to the elderly and lonely in our community. We envisaged this was going to be a gradual process of addressing what would be required, step by step, whilst Lunch Club continued. It was a shock to the team and guests in February to be informed that Lunch Club was to cease cooking and serving meals with immediate effect.

As our guests put great value upon the fellowship which they enjoy, sharing a meal together, we were able to arrange to continue meeting regularly either at the Wagon and Horses, or having a picnic in the church centre over the summer. Our thanks to all who encouraged us, and prayed that Lunch Club would be able to restart. Special thanks must be given to Marilyn Sharland, Alison Dight and Wendy Vickers for all their support, and to Chris Brookes for his diligence in guiding us through all the necessary forms and paperwork.

September 21st. was a day of joy and celebration as. twenty guests once again sat down to a cooked meal and we were awarded a Five Star Food Hygiene rating!

Lunch Club is now a recognised church outreach ministry, meeting fortnightly, serving delicious meals, enabling guests to enjoy fellowship, chatting together and developing new friendships The atmosphere in the church centre is so warm and happy.

The now smaller team of helpers together with guests sat down to a traditional Christmas dinner (thank you cooks!) and were entertained once again with a visit from Hillview School choir, leading carol singing.

Margaret Wenham on behalf of the Lunch Club team

TUESDAY @ TWO

Twice monthly, on a Tuesday afternoon a regular group of keen games players have continued to meet in the centre kitchen to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship whilst being a bit competitive. There are two or three tables busy concentrating on playing Canasta which is popular and quite easy to pick up, even if you haven't played it before. Another group prefers to play word and board games like Scrabble, Lexicon, Up-words. There is quite an assortment of games available.

The afternoon always ends with everyone seated together, chatting with a well-earned cup of tea, and sampling a slice of delicious homemade cake. Victoria sponge, Coffee & Walnut, Carrot, Marmalade cakes are firm favourites.

All are welcome to come and join us.

Margaret & Philip Wenham

CHURCH FLOWERS

It's a pleasure to meet on Friday mornings when we arrange flowers for the services. We were happy to recruit a new member to the team this last year – Andrea Reynolds – who has fitted in wonderfully and is responsible for the lovely table arrangements in church. We only had one Wedding requesting flowers this year which we enjoyed arranging but as it was during Lent they had to be removed afterwards. The couple were very fortunate to be able to have the arrangements/flowers to give to their guests!

We made 70 Mothers' Day posies on behalf of Mothers' Union. Easter Flowers were beautiful. Harvest was special with some of the produce displayed coming from the Community Garden. We so enjoyed doing the Christmas arrangements and this year Bishop Rachel even commented on how beautiful the Church looked – praise indeed – but we do it to glorify God's house.

Thanks to the dedicated team who come each week and those who help, with the festivals. Thanks to all who make donations or comment on our arrangements – it means a lot.

Jenny Barton

C.A.M.E.O (COME AND MEET EACH OTHER)

We had a good year starting with an Eco-Friendly evening, followed by a craft evening where we all made a birthday card and gift box. It was lovely to see Anne Thomas with her book *A Citadel of Ice* and how she came to write it. The Cobalt team came to tell us all about their new scanners (and what our Penny Pots go towards). The Gloucester Film Company showed us places around the city which no longer exist and Kath Perks brought her Jewellery to show us and how she makes it and we were able to buy. We had many other speakers too.

Our summer outing was to Trioscape, where we were treated to a wonderful afternoon tea and after we were able to look around the Garden Centre.

Our number have been steadily increasing over the year and we have a good and varied programme for 2024. We would welcome new members – why not give Cameo a try.

Jenny Barton

9. CHARITABLE SUPPORT

CHRISTIAN AID 2023

Christian Aid has been active in working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Working on topics as diverse as emergency response, accountability, peace-building, health, land rights, tax justice and helping communities adapt to climate change.

When Storm Daniel hit Libya in September and two dams burst with more than 11,300 people known to have died as a result, Christian Aid responded, working with Dan Church Aid, its Act Alliance partner, long established in Libya, in sending emergency supplies, including medical assistance, supplies and pharmaceuticals, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene kits and food.

As if responding to the catastrophic aftermath of natural disasters isn't enough in the world today, the invasion by Russian forces in Ukraine entering a second year has meant that millions of Ukrainians are living in damaged homes or in buildings which do not provide sufficient protection. Christian Aid is working with partners to provide hope and to ensure people survive and rebuild.

Christian Aid partners in Gaza are responding as best they can. Working under intense pressure and where it's extremely dangerous to move around, and supplies of essentials are running perilously low, seeking to bring medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation and cash. This includes building mobile bathrooms in four shelters to working with local farmers to get fresh vegetables for families that have left their homes to escape airstrikes. Christian Aid is also working with Zochrot, an Israeli civil society organisation based in Tel Aviv, to provide trauma based psychological assistance to Israelis who have been affected by this violent conflict.

Thank you to all who contributed to Christian Aid Week 2023., via either the online envelope account, red envelopes, Christian Aid bucket collection. The total raised was £246-60. The Christian Aid coffee morning/ mini-market and sale of preserves over the year resulted in a further £802-55, making a grand total of £1049-15.

Please support Christian Aid Week 2024, May 12th - 18th.

Philip Wenham Christian Aid representative

Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council
Of
St Philip & St James
Hucclecote**

**Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2022**

Priest in charge report 2022

At the end of this year I think we can finally say this is the year that we began to move beyond Covid and the restrictions it placed on us as a worshipping community. I can say without doubt that leading a church through this pandemic has been one of the toughest roles I have ever had to take on in ministry. It has been demanding in ways I never expected, but the hardest part has been the way it put a complete stop to the vision and direction we had begun to travel as a church. You may remember that towards the end of 2019 we had begun to reshape our church community around discipleship and evangelism and we had invested a serious amount of time and energy into that vision. Overnight we had to move from an attitude of outreach to survival. This year we have begun to be able to assess where we are, and the truth is this. We are lower in numbers, we are tired and stretched, but we are still here and we believe God still has plans and purposes for us. Indeed, we have seen some real hope in the ministries of this church, many of the people involved in these ministries have been willing to seek God's vision for our growth and embrace a desire to see God at work in us and through us.

I do not know what lies ahead for us as a church, I am sure 2023 will bring us some serious challenges and opportunities. It is up to us as a church to share this call and ministry together. To step up to the challenges, to seize the opportunities. It will take each and every one of us to ask the question, how is God calling me to minister at this time, and perhaps being willing to respond to God's call in ways we have not done before, or did not expect to do again. The fact that you are reading this means that you have stuck with this church through a really tough time, thank you for that, let's pray that God will lead his people in this place into the mission and ministry he has for his church here.

Mark Close

Churchwardens Report

2022 has been a year of consolidation and trying new things after two years of disruption as a result of the pandemic. We would like to express our thanks to Mark as he continues to lead us, and to Miriam, Duncan, Jane and Tim who support Mark. All make a huge contribution to the life of our church and have valuable insights into how we can reach out to the local community. Our thanks are also expressed to Liz in the office as she has continued to go above and beyond the call of duty in ensuring that the administrative side of the church is always in order.

As a church we also need to be thankful for the many people who voluntarily give of their time and talents to ensure that things run smoothly. The treasurer's job is huge – thank you Lee for sorting out the many issues you have faced over the last year, for keeping the accounts up to date and ensuring the PCC is informed of where we are and the challenges we will face. Thank you also to Tom and Graham for continuing to try and keep up with the myriad of maintenance jobs that seem to be never ending. Graham has now had to step back from the practical work – thank you Graham for your many years of service to this church. New volunteers are required to continue with the ongoing maintenance; the alternative is that we bring in contractors and pay for work to be done. There are many other people who contribute to the life of the church and who volunteer week after week to help services run smoothly, provide refreshments, set up beautiful flowers and a myriad of other things – thank you all.

Rhianydd Warren and Peggy Brown
Churchwardens 2022

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative Information

St Philip & St James is situated in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

Church Office
Stone Building
18 Larkhay Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3 NS

Telephone: 01452 372177
Website: www.hucclecotechurch.org
E mail: stpandstj.hucc@mail.com

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
21 Eastgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1NY

Independent Examiner: Janet Wilce

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.
PCC members who have served from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are on page 5.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC 2022- 2023 (after APCM on April 6th 2022)

Incumbent	Revd Mark Close	Chair from September 2017
Ex-Officio	Revd Duncan Hutchison	Curate from June 2020
	Revd Miriam Davis	Ordained Local Minister (OLM) from June 2021
Wardens	Mrs Rhianydd Warren	re -elected 2022
	Mrs Peggy Brown	re-elected 2022
Deanery	Mrs Jean Thomas	re-elected 2020. For 3 years
Synod	Mrs Doreen McLellan	re-elected 2020. For 3 years
	One vacancy	

Elected Members of the PCC (up to 12 in number)

Mr Chris Brookes	re-elected 2022	
Mrs Marion Cook	elected 2020.	
Mrs Josie Cumberbatch	elected 2022	
Mrs Pat Dabbs	elected 2022	
Canon Margaret Edwards	re-elected 2021	Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary
Mr John Grime	re-elected 2022	
Mr Mike Madigan	re-elected 2020	resigned Sept 2022
Mrs Joy Noah	re-elected 2021	Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Judy Preece	re-elected 2020	
Mrs Jane Stock	elected 2022	
Mr Lee Thornton	elected 2020.	Treasurer

Co-opted member Dr Alison Dight from July 2022

1 vacancy on PCC and 1 Synod vacancy

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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.

The PCC is supported in its work by teams whose views and recommendations are taken into account by the PCC when making many decisions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Philip & St James PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Philip & St James Church and associated property. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners and all members of PCC are Trustees of the Charity; as such Hucclecote PCC must adhere to Charity Commission rules and regulations.

2022

For most of this year, pandemic rules of Covid-19 have been lifted and from March, services have returned to being in church, albeit with many remaining cautious of close contact with one another. Diocesan guidelines for the administration of Holy Communion have been followed as a precaution against spreading germs and this continues until the present time (March 2023).

The normal pattern of Sunday services on Sunday has resumed, with 8.30am Holy Communion every week and Morning Worship for most Sundays with a Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and an evening service of Worship and Word on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Additional services in 2022

2nd March - Ash Wednesday

14th April - Maundy Thursday

15th April - Good Friday

6th November - Memorial service

Christmas Activities

Messy Christmas - a very packed church once again and the tree was decorated

Christmas Make It - a fun evening of Christmas crafts

Nativity on a Lorry - icy conditions prevented some from taking part but we hosted the refreshments on 15th December

Carols at the Pub - The Wagon & Horses had invited church members to sing, on 15th December

Carol Service - Sunday 18th December

Crib Service - held on Christmas Eve afternoon

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - Holy Communion services as usual.

Achievements and performance

Sunday attendance figures have started to rise during the year but the numbers are still less than pre-pandemic ones.

Following the PCC Away Day in July, leaders of our church activities have been asked to take as many opportunities as possible to share our faith with those attending these groups, and so making us more 'outward facing' in all we do, as was the Mission plan at the end of 2019, before the Global pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

Margaret Edwards

PCC MEETINGS

It is usual for the PCC to meet bi-monthly and the Standing Committee (Vicar, Curate, OLM, Treasurer, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Administrator) meet on the alternate months; the latter group discuss the general running of the church and the financial status together with any areas of concern and then makes recommendations to the PCC for further discussion.

PCC Agenda items always include a financial report, Safeguarding issues and updates as well as reports from the Standing Committee, the Mission team and Deanery Synod.

At the APCM on April 6th, Rhianydd Warren and Peggy Brown were elected to stand as Churchwardens for the year 2022-2023 and the PCC elections were as follows: Chris Brookes and John Grime were re-elected for a further 3 years and newly elected were Josie Cumberbatch, Pat Dabbs and Jane Stock. The remaining vacancy and the vacancy on Deanery Synod were not filled. The Electoral Roll was 101.

The Statutory and essential reports had been accepted and adopted by the PCC at the meeting on March 9th 2022 in readiness for the APCM.

Tom Brown has continued to carry out inspections of the church buildings and grounds, carries out repairs as necessary and sets the heating clocks in season. This valuable work is much appreciated.

The PCC held an Away Day on Saturday 16th July, led by Revd. Canon Dr. Sandra Millar.

The secretary would like to thank PCC members for their commitment to their duties and attendance at meetings. Also, huge thanks must go to those who volunteer for our church services and the many regular activities taking place on the church site or the ones off-site but under the church umbrella. The giving of time and talents by so many volunteers, means that we can honour God in all we do as a worshipping community.

Margaret Edwards

STATUTORY REPORTS

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022

This is the first full year that the church's usual services, activities and events were not directly disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Total receipts in 2022 were £126,969 and total payments were £130,292, giving an overall deficit across unrestricted, restricted and designated funds of £3,323. This was expected with certain building repair work to the church deferred again.

If the Community garden restricted fund activity is excluded then the deficit would have been £5,165

Receipts

The largest amount of the church's incomes continues to be from planned giving and other donations. The regular planned giving has remained fairly static, but there was a reduction in non-recurring giving. Overall voluntary income in 2022 was £96,720 compared to £102,145 in 2021.

The amounts generated from hall lettings increased from £8,637 in 2021 to £10,587 in 2022.

With the Community Garden, grants totaling £8,000 were received; the balance for money that has not been spent during the year is held in a restricted fund and will support this initiative in the future.

Expenditure

The largest item of expenditure was the Parish Share of £65,256 which is paid to the Diocese to help provide for churches and clergy (this was an increase from 2021 of £4,293)

Church running costs have increased, and reflect the church being open for a full year post Covid and additional expenditure with for instance weekly cleaning costs.

A total of £9,687 was donated as part of our tithe, in line with the budget to: OMF International, Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Foodbank, Scripture Union, a partner church (Mwilanvya in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, Tanzania) and all to support four students at Lake Tanganyika Theological College.

Overall spending was lower than budgeted as a number of repairs were again deferred.

The Community Garden spend is covered by grants received.

Reserves

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance of Unrestricted Funds that equates to a minimum of two months' operating costs, and this is comfortably met. Following the PCC decision in 2019, the designated essential maintenance fund was topped up by £3000 from general funds.

