

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

England & Wales - Charity number 1151491

## Details

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Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD, ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2013-04-03
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** St Christopher's is a church within the Church of England. It undertakes Christian mission within its local area of Sparkhill, Moseley and Hall Green in Birmingham, and provides services of worship within its church building and its parish. It also supports Christian Missionaries working in the UK and overseas.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Birmingham City

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£227,932	£307,471	-	-
2023-12-31	£282,925	£321,480	-	-
2022-12-31	£147,463	£154,717	-	-
2021-12-31	£131,248	£151,201	-	-
2020-12-31	£141,747	£144,367	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALISON ROPER-HALL		2013-03-28
Alexandra Nance		2018-04-30
Catriona Heatherington		2019-04-29
David Hartley		2021-04-26
Dr Andrew Smith		2023-04-24
Helen Cremins		2018-04-30
Jennifer Tustain		2023-04-24
Margaret Gordon		2013-03-28
Michael Lenton		2025-12-01
Michael Smith		2023-04-24
Phillip Grimes		2022-06-06
Phillipa Grimes		2022-04-25
REV TOM THOMAS		2013-03-28
Vikram Jit Taggar		2016-04-25

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# Accounts

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***Annual Report for 2024  
as presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2025***



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# Welcome to the St Christopher's Annual Report for the year ending December 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's Church, Springfield is located at the junction of Woodlands Road and Springfield Road in South-East Birmingham about 3 miles from the city centre. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

### ***Aim and Purposes***

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a registered charity (Charity no. 1151491). Further information about the charity and its trustees can be found in the section of this report headed Key Information on the St Christopher's PCC Charity.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and fabric. It also owns and uses the Springfield Centre which adjoins the church building; however the maintenance of this building is the responsibility of the Springfield Project.

### ***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community at St Christopher's. In order to do so it has developed the following vision statement for St Christopher's which it uses to guide its decisions.

#### ***Our Vision Statement – We want to be...***

- A fellowship that worships God from the heart, displaying the power of the Holy Spirit amongst us to heal, enlighten and transform.
- A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth.
- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community.
- A place of caring for, equipping and discipling people in all that life brings.
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.
- A congregation of all ages that supports our children and young people as they grow and develop; and encourages them to live out their faith in church and the wider community.
- A fellowship that values our diversity, and where our rich variety is reflected in leadership roles.
- A fellowship that stands with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners, and working for peace, justice and the protections of God's creation.

The PCC has adopted the strapline '***Growing together in Christ***' to summarise this vision in a more memorable form. At a recent away-day, the PCC decided to focus on the first three of these points over the coming year and have come up with an action plan to implement this.

When planning their activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC therefore seeks to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the local area;
- Supporting missionary work in the local area;
- Supporting overseas missionaries involved in Christian mission;
- Providing services to the local community, particularly for local families and children in conjunction with the Springfield Project.

More information on all these activities can be found in the other sections of this report.

***Links with other local churches:***

St Christopher's has good relationships with several local churches, both Anglican and non-Anglican. However, we are now in a recognised 'Oversight Area' with St Edmund's Tyseley and therefore seek to work together with St Edmund's, sharing resources for mission and ministry as much as possible. St Christopher's is also a member of the Yardley and Solihull deanery within Birmingham Diocese, which represents around 30 churches in South East Birmingham and Solihull.

***Links with Other Charities:***

The Springfield Project ([www.springfieldproject.org.uk](http://www.springfieldproject.org.uk)) is a charity that is closely connected to St Christopher's. Although it is a separate charity (Charity no. 1134977) with its own trustees, it was founded by St Christopher's, is located in the church buildings, and its activities are closely co-ordinated with those of the Church. Therefore, a short report on its activities is included in this report, although a Trustees Report for the Springfield Project is also available by contacting [info@springfieldproject.org.uk](mailto:info@springfieldproject.org.uk)

St Christopher's also has close links with the Feast ([www.thefeast.org.uk](http://www.thefeast.org.uk)), a charity that brings together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives.

St Christopher's is delighted to host an 'Anna Chaplain' and to support this ministry as part of the wider network of Anna Chaplaincy facilitated by the Bible Reading Fellowship ([www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)). A report outlining the work of our Anna Chaplain, Debbie Gurling, is included in this report.

St Christopher's is a supporter of Open Doors an organisation which helps persecuted Christians across the world ([www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)). We do this through prayer, giving and keeping informed about the situation of Christians in areas of the world where their faith makes them vulnerable to attack and persecution.

## FROM THE VICARAGE...

Clearly every year is important, but 2024 has certainly been a significant year for St Christopher's. We began the year in the midst of our reordering project with Ernst and the team working faithfully to complete on time in March. As I said last year, I am so grateful to



Jericho Construction and to BHB Architects for their work in overseeing and delivering the project with such sensitivity, professionalism and dedication. As I think everyone knows Ernst went above and beyond what could ever have been reasonably expected of him and he was (and is!) an absolute star. Can I also say a huge thank you to everyone who helped in

any way with putting church back together again after the work. There were so many small but crucial jobs which needed doing – cleaning, sorting, finding new homes for the things we needed, getting rid of things we didn't and generally setting our space up again to use week by week. THANK YOU to everyone who rolled up their sleeves and took part in all this. It was a joy to celebrate at the end of this process in March and then to have our formal opening in June when we welcomed Bishop David to St Christopher's for the first time to rededicate our space to the glory of God.



As well as this joy, it has continued to be a pleasure for me to work with such a wonderful staff team – Lucy our Parish Administrator, Kam our Parish Missioner, Debbie our Anna Chaplain and Rebecca our Under 18s Ministry Facilitator. We are blessed to have such a team! However, there have been changes, as at the end of 2024 Rebecca stood down from her post. Rebecca took this role on just before the Covid pandemic hit and has led our children's work through this and many other challenges over the last five years. She established good working practices and provided a strong foundation on which those who volunteer in our children and youth work can flourish. I am so grateful to her for her quiet professionalism, determination and good humour – we miss her a lot!



Other highlights of 2024 included our PCC away day in January when Sarah Smith led us in thinking how best to implement our vision statement. This has enabled our PCC to focus its efforts on key priorities. Through the year, it has been so encouraging to see people developing their faith and skills for ministry, especially Janet who completed the diocesan Way of Discipleship course and Gaby and Meike who completed the Children's Pathway

Training. David Hartley has also continued his reader training and begun to exercise his ministry alongside Philippa and Fiona. We were also able to collect for our local foodbank and for the Christmas toy distribution across the city. In November we were able to rejoice with Kevin Holland as he was confirmed at Knowle Parish Church and in December we had our breakfast and Christingle and the joyful countdown to Christmas began. At our carol service this year I think we had our best ever choir under the masterful leadership of our patient and ever-encouraging Margaret Gordon.



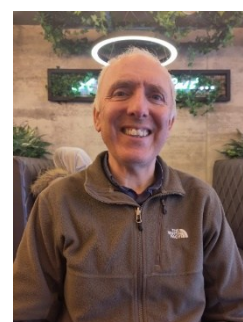
There has of course also been sadness this year, as several individuals and families within our church have encountered illness, loss and grief. It has been my privilege to officiate at the funerals of Michael Roper-Hall, William Langston and Josie Bullard, and of course other funerals have taken place elsewhere. We send our love and prayers to everyone who has experienced the pain of bereavement over this last year.

In concluding may I take this opportunity to thank those with whom I've been privileged to work over the last year. As I've mentioned it is a joy to be part of our wonderful staff team with Lucy, Kam, Debbie and Rebecca. We are also extremely blessed to have Tim as our Springfield Project Chair overseeing this key part of our shared life, especially in the midst of the perpetual state of crisis which is our City Council. Thank you too to Curt as our tireless and ever-cheerful site manager. Thank you to our two wonderful churchwardens – Messrs Smith and Smith. They complement one another superbly and we are so blessed by their skills and commitment. Thanks too to our PCC who oversee our day-to-day life as well as working towards our strategic priorities. Thank you to Helen Cremins who stood down after many years as PCC Secretary but has kindly stayed on to be our 'inclusion champion.' Thank you to everyone who leads and helps at Seedlings, Super Stars, Jaffa, Frog, Hot Chocolate Café, Blast and Real. To everyone who makes and serves teas and coffees, reads and prays in our services, to our musicians, singers, preachers, prayer ministry members, PA & IT operators, service leaders, small group leaders, those who stack chairs and clear up toys, who bake cakes, bring food, clear up food, tidy up books, wash up, sweep, mop, wipe and clean...THANK YOU! The Lord sees everything we do in His name and every act offered up to Him becomes an offering in which He surely delights and an expression of what it means to be the body of Christ.



“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

**Tom Thomas**  
**Vicar**



## WORSHIP REPORT



*Shout to the Lord our God and King for he is Worthy to be Praised*

I give thanks to the Lord our God for another year in which we have been able to worship him through song without fear or persecution.

My thanks go out to all those involved in making this happen. This includes all our worship leaders and groups, service leaders, PA and Zoom operators. None of this would be possible without the servant hearts of all those involved. Our vicar Tom with his organisational skills is instrumental in making this run smoothly.

We have continued to use ISing worship in aiding our worship which in a time with limited musicians has been a valuable resource.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all who volunteered to take part in our Christmas Carol service last year which once again was a great success!

As we continue to learn more about God's grace and compassion, I pray that as a congregation we continue to shine a light in the darkness.

Amen

**Margaret Gordon, April 2025**

## PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care continues to mean a mixture of things at St Christopher's. We have the fundamental ongoing concern of individual members of our church for one another, seeking to 'look out' for each other and support our ongoing wellbeing in faith and life. There are also moments when people may have been missing from church for a while and then Tom, Debbie or Kam might be asked or reminded to visit or contact them. Then there are our small groups which meet in different ways and at different times, with varying degrees of regularity:

- Women's breakfast and men's breakfast – meeting roughly once a month
- The Lent course – meeting for 5-6 weeks during Lent
- 2 Homegroups which met weekly during term-time in 2024, but may now take a break while new patterns emerge
- The prayer and study group which meets on a Tuesday morning after our prayer meeting during term-time
- Asian Fellowship which meets on a Monday morning during term-time
- The Place of Welcome on a Thursday lunchtime during term-time (a shared activity with the Springfield Project)
- WhatsApp groups which help people stay in touch
- Prayer ministry offered each week in church
- Shared meals and other open celebrations at church.

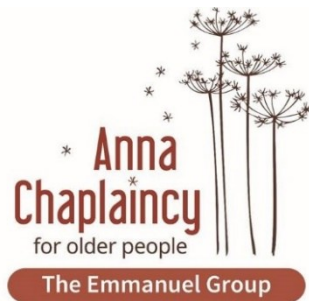
Clearly there are ways we can improve and there will always be moments when we do not get this right and people feel unnoticed or even forgotten. I hope these are the exceptions, but we must be aware of this danger in our church life. However, I hope that on the whole every person can find some way (or ways) of being connected and feeling valued at St Christopher's. As Alex Nance put it last year:

“One of the wonderful things about St Christopher's is that we thrive on the informal pastoral care we provide for each other - choosing to meet up in the week, or chatting after the service with a hot drink. You don't need to join something organised to be an important part of the way we look after each other here! Our Vision Statement says that we want St Christopher's to be “a loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth”, and we all have a part in building this together.”

May God grant that we all do this and do it better and better!

**Tom Thomas, April 2025**





**“They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green” Psalm 92:14.**

This ministry has certainly continued to see older people, as being the ones who encourage and minister, as well as being the ones to be encouraged and ministered to!

Last year, I continued to visit seniors in the parishes of St Christophers, St Johns and St Edmunds on Sundays, and was faithfully assisted during the weekdays, by Jean Gethen and Dot Pooler. Between the 3 of us, as well as visiting people in their own homes, we were also able to visit seniors with connections to our churches, in Edgbaston (Edgbaston Care Home), Acock’s Green (Arden Lodge), and Moseley (Barkat House), as well as at least 2 others. Unfortunately, Debbie Ducille was no longer able to supervise me in this, due to her increasing commitments as Ministry Lead for Anna Chaplaincy nationally. Alison Roper-Hall however, kindly agreed to step in as practice supervisor, whilst Tom as the one who manages the finances, kindly agreed to also manage my reporting of absences. David Harrison as Warden of Commissioned Pastoral Care Teams, has remained as my chaplaincy mentor.

The number of people aged over 70 with whom we have connection, remains at an intermittent 50.

In April, I was joined by David Hartley, and Sue Green to do an accessibility audit of St Christophers. I felt that if church was a place that was accessible and welcoming to older people, then it would become the start of making it more welcoming to other groups, who were also differently abled. Findings were taken to the P.C.C, from which a steering group was formed, to address issues, such as lighting, signage, sound, and others.

In the summer, I went to the Botanical Gardens with St Johns, which was included a small group of over 70’s, and gave me an opportunity to get to know some people that are not normally visited. Seniors have told me the summer period, can be a difficult time of the year, so I decided to address this by having a couple of summer groups at Springfield Centre in August. Whilst the groups were creative in nature (painted rocks, and cards etc), the main aim was to have fellowship at a time when most people were away, and groups closed for the summer. This also gave people an opportunity to have conversations, especially whilst having a packed lunch together, which became as important as the activities. During this summer period, we also were visited by representatives from the Henry Smith Charity, who have been funding this ministry for the past 5 years. They were able to conduct interviews with various people who have been involved in the ministry, including recipients of visits, and they were able to see a part of Sparkhill, to put the ministry into context.

At the beginning of September, Joy Holt a long-standing member and leader at St Johns church died. I had the privilege of spending time with her and her husband Geoff, the day her diagnosis was confirmed, and on one other occasion afterwards, as a joint visit with Debbie Ducille. Because of the enormous impact of Joy’s death, on everyone at St John’s,

but particularly the seniors, who had known her for the longest time, I focussed my Sundays there for 2 months, until after her funeral, when the vicar of St John’s Toby, had returned from Sabbatical. The funeral was well attended from all over the country and was joined online from people all over the world. The Sunday after Joy’s funeral, I spoke at an intergenerational service at St John’s, which was also celebrating Black History Month. This saw the young people of the church, interviewing seniors about how their lives and challenges experienced.

In October I was given permission by the Area Dean Tony Rindl, to give communion by extension. This enabled me to give communion to someone who was end of life at home, and to someone else in a care home.

Towards the end of the year, a steering group made of the vicars of St Christopher’s, St Edmunds, and St John’s, met together to review the past 5 years of Anna Chaplaincy ministry in their parishes.

In December 2024 – Dick Graham a previous member of Warwick Road Methodist church, but who then settled with St Johns, died, after a being terminally ill with cancer for 2 years. I had the privilege of being able to minister to him nearly every week during this time, and was soon joined by others including Toby, to make it a weekly service.

At the end of January 2025, the last person to be commissioned as an Anna Chaplain in Birmingham – Christine Miles, died of cancer. Debbie Ducille and I were able to visit Christine for the last time, just before Christmas, and jointly attended her funeral in February.

In March 2025, Jean West, sister of one of my Anna Friends Dot Pooler died, so Dot stepped back as a volunteer.

Whilst there have been many sombre times, as we have ‘mourned with those who mourned’, and as we have walked through valleys with people. However, those times during the past year have paled into insignificance when compared to the joy and blessing that our times with people has brought.



**Debbie Gurling, , April 2025**  
**Anna Chaplain**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

This year we helped over 50 children under 18 to meet and follow Jesus and have fun together. More than 28 supported and trained volunteers carried this out, and in the process learned more about following Jesus and having fun themselves. There were 198 sessions on Sundays and Wednesdays this year!

### Super Stars



(under-5s) 9 children are registered: 2- 6 attend the group without parents. A WhatsApp group helps us to share news and blessings. We tell a short Bible story, with a linked craft and prayer and lots of play. 8 volunteers deliver this group.

**Highlight: Meike and Gabby studying hard to become Commissioned Children's Leaders: they really enjoyed their project 'God created me wonderful' - well done you two!**



### JAFFA

Jesus a Friend for All

(5-9s) 6 children registered: attendance varies from 2-8! We



sing, play a game, learn from the Bible and have good discussion, while making something together and pray. 4 volunteers run this group.

**Highlight: Learning new songs, the kindness they show to each other**

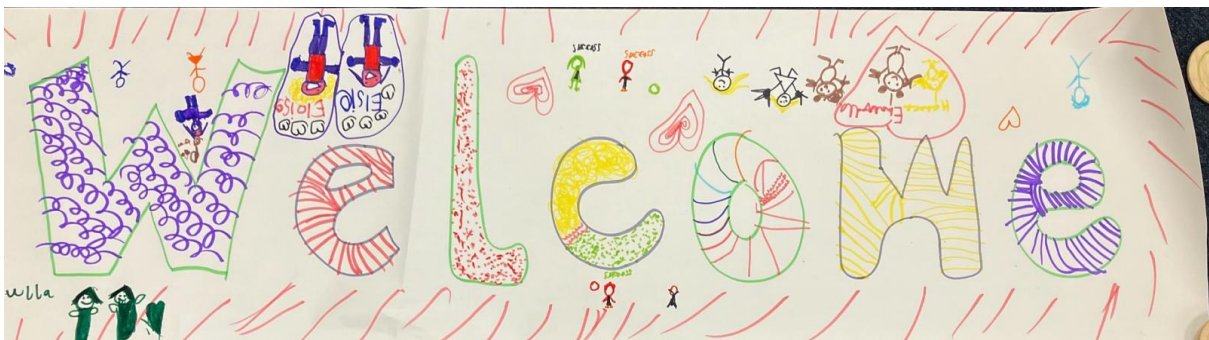
### FROG

Forever Reliant on God

(9-14s) 12 registered in this age group: 2-10 attending. Leaders use

Energize materials for fun games, Bible study and prayerful response activities to help everyone explore God's love for us. 8 volunteers lead and support FROG.

**Highlight: seeing the group grow in prayer and care for each other, their spiritual insight and enjoying donuts!**



## Hot Choc Café

(15+) 6 registered: up to 8 attend. We leave the main Sunday Service early once a month to enjoy sweet treats, discuss the sermon and pray together, with Sam Quarton and Fiona Cross-Sudworth leading most of the time. During other Sundays they are encouraged to get involved in services by volunteering in to build relationships with the wider church family and grow skills. 3 volunteers regularly facilitate.

**Highlight: chocolate fingers, of course!**



(mid-week, school years 6-9) 12 registered: 11 regulars



**blast:**

*Building Lives Around Solid Truth*

come to have a BLAST. We offer big and small games, craft, free snacks, and have Focus Time to allow Jesus to challenge us about the choices we make at school and home. 2 volunteers have helped Tom and Rebecca run this group.

**Highlight: Our Fireworks Party - 82 people having fun!**

# REAL

(mid-week, school years 10-13) Up to 6 young people join BLAST's snack and games time, followed by in-depth Bible study and discussion. Tom and I have led , with guests visiting from The Feast every term. 3 volunteers support this currently all-female group.



**Highlight: Seeing 5 friends 'graduate' into adult life this year**

Lots happened in 2024! As well as these groups meeting weekly and monthly, We had a New Year roller-skating trip with no broken bones, a summer barbecue in the sunshine, Fireworks Party with hot dogs and Christmas Parties. Thank you so much to the dedicated, enthusiastic, energetic and creative volunteers who made all this happen, especially for their hard work when I was on sick leave for 3 months during the summer term.

Thank you especially to my Advisory Group, summoned willingly whenever I needed to talk out ideas or issues, for guiding and supporting me and bringing objective wisdom when necessary. Thanks also to my diocesan-provided mentor, Kate Day, who has laughed and cried with me all the way through. And to Parish Mission Support, especially Emma Sargeant, for your wonderful ideas, training opportunities (see my Commissioning Service photo), refreshing retreats and invaluable networking contacts: you're brilliant!

As I step down at the end of 2024, I think back over the last 5+ years and marvel at God's great faithfulness to me, the children we have the privilege of welcoming into church, and the adults supporting this work with their time, interest, kindness and prayer and finances. I look forward to seeing what adventures come with the next step in St Christopher's Children's and Youth Work...



**Rebecca Slater, Under-18s Ministry Facilitator**

## MISSION

As a church we are honoured to support mission both at home and overseas. At home we continue to rejoice in the weekly witness of Seedlings, with its shared identity within St Christopher's and our Springfield Project. These sessions during term-time continue to offer friendship, support and love to local families as well as people who come from further afield who appreciate our open-access approach. Our home mission over recent years has also been augmented by our Place of Welcome running on Thursdays in term-time, begun first by Tina Brogan, then led by Seema Boyes and now by Fiona Hinds and her wonderful team. It again has proved a simple but high-quality way for local people to come into the building, receive the gift of a hot meal and share in friendship, conversation and advice on a range of different issues. Both these activities show that our doors are open, and we remain committed to offering love in tangible and helpful ways to our community.

Our overseas mission is focused on supporting our mission partners and praying for the church through Open Doors. We are honoured to continue to support Liz and Sameh Khalil, the Watson family and Rachel Smith in their different contexts, which is done through prayer and information, and financial support for Liz and Sameh and for Luke and Margaret. It is so good to be reminded how God is at work in other people and other places. I am also grateful to Lawrence Beyer who keeps us up to date with the issues Open Doors asks us to pray for. Although this is often difficult to hear, it reminds us that however difficult it may be at times to be a Christian in Sparkhill, so many of our brothers and sisters around the world experience risk and danger for their faith which are at an entirely different level. Praise God for their resilience and strength of faith!

Financially, we try to match our desire to support mission through our giving. Our aim each year is to give roughly 10% of our planned giving away to this part of church life. We do this through a gift of £3000 to Seedlings, paying the utility and room costs for Seedlings and Place of Welcome, monthly support for Liz and Sameh and Luke and Margaret and occasional one-off collections for societies such as Tear Fund or the Children's Society.

I am very grateful to Mike Smith who, as well as his churchwarden responsibilities, heads-up our Mission Committee and is brilliant and asking what we are doing for outreach and witness (actually doing and not just talking about doing!) Finally, it almost goes without saying that the key expression of our mission as a church fellowship is the witness of each of us in our daily lives. The way believers speak, act and interact with others and the world around us is fundamental to what it means to proclaim Christ. Due to this, there is a wonderful sense in which we are all experts at mission and can point people to Jesus every day (and often without saying a word).

**Tom Thomas**

## Parish Missioner

### Overview of My Work – an example of the challenges, opportunities and joys

During my mission work, I had the privilege of supporting a Muslim woman who struggled with deep-seated trust issues. She found it difficult to rely even on her own children, which made it challenging for her to accept help or guidance from others. Through patience, understanding, and faith, I was able to build a strong and trusting relationship with her, allowing her to open and share her struggles.

Not long after establishing this trust, she was diagnosed with cancer. However, she was in complete denial about her condition and refused to believe the diagnosis. This led her to reject any form of medical intervention, putting her life at great risk. The situation was heartbreaking, as she needed urgent care but was unwilling to accept it.

Recognizing the depth of the situation, I, along with her family, turned to prayer to Jesus, seeking divine intervention. Through continued support, reassurance, and the grace of God, her heart softened. She finally accepted that she needed medical treatment to survive. Encouraged by the prayers and love surrounding her, she agreed to undergo the necessary operation.

The surgery was successful, and today, she is a cancer survivor. This journey has been a testament to the power of faith, persistence, and the impact of compassionate outreach. It has reinforced my belief that trust, prayer, and genuine care can break through even the most difficult barriers.

This experience has strengthened my mission work, teaching me the importance of patience and unwavering faith. It has also highlighted the role of interfaith understanding and the power of love and support from Jesus I am grateful to have been part of this journey and will continue to serve with dedication, knowing that God's grace is always at work.

### Asian fellowship

Since the start of this year, we have been meeting again on a Monday morning to dig deep into the Bible and to understand the God's word better.

During our recent meetings I had the privilege of sharing the passage from Mark 1, focusing on the beginning of Jesus' ministry, His baptism, and His calling of the first disciples. We reflected on how Jesus' call to "Follow me" is an invitation to transformation and purpose.

The group found the passage both encouraging and inspiring, especially in seeing how ordinary people—like fishermen—were called to follow Jesus and become part of His mission. This led to a meaningful discussion on how God calls each of us, no matter our background, and how we can respond in faith.

As a result of this session, many expressed a newfound eagerness to read the Gospel more deeply and understand Jesus' teachings for themselves. Each one has even shared their own



thoughts on the gospel and have led the meetings. My passion is to see each one grow in confidence and some are now able to encourage others in studying the Word - praise God.

It has been a powerful moment of spiritual growth, and we look forward to continuing this journey together, equipping one another to share the Gospel with confidence and joy.

### **A Story of Strength and Freedom when praying and trusting in Jesus**

In 2015, I met a woman during a Seedlings session when she came with her young daughter. As we got to know each other, she confided in me about her controlled and fearful home life, expressing that she felt trapped and unsure of what to do. I could deeply relate, as I was in a similar situation at the time. I shared my understanding with her, but unlike me, she wasn't ready to leave.

As the years went on, she continued attending with her daughter, but when her child turned four, she stopped coming to the group. I began praying for her, trusting that in time she would find the strength to make a change. Every so often, she would message me, saying she had "had enough," but fear kept holding her back.

Then, after ten years, she finally reached out and said, "I need help. Help me get out." I supported her, guided her to the right resources, and even went with her to the council. She was placed in emergency refuge, and now, seven months later, she is still there safe, rebuilding her life, and incredibly grateful that she finally took that step. Her story is a powerful reminder that freedom sometimes takes time, but when the moment comes, having the right support makes all the difference. I learnt that prayer perseverance is so important when in ministry.

### **1 to 1 ministry**

Every day, I meet people facing uncertainty, fear, and struggle—the vulnerable, the overlooked, the ones searching for hope. Some come with heavy burdens: a mother escaping abuse, a young person lost in addiction, an elderly woman with no one to turn to. Others are caught in systems they don't understand—hospitals, job centres, legal battles—feeling powerless and unheard.

I listen. I pray. I stand with them in their hardest moments, offering guidance, encouragement, and the hope of Jesus. Sometimes, that means finding the right support—a solicitor, a doctor, a counsellor. Other times, it's simply being present, reminding them they are not alone. Through relationship, prayer, and faith, I walk alongside them, watching as light begins to break through their darkness. Some take small steps toward healing; others find the courage to rebuild their lives. No matter their journey, I am there—to listen, to guide, to believe with them for a better future.

### **Seedlings**

During a Seedlings session, if I feel led to minister and pray for a family then I offer them a 1to1 session and support them and I always offer prayer, and most of the times I introduce them to our vicar and that strengthens the trust of the women as they are always grateful of prayer. Recently we have had a rise in children with additional needs and are trying to offer them the extra days to attend Seedlings, so that both parent and child can be supported by us.



**Kam Kaur – April 2025**



### **Return to church**

We returned to the church in April 2024. The seedlings team worked hard to sort our equipment and set up a new setup in our newly organised church.

Seedlings continue to hold three weekly sessions during term time on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The children and families enjoy activities inside and outside and the shared singing session is always popular. Our aim is to ensure everyone that comes to seedlings feel welcomed and loved.

Most of our families are from the local area however we have had families come from Solihull and king standing it's a very popular service that we provide. We also serve families that have been referred to us by Family support Springfield.

We then have the privilege to serve those families in more depth by trying to understand what further support the child may need and how can we help make a difference in that child's life while they are attending seedlings. One of the ways in which we can support the child is by offering more than one session.

We not only want to see the child that comes to Seedlings flourish but also support the parents by giving information to them if they have any concerns regards to their child or themselves. What we also do is that we refer families to family support Springfield Project, if we feel that this parent needs further support for their well-being, we then encourage parents to speak to someone if they are worried and signpost them to the right service.

During the year we celebrate Mother's Day Father's Day, and many more celebrations like Easter and Christmas. During these events we have party food and make special cards for our families. We also share the story of Easter and have a nativity at Christmas, where our little children dress up and have fun, and share the love of Jesus.



**Leaders**

Since September, I have taken on the role of Seedlings Coordinator and am enjoying the position and learning a great deal. While it has been challenging, it has also been a joy. Caroline Minchin leads the sessions on Tuesday and supports me a lot. I lead on Wednesday, and Lucy Emo and Rachel Alcock on Thursday. We are a fantastic team, further supported by Claire Freeman, the Mini Springers Nursery Manager. We all are passionate to serve and make a difference the the lives of these children and families.

**Volunteers**

Each team has a minimum of 3 volunteers. Most community volunteers are gaining experience and confidence to support them in the future. We also have a couple of retired church volunteers, but we would love to have more members of our church get involved. Everyone has a shared passion for our work and a commitment to all the children and their families.

**Numbers of families**

We have welcomed 370 families since September and regularly have approximately 75 families over the week. More new families arrive each week, and we are returning to pre-COVID numbers.

We at Seedlings try our best to support every family. Most of our families are from a multi faith community and English is not their first language, its beneficial to be able to speak different languages.

Not long ago we had a health promotion person come in and spoke with parents individually and explained how they can access their GP and dentist. That was helpful as many parents said she explained well to them and showed them how to go online and access appointments.

**Feedback**

Our families really value the seedling sessions, and this is reflected in our conversations and the more official feedback they give us.

What does Seedlings do well?	They orgnised the play areas really well and clean. All the staff is really helpful. They try to interact with kids so nicley it's really good.
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**Kam Kaur – April 2025  
Seedlings Co-ordinator**

# The Environment – Caring for God’s creation

## Contribution to PCC AGM report covering Jan-Dec 2024

### The environment – Caring for God’s creation

Caring for Gods creation is one of the five marks of mission set out by the Anglian Church and recognised by many other denominations.

We continue to work on the actions for improvement identified in our eco-church action plan as we move from ‘Silver’ to ‘Gold’ status. Simon Slater the designated Eco Church coordinator by the PCC, has continued to provide updates to the church council and worked with other members of the congregation.

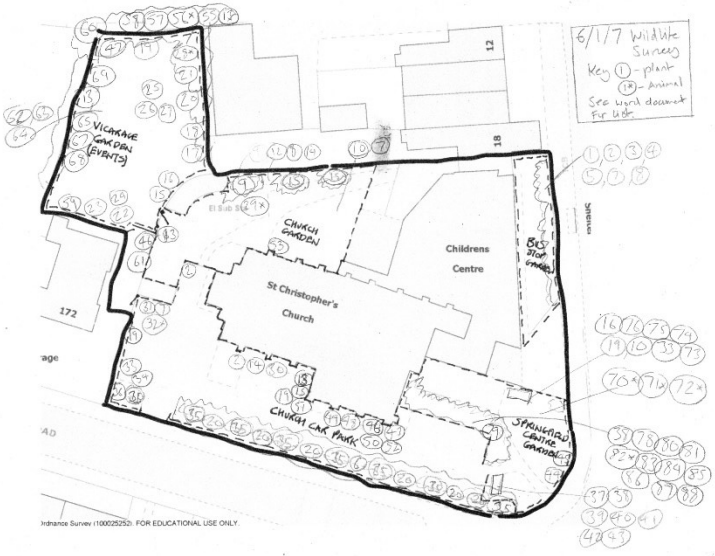
### Eco church Working Group

This is the second year of the group Simon has set up to help support his role in progressing the Eco church action plan. The group consists of Tom as vicar to help with the church building actions, and Hannah Greenwood, using her environmental expertise and her role on the Springfield Project Board as the environmental champion.

The group has met three times in the year, but progress has been slow due to waiting for the building work at the church to finish and Simon starting a new job away from Birmingham. The focus has been to update the church website with our Eco church journey and to reapply to Eco church to hopefully gain ‘Gold’ status. Simon has agreed to continue to be the Eco Church coordinator until the latest award application is assessed.

### Land Management Plan

As part of the application for ‘Gold’ we were required to pull together our existing wildlife survey and practice into one document called a ‘land management plan’. This reflects the current management of the different parts of our site by our site manager (Curt), the nursery staff for the nursery area, Tom and church working parties. After the application process, we may may want to revisit this plan to check if any further updates are needed.



## Website update

A summary of our Eco Church journey is now on the church website. Now the building work is complete a further posterior communication within the church building is required to remind the congregation of the action we are taking across our teaching, worship, buildings, discipleship, and community.

<https://www.stchristophersspringfield.org.uk/about-us/ecochurch/>

## Deanery Group

Simon has continued to act as the parish environment representative and has attended several in person or online meetings hosted by the Deanery to share good practice or to provide updates on the 2030 net zero roadmap. Tom has also had a visit from Diocesan Low Carbon Officer.

## Application for Gold Eco Church Status

The criteria have been updated since we applied 4 years ago and were awarded 'Silver'. Since then, we have worked on areas identified as requiring further improvement.

- We have conducted a Wildlife Survey of our site and produced a Land Management Plan
- We have conducted energy audits for the church building, begun switching to more electric heaters, and completing the switch to LED lighting. We have also moved to Church of England approved 'green tariffs' for our electricity and gas. This has made the building 'net zero' in terms of harmful greenhouse gases.
- We have also conducted energy audits for the Vicarage and Springfield Centre (which as they are not under the ownership or operation of the PCC are outside the scope of Eco Church).
- We have provided more opportunities for the congregation to engage with discipleship issues around caring for creation through a lent group, resources, and themed church services.

Our application on the updated criteria scored 'Gold' in December 2024, but it now needs to be externally assessed, and an in person or online meeting to be held in the Spring.