Finance Team

Approved by the PCC on 8th March 2023

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Statement of asset and liability balances as at 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds	31.12.22	31.12.21 £
Charitable Funds					
Restricted Funds					
Ann Smith Bequest	0	4,352	0	4,352	4,352
Boiler	0	20	0	20	20
Building	0	59,720	0	59,720	58,996
Children Worker	0	4,264	0	4,264	4,234
Churchyard Maintenance	0	11	0	11	11
Community Garden	0	4,763	0	4,763	4,000
Local Mission	0	1,643	0	1,643	1,837
Music & Worship	0	891	0	891	891
Olive Withycombe	0	301	0	301	304
Tanzania	0	1,669	0	1,669	1,276
PCC Fund	0	4,850	0	4,850	6,112
Wardens	0	500	0	500	500
Designated Funds					
Church Centre	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Depreciation Fund	0	0	2,221	2,221	2,221
Community Garden	0	0	0	0	920
Computer Fund	0	0	1,785	1,785	1,785
Essential Maintenance	0	0	13,654	13,654	14,568
Coffee Pot	0	0	349	349	243
Teddy Bears	0	0	2,419	2,419	2,724
Treasurers	0	0	4,525	4,525	4,525
Social Fund	0	0	1,477	1,477	1,477
Messy Church	0	0	610	610	0
Unrestricted Funds	35,960	0	0	35,960	38,320
	35,960	82,984	147,040	265,984	269,316
Represented By					
Bank Term Deposit Accounts	0	0	0	0	63,069
Bank Current Accounts	35,960	82,984	27,040	145,984	87,035
Petty Cash	0	0	0	0	0
Total Bank and Cash	35,960	82,984	27,040	145,984	150,104
Liabilities					
Creditors	0	0	0	0	784
Net Current Assets	35,960	82,984	27,040	145,984	149,320
Fixed Assets retained by the charity					
Land and Buildings at historic cost	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Total Net Assets	35,960	82,984	147,040	265,984	269,320

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Tax efficient planned giving	71,255	0	0	71,255	71,140
Other planned giving	6,060	600	5	6,665	6,760
Other giving and donations - non-recurring	1,686	0	325	2,011	6,541
Other giving and donations - recurring	0	0	0	0	0
Special appeals	0	0	0	0	0
All tax recovered through Gift Aid	16,739	0	50	16,789	17,704
Legacies received	0	0	0	0	0
Non-recurring grants	0	8,000	0	8,000	4,000
Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund raising events	206	0	0	206	0
Hall lettings	10,587	0	0	10,587	8,637
Income from other church activities	768	0	1,075	1,843	408
Investment Income					
Dividends and interest	166	753	0	919	488
Income from Charitable Activities					
Total Parochial Fees income	0	7,800	0	7,800	5,884
Service fee reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Other Incoming Resources					
Insurance claims	0	0	0	0	1,739
Other income	599	70	225	894	129
Total Receipts	108,066	17,223	1,680	126,969	123,430
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities					
Fundraising costs					
Donations/grants to charities & mission giving	9,480	207	0	9,687	9,972
Local mission & evangelism projects	0	6,158	1,299	7,457	2,582
Parish share	65,256	0	0	65,256	60,963
Clergy expenses	1,082	0	0	1,082	912
Church running costs	14,217	370	3,148	17,735	12,581
Churchyard maintenance	1,896	0	816	2,712	3,180
Children/youth work costs	103	0	1,191	1,294	631
Parochial fees	0	4,642		4,642	3,550
Management and Administration					
Salaries and wages	11,480	0	0	11,480	10,167
Support costs	0	0	0	0	326
Administration costs	2,163	0	0	2,163	2,608
Insurance costs	3,740	0	0	3,740	3,650
Sundry expenses	1,107	757	1,180	3,044	2,530
Total Expenditure	110,524	12,134	7,634	130,292	113,653
Receipts over Expenditure	-2,458	5,089	-5,954	-3,323	9,777
Funds Opening Balance 1.1.2022	38,320	82,534	148,466	269,320	259,542
Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2022	35,862	87,623	142,512	265,997	269,319



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote,
Gloucester

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31-December-2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1133978

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/ 2022**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me
cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: J Wilce

Date: 23/01/2023

Name: Janet Wilce

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod representatives are Jean Thomas and Doreen McLellan.

During the year there was a lot of further discussion of the Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP) and at the February meeting we were introduced to the facilitator for the Gloucester City Deanery – Revd. Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College. Following a short presentation, he took responses from the floor regarding hopes for the DSP and, towards the end of the business meeting there was discussion on the next steps for the DSP.

In April a facilitated day was held to discuss the DSP. Following this, Rev. Jo Pestell produced a document for Deanery Synod covering what has been done so far and what the next stages are.

At the April Deanery Synod meeting the speaker was Canon Rachel Howie, Diocesan Director of Education. As well as acknowledging the many links parishes have with schools, she shared ideas and resources to help develop links further – and how we can all help. At this meeting Les Reilly stood down as Lay Chair.

The June meeting began with a Eucharist, followed by a short business meeting. At this meeting Mary Gould was elected as Lay Chair and Andy Wilson as Deputy Lay Chair. There was an update on the DSP.

At the November meeting the speaker was Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester. He outlined his role of overseeing what is happening in the Diocese and his aim to have a team of Youth Connectors. There was discussion regarding the challenges facing young people today. A first draft of the DSP was presented to the business part of the meeting. Comments were invited and the draft will go to the Deanery Standing Committee, which will produce a first version for circulation to PCCs.

Doreen McLellan

Church Fabric Statutory Report
Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measures 1991

St Philip and St James Church, Hucclecote

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2022

Generally speaking, the church is in a good state of repair. However, there are areas which continue to be of concern. Most significant, and visible, are the areas of black mould on the walls and flaking paint in a number of areas of the walls in the nave and chancel. The recent cold weather resulted in there being large amounts of paint flakes on the carpet throughout the church. Having gained permission from the DAC to re-decorate, attempts to find contractors to carry out this work have so far been unsuccessful. The areas in the chancel where the plaster had become detached from the walls were repaired during the year. Repairs to the inner vestry ceiling were not completed as anticipated in 2022 and remain to be done along with the investigation of the damp patch on the inner vestry wall.

There are a number of lights high in the nave which no longer work. However, the bulbs are no longer available and we may have to think of replacing the whole system as the dimmer control will not work with LED lamps.

The porch gate was re-painted during the year to match the colour of the main gate.

A baby change unit was fitted to the wall of the toilet area.

General maintenance work is on-going and aims to identify issues and resolve them before they become major problems. A leak on a radiator pipe in the North Aisle was identified during the Christmas period which resulted in the carpet becoming very wet; a temporary 'fix' is in place and this is now being monitored and will be repaired later in the year when the heating is not in use.

The gas safety inspection on the boiler was carried out in September and fire extinguishers have also been inspected.

The external East wall, just below the coping stones, is deteriorating due to becoming damp and subsequent freeze / thaw action. This will have to be repaired.

General grass cutting in the churchyard has continued on a once-a-month basis during 2022. Day to day tidying of graves and cremation plots continues; shrubs next to graves are pruned as necessary. Ivy on the yew trees on the south side of the churchyard was removed where possible. The boundary hedge was trimmed in the autumn.

Churchwardens – Rhianydd Warren and Peggy Brown

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP

Ministry, leadership, Prayer and worship

A huge thank you to all those who have contributed to the leadership and ministry of the church over the last year.

Thank you to Duncan, who has again been a great source of encouragement in his ministry as curate. We are so blessed to have him as part of the team here and we look forward to his curacy being completed soon. We are also so blessed to have Miriam and her wonderful gifts that she gives so freely, her preaching, leading and playing the organ are greatly valued. Jane has been a welcome addition to our preaching and leading teams and she has also been a real blessing to Judy and the Messy Church team. Messy Church continues to be a source of blessing and hope, a massive thank you for the whole team there, especially Judy. Tim has also continued to support our services where his work has allowed. We have also been blessed this year by our music groups Lee and Cecilia leading and the bands which support them. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the team that helps church happen Sunday by Sunday, without your willingness to be on rotas we would not be able to keep the services running.

This year we have continued to move away from online worship, bringing our online morning prayer to an end and phasing out our live streaming of services. We felt that although being online was necessary during the pandemic, we were not able to continue to meet the demands of being both online and in person, and that the quality of what we could produce was not good enough to warrant the huge amount of time and energy that was going in to it.

We have made an effort to increase the level of prayer that is happening in and around our church community. Near the end of the year we initiated a meeting to pray every Monday morning and once a month on a Wednesday evening. It is our belief that when our vision is limited we must turn to prayer, and so this is what we have done.

Other changes we have made this year include a new evening service of worship and word, once a month and we have begun to reimagine our Sunday morning children's work.

Mark Close

2. PRAYER

Prayer

A group meets for prayer on a Saturday morning on-line from 9.00 till 10.00 on Zoom apart from the day of Messy Church when we meet in the church. All are welcome please ask for details of login. Prayer is also on Monday morning at 9.00 and once a month on Wednesday evening at 7.00 in church.

We attended a prayer breakfast on Saturday in January and prayed for different areas the church is involved in; this was led by Miriam.

Members of the 10.30 prayer ministry are still available to pray after the service and also after communion.

Chris Dale

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN

Core Youth Group

Core is a youth group for 11-18 year olds. We meet one a month for 2 hours, in the Stone Building and the evening consists of prayer, Bible study, games, catching up and food! Numbers are unpredictable and we have a few older youth, of 17-18 years and a couple of younger ones at 11 years old. The age gap presents challenges, but in order to keep the group going we have opened it up to those at the start of secondary school.

Amy Close

COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot meets on a Tuesday morning in term time, is based in the Church Centre and runs from 10.00am until 11.30am.

The number of families fluctuates from week to week but the atmosphere is always welcoming and friendly.

The children enjoy playing, doing craft, listening to a story and singing, with the highlight being rolling up the carpets at the end of the session.

Sadly Trevor Henning, due to ill health, was unable to continue to help and has been missed by both the team and the families.

Thanks to the whole team, Peggy Brown, Rhianydd Warren, Linda Weedon, Susan Taylor, Pat Peachey and Josie Cumberbatch who ensure that the families are supported and encouraged as part of the church ministry.

The Coffee Pot Team

TEDDY BEARS Toddler Group

Our regular Friday morning sessions at Pineholt Village Hall remain very popular, with 15 families joining our team of helpers. We meet at 10.00am in term time, and the babies and toddlers enjoy the activities, a story, snack time and some singing, while the adults enjoy chatting to each other or to the volunteers. The older toddlers really enjoy helping us to clear away the toys and we struggle to get them out of the store cupboard. Since September, we have introduced a homily after the story, allowing us to bring God into the session, even if the story is not a Biblical one and we also include a prayer and Grace before our snack time. The adults feel very comfortable now sharing their concerns and problems with us and we offer to pray with them if that feels appropriate. It is a privilege to hold this activity and I am very grateful to the team for their commitment to Teddy Bears. We gained an extra volunteer during the year, when her grandson went to Pre-school she asked if she could continue as a helper as she would miss it so much.

Margaret Edwards (on behalf of the team - Kay Galling, Chris Scourfield, Susan Taylor, Jean Thomas, Wendy Vickers, Rhianydd Warren)

MMESSY CHURCH Report for 2022

If you ever wonder how you can make something edible illustrate a Bible story, then pop into Messy Church sometime and you will find out. Thanks to some very clever imagination and ingenuity a banana, some grapes and a pair of edible eyes are arranged into a picture of Zacchaeus peering out of a tree. Gingerbread men sporting icing bandages help to tell the healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate and yummy Rocky Road bars are the best thing to make when the story is The road to Damascus.

The stories of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost involved the rolling of eggs on to a target, a helium balloon disappearing out of sight and the Vicar up a ladder dropping paper "flames" which spun gently to the floor. Each Messy Church has a dozen or more activities so that every child can find something that they enjoy doing. The happy buzz of voices on a Saturday afternoon is proof of this.

A large group of helpers (25-30) transform the church into a welcoming space for families who, in the main, have no church connection. After making lots of different things to take home we all come together for a time to celebrate, sing, hear (or see) a Bible story, reflect and pray. Whatever stage of their faith journey and whatever age they are, this is the time for them to experience church.

We are so grateful to those who give faithful support through prayer, carrying tables, preparing food, serving hot drinks, manning a craft table, baking cakes and still finding the energy to help with clearing up at the end of the day.

Judy Preece

OPEN the BOOK

There is no report for Open the Book because the team did not return to weekly assemblies at Hillview School until the start of 2023

Dianne Brookes and team.

4. OUTREACH

Outreach

We continue to seek new ways to outreaching both to our community and also to the world through our mission partners. A massive thank you to Miriam and the mission team who have kept us focused on our mission partners both local and global, we have kept up to date with their various missions and ministries through updates and mission slots.

One key area of outreach this year has been our launch of the foodbank hub in our church hall. It has been a joint venture of the Hub churches, mainly working with Hillview church, but we have had a good number of our church members involved also, and it has been an opportunity to show the love of God by service those most in need in our community.

The community garden is another area of real growth and hope. Massive thanks to Alison and Alan who lead that ministry, and all who have got stuck in and help out regularly. It has been a real lifeline for many people and a place where love is shown and hope is felt. It is our hope that this ministry continues to bloom and bless the community.

Many other people have been reached and supported this year through our other ministries, particularly through messy church and our parent and toddler groups.

Mark Close

The HUB

Although the Hub has been limited in its function this year, we were able to continue with the NOAL (nativity on a lorry) this year, as well as sing carols at Christmas in the pub. The major activity of the Hub this year has been to work together to establish a Gloucester City Foodbank Hub on our site. It has been a real privilege to work together with the other Hub churches to serve the community in this way.

Mark Close

MISSION TEAM

In 2022 we continued to support our five mission links from the church tithe – The Diocese of Western Tanganyika (four theological students, Lake Tanganyika Theological College in Kasulu and our link parish, Mwilanvya; OMF International and the Pawsons in Japan; Scripture Union UK and the 95 project; Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank.

1. The Pawsons moved in May 2022 from Sapporo, Hokkaido to Hanamaki on Japan's main island of Honshu. They are still in the language and culture learning programme with some involvement in the OMF church planting team in a largely unchurched city in a rural area.
2. Kevin Howie visited on May 17th 2022 for our monthly mission slot and cash donations amounting to £58.64 were given by individuals on that day. In October a small group learnt a lot about the work of GCM through joining the monthly praise and prayer time Refuel; visiting the Revive café and the main office block Renew and hearing from members of staff.
3. On July 24th we were due to welcome Bishop Emmanuel from the Diocese of Western Tanganyika and his wife Juslene for lunch and a programme following the Sunday morning service. Sadly, we were not able to welcome them in person due to delays in their visas. However, we went ahead with lunch a time of fellowship that was much enjoyed and did manage a live link with him during the afternoon. The quality of sound was very poor so we subsequently recorded a Zoom interview with Bishop Emmanuel while he was at the Lambeth conference which we were then able to show in church on a later Sunday. Bishops Rachel and Robert kindly delivered the gifts we had prepared for the family in person at the Lambeth conference.
4. Steve Hutchinson now retired from Scripture Union, came to preach at 8:30 am on Sept 18th and to share about SU in our mission slots in both services. He introduced us to the helpful framework 'Connect, Explore, Respond, Grow' as a way to view getting beyond connecting with people. In December some of the mission team and Messy Church leaders met with Hannah Legge, Cheltenham based and Mission Enabler for the SU Central England Team. Mark met with Hannah subsequently and we all found her inspiring.
5. Tearfund is not one of our mission partners but in the light of the massive needs around the world we joined many churches round the country on November 19th for the Tearfund Big Quiz night ably hosted by Lee and Ruth Thornton. The evening was enjoyed by all, and £306.00 was sent to Tearfund from ticket sales and donations on the night.

A big thankyou to the mission team members and all who volunteered their time to help host these events and all who gave generously.

Miriam Davis, January 30th 2023

Christian Aid 2022

Christian Aid began in 1945, helping refugees in need across Europe at the end of the Second World War. Now, seventy-seven years later, 2022 has once again seen Christian Aid and partners supporting and helping refugees across Europe as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, delivering baby incubators, blankets, trauma kits, food, water and medical supplies to the most vulnerable. The impacts of this war are affecting many parts of the world, not least in East Africa where rising food and fuel prices have pushed millions into extreme hunger. Christian Aid has also responded to ongoing emergencies in Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon and Haiti. The demands are ever increasing, as if the problems resulting from climate change and natural disasters were not enough!

Thank you to all who contributed to Christian Aid Week 2022 via either the online GiveStar account, Red envelopes, Christian Aid bucket collection and buying preserves. The total raised was £420-00 of which £280-00 was Gift Aided, enabling Christian Aid to reclaim a further £70-00. The Easter and Christmas coffee morning/mini-markets raised a further £808-00, making a grand total of £1,228-00. Please support Christian Aid Week 2023, May 14th – 20th.

Philip Wenham Christian Aid representative

5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE

Discipleship - Home groups

In January 2022 we conducted a questionnaire with church members in an attempt to discover the then status of our small groups and whether there were some who would like to be in a group but weren't. Among other things the need for a daytime group became apparent, also that some church attendees were not aware of the existence of groups. Leaders met on April 4th and June 27th and we discussed the purpose of groups and how we had benefited personally from being in one and as leaders. We ran a six-week afternoon Lent course which was well-attended, and then in June a new daytime group started on Wednesdays at 2pm with a variety of people leading and an attendance of up to 10. One evening group has folded since September. Three evening groups continue – two on zoom and one in person. All groups are open to newcomers. Resources for home groups have been collected together in the outer office of the Stone Building, and anyone is welcome to borrow these for personal or group use.

Miriam Davis

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care was an aspect of our church life that had been a particular challenge over the covid pandemic. However this year we took a big leap forward when Pat Dabbs stepped into the role of pastoral co-ordinator. She has been exceptional as a point of contact and leader of this important pastoral ministry and has helped to ensure that people are supported. Janet Wilce has also been such a blessing to the church as she has taken on the important task of supporting those who are bereaved who are connect to our church by sending cards offering love and support on the anniversary of the funerals we have taken. All our team and church have stepped up to continue to offer support to one another and I have personally benefited from being part of a loving community during the serious illness of my mum. I have often said that pastoral care is the role of the whole church as we support one another and it is a joy to be part of a place where this is true.

Mark Close

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

In February 2022 the Pastoral Care Team came into being. There are several groups and activities happening within the church life and the leaders of those groups are responsible for the care of their members.

The team was formed with the hope of keeping people connected with church life when members are unable to attend due to illness, frailty or general circumstances either temporarily or permanently.

We also contact bereaved families after a funeral service has taken place in the parish and on the first anniversary of the death.

Everyone in the Church has a role to play in pastoral care and can care/visit/phone people who have not been to church or are in need. Please let Pat know if you are doing this.

Three members of the team attended a training day for helping people with anxiety in October and two attended a bereavement training course in November. Seven members have completed the online Domestic Abuse Awareness training recommended by Bishop Rachel.

Pastoral care is a privilege and a great joy when getting to know members of our fellowship in greater depth. The team is dedicated and committed. Please pray that God will direct our actions/visits/words/prayers etc; that we may be sensitive to the needs of people being visited; that we may have the gift of love and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pat Dabbs – Coordinator.

6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

Grounds and Buildings Report 2022 Church Centre, Stone Building, Youth Centre & Gordon Rooms.

Church Centre Site. Overall the site is in a reasonable condition and is generally clear of rubbish. A cracked drain cover in the car park requires replacing; a replacement is available in the garage. The garden areas have been maintained and kept colourful over the year with the grass being cut regularly. Many thanks go to the group who have laboured over the year to make this happen. The Larkhay Rd boundary fence needs repainting and the entrance gate re-instating. Weed killer has been applied around the site to keep the weeds under control.

Heating and Fire Extinguishers. All of the heating systems had their annual safety checks in August and were satisfactory. The boiler in the Youth Centre was installed 28 years ago and will undoubtedly need replacing at some point. It is living on borrowed time. The fire extinguishers were checked in August and all found to be satisfactory.

Five Year Electrical Circuit Inspection. The Stone Building, Church Centre, Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms had their electrical circuits inspected in September. The Stone Building and Youth Centre were satisfactory. The Church Centre and Gordon Room circuits were unsatisfactory and require remedial work to make them safe. This is being followed up with the electrician.

Stone Building. Overall the building is in a reasonable condition. Some re-pointing of the stonework is required, especially on the east wall, and some of the coping stones on the south east corner need replacing. Five of the wooden window frames around the building have been repainted. Another 3 are still to be done. Inside the building there are some areas where paint and plaster is flaking off and needs repairing. There are also skirting boards that have been affected by wet rot and need replacing. The lighting in the office area needs upgrading to LED panels.

Church Centre. The chimney breast and ceiling in the northwest corner of the hall requires redecorating. The exterior woodwork requires repainting. The roof has loose ridge tiles and broken tiles that need attention. The external walls around the ladies and gents toilets need rebuilding and the toilets need refurbishing. The kitchen needs re-modelling to bring it up to date in line with current standards and in-line with its current use. Basically the whole building is in need of refurbishment and modernising. The raised area of parquet floor in the north west corner of the hall was repaired in February. All of the curtains in the hall need replacing along with the curtain rails.

Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms. In both buildings the upright part of some of the reinforced concrete portals supporting the roofs needs repairing. This repair can only be carried out by specialists. The corrugated asbestos cement roof panels on both buildings are deteriorating and need attention as they are starting to develop holes. Rain water was entering the YC in the kitchen area and was tracked down to a hole in a roofing panel. This was repaired. A repair was carried out on a toilet waste pipe in the YC and the tap assembly in the kitchen was replaced. YC lamp tubes have been

replaced. Alan Preece organised the redecoration of the outside of the buildings and a gutter repair on the east side of the Gordon Rooms. There needs to be a decision about the future of these two buildings.

The Garage. The garage continues to be serviceable but has a temporary repair on the roof at the main door end. There are broken concrete panels in the wall, but the garage is still secure.

Five and Ten Year Plan. A five and ten year plan is needed for the site and its buildings.

Tom Brown

7. ADMINISTRATION

Staff

Liz has continued to serve the church as parish administrator over the year and provided excellent administrative support to the parish. Liz made the decision to move on from her role at P&J's near the end of the year and ended her time with us at the start of 2023. She will be much missed and we are greatly appreciative of the years she spent working in the church office as administrator. We wish Liz all the best in her life going forward. Our Church wardens Peggy and Rhianydd committed to serving for another year and have been exceptional in their support and management of the parish. The whole standing committee has been wonderful, with Lee continuing in his role as treasurer. Huge thanks to Lee who has continued to take our finances forward with clarity and real wisdom. Margaret has been instrumental in her role as PCC secretary, she continues to be a faithful servant of the church, going well above and beyond in all her work. Duncan and Miriam have also been valuable contributors to the group and their leadership is as invaluable as their leading and preaching ministries. Thanks to the PCC for its continued support and leadership of the church and its outreach, we have spent time looking at vision going forward together, and this process will continue into 2023. Thank you to everyone who is actively involved in ministry in this church, we have a huge number of volunteers who make our wonderful ministries happen, thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

Mark Close

SAFEGUARDING REPORT for APCM

At St Philip & St James Church, the PCC take seriously their legal duties to promote a safe environment for all, working closely with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. In our responsibility for the protection of Vulnerable Adults and Children & Young People (Under 18s), we follow the advice given to PCCs and the necessary legal documents are on display in our church buildings, where our activities occur.

We have a legal duty to have the statutory documents (as listed below) on display and these were approved and adopted by the PCC on their meeting on **March 8th 2023**.

The full versions of the documents are available in the Church Office or available electronically on request by contacting the church office or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

2023 Safeguarding Policy.

Promoting a Safer Church - Parish Safeguarding Handbook (Oct 2018 version)

Types of Abuse (including signs and symptoms)

Canon Margaret Edwards

Parish Safeguarding Officer

8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP

Mothers' Union

We managed to have a full year of meetings. We had a number of in-house speakers with many interesting topics and we held an AGM. We visited a Garden Centre for the May meeting; in June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with members bringing Memorabilia of the Coronation and a tea; Mary Sumner Day was celebrated as usual in August, with a coffee morning. We started September with our Wave of Prayer meeting, held with catch up of items required for the next 4 months; an in-house speaker for October, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (No More 1in3) was recognised and we finished the year with a social. Two members have left the MU this year. We are still collecting toiletries for various local charities. Thank you to everyone for their support for Mothers' Union.

Jean Thomas, Branch Leader

Social Events Team

No Report for 2022 because the team didn't meet and restarted February 2023

Lunch Club 2022

Lunch Club can report another most successful year. The atmosphere in the Church Centre on a Thursday has been so happy and bubbly, with lots of loud conversation and everyone enjoying meeting up and sharing fellowship and food together. Our guests so look forward to what they say is definitely the highlight of their week. They are so grateful and have formed many friendships which can otherwise be difficult if you live alone, have mobility problems and cannot get out. We have met roughly three weeks in every four apart from school holidays. (during August once a fortnight).

We have a wonderful team of cooks, drivers and helpers, all enjoying working and serving together. If anyone is missing we always check up on them with a phone call. Birthdays, Easter and Christmas are always remembered with a card. Many thanks to the cooks who prepared the traditional Christmas dinner.

In the autumn we were saddened to learn that Lunch Club is not regarded as being a part of the ministry of the church. This is a matter to be looked into and rectified in 2023, as we all see Lunch Club as being a vital part of Church outreach ministry to the elderly and lonely within our community.

Margaret Wenham on behalf of the Lunch Club team

Tuesday @ Two 2022

It is hard to believe that Tuesday @ Two has enjoyed its tenth birthday! How time flies when you are having fun! Twice a month, on a Tuesday, eager gamers have been queuing outside the Church centre keen to settle down to an afternoon of "competitive" playing, enjoyment and conversation. Scrabble and canasta remain the favourites, but other board games like Up-words and Rummikub are available. The afternoon always ends with a welcome cup of tea (bone china service of course!) and a slice of delicious cake. All are welcome to come and join us.

Margaret & Philip Wenham

Church flowers

We continue to meet each week to arrange flowers for Sunday services which we as a team enjoy. We would however welcome 'new blood' into the team – it is not essential that you come each week but would be happy for you to come when we have Weddings or Festivals – like Harvest or Christmas.

We arranged flowers for two Weddings last year and made posies for Mothering Sunday. The Christmas flowers were quite a challenge this year as much of the greenery was frozen due to the snow and ice and thanks to all who braved the cold to cut it, but we still managed to decorate the Church in time for the carol service.

My thanks go to the team who give their time to fill God's house with flowers.

Jenny Barton

CAMEO

We had a good and varied programme for 2022 starting in January with members bringing items which meant a lot to them. February's meeting was a treat with Kate & Angela Peake dressing a Victorian Lady – with all the clothes being hand made! We had Fauna & Flora from Elizabeth Orr in March, April was about the Nurse who changed Guinea-Bissau and in May Paul & Clare Kenchington told us all about their time in Hong Kong and how it was a shock to the system. We had Chair Yoga in June with Ellie Stafford and a summer outing in July to Trioscape for a delicious afternoon tea. Mercy Ships was September's topic and in November it was a Eco friendly evening.

Our Christmas celebrations were however cancelled due to the ice and snow.

We continue to meet once a month and with our numbers increasing, new members would be made very welcome.

Jenny Barton

LIST	page numbers
Priest in Charge Report	3
Churchwarden Report	3
Trustees Report	4
Structure, Governance & Management	5
Objectives and Activities	6
PCC Meetings	7
STATUTORY REPORTS	
Financial Review	8
Accounts (2 pages)	9
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Deanery Synod	12
Fabric	13
NON-STATUTORY REPORTS	
1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP	14
2. PRAYER	14
3. YOUTH & CHILDREN	15 - 16
Core Youth Group	
Coffee Pot	
Teddy Bears	
Messy Church	
Open the Book	
4. OUTREACH	16 - 17
Outreach	
The HUB	
Mission Team	
Christian Aid	
5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE	
Discipleship - Home Groups	18 - 19
Pastoral Care	
Pastoral Care Group	
6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS	19 - 20
Grounds and Buildings Team	
7. ADMINISTRATION	20
Staffing	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults	
8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP	21 - 22
Mothers' Union	
Social Events Team	
Lunch Club	
Tuesday @ Two	
C.A.M.E.O.	
Church Flowers	

Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council
Of
St Philip & St James
Hucclecote**

**Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2021**

Priest in Charge Report

This year has been another one where what we got was not what we expected. Many of us believed we would be through the other side of Covid this year, but the reality is that we are still dealing with the challenges of ministry during a pandemic. Although this year there has been some progress and relaxing of the rules, the uncertainty of what was ahead made making progress difficult. Although we were able to do more this year challenges of restricting numbers, social distancing and wearing masks persisted throughout the year. Christmas was perhaps the clearest example of this, although we were able to meet in the church building, we ran our carol service primarily online, with some people also allowed in the building. We were able to run our Christmas Craft event, as the rules allowed, which was a great success, however our crib service had to be cancelled at short notice due to a jump in the covid numbers. Throughout the year we have tried to do all we can to keep people connected, for some people this has been successful, but for others it has been very difficult. The high point of the year for me was our "Messy Christmas" event, this event was well attended and we saw many new faces and many people we have not seen in a long time. It is my hope that we will be able to continue to move forward cautiously, but with open arms and a big expectation that we will be able to reach out to our community and be a blessing. We have been able to restart many of our key ministries, such as Coffee Pot, Teddy Bears and Messy Church amongst others. This has reconnected us with many families and individuals. We have also established and launched our new community garden; this has been a great success and will be a great blessing to the church and community in the coming years.

All told this year has been another difficult challenging time and I think it is fair to say that as a church and as an individual we are tired and running at the limit of our reserves. That being said we are still going and we have hope. It is my strong belief that God has good things in store for us as a church and he will lead us into a bright and blessed future.

Mark Close

Churchwarden Report

2021 has been yet another strange year in the life of the church. Many things were once again put on hold, but we are slowly returning to something close to normality.

We would like to express our thanks to Mark for his continued leadership. We are also very thankful for the commitment of Miriam, Duncan and Tim as they support Mark and us. As a church, we are truly blessed.