## Plans for 2024

After application process for Gold Award has been completed:

Finalise new Eco Church Working Group action plan to include:

- Revisit Land Management Plan to check if any updates are needed and agree overall responsibility for the coordination and communication of the plan
- Revisit priority energy audit actions for the vicarage, church and Springfield Centre and agree who is responsible for progressing
- Revisit shared service agreement between Church and Springfield Project on use of church and centre to ensure consistency around environment in areas such as procurement and waste
- Repeat delivery of lent environmental discipleship course carried out 3 years ago

- Agree how to support Springfield and ecobirmingham sustainability support for local community activities in the year.

After explaining workplan and role for 2025, seek to recruit a new Eco Church coordinator to lead the working group.

**Simon Slater, Eco Church coordinator**  
**On behalf of the Eco Church Working Group**  
**December 2024**



## THE SPRINGFIELD PROJECT

As the Chair of the Project, I am learning a particular lesson of faith. It seems like every year things appear really tough, and then somehow, a bit like disciples picking up the left-overs after the feeding of 5000, there is evidence of abundance!!

- 1 Costs go up
- 2 Our main contract with Birmingham City Council always seems insecure

Last year I wrote:

“Amazingly, or not so amazingly if you factor in a loving provider God, the past year has been a good one financially.”

Despite the fact that we have had to cut some of the things we used to do, like the Food Pantry that we handed over to Narthex, our core work continues effectively and there has been lots of encouraging new activity.

This year we said a sad goodbye to Rachel, our Children’s worker who returned to the U.S., but it is our children’s work that has been really encouraging. The project’s work with making our area a Child Friendly Neighbourhood has developed well, helping to grow our partnerships, helping us to listen to young people and extending what we do for the local environment.

So, again, please join us in thanking God for His provision and faithfulness...and pray that we might make the most of the opportunities the project gives us to appropriately tell our story of knowing the source of hope and love in a hurting world. The Board has developed with four new members, three of whom have significantly lowered the average age of the Board and all of whom strengthen our connections with the communities we serve.

I am hugely grateful for the work of the Board and hope you will take this opportunity to thank God for them.

**Tim Boyes – April 2025**  
**Chair**

## CHURCH GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION

### Churchwardens Report

After all the activity with the building project last year, this year has been a time for us to adapt to our new facilities and to continue our life of worship and service together. It has been great to see how the building work has started to shape our times together, with the main table being used for communion now that we have access for all to it, space for people to sit and chat at the end of the service and good kitchen facilities and storage that make the space honouring to God and welcoming for all who come in.

As church wardens we have been encouraged by seeing the increased numbers of people helping in different ways on a Sunday whether that's serving refreshments, doing the IT, leading children's groups, improving displays and helping clear away the chairs. All these are important parts of our worship and we want to say a big thank you to everyone who helps. There is always more to do so if you would like to join in with any of these tasks just ask.

During the year numbers at the 9am service have continued to be between 6 and 10, whilst this is a small number it is a meaningful and important service and an integral part of the life of St Christophers. Numbers at the 10:45 average between 75-80 which includes children as well as adults and we continue to be blessed by having members from many different countries and backgrounds, a small picture of God's Kingdom.

We continue to look at whether the building is in good order and fit for purpose and, following an assessment by David Hartley and his team we are looking at improving the accessibility of the building with automatic doors and improved lighting. Hopefully, these will start to be done this year.

**Andrew Smith and Mike Smith**

**April 2025**



## Church Council (PCC) Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has an important role to play in the leadership of St Christopher's. It has the ultimate responsibility for managing the church finances and deciding the strategic direction of the church. It also supports and oversees the activities of the church and encourages those leading the activities. PCC members are also the trustees of the charity that manages the church assets and income. Once PCC minutes have been agreed, church members can request a copy from Tom.

Since the last AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the PCC has met 6 times, usually in the Prayer Room here at St Christopher's, and including a Saturday Away Day at St Catherine's Blackwell. All meetings have been well attended, not just quorate. Helen Cremins is still on PCC, but has relinquished her role as secretary after many years of faithful and highly efficient service. We are grateful to Lucy Emo for ably taking on this task.

Our Agenda follows consideration of our church life and how we position ourselves looking 'In', 'Out' and 'Up'. We also attend to matters of Governance, including safeguarding, finance and the Diocese.

'In' considers items related to us as a church community, in ministry and fellowship.

'Out' considers aspects of our mission, including our relationship with mission partners, the Springfield Project, Seedlings, our community and neighbours.

'Up' considers our relationship directly with God in all aspects of Worship.

We adjust the sequence on the agenda to make sure all aspects are attended to fairly.

Each meeting had a particular focus amongst other agenda items discussed:

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2024** we focused on Inclusion and Accessibility. Debbie Gurling gave a report and recommendations on aspects of Accessibility (hearing, lighting, entrance doors). Helen Cremins is our Inclusion Lead.

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2024** we focused on Discipleship led by Guy Donnegan-Cross. Alex, Jen and Catriona agreed to collate a list for information of St Christopher's Small Groups and Networks currently running or planned.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2024** we decided our focus on Social Justice issues this year would be local and linked with the Springfield Project fostering a Child Friendly Neighbourhood.

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2024** we discussed with Rebecca Slater's help how to proceed with our Children's Ministry after her departure from the role at the end of 2024.

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2025** was our Away Day when with Sarah Smith facilitating, we revisited our Vision for 'Growing Together in Christ', considering priorities, and refocusing for the coming year.

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2025** We reviewed our contributions to the Away Day, which had been drawn up as an Action Plan by Tom, Smeee and Sarah. We also reviewed our prospective status with a Gold Award as an Eco Church with a report from Simon Slater. (see <https://www.stchristopherspringfield.org.uk/about-us/ecochurch/>)

We enjoy lively discussions at these meetings and appreciate the contributions that all PCC members make towards our decisions. We thank everyone for giving up their time to attend the meetings and for the work they do between times.

**Alison Roper-Hall, Lay Chair of the PCC, April 2025**

## Safeguarding

Over the last year we have all been reminded of the tragedy of failings in safeguarding across our denomination. When the Makin review was published in November 2024 it described not only the abuse suffered by many victims at the hands of John Smyth, but a culture of denial and cover-up in many parts of the church, particularly amongst senior and experienced clergy. It resulted in the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and investigations into other senior figures. It is a timely reminder of where we have failed in the past and how important it is to do everything we can to keep people safe in the present.

Against this backdrop, it is encouraging that safeguarding has become much more centralised and rigorous across Church of England Birmingham, with a set of requirements for those holding most posts (paid and voluntary) in a parish church. We are delighted that the safeguarding team at diocesan level is strong and you can speak with them on the phone at most times: 0121 4260407 or 07342993844. Their rigorous guidelines help us with the process of “safer recruitment” and now mean that most people in a volunteer role at St Christopher’s will need to complete an application form, DBS application, and complete two online courses – Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations. In addition, PCC members and Churchwardens are requested to complete a third unit called Raising Awareness Of Domestic Abuse. Once completed, these courses are renewable after three years. There is also an online diocesan ‘Safeguarding Dashboard’ which we are asked to keep up to date. Help with this would be much appreciated.

We are blessed that Rebecca Slater and Lucy Emo have overseen the process of DBS applications for our church over the last year. Lucy has very kindly stepped-up to do this role in the absence of an Under-18s Minister, but I know she is looking forward to sharing it out again! We can also draw on the expertise of Claudia Gordon, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator as together we seek to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our church. Further details of policies and procedures can be found on our website ([stchristopherspringfield.org.uk](http://stchristopherspringfield.org.uk)) or on the CofE Birmingham’s website ([cofebirmingham.com](http://cofebirmingham.com)).

However, as I’m sure you are aware, safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility so if you ever see or hear anything that gives you cause for concern, please remember these simple steps:

1. Receive what the person is saying
2. Reassure the person that it’s good they are telling you
3. Record (write down) what you have seen or heard as soon as possible without adding or leaving anything out, sign and date it
4. Report it to either Claudia or Tom (and give them your record)
5. Breathe easy – your job is done!

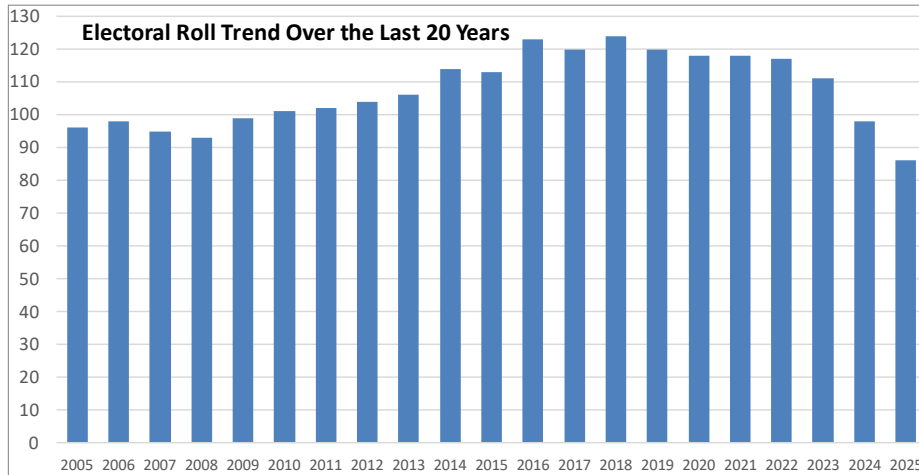
Claudia’s experience is invaluable in discerning what should then be passed on to the diocese or the police and what is simply behaviour we should be aware of and monitor. We want to be calmly vigilant and tread a healthy line between naivety on one hand and paranoia on the other with the goal of keeping everyone safe.



**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

## Electoral Roll

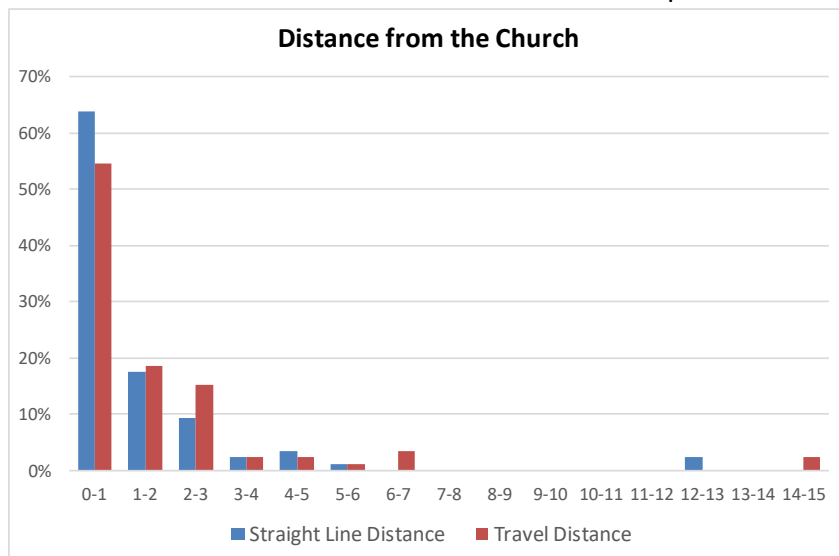
Within the Church of England, the Electoral Roll is a list of all the lay members of the church. All baptised Christians over 16, who regularly worship at St Christopher’s, or who live in the parish are entitled to be on the Electoral Roll. These church members are then those entitled to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) and stand for election to the Church Council (PCC).



This year we have been asked according to the Church’s rules to produce a new roll. This means that all members are removed from the roll and asked to sign-up again. A new roll is produced every 5 years. On other

years we only add new members and remove old members who we know have left. The Church of England does this to ensure that the roll is as accurate as possible. It ensures that old members who are no longer attending or no longer want to be on the roll are removed.

The roll in 2024 had 100 members on it. The new roll has 86 members on it. The change in numbers reflects a change in attendance since 2020 when a new roll was last produced. A number of people who were on the roll from 2020 to 2024 are no longer regularly attending St Christopher’s and have not asked to be put on the new roll. However, although the overall total on the roll has reduced, 10 new members were added to the roll this year.



The change in membership has reduced slightly the proportion of members who live in the parish from 44% to 40%. However, the parish covers a relatively small area of just 24 streets, with a population of only 8,000, so it is possible to live 500 metres from the Church, but not live in the parish. Church members generally live close to the church with over 55% living within 1 mile and 73% living within 2 miles travel distance of the church building.

**Mike Lenton – April 2025, Church Electoral Roll Officer**

## Treasurer's Report

The financial statements as presented here for the Year Ending 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024) shows a cash balance (equity) calculated at £49,037.26. When compared to the previous financial year figure of (£81,407.59), this gives a reduction of £32,370.33 (40%). This reduction can be understood and seen as a reflection from the 2024 annual profit and loss statement. The total income (receipts) for 2024 was calculated at £271,931.89 with the total expense (payments) at £304,302.22, equating to a recorded loss of £32,370.33 for the year.

The above was mainly attributed by the cost of the Church Re-ordering work that commenced in September 2023, which was completed during March 2024 by the assigned contractor firm. In the year 2023 in order to keep and maintain the cash flow afloat, kind generous donations were received from the congregation as well as grants from various trusts towards the build-up and pre-planning phases/work for the re-ordering work. And during the start of 2024, to further help and facilitate this building work a loan from the Birmingham Diocese was received, along with further grants and fund from a kind legacy donation of an estate. This fund was the first instalment, with the second and final instalment yet to be received by the Church shortly in due course subject to the finalisation of the sale of the estate. This along with other grants that also were received in 2024 helped with the Church's financial cash flow in order to meet the relatively high building costs along with meeting the normal and general costs that were involved in the running of the Church. As a brief overview, some of the financial gains and losses that were noted are briefly indicated below:

### Receipts

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Total Other Church Grants (not for building re-ordering) £5,710 (19%)
- Youth Worker Fund £2,161 (28%)
- Income from Use of Church £3,564 (44%)
- Bank Interest £1417 (49%)

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Total Planned Giving £15,546 (23%)
- Total One-off Donations/Re-ordering Grants £24,132 (19%)

### Payments

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Common Fund £13,092 (25%)
- Total Charitable Giving £2,744 (22%)

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Total Outreach Activity £2,555 (8%)
- Repairs and New Building Work £5,918 (3.5%)
- Weddings and Funerals £1,386 (100%)

I take this opportunity to thank Lucy Emo the Church Financial Administrator for her administrative and record keeping duties and Tom Thomas for his support and help.

**Steven Taggar – PCC Treasurer**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST  
CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Charity No. 1151491

Financial Accounts

31 December 2024

Independent Examiners Report  
Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE  
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 financial statements to be reached.



Andy Hopkins  
BVSC  
Latham House  
33-34 Paradise Street  
Birmingham

B1 2AJ  
28 April 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	129,080	91,696	220,776	271,252
Charitable activities	4	5,664	-	5,664	8,765
Investments	5	1,492	-	1,492	2,909
<b>Total</b>		<b>136,236</b>	<b>91,696</b>	<b>227,932</b>	<b>282,926</b>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	149,554	32,047	181,601	183,350
Other	7	66,221	59,649	125,870	138,031
<b>Total</b>		<b>215,775</b>	<b>91,696</b>	<b>307,471</b>	<b>321,381</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net expenditure	8	(79,539)	0	(79,539)	(38,455)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)		(79,539)	0	(79,539)	(38,455)
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		(79,539)	0	(79,539)	(38,455)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		83,616	-	83,616	122,071
Total funds carried forward		4,077	0	4,077	83,616

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Balance Sheet  
at 31 December 2024

Charity No. 1151491	2024	2023
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	49,037	83,616
	<u>49,037</u>	<u>83,616</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10 (44,960)	-
Net current assets	<u>4,077</u>	<u>83,616</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	4,077	83,616
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability	<u>4,077</u>	<u>83,616</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>4,077</u></u>	<u><u>83,616</u></u>
The funds of the charity		
Restricted funds	11	
Restricted income funds	0	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds	11	
General funds	4,077	83,616
	<u>4,077</u>	<u>83,616</u>
Reserves	11	
Total funds	<u><u>4,077</u></u>	<u><u>83,616</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 20 May 2025

And signed on their behalf by:



T. Thomas  
Trustee  
20 May 2025

Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

The church ordinarily prepares accounts on a receipts and payments basis. Income in excess of £250,000 this year has required the production of accruals accounts. As this is not expected to be an ongoing situation, no item has been capitalised to the balance sheet.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Volunteer help The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act.

### Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

### Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in independently administered funds.

Notes to the Accounts

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	107,085	164,167	271,252
Charitable activities	8,764	-	8,764
Investments	2,909	-	2,909
Total	<u>118,759</u>	<u>164,167</u>	<u>282,925</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	180,640	2,810	183,450
Other	86,734	51,196	137,930
Total	<u>267,374</u>	<u>54,006</u>	<u>321,380</u>
Net income	(148,615)	110,161	(38,455)
Transfers between funds	110,160	(110,160)	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)	<u>(38,455)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(38,455)</u>
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	<u>(38,455)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(38,455)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	122,071	-	122,071
Total funds carried forward	<u>83,616</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83,617</u>

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Planned Giving	83,684	5,569	89,253	75,868
One-Off and Open Plate Donations	2,646	61,327	63,973	127,261
Gift Aid Recovered	-	-	-	37,613
Grants	42,750	24,800	67,550	30,510
	<u>129,080</u>	<u>91,696</u>	<u>220,776</u>	<u>271,252</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Notes to the Accounts

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,036	1,036	573
Income from Use of Church	4,628	4,628	8,192
	<u>5,664</u>	<u>5,664</u>	<u>8,765</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Bank Interest	1,492	1,492	2,909
	<u>1,492</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>2,909</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Church Running Costs	148,169	29,066	177,235	180,248
Costs of Weddings and Funerals	1,386	-	1,386	-
Outreach Activity	0	2,005	2,005	1,393
Youth Work Costs	0	975	975	1,809
<i>Governance costs</i>	-	-	-	(100)
	<u>149,554</u>	<u>32,047</u>	<u>181,601</u>	<u>183,350</u>

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Common Fund	39,276	-	39,276	52,368
Charitable Giving	9,513	-	9,513	12,257
Employee costs	-	59,649	59,649	56,396
Premises costs	11,411	-	11,411	12,483
General administrative costs	5,061	-	5,061	4,527
Legal and professional costs	960	-	960	-
	<u>66,221</u>	<u>59,649</u>	<u>125,870</u>	<u>138,031</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Notes to the Accounts

8 Net expenditure before transfers

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Independent Examiner's fee	480	-
Other fees paid to the auditor or independent examiner	480	-

9 Staff costs

	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	56,949	54,878
Pension costs	2,700	1,518
	<u>59,649</u>	<u>56,396</u>

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Church running	1	1
Outreach Work	2	2
Youth work	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

The charity runs a defined contributions pension scheme which is administered by a third party.

10 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other loans	44,000	-
Accruals	960	-
	<u>44,960</u>	<u>-</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Notes to the Accounts  
11 Movement in funds

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses ) £	Resources expended £	At 31 December 2024 £
Restricted funds:				
Restricted income funds:	-	91,696	(91,696)	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,696</u>	<u>(91,696)</u>	<u>0</u>
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	83,616	136,236	(215,775)	4,077
Total funds	<u>83,616</u>	<u>227,932</u>	<u>(307,471)</u>	<u>4,077</u>

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets	4,077	4,077
	<u>4,077</u>	<u>4,077</u>

13 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2024 £
Cash and cash equivalents	83,616	(34,579)	49,037
	<u>83,616</u>	<u>(34,579)</u>	<u>49,037</u>
Borrowings	-	(44,000)	(44,000)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(44,000)</u>	<u>(44,000)</u>
Net debt	<u>83,616</u>	<u>(78,579)</u>	<u>5,037</u>

Notes to the Accounts  
14 Commitments

*Operating lease commitments*

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Land and buildings	Other	Land and buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£

Operating leases with expiry date:

*Pension commitments*

	2024	2023
	£	£
The pension cost charge to the charity amounted to:	<u>2,700</u>	<u>1,518</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies				
Planned Giving	83,684	5,569	89,253	75,868
One-Off and Open Plate Donations	2,646	61,327	63,973	127,261
Gift Aid Recovered	-	-	-	37,613
Grants	42,750	24,800	67,550	30,510
	<u>129,080</u>	<u>91,696</u>	<u>220,776</u>	<u>271,252</u>
Charitable activities				
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,036	-	1,036	573
Income from Use of Church	4,628	-	4,628	8,192
	<u>5,664</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,664</u>	<u>8,765</u>
Investments				
Bank Interest	1,492	-	1,492	2,909
	<u>1,492</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>2,909</u>
Total income and endowments	136,236	91,696	227,932	282,926
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Church Running Costs	148,169	29,066	177,235	180,248
Costs of Weddings and Funerals	1,386	-	1,386	-
Outreach Activity	0	2,005	2,005	1,393
Youth Work Costs	0	975	975	1,809
	<u>149,554</u>	<u>32,047</u>	<u>181,601</u>	<u>183,450</u>
Governance costs				
	-	-	-	(100)
	-	-	-	(100)
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	149,554	32,047	181,601	183,350
Other expenditure				
Common Fund	39,276	-	39,276	52,368
Charitable Giving	9,513	-	9,513	12,257
	<u>48,789</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,789</u>	<u>64,625</u>
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	56,949	56,949	54,878
Pension costs	-	2,700	2,700	1,518
	-	<u>59,649</u>	<u>59,649</u>	<u>56,396</u>
Premises costs				
Light, heat and power	11,411	-	11,411	12,483
	<u>11,411</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,411</u>	<u>12,483</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
General insurances	2,477	-	2,477	2,570
Sundry expenses	2,584	-	2,584	1,957
	<u>5,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,061</u>	<u>4,527</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Audit/Independent examination fees	480	-	480	-
Accountancy and bookkeeping	480	-	480	-
	<u>960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>-</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>66,221</u>	<u>59,649</u>	<u>125,870</u>	<u>138,031</u>
Total expenditure	215,775	91,696	307,471	321,381
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>(38,455)</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>(38,455)</u>
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(79,539)</u>	<u>(38,455)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	83,616	-	83,616	122,071
Total funds carried forward	<u>4,077</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,077</u>	<u>83,616</u>

## KEY INFORMATION ON THE ST CHRISTOPHER'S SPRINGFIELD PCC CHARITY

The St Christopher's Springfield PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity. The Charity Registration number is: 1151491. The registered name of the charity is: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Christopher's Springfield although it is commonly called St Christopher's Springfield PCC.

### Membership of the PCC

The Members of the PCC are the Trustees of the St Christopher's Springfield PCC. PCC Members are generally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) usually for a period of three years.

### PCC Membership

During 2024 the following people served as members of the PCC:

#### Clergy:

Tom Thomas (Vicar)

#### Churchwarden(s):

Andrew Smith  
Mike Smith

#### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Alex Nance (elected 2024)

#### Elected members:

Philippa Grimes (elected 2022)  
Catriona Heatherington (re-elected 2022)  
Steven Taggar (re-elected 2022)  
David Hartley (elected 2023)  
Jen Tustain (elected 2023)  
Phil Grimes (elected 2023)  
Helen Cremins (re-elected 2024)  
Alex Nance (PCC Member until APCM 2024\*)  
Alison Roper-Hall (re-elected 2024)

\*Members were elected at the APCM on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### PCC Officers:

Chair	Tom Thomas
Vice-Chair	Alison Roper-Hall
Secretary	Helen Cremins (to APCM 2024*) Lucy Emo (from APCM 2024*)
Treasurer	Steven Taggar
Electoral Roll Officer	Mike Lenton
Stewardship Secretary	Margaret Gordon

Although the Vicar is the Chair of the PCC as defined by the Church Representation Rules, it is the practice at St Christopher's for meetings to be chaired by a lay member of the PCC i.e. the Vice-Chair.

### **Governing Documents for the PCC:**

As part of the Church of England the PCC follows the agreement between The Church of England and the Charity Commission that for all PCCs the "Governing Documents" for the charity will be:

1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC Powers Measure defines the powers of a PCC It states that the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". The full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents) The Church Representation Rules define how members are elected to the PCC, the rules for the Electoral Roll and how PCC Officers are appointed. The full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3)





# St. Christopher's Church

Growing together in Christ

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# Accounts

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***Annual Report for 2023  
as presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2024***



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# Welcome to the St Christopher's Annual Report for the year ending December 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's Church, Springfield is located at the junction of Woodlands Road and Springfield Road in South East Birmingham about 3 miles from the city centre. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

### ***Aim and Purposes***

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a registered charity (Charity no. 1151491). Further information about the charity and its trustees can be found in the section of this report headed Key Information on the St Christopher's PCC Charity.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and fabric. It also owns and uses the Springfield Centre which adjoins the church building; however the maintenance of this building is the responsibility of the Springfield Project.

### ***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community at St Christopher's. In order to do so it has developed the following vision statement for St Christopher's which it uses to guide its decisions.

### ***Our Vision Statement – We want to be...***

- A fellowship that worships God from the heart, displaying the power of the Holy Spirit amongst us to heal, enlighten and transform.
- A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth.
- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community.
- A place of caring for, equipping and discipling people in all that life brings.
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.
- A congregation of all ages that supports our children and young people as they grow and develop; and encourages them to live out their faith in church and the wider community.
- A fellowship that values our diversity, and where our rich variety is reflected in leadership roles.
- A fellowship that stands with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners, and working for peace, justice and the protections of God's creation.

The PCC has adopted the strapline '***Growing together in Christ***' to summarise this vision in a more memorable form. At a recent away-day, the PCC decided to focus on the first three of these points over the coming year and have come up with an action plan to implement this.

When planning their activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC therefore seeks to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the local area;
- Supporting missionary work in the local area;
- Supporting overseas missionaries involved in Christian mission;
- Providing services to the local community, particularly for local families and children in conjunction with the Springfield Project.

More information on all these activities can be found in the other sections of this report.

***Links with other local churches:***

St Christopher's has good relationships with several local churches, both Anglican and non-Anglican. However, we are now in a recognised 'Oversight Area' with St Edmund's Tyseley and therefore seek to work together with St Edmund's, sharing resources for mission and ministry as much as possible. St Christopher's is also a member of the Yardley and Solihull deanery within Birmingham Diocese, which represents around 30 churches in South East Birmingham and Solihull.

***Links with Other Charities:***

The Springfield Project ([www.springfieldproject.org.uk](http://www.springfieldproject.org.uk)) is a charity that is closely connected to St Christopher's. Although it is a separate charity (Charity no. 1134977) with its own trustees, it was founded by St Christopher's, is located in the church buildings, and its activities are closely co-ordinated with those of the Church. Therefore, a short report on its activities is included in this report, although a Trustees Report for the Springfield Project is also available by contacting [info@springfieldproject.org.uk](mailto:info@springfieldproject.org.uk)

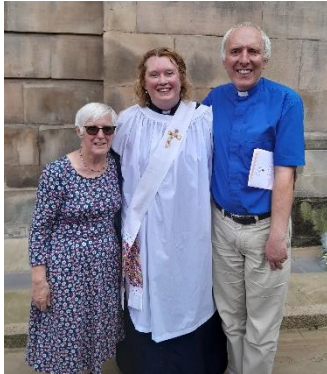
St Christopher's also has close links with the Feast ([www.thefeast.org.uk](http://www.thefeast.org.uk)), a charity that brings together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives.

St Christopher's is delighted to host an 'Anna Chaplain' and to support this ministry as part of the wider network of Anna Chaplaincy facilitated by the Bible Reading Fellowship ([www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)). A report outlining the work of our Anna Chaplain, Debbie Gurling, is included in this report.

St Christopher's is a supporter of Open Doors an organisation which helps persecuted Christians across the world ([www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)). We do this through prayer, giving and keeping informed about the situation of Christians in areas of the world where their faith makes them vulnerable to attack and persecution.

## From the vicarage...

Clearly every year is important, but 2023 has certainly been a significant year for us at St Christopher's. The year started with a highlight as Fiona was licensed as reader at the cathedral on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was a wonderful occasion as Fiona was both licensed and affirmed in her ministry of preaching, teaching and leading our shared worship. We thank God for her work as a reader, alongside Philippa and now David, who continues his reader training. It is so good to see people responding to God's call to minister and being affirmed in this by the wider church.



A little later in the year and we were back in the cathedral to celebrate the ordination of Alison Ridge and to rejoice with her as the Lord led her to take up this role to which she has felt called since she was very young. We wish her, Isaac and Toby and her fiancé Mark every blessing. At that service Sue Round, a friend of St Christopher's and a former manager at the Springfield Project, was also ordained and we praise God for her ministry too.

In the summer weeks, it was a joy to mark two milestones as we hosted a confirmation and baptisms at St Christopher's. Louisa Alcock, Jacob Lenton and Aisha Thomas were all confirmed by Bishop Anne at a wonderful service and then a couple of weeks later Parmidner Gill and Kim Kaur were baptised. The baptism happened in our garden and in our very own baptistery, which we were able to buy thanks to a kind donation for this purpose. It is always a joy to mark these moments and for us as a family there was a double joy in seeing Aisha confirmed, as it was also the last time my father was able to visit us here in Birmingham. Having him here and a part of the day made it special then and very special in our memories.

Other milestone moments in the year came as we were honoured to host the dedications of Chloe Nance and Georgia Garvey and the baptism of Theo Jernal Parker. Many of us were also able to be present as Francis Quarton was baptised at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Yardley Wood, which was a wonderful occasion. It is such an honour to see these and other children in our congregation grow and bless us with their energy and life. May the Lord keep us faithful in praying for them and their parents, and may He also remind us that small people notice what we do and how we do it!

There has of course also been sadness this year, particularly as several individuals within our church have encountered grief and loss. It has been my privilege to officiate at funeral services for Mr Paul Venn and Mr Charles Curtis Small, and we have also said farewell to long-standing members of our congregation. In May we were honoured to host the funeral for Beryl Stumpf and thanked God for her life of faith and service, remembering all that she and Wolfgang did for our church and for the wider mission of God (and thank you to Julia for this lovely photo of them).





Then in June we celebrated the life of John Dyer and came together to remember John and Anne and their utterly remarkable service to the Lord at St Christopher's. It is difficult to think that anyone will ever again give the kind of dedicated and unwavering service to one church in the way they did. We miss them, we miss Beryl and we miss the many other saints of God we have commended to His care over recent years. The old prayer, "May they rest in peace and rise in glory" seems particularly apt for these servants of God.

Of course, probably the most significant part of our shared life over the last year came with the building work which began in September and finished (on time) in March. I am so grateful to Jericho Construction and to BHB Architects for their work in overseeing and delivering the project with such sensitivity, professionalism and dedication. I am especially grateful to the individuals concerned: Chloe Chambers our architect, Andy Jones the manager of Jericho Construction and our very own Ernst Merk, without whom so much of the project simply would not have been possible. May I also thank Phil Grimes for his patient wisdom particularly in the planning stages of the works, and to Mike Lenton whose technical expertise and attention to detail has kept us functioning in more ways than most of us will ever understand.



As well as these individual thank yous, can I also say a huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of the journey which has now reached its conclusion with the reopening of our building. So many people helped with giving, fundraising, decorating church during the work, coping with the inconveniences (and the cold!), cleaning, finding new homes for our things, and a hundred other ways of supporting this venture. Really from the moment Jericho arrived, it has felt like the Lord has been in this and one of the ways that has been proved is through the number of people who have rolled up their sleeves and taken part. THANK YOU! and may the Lord now use this space powerfully to bring His love to our congregation and our community. We have had one celebration as we have re-opened, but I hope there will also be an opportunity to have a more formal community-orientated celebration in the not too distant future – watch this space!

In concluding may I take this opportunity to thank those with whom I've been privileged to work particularly closely over the last year. It is a joy to be part of our staff team with Lucy, Kam, Rebecca and Debbie, all of whom bring amazing skills, dedication and good humour to their roles. We are also extremely blessed to have Tim as our Springfield Project Chair overseeing this key part of our shared life, and Curt as our tireless and ever-cheerful site manager. Finally it has also been a joy to have two churchwardens again. Phil held the fort for these roles over recent years, and I'm very grateful that he did, but it's been great having two fully-fledged churchwardens again and we praise God for Mr Smith and Mr Smith.

**Tom Thomas**  
Vicar



# St Christopher's Church, Springfield

## Worship Report



### **We have much to Give Thanks and be Grateful for**

During quite a turbulent year the Lord has continued to bless us in worship.

We said goodbye to Pete and Sam Sweeney and thank them for the many years of leading worship and pray that they will continue to bless others.ayah also decided to step back from worship and my thanks go out to her also.

My gratitude goes out to all the worship teams/groups including new singers who have been called to worship.

During 2023 saw the start of the re-ordering of the church and my thanks to all the P.A operators who have worked tirelessly to ensure the operation of sound and the continuation of Zoom being streamed for those who can't make it to church.

With so many of our worship leaders leaving over the last couple of years we have had to start using iSing a recorded music application to provide the music for us to worship. This is no substitute to live music but has been a necessity which has worked quite well.

My prayer would be that we can get back to having sufficient worship leaders/musicians to deliver worship on a regular basis.

The Christmas Carol service once again was a great success, and my thanks go out to all those who volunteered to take part.

Please pray for all our musicians that they would seek the Lord and continue to lead us to Christ through him who we serve. Amen.