We would also like to thank a number of other people. Lee for his willingness to take over the role of treasurer and for his hard work in holding the reins of our finances, ensuring that we are in the best possible financial position. Liz, our church administrator, who continues to do a wonderful job in ensuring that all aspects of the administrative side of the church run smoothly. Tom and Graham for their continuing oversight of maintenance across the site and their willingness to tackle many jobs which would otherwise require contractors and expense.

Lastly, we would like to thank you - our church family – for the continuing help and support given in so many different ways.

Rhianydd Warren and Peggy Brown Churchwardens 2021

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative Information

St Philip & St James is situated in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

Church Office
Stone Building
18 Larkhay Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3 NS

Telephone: 01452 372177

Website: www.hucclecotechurch.org

E mail: stpandstj.hucc@mail.com

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
21 Eastgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1NY

Independent Examiner: Janet Wilce

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are on page 5.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC 2021- 2022 (after APCM on July 5th 2021)

Incumbent	Revd Mark Close	Chair from September 2017
Ex-Officio	Revd Duncan Hutchison	Curate from June 2020
	Revd Miriam Davis	Ordained Local Minister (OLM) from June 2021
Wardens	Mrs Rhianydd Warren	Re -Elected 2021
	Mrs Peggy Brown	Elected 2021
Deanery	Mrs Jean Thomas	re-elected 2020. For 3 years
Synod	Mrs Doreen McLellan	re-elected 2020. For 3 years
	One vacancy	

Elected Members of the PCC (up to 12 in number)

Mr Chris Brookes	from 2019	
Mrs Marion Cook	from 2020.	
Dr. Alison Dight	re-elected 2019	
Canon Margaret Edwards	re-elected 2021	Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary
Mr John Grime	from 2019	
Mr Mike Madigan	re-elected 2020	
Mrs Joy Noah	re-elected 2021	Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Judy Preece	re-elected 2020	
Mr Lee Thornton	from 2020.	Treasurer

3 vacancies on PCC and 1 Synod vacancy

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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.

The PCC is supported in its work by teams whose views and recommendations are taken into account by the PCC when making many decisions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Philip and St James PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Philip and St James Church and associated property.

2021

Once again, we have had a very disrupted year due to the Global pandemic of Covid-19, starting the year with yet another lockdown and unable to meet in person. During this time, our online services continued, which were enjoyed by all of our members who had internet availability and some were able to follow the service via telephone link. However, on April 25th, we were able to hold an 8.30am Holy Communion service in church, whilst continuing the 10.00am Morning Worship service online. Grateful thanks must go to Lee Thornton and his music group during this time of online services to provide us with hymns and choruses to accompany the services. Lee spent many hours each week collating the recordings from his singers and musicians and editing with appropriate photographs at the beginning and end of the services. This was much appreciated by all who viewed these services, whether folk were viewing from their local homes or friends and relatives viewing from far afield. Grateful thanks also to Revd Miriam Davis who has provided regular updates from our Mission partners - those that the church supports financially through our Tithe (OMF and the Pawson family in Japan, Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester FoodBank, Scripture Union and the Diocese of Western Tanganyika - namely the support of 4 students at the Theological College and our Link Parish of Mwlanvyia). The pattern of Sunday worship, in person for a said Holy Communion at 8.30am and online Morning Worship at 10.00am, continued until the end of June. From Sunday 4th July, church was open once again for a 10.30am All Age service, which was also live-streamed.

On September 19th, a monthly evening service was started, giving the opportunity for an extended time of music worship and a deeper Bible study time.

In addition to Sunday worship, all through the pandemic until present time (March 2022) Morning Prayer has been available online via the church's Facebook page, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10.00am. Between January and Easter time in 2021, we also had the opportunity to share in Evening Prayer online with Duncan, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Other services held either online or in church during 2021 -

17th February	Ash Wednesday service (online)
1st April	Maundy Thursday - in church
2nd April	Good Friday - in church
7th November	Memorial service. - in church

Special services in 2021 - Duncan Hutchison's ordination as Priest took place in the Cathedral on June 26th and Miriam Davis was ordained as Deacon on 27th June. Although both these services were limited attendance only due to Covid regulations, we were able to share in the services as they were both live-streamed and the advantage was having a much better view than usual. We could share in Miriam's ordination as Priest though on December 5th because Bishop Robert ordained Miriam in church during the 10:30am service.

Christmas Activities

Nativity on a Lorry - this took place with the same format as last year, within Covid guidelines

Messy Christmas - a packed church for this event as the first Messy Church for 18 months and also decorating the Christmas tree.

Carol Service - sadly due to a spike in Covid cases at that time, it was decided the Carol Service would be in hybrid form.

Crib Service on Christmas Eve was cancelled.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holy Communion services - as usual.

Achievements and Performance

There were 108 names on the Electoral Roll at the APCM held on Tuesday 6th July. One name was removed from the roll due to a death.

The average attendance at services has once again been difficult to determine for all but the in-person attendance at church. Attendance numbers have increased during the year as some people are gain confidence in venturing out. Covid safety rules remain in place to the present time.

Margaret Edwards

PCC MEETINGS

It is customary for the PCC to meet bi-monthly and the Standing Committee (Vicar, Curate, OLM, Treasurer, Church Wardens, PCC Secretary and Administrator) meet on alternate months; the latter group discuss the general running of the church and the financial status together with any areas of concern and then makes recommendations to the PCC for further discussion. PCC Agenda items always include a financial report, Safeguarding issues and updates as well as reports from the Standing Committee, Deanery Synod and the Mission team.

The PCC held meetings via Zoom, in January, March and May. The APCM scheduled for 21st April was postponed due to the Covid restrictions at that time.

The Standing Committee met via Zoom in January, March, April and June and in person on 5th July to ensure all was ready for the APCM which was held in Church on Tuesday 6th July.

The PCC met again in September and November and the Standing Committee met in September and December.

At that APCM on July 6th, Peggy Brown was elected as Church Warden to fill the vacancy alongside Rhianydd Warren who had been working singlehandedly since October of 2020.

Two members of PCC were re-elected for a period of three years, but the extra vacancies and Deanery Synod vacancy were not filled leaving 3 spaces on PCC and 1 Deanery Synod space for the 2021-2022 session.

The Statutory and essential reports had been accepted and adopted at the March PCC in readiness for the earlier APCM date.

Tom Brown has continued to carry out regular inspections of the church buildings and grounds, carrying out repairs as necessary and looking after the heating clocks in season. This has been and continues to be much appreciated by all.

2021 has been another difficult year for the church in our aim to be more 'outward' facing in our approach to all we do, because we have had to comply with Government restrictions for much of this time, in addition to being legally compliant within Anglican and Charity Commission rules, as we must every year.

The secretary would like to thank PCC members for their commitment to their duties and responses via electronic communication during the time when we were unable to meet in person. A huge thank you also to those who volunteer regularly for many of our church services and activities, giving of their time and talents, to ensure that everything goes to the best of our abilities and honouring God in all we do as a worshipping community.

Margaret Edwards

STATUTORY REPORTS

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts in 2021 were £123,430 and total payments were £113,653, giving an overall surplus across Unrestricted, Restricted and Designated Funds of £9,777. This is a real blessing during what has been a difficult time. The main drivers for this surplus have been repair work deferred and a grant received for the Community Garden.

Receipts

By far the largest amount of the church's income comes from planned giving and other donations. Regular giving remained fairly static with only a small decrease and Gift aid receipts has remained stable in line with 2020. The reduction in other giving and donations is as expected as we benefitted from a large donation in 2020 which covered a specific repair. Overall, the voluntary income in 2021 was £102,145 compared to £108,339 in 2020.

The church's usual services, events and activities, including fundraising, continued to be disrupted this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the amounts generated for hall lettings have increased substantially and recovered from £5,134 in 2020 to £8,637 in 2021.

With the Community Garden, we received a grant of £4,000 and this is now held in a restricted fund and will support this initiative.

Expenditure

The largest expenditure was the Parish Share of £60,963 which is paid to the Diocese to help support other churches and clergy (this was a £2,000 reduction on 2020). Additional large items of expenditure included salaries and building maintenance (including repairs to the Stone Building following a break in).

A total of £9,972 was donated by tithe in line with our budget to: Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Foodbank, OMF International, Scripture Union, and a partner church, Mwilanyva, in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, Tanzania; also to support four students at Lake Tanganyika Theological College. At the end of the year, there was a remaining undesignated surplus tithe of £304.98, the Mission Team proposed sending this to Tearfund's Afghan Emergency Appeal.

Overall spending was lower than budgeted as with the coronavirus pandemic a number of the planned repair works were not carried out, and have been deferred into 2022.

Reserves

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance of Unrestricted Funds that equates to a minimum of two months' operating costs. As agreed by the PCC in 2019, provision towards necessary repairs to the church and other buildings on the site was continued in 2021.

The surplus from 2021 is now held in our reserves and will be used as necessary in the future.

Finance Team

Approved by the PCC on 9th March 2022

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Statement of asset and liability balances as at 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds	31.12.21	31.12.20 £
Charitable Funds					
Restricted Funds					
Ann Smith Bequest	0	4,352	0	4,352	4,352
Boiler	0	20	0	20	20
Building	0	58,996	0	58,996	58,567
Children Worker	0	4,234	0	4,234	4,234
Churchyard Maintenance	0	11	0	11	11
Community Garden	0	4,000	0	4,000	0
Local Mission	0	1,837	0	1,837	2,140
Music & Worship	0	891	0	891	891
Olive Withycombe	0	304	0	304	304
Tanzania	0	1,276	0	1,276	656
PCC Fund	0	6,112	0	6,112	3,754
Wardens	0	500	0	500	500
Designated Funds					
Church Centre	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Depreciation Fund	0	0	2,221	2,221	2,221
Community Garden	0	0	920	920	0
Computer Fund	0	0	1,785	1,785	1,785
Essential Maintenance	0	0	14,568	14,568	11,855
Coffee Pot	0	0	243	243	315
Teddy Bears	0	0	2,724	2,724	2,851
Treasurers	0	0	4,525	4,525	4,525
Social Fund	0	0	1,477	1,477	4,477
Unrestricted Fund General Fund	38,320	0	0	38,320	36,084
	38,320	82,533	148,463	269,316	259,542
Represented By					
Bank Term Deposit Accounts	0	63,069	0	63,069	62,621
Bank Current Accounts	38,320	20,249	28,466	87,035	77,711
Petty Cash	0	0	0	0	30
Total Bank and Cash	38,320	83,318	28,466	150,104	140,362
Liabilities Creditors	0	784	0	784	820
Net Current Assets	38,320	82,534	28,466	149,320	139,542
Fixed Assets retained by the charity					
Land and Buildings at historic cost	0	0	120,000	120,000	120,000
Total Net Assets	38,320	82,534	148,466	269,320	259,542

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Tax efficient planned giving	71,141	0	0	71,141	71,707
Other planned giving	6,140	620	0	6,760	6,850
Other giving and donations - non-recurring	6,404	36	101	6,541	12015
Other giving and donations - recurring	0	0	0	0	263
Special appeals	0	0	0	0	0
All tax recovered through Gift Aid	17,704	0	0	17,704	17,505
Legacies received					
Non-recurring grants					
Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund raising events	0	0	0	0	0
Hall lettings	8,637	0	0	8,637	5,134
Income from other church activities	158	79	171	408	455
Investment Income					
Dividends and interest	54	432	2	488	1,108
Income from Charitable Activities					
Total Parochial Fees income	0	5,884	0	5,884	5,679
Service fee reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Other Incoming Resources					
Insurance claims	1,739	0	0	1,739	0
Other income	129	4,000	0	4,129	1,285
Total Receipts	112,106	11,051	274	123,430	122,001
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities					
Fundraising costs					
Donations/grants to charities & mission giving	9,972	0	0	9,972	16,267
Local mission & evangelism projects	109	302	2,171	2,582	261
Parish share	60,963	0	0	60,963	62,963
Clergy expenses	912	0	0	912	546
Church running costs	12,193	100	288	12,581	16,461
Churchyard maintenance	3,180	0	0	3,180	2,777
Children/youth work costs	190	0	441	631	674
Parochial fees	144	3,406	0	3,550	4,073
Management and Administration					
Salaries and wages	10,167	0	0	10,167	15,880
Support costs	304	22	0	326	1,302
Administration costs	2,608	0	0	2,608	2,430
Insurance costs	3,650	0	0	3,650	3,707
Sundry expenses	2,478	52	0	2,530	399
Total Expenditure	106,871	3,882	2,900	113,653	127,740
Receipts over Expenditure	5,235	7,169	-2,626	9,777	-5,739
Funds Opening Balance 1.1.2021	33,085	75,365	151,092	259,542	265,281
Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2021	38,320	82,534	148,466	269,319	259,542

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote,
Gloucester

On accounts for the year
ended

31-December-2021

Charity no
(if any)

1133978

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/ 2021**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me
cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: J Wilce

Date: 20/01/2022

Name: Janet Wilce

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

Details removed for GDPR

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod representatives for St. Philip and St. James' church are Jean Thomas and Doreen McLellan. Continuing on from 2020 Deanery Synod meetings were held on Zoom in March and May and these meetings were primarily discussions of the Deanery Strategic Plan. At the March meeting a new timetable was outlined, with the draft plan being requested by November 2021. Following this a questionnaire was circulated to PCCs and clergy. This was circulated to PCC members and clergy in this parish and replies were collated and returned by the requested date. At the May meeting it was reported that the response to the questionnaires was patchy. There was further discussion of the plan.

In October 2021 Deanery Synod met in person for the first time since February 2020 and there was a talk on the Living in Love and Faith project, given by Margaret Sheather, Advocate for Gloucester Diocese for this project. This is a programme of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationship and marriage which was launched across the Church of England at the end of 2020. At the following business meeting members also asked what progress had been made on the Strategic Plan. Facilitators had been appointed to help Deaneries move forward – the Revd. Dr. James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College, has been allocated to Gloucester City Deanery. Discussion of the plan will continue and the new deadline for completion of the plan has moved to May 2022.

Doreen McLellan

Deanery Synod Representative

Church Fabric Statutory Report

Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measures 1991

St Philip and St James Church, Hucclecote

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2021

The church is, on the whole, in a good state of repair. The quinquennial inspection, carried out towards the end of 2021, did not identify any areas of immediate concern, but there are areas of which we were already aware that need to be addressed.

Black mould that has appeared on the walls of the nave in a number of areas is believed to be due to a lack of heating and ventilation during the periods when the church was closed in 2020 and 2021. There are also areas in the chancel where the plaster has become detached from the walls and there is flaking paint in a number of areas of the walls in the nave and chancel. Specifications for the remedial work to re-plaster the damaged areas, address the flaking paint and re-paint the whole church have been drawn up, submitted to the DAC and given approval. It is hoped the work can be done during 2022. Repairs to the inner vestry ceiling were not completed as anticipated in 2021 and remain to be done as is the investigation of the damp patch on the inner vestry wall. The flat roof over the vestry was re-painted with reflective paint in August. The lightning conductor was checked in November.