**Margaret Gordon, April 2024**

## Pastoral Care during 2023

This year has seen all the usual pastoral activities continue, despite the challenges of the reordering project. As last year, these have included:

- Encouragement and accountability for the pastoral care offered at St Christopher's by staff members
- Meals for families of new babies
- Encouraging people to use WhatsApp groups and other methods to stay in touch
- Keeping a supportive look-out for people and prompting Tom and others to see how they are if absent for a while
- Encouraging small groups, such as the Colour Of Hope and Lent Group, as part of following Christ together
- Helping to facilitate shared meals at church, around the building work.

At the 2023 AGM, we had an excellent discussion on the outcomes of the questions asked at the weekend away in March 2023 on how to experience the joy of the Lord and what he is calling us to rebuild post-covid. One major theme to emerge from this was a desire for more opportunities to meet in small groups, for Bible study and discussion and also for a feeling of belonging and for the chance to build one another up.

As a result, Alex Nance has become small group co-ordinator, and two groups started meeting in June 2023, on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. One group studies and discusses a Bible passage, often the one preached on the previous Sunday. The other is named Daily Bread, and is a time for people to share what they have recently heard from God through their own Bible reading, and/or to be inspired to pick up their Bible the next day to find out what God has to say to them. Both groups pray for one another. Many thanks go to David and Ally Hartley, and Alison Roper-Hall, for leading and hosting these groups.

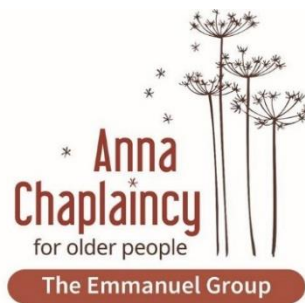
We would love to offer more groups - in other locations, on other evenings, during the day, on a Saturday morning, and online. If you are keen to join, host, or lead, please do chat to Tom or Alex and we can explore this further with you and discuss how we can support you.

Regular prayer ministry has continued to be available after the 10:45 service, and we are grateful for all those who bless us in this way, and also for all those who take the step of asking to be prayed for.

One of the wonderful things about St Christopher's is that we thrive on the informal pastoral care we provide for each other - choosing to meet up in the week, or chatting after the service with a hot drink. You don't need to join something organised to be an important part of the way we look after each other here! Our Vision Statement says that we want St Christopher's to be "a loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth", and we all have a part in building this together.

**Alex Nance, April 2024**





**“God does not call us to do great things, but calls us to do small things with great love”  
Mother Teresa**

The most part of last year, the heart of this ministry continued as usual, with visiting and being alongside seniors. Each Sunday, I have continued to see seniors at St Christophers, St Edmunds, or St Johns churches, and during the week, I will either see individuals where they are living, or as part of a wider group (although that includes visiting them in hospital too). This has been with the help of Jean Gethen from St Christophers, and Dot Pooler from St Edmunds. As well as help from my Anna Friends, I have had support from Tom who continues to manage the funding given to me from Henry Smith, which he was diligent in applying for. I have also had continuous line management from Debbie Ducille, who has given guidance, but also enabled the ministry to stay structured and focused, and who has also given ideas for growth and sustainability. I have had continued mentoring from David Harrison, who was a previous chaplain in the Queen Elizabeth, but is currently Warden of Commissioned Pastoral Care Teams.

Currently, there are over 50 people who are over 70 and have some form of connection with one of the 3 churches, and over half of those are seen either individually or as part of a group. However as well as the relational work, this was also a year when more obvious green shoots of growth started to appear!

In March, Debbie Ducille and myself, did our first presentation of the year, by talking to the Deanery Synod about Anna Chaplaincy being an example of the third mark of mission (TEND – responding to human need by loving service). In the same month, it was a joy to witness Barry dancing at the weekend away, and he brought truth to the verse from Psalm 92 - “they will still bear fruit in old age, and they will stay fresh and green”!

Sadly, the following month, three people died – Janet Parker (St Johns), but also Beryl Stumpf and John Dyer (St Christopher’s). John reintroduced me to Psalm 121, but he also gave me much love and encouragement and is still very much missed.

In May, we had the first coronation for a generation, and although it was the first for most people, it clearly wasn’t for most seniors attached to Anna Chaplaincy – for some it was the 3<sup>rd</sup>!! The Cloister café at St Edmunds had a Coronation Party to mark the occasion. There was food, and live entertainment, which added to the fun of the day.

In June at St Johns, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Empire Windrush coming over, was marked by interviewing two seniors from the Caribbean, who shared their early memories of coming to England.

In July, Christine Miles, from Weoley Hill United Reformed Church, became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna chaplain to be commissioned in Birmingham. Debbie Ducille and I had the privilege of attending this commissioning to support Christine, alongside another person from BRF who lived locally.

During the summer, Barry joined the Blast youth group to assist as a volunteer. Also an informal men's group of mainly retired men, continued to meet together socially, but also started to explore spiritual themes.

Debbie D and myself, went to both of the Archdeaconry Explore Days, and had many conversations with people who attended, about older people's ministry. Most of whom had not previously heard of Anna Chaplaincy and understood the ageing nature of their own parishes. Soon after, we gave another presentation to Shirley Churches Together, for the same reasons.

I was asked to assist Rev Professor John Swinton who was doing a study on dementia caregiving within African Caribbean communities. John is a theologian and Professor at Aberdeen University, as well as being a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, one of the King's chaplains, and a writer of several books. He came over before and after Christmas, where he interviewed caregivers that I was working with, alongside others to assist his research.

There were celebrations for Christmas and Valentine's Day, both of which would have let people know of their value and worth at these times.

However just before Christmas, Jean Ordish (St Edmunds) died. Another gentle person who would be missed by her peers at Cloister café.

I continue to express my thanks to the P.C.C of St Christophers, who gave me the opportunity to start this ministry, and have enabled it to keep going, even when funding was uncertain. During these years of chaplaincy, I have seen older people become more visible in church life, which demonstrates their value, but also normalises ageing for us all.

**Debbie Gurling , Anna Chaplain**

This year we have reorganised the groups, moved rooms, welcomed new families and had a lot of fun! Here are the groups which have started or continued this year:

### Super Stars



(under-5s) We only had one new baby to welcome this year, but 10 children are registered, sometimes 6 attending the group without parents. A WhatsApp group helps us to share news and blessings. Meike Merk has continued to share the planning based around a short Bible story, with a linked craft and prayer if children are calm enough. 12 volunteers deliver this group. Our favourite song is **Big Family of God**:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Rawq3usrzsE&pp=ygURYmInIGZhbWlseSBvZiBnb2Q%3D>

### Morning Stars



The Mums of the youngest children continued meeting on Monday mornings for mutual support, chat, coffee and cake as well as the chance for a Biblical reflection and prayer. Up to 6 attended until we decided to pause at the end of summer until the group is needed again.

### JAFFA



Jesus a Friend for All

(5-9s) This group has grown this year, with 8 registered and attendance rising from 2 to occasionally 9! They used one end of the Nursery room and sing, play a game, learn from the Bible and have good discussion, while making something to take home, then prayer. 4 volunteers run this group. Their favourite song is **I want to say Thank you**:



<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4zs4A9Uft0Q&pp=ygUcaSBqdXN0IHdhbnQgdG8gc2F5IHRobW5rIHlvdQ%3D%3D>

### FROG



**Forever Reliant on God**

(9-14s) There are 17 registered in this age group, with 2-10 attending. Leaders have been using Energize materials as a starting point for fun games, thought-provoking Bible study and prayerful response activities to help everyone explore God's love for us expressed in the Bible. 8 volunteers lead and support in FROG

They think **Waymaker** is fairly ok: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29lxnsqOkmQ>

### Hot Choc Café



(15+) have left the main Sunday Service early once a month to enjoy sweet treats, discuss what they had done and heard in the service and pray together. There are 11 registered over-15s, and up to 8 attend, with Sam Quarton leading most of the time. During the other Sundays

they are encouraged to get involved in services by volunteering in the younger groups, with PA, worship and hospitality, to build relationships with the wider church family and grow skills. 3 volunteers regularly facilitate this group.



*Building Lives Around Solid Truth*

(mid-week, school years 6-9) After the summer we moved to allow the builders space to work, reinventing our big games for a smaller space: Balloon Volleyball was a hit! We have 14 registered and 11 regular young people coming to have a BLAST. We always offer table games and craft as well as free snacks, then have our Focus Time to allow Jesus to challenge us about the choices we make at school and home. 1 volunteer helps run this group.



(mid-week, school years 10-13) There are up to 8 young people coming to join in with BLAST's snack and games time, followed by in-depth Bible study and discussion. Tom leads most weeks, with guests visiting from The Feast, Birmingham City Mission, Open Doors and St Christopher's Church. There are 3 volunteers supporting.

As ever, a rollercoaster ride for 2023! As well as these groups, 3 young people had their Confirmations. We had a summer barbecue, Fireworks Evening and Christmas Parties and BLAST and REAL even tried archery. None of this would be possible without the dedication, enthusiasm, time and talent offered so generously by about 28 volunteers: Thanks so much, Team!

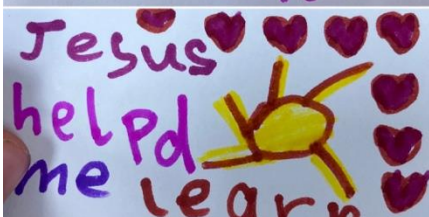
I want to thank the church for praying and supporting me in my hidden work as I plough through DBS checks, rotas, social media wormholes, curriculum planning, home visits, Safeguarding Training, fundraising applications, Risk Assessments, activity research, resource creation and duplication, vacuuming and shopping for endless snacks...

'We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done...



Then they would put their trust in God' Psalm 78:4,7  
**Rebecca Slater, Under-18s Ministry Facilitator**

### MISSION



It almost goes without saying that the key expression of our mission as a church fellowship is the witness of individual Christians in our daily lives. The way believers speak, act and interact with others and with the created world is fundamental to what it means to proclaim Christ.

Due to this, there is a powerful and wonderful sense in which we are all experts at mission and can point people to Jesus every day (and often without saying a word).

During 2023, there was a change in the way our long-standing mission partners Liz & Sameh Khalil were supported and the PCC took the decision to suspend our financial support until that issue was resolved. We are delighted that Liz & Sameh are now supported by a new organisation, Gates of Hope International, and we have been able to renew our financial support. We have also continued to support the Watson family working in the Middle East and Rachel Smith in Pakistan. It is good to hear from and pray for these people as they express and embody the Gospel in difficult and demanding places.

As well as these individuals we also support two key groups, as an expression of our mission and outreach: Seedlings and Open Doors. Although these groups are very different, nonetheless we hope our support for them in their respective work shows our understanding of mission as both local and global and that we take seriously service, compassion and evangelism as an expression of mission. It has been particularly good to learn a little more about the plight of our brothers and sisters in different countries around the world, and to realise that their faith and perseverance has much to teach us.

We hope this part of our shared church life is fulfilling at least three parts of our vision statement:

- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus
- A fellowship that stands with our Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners and working for peace, justice and the protection of God's creation.

**Tom Thomas**



## Parish Missioner

Over the last year I have been working with a variety of people. I have been working with one lady from a Muslim background, whose husband sadly died from cancer. This lady has been struggling with the grief of losing her husband. I have been praying with her and meeting with her on many occasions. This was a challenge for me, as my sister-in-law died also with cancer, but also was encouraging to me as I had the opportunity to share my experience as to how I am still standing, only because of my trust in Jesus.

My calling has often been ministering to single women previously, but God has been using me more in families this year. Vim and I had begun ministry with a young man, who attended church with his mum. This young man has several deep-seated problems. However, he knows that Christ can set him free. He gave his life to Christ, but still is struggling with his habits. I did try and do a Bible study with him, but unfortunately due to his sleeping patterns he couldn't keep up with the meetings. His mum has been going through depression due to his habits, and has been struggling with keeping up to date with her utility bills. I have been working alongside her and helped her to budget well and keep her cards away and so she can oversee her finances. This lady was overwhelmed with the on-going support and prayer towards her and her son.

It's been over a year since I have been ministering to one family with complex needs, it's been challenging. Praise God for he sustains us and gives us wisdom, I then visited them every fortnight. The lady said she missed the prayers; however, I told her I had been still praying for at home when I can't be here, Christ is still with her. She was touched.

Looking back to last year I've grown spiritually, as to be more understanding and loving towards broken people. God has come for the broken hearted as he heals and restores our soul, so will God work in the lives of the people I minister to.

My role in Seedlings has been different for much of this year as at Court Rd we could only have 20 families. The space was small, but it was encouraging as we were able to have more conversations with parents and also see if children needed more support and how we can help them and also how we can support parents to engage with their children better. It was lovely to have families from Sparkbrook and I also had the opportunity to pray with a few families.

Julia and I are still doing deeper prayer ministry on a Friday morning, with a lady who is struggling in life. We have seen God move powerfully in her life, she is beginning to feel more and more free from spiritual attacks. Praise God for her freedom. She is committed to the ministry that we offer.

These are a few things and people that I have working with, but I am seeing God move in many people's lives every day. I'm delighted that I'm able to share my faith and the love of Christ wherever I go. My prayer is that all may come to know Christ and live in the fullness of life in Christ Jesus. Thank you to everyone who prays for me and encourages me in this ministry.

**Kam Kaur**



Due to the building works in the church, this year has been an eventful and sometimes challenging one for Seedlings! In the spring and summer terms of 2023, we welcomed nearly 300 different children to sessions, regularly seeing around 60-70 families per week.

During the summer term of 2023, after much searching, we were able to secure a temporary venue for Seedlings at St John's School House for use from September 23. Moving our resources and setting up here took a lot of hard work and was a big learning curve for us all. The leaders all worked incredibly hard to get the venue ready and we opened for parents the middle of September 23.



Although numbers were lower at the temporary venue, we still welcomed 191 children between September and February, around 35-40 families per week. There were also advantages to being at St John's School House, as we were able to leave everything set-up throughout the week!

Both at St Christopher's and at our temporary venue, Seedlings continued to provide a high quality stay and play for children and their parents and carers and is helping to improve outcomes for children who attend, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds. Serving our community is an important part of St Christopher's outward focus and Seedlings plays an important role in serving our youngest and often most vulnerable community members.

We have received lots of positive feedback from parents about the difference Seedlings has made to them and their children. Here are a few examples:

'My son absolutely loves coming! As we approach the door he runs in excitedly!'

'I wanted to get my children used to different settings, activities, and people. Also to make the transition to nursery easier. It has been FAB for this!'

'My daughter loves the variety of sensory activities e.g. sand, water, shaving foam etc.'

'Seedlings is the only social opportunity for my child outside family.'

We have had a great team of volunteers from different faiths and backgrounds over the year, all who have worked hard to provide a great service and show God's love at Seedlings. We are grateful for their commitment to Seedlings and for bearing with us during the move!



We are excited to now be back at St Christopher's and look forward to another great (but hopefully less challenging...) year!



**Helen Cremins**  
Seedlings coordinator

# The environment – Caring for God’s creation

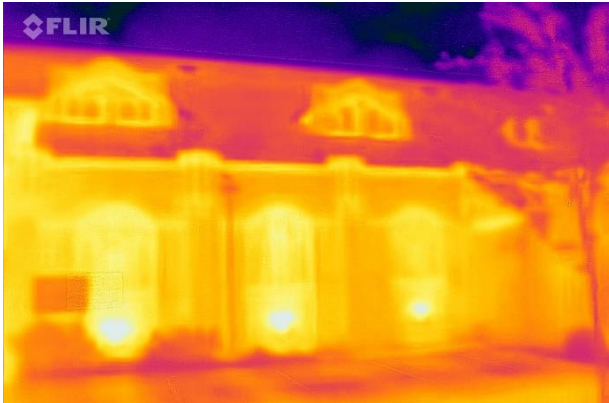
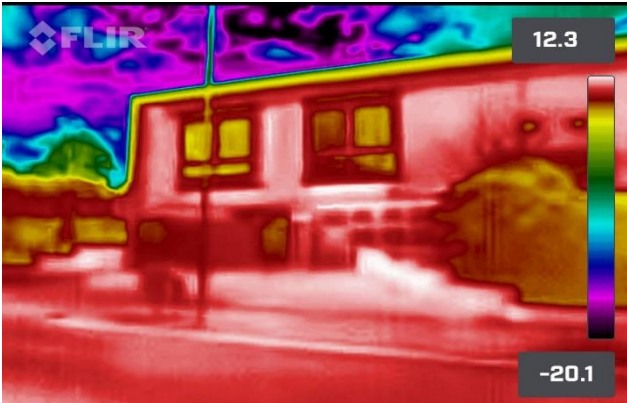
Caring for Gods creation is one of the five marks of mission set out by the Anglian Church and recognised by many other denominations.

We continue to work on the actions for improvement identified in our eco-church action plan as we move from ‘Silver’ to ‘Gold’ status. Simon Slater the designated eco-church coordinator by the PCC, has continued to provide updates to the church council and worked with other members of the congregation.

## Eco church Working Group

Simon has set up a group to help support his role in progressing the Eco church action plan. The group consists of Tom as vicar to help with the church building actions, and Hannah Greenwood, using her environmental expertise and her role on the Springfield Project Board as the environmental champion. The group has met four times in the year and met their aims of switching to green electricity and having an energy plan in place for the main church building by December 2023.

## Energy Audits – Vicarage, Church Building, and Springfield Centre



**Pictures:** Thermal images of the Church and Springfield Centre (after 2 hours of heating). The mystery of the Springfield Centre Plant room (Curt's cave). Destratification Fan from study visit to Selly Oak Quakers.

We accessed an energy audit support scheme run by the Council of Faiths Footsteps Programme and ecobirmingham. This involved site visits, thermal imaging, and three reports requiring different actions for the three different buildings. These reports went to the Church Council and Springfield Board to provide them a clear set of next steps, including year 1 actions and actions for the next 5 years to meet the Church of England 2030 'net zero' targets.

### **Switching our energy tariffs – we are now net zero!**

With our 3-year electricity contract coming up for renewal, we did a review of different energy contracts. We recommended a series of options for our future gas and electricity contracts, based on the Church of England research into approved providers. After a robust Church Council meeting which considered the cost, impact, and the contribution to our action plan. The switch was agreed. This means our church is now 'net zero' based on the energy supply. Some members of the congregation increased their giving to cover the extra cost.

It is worth noting that the switch has been difficult due to the poor customer service of the supplier we are leaving, and that the bigger impact is that of the individual energy use of the households of members of our church – collectively about 5 times the energy use of the church building.

### **Our Corporate Worship and Teaching**



We held a church service that focused on different aspects of creation care, teaching, prayers, lent activities and craft.

Our church weekend had a future priorities session, where creativity and creation were one of the issues identified as important to our church life.

Our mid-week youth groups looked at our role in God's creation as part of a series on social justice.

Our world was a continuous feature of our corporate prayers as we witnessed climate refugees, extreme weather, and international meetings to agree new action.

### **Our community engagement**

We presented to other local churches and groups on their eco church journey, such as Highters Heath. We updated the Diocese on our progress, including our first ever annual

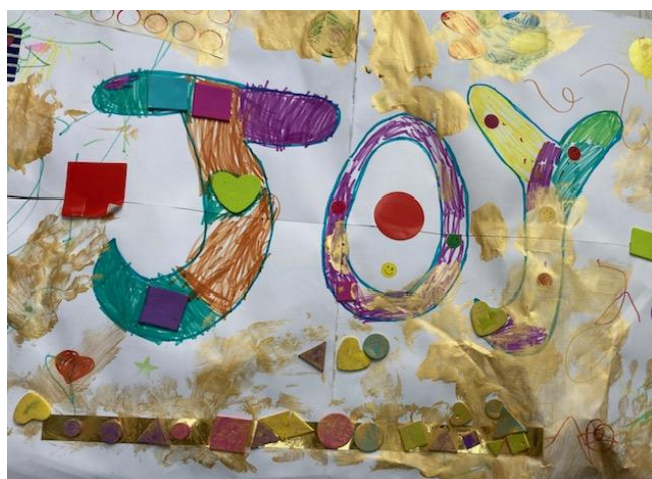
energy report. The Diocese informed us we were in the top 20% of energy users. This is because our buildings are full of activities throughout the week! Supporting the Springfield Project, through evidence from previous eco-church events, we helped to provide evidence of local need for individuals and households sustainability support. As a result, Springfield Project working with ecobirmingham, has been successful in securing a 3-year National Lottery funded programme to support environmental action in our local community.

## **Plans for 2024**

The Eco Church Working Group will continue to meet to oversee:

- Submission for Eco Church – with aim of getting Gold (This is carried over from last year)
- Joint Church and Community event with Springfield Project to engage community with environmental action.
- Energy Audit Priority Actions:
  - Diocese paying for a new Boiler and LED lighting for the vicarage.
  - The church replacing the old gas convector heaters with more efficient ones, a heat curtain at the door, LED lights and investigating secondary glazing.
  - Encouraging the Springfield Project to replace their old energy management system, finish putting LED lighting in, and investigate solar panels on the centre to provide electricity to the centre and church.

**Simon Slater, eco-church coordinator**  
**On behalf of the Eco Church Working Group**  
**April 2024**





In 2023 – 4 there have been lots of reasons to worry about the project. The two biggest have both been to do with funding:

- 1 How can we keep going if income doesn't increase and yet all our costs, especially salaries, have had to go up quite a lot?
- 2 Given the fact that we are at the end of our contract period with the city council and they are facing such hard times will there even be a contract that pays us to do the work we do?

Amazingly, or not so amazingly if you factor in a loving provider God, the past year has been a good one financially. While our main contract money does not increase with inflation various things have really gone well for us. Perhaps the most unexpected and helpful was a much bigger than expected rise in some of our nursery funding.

The second bit of unexpected news is that our BCC contract has been extended for another couple of years, which is great.

But there is loads more to thank God for:

- We won a grant to help make Sparkhill a child-friendly neighbourhood...and Sarah (and the team) are finding that this is a great catalyst for lots of hopeful and creative activities.
- Our relationships with partners at the St Pauls Project in Balsall Heath and our close neighbours at Narthex (St John's) are both better than ever. Working well with St Pauls is especially important as we navigate changes and opportunities with new Family Hubs.
- We have some great people working for us, and they have been flexible and adaptive when needed....and a wonderful set of volunteers.
- We have some great trustees who continue to faithfully, prayerfully and wisely lead the watch over the project.

So, please join us in thanking God for His provision and faithfulness...and pray that we might make the most of the opportunities the project gives us to appropriately tell our story of knowing the source of hope and love in a hurting world. Please also pray for the Board to grow well with new trustees from outside of St Christophers.

**Tim Boyes**  
**Chair**

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION

## Wardens Report

Mike and I have been wardens for one year now and it has been a real privilege to serve the church in this way, especially during a year that has seen such changes. Obviously the main focus of the year has been the re-ordering and we want to thank the Jericho team for their excellent work and Ernst's significant role in that. It's been challenging, but it has been so encouraging to see how the congregation has adapted and been creative in finding solutions for how to function with the reduced space that we had. We also need to recognise the real hard work by Tom in overseeing it as well as his hard work in fundraising and the significant success he had in bringing in the funds to enable it to happen. We also want to thank the many other people who have worked so hard to help during this time, especially Philip Grimes with building support, Mike Lenton with IT, Rebecca Slater with decoration and everyone who helped with cleaning, moving, setting up, clearing away and so much more.

As part of the re-ordering, we were able to clear out lots of items that had been sitting gathering dust for many years and also sell some items to create a cleaner more uncluttered look for the church. We also managed a substantial piece of repair work to the box guttering running the length of the church on the nursery garden side of the building, which happened despite the cold and rain in December. Because of the careful funding and budgeting and with some increased giving we were able to get the work finished properly including increased electricity capacity for the kitchen, new fire alarms, the floor being fully stripped and lovely new chairs.

We give thanks to God for this and now look forward to the next phase in the life of St Christopher's as we adapt to our new surroundings. It's already been good to see how the ramp makes access better, using the communion table and lectern after many years and having space to sit and chat at the end of the services. There will be more to learn about how best to use this space for worship and activities but all for the glory of God.

We have raised the profile of giving and the need for our income to equal, or exceed, our outgoings. People have responded generously and the situation has improved but there is still a need to look at how we can increase our income so that we can sustain and grow our mission and ministry.

The PCC spent a day in January prayerfully reflecting on our visions for the next couple of years and have produced a document that gives us a clear sense of purpose and guidance and we are already seeing the implications of that in the development of our sung worship and the training of preachers and service leaders. We will continue to use this to guide us in our priorities throughout the year.

**Andrew Smith and Mike Smith**  
**April 2024**



## **Church Council (PCC) Report**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has an important role to play in the leadership of St Christopher's. It has the ultimate responsibility for managing the church finances and deciding the strategic direction of the church. It also supports and oversees the activities of the church and encourages those leading the activities. PCC members are also the trustees of the charity that manages the church assets and income.

The PCC has met seven times as a council since the last APCM. This included an away day in January at The Wheel, Blackwell Church. This was an opportunity for us to meet with church staff and some Springfield Project Trustees to look at and consider our vision statement. The day included a time of worship and reflection, having lunch together followed by a discussion of the vision statement facilitated by Sarah Smith. It was a helpful and productive day and was followed by a brief meeting online in February where we agreed on an action plan to take forward the vision for St Christopher's of 'Growing Together in Christ'.

Our usual PCC meetings have followed a format of discussing matters of church governance and management, including safeguarding, finances, updates from the deanery synod, building and fabric issues and the now completed re-ordering project!

We also discuss matters of church life, which cover:

- Up – our worship
- In – our ministry and fellowship
- Out – our mission, including mission partners, Seedlings & The Springfield Project, Parish Missioner, Anna Chaplain and input from our Eco Champion - Simon Slater. We have had the privilege this year to have visits from both Kam and Debbie Gurling to give us an insight into their roles as Parish Missioner and Anna Chaplain.

We also have a list of rolling actions, which help frame discussions and keep track of important actions. Once PCC minutes have been agreed, church members can request a copy from Tom. The approved minutes are also displayed in church.

Thank you to all PCC members for attending and contributing to meetings. Having different ages and backgrounds represented has brought a range of knowledge and experience to the discussions and decisions over the year. I hope that over this coming year and years to come, we will continue to move towards an ever more diverse group of people that fully represent our church community.

**Helen Cremins**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has become much more centralised (and rigorous) across Church of England Birmingham with a set of requirements for those holding most posts (paid and voluntary) in a parish church. We are delighted that the safeguarding team at diocesan level is very strong and you can speak with them on the phone at most times: 0121 4260407 or 07342993844. These rigorous guidelines help us with the process of “safer recruitment” and now mean that most people in a volunteer role at St Christopher’s will need to complete a DBS application, and complete two courses (which can be done in person or online) – Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations. In addition, PCC members and Churchwardens are requested to complete a third unit called Raising Awareness Of Domestic Abuse. Once completed, these courses are renewable after three years.

I am delighted that Rebecca Slater and Lucy Emo are in charge of the process of DBS applications for our church. We can also draw on the expertise of Claudia Gordon, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator. So altogether we have an impressive team seeking to do all we can to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our church.

Further details of policies and procedures can be found on our website ([stchristopherspringfield.org.uk](http://stchristopherspringfield.org.uk)) or on the CofE Birmingham’s website ([cofebirmingham.com](http://cofebirmingham.com)). However, as I’m sure you are aware, safeguarding is **everyone’s** responsibility so if you ever see or hear anything that gives you cause for concern, please remember these simple steps:

1. Receive what the person is saying
2. Reassure the person that it’s good they are telling you
3. Record (write down) what you have seen or heard as soon as possible without adding or leaving anything out, sign and date it
4. Report it to either Claudia or Tom (and give them your record)
5. Breathe easy – your job is done!

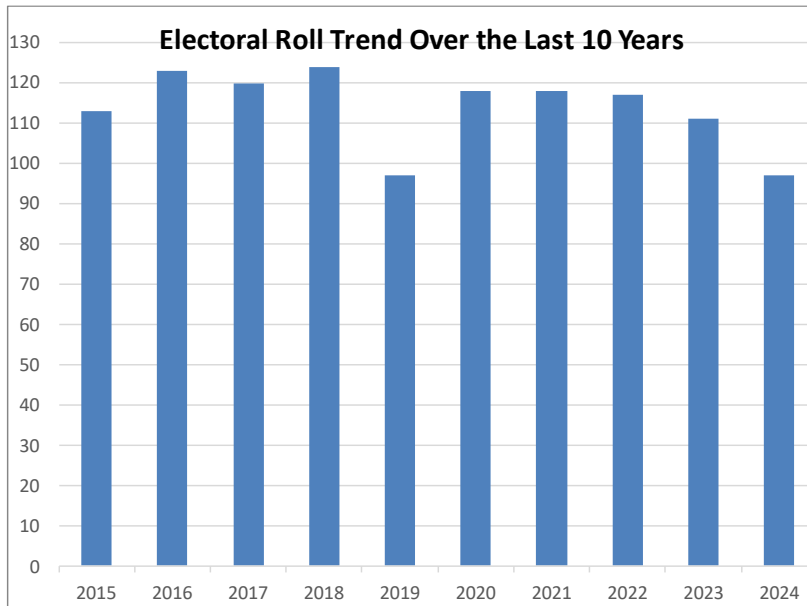
Claudia’s experience is invaluable in discerning what should then be passed on to the diocese or the police and what is simply behaviour we should be aware of and monitor. We want to be calmly vigilant and tread a healthy line between naivety on one hand and paranoia on the other with the goal of keeping everyone safe.



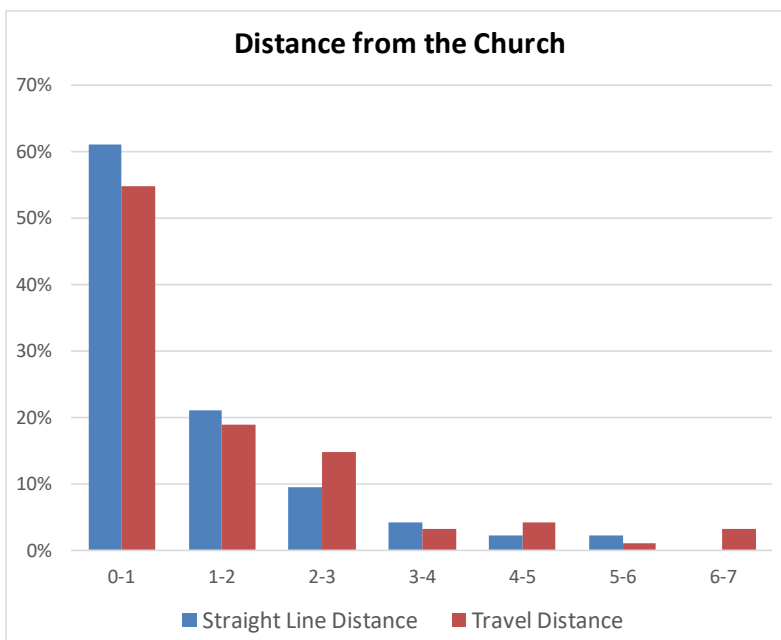
**Safeguarding is  
Everyone’s  
Responsibility**

## Electoral Roll

Within the Church of England the Electoral Roll is a list of all the members of the church. All baptised Christians over 16, who regularly worship at St Christopher's, or who live in the parish are entitled to be on the Electoral Roll. These church members are then those entitled to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) and stand for election to the Church Council (PCC).



The roll in 2023 had 111 members on it. Over the year two members who had passed away sadly had to be removed from the roll. 12 people left the church and were removed from the roll. One new member was added. This means that the number on the roll has decreased by 13 members to 98.



The change in membership has increased slightly the proportion of members who live in the parish from 40% to 44%. However, the parish covers a relatively small area of just 24 streets, with a population of only 7,000, so it is possible to live 500 metres from the Church, but not live in the parish. Church members generally live close to the church with over 55% living within 1 mile and 74% living within 2 miles travel distance of the church building.

**Mike Lenton**  
Church Electoral Roll Officer

## **Treasurer's Report**

The financial statements as presented herewith for the Year Ended 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023), shows a cash balance calculated at £83,615.95, reducing from £122,071.15 for the previous year as of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022. This equates to a reduction of £38,455.20 (approx. 31%), which can be seen on the year 2023 profit and loss statement for the Church. This was expected, as the long-awaited Church re-ordering along with some renovation work including new kitchen area was finally put into action and commenced on 4th September 2023, with a completion handover date scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Plans for such work had been under review and discussion by the PCC for some time before COVID, and during the global pandemic, these plans had to be put on hold. In light of this and despite the number of grant applications that were made to undertake and meet the cost for this work, the PCC were already in the view and understanding that not all submitted grant applications may turn out to be successful or as desired, and should this situation arise, the PCC agreed to use some of the Church financial reserve funds to meet the deficit between the received grant/donation money and the re-ordering building work cost.

Approximately six grants from different sources along with some kind generous donations from individuals were received to support this re-ordering work. This was further strengthened with the increase seen on the Church' planned giving and gift aid noted as "Receipts" against most increased expenses noted as "Payments", this helped with keeping the financial cashflow afloat without depending too much on the financial reserves. As a brief overview, some of the financial gains and losses that were noted are indicated below:

### **Receipts**

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Total Planned Giving £6,143.27 (9%)
- Gift Aid £20,487.88 (120%)
- Church Re-ordering Work Grants & Donations £87,047.48 (357%)
- Grant for Anna Chaplaincy £15,557.60 (395%)

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Non-recurring Grants £6,762.93 (38%)
- Income from use of Church £983.34 (11%)

### **Payments**

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Church Utilities £735.23 (8%)
- Overseas Missionary Societies £1,309.50 (26%)
- Other Service Costs £3,186.10 (72%)

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Church Maintenance £344.61 (27%)
- Church Repairs & Re-ordering Work £162,228.89
- Total Outreach Activity £1,463.72 (5%)
- Total Youth Work Cost £1,610.32 (8%)

I take this opportunity to thank Lucy Emo the Church Financial Administrator for her administrative and record keeping duties, along with Brian Wilkins and Tom Thomas for their support and help.



Steven Taggar  
(PCC Treasurer)

**St Christopher's Church**

Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Annual Report**

**and**

**Financial Statements**

**of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Incumbent**

Rev Tom Thomas  
The Vicarage  
Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Brian Wilkins, ACIB  
3 Springdale Gardens  
Selly Oak  
Birmingham  
B29 6DG

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Christopher's Church, Moseley, Birmingham.**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out in the subsequent pages.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissions section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met;

or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Wilkins

Date: 8/4/24

**St Christopher's Parochial Church Council**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Receipts and Payments Account**

**Receipts**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2023	Restricted Fund 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
Donations	5a	107,085.23	164,166.60	271,251.83	137,005.01
Charitable Activities	5b	8,764.39	0	8,764.39	9,175
Investment Income	3, 5c	2,908.94	0	2,908.94	1,283.45
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>118,758.56</b>	<b>164,166.60</b>	<b>282,925.16</b>	<b>147,463.46</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Church Activities and Support Costs	6a,	254,825.35	0	254,825.35	89,766.47
Resourcing Mission	6b	12,648.69	54,006.32	66,655.01	64,950.88
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>267,474.04</b>	<b>54,006.32</b>	<b>321,480.36</b>	<b>154,717.35</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Payments</b>		<b>(148,715.48)</b>	<b>110,160.28</b>	<b>(38,555.20)</b>	<b>(7,253.89)</b>
<b>Transfer Between Funds</b>		<b>110,160.28</b>	<b>(110,160.28)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Change in Period</b>		<b>(38,555.20)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(38,555.20)</b>	<b>(7,253.89)</b>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	31/12/2023		31/12/2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		Nil		Nil
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand:</b>				
Cash in Hand	91.83		117.83	
Bank Current Account	10,565.44		12,002.17	
Other Deposit Accounts	72,958.68		109,951.15	
Accounts Receivable	0		0	
<b>Total Cash and Bank Deposits</b>		<b>83,615.95</b>		<b>122,071.15</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>83,615.95</b>		<b>122,071.15</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		0		0
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>83,615.95</b>		<b>122,071.15</b>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payment basis, and the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 on the receipts and payment basis.

**2. ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE FUNDS DURING THE YEAR**

**Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted funds are those resources of the PCC which are available for general use to promote the church's usual purposes.

**Restricted Funds**

The movements in restricted funds during the year represent receipts and expenditure for purposes of the youth coordinator, the mission apprentice, the curate's housing and special purpose collections which may only be spent on those activities with any unspent balance carried forward as a balance on the specific underspent fund and not absorbed into the general/unrestricted fund.

However, any overspend on the activities above may be funded from the general fund.

The PCC commits 10% of all resources generated during each period to mission work.

The balance carried forward represents funds designated for hardship relief. Any related interest earned may be used for unrestricted purposes.

### 3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

This income comprises interest on deposits and other bank compensation, including interest on the restricted fund balances.

### 4. ASSETS

- a. Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act.
- b. Cash consists of cash in hand, cash in the general fund current accounts and cash in savings and other deposit accounts.
- c. Other monetary assets consist of amounts owed for services delivered by the parish during the year for which payment has not yet been made.

### 5. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>		
	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2022 (£)
<b>a. DONATIONS</b>						
<b>Planned Giving</b>						
Direct Debits and Standing Orders	67,528.80		67,528.80	63,298.81		63,298.81
Cash and Cheques	610		610	340		340
Youth Worker Fund		7,730	7,730		6,086.72	6,086.72
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>68,138.80</b>	<b>7,730</b>	<b>75,868.80</b>	<b>63,638.81</b>	<b>6,086.72</b>	<b>69,725.53</b>
Open Plate Donation	<u>1,333.91</u>		<u>1,333.91</u>	<u>2,299.80</u>		<u>2,299.80</u>
Gift Aid Recovered	<u>37,612.52</u>		<u>37,612.52</u>	<u>17,124.64</u>		<u>17,124.64</u>
<b>Grants</b>						
Anna Chaplaincy		19,500	19,500		3,942.40	3,942.40
Non-recurring Grants		11,010	11,010		17,772.93	17,772.93
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>30,510</b>	<b>30,510</b>		<b>21,715.33</b>	<b>21,715.33</b>
<b>One-off Donations</b>						
Tearfund Collections		50	50		779.50	779.50
Church Re-ordering Work Donation		111,407.69	111,407.69		24,360.21	24,360.21
Other Non-recurring Income		14,468.91	14,468.91		1,000	1,000
<b>Total One-off Donations</b>		<b>125,926.60</b>	<b>125,926.60</b>		<b>26,139.71</b>	<b>26,139.71</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>107,085.23</b>	<b>164,166.60</b>	<b>271,251.83</b>	<b>83,063.25</b>	<b>53,941.76</b>	<b>137,005.01</b>
<b>b. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>						
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	572.73		572.73	0		0
Income from Use of Church	8,191.66		8,191.66	9,175		9,175
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>8,764.39</b>		<b>8,764.39</b>	<b>9,175</b>		<b>9,175</b>
<b>c. BANK INTEREST</b>						
	<u>2,908.94</u>		<u>2,908.94</u>	<u>1,283.45</u>		<u>1,283.45</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>118,758.56</b>	<b>164,166.60</b>	<b>282,925.16</b>	<b>93,521.70</b>	<b>53,941.76</b>	<b>147,463.46</b>

## 6. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

2023

2022

	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2022 (£)
<b>a. CHURCH ACTIVITIES &amp; SUPPORT COSTS</b>						
<b>Church Running Costs</b>						
Church Maintenance	1,601.60		1,601.60	1,256.99		1,256.99
Church Repairs & New Building Work	166,968.89		166,968.89	4,740		4,740
Publicity	125		125	293		293
<b>Service Running Costs</b>						
Flower Arrangement	0		0	41.97		41.97
Music Worship	625.28		625.28	1,057.57		1,057.57
Refreshments	59.42		59.42	252.55		252.55
Other Service Costs inc Choir	1,267.11		1,267.11	4,453.21		4,453.21
Shared Lunches, Gifts and Socials	800.16		800.16	1,447.77		1,447.77
Education and Training	650		650	7.95		7.95
Ministers Working Expenses	242.25		242.25	279.05		279.05
Vicarage Costs	501.49		501.49	453.26		453.26
Pastoral and Discipleship	50		50	136.25		136.25
Weekend Away Expenses Quinta	7,356.84		7,356.84	300		300
<b>Total Church Running Cost</b>	<b>180,248.04</b>		<b>180,248.04</b>	<b>14,719.57</b>		<b>14,719.57</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>2,570.10</b>		<b>2,570.10</b>	<b>2,432.87</b>		<b>2,432.87</b>
<b>Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use of Springfield Centre</b>						
Church Utilities	7,983.23		7,983.23	8,718.46		8,718.46
Springfield Project	4,500		4,500	4,500		4,500
<b>Total Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use</b>	<b>12,483.23</b>		<b>12,483.23</b>	<b>13,218.46</b>		<b>13,218.46</b>
<b>Common Fund</b>	<b>52,368</b>		<b>52,368</b>	<b>52,368</b>		<b>52,368</b>
<b>Church Financial Administrator Salary</b>	<b>5,199.36</b>		<b>5,199.36</b>	<b>5,027.17</b>		<b>5,027.17</b>
<b>Other Administration Costs, Centre Bills, Caretaker &amp; Parish Administrator Salary</b>	<b>1,956.62</b>		<b>1,956.62</b>	<b>2,000.40</b>		<b>2,000.40</b>
<b>TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITY &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>254,825.35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>254,825.35</b>	<b>89,766.47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>89,766.47</b>
<b>b. RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>						
<b>Charitable Giving</b>						
Overseas Missionary Societies	3,675		3,675	4,984.50		4,984.50
Home Mission/Springfield	7,166.82		7,166.82	5,115		5,115
Other Home Mission Expenditure	1,415		1,415	3,527.23		3,527.23
<b>Total Charitable Giving</b>	<b>12,256.82</b>		<b>12,256.82</b>	<b>13,626.73</b>		<b>13,626.73</b>
<b>Outreach Activity</b>						
Parish Missioner Salary		13,738.39	13,738.39		11,797.67	11,797.67
Parish Missioner Pension Contribution		658.77	658.77		572.41	572.41
Ana Chaplaincy & Other Resources		1,392.89	1,392.89		1,897.85	1,897.85
Ana Chaplaincy Salary		17,648.16	17,648.16		17,706.56	17,706.56
<b>Total Outreach Activity</b>		<b>33,438.21</b>	<b>33,438.21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,974.49</b>	<b>31,974.49</b>
<b>Youth Work Costs</b>						
Camps	28.50		28.50	212.84		212.84
Youth Work Resources		1,417.01	1,417.01		1,107.84	1,107.84
Education, Training and Other	363.37		363.37	0		0
Youth Leader/Facilitator Salaries		18,292.23	18,292.23		17,219.86	17,219.86
Youth Leader/Facilitator Pension Contribution		858.87	858.87		809.12	809.12
<b>Total Youth Work Costs</b>	<b>391.87</b>	<b>20,568.11</b>	<b>20,959.98</b>	<b>212.84</b>	<b>19,136.82</b>	<b>19,349.66</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>	<b>12,648.69</b>	<b>54,006.32</b>	<b>66,655.01</b>	<b>13,839.57</b>	<b>51,111.31</b>	<b>64,950.88</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>267,474.04</b>	<b>54,006.32</b>	<b>321,480.36</b>	<b>103,606.04</b>	<b>51,111.31</b>	<b>154,717.35</b>

**KEY INFORMATION ON THE ST CHRISTOPHER’S SPRINGFIELD PCC CHARITY**

The St Christopher’s Springfield PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity. The Charity Registration number is: 1151491. The registered name of the charity is: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Christopher’s Springfield although it is commonly called St Christopher’s Springfield PCC.

**Membership of the PCC**

The Members of the PCC are the Trustees of the St Christopher’s Springfield PCC. PCC Members are generally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) usually for a period of three years.

**PCC Membership**

During 2023 the following people served as members of the PCC:

**Clergy:**

Tom Thomas (Vicar)

**Churchwarden(s):**

Andrew Smith  
Mike Smith

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**

None

**Elected members:**

David Hartley (elected 2020)  
Helen Cremins (elected 2021)  
Margaret Gordon (elected 2021)  
Alex Nance (elected 2021)  
Alison Roper-Hall (elected 2021)  
Esther Slater (elected 2021)  
Philippa Grimes (elected 2022)  
Catriona Heatherington (re-elected 2022)  
Steven Taggar (re-elected 2022)  
Jen Tustain (elected 2023)  
Phil Grimes (elected 2023)

**PCC Officers:**

Chair Tom Thomas  
Vice–Chair Alison Roper-Hall  
Secretary Helen Cremins  
Treasurer Steven Taggar  
Electoral Roll Officer Mike Lenton  
Stewardship Secretary Margaret Gordon

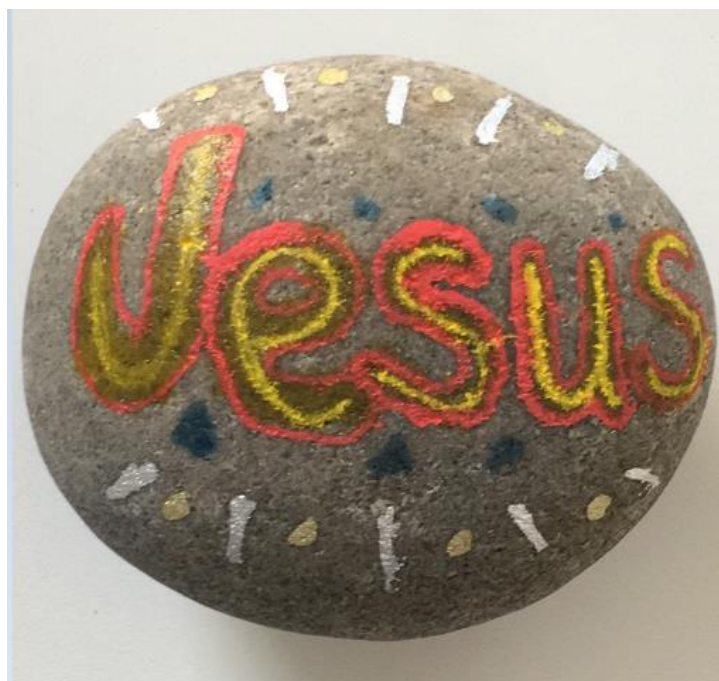
Although the Vicar is the Chair of the PCC as defined by the Church Representation Rules, it is the practice at St Christopher's for meetings to be chaired by a lay member of the PCC i.e. the Vice-Chair.

### **Governing Documents for the PCC:**

As part of the Church of England the PCC follows the agreement between The Church of England and the Charity Commission that for all PCCs the "Governing Documents" for the charity will be:

1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC Powers Measure defines the powers of a PCC It states that the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". The full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents) The Church Representation Rules define how members are elected to the PCC, the rules for the Electoral Roll and how PCC Officers are appointed. The full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3)





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# Accounts

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St. Christopher's Church

Growing together in Christ

***Annual Report for 2022  
as presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2023***



St Christopher's Parish Office  
Springfield Road, Birmingham, B13 9NY  
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[www.stchristopherspringfield.org.uk](http://www.stchristopherspringfield.org.uk)

# Welcome to the St Christopher's Annual Report for the year ending December 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's Church, Springfield is located at the junction of Woodlands Road and Springfield Road in South East Birmingham about 3 miles from the city centre. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

### ***Aim and Purposes***

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a registered charity (Charity no. 1151491). Further information about the charity and its trustees can be found in the section of this report headed Key Information on the St Christopher's PCC Charity.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and fabric. It also owns and uses the Springfield Centre which adjoins the church building; however the maintenance of this building is the responsibility of the Springfield Project.

### ***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community at St Christopher's. In order to do so it has developed the following vision statement for St Christopher's which it uses to guide its decisions.

### ***Our Vision Statement – We want to be...***

- A fellowship that worships God from the heart, displaying the power of the Holy Spirit amongst us to heal, enlighten and transform.
- A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth.
- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community.
- A place of caring for, equipping and discipling people in all that life brings.
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.
- A congregation of all ages that supports our children and young people as they grow and develop; and encourages them to live out their faith in church and the wider community.
- A fellowship that values our diversity, and where our rich variety is reflected in leadership roles.
- A fellowship that stands with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners, and working for peace, justice and the protections of God's creation.

The PCC has adopted the strapline '***Growing together in Christ***' to summarise this vision in a more memorable form. It has also approved a 'Transforming Church Action Plan' in accordance with CofE Birmingham's wishes as a way of encouraging a focussed approach to planning over the next five years.

When planning their activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC seeks to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the local area;
- Supporting missionary work in the local area;
- Supporting overseas missionaries involved in Christian mission;
- Providing services to the local community, particularly for local families and children in conjunction with the Springfield Project.

More information on all these activities can be found in the other sections of this report.

***Links with other local churches:***

St Christopher's is part of the Emmanuel Group; a group ministry with three other Anglican churches in the area:

- Christ Church Sparkbrook
- St John's Church Sparkhill
- St Edmund's Church Tyseley

St Christopher's is now in an 'Oversight Area' with St Edmund's Tyseley and seeks to work together with St Edmund's, sharing resources for mission and ministry as much as possible. St Christopher's is also a member of the Yardley and Solihull deanery within Birmingham Diocese, which represents around 30 churches in South East Birmingham and Solihull.

***Links with Other Charities:***

The Springfield Project ([www.springfieldproject.org.uk](http://www.springfieldproject.org.uk)) is a charity that is closely connected to St Christopher's. Although it is a separate charity (Charity no. 1134977) with its own trustees, it was founded by St Christopher's, is located in the church buildings, and its activities are closely co-ordinated with those of the Church. Therefore, a short report on its activities is included in this report, although a Trustees Report for the Springfield Project is also available by contacting [info@springfieldproject.org.uk](mailto:info@springfieldproject.org.uk)

St Christopher's also has close links with the Feast ([www.thefeast.org.uk](http://www.thefeast.org.uk)), a charity that brings together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives.

St Christopher's is delighted to host an 'Anna Chaplain' and to support this ministry as part of the wider network of Anna Chaplaincy facilitated by the Bible Reading Fellowship ([www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)). A report outlining the work of our Anna Chaplain, Debbie Gurling, is included in this report.

St Christopher's is a supporter of Open Doors an organisation which helps persecuted Christians across the world ([www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)). We do this through prayer, giving and keeping informed about the situation of Christians in areas of the world where their faith makes them vulnerable to attack and persecution.

## From the vicarage...

2022 was a tumultuous year for us as a nation. As well as witnessing, albeit at a great distance, the return of war to Europe, we also saw the departure of arguably the most controversial Prime Minister of modern times, followed by the quickest turnover of PMs and senior ministers in British political history. Against the backdrop of all this upheaval, we also celebrated the anniversary of HM the Queen's 70 years as monarch, an achievement never seen before. We marked this record by having an open-air celebration hosted jointly by



Church and Project. It was an amazing day and, even when it rained, there were some wonderful moments. I know I've mentioned it before, but I will never forget the sight of a Bhangra dancer in full Asian costume dancing his heart out inside St Christopher's to a soundtrack from Abba. It was like standing at the joining of several cultural rivers and watching the resulting cascade with nothing short of awe and wonder!

Of course, none of us knew that this celebration of the Queen's reign would shortly be followed by her death and the accession of King Charles III. Whatever your view of the monarchy, I think the overwhelming majority of the nation held the Queen in enormous respect and grieved at her passing. She seemed to have learned the simple Biblical truth that true greatness comes through service and her lifetime of cheerfully and conscientiously carrying out her duties, both great and small, was genuinely inspiring. We thank God for her and especially for her life of faith and pray that King Charles will also seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ, the Servant King.

Alongside the sense of national grief at the death of the Queen, there was also personal grief for many members of St Christopher's and we pray for all those who have experienced bereavement over the last year. Many of those bereavements and the subsequent funerals happened away from our church, but it was my privilege to officiate at the services of Mary Smith, Sheila Hopkins and Wolfgang Stumpf. Wolfgang's funeral was, of course, a celebration of a life shared for many years with our church and it was an honour to lead this service. So many of us will have our memories of Wolfgang and we thank God for all the time and love he and Beryl have shared with us. We miss his big-hearted optimism, his love of life and his endless desire to see people come to know the love of Jesus.



Keeping with our German connections, it was also a sad but important moment as we said goodbye last year to Andreas and Cathryn Melchior and wished them well as they started a new chapter on the island of Jersey. We know they will be a blessing there as they have been in Birmingham for many years.

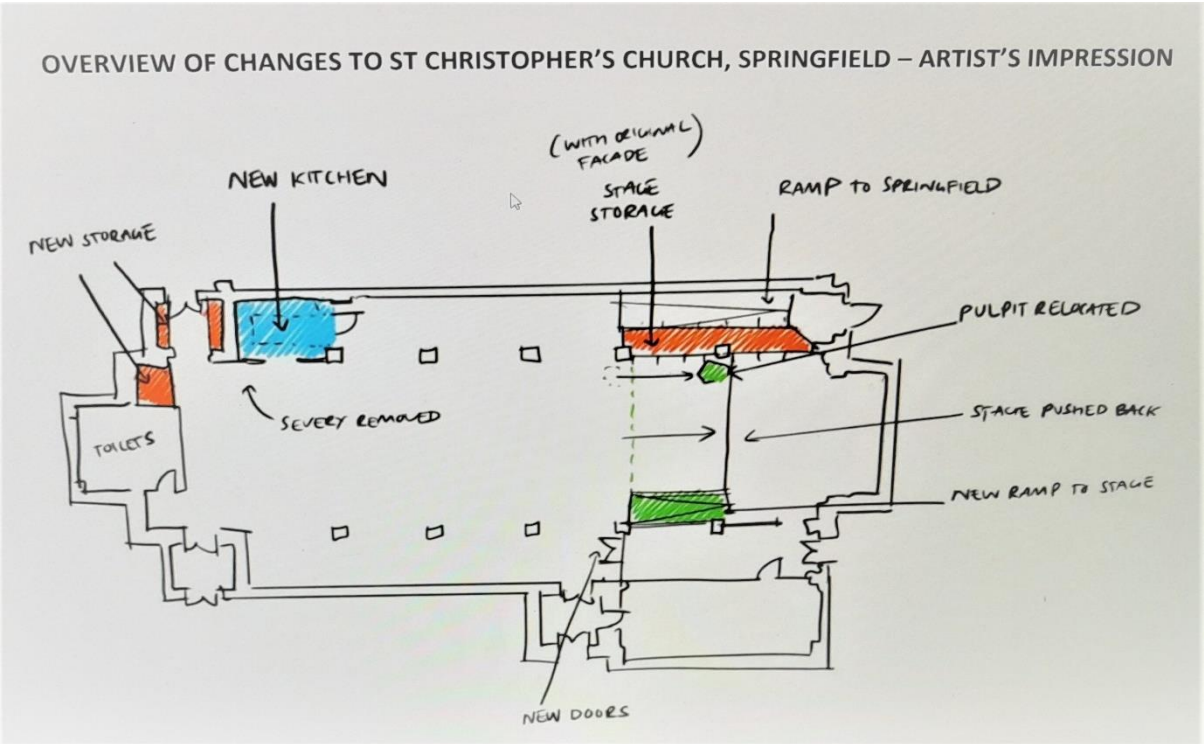
Other important milestones in 2022 for us as a church included the safe arrival of Isaac Tustain and Francis Quarton and we praise God for these two boys, their parents and families and for all the joy which younger members of our church bring. We also rejoiced in the summer with Amelia, Esther and Holly as they were baptised and we pray that this step of commitment will continue to be one that brings them life and joy in Christ.

Later in the year, we also said thank you to Chris Elswood who has been leading Seedlings for the last four years (including the demanding time during the Covid lockdowns). Chris made the difficult but understandable decision to lay Seedlings down to concentrate on her work at Mini Springers, our nursery on site at the Springfield Centre. We thank her for her cheerful, enthusiastic and dedicated professionalism in leading this crucial part of the shared life of our Church and Project. We are so grateful to Kam Kaur and Helen Cremins who have stepped up to co-lead Seedlings as well as to Lucy Emo who continues to lead the Thursday session. Thank you too to volunteers from St Christopher's and the Project who have enabled the sessions to run over the last year. As an occasional visitor to Seedlings, I am always struck by the genuine affection volunteers have for one another amongst the different teams and we pray this continues to be a blessing to them and to the families who attend.



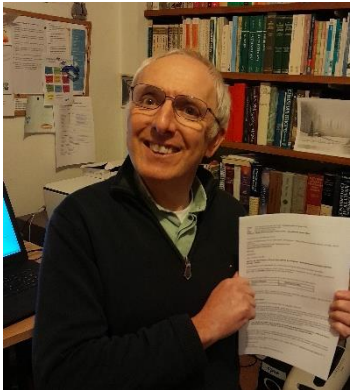
2022 was also the year when Fiona Hinds undertook her training for reader-ministry. This training is considerable and we rejoice with her that she came through it with her characteristic determination and good humour. We then shared an amazing day with her and the family as she was licensed at the cathedral in February. We can already see the fruits of her ministry and we look forward to what the Lord will continue to share with us through her.

Finally, 2022 was also the year when we got our faculty approval for the reordering work at St Christopher's and the saw the launch of our funding campaign to see the work done. This diagram by Isaac Slater helpfully sets out the key components of the work:



I'm very aware we've been talking about this for a long time and I can assure you I want to see it done as much as anyone! I'm delighted that we have appointed Jericho as our contractor and look forward to working with them over the coming months, with a start-date pencilled in for September 4<sup>th</sup>. We still have a long way to go but the Lord has led us this far and I am hope-full that He will see this through. There will probably be some disruption in the autumn, particularly to activities run in partnership with the Project, but in the long-run I trust that this work will result in a building which is fit for worship and for service in the decades ahead. May the Lord lead us through this and give us the courage to follow!

**Tom Thomas**



# St Christopher's Church, Springfield

## Worship Report



### **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**

My thanks go out to all the worship groups and P.A operators that have continued to lead the congregation through song and worship and the operation of sound and Zoom streaming during a year which has seen us fully come back to in person services.

We said goodbye to Catherine and Andreas Melchior and Debbie and Lloyd McKenzie during the year and thank them all for their years of faithfulness in helping us worship. We pray that they will continue to be a blessing to others wherever they go.

The Christmas Carol service once again was a great success, many thanks to Sharon and David Pitches for bringing this together and for all those involved in singing.

During 2023 the worship team will be looking at ways in which we can transform our worship and pray that the Lord will bring new musicians in to help us on this journey.

My thanks to Tom for his support and organisation skills that enables worship to take place seamlessly week by week.

I thank God for his faithfulness to us and know that he will continue to guide us.

Please pray for the musicians that they would seek the Lord and continue to lead us to Christ through him who we serve.

Amen

**Margaret Gordon**

**Worship Steering Group**

## PASTORAL CARE

Although the Pastoral & Discipleship Steering Group has not met over the last twelve months, much of what the group seeks to oversee has continued to happen:

- Encouragement and accountability for the pastoral care offered at St Christopher's by staff members
- Meals for families of new arrivals (thanks especially to Alex for this)
- Encouraging people to use WhatsApp groups to stay in touch
- Keeping a supportive look-out for people and prompting Tom and others to see how they are if absent for a while
- Encouraging small groups, such as the Colour Of Hope and Lent Group as part of following Christ together.
- Helping to facilitate shared meals at church.

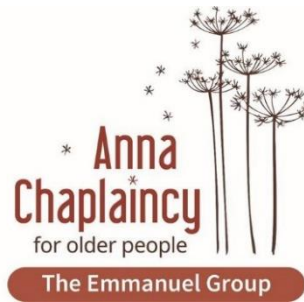
At the end of October we were honoured to have a training day at St Christopher's and then a service of ministry led by Flame International. Flame is used to working in areas of conflict and trauma and they had much to contribute to the discussion of healing, wholeness and a life of fullness in the Spirit. We hope to continue learning and growing in this ministry in our regular prayer ministry on Sundays, in special services and in the prayer offered by Kam, Julia and others on a Friday.

In addition to all this there is of course the informal pastoral care offered and received by members of St Christopher's as we seek to put into practice the Scriptural command to carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). We know that we will always fall short of providing a perfect church, but we hope we can all play our part in doing what Jesus commands and in fulfilling the part of our vision statement which says we hope to be:

"A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth."



**Tom Thomas**



## Anna Chaplaincy AGM report 2023

The past 12 months has seen the biggest number of changes for the seniors of the Emmanuel group. We said goodbye to: Bernadene Weekes; Margaret Buckley; May St John; Mary Smith; Wolfgang Stumpf; and Daisy (Esther) Padmore. I was privileged to be present at the deaths of one of these saints, was present in the final hours of another and have been able to attend the funerals of all, occasionally alongside one of my Anna Friends. The family of one person continues to receive bereavement support from myself and an Anna Friend, and as a result, they have started to support another family member experiencing grief currently.

Two groups of seniors have continued to meet socially – at St Edmunds weekly for the Cloister café, and at the Bull’s Head in Hall Green for lunch, bi-monthly. Meeting socially, has been the lifeline for many, and I have seen people making this a priority, despite weather conditions, or even recovering from hospital admission! Lockdown has shown that no one wants to be alone at home for very long and will take advantage of any opportunity to meet others.

During the past 12 months, it has been a delight to see some of our older men at St Christophers getting together on a regular basis for fellowship and support – this is something that can only be of strength and encouragement to them as they meet.

At the beginning of February at St Christophers, we used the feast of Candlemas to celebrate Ageing and Anna Chaplaincy. All ages were involved in the service – in leading it and in the discussions about ageing.

For much of the past 12 months, the future of Anna Chaplaincy Emmanuel has been uncertain. However, in September, a group of us prayed and at the beginning of March 2023, our prayers were answered and the funding was extended by 3 more years. This will enable this ministry among seniors in the area, to both continue and be built on in the coming years.

**Debbie Gurling**

**Anna Chaplain**

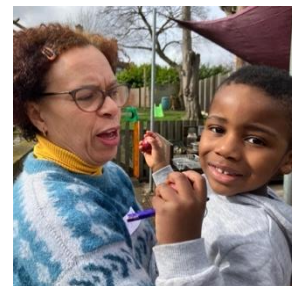


This year has been one of change and consideration: how best to meet the needs of 45-or-so under-18s registered with St Christopher's in 2022, and how to equip the 30 wonderful volunteers involved in caring, praying, teaching, playing and growing in faith alongside them. Here are the groups which have started or continued this year:

## Super Stars

(under-5s) continues to grow in numbers this year! 12 children are registered, often 6 attending the group without parents. A WhatsApp group helps us to share news and blessings and Alex Nance has been wonderful in organising meals for parents of 3 new babies. Meike Merk has met the challenge of planning teaching for the large range of ages and abilities and we have enjoyed learning songs and Bible verses together.

Chloe (4) says, **"I love Super Stars because I love the drawing bits."**



## Morning Stars



Starting at Easter Mums of the youngest children have been meeting on Monday mornings for mutual support, chat, coffee and cake as well as the chance for a Biblical reflection and prayer. Aimed at the parents, the children enjoy playing while their Mums benefit from some adult company...! Up to 6 attend.

Mayah says, **"The group is great because it allows us mums to enjoy our own and each other's children in a familiar environment."**

## JAFFA

### **Jesus a Friend for All**

(5-9s) A small group this year, with 5 registered and sometimes only one child attending. They start their Sunday session with FROG for sung worship, a game and introduction of the theme or Bible passage before separating for an age-appropriate discussion, response and prayer.

Hannah (7) says, **"I enjoy listening to the Bible stories and doing crafts."**





## FROG

### Forever Reliant on God

(9-14s) There are 16 registered in this age group, and up to 10 attend. Many thanks to Caroline Minchin for co-ordinating FROG and JAFFA, based on Energize materials, with lots of interesting, creative, thought-provoking and prayerful response activities to help the children explore God's love for us expressed in the Bible.

Samuel (9) says, "FROG is an amazing place to learn

**about the Bible. The teachers and other children are really nice and the games and songs are a lot of fun."**

## Sunday Hot Choc Café

(15+) have left the main Sunday Service early once a month to enjoy sweet treats, discuss what they had done and heard in the service and pray together. There are 11 registered over-15s, and up to 8 attend SHHC, with Fiona Lenton leading. While our older young people are not offered a weekly Sunday morning group, they are encouraged to get involved in services by volunteering in the younger groups, with PA, worship and hospitality, to build relationships with the wider church family and grow their skills.

Aisha (17) says, "I find using the sermon to focus our discussions really helpful, as we already have a basis of understanding from it and are able to further explore ideas relating to our topic."



## blast:

*Building Lives Around Solid Truth*



(mid-week, school years 6-9) This group suffered in the first half of the year with the majority of teenagers facing GCSEs, so re-launched in September with a younger focus, and the need for inclusive provision making it necessary to think through our games, sports, craft, Bible activities and worship. We have 8 young people coming to have a BLAST.

Naomi (10) says, "I enjoy the fact that you can be very open and it makes you more aware of Christians around the world... it encourages you to play, to pray and to get closer to God."



## MISSION

It almost goes without saying that the key expression of our mission as a church fellowship is the witness of individual Christians in our daily lives. The way believers speak, act and interact with others and with the created world is fundamental to what it means to proclaim Christ. Due to this, there is a powerful and wonderful sense in which we are all experts at mission and can point people to Jesus every day (and often without saying a word!)

During 2022, we had a change in the mission partners we support as we decided to switch support from Tiffany Atkins to the Watson family. This wasn't an easy decision and we took careful time to consider it, but ultimately the PCC felt that with substantial other support in place for Tiffany it would be good to target our support in another country and to mission partners just setting out. We have also continued to support Liz and Sameh Khalil and Rachel Smith and hope we can be faithful in keeping informed, praying and giving for the work undertaken by these partners.

As well as these individuals we also support two key groups, as an expression of our mission and outreach: Seedlings and Open Doors. Although these groups are very different, nonetheless we hope our support for them in their respective work shows our understanding of mission as both local and global and that we take seriously service, compassion and evangelism as expressions of mission. As such we see this work fulfilling at least three parts of our vision statement:

- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus
- A fellowship that stands with our Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners and working for peace, justice and the protection of God's creation.

May the Lord give us courage to proclaim him in word and deed.