The gas safety inspection on the boiler was carried out in September and fire extinguishers have also been inspected. PAT testing of all electrical appliances in church was also completed. Issues identified in the December 2020 electrical circuit inspection are still to be resolved.

General maintenance work is on-going and aims to identify issues and resolve them before they become major problems. One such event was the leak on the water heater in the kitchenette.

General grass cutting in the churchyard became an issue in 2021. There was a need to reduce cutting to once a month due to a steep rise in costs. This, unfortunately, can lead to it looking visually untidy especially when it is wet and warm! Day to day tidying of graves and cremation plots continues; shrubs next to graves are pruned as necessary. The boundary hedge was trimmed in the autumn. The new churchyard gate has been installed and painted.

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP

Ministry and Leadership

This challenging year has been faced by the church, and everyone has pulled together to keep us moving forward as best as we are able. There have been some key people who have gone above and beyond to ensure that ministry and worship could keep going as best as we were able. Miriam and Duncan have been wonderful, and we had the great pleasure of seeing them both ordained as priest, in the case of Miriam the service happened in our own church, which was a wonderful blessing. Tim has also been keenly involved in leading and preaching. Liz has kept the office running and this has been a wonderful point of contact and continuity for the church family. Rhianydd has continued to serve as church warden and has been a constant support and encouragement to me and others. Peggy also was willing to stand this year and has been a key asset to the team. The rest of the standing committee continued to go above and beyond in their efforts and it is right to recognise the contributions to church life of Lee and Margaret, without whom we would not have been able to face many of the challenges of the year. The PCC continued to meet virtually and when able in person, and continued to offer wise leadership.

I believe that we are in a good position with key people in the right places to lead the church forward through covid and beyond. Our mission and vision remains clear, to reach our community for Christ and his kingdom, and spread the good news of the gospel.

Mark Close

2. PRAYERS & WORSHIPING

Prayers and Worshiping

Worship this year was a time of transition. We worked mostly in mixed modes when able to. But we have kept an online presence as much as possible.

When we were able to meet in person, we did so with regard for social distancing and we made use of masks where possible, including whilst singing. The positive result of this was that we did not have any cases of covid being spread linked to the church and it is worth noting that the commitment of the church family was key to this. During the year we were able to begin sharing communion again, and this was done initially in one kind with the congregation only receiving the bread, and then later in both kinds with the priest dipping the wafer in the wine before distribution.

We adapted our worship as regulations changed, often at very short notice, but we moved carefully forward. We transitioned from online only to also having a spoken service at 8.30. Then we introduced singing and restarted the 10.30 service later in the year. We continued to stream online live from the 10.30 service to enable those who could not attend to join with us. At the end of the year, we switched the livestream from 10.30 to 8.30 to avoid some safeguarding issues around livestreaming and children.

Our morning prayer has continued online Monday, Wednesday and Friday and continues to be attended by a faithful group. It is a good time of prayer and bible reading at the start of the day.

Over the course of this year, we have had 1 wedding, 33 funerals (9 in church), and 3 baptisms.

Mark Close

8:45am and 10:30am Prayer Teams

Due to on-line Services the Prayer Teams have not been in operation this year. Team members have tried to keep in touch with each other as well as members of the congregation. Prayer circles have operated as normal when needed.

Glenys Beard & Chris Dale

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN

Core Youth Group

The youth are now meeting once a month in church, to allow for more spacing. We meet, have a little Bible study, play games and chat. This has been a great chance to meet together in person again, and to try to restart the group in a safe way. Chris and I are both still leading, and we have 6 regular young people who attend.

Amy Close

Little PJ's Report for 2021

Although it's not been possible to run Little PJ's because of the Covid restrictions, we were able to take Easter Activity Packs to the children in their homes (Easter Eggs included!).

We gratefully thank our super team of Linda, Margaret, Janet and Susie for their faithful support over many years.

Dianne and Chris Brookes February 2022

Coffee Pot Toddler Group

Hurrah!

At long last Coffee Pot re-opened in September 2021 after 18 months of closure. We welcomed back families we already knew along with many new faces. It has been wonderful for the team to be able to meet our lovely families once again and to share their enthusiasm and joy at being able to get back to socialising again, even if we have still had to adhere to some rules to try and keep everyone safe. For many of the younger children, it was their first opportunity to mix with other children and adults not in their immediate circle of friends, and it has taken time for them to settle.

We have continued with our program of stories and a related craft each week, the latter running throughout the session giving ample time for as many as wish, to make something. The final part of the session – song time – remains a firm favourite. Our thanks must go to the mums, grans and children for the way they get stuck in to help clear away at the end of the session making our lives much easier. Carpet rolling is becoming a favourite activity!

Coffee Pot would not happen without the commitment of my able incredible team – Rhianydd Warren, Linda Weedon, Susan Taylor, Trevor Henning, Pat Peachey and Josie Cumberbatch. Thank you all.

Peggy Brown

P & J Teddy Bears. - Toddler Group

Between January and the end of July 2021, we were unable to hold our Parent and Toddler sessions at Pine-holt Village Hall, due to the Covid restrictions imposed at that time. However, for the last three Fridays of the summer term, we met outdoors, at the play area adjacent to the hall and we managed to see some of our families on at least one of those weeks. We took that opportunity to give the customary book, as a leaving gift to those leaving us to start school in September. We said goodbye to Linda Waterman at the last of our out-door events, and that was quite sad as Linda had been a prominent member of Teddy Bears for many years. However, Linda did not actually move house as planned, so she continued to join us on Friday mornings until the autumn half term.

Teddy Bears group started to meet in the hall on September 10th, following Covid guidelines and the Health & Safety restrictions set out by Hucclecote Parish Council. It was so lovely to see the families again and to notice how much the children had grown and altered in those 18 months - small babies had turned into very active toddlers. Numbers have remained lower than pre-pandemic times, but that enables social distancing so it's not a bad thing. We had wondered how we would cope without Linda's unique talent of story-telling, but we need not have worried. Story time is now being

done by Susan Taylor and Chris Scourfield - an amazing duo, complete with animations and actions, which the children absolutely love. Chris was one of the four people who responded to my appeal at church one Sunday asking for volunteer help at Teddy Bears, to fill the gaps in the workforce. We all enjoy our Friday mornings at PVH and the parents put such lovely messages of thanks on our Facebook page and many of the families attended Messy Church at Christmas. Huge thanks to my team of helpers for your regular commitment and support.

Margaret Edwards and team (Susan Taylor, Rhianydd Warren, Jean Thomas, Chris Scourfield. Extra help is provided by Jane Twitty, Wendy Vickers and Marion Cook as needed.)

Messy Church Report for 2021

After a very long break Messy Church got off to a flying start in December to celebrate Messy Christmas. An amazed team of 20 helpers watched as family after family arrived at the church. Old friends returned (with children grown bigger than when we last saw them!) and new families arrived and all were welcomed with much joy! 90 guests were many more than hoped for and Duncan was sent out to buy more food for the tea!

Lots of activities were ready and waiting to be enjoyed. The messiest was the colourful decorating of Christmas tree biscuits (lots of licked fingers!). There were a variety of Christmas cards to make from stickers and printing to doily and fingerprint trees (no licking fingers here!). There was an opportunity to decorate the big church Christmas tree or try decorating a tree picture with stickers (but blindfolded!). The wooden prayer tree was available too, so that everyone could write their prayers onto angel shapes and hang them up. Lee played for some carol singing and Mark helped everyone to think that although our fingerprints showed we were different from each other we are all known and loved by God.

All through the afternoon there was a good atmosphere with a constant happy buzz from the children. There was enthusiastic involvement of everyone and promises to return to Messy Church again.

Judy Preece February 2022

Open the Book

Sadly due to Covid restrictions at Hillview School, the team have been unable to do any OtB assemblies in 2021.

Margaret Edwards, on behalf of the Open the Book team.

4. MISSION

Outreach

Although the challenges of covid remained we were able to engage in outreach in several ways. Groups were able to relaunch throughout the year as restrictions begin to lessen. Our parent and toddler groups in particular were able to relaunch and began to reconnect with people and families. Other groups have also been able to restart such as lunch club which offers community and support to some of the more isolated people in our community. Messy church relaunched for Christmas and reached a large number of families, there is much hope for the future with great contacts with families going forward and new people involved in leading the service. The Community Garden has launched this year and was extremely well received, with have built links with the local GP surgery and have a number of people keen to be involved in working together to provide something that will be a blessing to the community.

Miriam and the mission team have continued to do excellent work keeping the priority of global and UK mission as a focus through 'mission slots' and other means. The benefit of this is that it shifts our focus from ourselves towards others in the world, this is especially important at this time.

Mark Close

The HUB

The Hub is still functioning as a group, but due to the continuing lockdown regulations was not meeting regularly and was limited in its activities. This year it only functioned during the Christmas period and put on two events, The NOAL (nativity on a lorry) and carol singing at Glenville parade.

Mark Close

Mission Team

Mission Team met in January, June, September and October on Zoom. In 2021 we continued to support our five mission links from the church tithe – The Diocese of Western Tangynika (four theological students at Lake Tangynika Theological College in Kasulu and our link parish, Mwilanvya); OMF International and the Pawsons in Japan; Scripture Union UK and the 95 project; Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank.

Baby Gideon Pawson was born on 31st January 2021 in Sapporo, Japan and we held a virtual (post-birth) baby shower on Sat. February 20th 2021. This was well attended and lots of fun. We received gifts amounting to £415 from church members which was sent via OMF to the Pawsons as a personal gift, enabling them to buy a baby car seat. In May it became apparent that David particularly was in need of encouragement and the church gifted them with shopping coupons and a book amounting to approximately £50.

From Jan 2021 to Aug 2021 the weekly online service had a brief mission slot focusing on either the church's five mission links or on global mission in general. We used a range of videos, powerpoints, live interviews and presentations. Since returning to services in church we have returned to our former pattern of focusing on one or other of our 5 mission links on the third Sunday of the month at both services.

Miriam Davis

Christian Aid 2021

Christian Aid 2021

Despite all the challenges of the last 2 years Christian Aid Week 2021 raised more than £5m. nationally. Thank you to all who have supported fundraising for the work of Christian Aid in 2021 through your own on-line donations, buying jams and marmalades throughout the year and helping and supporting the Coffee Morning and Mini-Market in Church in October which raised an amazing £720. After giving £50 to Church to cover heating etc., £670 was shared equally between Christian Aid and the Gloucester City Mission.

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

"Turn Hunger into Hope." As a result of Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising, pushing more into a struggle for survival. This is keenly felt in Zimbabwe, where drought is leading to widespread hunger. Please support Christian Aid in any way you can and help "Turn Hunger into Hope."

Philip Wenham

Christian Aid representative

5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE

Discipleship - Home Groups

Alan Butcher stepped down as Home Group Coordinator during 2021. Two groups continued to meet on Zoom throughout the year, and one in person only in autumn 2021. In late autumn Margaret Edwards, Mark Close and Miriam met to draw up a questionnaire for use in the New Year with the aim of discovering what new groups are needed and who might be potential new hosts or leaders.

Miriam Davis

Pastoral Care.

One of the most difficult aspects of the lockdown has been maintaining good pastoral care. We have tried to ensure that people have not been left isolated, but we have relied on the church family to look after each other. Having an online time for prayer either in the morning or the evening throughout the week gives a structure to the week that helps people feel connected and our zoom coffee meetings after church on a Sunday gives people a chance to connect. We also have the capacity for people to join with us at our Sunday services via the phone which has helped some people who are not able to get online to stay connected.

Mark Close

6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

Grounds and Buildings Report 2021

Church Centre, Stone Building, Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms.

Church Centre Site. Overall, the site is in a reasonable condition and is generally clear of rubbish. A cracked drain cover in the car park requires replacing; a replacement is available in the garage. The garden areas have been maintained and kept colourful over the year with the grass being cut regularly. Many thanks go to the people who have taken this on over the year to make this happen. Plant and shrub growth in the area to the east of the Gordon Rooms has been kept down by continual vigilance. The north boundary will need professional work on it to get it back under control. The Larkhay Rd boundary fence needs repainting and the entrance gate re-instating. Weeds around the site have been removed and weed killer has been applied from time to time to try and keep them under control. A gate that appeared in the boundary fence with the gardens in Havelock Rd has been blocked so that it cannot be opened from that particular garden.

Heating, Fire Extinguishers and Electrical Items. All of the heating systems had their safety checks in September 2021 and were satisfactory. The boiler in the Youth Centre was installed some 28 years ago and will irreparably fail at some point. The fire extinguishers were checked in September 2021 and all found to be satisfactory. All portable electrical items were PAT checked in December 2021.

Stone Building. Overall, the building is in a reasonable condition. Some re-pointing of the stonework is required, especially on the east wall, and the coping stones on the south east corner need replacing as pieces have been coming off after prolonged frost. Chris Brookes has been painting the window frames on the east and north side of the building. Inside the building there are areas where paint and plaster is flaking off and needs repairing. Skirting boards that have been affected by wet rot need replacing. Pointing has been falling out of the ridge tiles and will need attention at some time in the future. The outside lamp has an electrical fault on it that needs investigating by an electrician. In May there was a break-in through the door on the north side. This door, the office door and partitioning were damaged and filing cabinets forced open. The damage has been repaired and the back door reinforced to prevent further break-ins.

Church Centre. The chimney breast and ceiling in the northwest corner of the hall requires redecorating. The exterior woodwork requires repainting. The south porch door is deteriorating and needs attention. The roof has loose ridge tiles and broken tiles that need attention. The external walls around the ladies and gents' toilets need rebuilding and the toilets need refurbishing. The kitchen needs re-modelling to bring it up to date in line with current standards and in-line with its current use. Basically, the whole building is in need of refurbishment and modernising. The gas cooker and cooker hood were safety checked in September 2021 and a CO alarm put in the kitchen as CO could build up when the gas cooker is used. A CO alarm was also put on the east wall of the hall to cover the two warm air gas heaters. Cleaners are now employed to clean this building, and the church, on a weekly basis. They are doing an excellent job.

Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms. The upright part of some of the reinforced concrete portals supporting the roofs of both of these buildings are crumbling. This will have to be a specialist repair. The corrugated asbestos cement roof panels on both buildings are deteriorating and need attention as they are starting to develop holes. Render is coming off the external walls. The gutters on both buildings need attention. The exterior and interior paint on these buildings is looking shabby. A decision about the future of these two buildings will need to be made at some point in the near future.

The Garage. The garage continues to be serviceable but has a temporary repair on the roof at the main door end. There are broken concrete panels in the wall, but the garage is still secure. A damaging attempted break-in failed.

Tom Brown for Grounds & Buildings.
25th February 2022

7. ADMINISTRATION

Staffing

Liz has continued to serve the church as parish administrator and has done a fantastic job through very difficult circumstances. She is a dedicated, able, friendly, approachable and efficient and is very much a valued and capable worker. She has been flexible working from home and also from the office when appropriate.