**Tom Thomas**





## **The Colour Of Hope Group** (Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every Month)

This group initially with no name was initiated by our church leader (Tom) as a direct response to the inequality recognised and acknowledged following the Black Lives Matter Movement both globally and locally, this followed the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent outpouring of disdain for this horrific act.

Tom felt called to create a safe space for the voice of people of colour within St. Christopher's to be heard. We Need to Talk About Race 2019 (Understanding the Black Experience In White Majority Churches) was our first exploration of this challenging subject.

The direction of travel, what was significant and consistent throughout, was to enable the voice and leadership opportunities for persons of colour who are members of St Christopher's church, with Fiona Hinds and Ang Leonard now at the helm. Another constant was informing and strengthening of our faith. 'Being kind' in our response and maintaining a safe space as essential. This does not mean racism or discrimination is not challenged

We have since led on other themes and books, 'Why We Kneel and how we Rise by Michael Holden' and more recently Reparation, which included, After the Flood by Professor Robert Beckford, the 10-point CARICOM Plan resulting in a letter and response to the C of E Impact Investment Fund. We are now moving towards our next theme (Reclaiming Identity) which will take us to the end of the year.

Proposed targets for COH 2023

1. To review and update terms of reference (TOR) and include Hasna as our Black Theological Adviser - to be ratified by PCC as previously (only few changes needed)
2. All those interested in participating in group should be directed to Ang L and Fiona H we will then send TOR
3. A workshop for the young people in St C's on identity and confidence in faith
4. A logo for COH

### **Sessions**

**May 4th** - 'May the 4th be with you' (what gives us strength in our faith)

**June 1st** Coca girl an interview with a St C member on the impact of this magazine growing up as a person of colour

**July 6th** – no session leadership response to letter, by leadership of COH

**August** - Break

**Sept 7th** - TBC

**October 5th** - Black Diaspora - what does it mean and more.....

**December 7th** - Worship & Reflection

## Parish Missioner

Last year was tough for me, many people I had been visiting were struggling due to the rising of living costs. Most of the women I minister or work with are single and were struggling to run the home and put food on the table for their children. Some of my time was taken up by helping them budget their household income and making sure they were on the right benefits, supporting them through food banks and applying to charities for uniforms and white goods.

During the last year I was overwhelmed with the supporting women with various difficult situations. One of my ladies, her husband has cancer and is still living with it, now this lady called the centre for help regarding benefits. However, I happened to be in the office, the centre said that they could not support her, only because she doesn't have a child under 3 years of age. I asked reception if I could speak with her, and I arranged to meet with her. I am still in contact with her and am supporting her by praying with her and listening to her and also signposting her when needed. She appreciates my support and keeps me updated with the information as to her husband.

Most of my mornings are busy at Seedlings, where it is such a privilege to share God's love in our community. Due to Chris stepping down and working fulltime in Nursery I am now leading 2 sessions out of the 3. Sometimes I struggle to have conversations with parents due to the lack of volunteers. However, I'm delighted to have Caroline volunteering on a Tuesday, who also makes lots of conversations with parents and volunteers. I was very sad to see Janet step down from Seedlings who has served in seedlings for approximately over 30 years.

Much care and support has been given to the children and the parents especially, the mums who are in difficult relationships. Some mums struggle on a day-to-day basis, some mums say it's a lifeline coming to Seedlings. Some stories have touched my heart and I'm sure that their story has touched the heart of God. I get many opportunities to pray and walk alongside with them, supporting them emotionally, practically, and spiritually.

During the festive season of Easter and Christmas we have parties to celebrate, and we also get the opportunity to share our faith by telling the story of the birth of Jesus through our nativity and dressing the children up in the characters of Mary and Jesus etc.

Most of my afternoons are taken up by ministering to many people from different walks of life. Most are Asian people and some are also Muslims. My work with them is listening to them and helping them to get the support they need and pray with them.

Another lady I have been supporting has made a commitment to Christ. I meet with her once a week and disciple her, and she is growing with God. She had been trusting God in buying a home and God found them the right house and provided the money, this is a result of prayer and faith and trusting in God's timing. This has increased her faith and has drawn her closer to God.

Sometimes I have worked with Rob from the diocese, who prays and ministers to Christians who are sick and have seen people be freed from darkness and come into the light. I have learnt a lot working alongside him.

I and Julia have offered deep ministry to people of the congregation. We both felt that when people come for prayer on Sundays, it is challenging due to the time they have so we offered this service of ministry on Friday mornings.

We have seen God move in many people's lives as they have had a lot going on, but as we begin to minister to them God removes the obstacles and brings them out of spiritual darkness into his light and restores them to fullness of life. I really thank God for Julia as I have learnt different ways of praying and am grateful for Jean who stepped in doing ministry with me and sharing her expertise which gave me more confidence to continue in my role and for continuity of their ministry in the absence of Julia.

My hope and prayer is that God would prepare the hearts of the people who I'm working with and will sustain them and prepare their hearts and minds for baptism in the coming months.

I was delighted to carry the cross on Good Friday and to proclaim that Christ died for our sins.

**Kam Kaur**





Seedlings stay and play continues to be a popular group with around 70 -80 children attending each week with their parents/carers over the 3 sessions. As the only really universal (open to all with under 5s) service offered at The Springfield Project, we are often the first point of contact for many families. This is a unique opportunity to welcome parents and children from a variety of backgrounds, to offer support and to signpost them on to other services offered by the Springfield Project. As Seedlings is funded by and a part of both the church and The Springfield Project it also provides an important link between the two.

Over the last year, Seedlings has seen some changes. In October Chris Elwood moved from coordinating Seedlings to work fulltime for Mini-Springers. She is greatly missed by all the volunteers, parents and children! I have taken over the coordinating role along with Kam Kaur, who runs 2 of the sessions each week. We also now have some admin support from the Springfield Project, helping us collate attendance data. Rachel Alcock has returned to lead the Seedlings session along with Lucy Emo on a Thursday and Caroline Minchin is supporting Kam on a Tuesday. This means we have a great leadership team with many years of experience! We have several committed volunteers from the church and community as well as a couple of placement students. Without these volunteers and students, Seedlings would not be able to run. Some weeks we are still very short of volunteers, so if anyone reading this is able to join us, they would be very welcome!

As well as the usual Seedlings sessions, over the last year, we have offered Christmas and Easter parties, where Tom has joined us to share stories from the Bible. Children also enjoyed making seasonal crafts and having party food! We have some sessions with artist Zoe from B'Opera coming up soon.

As part of my inclusion lead role within the Springfield Project, I have some time allocated to provide support for children with additional needs and their parents who attend Seedlings. This is part of a city-wide intervention, 'Developing Local Provision'. We have seen an increase in children with a variety of additional needs attending Seedlings, so this has given us the opportunity to give direct support to these children at an earlier stage in their development.

Seedlings also provides 'priority cards' to families who need to attend more than one session a week. Seedlings can be a lifeline to some parents and carers, who may be struggling with their mental health, difficult family situations or isolation. We have had an increase in requests for priority cards over the last year, which highlights the important role that Seedlings plays within the community.

We are thankful for the prayer, encouragement, and financial support we have received from St Christopher's this year and hope that Seedlings can continue to be a well-run, supportive, welcoming and inclusive stay and play over the year to come 😊

**Helen Cremins**

**Seedlings coordinator**

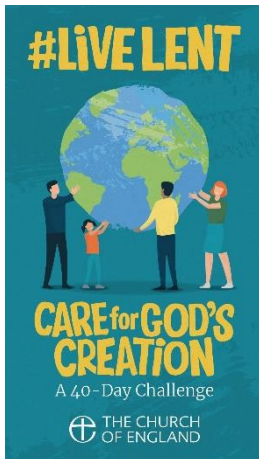


## **The environment – Caring for God’s creation**

Caring for God’s creation is one of the five marks of mission set out by the Anglican Church and recognised by many other denominations.

We continue to work on the actions for improvement identified in our eco-church action plan as we move from ‘Silver’ to ‘Gold’ status. Simon Slater, the designated eco-church coordinator by the PCC, has provided updates to the church council and worked with other members of the congregation.

### **Environmental Lent Course**



One of the improvement areas in our eco church plan, was to help church members develop and apply their understanding of creation care to their everyday discipleship of following Jesus. During Lent we used the ‘caring for creation’ material developed by the Church of England for interested members of the congregation. In the 6 sessions we covered: Light and energy, water, land and plants, stars and seasons, creatures of sea and sky, humans and other animals.

Up to 8 members of Church participated, either individually or in a group. Each week they reported back to each other on any worship, prayer or lifestyle changes they had tried. Each Sunday a member of the group reported back to the whole congregation of some of their reflections and progress.

### **Energy Audit**

The Church Council agreed to participate in an energy audit scheme run by ecobirmingham and footsteps. This requires the church to commit to implementing up to £500 of any energy saving improvements identified for the Vicarage, Church and Springfield centre.

### **Plans for 2023**

For 2023 progress will be supported a small working group chaired by Simon and supported by Tom Thomas and Hannah Greenwood (Environmental Representative on Board of our Springfield Project).

The Lent group wants to revisit their progress in 2023. It is currently finding a member to take this forward.

The energy audit is planned for spring 2023, as is a switch to a green electricity provider when our current contract comes to an end.

All of these changes should help us improve our progress towards Gold status when we reapply to ecochurch at the end of 2023.

**Simon Slater, eco-church coordinator**

**April 2023**



***...much to celebrate, and big questions to answer....***

The Springfield Project does several different things, but at its heart is the work of the Children's Centre which is funded by Birmingham City Council's contract with The Birmingham Forward Steps Partnership. In this partnership and contract we are the smallest partner. This contract is what pays most of our bills and it is this work that mostly shapes the project.

This contract was due to end last year and so these have been uncertain times. Thankfully the council has extended the contract and we now have until summer 2024 knowing things are carrying on in their current form. That is the good news! The bad news is that the funding for this work hasn't increased despite inflation and the need to pay people more. As a result, in addition to emerging from the tough times of Covid, this has been a hard year seeing lots of need and yet being squeezed as a project as we use up our reserves to keep going.

Looking at the big picture though there is lots of good news. The project is not just about money, it is mostly about people...and we have some fantastic people who make the project special. We continue to run two excellent nurseries and of course Seedlings, and important services like Place of Welcome have kept going (thank you Fiona) despite funding for most of our adult services drying up. Our Food Pantry has also grown and seems very important in these times of soaring food costs. We have also seen growth in our vision to work for children locally with new funding to make Sparkhill more child friendly, and Sarah Robins continues to make sure special Arts projects add to what we offer.

Recently the Trustees had an away day and we are left proud of what we have, but very conscious that we can't take it for granted! There are big challenges and uncertainties ahead, and so we who care for and "own" the project, seeing it as a mission partner of St Christophers, need to be clear about what we believe God's purposes are for this work. We believe this definitely deserves some fresh attention!

**Tim Boyes**

**Chair – April 2023**

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION

## WARDENS REPORT APRIL 2023

This last year was very busy for our church. Although the wardens job is currently in vacancy I managed to fill in a bit until God provides us with a replacement.

Earlier in the year we had our 5 yearly MOT by the architect which we are required to do. He pointed out a few roofing issues and the electrics needed checking. You will see our hopper is still blocked which is supposed to drain water. Until now we have not been able to get this roofing work done. The electrics required a major inspection and many matters attended to. It cost in excess of 5k to do this vital work which helps reduce risk of fire. There is a BIG issue of the Project roof where it meets the church which needs major remedial work and that issue is still being looked at. It causes a leak ironically just above the main electrics board!!

We identified a number of old wooden items such as the Hymn boards and old wooden pews being moved as part of upgrade. This still needs a faculty application.

Much of this last year has been designing the new reorder project involving a new Kitchen, storage cupboards, moving the pulpit and stage platform and much more. Liaising with Architects and Electrical engineers to design. Work hopefully starting later in 2023. We do of course need to raise around a third of the cost still and our new offering box has been installed to assist motivation!!

Our toilet drains caused rather a lot of excitement this year, overflowing before a very important funeral. Thankfully thanks to Curt our amazing caretaker this was sorted. We have now had them rebuilt to assist drainage. However, the paper towels were making this worse, so we have replaced them with Electric Heaters. Another bit of excitement was the discovery the church had a major flood with well over a 100 litres leaking over the church from faulty work in toilet. Thanks to Ernst and Tom and Fiona and others we got through that but if you wonder why cupboards are on bricks that's why. Tom is a master of mopping which adds to his many talents!

As part of Reorder, we had an Asbestos report and thankfully they found no issues save for some in felt under beams under front platform. Also as part of reorder we are hoping to have 3 new electric heaters to improve heating as we will lose one gas heater [ drugasar ] when church kitchen built.

The church Fire and Burglar alarms gave problems this last year, they are 15 and 22 years old respectively. The burglar alarm is now working but fire alarm still causes problems which needs attention.

As you can see the costs of running St Christophers are substantial but one encouraging thing is the government gives us 25% extra if gifts are gift aided. So £10 becomes £12.50.

It's been a HUGE step of faith to do the reordering project and God is able to help us make it happen.

Particular thanks this year to Mike Smith, Sheila for assisting as sides persons and Lawrence and John Dyer with advice. John still gives advice on Fabric matters and we remember his hard work and support over many years.

**Phil Grimes April 23**

7. Rear (North) elevation



8. Blocked hopper head



## **Church Council (PCC) Report**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has an important role to play in the leadership of St Christopher's. It has the ultimate responsibility for managing the church finances and deciding the strategic direction of the church. It also supports and oversees the activities of the church and encourages those leading the activities. PCC members are also the trustees of the charity that manages the church assets and income.

The PCC has met seven times as a council since the last APCM. These have mostly been face to face, which has enabled us to get to know one another better and even have some laughs at times 😊 We have members with a variety of ages, experiences and backgrounds which enables us to bring a range of perspectives to discussions and decision making.

The following subjects occupied a significant part of the council's time during the year:

- Re-ordering plans – decisions regarding the new kitchen. This has been the main focus this year.
- 'Re-energising' the church – how we can move forward as a church following the Covid pandemic.
- Eco – church – how we can become better stewards of God's creation as a church, both collectively and individually.
- The new 'oversight' Church of England initiative.

We have also regularly discussed:

- Maintenance of the church building
- Safeguarding, including training for those working with children and for PCC members
- Covid precautions, which have gradually reduced over the last year.
- The church weekend away, which took place in March 2023
- Staff salaries and pay rises.
- Reports/updates from
  - Church warden
  - Treasurer regarding church finances
  - The Emmanuel Group

The PCC also has a list of rolling actions, which help frame discussions and keep track of important actions. Once PCC minutes have been agreed, church members can request a copy from Tom.

Thank you to all PCC members for attending and contributing to meetings over the last year. We are grateful to those who will continue to serve on PCC over the coming year and look forward to welcoming some new members!

**Helen Cremins**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has become much more centralised (and rigorous) across Church of England Birmingham with a set of requirements for those holding most posts (paid and voluntary) in a parish church. We are delighted that the safeguarding team at diocesan level is very strong and you can speak with them on the phone at most times: 0121 4260407 or 07342993844. These rigorous guidelines now mean that most people in a volunteer role at St Christopher's will need to complete a DBS application, and complete two courses (which can be done in person or online) – Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations. In addition, PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete a third unit called Raising Awareness Of Domestic Abuse. Once completed, these courses are renewable after three years.

I am delighted that Rebecca Slater has enabled most volunteers at St Christopher's to complete the first two courses, via training sessions in September 2021 and January 2022. She and Lucy are also in charge of the process of DBS applications. We can also draw on the expertise of Claudia Gordon, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator and her deputy Ang Leonard. So altogether we have an impressive team seeking to do all we can to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our church.

Further details of policies and procedures can be found on our website ([stchristopherspringfield.org.uk](http://stchristopherspringfield.org.uk)) or on the CofE Birmingham's website ([cofebirmingham.com](http://cofebirmingham.com)). However, as I'm sure you are aware, safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility so if you ever see or hear anything that gives you cause for concern, please remember these simple steps:

1. Receive what the person is saying
2. Reassure the person that it's good they are telling you
3. Record (write down) what you have seen or heard as soon as possible without adding or leaving anything out, sign and date it
4. Report it to either Claudia or Tom (and give them your record)
5. Breathe easy – your job is done!

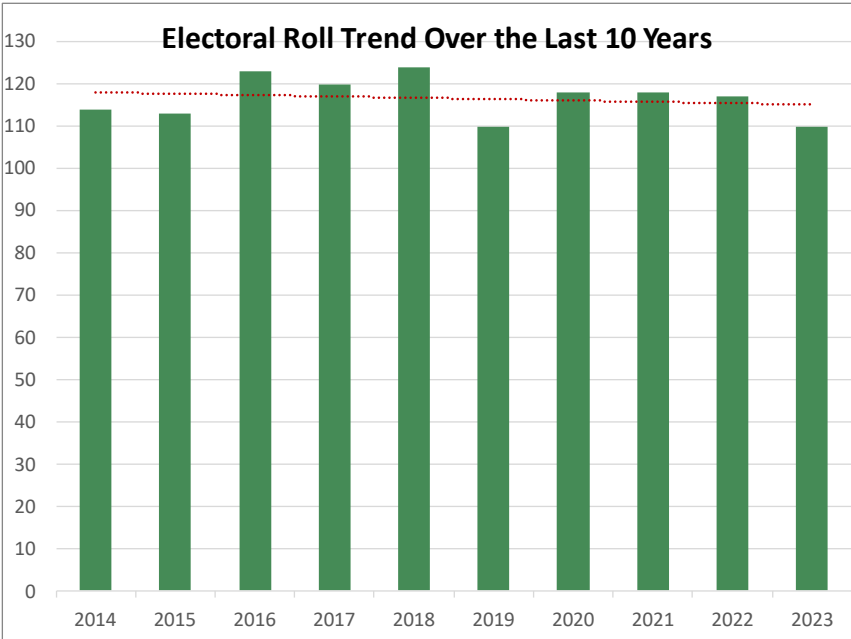
Claudia's experience is invaluable in discerning what should then be passed on to the diocese or the police and what is simply behaviour we should be aware of and monitor. We want to be calmly vigilant and tread a healthy line between naivety on one hand and paranoia on the other with the goal of keeping everyone safe.



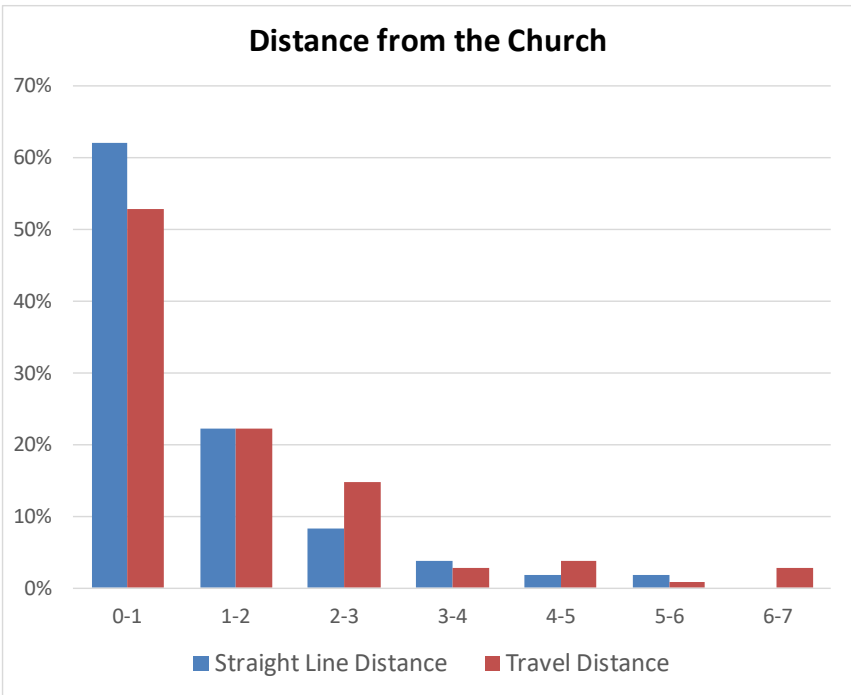
**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

# Electoral Roll

Within the Church of England the Electoral Roll is a list of all the members of the church. All baptised Christians over 16 who regularly worship at St Christopher’s are entitled to go on the Electoral Roll. These church members are then those entitled to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).



The roll in 2021 had 117 members on it. Over the year one member who has passed away sadly had to be removed from the roll. 8 people left the church and 2 new members were added to the rolls. This means that the number on the roll has decreased by 7 members to 110.



The change in membership has increased slightly the proportion of members who live in the parish from 37% to 39%. However, the parish covers a relatively small area of just 24 streets, with a population of only 7,000, so it is possible to live 500 metres from the Church, but not live in the parish. Church members generally live close to the church with over

50% living within 1 mile and 75% living within 2 miles of the church building.

**Mike Lenton**  
**Church Electoral Roll Officer**

## Treasurer's Report

The financial statements as presented for the Year Ending 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022) shows a cash balance (equity) calculated at £121,994.95. When compared to the previous financial year figure of (£129,248.84), it gives a reduction of £7,253.89 in equity, approximately 6%. This reduction is also a reflection of the annual profit and loss statement for the Church. The total income (receipts) was £147,463.46, and the total expense (payments) was £154,717.35, equating to a loss of £7,253.89.

As we have rolled out of the global pandemic phase, and heading towards regaining normality in our everyday lives, with restrictions easing and being lifted, this has come with a cost and has impacted us all in many ways and in many areas. Increases in inflation, cost of living, and interest rates have been under the spotlight for some time now, making ends to meet financially has become a harder task than before, but nevertheless at St Christophers we have not compromised with our Mission Statement in serving our congregation and the local community in fullness. We have remained afloat financially without putting too much burden on our financial reserves. This was achieved due to generous donations by members of the congregation who have donated towards costs associated with our plans for reordering and kitchen improvements within our church that we plan to undertake soon, as we are currently reviewing tenders recently received. Our plans for re-ordering were always in place and under review and discussions before the pandemic started. Further grants are being applied for with some already being approved for this building work. As a brief overview, some of the financial gains and losses that were noted, are briefly indicated below:

### Receipts

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Direct Debits/Standing Orders £3,888.09 (6%)
- Youth Worker Fund £2,538 (29%)
- Total Planned Giving £6,236 (8%)

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Open Plate Donations £1,533 (200%)
- Total Grants £12,302 (131%)
- Church Re-ordering Work Donation £24,360.21

### Payments

Areas that saw a decrease are:

- Outreach Activity Costs £2,906 (8%)
- Youth Work Costs £1,757 (8%)

Areas that saw an increase are:

- Church Running Costs £2,933 (25%)
- Church Utility Costs £4,155 (91%)
- Charitable Giving by Church £2,018 (17%)

I take this opportunity to thank Lucy Emo the Church Financial Administrator for her administrative and record keeping duties, along with Brian Wilkins and Tom Thomas for their support and help.



**Steven Taggar**  
**(PCC Treasurer)**

**St Christopher's Church**

Woodlands Road

Moseley

Birmingham

**Annual Report  
and**

**Financial Statements**

**Of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Incumbent**

Rev Tom Thomas

The Vicarage

Woodlands Road

Moseley

Birmingham

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Brian Wilkins, ACIB

3 Springdale Gardens

Selly Oak

Birmingham

B29 6DG

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Christopher's Church, Moseley, Birmingham.**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out in the subsequent pages.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissions section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met;  
or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Wilkins

Date: 14/4/23

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2022	Restricted Fund 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
Donations	5a	83,063.25	53,941.76	137,005.01	120,712.58
Charitable Activities	5b	9,175	0	9,175	9,399
Investment Income	3, 5c	1,283.45	0	1,283.45	1,136.60
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>93,521.70</b>	<b>53,941.76</b>	<b>147,463.46</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Church Activities and Support Costs	6a,	89,766.47	0	89,766.47	83,522.64
Resourcing Mission	6b	13,839.57	51,111.31	64,950.88	67,678.49
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>103,606.04</b>	<b>51,111.31</b>	<b>154,717.35</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Payments</b>		<b>(10,084.34)</b>	<b>2,830.45</b>	<b>(7,253.89)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>
<b>Transfer Between Funds</b>		<b>2,830.45</b>	<b>(2,830.45)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Change in Period</b>		<b>(7,253.89)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,253.89)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

	31/12/2022		31/12/2021	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		Nil		Nil
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand:</b>				
Cash in Hand	117.83		168.71	
Bank Current Accounts	11,925.97		11,847.43	
Other Deposit Accounts	109,951.15		117,232.70	
Accounts Receivable	0		0	
<b>Total Cash and Bank Deposits</b>		<b>121,994.95</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>121,994.95</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
		0		0
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>121,994.95</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payment basis, and the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 on the receipts and payment basis.

**2. ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE FUNDS DURING THE YEAR**

**Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted funds are those resources of the PCC which are available for general use to promote the church's usual purposes.

**Restricted Funds**

The movements in restricted funds during the year represent receipts and expenditure for purposes of the youth coordinator, the mission apprentice, the curate's housing and special purpose collections which may only be spent on those activities with any unspent balance carried forward as a balance on the specific underspent fund and not absorbed into the general/unrestricted fund.

However, any overspend on the activities above may be funded from the general fund.

The PCC commits 10% of all resources generated during each period to mission work.

The balance carried forward represents funds designated for hardship relief. Any related interest earned may be used for unrestricted purposes.

### 3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

This income comprises interest on deposits and other bank compensation, including interest on the restricted fund balances.

### 4. ASSETS

- a. Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act.
- b. Cash consists of cash in hand, cash in the general fund current accounts and cash in savings and other deposit accounts.
- c. Other monetary assets consist of amounts owed for services delivered by the parish during the year for which payment has not yet been made.

### 5. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	<u>2022</u>			<u>2021</u>		
	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. DONATIONS</b>						
<i>Planned Giving</i>						
Direct Debits and Standing Orders	63,298.81		63,298.81	67,186.90		67,186.90
Cash and Cheques	340		340	150		150
Youth Worker Fund		6,086.72	6,086.72		8,625	8,625
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>63,638.81</b>	<b>6,086.72</b>	<b>69,725.53</b>	<b>67,336.90</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>75,961.90</b>
<b>Open Plate Donation</b>	<b>2,299.80</b>		<b>2,299.80</b>	<b>767.14</b>		<b>767.14</b>
<b>Gift Aid Recovered</b>	<b>17,124.64</b>		<b>17,124.64</b>	<b>17,724.94</b>		<b>17,724.94</b>
<i>Grants</i>						
Anna Chaplaincy		3,942.40	3,942.40		5,913.60	5,913.60
Non-recurring Grants		17,772.93	17,772.93		3,500	3,500
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>21,715.33</b>	<b>21,715.33</b>		<b>9,413.60</b>	<b>9,413.60</b>
<i>One-off Donations</i>						
Tearfund Collections		779.50	779.50		0	0
Miscellaneous (Car Park Landscape)		0	0		6,270	6,270
Church Re-ordering Work Donation		24,360.21	24,360.21		0	0
Other Non-recurring Income		1,000	1,000		10,575	10,575
<b>Total One-off Donations</b>		<b>26,139.71</b>	<b>26,139.71</b>		<b>16,845</b>	<b>16,845</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>83,063.25</b>	<b>53,941.76</b>	<b>137,005.01</b>	<b>85,828.98</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>120,712.58</b>
<b>b. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>						
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	0		0	199		199
Income from Use of Church	9,175		9,175	9,200		9,200
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>9,175</b>		<b>9,175</b>	<b>9,399</b>		<b>9,399</b>
<b>c. BANK INTEREST</b>						
	<b>1,283.45</b>		<b>1,283.45</b>	<b>1,136.60</b>		<b>1,136.60</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>93,521.70</b>	<b>53,941.76</b>	<b>147,463.46</b>	<b>96,364.58</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>

## 6. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

2022

2021

	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. CHURCH ACTIVITIES &amp; SUPPORT COSTS</b>						
<b>Church Running Costs</b>						
Church Maintenance	1,256.99		1,256.99	454.78		454.78
Church Repairs & New Building Work	4,740		4,740	7,985.97		7,985.97
Publicity	293		293	275		275
<b>Service Running Costs</b>						
Flower Arrangement	41.97		41.97	84.09		84.09
Music Worship	1,057.57		1,057.57	555.58		555.58
Refreshments	252.55		252.55	41.04		41.04
Other Service Costs inc Choir	4,453.21		4,453.21	564.49		564.49
Shared Lunches, Gifts and Socials	1,447.77		1,447.77	517.33		517.33
Education and Training	7.95		7.95	64.94		64.94
Ministers Working Expenses	279.05		279.05	241.81		241.81
Vicarage Costs	453.26		453.26	537.58		537.58
Pastoral and Discipleship	136.25		136.25	34.38		34.38
Weekend Away Expenses Quinta	300		300	430		430
<b>Total Church Running Cost</b>	<b>14,719.57</b>		<b>14,719.57</b>	<b>11,786.99</b>		<b>11,786.99</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>2,432.87</b>		<b>2,432.87</b>	<b>2,317.02</b>		<b>2,317.02</b>
<b>Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use of Springfield Centre</b>						
Church Utilities	8,718.46		8,718.46	4,563.91		4,563.91
Springfield Project	4,500		4,500	5,625		5,625
<b>Total Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use</b>	<b>13,218.46</b>		<b>13,218.46</b>	<b>10,188.91</b>		<b>10,188.91</b>
<b>Common Fund</b>	<b>52,368</b>		<b>52,368</b>	<b>51,320.64</b>		<b>51,320.64</b>
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>931</b>		<b>931</b>
<b>Church Financial Administrator Salary</b>	<b>5,027.17</b>		<b>5,027.17</b>	<b>5,103.08</b>		<b>5,103.08</b>
<b>Other Administration Costs, Centre Bills, Caretaker &amp; Parish Administrator Salary</b>	<b>2,000.40</b>		<b>2,000.40</b>	<b>1,875</b>		<b>1,875</b>
<b>TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITY &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>89,766.47</b>		<b>89,766.47</b>	<b>83,522.64</b>		<b>83,522.64</b>
<b>b. RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>						
<b>Charitable Giving</b>						
Overseas Missionary Societies	4,984.50		4,984.50	3,000		3,000
Home Mission/Springfield	5,115		5,115	5,595.75		5,595.75
Other Home Mission Expenditure	3,527.23		3,527.23	3,012.95		3,012.95
<b>Total Charitable Giving</b>	<b>13,626.73</b>		<b>13,626.73</b>	<b>11,608.70</b>		<b>11,608.70</b>
<b>Outreach Activity</b>						
Parish Missioner Salary		11,797.67	11,797.67		12,244.47	12,244.47
Parish Missioner Pension Contribution		572.41	572.41		595.96	595.96
Ana Chaplaincy & Other Resources		1,897.85	1,897.85		2,076.29	2,076.29
Ana Chaplaincy Salary		17,706.56	17,706.56		19,963.78	19,963.78
General Expenses & Consumables	0		0	76.80		76.80
<b>Total Outreach Activity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,974.49</b>	<b>31,974.49</b>	<b>76.80</b>	<b>34,880.50</b>	<b>34,957.30</b>
<b>Youth Work Costs</b>						
Camps	212.84		212.84	0		0
Youth Work Resources		1,107.84	1,107.84		815.79	815.79
Education and Training	0		0	6		6
Youth Leader/Facilitator Salaries		17,219.86	17,219.86		18,572.69	18,572.69
Youth Leader/Facilitator Pension Contribution		809.12	809.12		1,718.01	1,718.01
<b>Total Youth Work Costs</b>	<b>212.84</b>	<b>19,136.82</b>	<b>19,349.66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21,106.49</b>	<b>21,112.49</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>	<b>13,839.57</b>	<b>51,111.31</b>	<b>64,950.88</b>	<b>11,691.50</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>67,678.49</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>103,606.04</b>	<b>51,111.31</b>	<b>154,717.35</b>	<b>95,214.14</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>

**KEY INFORMATION ON THE ST CHRISTOPHER’S SPRINGFIELD PCC CHARITY**

The St Christopher’s Springfield PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity. The Charity Registration number is: 1151491. The registered name of the charity is: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Christopher’s Springfield although it is commonly called St Christopher’s Springfield PCC.

**Membership of the PCC**

The Members of the PCC are the Trustees of the St Christopher’s Springfield PCC. PCC Members are generally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) usually for a period of three years.

**PCC Membership**

During 2022 the following people served as members of the PCC:

**Clergy:**

Tom Thomas (Vicar)

**Churchwarden(s):**

None

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Mike Smith (elected 2020 resigned at APCM 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

**Elected members:**

- David Hartley (elected 2020)
- Sue Green (elected 2020)
- Helen Cremins (elected 2021)
- Margaret Gordon (elected 2021)
- Alex Nance (elected 2021)
- Alison Roper-Hall (elected 2021)
- Esther Slater (elected 2021)
- Aisha Thomas (elected 2021 resigned 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023)
- Catriona Heatherington (re-elected 2022)
- Steven Taggar (re-elected 2022)
- Phil Grimes (co-opted 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for 1 year)

**PCC Officers:**

- Chair Tom Thomas
- Vice–Chair Alison Roper-Hall
- Secretary Helen Cremins
- Treasurer Steven Taggar
- Electoral Roll Officer Mike Lenton
- Stewardship Secretary Margaret Gordon

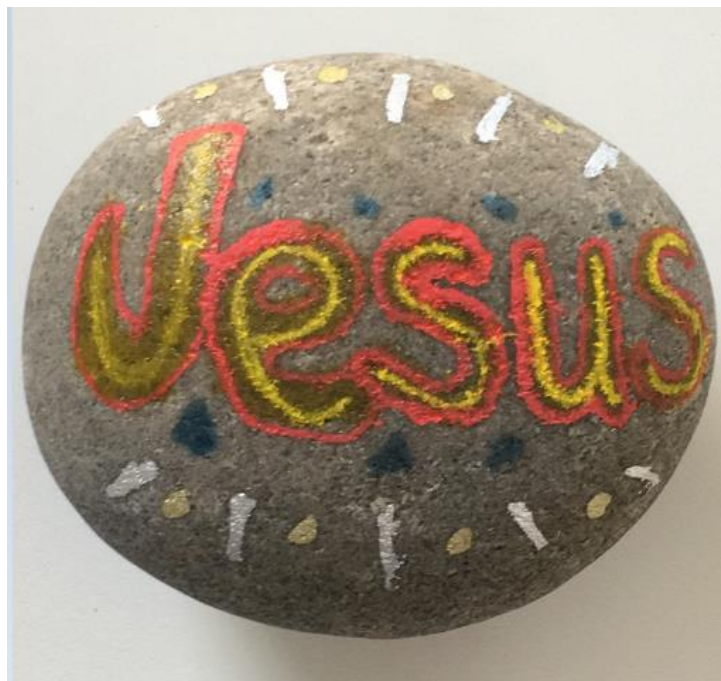
Although the Vicar is the Chair of the PCC as defined by the Church Representation Rules, it is the practice at St Christopher's for meetings to be chaired by a lay member of the PCC i.e. the Vice-Chair.

### **Governing Documents for the PCC:**

As part of the Church of England the PCC follows the agreement between The Church of England and the Charity Commission that for all PCCs the "Governing Documents" for the charity will be:

1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC Powers Measure defines the powers of a PCC It states that the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". The full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents) The Church Representation Rules define how members are elected to the PCC, the rules for the Electoral Roll and how PCC Officers are appointed. The full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3)





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# Accounts

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***Annual Report for 2021  
as presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2022***



St Christopher's Parish Office  
Springfield Road, Birmingham, B13 9NY  
Tel: 0121 325 5342  
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[www.stchristopherspringfield.org.uk](http://www.stchristopherspringfield.org.uk)

# Welcome to the St Christopher's Annual Report for the year ending December 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's Church, Springfield is located at the junction of Woodlands Road and Springfield Road in South East Birmingham about 3 miles from the city centre. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

### ***Aim and Purposes***

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a registered charity (Charity no. 1151491). Further information about the charity and its trustees can be found in the section of this report headed Key Information on the St Christopher's PCC Charity.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and fabric. It also owns and uses the Springfield Centre which adjoins the church building, however the maintenance of this building is the responsibility of the Springfield Project.

### ***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community at St Christopher's. In order to do so it has developed the following vision statement for St Christopher's which it uses to guide its decisions.

### ***Our Vision Statement – We want to be...***

- A fellowship that worships God from the heart, displaying the power of the Holy Spirit amongst us to heal, enlighten and transform.
- A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth.
- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community.
- A place of caring for, equipping and discipling people in all that life brings.
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.
- A congregation of all ages that supports our children and young people as they grow and develop; and encourages them to live out their faith in church and the wider community.
- A fellowship that values our diversity, and where our rich variety is reflected in leadership roles.
- A fellowship that stands with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners and working for peace, justice and the protections of God's creation.

The PCC has adopted the strapline '***Growing together in Christ***' to summarise this vision in a more memorable form. It has also approved a 'Transforming Church Action Plan' in accordance with CofE Birmingham's wishes as a way of encouraging a focussed approach to planning over the next five years.

When planning their activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC seeks to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the local area;
- Supporting missionary work in the local area;
- Supporting overseas missionaries involved in Christian mission;
- Providing services to the local community, particularly for local families and children in conjunction with the Springfield Project.

More information on all these activities can be found in the other sections of this report.

### ***Links with Other Organisations:***

#### ***Links with other local churches:***

St Christopher's is part of the Emmanuel Group; a group ministry with three other Anglican churches in the area:

- Christ Church, Sparkbrook
- St John's Church Sparkhill
- St Edmund's Church Tyseley

St Christopher's holds joint services from time to time with these local churches and shares resources where possible. St Christopher's is also a member of the newly formed Yardley and Solihull deanery within Birmingham Diocese, which represents around 30 churches in South East Birmingham and Solihull. St Christopher's sends up to three lay representatives to meetings of the Deanery Synod. We are delighted to welcome our new full-time area dean, Revd Nick Parker, to facilitate the new deanery.

#### ***Links with Other Charities:***

The Springfield Project ([www.springfieldproject.org.uk](http://www.springfieldproject.org.uk)) is a charity that is closely connected to St Christopher's. Although it is a separate charity (Charity no. 1134977) with its own trustees, it was founded by St Christopher's, is located in the church buildings, and its activities are closely co-ordinated with those of the Church. Therefore a short report on its activities is included in this report, although a Trustees Report for the Springfield Project is also available by contacting [info@springfieldproject.org.uk](mailto:info@springfieldproject.org.uk)

St Christopher's also has close links with the Feast ([www.thefeast.org.uk](http://www.thefeast.org.uk)), a charity that brings together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives. In pre-pandemic times it worked with the Feast to run Hublife, a drop-in club for teenagers in the local community, located in the church building.

St Christopher's supports an Anna Chaplain (<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>) who works with older people in the area. She is partially funded by the church and by grants from the Henry Smith Charitable Trust and other grant funding organisations. The work done by Debbie Gurling our Anna Chaplain is explained in her report on page 10.

## From the vicarage...

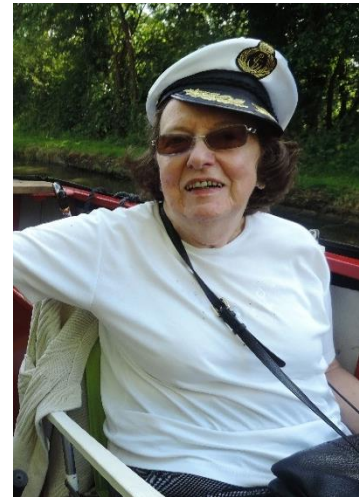
Given the relative freedom and normality we now enjoy, it's easy to forget how much of 2021 was spent under Covid-restrictions and lockdowns. Although other churches took a different approach, we decided not to return to in-person worship at our main 10.45 service until September and even then, with a variety of measures to try to keep everyone safe. It has been a slow and at times painstaking return to what was familiar in pre-pandemic times. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with this return and with the task of bringing some normality to church life, which still feels some way off. In fact, in many ways it feels like we're still recovering from the pandemic and surely part of the call to follow Jesus in community is that we continue to do our utmost to show the extra kindness and generosity we all need as we emerge from what is (hopefully) a once-in-a-lifetime event.

2021 was also a year of sadness for other reasons, as we said farewell to two much-loved church members – Anne Dyer and Eddie Carey. Eddie was known to many as a cheerful,



affable and kind man who loved his family deeply and had played a part in several local churches. Anne on the other hand had dedicated so much of her life to the one church of St Christopher's and, in particular, to the work of the Sunday School. So many children and adults can thank

God for the way her life touched theirs and quite simply enabled them to see Jesus. We thank God for them both, we pray for those who miss them most and we remember their place in our hearts and in our church.



Another farewell which came at the end of 2021 was to bless Lloyd and Debbie McKenzie as they moved on from St Christopher's after some fifteen years or more of active service and ministry. It had been on Lloyd's heart for many years to worship in the community where they live and it is good to affirm them in this desire to build Christian community. But we do miss them!

As well as these farewells, it was so good to be able to celebrate some very significant arrivals in 2021 in the beautiful forms of Amelia Garvey, Melvin Ndudiri, Chloe Nance and Levi Wetherell (as well as a sense of extended joy at hearing the news of the safe arrival of Elias Peryard-Benkamoun and Rory Miller). Although not 2021 babies, we can nonetheless also celebrate the joyful birth of Isaac Tustain and look forward to baby Quarton in the fullness of time. It is such a joy and blessing to be a tiny part of welcoming these children into the world and hopefully into a loving and caring church fellowship. Most of us won't change nappies or give feeds, but we can do our utmost to pray for, encourage and above all love them and their parents into the fulness of life which comes from knowing Christ.



In our ever-excellent Emmanuel Group of local churches, it was good to welcome another arrival with the licensing of Revd Toby Crowe as the new vicar of St John's Sparkhill. We continue to thank God for the years of ministry undertaken by Toby's predecessor John Self, but also look forward to the new things God will do in and through St John's under this new leadership. At St Edmund's it has been a joy to see leadership grow and develop as Ann Knight has been ordained deacon (and just recently priest) and Dot Pooler has been licensed as lay minister. There has been change too at Christ Church with Debbie Ducille leaving her role there and going on to be National Church Lead with Anna Chaplaincy (another example of Sparkhill speaking to the national church!). We pray for and with David Brogan and others on the core team at Christ Church as they look to the future. It is an honour and a joy to work with these folk and others across the Emmanuel Group and I hope very much that these relationships will continue to grow.

Other significant steps in ministry have come with Alison Ridge beginning her ordination training at St Melitus alongside an extended placement at St John's. We also had the recent licensing of Philippa Grimes as our new reader and the acceptance of Fiona Hinds to train as a reader. We are very blessed! It is always a joy to see people stepping into new forms of ministry, and a particular joy when those are authorised and affirmed by the wider church. As each person goes into an authorised ministry, there is also the sense that the door is pushed a little wider so that others can consider their calling too.



I am delighted that our online Colour of Hope group has continued during 2021, encouraging us to persevere in the journey towards full equality in our church and society. We still have a



long way to go, but I hope this group will continue to play a key role in keeping this issue on our hearts and in our minds. In 2021 we also took a journey through the Living In Love & Faith initiative, which was commissioned and commended by the Bishops of the Church of England for use in local churches. Speaking honestly, it's hard to look back at this part of 2021

without some pain. I am so grateful to those who came on the course (we ran it in two formats) and who contributed to those discussions, many of which were excellent. I'm also grateful to have had time to do some reading and reflecting on gender, sexuality, relationships and marriage. However, it was also painful to realise that, on this subject at least, it seems we are not yet ready as a congregation to engage with a spectrum of views and discuss these issues together in the way that I'd hoped. I pray for the day when we can have this conversation openly and honestly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth.

Other significant events in 2021 included doing some much-needed work to our church car park and grounds. It's good to have some new trees (currently in leaf!), to have trimmed our old trees, to have put in a new flower bed and some jolly clever retractable bollards, which have helped our security enormously. My thanks go to all those who worked and gave money to enable these things to happen, but especially to Phil Grimes who oversaw this (and much other work) during his time as churchwarden. I am so grateful for his knowledge and expertise and I know we will miss him in that role very much.

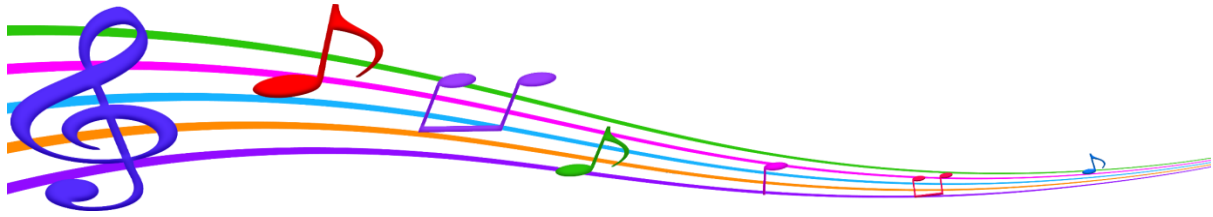


Finally can I say a huge thank you to everyone who has served at St Christopher's in any way over the last twelve months. The Lord sees all your work for him and delights in you.

**Tom Thomas**



# St Christopher's Church, Springfield



## Worship Report for AGM 2021

Praise the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul

Worship his Holy Name

The worship groups have continued to lead the congregation through song and worship during another year of partial lock-down and uncertain times due to Covid.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all those who have been involved in ensuring this happened through our Zoom meetings and then back in person from September 2021.

Many thanks to those involved in operating our P.A and enabling this to continue on a weekly basis. I know how much this is appreciated by those members of the congregation who cannot attend services in person.

Our Christmas Carol service was able to be held in person again in December which was lovely to see, and I'd like to thank David Pitches for organising this and for all who were involved including our young musicians who played their various wind instruments and those whose who read the bible passages reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

I would also like to give my thanks to Tom, who has been instrumental in organising rotas and integrating our worship each week.

Looking forward, I can see a change coming in how we deliver worship. We need to cry out to the Lord for direction and focus on how and where we need to change.

In the next few months, the worship team will come together for a time of prayer and to hear from God.

***Our Lord has never failed us and will always provide our every need.***



**Margaret Gordon, Worship Steering Group**

## PASTORAL CARE

### Pastoral and Discipleship Steering Group Report

*Members: Tom T, Kam K, Debbie G, Jean G, Ian H, Alison RH, Alex N*

The Pastoral & Discipleship Steering Group has somewhat fallen into abeyance in 2021, having met just the once in January. However, much of what the group seeks to oversee has continued to happen:

- Encouragement and accountability for the pastoral care offered at St Christopher's by staff members
- Meals for families of new arrivals (thanks especially to Alex for this)
- Encouraging people to use WhatsApp groups to stay in touch
- Keeping a supportive look-out for people and prompting Tom and others to see how they are if absent for a while
- Encouraging small groups, such as the Colour Of Hope and Living In Love & Faith, as part of following Christ together.

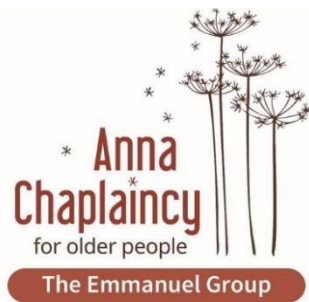
In addition to all this there is of course the informal pastoral care offered and received by members of St Christopher's as we seek to put into practice the Scriptural command to carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). We know that we will always fall short of providing a perfect church, but we want to play our part in doing what Jesus commands and of fulfilling the part of our vision statement which says we hope to be:

"A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth."

It is hoped very much that an organised approach to prayer ministry will soon begin again at St Christopher's. We're delighted that Alison and Julia are taking the lead in getting a new rota up and running and we look forward to seeing how this works out in the coming months.

**Tom Thomas**





## Anna Chaplaincy report for Emmanuel group AGM's

***“Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” Isaiah 46: 4***

This past year has been one of both ebb and flow in the life of Anna Chaplaincy in the Emmanuel group.

2021 had already begun with saying goodbye to Michael Farrell (St John's), however the day restrictions started to ease in May, Anne Dyer (St Christopher's), suddenly died. This meant that at the time of national relief, as we could now embrace our friends, we were also grieving locally at this loss within our church family, as Anne had supported us all for a very long time.

After nearly two years of being apart, both the Good Companions club at St John's and the Cloister café at St Edmunds, restarted. Whilst it was clear that many people had become frailer during the time of being in lockdown, everyone from both clubs were happy to get out and be reunited with their friends. For some, this was the only time they left their homes, so the restarting of clubs was a significant reintroduction to feeling a part of the community again.

In the summer, I took the opportunity to have a couple of local outings with two of our seniors, to Blackberry Way, or the path to Sarehole Mill. Again, this proved a special time for both to have company and be outside of their homes.

We then had the losses of both Dine Osbourne (St John's), and Pat Boyes (St Christopher's). Although both had not been seen for a while, as Pat had moved away, and Dine was no longer able to come to church, both women remain equally missed.

As a local Anna Chaplaincy team, Ann Knight stepped down from being an Anna Friend, but then was later ordained as priest for St Edmunds! However, in addition to Dot Pooler, (who like Ann had been with me from the very beginning), I had first Alison Hartley, then Jean Gethen, join me as Anna Friends – so for the first time we were a team of four.

Christmas time, saw 100 Advent bags being made, and many being given out to our seniors across the Emmanuel group, alongside Christmas cards from myself, and from children from the Sunday schools of both St Christopher's and St John's. Sadly, just before Christmas, Josie Henry (St John's) died – the very first person that I had visited, after being commissioned as a chaplain in June 2019. Josie was also the first female church warden of colour at St John's – a trailblazer in every sense!

In February 2022, Debbie Ducille started her new post as Church Lead for Anna Chaplaincy in the U.K. This meant that a 'double act of Debbies', were able to give a joint presentation


about Anna Chaplaincy to the members' meeting of the Mother's Union in Birmingham a month later. This was well received, to the extent that at least one invitation to speak at a church in 2023 was given as a result.

Whilst formal groups have restarted, it has been a blessing to see that amongst the seniors within the churches, there is also informal support and connection, both practical and spiritual, taking place. Being in lockdown, and being cut off from one another, taught a lot of people a lot of things, and there were also a lot of losses, on every level during this time. However, one of the biggest gains has been the new renewed appreciation of the importance of relationship – with each other and with God


**Debbie Gurling**



This year has been one of adaptation, from online to in-person groups, from socially distanced, gelled garden youth work to furniture-shifting creating welcoming indoor spaces for the church's children to meet in. 50 under-18s have been registered with St Christopher's in 2021, and 42 wonderful volunteers involved in caring, praying, teaching, playing and growing in faith alongside them. We have enjoyed Zoom sessions, Summer, Firework and Christmas Parties and spending time together being part of God's Family.


**Super Stars**  (under-5s) has seen rapid growth in numbers this year! 11 children are on the books and up to 6 attending the group without parents since September. I have been phoning and visiting parents to encourage them as they embark on their parenting adventure. A WhatsApp group helps us to share news and blessings and Alex Nance has been wonderful in organising meals for new parents. Having had the benefit of Fiona Hinds' leadership for several years, Meike Merk has taken over and says **"I love being with the children, showing them God's love. I hope the seeds we plant will grow into a strong Christian faith"**.



**JAFFA**  (5-11s) met on Zoom for the first half of the year, which worked really well for this age group and saw consistent attendance and engagement. They were really happy to meet in real life for their Summer Party and have continued in-person from September with energy and enthusiasm.



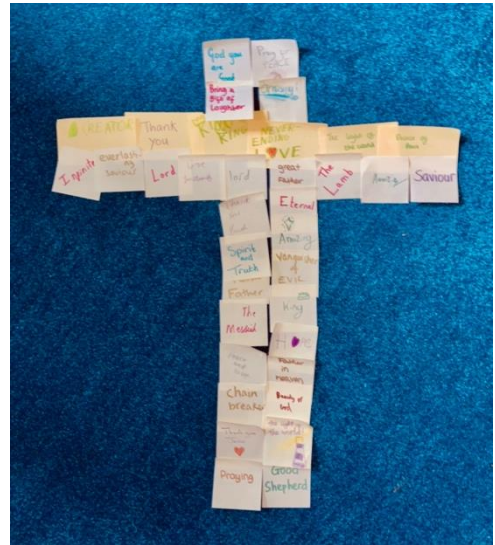
There are 13 children registered in this group, with up to 9 attending regularly. They use adapted Energize materials for a fun way to learn, experience, worship and pray while they explore the Bible together. Sarah Smith, their co-ordinator, says, **"I give thanks for their relationships with each other and the sense of JAFFA being a happy and safe place to be. I love watching them enjoying worshipping God through the songs we sing together, and listen to their growing understanding of being a follower of Jesus"**.

**FROG**  **Forever Reliant on God** (10-14s) started meeting again in September and while numbers have remained low, there is a lot of joy in this group, and some very interesting discussions! There are 13 registered in this age group, and up to 5 attend. Sharon Pitches says she enjoys: **"watching the curiosity of FROG as they start questioning the Bible's meaning and how faith plays a part in their own lives"**.



## Sunday Hot Choc Café ☕ (15+)

met a few times in the Autumn, leaving the main Sunday Service early once a month to enjoy sweet treats, discuss what they had done and heard in the service and pray together. There are 14 registered over-15s, and up to 10 attended SHCC, with Fiona Lenton leading. She says she gives God thanks for: **“Getting to know the young people better and enjoying discussion with them.”** While our older young people are not offered a weekly Sunday morning group, they are encouraged to get involved in services by volunteering in the younger groups, with worship and hospitality, building relationships with the wider church family and growing their skills. A Discipleship Mentoring scheme started this year, with 3 pairs meeting regularly so far.



(mid-week, school year 6+) We had great times in 2021 on Zoom, in the Vicarage and Slaters’ garden and in church, keeping our distance or cooking and eating together as we were allowed. Sam Quarton gives thanks for: **“the number of times God has spoken to me through the young people at BLAST. It is a real encouragement to my faith!”** Through it all, we laughed together, undertook ‘prayer experiments’, tried to be honest about our faith and feelings, and coped with Tom’s ultra-competitive attitude to hockey...! 24 young people are registered, with up to 14 attending regularly.



**InfraRED** (16-18s) continued to meet until July, under the leadership of Eve Brogan, on Zoom and in Church, and did some really interesting studies on challenging themes and people in the Bible, finishing with working through the ‘Beautiful Disciplines’ book by Martin Saunders. There were 6 registered in this age group, and 3-4 attended regularly.

What a privilege it is to have the blessing of so many young people and children in our church! What a joyful burden it is to remember, ‘it takes a church to raise a Christian child’ and for us all to take on the pleasure and responsibility of encouraging faith and celebrating God at work as their parents, friends, teachers, carers, observers, mentors and prayer champions! I am so thankful that Smeeee and Sarah Smith, Meike Merk and Babita Sagu have been a fantastic Advisory Group helping us all to **‘Tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.’** Psalms 78:4 .

Keep up the good work, everyone!

**Rebecca Slater**

**Under-18s Ministry Facilitator**

## MISSION

During 2021, we have continued to support our mission partners in two main ways. Firstly, in terms of individuals we have continued to pray for and support Liz and Sameh Khalil, Tiffany Atkins and Rachel Smith and secondly in terms of a particular outreach we have also supported Seedlings and Open Doors. As always, we hope that our support for these individuals and ministries will be a blessing to them and also a way for us to glimpse how God is at work in different ways and different places. It has certainly been salutary to be reminded how many of our brothers and sisters around the world live in fear as they seek to follow Christ. We hope we can use this knowledge as a spur to our prayers for them and to a deeper appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy here and now.

Seedlings remains a unique and remarkable opportunity for local mission as families come flocking into our building and give us the opportunity to serve, pray for and speak to them with the love of Christ in our hearts. Volunteering at Seedlings is not for the faint-hearted (!) and is clearly not open to the many who have daytime work patterns, but if you can be a part of it, it is wonderful. It has not been easy to find other organised forms of local outreach over the last year, as so often plans to invite people or to do a shared activity such as the Good Friday walk or carol singing have had to be abandoned because of Covid. We look forward to finding ways in which the daily witness of our lives can be helpfully translated into a shared opportunity for witness and to invite others to respond to Christ.

**Tom Thomas & Mike Smith**



## Parish Missioner

God has been working in me and through me in many ways giving me opportunities to minister to several members of one family. It has been encouraging and challenging, the experience has been helpful as I'm having to mediate within the family members. Through this amazing working with families, I'm helping them to see each other how God would see them. This work is continuing and is very much needed in this community especially in the Asian families. I'm truly blessed to be in a community that really need God, and I am given this opportunity, to share God's love.

Asian Fellowship has not been running, but Vim and I had still been meeting (safely) and praying for the people that were attending before the pandemic also visiting them at their home.

I am reaching out to about 5 people a week and minister to them in many different ways, such as helping them with housing, listening to them and offering prayer to them and signposting them to the relevant organisations. Some of these people are from Seedlings parents and some of them are sign posted to me from Vim.

I still am ministering to the people, from the community. Some people are still worried about coming in contact with others people. I offer to meet in the prayer room if it's not safe for me to go to their homes, or if I feel one is showing signs of isolation I encourage them to meet me in the church. We read the Bible together and pray. A couple of these ladies do not attend church regularly or have any other Christian input in their lives. We have had really good conversations in the one-to-one sessions and this then leads to these ladies grow in their faith and draw closer to God, which then I'm praying will lead to Baptisms.

My ministry with Muslim people continues and would appreciate if you could pray for me and for Gods protection on me. Last year in November I had felt really exhausted and God bought me to a standstill. I experienced something awful and had to turn to God afresh and He took me through this time. It was a lesson learnt, and I realised that I should listen to the Holy Spirit and to take time to process stuff that goes on in the ministry, and pray for protection as is very challenging as an Asian person to both minister and live in the local community.

**Kam Kaur**

**Parish Missioner**





There have been many big changes over the past year. We have now transitioned from having Seedlings sessions on Zoom to back in person. As a result of Covid the government guidelines have stated that we are only allowed between 10-15 families per session. This was a difficult decision, as we have over 100 parents that usually attend. Therefore, I have had to make the decision to choose priority families with additional needs. I was aware that these families had needs that were not being met as a result of the Covid restrictions, therefore they would massively benefit from coming to Seedlings. They still had to follow government guidelines such as; social distancing and wearing face masks. We have now returned back to full capacity, with up to 34 families attending per session.

During the summer term of 2021 we had a Teddy bears picnic party, in which the children brought in their favourite teddy bears. However, due to poor weather this had to take place indoors which both children and parents thoroughly enjoyed. We created a fun and engaging environment where families were able to share their picnic. The parents brought their own healthy snacks and we provided teddy bears crisps and ice-lollies.

I invited Avinash Kaur (Health Activity Worker, from The Springfield Project) to come in to provide information and advice on a variety of topics such as eating, sleeping and behaviour, which the parents were very happy to take part in, allowing them to share their concerns and get professional advice. Families have also now enrolled with Henry (Training Course) which allows them to gain knowledge and a clear understanding and learn about topics such as healthy eating.

During the last week of March 2022 we had a visit from Quench Arts. (Dalma Sinka) who provided lots of musical instruments for children allowing them to engage, explore and develop new interests so they can express themselves through music. Both parents and children were fully engaged during these activities.

In April we are having a Party Celebrating Easter. We are proving activities such as making Easter cards, chocolate nests, and having an Easter egg hunt. Tom will also come in to tell the Easter story to the children on Wednesday and Thursday.

Seedlings continues to remain extremely popular. We continue to get positive praise and thanks from parents for providing Seedlings in the local community. We have families attending Seedlings from Selly oak, Bournville, Acocks Green, Edgbaston, Small Heath and Solihull as well as our local areas. We pray that God continues to guide us and support us in Seedlings.

**Chris Elswood**  
**Seedlings Coordinator**

# Contribution to PCC AGM report covering Jan-Dec 2021

## The environment – Caring for God’s creation

Caring for God’s creation is one of the five marks of mission set out by the Anglian Church and recognised by many other denominations.

We continue to work on the actions for improvement identified in our eco-church action plan as we move from ‘Silver’ to ‘Gold’ status. Simon Slater the designated eco-church coordinator by the PCC, has provided updates to the church council and worked with other members of the congregation.

## Sharing good practice

As one of the few ‘silver’ eco-churches in Birmingham we have been asked to share our experiences on zoom to a Diocese-wide event in May, an international youth and faith event in July, and in person at a Birmingham faith leaders summit in December.

## Wildlife Survey



Our young people carried out our first ever wildlife survey of the church grounds (including the vicarage garden used for events). We identified 88 different species of plants and animals and submitted this to annual church grounds wildlife database.

The children then helped the adults to use the techniques they used such as the ‘i-see’ app to experience for themselves the diversity of God’s creation in our grounds as part of an activity during creation Sunday in September.

## Campaigning



As part of the UK church campaign leading up to the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, we took part by holding a ‘Climate Sunday Service’ in September. This included an activity to write petition postcards to the Prime Minister to urge more action and funding to tackle climate change as part of a Tearfund backed campaign.

In November several members of the congregation joined with other churches and faith groups to join 1,000s take part in a march in the city centre as part of a Global Day of Protest during the UN summit.

## Worship and teaching



We held open-air services in the church carpark in the spring and summer due to COVID restrictions. This helped us as a congregation as we worshipped our creator surrounded by his creation of the sun, wind, trees, birds and the noise and bustle of his world. We also tied ribbons to the old and new trees on our grounds as reminders of individual prayers for our community.

On Climate Sunday there was an activity that looked at the Bible's teaching on caring for creation from Genesis to Revelation.

Another activity involved piloting a 'What's your sustainability shape' lifestyle exercise with local charity ecobirmingham. This will be developed into a city-wide sustainable lifestyles advice tool which we can use next year.

## Plans for 2022

The Church council has asked for the mission and social justice focus for 2022 to be on the environment. In addition to progressing the eco-church plan and holding a climate Sunday, we will aim to run a caring for creation group at Lent and support a Tearfund environmental campaign.

**Simon Slater, eco-church coordinator**  
**April 2022**



As for many of us The Springfield Project has been seriously challenged by the pandemic. In addition to all the obvious challenges that many organisations have faced through covid we have also lost many of the lovely things that bring Church and Project together. Having said this we did experience an incredible community opera for tiny children performed in Feb half term reminding us of the power of the arts to bring people together with real benefit to language development.

We continue to be very grateful for those church members who volunteer or work at the project, keeping us connected. I would personally also like to thank the saints who serve on the Board for their faithful support and generous gifting of their time for the key business of governance and strategic thinking.

The headlines for the year are as follows:

- 1 Our core contract and primary source of funding is with Birmingham Forward Steps. This contract was due to end in 2022 and has now been extended for at least another year.
- 2 Our two excellent nurseries, like all others across the city struggle for numbers as families have got used to being at home with their young ones! This is more of an issue at Park Road where it is important that numbers pick up.
- 3 Again, like everyone else, we are really challenged by rising costs (of salaries and fuel) when our income is not growing! Going forward, after years of healthy reserves, finances will be a major challenge causing us to both do things differently and put more trust in a provider God!

People are the most important element to the Springfield project. It is wonderful that we continue to serve the needs of so many local families. This sadly even meant weeping with those who weep when one of the children from Park Road nursery was killed crossing the road in Tyseley.

Equally the people who work for us are absolutely key. It is therefore important that we fully acknowledge all that has been given to the project by people as they sadly move on. Two key people that many will know are Sue Round and Tina Brogan both of whom are at the end of their time working for the Project. They have both had a deep sense of God's hand on the project for which we should be very grateful and will leave significant holes behind them. We have also carried other significant vacancies, particularly in finance and HR, so it is absolutely great news that we have just appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer, responsible for both of these areas. Our new leader comes with really good experience and a strong Christian faith and will be a vital number two to Sarah. Please pray for both of them as they lead Springfield into a new chapter.

Tim Boyes

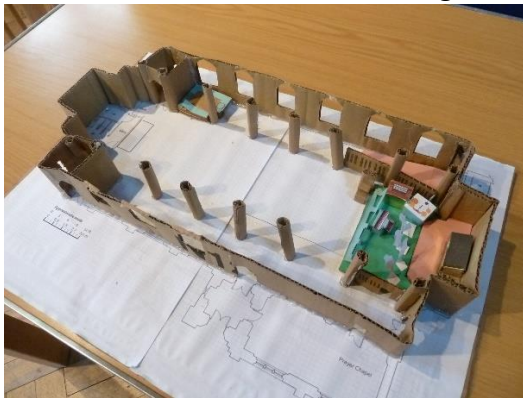
Chair of Trustees

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION

## Church Warden Report

Well, what an amazing year we have had as we studied the scriptures together and hopefully learnt a lot more than we knew before. During lockdown much was still happening at church as well as online, to plan a more modest reordering after funding was denied for the BIG project previously planned.

We had drain surveys and visits from the Diocesan architects and Victorian society to look at our plans for a kitchen and upgrades to storage. As time went on, we had several focus groups to look at the best options and with the help of David Pitches and his family made model we were able to look at the many practicalities of keeping the `sacred space` at the front with all the instruments, singers PA and communion table.



Eventually we settled on the kitchen at the back of church and platform alterations will mean moving the congregation forward to allow room for this loss of space at the back. The plans are now at an advanced stage. Now as you know building costs have gone up massively [ a building project costing £50k prior to lockdown is now £90k. Therefore, we will have to pray how we can raise a good proportion of these funds as reserves will not cover it all. It must progress though a few more stages yet so watch this space. We also must think about heating as we will be losing a gas heater, the others gas heaters will also need replacing soon and they are not cheap!!

The trees I hope you agree are looking great now they have been trimmed and this allows the lovely cherry trees to blossom.



We also had a very helpful visit from the diocesan disability advisor to look at the planned project and the rest of the church to make it more friendly for our congregation. Access to the garden is still a challenge there.

As many will know energy costs are rising FAST so we must prayerfully look at our giving as these costs for St Christopher`s` will rapidly rise.

As well as this, in 2022 we have the 5 yearly MOT inspection of the church by the architect and no doubt he will find many jobs that need doing. Having an older building is always a challenge.

As we come out of the lockdown Covid 19 is an ever-present challenge so pray the PCC get the balance right to help us keep safe but relaxed.

Let`s pray we will know God`s wisdom in all these decisions as we seek to make St Christopher`s a more welcoming and friendly place for all.