Rhianydd and Peggy have been a key support to the continuing work, worship and ministry of the church in their roles as Church wardens and I am very thankful for their dedication and commitment to the church. The role of treasurer is difficult at the best of times, but Lee has gladly stepped up to the role and has been brilliant. Lee has also continued to massively support the worshipping life of the church through his producing music with the worship band for our online service and leading in person when we were able. Margaret has continued to offer wisdom as part of the standing committee as PCC secretary. Duncan, Miriam and Tim have been hard working and dedicated in their roles. It is worth noting that Duncan has faced challenges at the very start of his ordained ministry that are beyond what many others have experienced through many years. He has faced every challenge with grace and wisdom and has been an excellent partner for the gospel to me here.

I would like to offer my thanks to all those who have worked alongside me and supported the church through this year. I would not have been able to keep going and face the challenges we have without your support and I am very proud to be here working with you.

Mark Close

Safeguarding Report for APCM

At St Philip & St James Church, the PCC take seriously their legal duties to promote a safe environment for all, working closely with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. In our responsibility for the protection of Vulnerable Adults and Children & Young People (Under 18s), we follow the advice given to PCCs and the necessary legal documents are on display in our church buildings, where our activities occur.

We have a legal duty to have the statutory documents (as listed below) on display and these were approved and adopted by the PCC on their meeting on March 9th 2022.

The full versions of the documents are available electronically on request by contacting the church office or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

2022 Safeguarding Policy.

2022 Safeguarding poster (updated) - how to respond & contact details

Promoting a Safer Church - Parish Safeguarding Handbook (Oct 2018 version) **Types of Abuse** (including signs and symptoms)

Canon Margaret Edwards **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP

Mothers' Union

We didn't meet as Covid was still affecting our lives.

We held a Mary Sumner picnic in the Peace Garden, tea and cake were served. It was well attended.

Our first Meeting was held September 1st in the evening. We discussed the style and times of future meetings, and there was a raffle and refreshments.

We also held a Wave of Prayer. It was decided to hold afternoon meetings from 2pm for the dark evenings we also started collecting toiletries for various local charities. 16 Days of Awareness and Action were discussed and thoughts shared. We enjoyed a Bring and Share Lunch and were lead in an Advent Reflection.

Jean Thomas Branch Leader

Social Events Team

No Report

Lunch Club 2021

As with all groups we were unable to meet for much of 2021, but kept in contact with our guests with 'phone calls, birthday and Easter cards. We also joined the Diocesan "Comfort and Joy at Easter Project" and thanks to generous donations, were able to deliver a frozen meal, provided by The Long Table.

Lunch Club was able to restart in September, meeting three weeks out of every four. This was very much welcomed by our guests. However, it soon became apparent that due to rising costs the price of the meal would need to be increased. This was put to the guests, who decided that the price should rise to £5

The year ended with a traditional Christmas meal for 36, when guests were joined by several team members.

We now have 21 guests, but do have a few spaces; so, if you know of any elderly members of the community who would enjoy meeting others, then please let me know.

Margaret Wenham On behalf of the Lunch Club team

Tuesday @ Two 2021

Tuesday @ Two was not able to begin meeting again until November and only met on 2 occasions before the Christmas break. Fourteen friends have enjoyed coming together in the Church Centre once a fortnight to chat, play cards and word games, ending the afternoon with a cup of tea and home-made cake.

Tuesday @ Two. has been running since August 2012. If you know anyone who would like to spend some time playing Canasta, Scrabble, Upwords, Rummy, or any other board games of this type then please encourage them to come and join us.

Margaret & Philip Wenham

C.A.M.E.O.

As with most groups 2021 was difficult because we were unable to meet. However, we did eventually start again in September. Our first meeting was a lovely social evening enabling us to meet friends and catch up. We had a AGM in October and in November Chris Evans from 'The Butterfly Garden' entertained us giving us an insight as to how the pandemic had effected the charity and his plans for the year ahead. Our Christmas meeting was fun with a quiz and ended with a lovely supper. Finally we would like to wish Nancy Lockwood happiness in her new home, she has been a Cameo member for over 40 years!

We have a good and varied programme for this year and would welcome new members.

Jenny Barton

Church Flowers

It was the end of May 2021 when we started back arranging flowers in church with just one arrangement until things eased with the pandemic. We were able to fill the church with flowers at Harvest and also a Wedding in October. We enjoyed arranging the flowers for Christmas and although the carol service had to be cancelled, hopefully they gave pleasure to those who managed to get to other services. Thank you to the team who come each week and we will continue to fill God's house with flowers.

Jenny Barton

CONTENTS LIST

page numbers

Priest in Charge Report	3
Churchwarden Report	3
Trustees Report	4
Structure, Governance & Management	5
Objectives and Activities	6
PCC, Standing Committee, Management Group	7
STATUTORY REPORTS	
Financial Review	8
Accounts (2 pages)	9
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Deanery Synod	12
Fabric	13
NON-STATUTORY REPORTS	
1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP	14
2. PRAYERS & WORSHIPING	14
Prayers and Worshiping	
Prayer Teams	
3. YOUTH & CHILDREN	15
Core Youth Group	
Little PJ's	
Coffee Pot	
Teddy Bears	
Messy Church	
Open the Book	
4. MISSION	16
Outreach	
The HUB	
Mission Team	
Christian Aid	
5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE	17
Discipleship - Home Groups	
Pastoral Care	
6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS	18
Grounds and Buildings Team	
7. ADMINISTRATION	19
Staffing	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults	
8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP	20
Mothers' Union	
Social Events Team	
Lunch Club	
Tuesday @ Two	
C.A.M.E.O.	
Church Flowers	

Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council
Of
St Philip & St James
Hucclecote**

**Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2020**

Priest in Charge Report

What a year it has been, I don't think any of us expected to face what we have over the last 12 months. 2020 has been a tough year and I am sure we are all feeling the strain, but I personally have been so blessed to be supported and held by such a kind and caring church. Our plans to reshape our church community around evangelism which were beginning to take shape at the start of the year were soundly halted in their tracks, and all of our groups and ministries came to an abrupt end, as I am writing this they still haven't restarted. This was such a blow to us as a church, but remarkably we have kept together as best we could and we have continued to love and support one another, together we will come through this. God has not abandoned us and his message of hope for the world is just as relevant now and perhaps more needed. Looking ahead from here, it is still too early to have solid plans about how we will move forward, but what I do have is hope and a few exciting ideas, I expect we will begin to explore them over the coming months and begin to see our way ahead before too long. Bless you all for your continued love and support, I could not keep going without you all.

Mark Close

Churchwarden Report

2020 has not been as envisaged at the start of the year and our thanks go to Mark for his strong leadership at such a difficult time for the church and the church family.

The church wardens would once again like to thank our church treasurer Alison for her continued hard work and commitment in ensuring that the church is in the best possible financial position. We would also like to wish Alison the very best for her future as she hands over the position of church treasurer at the end of 2020.

The help and support received from our church family and volunteers is invaluable and greatly appreciated in such a difficult year.

We would like to thank our church administrator Liz Horton for the valuable work that she does to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

During the shutdown the site and buildings have been checked regularly to ensure that everything is as it should be. Finally we would like to thank everybody for their continued prayers and support.

Rhianydd Warren and Tom Brown
Churchwardens 2020

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative Information

St Philip & St James is situated in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

Church Office
Stone Building
18 Larkhay Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3 NS

Telephone: 01452 372177

Website: www.hucclecotechurch.org

E mail: stpandstj.hucc@mail.com

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
21 Eastgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1NY

Independent Examiner: Janet Wilce

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are on page 5.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT PCC 2020

Incumbent	Revd Mark Close	Chair from September 2017
Ex-Officio	Revd Duncan Hutchison	Curate from June 2020
Wardens	Mr Tom Brown Mrs Rhianydd Warren	until APCM October 2020 Elected 2018
Deanery Synod	Mrs Jean Thomas Mrs Doreen McLellan	re-elected 2020 re-elected 2020

Elected Members of the PCC

Mrs Sharon Alexander	from 2019	resigned Sept 2020
Mr Chris Brookes	from 2019	
Mrs Marion Cook	from 2020.	October 7th APCM
Mrs Alison Dight	re-elected 2019	Treasurer
Canon Margaret Edwards	from 2018	Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary
Mr John Grime	from 2019	
Mr Duncan Hutchison	re-elected 2017	resigned May 2020
Mr Mike Madigan	re-elected 2020	October 7th APCM
Mrs Joy Noah	from 2018	Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Judy Preece	re-elected 2020	October 7th APCM
Mr Roger Slater	from 2018	resigned March 2020
Mr Lee Thornton	from 2020.	October 7th APCM
Mr Colin Waterman	re-elected 2018	

PCC Minutes Secretary - Mrs Peggy Brown from 2019

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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.

The PCC is supported in its work by teams whose views and recommendations are taken into account by the PCC when making many decisions.

See the following pages for information about, and reports from, teams.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Philip and St James PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Philip and St James Church and associated property.

2020 – a year with a difference.

The global Coronavirus pandemic COVID-19, meant that almost all of our church activities have had to be cancelled during 2020 and church services have needed to help in different ways. Following Government regulations church services ceased after 15th March, but for those with internet access, a live-streamed service has been available each Sunday. Outdoor services were held in the church car park during the afternoon on three occasions, with music supplied by Lee and Ruth Thornton. These were well attended and members appreciated being able to see other, albeit socially distanced. Services resumed in church during October, November and December, with a said Holy Communion and a maximum capacity of 25 people, allowing for the regulation distancing between chairs. Miriam Davis has kept members informed about various Mission organisations, with a weekly Mission slot during the streamed service. These have included updates on the beneficiaries of our church tithe - namely OMF (the Pawson family in Japan), Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester FoodBank, Scripture Union and our church link with Mwlanvyia Church in Tanzania.

Christmas activities:

Nativity on a Lorry - organised by the HUB, took place on two evenings but it was very different this year. Knocking on doors to deliver the Christmas leaflets, offering chocolates and good wishes could not be done this year, so it was a very much reduced event.

Carol Services - These took place in different ways; a recorded event of readings and Carols for online streaming, and two outdoor services in the church car park, one in the afternoon and one in the evening,.

Church services took place at 11.30pm for Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve and a Family Communion on Christmas morning.

Messy Christingle - Revd Duncan Hutchison and the Messy Church team produced a service via Zoom for an All-Age appreciative audience, which included a few families from our church Toddler Groups.

Achievements and Performance

There were 109 names on the Electoral Roll as at the APCM held on 7th October 2020 (Postponed from April 22nd 2020). The Roll had had two names added and two names removed during 2020.

The average 'attendance' on Sundays have been difficult to record for the streamed services because people can access the services at a later time/date, but they may not live locally. Numbers attending in person when church has been open were known, as names had to be recorded for Track & Trace purposes

PCC MEETINGS

In a normal year, the PCC meet bi-monthly, and the Standing Committee (Vicar, Curate, Treasurer, Church Wardens, PCC Secretary and Administrator) meet on the alternate months; this group discuss the general running of the church and the financial status together with any areas of concern and makes recommendations to the PCC for further discussions. Agenda items for the PCC always include a Financial report, Safeguarding updates and reports from the Standing Committee, Deanery Synod and Mission Team.

2020 has been a very different year from normal.

The PCC met in person for the January and March meetings, then the Covid-19 restrictions met we had to suspend any further gatherings.

The APCM scheduled for April 22nd 2020 had to be postponed but all the Statutory Reports and Policies were accepted and adopted but the PCC at the March meeting in readiness. Retiring PCC members and officers stayed in position until the revised date later in the year; one person resigned at the March meeting.

The Standing Committee met via Zoom on a fortnightly basis, to discuss items necessary for the safety of the church buildings, to receive regular updates on Financial matters and sharing news of pastoral issues with our members.

The Minutes for these meetings were sent to PCC members to keep them informed and at times, their decision was needed on certain matters.

PCC meetings resumed electronically via Zoom in July, August, September and again in November with the new members elected at the APCM.

The APCM took place on Wednesday October 7th with some church members attending in the building and the rest joining in via Zoom.

This has been a very strange year for everyone and the PCC has needed to be creative to adapt to the way we have worked during 2020-2021 in order to comply with the Government restrictions due to the pandemic but also to comply legally with the rules of Anglican Church and the Charity Commission.

The secretary would like to thank PCC members for their patience and understanding during lockdown since all communication has been electronic and we have not had opportunity to have good discussion times. We look forward to being able to meet together again to plan for the future and to discuss new ways of being a relevant church in our community. Thank you also to all those who were regular volunteers, giving of their time and talents to ensure that all church activities ran smoothly and safely. We pray that all will be willing to return to their volunteering roles sometime soon.

Margaret Edwards

STATUTORY REPORTS

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts in 2020 were £122,002 and total payments were £127,740, giving an overall loss across Unrestricted, Restricted and Designated Funds of £5,738.

Income

By far the largest amount of the church's income comes from planned giving and other donations. There was an increase of £9,691 from regular giving, Gift Aid receipts and other donations, from £98,648 in 2019 to £108,339 in 2020. The other significant income source is from hall lettings, which in 2020 totalled £5,134 compared to £10,513 in 2019.

The church's usual services, events and activities, including fundraising, were disrupted from March onwards due to the coronavirus pandemic. This resulted in a significant loss of income from hall lettings as groups were prohibited from using the facilities. However, planned giving not only held up but increased over the period, giving the church a firm basis for the current year as the pandemic continues to impact on it in 2021.

Expenditure

The largest expenditure was the Parish Share of £62,963 which is paid to the Diocese to help support other churches and clergy. Additional large items of expenditure included salaries and utility costs. The level of donated income meant that necessary repair work to the roof of the north aisle could be carried out.

A total of £9,968 was donated by tithe to Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Foodbank, OMF International, Scripture Union, and a partner church, Mwilanvya, in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, Tanzania; also to support four students at Lake Tanganyika Theological College. A further £6,299 was donated to Murubona Primary School in Kasulu, Tanzania, to fund the construction of new toilets, the refurbishment of the existing ones, and the supply of fresh water to the site, for the benefit of the school's 1300 pupils and staff.