**Phil Grimes Churchwarden**

**April 2022**

## **Deanery Synod**

During 2021 we were delighted to welcome Revd Nick Parker as our new, full-time Area Dean. It has been a joy to begin to get to know Nick and already he is proving to be a helpful, supportive and wise person to have around.

There were two meetings of the deanery synod during the year, one by Zoom and the other in person at St Michael's South Yardley. At these meetings a variety of issues were discussed including:

- The Eco-Church initiative
- Walk of witness of racial justice
- Living in Love & Faith
- Transforming Church Action Plans

As well as these meetings there was also a deanery social in August at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club and a Deanery Mission Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August where people put the 5<sup>th</sup> mark of mission\* into practice by helping to tidy up the Grand Union Canal bank.

Our thanks this year go especially to Mike Smith and John Dyer who have done valiant service as our deanery synod representatives. Both have expressed a desire to stand down so there will be openings for anyone who'd like to see something of the life of other local churches and see how they encounter and engage with issues very similar to our own.

## **Tom Thomas**

\*The 'Five marks of mission' are an outline of what mission is, composed by the Anglican Church. They are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

## **Church Council (PCC) Report**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has an important role to play in the leadership of St Christopher's. It has the ultimate responsibility for managing the church finances and deciding the strategic direction of the church. It also supports and oversees the activities of the church and encourages those leading the activities. PCC members are also the trustees of the charity that manages the church assets and income.

The PCC has met seven times as a council since the last APCM. We have gone back to meeting face to face on most occasions and meetings have taken place in church. It has been positive to see one another 'in real life' (if not a little cold at times!)

The following subjects occupied a significant part of the council's time during the year:

- Decisions regarding how to meet and worship safely during ever changing Covid guidelines
- Re-ordering plans – decisions regarding the new kitchen
- Eco – church – how we can become better stewards of God's creation as a church, both collectively and individually
- Safeguarding, including training for those working with children and for PCC members
- Living in love and faith initiative – including the agreement to adopt the following statement:  
"We welcome all people from every community. We welcome you to join us in worshipping God, praying and learning from His Holy Word together at St Christopher's."

We have also regularly discussed:

- Maintenance of the church building
- Staff salaries and pay rises
- Reports/updates from
  - Church warden
  - Treasurer regarding church finances
  - Mission steering group
  - The Emmanuel Group

The PCC also has a list of rolling actions, which help us frame discussions and keep track of important actions. Once PCC minutes have been agreed, church members can request a copy from Tom.

Thank you to all PCC members for putting aside the time to attend these meetings. This has enabled us to bring a range of knowledge and experience to the discussions and decisions that were made this year.

**Helen Cremins**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has become much more centralised (and rigorous) across Church of England Birmingham with a set of requirements for those holding most posts (paid and voluntary) in a parish church. This means that people in a volunteer role at St Christopher's will need to complete a DBS application to check if they have previous convictions which would bar them from working with children or vulnerable adults. Then there are two courses which most people are asked to complete – Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations. In addition, PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete a third unit called Raising Awareness Of Domestic Abuse. Once completed, these courses are renewable after three years.

I am delighted that Rebecca Slater has enabled most volunteers at St Christopher's to complete the first two courses, via training sessions in September and January. She and Lucy are also in charge of the process of DBS applications. We can also draw on the expertise of Claudia Gordon, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator and her deputy Ang Leonard. So altogether we have an impressive team seeking to do all we can to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our church. Further details of policies and procedures can be found on our website ([stchristophersspringfield.org.uk](http://stchristophersspringfield.org.uk)) or on the CofE Birmingham's website ([cofebirmingham.com](http://cofebirmingham.com)). However, as I'm sure you are aware, safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility so if you ever see or hear anything that gives you cause for concern, please remember these simple steps:

1. Receive what the person is saying
2. Reassure the person that it's good they are telling you
3. Record (write down) what you have seen or heard as soon as possible without adding or leaving anything out, sign and date it
4. Report it to either Claudia or Tom (and give them your record)
5. Breathe easy – your job is done!

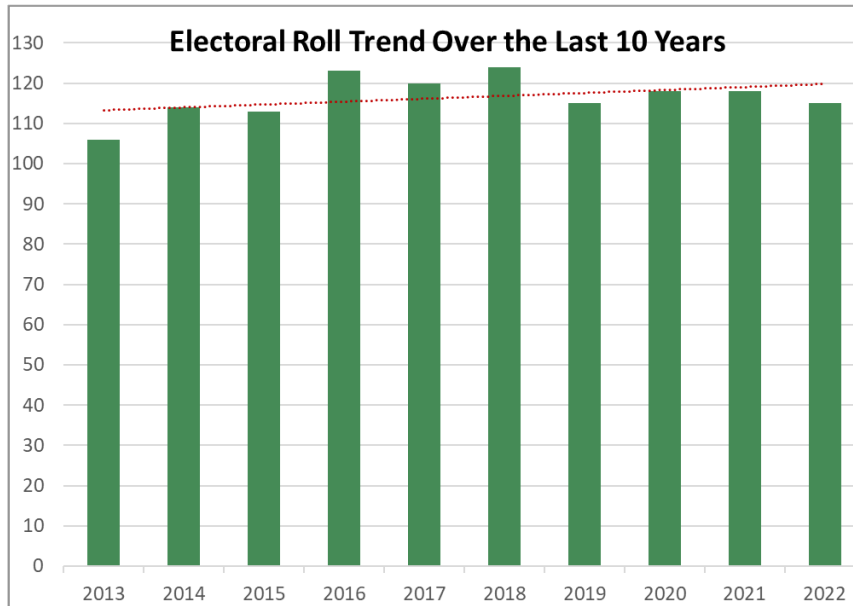
Obviously if you simply observe something then simply put it in writing and pass it to Claudia or Tom. Claudia's experience is invaluable in discerning what should then be passed on to the diocese or the police and what is simply behaviour we should be aware of and monitor. We want to be calmly vigilant and tread a healthy line between naivety on one hand and paranoia on the other.



**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

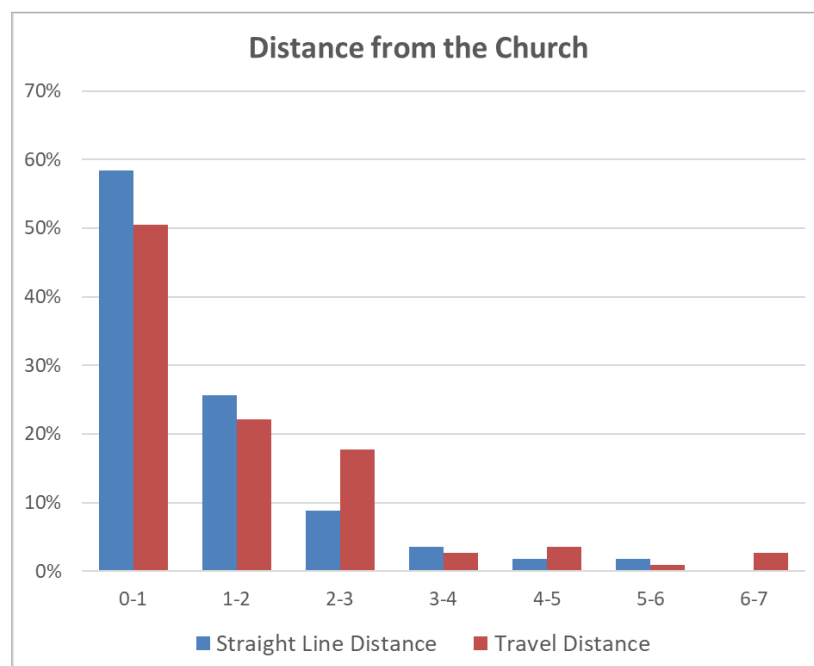
## Electoral Roll

Within the Church of England the Electoral Roll is a list of all the members of the church. All baptised Christians over 16 who regularly worship at St Christopher's are entitled to go on the Electoral Roll. These church members are then those entitled to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).



The roll in 2021 had 119 members on it. Over the year one member who has passed away sadly had to be removed from the roll. 3 couples left the church reducing the roll by 6 members. One younger member of the church was added to the roll either because they have turned 16 or will turn 16 in the next 12 months. 4 members were added to the roll who were people who

had worshipped at the church for several years but had not previously asked for their name to be added to the roll. This means that the number on the roll has decreased by 2 members to 117.



The change in membership has increased the proportion of members who live in the parish from 33% to 37%. However the parish covers a relatively small area of just 24 streets, with a population of only 7,000, so it is possible to live 500 metres from the Church, but not live in the parish. Church members generally live close to the church with 50% living within 1 mile and over 70% living within 2 miles of the church building.

**Mike Lenton**  
Church Electoral Roll Officer

## **Treasurer's Report**

The financial statements for the Year Ended 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021) as presented shows a cash balance in equity calculated at £129,248.84. When compared to the previous financial year figure of (£149,201.79), this gives a reduction of £19,952.95 in equity, a reduction by approximately 13%. The main factor resulting in this was again due to the excess of making "Payments" over "Receipts" received.

We can all understand that the year 2021 was quite a difficult pandemic period to get through, with restrictions and losses being placed and met in our everyday lives, for many of us including most businesses and financial establishments it became a life changing experience, which to this very day whilst rules and various restrictions have been relaxed and lifted, are slowly restoring, and recovering to normality, inline and adhering to the Government and Health Department advice and rules. However, in the midst of this, St Christopher's Church have tried to keep afloat financially without putting too much burden on our Reserves, we have kept our financial profile to an acceptable level and reach without making any hasty decisions in making ends meet financially without compromising our Mission Statement in serving our congregation and the local community. However, some expenses noted as "Payments" had been expected due to the unfortunate prevailing circumstances, which were unavoidable and had to be met, such as salaries, pension contributions, church repairs/maintenance all rising. Again, due to the changing circumstances, this unfortunately could not be offset by our income, noted as "Receipts" being received by the Church mainly due to some grants that were being received had come to an end, along with some congregation members leaving and relocating due to career changes. Some of the financial gains and losses that were noted, are briefly shown below:

### **Receipts**

Areas that saw a decrease were:

- Cash & cheques/open plate donations giving at worship £1,064 (54%).
- Grants £18,816 (67%).
- Fees for weddings and funerals £1,057 (84%).

Areas that saw an increase were:

- Planned giving £2,664 (4%).
- One-off donations £10,058 (148%).
- Income from use of church £2,125 (30%)
- Gift Aid £2,172 (14%)

### **Payments**

Areas that saw a decrease were:

- Church running costs £1,389 (11%)
- Total church activity and support costs £1,323 (2%)
- Insurance £780 (25%)

Areas that saw an increase were:

- Church utility bills and use of Springfield Centre £1,019 (11%)
- Outreach activity £4,524 (15%)
- Youth work costs £3,105 (17%)
- Salaries £8,156 (16%)
- Church repairs/maintenance £4,605 (120%)

In the meantime, I take this opportunity to thank Lucy Emo the Church Financial Administrator for her administrative and record keeping duties, along with Brian Wilkins and Tom Thomas for their support and help.



**Steven Taggar**  
**(PCC Treasurer)**

**St Christopher's Church**

Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Annual Report  
and**

**Financial Statements**

**Of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Incumbent**

Rev Tom Thomas  
The Vicarage  
Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Brian Wilkins, ACIB  
3 Springdale Gardens  
Selly Oak  
Birmingham  
B29 6DG

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Christopher's Church, Moseley, Birmingham.**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out in the subsequent pages.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissions section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

***Brian Wilkins***

Date: 19/04/2022

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2021	Restricted Fund 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020
Donations	5a	85,828.98	34,883.60	120,712.58	125,285.78
Charitable Activities	5b	9,399	0	9,399	15,211.10
Investment Income	3, 5c	1,136.60	0	1,136.50	1,249.63
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>96,364.58</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>	<b>141,746.51</b>
<u>Payments</u>					
Church Activities and Support Costs	6a,	83,522.64	0	83,522.64	84,845.53
Resourcing Mission	6b	11,691.50	55,986.99	67,678.49	59,520.97
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>95,214.14</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>	<b>144,366.50</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Payments</b>		<b>1,150.44</b>	<b>(21,103.39)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(2,619.99)</b>
<b>Transfer Between Funds</b>		<b>(1,150.44)</b>	<b>1,150.44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Change in Period</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(2,619.99)</b>

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

	31/12/2021		31/12/2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fixed Assets:		Nil		Nil
Current Assets:				
<i>Cash at Bank and in Hand:</i>				
Cash in Hand	168.71		131.67	
Bank Current Accounts	11,847.43		17,237.62	
Other Deposit Accounts	117,232.70		131,832.50	
Accounts Receivable	0		0	
<b>Total Cash and Bank Deposits</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		0		Nil
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payment basis, and the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 on the receipts and payment basis.

**2. ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE FUNDS DURING THE YEAR**

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are those resources of the PCC which are available for general use to promote the church's usual purposes.

Restricted Funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year represent receipts and expenditure for purposes of the youth coordinator, the mission apprentice, the curate's housing and special purpose collections which may only be spent on those activities with any unspent balance carried forward as a balance on the specific underspent fund and not absorbed into the general/unrestricted fund.

However, any overspend on the activities above may be funded from the general fund.

The PCC commits 10% of all resources generated during each period to mission work.

The balance carried forward represents funds designated for hardship relief. Any related interest earned may be used for unrestricted purposes.

### 3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

This income comprises interest on deposits and other bank compensation, including interest on the restricted fund balances.

### 4. ASSETS

- a. Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act.
- b. Cash consists of cash in hand, cash in the general fund current accounts and cash in savings and other deposit accounts.
- c. Other monetary assets consist of amounts owed for services delivered by the parish during the year for which payment has not yet been made.

### 5. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	<u>2020</u>			<u>2021</u>		
	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. DONATIONS</b>						
<b>Planned Giving</b>						
Direct Debits and Standing Orders	66,255.50		66,255.50	67,186.90		67,186.90
Cash and Cheques	560		560	150		150
Youth Worker Fund		6,482	6,482		8,625	8,625
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>66,815.50</b>	<b>6,482</b>	<b>73,297.50</b>	<b>67,336.90</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>75,961.90</b>
<b>Open Plate Donation</b>	<b>1,417.90</b>		<b>1,417.90</b>	<b>767.14</b>		<b>767.14</b>
<b>Gift Aid Recovered</b>	<b>15,553.28</b>		<b>15,553.28</b>	<b>17,724.94</b>		<b>17,724.94</b>
<b>Grants</b>						
Anna Chaplaincy		21,030	21,030		5,913.60	5,913.60
Non-recurring Grants		7,200	7,200		3,500	3,500
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>28,230</b>	<b>28,230</b>		<b>9,413.60</b>	<b>9,413.60</b>
<b>One-off Donations</b>						
Tearfund Collections		680	680		0	0
CYC Fund Collections		0	0		0	0
Soul Survivor Collections		0	0		0	0
Miscellaneous (Car Park Landscape)		1,367.10	1,367.10		6,270	6,270
Church Re-ordering Work Donation		4,740	4,740		0	0
Other Non-recurring Income		0	0		10,575	10,575
<b>Total One-off Donations</b>		<b>6,787.10</b>	<b>6,787.10</b>		<b>16,845</b>	<b>16,845</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>83,786.68</b>	<b>41,499.10</b>	<b>125,285.78</b>	<b>85,828.98</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>120,712.58</b>
<b>b. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>						
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,256		1,256	199		199
Weekend Away Contributions	6,380		6,380	0		0
Building Work Fee Contribution	500		500	0		0
Income from Use of Church	7,075.10		7,075.10	9,200		9,200
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>15,211.10</b>		<b>15,211.10</b>	<b>9,399</b>		<b>9,399</b>
<b>c. BANK INTEREST</b>	<b>1,249.63</b>		<b>1,249.63</b>	<b>1,136.60</b>		<b>1,136.60</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>100,247.41</b>	<b>41,499.10</b>	<b>141,746.51</b>	<b>96,364.58</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>

## 6. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

2020

2021

	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. CHURCH ACTIVITIES &amp; SUPPORT COSTS</b>						
<b>Church Running Costs</b>						
Church Maintenance	1,105		1,105	454.78		454.78
Church Repairs & New Building Work	2,731		2,731	7,985.97		7,985.97
Publicity	612.99		612.99	275		275
<b>Service Running Costs</b>						
Flower Arrangement	50		50	84.09		84.09
Music Worship	569.17		569.17	555.58		555.58
Refreshments	199.95		199.95	41.04		41.04
Other Service Costs inc Choir	420.06		420.06	564.49		564.49
Shared Lunches, Gifts and Socials	180.44		180.44	517.33		517.33
Education and Training	1,084		1,084	64.94		64.94
Ministers Working Expenses	116.99		116.99	241.81		241.81
Vicarage Costs	523.16		523.16	537.58		537.58
Pastoral and Discipleship	115.61		115.61	34.38		34.38
Weekend Away Expenses Quinta	5,468		5,468	430		430
<b>Total Church Running Cost</b>	<b>13,176.37</b>		<b>13,176.37</b>	<b>11,786.99</b>		<b>11,786.99</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>3,096.82</b>		<b>3,096.82</b>	<b>2,317.02</b>		<b>2,317.02</b>
<b>Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use of Springfield Centre</b>						
Church Utilities	5,795.03		5,795.03	4,563.91		4,563.91
Springfield Project	3,375		3,375	5,625		5,625
<b>Total Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use</b>	<b>9,170.03</b>		<b>9,170.03</b>	<b>10,188.91</b>		<b>10,188.91</b>
<b>Common Fund</b>	<b>51,320.64</b>		<b>51,320.64</b>	<b>51,320.64</b>		<b>51,320.64</b>
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	<b>777</b>		<b>777</b>	<b>931</b>		<b>931</b>
<b>Curate Housing</b>	<b>176.20</b>		<b>176.20</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Church Financial Administrator Salary</b>	<b>4,528.77</b>		<b>4,528.77</b>	<b>5,103.08</b>		<b>5,103.08</b>
<b>Other Administration Costs, Centre Bills, Caretaker &amp; Parish Administrator Salary</b>	<b>2,599.70</b>		<b>2,599.70</b>	<b>1,875</b>		<b>1,875</b>
<b>TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITY &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>84,845.53</b>		<b>84,845.53</b>	<b>83,522.64</b>		<b>83,522.64</b>
<b>b. RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>						
<b>Charitable Giving</b>						
Overseas Missionary Societies	5,872.10		5,872.10	3,000		3,000
Home Mission/Springfield	3,688.24		3,688.24	5,595.75		5,595.75
Other Home Mission Expenditure	1,520		1,520	3,012.95		3,012.95
<b>Total Charitable Giving</b>	<b>11,080.34</b>		<b>11,080.34</b>	<b>11,608.70</b>		<b>11,608.70</b>
<b>Outreach Activity</b>						
Parish Missioner Salary		11,051.48	11,051.48		12,244.47	12,244.47
Parish Missioner Pension Contribution		538.56	538.56		595.96	595.96
Ana Chaplaincy & Other Resources		2,011.13	2,011.13		2,076.29	2,076.29
Ana Chaplaincy Salary		16,832.16	16,832.16		19,963.78	19,963.78
General Expenses & Consumables	0		0	76.80		76.80
<b>Total Outreach Activity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,433.33</b>	<b>30,433.33</b>	<b>76.80</b>	<b>34,880.50</b>	<b>34,957.30</b>
<b>Youth Work Costs</b>						
Camps including Soul Survivor	135.25		135.25	0		0
CYC Expenditure		0	0		0	0
Youth Work Resources		697.03	697.03		815.79	815.79
Education and Training	83.83		83.83	6		6
Youth Leader/Facilitator Salaries		16,769.72	16,769.72		18,572.69	18,572.69
Youth Leader/Facilitator Pension Contribution		321.47	321.47		1,718.01	1,718.01
<b>Total Youth Work Costs</b>	<b>219.08</b>	<b>17,788.22</b>	<b>18,007.30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21,106.49</b>	<b>21,112.49</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>	<b>11,299.42</b>	<b>48,221.55</b>	<b>59,520.97</b>	<b>11,691.50</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>67,678.49</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>96,144.95</b>	<b>48,221.55</b>	<b>144,366.50</b>	<b>95,214.14</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>

## **KEY INFORMATION ON THE ST CHRISTOPHER'S, SPRINGFIELD PCC CHARITY**

The St Christopher's PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity. The Charity Registration number is: 1151491. The registered name of the charity is: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Christopher's Springfield although it is commonly called St Christopher's, Springfield PCC.

### **Membership of the PCC**

The Members of the PCC are the Trustees of the St Christopher's, Springfield PCC. Charity. Members are generally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) usually for a period of three years.

### **PCC Membership**

During 2021 the following people served as members of the PCC:

Clergy: Tom Thomas (Vicar)

Churchwarden(s): Phil Grimes (elected annually)

Representatives to the Deanery Synod: John Dyer (elected 2018) and Mike Smith (elected 2020)

Elected members:

Catriona Heatherington	(elected 2019)
Stephen Taggar	(elected 2019)
David Hartley	(elected 2020)
Sue Green	(elected 2020)
Helen Cremins	(elected 2021)
Margaret Gordon	(elected 2021)
Alex Nance	(elected 2021)
Alison Roper-Hall	(elected 2021)

PCC Officers:

Chair - Tom Thomas

Vice - Chair Alison Roper-Hall

Secretary - Helen Cremins

Treasurer - Stephen Taggar

Electoral Roll Officer - Sheila Cardin

Stewardship Secretary - Margaret Gordon

Although the Vicar is the Chair of the PCC as defined by the Church Representation Rules, it is the practice at St Christopher's for meetings to be chaired by a lay member of the PCC i.e. the Vice-Chair.

## **Governing Documents for the PCC:**

As part of the Church of England the PCC follows the agreement between The Church of England and the Charity Commission that for all PCCs the “Governing Documents” for the charity will be:

1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC Powers Measure defines the powers of a PCC It states that the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as “promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church”. The full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents) The Church Representation Rules define how members are elected to the PCC, the rules for the Electoral Roll and how PCC Officers are appointed. The full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3)



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# Accounts

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***Annual Report for 2021  
as presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2022***



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# Welcome to the St Christopher's Annual Report for the year ending December 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's Church, Springfield is located at the junction of Woodlands Road and Springfield Road in South East Birmingham about 3 miles from the city centre. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

### ***Aim and Purposes***

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a registered charity (Charity no. 1151491). Further information about the charity and its trustees can be found in the section of this report headed Key Information on the St Christopher's PCC Charity.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and fabric. It also owns and uses the Springfield Centre which adjoins the church building, however the maintenance of this building is the responsibility of the Springfield Project.

### ***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community at St Christopher's. In order to do so it has developed the following vision statement for St Christopher's which it uses to guide its decisions.

### ***Our Vision Statement – We want to be...***

- A fellowship that worships God from the heart, displaying the power of the Holy Spirit amongst us to heal, enlighten and transform.
- A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth.
- A people responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbours, seeking to understand, serve and partner with our local community.
- A place of caring for, equipping and discipling people in all that life brings.
- A church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.
- A congregation of all ages that supports our children and young people as they grow and develop; and encourages them to live out their faith in church and the wider community.
- A fellowship that values our diversity, and where our rich variety is reflected in leadership roles.
- A fellowship that stands with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world, praying for the nations, supporting our mission partners and working for peace, justice and the protections of God's creation.

The PCC has adopted the strapline '***Growing together in Christ***' to summarise this vision in a more memorable form. It has also approved a 'Transforming Church Action Plan' in accordance with CofE Birmingham's wishes as a way of encouraging a focussed approach to planning over the next five years.

When planning their activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC seeks to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the local area;
- Supporting missionary work in the local area;
- Supporting overseas missionaries involved in Christian mission;
- Providing services to the local community, particularly for local families and children in conjunction with the Springfield Project.

More information on all these activities can be found in the other sections of this report.

### ***Links with Other Organisations:***

#### ***Links with other local churches:***

St Christopher's is part of the Emmanuel Group; a group ministry with three other Anglican churches in the area:

- Christ Church, Sparkbrook
- St John's Church Sparkhill
- St Edmund's Church Tyseley

St Christopher's holds joint services from time to time with these local churches and shares resources where possible. St Christopher's is also a member of the newly formed Yardley and Solihull deanery within Birmingham Diocese, which represents around 30 churches in South East Birmingham and Solihull. St Christopher's sends up to three lay representatives to meetings of the Deanery Synod. We are delighted to welcome our new full-time area dean, Revd Nick Parker, to facilitate the new deanery.

#### ***Links with Other Charities:***

The Springfield Project ([www.springfieldproject.org.uk](http://www.springfieldproject.org.uk)) is a charity that is closely connected to St Christopher's. Although it is a separate charity (Charity no. 1134977) with its own trustees, it was founded by St Christopher's, is located in the church buildings, and its activities are closely co-ordinated with those of the Church. Therefore a short report on its activities is included in this report, although a Trustees Report for the Springfield Project is also available by contacting [info@springfieldproject.org.uk](mailto:info@springfieldproject.org.uk)

St Christopher's also has close links with the Feast ([www.thefeast.org.uk](http://www.thefeast.org.uk)), a charity that brings together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives. In pre-pandemic times it worked with the Feast to run Hublife, a drop-in club for teenagers in the local community, located in the church building.

St Christopher's supports an Anna Chaplain (<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>) who works with older people in the area. She is partially funded by the church and by grants from the Henry Smith Charitable Trust and other grant funding organisations. The work done by Debbie Gurling our Anna Chaplain is explained in her report on page 10.

## From the vicarage...

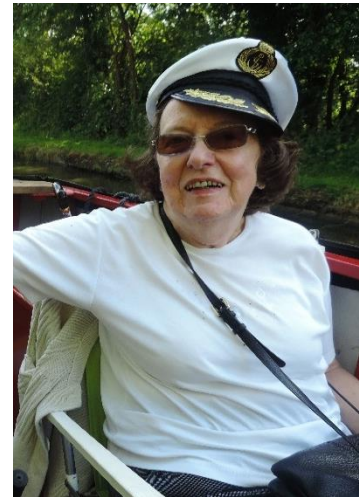
Given the relative freedom and normality we now enjoy, it's easy to forget how much of 2021 was spent under Covid-restrictions and lockdowns. Although other churches took a different approach, we decided not to return to in-person worship at our main 10.45 service until September and even then, with a variety of measures to try to keep everyone safe. It has been a slow and at times painstaking return to what was familiar in pre-pandemic times. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with this return and with the task of bringing some normality to church life, which still feels some way off. In fact, in many ways it feels like we're still recovering from the pandemic and surely part of the call to follow Jesus in community is that we continue to do our utmost to show the extra kindness and generosity we all need as we emerge from what is (hopefully) a once-in-a-lifetime event.

2021 was also a year of sadness for other reasons, as we said farewell to two much-loved church members – Anne Dyer and Eddie Carey. Eddie was known to many as a cheerful,



affable and kind man who loved his family deeply and had played a part in several local churches. Anne on the other hand had dedicated so much of her life to the one church of St Christopher's and, in particular, to the work of the Sunday School. So many children and adults can thank

God for the way her life touched theirs and quite simply enabled them to see Jesus. We thank God for them both, we pray for those who miss them most and we remember their place in our hearts and in our church.



Another farewell which came at the end of 2021 was to bless Lloyd and Debbie McKenzie as they moved on from St Christopher's after some fifteen years or more of active service and ministry. It had been on Lloyd's heart for many years to worship in the community where they live and it is good to affirm them in this desire to build Christian community. But we do miss them!

As well as these farewells, it was so good to be able to celebrate some very significant arrivals in 2021 in the beautiful forms of Amelia Garvey, Melvin Ndudiri, Chloe Nance and Levi Wetherell (as well as a sense of extended joy at hearing the news of the safe arrival of Elias Peryard-Benkamoun and Rory Miller). Although not 2021 babies, we can nonetheless also celebrate the joyful birth of Isaac Tustain and look forward to baby Quarton in the fullness of time. It is such a joy and blessing to be a tiny part of welcoming these children into the world and hopefully into a loving and caring church fellowship. Most of us won't change nappies or give feeds, but we can do our utmost to pray for, encourage and above all love them and their parents into the fulness of life which comes from knowing Christ.



In our ever-excellent Emmanuel Group of local churches, it was good to welcome another arrival with the licensing of Revd Toby Crowe as the new vicar of St John's Sparkhill. We continue to thank God for the years of ministry undertaken by Toby's predecessor John Self, but also look forward to the new things God will do in and through St John's under this new leadership. At St Edmund's it has been a joy to see leadership grow and develop as Ann Knight has been ordained deacon (and just recently priest) and Dot Pooler has been licensed as lay minister. There has been change too at Christ Church with Debbie Ducille leaving her role there and going on to be National Church Lead with Anna Chaplaincy (another example of Sparkhill speaking to the national church!). We pray for and with David Brogan and others on the core team at Christ Church as they look to the future. It is an honour and a joy to work with these folk and others across the Emmanuel Group and I hope very much that these relationships will continue to grow.

Other significant steps in ministry have come with Alison Ridge beginning her ordination training at St Melitus alongside an extended placement at St John's. We also had the recent licensing of Philippa Grimes as our new reader and the acceptance of Fiona Hinds to train as a reader. We are very blessed! It is always a joy to see people stepping into new forms of ministry, and a particular joy when those are authorised and affirmed by the wider church. As each person goes into an authorised ministry, there is also the sense that the door is pushed a little wider so that others can consider their calling too.



I am delighted that our online Colour of Hope group has continued during 2021, encouraging us to persevere in the journey towards full equality in our church and society. We still have a



long way to go, but I hope this group will continue to play a key role in keeping this issue on our hearts and in our minds. In 2021 we also took a journey through the Living In Love & Faith initiative, which was commissioned and commended by the Bishops of the Church of England for use in local churches. Speaking honestly, it's hard to look back at this part of 2021

without some pain. I am so grateful to those who came on the course (we ran it in two formats) and who contributed to those discussions, many of which were excellent. I'm also grateful to have had time to do some reading and reflecting on gender, sexuality, relationships and marriage. However, it was also painful to realise that, on this subject at least, it seems we are not yet ready as a congregation to engage with a spectrum of views and discuss these issues together in the way that I'd hoped. I pray for the day when we can have this conversation openly and honestly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth.

Other significant events in 2021 included doing some much-needed work to our church car park and grounds. It's good to have some new trees (currently in leaf!), to have trimmed our old trees, to have put in a new flower bed and some jolly clever retractable bollards, which have helped our security enormously. My thanks go to all those who worked and gave money to enable these things to happen, but especially to Phil Grimes who oversaw this (and much other work) during his time as churchwarden. I am so grateful for his knowledge and expertise and I know we will miss him in that role very much.

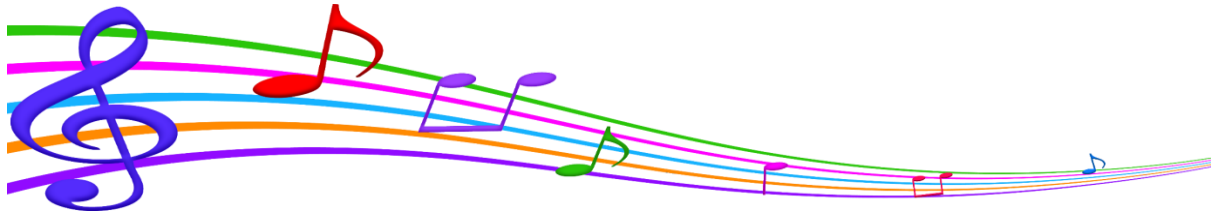


Finally can I say a huge thank you to everyone who has served at St Christopher's in any way over the last twelve months. The Lord sees all your work for him and delights in you.

**Tom Thomas**



# St Christopher's Church, Springfield



## Worship Report for AGM 2021

Praise the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul

Worship his Holy Name

The worship groups have continued to lead the congregation through song and worship during another year of partial lock-down and uncertain times due to Covid.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all those who have been involved in ensuring this happened through our Zoom meetings and then back in person from September 2021.

Many thanks to those involved in operating our P.A and enabling this to continue on a weekly basis. I know how much this is appreciated by those members of the congregation who cannot attend services in person.

Our Christmas Carol service was able to be held in person again in December which was lovely to see, and I'd like to thank David Pitches for organising this and for all who were involved including our young musicians who played their various wind instruments and those whose who read the bible passages reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

I would also like to give my thanks to Tom, who has been instrumental in organising rotas and integrating our worship each week.

Looking forward, I can see a change coming in how we deliver worship. We need to cry out to the Lord for direction and focus on how and where we need to change.

In the next few months, the worship team will come together for a time of prayer and to hear from God.

***Our Lord has never failed us and will always provide our every need.***



**Margaret Gordon, Worship Steering Group**

## PASTORAL CARE

### Pastoral and Discipleship Steering Group Report

*Members: Tom T, Kam K, Debbie G, Jean G, Ian H, Alison RH, Alex N*

The Pastoral & Discipleship Steering Group has somewhat fallen into abeyance in 2021, having met just the once in January. However, much of what the group seeks to oversee has continued to happen:

- Encouragement and accountability for the pastoral care offered at St Christopher's by staff members
- Meals for families of new arrivals (thanks especially to Alex for this)
- Encouraging people to use WhatsApp groups to stay in touch
- Keeping a supportive look-out for people and prompting Tom and others to see how they are if absent for a while
- Encouraging small groups, such as the Colour Of Hope and Living In Love & Faith, as part of following Christ together.