Reserves

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance of Unrestricted Funds that equates to a minimum of two months' operating costs. As agreed by the PCC in 2019, provision towards necessary repairs to the church and other buildings on the site was continued in 2020. The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

Finance Team

Approved by the PCC on 10th March 2021

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote						
Statement of asset and liability balances as at 31st December 2020						
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	31.12.20	31.12.19
		£	£			£
Charitable Funds						
Restricted Funds						
	Ann Smith Bequest		4352		4352	4493
	Boiler		20		20	20
	Building		58567		58567	57613
	Coffee Pot		0		0	360
	Children Worker		4234		4234	4176
	Churchyard Maintenance		11		11	12
	Local Mission		2140		2140	2275
	Music & Worship		891		891	1354
	Olive Withycombe		304		304	304
	Social Fund		0		0	4477
	Sound System		0		0	143
	Tanzania		656		656	2940
	Teddy Bears		0		0	3063
	Treasurers		0		0	4526
	PCC Fund		5854		5854	
	Wardens		500		500	500
Designated Funds						
	Church Centre			120000	120000	120000
	Depreciation Fund			2691	2691	2221
	Computer Fund			1785	1785	2650
	Essential Maintenance			11855	11855	12133
	Coffee Pot			315	315	
	Teddy Bears			2851	2851	
	Treasurers			4525	4525	
	Social Fund			4477	4477	
Unrestricted Fund						
	General Fund	34593			34593	39390
		34593	77529	148499	260621	262651
Represented By						
	Bank Term Deposit Accounts		62621		62621	61797
	Bank Current Accounts	34563	14900	28499	77962	84926
	Petty Cash	30			30	
	Total Bank and Cash	34593	77521	28499	140613	146723
Liabilities						
	Creditors		2365		2365	2737
Net Current Assets		34593	75155	28499	138248	143986
Fixed Assets retained by the charity						
	Land and Buildings at historic cost			120000	120000	120000
Total Net Assets		34593	75155	148499	258248	263986

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

Parochial Church Council of Hucclecote					
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2020					
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Tax efficient planned giving	71706			71706	69479
Other planned giving	6300	550		6850	6100
Other giving and donations - non-recurring	2315	3700	6000	12015	5042
Other giving and donations - recurring	193	70		263	386
Special appeals					
All tax recovered through Gift Aid	16810	695		17505	17641
Legacies received					
Non-recurring grants					
Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund raising events					2167
Hall lettings	5134			5134	10513
Income from other church activities	158		296	454	870
Investment Income					
Dividends and interest	137	901	70	1108	1285
Income from Charitable Activities					
Total Parochial Fees income		5679		5679	8567
Service fee reimbursement					
Other Incoming Resources					
Insurance claims					
Other income	535		750	1285	4663
Total Receipts	103292	11595	7116	122002	126713
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities					
Fundraising costs					18
Donations/grants to charities & mission giving	9968	6299		16267	12337
Local mission & evangelism projects		261		261	2151
Parish share	62963			62963	67963
Clergy expenses	535			535	1768
Church running costs	9363		7098	16461	10563
Churchyard maintenance	2777			2777	3216
Children/youth work costs	96		578	674	6251
Parochial fees	170	3914		4084	4389
Management and Administration					
Salaries and wages	15880			15880	15024
Support costs	637	665		1302	1549
Administration costs	1596		834	2430	1988
Insurance costs	3707			3707	1751
Sundry expenses	399			399	823
Total Expenditure	108097	11139	8510	127740	129791
Receipts over Expenditure	-4805	456	-1394	-5738	-3078
Funds Opening Balance 1.1.2020	39398	74699	149893	263985	267063
Funds Closing Balance 31.12.2020	34593	75155	148499	258247	263985

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote, Gloucester

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31-December-2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1133978

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/ 2020**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

J Wilce

Date:

3/2/2021

Details removed for GDPR

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery synod representatives for St. Philip and St. James' are Jean Thomas and Doreen McLellan.

Deanery synod met at Holy Trinity, Longlevens, in February 2020, where the speaker was Andy Wilson, lead evangelist for Gloucester and Forest Centre of Mission. He gave an interesting and entertaining overview of his work in Matson.

We were unaware at that point that this would be our last face to face meeting in 2020 but Deanery synod did not meet again until October, when the meeting was held virtually using Zoom. At that meeting the Diocesan Strategic Plan was discussed in relation to Gloucester City Deanery. Rev. Ruth Fitter's presentation covered:- what is a Deanery Strategic Life Plan, why are we doing it and why are we planning for the future through the Deanery. This was followed by breakout discussions regarding where the life and energy is in each parish and what is considered the centre of each parish/community.

Deanery synod met again in November, again using Zoom. Following a recap of the previous meeting there was further discussion of the life in each parish. There was a presentation showing the Deanery in context and what data could be collected to inform further discussion, followed by discussion in small groups. Discussion of the plan will continue in 2021.

Doreen McLellan

Deanery Synod Representative

Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measures 1991.

St. Philip and St. James Church, Hucclecote.

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2020.

General. The church is considered to be in a reasonable condition.

Roof and Guttering. The gutters and downpipes have been checked for spillage during heavy rain and found to be satisfactory. Repairs to the north aisle roof and inner vestry roof were completed mid-February 2020. Broken and slipped tiles were replaced, cracked lead flashing and cracks in the lead valleys were repaired, open joints repointed and some of the ridge tiles repointed by removal and resetting in mortar. Moss and other rubbish were removed from the valleys and gullies on these roofs when this work was inspected.

Interior. A satisfactory gas safety inspection was carried out on the boiler in August. At some time in the future this 35 year old boiler is going to have to be replaced. Condensing boilers will have to be used and this will result in a completely new layout in the vestry. A satisfactory check was carried out on the fire extinguishers at the beginning of September.

Paint is flaking on the nave walls at both the east and west end, and also on the chancel walls especially below the dado rail. The plaster on the east chancel wall below the dado rail needs replacing. Since the church was taken out of use earlier in the year due to Covid 19 restrictions black mould seems to have been spreading on the interior walls of the nave. Redecoration was planned for 2020 but didn't happen and is planned for 2021. A damp patch on the inner vestry wall needs investigating and remedial work undertaken.

In 2019 a section of the inner vestry ceiling came down. A repair scheme has been devised. This removes the existing lath and plaster ceiling and replaces it with plaster board. This proposal needs to be reviewed with our surveyor and confirmed as acceptable before the DAC agree that it can be implemented. It was planned to carry out this repair in 2020 but circumstances prevented this happening. Repair is planned for 2021.

The 2020 quinquennial inspection planned for in October has been postponed to 2021.

The 5 yearly electrical circuit inspection took place in December. This inspection revealed three unsatisfactory items, two associated with the lighting control box and one with the ring main. These will be addressed when restrictions on movement and meeting are relaxed and a meeting can be arranged with the contractor. All of the lamps in the nave and chancel were replaced. Quartz halogen lamps used in church are being phased out and will become unavailable so will need to be replaced by LED ones. The lamp control unit in the vestry will have to be replaced as a result.

The south porch gate, west porch gate, and various downpipes need repainting.

Churchyard. The grass in the churchyard was cut twice a month during the growing season and the hedge surrounding the eastern part of the churchyard cut back in November. Neglected graves and plaques have been tidied up by volunteers. Weed killer has been put on new shoots springing up from the shrubs that were cut back in 2018 and also put on the paths to clear the weeds. Brambles have been cut back and treated with weed killer.

A new churchyard gate is being made. Progress has been curtailed by the current restrictions imposed by the virus pandemic. There are wobbly headstones in the churchyard that need dealing with and mortared joints in the southern end of the churchyard wall that need repointing. Repointing is planned for 2021.

Rhianydd Warren
Rhianydd Warren

Churchwarden

12th February 2021

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP

Ministry and Leadership

The past year has been full of many unexpected challenges and we have tried to face them all with hope, positivity and a collaborative leadership approach. I feel it is so important this year to highlight those who have stepped up to support me in my ministry here and have been key in helping us all keep going as a church. Duncan has joined us as curate this year and although he has been a blessing to this church for a number of years as part of our ministry team, his work alongside me and his support now have been wonderful, I am certain the whole church would agree. Miriam has also been amazingly supportive and has taken a strong lead in raising our awareness of mission both local and world wide which has helped us to keep us focusing on others, not just ourselves, and God's mission in the world. Rhianydd and the standing committee has been a huge support and during the height of the lockdown were meeting with me every other week to keep on top of all the changes and decisions. Tim has also helped out with our online services and Lee and the band have been amazing producing new songs each week for us to use online and help us feel a little bit like we are all still part of the same church we were before the lockdowns.

This year we need to acknowledge the work of Alison our treasurer. Alison stepped up to the role at a very difficult time for our church and she has been a wonderful leader in our church. She has been a positive and proactive treasurer and she has helped secure our financial footing as a church. Alison is stepping down as our treasurer and she has been replaced by Lee Thornton who, I am sure, will carry on the good work. I think it is right to honour Alison and her huge amounts of hard work, most of which goes unnoticed. So I would like to personally say Thank you to her and I am sure the whole church will echo that thanks.

We don't yet know what the coming year will bring or when we will be able to get back to some sort of normality, but we are committed to continuing to support each other and are hopeful of what we might be able to do when we are able to gather again.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support each other, you are all wonderful people and I miss spending time with you all very much. It has been a hard year, but we are still here and we will keep going and one day hopefully soon, we will be back worshipping together again and blessing our community.

Mark Close

2. PRAYERS & WORSHIPING

Prayers and Worshiping

Worship this year has been dramatically different from our normal pattern. Although the year started off normally with our pattern of a more traditional mainly eucharistic service at 8.45am and a more modern service, usually of the word, at 10.30am. Following the initial lockdown in March, we adapted to an online model and ran one main service at 10am streamed live on Facebook, this enabled many people to continue to connect with us as a church and also opened up our worshiping community to many people further afield. Over Easter and into the summer we continued with the online service, but also ran several outdoor socially-distanced services in our carpark; these services were attended by 40-60 people and allowed us to worship together (without singing). In the autumn due to the lower numbers of people contracting the virus we were able to open for a eucharistic service once a week, this service ran at 8.30am; we also kept the 10am online service running. Over Christmas we were able to run carol services in our carpark, it was good to be able to mark the season, but it would be fair to say that there is a great sense of loss this year, with the way we have lost the opportunity to gather together as we would love to be able to do. Soon after Christmas we had to stop meeting at 8.30am in the church as we moved into tier 4 and then a second lockdown. We continue to meet online.

In addition to our Sunday worship we have moved our morning prayer online, we meet three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Duncan has been running night prayer on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Over the course of this year we have had 1 wedding, 36 funerals and 1 baptism.

Mark Close

Sung Worship

At the start of 2020 we had two main music groups focused on leading sung worship for the Sunday 10:30 service, and Miriam playing the organ for a number of the Sunday 8:45 services.

Then came the March lockdown. Within a few weeks, we had started producing a song video each Sunday 10am livestream. We had expected this to be only for a short period, but by the end of 2020, we had produced around 50 videos of songs or carols. We have tried to balance the songs with those that appeal across the congregations. A guide track is sent to the singers and musicians & they return their parts which they've recorded mainly onto mobile phones. These are mixed together (aligning vocals, removing background noises, and trying to balance the songs to get around how the livestream changes audio etc) and a final video is produced. Each song takes roughly 10+ hours of work to produce, and we have learnt much during this time. It has been a privilege to do this and we have a bank of songs that can be used in the future.

For Remembrance Day, we filmed the Last Post being played in church, the day before the November lockdown, and took pictures of the war graves in our graveyard, for the remembrance video. In the midst of all that was going on, this was a moving experience.

Lee Thornton

8:45am and 10:30am Prayer Teams

Both teams from first and second services remained active by offering prayer ministry after the services until we could no longer meet in person because of covid restrictions. Since lockdown up to ten people have used Zoom on a Saturday morning to engage with each other to pray.

We start by sharing and then reading a Psalm to focus us on God's word, this has been a very good way to engage in prayer. We have been covering latest topics from national news, overseas as well as local, church and personal, through this difficult time.

As well as prayer members from the first congregation prayer team have been able to keep contact with people from the church as well as friends and neighbours by telephone. This has been a valuable contribution especially with single people, to keep contact and support.

Glenys Beard and Christine Dale

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN

Youth Group Report 2020

The youth group have not been able to meet in person since the start of the COVID restrictions, which has sadly meant things are very difficult in terms of keeping in contact. However, we have met a few times over Zoom, and this has been a great opportunity to catch up and see how school/ lockdown life has been for each of them.

At these zoom sessions, Chris and I have met with 7 young people on average, which has been brilliant considering. Each zoom we just chat and share our experiences, and I offer a chance to pray for the young people.

We hope to start meeting in person as soon as we're allowed.

Amy Close

PJ's Report for 2020

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, the Sunday Morning Youth Group has not met over the last 12 months. We ask that you continue to uphold the children and young people in your prayers.

John Grime and Helen McLean

Little PJ's Report for 2020

"Welcome everyone and say Hello..." It's been a very long time since we have sung our opening song for the Little PJ's sessions. Our excellent team of Janet, Linda, Margaret and Susie found themselves having a sudden, extended holiday from preparing craft, leading songs and reading bible stories with our younger children. The coronavirus pandemic and consequent lockdown stopped us halfway through Year Two of the 'Jack in the Box' programme. On the 15th March the last story we told the children was 'Jesus and Zacchaeus' and the message was, 'Jesus gives everyone a fresh start'. We look forward to making that fresh start as soon as we are able to meet together again.

Dianne and Chris Brookes February 2021

Coffee Pot Toddler Group

Coffee Pot, like many other groups, was forced to close in the middle of March 2020 due to the COVID 19 outbreak. At the time of writing, it is difficult to anticipate when we might meet again. As a 'stay and play' group we have to accommodate both adults and children; maintaining safe distances and practices whilst allowing everyone to have the kind of experience we would like them to have, and which they are used to, would be impossible.

Coffee Pot has many families who have been with us for a number of years. I suspect that by the time we return, many will have moved on and children will be at school. This is sad for us as a team as relationships we have built up will be lost.

In the first two months of 2020 we welcomed many new families and our numbers were increasing. As a 'drop in' group, we had a core of families who came every week and others who came as and when they felt the need for companionship. One of the things we have learned over the past 12 months is that we need a means of communication with our families; we made the decision when GDPR was instigated that we would no longer keep contact details and this could have been a mistake. A re-think is required when we are allowed to meet again.

My team are amazing – Linda Weedon, Susan Taylor, Pat Peachey, Trevor Henning and Nan Laver – we all look forward to opening up Coffee Pot again in the near future. Things may have to be done differently, but I am sure we will find a way to give everyone a good experience.

Peggy Brown

P & J Teddy Bears. - Toddler Group

Fridays mornings changed in 2020 after March 13th - lockdown started due to the pandemic and we had to cancel our sessions. We had kept in touch with the families via Facebook messages and seeing some of them while doing my supermarket shopping. Two new babies were born during the first lockdown - one in March and one in April, both were little girls and although I delivered the usual gifts to each of the families, we have missed out on our usual cuddles with the new infants. They will be toddlers rather than babies when we begin our sessions again.

We said Goodbye to four of our children in July as they reached school age - although they missed out on the usual farewell party, Linda and I managed to meet up with each family, individually, to present the children with their gift of a book from Teddy Bears and our good wishes for starting school. We were fortunate that we were allowed to meet up, socially distanced of course and the weather was good so we used King George V playing field as an open space. When our Messy Church held a Christingle service via Zoom in January, two of our Teddy Bears families took up the invitation and joined us and both of them thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to more.

Margaret Edwards & Linda Waterman for the team (Pat Peachey, Susan Taylor, Jean Thomas, Rhianydd Warren, Margaret Wenham)

Messy Church Report for 2020

What was Messy Church in 2020 ? Flocks of sheep and herds of pigs in the church! There were only 2 Messy Church sessions last year because of the pandemic and, following our regular format, the activities for the children were linked to the two bible stories presented in February and March : The Good Shepherd and The Big Spender. Our memories are of happy, busy children eager to try the range of activities. 'Sheep' cakes and 'Pig' biscuits were made and eaten

gleefully. Sheep were also created in paint, origami and on sticks before joining a frantic hunt for the tiny runaways around the church. There were two ways to make pigs – only biscuit and clay – but The Big Spender inspired lots of money activities from coin rubbing and money bag making to spending in a toy shop. Hopeful of another year to build relationships and welcome families month by month we, like the rest of the country, had our plans halted by the coronavirus. We have missed the children, their families and our amazing team of helpers but we are planning to be ready with a warm welcome for everyone when we start again.

Judy Preece and Dianne Brookes February 2021

Open the Book

The team held weekly assemblies at Hillview Primary School for Key Stage 1 (Infant) pupils until mid-March, when school was disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The lockdown situation has prevented any face-to-face contact with pupils as yet and we pray that we will be able to return to school at some point this year to continue our Bible Stories. Even when the school was open in the early autumn term, no assemblies were held since the pupils were restricted to remaining in their class or group 'bubbles'

I have kept contact with the school throughout, through the Headteacher, offering prayers for pupils and staff and at Christmas I delivered the Bible Society booklet of the Christmas Story for class teachers to read to the pupils.

Margaret Edwards for the OtB team (Chris & Dianne Brookes, Peggy Brown, Josie Cumberbatch, Pam Henning, Joy & Mike Noah, Jean Thomas, Philip Wenham.)

4. MISSION

Local Outreach

Unfortunately our communal outreach has taken a big hit from the restrictions that have been in place due to the coronavirus outbreak. All of our groups for young and old have had to stop, of particular concern has been that most of our volunteers fall into a vulnerable category mainly due to age.

The particular sadness from the shut down for myself is that we began the year with a renewed focus on outreach and evangelism and we were beginning as a church to gain some momentum around personal evangelism, with sharing slots in the services to tell good news stories and resources that we had produced to aid us in our sharing. It is my hope that as we recover from this lockdown that we pick up where we left off, with energy and enthusiasm for sharing our faith with the people of Hucclecote and beyond.

Miriam and the mission team have done excellent work sharing with us during our 'mission slots' in our online services to keep us focused on God's mission in the world, and shifting our focus from ourselves towards others in the world.

Mark Close

Mission Team

In 2020 we continued to support our five mission links from the church tithe – The Diocese of Western Tangynika (four theological students, Lake Tangynika Theological College in Kasulu and our link parish, Mwilanyya; OMF International and the Pawsons in Japan; Scripture Union UK and the 95 project; Gloucester City Mission and Gloucester Foodbank. Perhaps the greatest joy of 2020 was the completion of the project to build new toilets at Murobona Primary School, Kasulu. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals from church there was sufficient money even for the school to refurbish the old toilets.

The Pawsons arrived in Sapporo, Japan to start language study in March 2020. Due to coronavirus it was not possible to hold any physical mission events in church during 2020. However, since May 2020 with the exception of two Sundays, the weekly online service had a brief mission slot focussing on either the church's five mission links or on global mission in general. We used a range of videos, PowerPoints, live interviews and presentations.

Miriam Davis

Christian Aid 2020

The year 2020 was one of the most difficult years in living memory, with the coronavirus pandemic challenging health systems and economies in every society, stretching some to breaking point, whilst the climate crisis has continued to grow more deadly. The impact of this across the world has been, and continues to be, severe, especially amongst those communities battling poverty.

Christian Aid Week 2020 was very different, with restrictions on meeting together meaning that our main fundraising event, the planned coffee morning and mini market all had to be cancelled. With no red envelopes in Church, many of you made your own donations to Christian Aid by other means, on-line, text or phone. Many thanks to those who have supported Christian Aid by buying marmalades and preserves throughout the year. Nationally, Christian Aid Week raised £4 million, enabling Christian Aid's local partners to provide much needed emergency relief in Beirut last August and Nepal, as well as supporting partners helping communities across the globe.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2021 The attention is on the climate crisis and our global neighbours in Kenya, battling the effects of extreme weather, from severe drought to floods. 2021 marks the 75th anniversary of Christian Aid. Please give your support in any way you can, through prayer, gifts and action. As a Christian Aid supporter says of Christian Aid, "It's not a charity "over there", but the channel we have chosen to be our hands and feet for what we cannot do ourselves."

Philip Wenham

Christian Aid representative

5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE

Discipleship - Home Groups

Approximately 65 members of our congregation, together with several visitors, currently meet regularly in the 8 house groups that operate during the week within our Church Home group system.

Groups study the Bible, worship and pray together, socialise and share fellowship with one another in meetings on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evening or on a Wednesday morning, either in members' homes or in the Stone Building. Our Church continues to recognise the importance of House group attendance as a means towards greater personal spiritual growth and, as a consequence:

- Supports the need to expand the existing system by encouraging and welcoming new membership – and by taking particular care to find the right group for new people.
- Makes provision for a "nurture" group, when appropriate, for new Christians prior to their integration into the more established groups.
- Provides a central collection of resources, both books and DVD's, etc., with, where possible, reviews of recent material that groups have used.
- Encourages a system of co-ordinated study across all groups whilst recognising that, on occasions, groups might prefer to do their own thing.

During the spring of 2020 the groups looked at a discipleship series called "Following Jesus" before undertaking a Lent Course entitled "Handing on the Torch". Sadly due to lockdown restrictions during the rest of the year, and up until recently, groups have been unable to meet in their respective homes, but some groups have continued to keep in touch with each other either by phone or through video conferencing software applications such as Zoom.

If you feel you would like to join a group or, perhaps start a new one with friends, then please do speak to me or a member of our Leadership Team.

Allan Butcher. House Group Coordinator.

Pastoral Care.

One of the most difficult aspects of the lockdown has been maintaining good pastoral care. We have tried to ensure that people have not been left isolated, but we have relied on the church family to look after each other. Having an online time for prayer either in the morning or the evening throughout the week gives a structure to each week, that helps

people feel connected and our zoom coffee meetings after church on a Sunday, gives people a chance to connect. We also have the capacity for people to join with us at our Sunday services via the phone which has helped some people who are not able to get online to stay connected.

Mark Close

6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

Grounds and Buildings Team Report on the Church Centre, Stone Building, Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms for 2020.

Church Centre Site. Overall the site is in a reasonable condition and is generally clear of rubbish. A cracked drain cover in the car park requires replacing; a replacement is available in the garage. The garden areas have been maintained and kept colourful over the year with the grass being cut regularly. Many thanks go to the group who have laboured over the year to make this happen. The apple tree in a Havelock Rd garden that was overhanging the car park fence was cut back. A skip was brought in and these cuttings, along with the heap of greenery in the carpark, were disposed of along with other garden waste and rubbish from the garage. Plant and shrub growth in the area to the east of the Gordon Rooms has been kept down by continual vigilance. The boundary fence between this part of the site and Havelock Rd gardens has two broken posts that need replacing. The Larkhay Rd boundary fence needs repainting and the entrance gate re-instating. Weed killer has been applied around the site from time to time to try and keep the weeds under control.

Heating and Fire Extinguishers. All of the heating systems had their safety checks in August 2020 and were satisfactory. The boiler in the Youth Centre was installed some 25 years ago and will probably need replacing at some time in the future. The fire extinguishers were checked in September and all found to be satisfactory.

Stone Building. Overall the building is in a reasonable condition. Some re-pointing of the stonework is required, especially on the east wall, and the coping stones on the south east corner need replacing. Two of the wooden window frames on the front of the building have been repainted. Another six are still to be done. Inside the building there are some areas where paint and plaster is flaking off and needs repairing. There are also skirting boards that have been affected by wet rot and need replacing.

Church Centre. The chimney breast and ceiling in the northwest corner of the hall requires redecorating. The exterior woodwork requires repainting. The roof has loose ridge tiles and broken tiles that need attention. The external walls around the ladies and gents toilets need rebuilding and the toilets need refurbishing. The kitchen needs re-modelling to bring it up to date in line with current standards and in-line with its current use. Basically the whole building is in need of refurbishment and modernising. The raised area of parquet floor in the north west corner of the hall is due to the concrete surface under the wooden blocks rising up and will need professional attention to correct it.

Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms. The upright part of some of the reinforced concrete portals supporting the roofs needs repairing. A specialist will be required to carry out this type of repair. The corrugated asbestos cement roof panels on both buildings are deteriorating and need attention as they are starting to develop holes. Render is coming off the external walls. The gutters on both buildings need attention. A decision about the future of these two buildings will need to be made at some point in the future.

The Garage. The garage continues to be serviceable but has a temporary repair on the roof at the main door end. There are broken concrete panels in the wall, but the garage is still secure.

Tom Brown for the Grounds & Buildings Team.

7. ADMINISTRATION

Staffing

There has been some significant changes in our staffing situation here, Firstly as mentioned in the ministry and leadership section of this report Alison Dight stepped down as treasurer at the end of the year and Lee Thornton took up

the role. Liz is still our administrator, she has done an excellent job this year in very trying circumstances, often working from home as the office has had to remain closed on a number of occasions. A massive thank you to her and her dedication. Finally the Standing committee and the PCC had to take the difficult decision to make Rob our site manager redundant, it was clear that the role was no longer required as the virus has closed our groups for the current time and even once we are back to some normality we would not have the same needs going forward, we also had to face the challenges of a deficit in our accounts and a projected deficit budget for the coming year. I would like to say thank you to Rob for his hard work and graciousness in accepting the decision that was made. Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to keep things running, it has been one of the most difficult years of my life and I have valued the huge amounts of support you have all given me.

Mark Close

Safeguarding Report for APCM

At St Philip & St James Church, the PCC take seriously their legal duties to promote a safe environment for all, working closely with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. In our responsibility for the protection of Vulnerable Adults and Children & Young People (Under 18s), we follow the advice given to PCCs and the necessary legal documents are on display in our church buildings, where our activities occur.

We have a legal duty to have the statutory documents (as listed below) on display and these were approved and adopted by the PCC on their meeting on March 10th 2021.

The full versions of the documents are available electronically on request by contacting the church once or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

2021 Safeguarding Policy 2021.

Promoting a Safer Church - Parish Safeguarding Handbook (Oct 2018 version)

Types of Abuse (including signs and symptoms)

Canon Margaret Edwards Parish Safeguarding Officer

8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP

Social Events Team

While our social activities are intended to be entertaining, they also strengthen bonds within our Church family and provide opportunities for outreach into the greater community. Traditionally they have been well-attended and enjoyed as notable events in our church calendar, commonly following a sequence of a quiz, music concert, barbecue, Harvest Lunch and the Christmas Fair. Although the loss of these events during the year because of Covid restrictions cannot compare with the suffering caused by the disease, the Social Events Team regrets that it was not possible to organise any social activities during 2020. But the time will come when we will once again be able to enjoy fun and fellowship.

Colin Waterman, On behalf of the Social Events Team

Lunch Club 2020

The Lunch Club has 28 members, who have met just 9 times at the beginning of the year before having to close due to Covid 19. We have been able to keep in touch by phone, as members do with each other; friendships they have made through Lunch Club. We were also able to deliver Easter cards and eggs. The Christmas meal was very different and we were extremely grateful to be part the Diocese project "Christmas Comfort and Joy", enabling members to enjoy a frozen Christmas dinner supplied by "The Long Table," albeit in their own homes.

All are looking forward to being able to meet again in our Church centre, but obviously it might be some time before that can happen.

Margaret Wenham, On behalf of the Lunch Club team

Mothers' Union

We held four Meetings before Lockdown

A Social with CAMEO with a Quiz and refreshment;

Social with Craft and cake;

AGM was held and was well attended;

We joined Diocese Members Day held in our Church information and fellowship was shared;

Butterfly Garden talk by Chris Evens, a very informative and entertaining evening.

We have met for Mary Sumner Day in the Peace Garden and enjoyed a time of catching up with friends and finished with a short service.

We met for Wave of Prayer for our Link Dioceses Overseas and UK in the Peace Garden.

Sadly, two of our members died during 2020: Marian Dangerfield and Janet Staley.

Marie Kear is now in a Nursing Home but she is remembered in our prayers and contact is made via her family.

Jean Thomas

Branch Leader

Tuesday @ Two 2020

Tuesday @ Two was able to meet on only 5 occasions before having to call a halt due to Covid 19 mid March. We have managed the odd phone call to keep in contact, but all are looking forward to the day when we can meet together in the Centre for friendly games, a good chat and a welcome cup of tea and slices of home-made cake!

Margaret & Philip Wenham

C.A.M.E.O.

Who knew what 2020 had in store for us! We started the year with our usual 'social' evening with the Mothers Union – a time to get together and enjoy each others company. Our February meeting began with Ged Cassell who gave us a talk on Dragonflies and Butterflies with wonderful slides – his pictures were beautiful then of course everything came to a halt!! Obviously we are not the only group that this pandemic has affected but once we are allowed, it will be lovely to see everyone again hopefully later in 2021. The committee continue to keep in touch with some of our members and its lovely to speak with them.

Until we can all meet again – Stay safe.

Jenny Barton

Church Flowers

We started 2020 with our usual Friday meetings to arrange flowers for Sunday services but then our mornings came to an end with the onset of the pandemic. We felt very fortunate to have had the opportunity to arrange the 2019

Christmas flowers as that was the last 'big' event for us – the flower team. We do all miss not being able to arrange flowers and to see each other, but we all keep in touch and look forward to getting back to normality hopefully later in 2021.

Jenny Barton

CONTENTS LIST

page numbers

Priest in Charge Report	3
Churchwarden Report	3
Trustees Report	4
Structure, Governance & Management	5
Objectives and Activities	6
PCC, Standing Committee, Management Group	7

STATUTORY REPORTS	
Financial Review	8
Accounts (2 pages)	9
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Deanery Synod	12
Fabric	13

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

1. MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP	14
2. PRAYERS & WORSHIPING	14
Prayers and Worshiping	
Sung Worship	
Prayer Teams	
3. YOUTH & CHILDREN	15
Youth Group	
PJ's	
Little PJ's	
Coffee Pot	
Teddy Bears	
Messy Church	
Open the Book	
4. MISSION	17
Local Outreach	
Mission Team	
Christian Aid	
5. DISCIPLESHIP & PASTORAL CARE	18
Discipleship - Home Groups	
Pastoral Care	
6. FACILITIES & BUILDINGS	19
Ground and Buildings Team	
7. ADMINISTRATION	20
Staffing	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People	
PCC Policy for the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults	
8. SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP	20
Social Events Team	
Lunch Club	
Mothers' Union	
Tuesday @ Two	
C.A.M.E.O.	
Church Flowers	