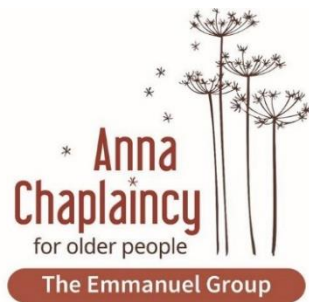
In addition to all this there is of course the informal pastoral care offered and received by members of St Christopher's as we seek to put into practice the Scriptural command to carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). We know that we will always fall short of providing a perfect church, but we want to play our part in doing what Jesus commands and of fulfilling the part of our vision statement which says we hope to be:

"A loving community where genuine acceptance and deep relationships enable everyone's well-being and continual growth."

It is hoped very much that an organised approach to prayer ministry will soon begin again at St Christopher's. We're delighted that Alison and Julia are taking the lead in getting a new rota up and running and we look forward to seeing how this works out in the coming months.

**Tom Thomas**





## Anna Chaplaincy report for Emmanuel group AGM's

***“Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” Isaiah 46: 4***

This past year has been one of both ebb and flow in the life of Anna Chaplaincy in the Emmanuel group.

2021 had already begun with saying goodbye to Michael Farrell (St John's), however the day restrictions started to ease in May, Anne Dyer (St Christopher's), suddenly died. This meant that at the time of national relief, as we could now embrace our friends, we were also grieving locally at this loss within our church family, as Anne had supported us all for a very long time.

After nearly two years of being apart, both the Good Companions club at St John's and the Cloister café at St Edmunds, restarted. Whilst it was clear that many people had become frailer during the time of being in lockdown, everyone from both clubs were happy to get out and be reunited with their friends. For some, this was the only time they left their homes, so the restarting of clubs was a significant reintroduction to feeling a part of the community again.

In the summer, I took the opportunity to have a couple of local outings with two of our seniors, to Blackberry Way, or the path to Sarehole Mill. Again, this proved a special time for both to have company and be outside of their homes.

We then had the losses of both Dine Osbourne (St John's), and Pat Boyes (St Christopher's). Although both had not been seen for a while, as Pat had moved away, and Dine was no longer able to come to church, both women remain equally missed.

As a local Anna Chaplaincy team, Ann Knight stepped down from being an Anna Friend, but then was later ordained as priest for St Edmunds! However, in addition to Dot Pooler, (who like Ann had been with me from the very beginning), I had first Alison Hartley, then Jean Gethen, join me as Anna Friends – so for the first time we were a team of four.

Christmas time, saw 100 Advent bags being made, and many being given out to our seniors across the Emmanuel group, alongside Christmas cards from myself, and from children from the Sunday schools of both St Christopher's and St John's. Sadly, just before Christmas, Josie Henry (St John's) died – the very first person that I had visited, after being commissioned as a chaplain in June 2019. Josie was also the first female church warden of colour at St John's – a trailblazer in every sense!

In February 2022, Debbie Ducille started her new post as Church Lead for Anna Chaplaincy in the U.K. This meant that a 'double act of Debbies', were able to give a joint presentation


about Anna Chaplaincy to the members' meeting of the Mother's Union in Birmingham a month later. This was well received, to the extent that at least one invitation to speak at a church in 2023 was given as a result.

Whilst formal groups have restarted, it has been a blessing to see that amongst the seniors within the churches, there is also informal support and connection, both practical and spiritual, taking place. Being in lockdown, and being cut off from one another, taught a lot of people a lot of things, and there were also a lot of losses, on every level during this time. However, one of the biggest gains has been the new renewed appreciation of the importance of relationship – with each other and with God


**Debbie Gurling**



This year has been one of adaptation, from online to in-person groups, from socially distanced, gelled garden youth work to furniture-shifting creating welcoming indoor spaces for the church's children to meet in. 50 under-18s have been registered with St Christopher's in 2021, and 42 wonderful volunteers involved in caring, praying, teaching, playing and growing in faith alongside them. We have enjoyed Zoom sessions, Summer, Firework and Christmas Parties and spending time together being part of God's Family.


**Super Stars**  (under-5s) has seen rapid growth in numbers this year! 11 children are on the books and up to 6 attending the group without parents since September. I have been phoning and visiting parents to encourage them as they embark on their parenting adventure. A WhatsApp group helps us to share news and blessings and Alex Nance has been wonderful in organising meals for new parents. Having had the benefit of Fiona Hinds' leadership for several years, Meike Merk has taken over and says **"I love being with the children, showing them God's love. I hope the seeds we plant will grow into a strong Christian faith"**.



**JAFFA**  (5-11s) met on Zoom for the first half of the year, which worked really well for this age group and saw consistent attendance and engagement. They were really happy to meet in real life for their Summer Party and have continued in-person from September with energy and enthusiasm.



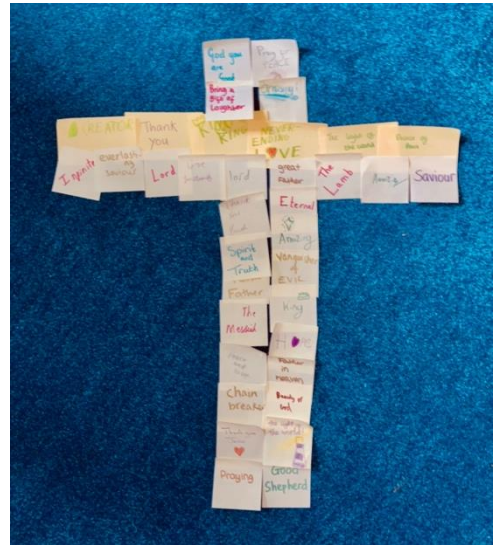
There are 13 children registered in this group, with up to 9 attending regularly. They use adapted Energize materials for a fun way to learn, experience, worship and pray while they explore the Bible together. Sarah Smith, their co-ordinator, says, **"I give thanks for their relationships with each other and the sense of JAFFA being a happy and safe place to be. I love watching them enjoying worshipping God through the songs we sing together, and listen to their growing understanding of being a follower of Jesus"**.

**FROG**  **Forever Reliant on God** (10-14s) started meeting again in September and while numbers have remained low, there is a lot of joy in this group, and some very interesting discussions! There are 13 registered in this age group, and up to 5 attend. Sharon Pitches says she enjoys: **"watching the curiosity of FROG as they start questioning the Bible's meaning and how faith plays a part in their own lives"**.



## Sunday Hot Choc Café ☕ (15+)

met a few times in the Autumn, leaving the main Sunday Service early once a month to enjoy sweet treats, discuss what they had done and heard in the service and pray together. There are 14 registered over-15s, and up to 10 attended SHCC, with Fiona Lenton leading. She says she gives God thanks for: **“Getting to know the young people better and enjoying discussion with them.”** While our older young people are not offered a weekly Sunday morning group, they are encouraged to get involved in services by volunteering in the younger groups, with worship and hospitality, building relationships with the wider church family and growing their skills. A Discipleship Mentoring scheme started this year, with 3 pairs meeting regularly so far.



(mid-week, school year 6+) We had great times in 2021 on Zoom, in the Vicarage and Slaters’ garden and in church, keeping our distance or cooking and eating together as we were allowed. Sam Quarton gives thanks for: **“the number of times God has spoken to me through the young people at BLAST. It is a real encouragement to my faith!”** Through it all, we laughed together, undertook ‘prayer experiments’, tried to be honest about our faith and feelings, and coped with Tom’s ultra-competitive attitude to hockey...! 24 young people are registered, with up to 14 attending regularly.



**InfraRED** (16-18s) continued to meet until July, under the leadership of Eve Brogan, on Zoom and in Church, and did some really interesting studies on challenging themes and people in the Bible, finishing with working through the ‘Beautiful Disciplines’ book by Martin Saunders. There were 6 registered in this age group, and 3-4 attended regularly.

What a privilege it is to have the blessing of so many young people and children in our church! What a joyful burden it is to remember, ‘it takes a church to raise a Christian child’ and for us all to take on the pleasure and responsibility of encouraging faith and celebrating God at work as their parents, friends, teachers, carers, observers, mentors and prayer champions! I am so thankful that Smeeee and Sarah Smith, Meike Merk and Babita Sagu have been a fantastic Advisory Group helping us all to **‘Tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.’** Psalms 78:4 .

Keep up the good work, everyone!

**Rebecca Slater**

**Under-18s Ministry Facilitator**

## MISSION

During 2021, we have continued to support our mission partners in two main ways. Firstly, in terms of individuals we have continued to pray for and support Liz and Sameh Khalil, Tiffany Atkins and Rachel Smith and secondly in terms of a particular outreach we have also supported Seedlings and Open Doors. As always, we hope that our support for these individuals and ministries will be a blessing to them and also a way for us to glimpse how God is at work in different ways and different places. It has certainly been salutary to be reminded how many of our brothers and sisters around the world live in fear as they seek to follow Christ. We hope we can use this knowledge as a spur to our prayers for them and to a deeper appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy here and now.

Seedlings remains a unique and remarkable opportunity for local mission as families come flocking into our building and give us the opportunity to serve, pray for and speak to them with the love of Christ in our hearts. Volunteering at Seedlings is not for the faint-hearted (!) and is clearly not open to the many who have daytime work patterns, but if you can be a part of it, it is wonderful. It has not been easy to find other organised forms of local outreach over the last year, as so often plans to invite people or to do a shared activity such as the Good Friday walk or carol singing have had to be abandoned because of Covid. We look forward to finding ways in which the daily witness of our lives can be helpfully translated into a shared opportunity for witness and to invite others to respond to Christ.

**Tom Thomas & Mike Smith**



## Parish Missioner

God has been working in me and through me in many ways giving me opportunities to minister to several members of one family. It has been encouraging and challenging, the experience has been helpful as I'm having to mediate within the family members. Through this amazing working with families, I'm helping them to see each other how God would see them. This work is continuing and is very much needed in this community especially in the Asian families. I'm truly blessed to be in a community that really need God, and I am given this opportunity, to share God's love.

Asian Fellowship has not been running, but Vim and I had still been meeting (safely) and praying for the people that were attending before the pandemic also visiting them at their home.

I am reaching out to about 5 people a week and minister to them in many different ways, such as helping them with housing, listening to them and offering prayer to them and signposting them to the relevant organisations. Some of these people are from Seedlings parents and some of them are sign posted to me from Vim.

I still am ministering to the people, from the community. Some people are still worried about coming in contact with others people. I offer to meet in the prayer room if it's not safe for me to go to their homes, or if I feel one is showing signs of isolation I encourage them to meet me in the church. We read the Bible together and pray. A couple of these ladies do not attend church regularly or have any other Christian input in their lives. We have had really good conversations in the one-to-one sessions and this then leads to these ladies grow in their faith and draw closer to God, which then I'm praying will lead to Baptisms.

My ministry with Muslim people continues and would appreciate if you could pray for me and for Gods protection on me. Last year in November I had felt really exhausted and God bought me to a standstill. I experienced something awful and had to turn to God afresh and He took me through this time. It was a lesson learnt, and I realised that I should listen to the Holy Spirit and to take time to process stuff that goes on in the ministry, and pray for protection as is very challenging as an Asian person to both minister and live in the local community.

**Kam Kaur**

**Parish Missioner**





There have been many big changes over the past year. We have now transitioned from having Seedlings sessions on Zoom to back in person. As a result of Covid the government guidelines have stated that we are only allowed between 10-15 families per session. This was a difficult decision, as we have over 100 parents that usually attend. Therefore, I have had to make the decision to choose priority families with additional needs. I was aware that these families had needs that were not being met as a result of the Covid restrictions, therefore they would massively benefit from coming to Seedlings. They still had to follow government guidelines such as; social distancing and wearing face masks. We have now returned back to full capacity, with up to 34 families attending per session.

During the summer term of 2021 we had a Teddy bears picnic party, in which the children brought in their favourite teddy bears. However, due to poor weather this had to take place indoors which both children and parents thoroughly enjoyed. We created a fun and engaging environment where families were able to share their picnic. The parents brought their own healthy snacks and we provided teddy bears crisps and ice-lollies.

I invited Avinash Kaur (Health Activity Worker, from The Springfield Project) to come in to provide information and advice on a variety of topics such as eating, sleeping and behaviour, which the parents were very happy to take part in, allowing them to share their concerns and get professional advice. Families have also now enrolled with Henry (Training Course) which allows them to gain knowledge and a clear understanding and learn about topics such as healthy eating.

During the last week of March 2022 we had a visit from Quench Arts. (Dalma Sinka) who provided lots of musical instruments for children allowing them to engage, explore and develop new interests so they can express themselves through music. Both parents and children were fully engaged during these activities.

In April we are having a Party Celebrating Easter. We are proving activities such as making Easter cards, chocolate nests, and having an Easter egg hunt. Tom will also come in to tell the Easter story to the children on Wednesday and Thursday.

Seedlings continues to remain extremely popular. We continue to get positive praise and thanks from parents for providing Seedlings in the local community. We have families attending Seedlings from Selly oak, Bournville, Acocks Green, Edgbaston, Small Heath and Solihull as well as our local areas. We pray that God continues to guide us and support us in Seedlings.

**Chris Elswood**  
**Seedlings Coordinator**

# Contribution to PCC AGM report covering Jan-Dec 2021

## The environment – Caring for God’s creation

Caring for God’s creation is one of the five marks of mission set out by the Anglian Church and recognised by many other denominations.

We continue to work on the actions for improvement identified in our eco-church action plan as we move from ‘Silver’ to ‘Gold’ status. Simon Slater the designated eco-church coordinator by the PCC, has provided updates to the church council and worked with other members of the congregation.

## Sharing good practice

As one of the few ‘silver’ eco-churches in Birmingham we have been asked to share our experiences on zoom to a Diocese-wide event in May, an international youth and faith event in July, and in person at a Birmingham faith leaders summit in December.

## Wildlife Survey



Our young people carried out our first ever wildlife survey of the church grounds (including the vicarage garden used for events). We identified 88 different species of plants and animals and submitted this to annual church grounds wildlife database.

The children then helped the adults to use the techniques they used such as the ‘i-see’ app to experience for themselves the diversity of God’s creation in our grounds as part of an activity during creation Sunday in September.

## Campaigning



As part of the UK church campaign leading up to the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, we took part by holding a ‘Climate Sunday Service’ in September. This included an activity to write petition postcards to the Prime Minister to urge more action and funding to tackle climate change as part of a Tearfund backed campaign.

In November several members of the congregation joined with other churches and faith groups to join 1,000s take part in a march in the city centre as part of a Global Day of Protest during the UN summit.

## Worship and teaching



We held open-air services in the church carpark in the spring and summer due to COVID restrictions. This helped us as a congregation as we worshipped our creator surrounded by his creation of the sun, wind, trees, birds and the noise and bustle of his world. We also tied ribbons to the old and new trees on our grounds as reminders of individual prayers for our community.

On Climate Sunday there was an activity that looked at the Bible's teaching on caring for creation from Genesis to Revelation.

Another activity involved piloting a 'What's your sustainability shape' lifestyle exercise with local charity ecobirmingham. This will be developed into a city-wide sustainable lifestyles advice tool which we can use next year.

## Plans for 2022

The Church council has asked for the mission and social justice focus for 2022 to be on the environment. In addition to progressing the eco-church plan and holding a climate Sunday, we will aim to run a caring for creation group at Lent and support a Tearfund environmental campaign.

**Simon Slater, eco-church coordinator**  
**April 2022**



As for many of us The Springfield Project has been seriously challenged by the pandemic. In addition to all the obvious challenges that many organisations have faced through covid we have also lost many of the lovely things that bring Church and Project together. Having said this we did experience an incredible community opera for tiny children performed in Feb half term reminding us of the power of the arts to bring people together with real benefit to language development.

We continue to be very grateful for those church members who volunteer or work at the project, keeping us connected. I would personally also like to thank the saints who serve on the Board for their faithful support and generous gifting of their time for the key business of governance and strategic thinking.

The headlines for the year are as follows:

- 1 Our core contract and primary source of funding is with Birmingham Forward Steps. This contract was due to end in 2022 and has now been extended for at least another year.
- 2 Our two excellent nurseries, like all others across the city struggle for numbers as families have got used to being at home with their young ones! This is more of an issue at Park Road where it is important that numbers pick up.
- 3 Again, like everyone else, we are really challenged by rising costs (of salaries and fuel) when our income is not growing! Going forward, after years of healthy reserves, finances will be a major challenge causing us to both do things differently and put more trust in a provider God!

People are the most important element to the Springfield project. It is wonderful that we continue to serve the needs of so many local families. This sadly even meant weeping with those who weep when one of the children from Park Road nursery was killed crossing the road in Tyseley.

Equally the people who work for us are absolutely key. It is therefore important that we fully acknowledge all that has been given to the project by people as they sadly move on. Two key people that many will know are Sue Round and Tina Brogan both of whom are at the end of their time working for the Project. They have both had a deep sense of God's hand on the project for which we should be very grateful and will leave significant holes behind them. We have also carried other significant vacancies, particularly in finance and HR, so it is absolutely great news that we have just appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer, responsible for both of these areas. Our new leader comes with really good experience and a strong Christian faith and will be a vital number two to Sarah. Please pray for both of them as they lead Springfield into a new chapter.

Tim Boyes

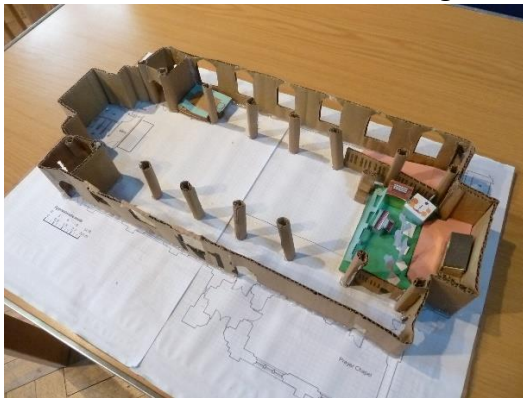
Chair of Trustees

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION

## Church Warden Report

Well, what an amazing year we have had as we studied the scriptures together and hopefully learnt a lot more than we knew before. During lockdown much was still happening at church as well as online, to plan a more modest reordering after funding was denied for the BIG project previously planned.

We had drain surveys and visits from the Diocesan architects and Victorian society to look at our plans for a kitchen and upgrades to storage. As time went on, we had several focus groups to look at the best options and with the help of David Pitches and his family made model we were able to look at the many practicalities of keeping the `sacred space` at the front with all the instruments, singers PA and communion table.



Eventually we settled on the kitchen at the back of church and platform alterations will mean moving the congregation forward to allow room for this loss of space at the back. The plans are now at an advanced stage. Now as you know building costs have gone up massively [ a building project costing £50k prior to lockdown is now £90k. Therefore, we will have to pray how we can raise a good proportion of these funds as reserves will not cover it all. It must progress though a few more stages yet so watch this space. We also must think about heating as we will be losing a gas heater, the others gas heaters will also need replacing soon and they are not cheap!!

The trees I hope you agree are looking great now they have been trimmed and this allows the lovely cherry trees to blossom.



We also had a very helpful visit from the diocesan disability advisor to look at the planned project and the rest of the church to make it more friendly for our congregation. Access to the garden is still a challenge there.

As many will know energy costs are rising FAST so we must prayerfully look at our giving as these costs for St Christopher`s` will rapidly rise.

As well as this, in 2022 we have the 5 yearly MOT inspection of the church by the architect and no doubt he will find many jobs that need doing. Having an older building is always a challenge.

As we come out of the lockdown Covid 19 is an ever-present challenge so pray the PCC get the balance right to help us keep safe but relaxed.

Let`s pray we will know God`s wisdom in all these decisions as we seek to make St Christopher`s a more welcoming and friendly place for all.

**Phil Grimes Churchwarden**

**April 2022**

## **Deanery Synod**

During 2021 we were delighted to welcome Revd Nick Parker as our new, full-time Area Dean. It has been a joy to begin to get to know Nick and already he is proving to be a helpful, supportive and wise person to have around.

There were two meetings of the deanery synod during the year, one by Zoom and the other in person at St Michael's South Yardley. At these meetings a variety of issues were discussed including:

- The Eco-Church initiative
- Walk of witness of racial justice
- Living in Love & Faith
- Transforming Church Action Plans

As well as these meetings there was also a deanery social in August at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club and a Deanery Mission Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August where people put the 5<sup>th</sup> mark of mission\* into practice by helping to tidy up the Grand Union Canal bank.

Our thanks this year go especially to Mike Smith and John Dyer who have done valiant service as our deanery synod representatives. Both have expressed a desire to stand down so there will be openings for anyone who'd like to see something of the life of other local churches and see how they encounter and engage with issues very similar to our own.

## **Tom Thomas**

\*The 'Five marks of mission' are an outline of what mission is, composed by the Anglican Church. They are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

## **Church Council (PCC) Report**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has an important role to play in the leadership of St Christopher's. It has the ultimate responsibility for managing the church finances and deciding the strategic direction of the church. It also supports and oversees the activities of the church and encourages those leading the activities. PCC members are also the trustees of the charity that manages the church assets and income.

The PCC has met seven times as a council since the last APCM. We have gone back to meeting face to face on most occasions and meetings have taken place in church. It has been positive to see one another 'in real life' (if not a little cold at times!)

The following subjects occupied a significant part of the council's time during the year:

- Decisions regarding how to meet and worship safely during ever changing Covid guidelines
- Re-ordering plans – decisions regarding the new kitchen
- Eco – church – how we can become better stewards of God's creation as a church, both collectively and individually
- Safeguarding, including training for those working with children and for PCC members
- Living in love and faith initiative – including the agreement to adopt the following statement:  
"We welcome all people from every community. We welcome you to join us in worshipping God, praying and learning from His Holy Word together at St Christopher's."

We have also regularly discussed:

- Maintenance of the church building
- Staff salaries and pay rises
- Reports/updates from
  - Church warden
  - Treasurer regarding church finances
  - Mission steering group
  - The Emmanuel Group

The PCC also has a list of rolling actions, which help us frame discussions and keep track of important actions. Once PCC minutes have been agreed, church members can request a copy from Tom.

Thank you to all PCC members for putting aside the time to attend these meetings. This has enabled us to bring a range of knowledge and experience to the discussions and decisions that were made this year.

**Helen Cremins**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has become much more centralised (and rigorous) across Church of England Birmingham with a set of requirements for those holding most posts (paid and voluntary) in a parish church. This means that people in a volunteer role at St Christopher's will need to complete a DBS application to check if they have previous convictions which would bar them from working with children or vulnerable adults. Then there are two courses which most people are asked to complete – Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations. In addition, PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete a third unit called Raising Awareness Of Domestic Abuse. Once completed, these courses are renewable after three years.

I am delighted that Rebecca Slater has enabled most volunteers at St Christopher's to complete the first two courses, via training sessions in September and January. She and Lucy are also in charge of the process of DBS applications. We can also draw on the expertise of Claudia Gordon, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator and her deputy Ang Leonard. So altogether we have an impressive team seeking to do all we can to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our church. Further details of policies and procedures can be found on our website ([stchristophersspringfield.org.uk](http://stchristophersspringfield.org.uk)) or on the CofE Birmingham's website ([cofebirmingham.com](http://cofebirmingham.com)). However, as I'm sure you are aware, safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility so if you ever see or hear anything that gives you cause for concern, please remember these simple steps:

1. Receive what the person is saying
2. Reassure the person that it's good they are telling you
3. Record (write down) what you have seen or heard as soon as possible without adding or leaving anything out, sign and date it
4. Report it to either Claudia or Tom (and give them your record)
5. Breathe easy – your job is done!

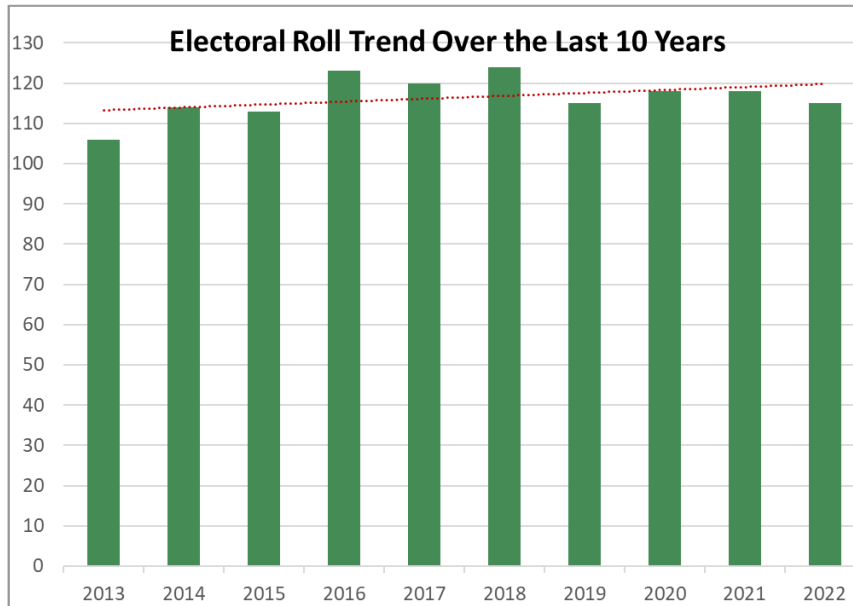
Obviously if you simply observe something then simply put it in writing and pass it to Claudia or Tom. Claudia's experience is invaluable in discerning what should then be passed on to the diocese or the police and what is simply behaviour we should be aware of and monitor. We want to be calmly vigilant and tread a healthy line between naivety on one hand and paranoia on the other.



**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

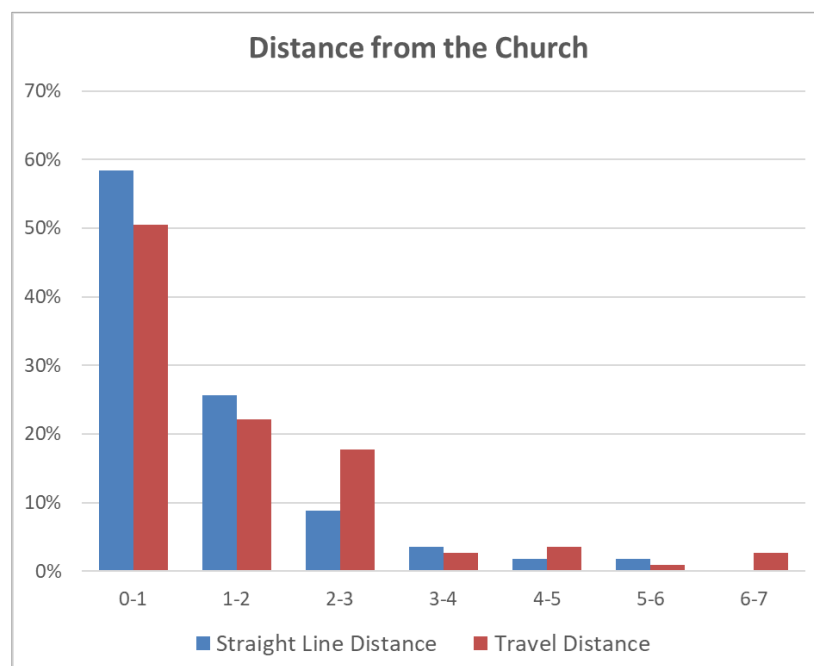
## Electoral Roll

Within the Church of England the Electoral Roll is a list of all the members of the church. All baptised Christians over 16 who regularly worship at St Christopher's are entitled to go on the Electoral Roll. These church members are then those entitled to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).



The roll in 2021 had 119 members on it. Over the year one member who has passed away sadly had to be removed from the roll. 3 couples left the church reducing the roll by 6 members. One younger member of the church was added to the roll either because they have turned 16 or will turn 16 in the next 12 months. 4 members were added to the roll who were people who

had worshipped at the church for several years but had not previously asked for their name to be added to the roll. This means that the number on the roll has decreased by 2 members to 117.



The change in membership has increased the proportion of members who live in the parish from 33% to 37%. However the parish covers a relatively small area of just 24 streets, with a population of only 7,000, so it is possible to live 500 metres from the Church, but not live in the parish. Church members generally live close to the church with 50% living within 1 mile and over 70% living within 2 miles of the church building.

**Mike Lenton**  
Church Electoral Roll Officer

## **Treasurer's Report**

The financial statements for the Year Ended 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021) as presented shows a cash balance in equity calculated at £129,248.84. When compared to the previous financial year figure of (£149,201.79), this gives a reduction of £19,952.95 in equity, a reduction by approximately 13%. The main factor resulting in this was again due to the excess of making "Payments" over "Receipts" received.

We can all understand that the year 2021 was quite a difficult pandemic period to get through, with restrictions and losses being placed and met in our everyday lives, for many of us including most businesses and financial establishments it became a life changing experience, which to this very day whilst rules and various restrictions have been relaxed and lifted, are slowly restoring, and recovering to normality, inline and adhering to the Government and Health Department advice and rules. However, in the midst of this, St Christopher's Church have tried to keep afloat financially without putting too much burden on our Reserves, we have kept our financial profile to an acceptable level and reach without making any hasty decisions in making ends meet financially without compromising our Mission Statement in serving our congregation and the local community. However, some expenses noted as "Payments" had been expected due to the unfortunate prevailing circumstances, which were unavoidable and had to be met, such as salaries, pension contributions, church repairs/maintenance all rising. Again, due to the changing circumstances, this unfortunately could not be offset by our income, noted as "Receipts" being received by the Church mainly due to some grants that were being received had come to an end, along with some congregation members leaving and relocating due to career changes. Some of the financial gains and losses that were noted, are briefly shown below:

### **Receipts**

Areas that saw a decrease were:

- Cash & cheques/open plate donations giving at worship £1,064 (54%).
- Grants £18,816 (67%).
- Fees for weddings and funerals £1,057 (84%).

Areas that saw an increase were:

- Planned giving £2,664 (4%).
- One-off donations £10,058 (148%).
- Income from use of church £2,125 (30%)
- Gift Aid £2,172 (14%)

### **Payments**

Areas that saw a decrease were:

- Church running costs £1,389 (11%)
- Total church activity and support costs £1,323 (2%)
- Insurance £780 (25%)

Areas that saw an increase were:

- Church utility bills and use of Springfield Centre £1,019 (11%)
- Outreach activity £4,524 (15%)
- Youth work costs £3,105 (17%)
- Salaries £8,156 (16%)
- Church repairs/maintenance £4,605 (120%)

In the meantime, I take this opportunity to thank Lucy Emo the Church Financial Administrator for her administrative and record keeping duties, along with Brian Wilkins and Tom Thomas for their support and help.



**Steven Taggar**  
**(PCC Treasurer)**

**St Christopher's Church**

Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Annual Report  
and**

**Financial Statements**

**Of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Incumbent**

Rev Tom Thomas  
The Vicarage  
Woodlands Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Brian Wilkins, ACIB  
3 Springdale Gardens  
Selly Oak  
Birmingham  
B29 6DG

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Christopher's Church, Moseley, Birmingham.**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out in the subsequent pages.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissions section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

***Brian Wilkins***

Date: 19/04/2022

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2021	Restricted Fund 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020
Donations	5a	85,828.98	34,883.60	120,712.58	125,285.78
Charitable Activities	5b	9,399	0	9,399	15,211.10
Investment Income	3, 5c	1,136.60	0	1,136.50	1,249.63
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>96,364.58</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>	<b>141,746.51</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Church Activities and Support Costs	6a,	83,522.64	0	83,522.64	84,845.53
Resourcing Mission	6b	11,691.50	55,986.99	67,678.49	59,520.97
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>95,214.14</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>	<b>144,366.50</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Payments</b>		<b>1,150.44</b>	<b>(21,103.39)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(2,619.99)</b>
<b>Transfer Between Funds</b>		<b>(1,150.44)</b>	<b>1,150.44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Change in Period</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(19,952.95)</b>	<b>(2,619.99)</b>

St Christopher's Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

	31/12/2021		31/12/2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fixed Assets:		Nil		Nil
Current Assets:				
<i>Cash at Bank and in Hand:</i>				
Cash in Hand	168.71		131.67	
Bank Current Accounts	11,847.43		17,237.62	
Other Deposit Accounts	117,232.70		131,832.50	
Accounts Receivable	0		0	
<b>Total Cash and Bank Deposits</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		0		Nil
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>129,248.84</b>		<b>149,201.79</b>

Notes to the Accounts

1. **BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payment basis, and the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 on the receipts and payment basis.

2. **ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE FUNDS DURING THE YEAR**

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are those resources of the PCC which are available for general use to promote the church's usual purposes.

Restricted Funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year represent receipts and expenditure for purposes of the youth coordinator, the mission apprentice, the curate's housing and special purpose collections which may only be spent on those activities with any unspent balance carried forward as a balance on the specific underspent fund and not absorbed into the general/unrestricted fund.

However, any overspend on the activities above may be funded from the general fund.

The PCC commits 10% of all resources generated during each period to mission work.

The balance carried forward represents funds designated for hardship relief. Any related interest earned may be used for unrestricted purposes.

### 3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

This income comprises interest on deposits and other bank compensation, including interest on the restricted fund balances.

### 4. ASSETS

- a. Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act.
- b. Cash consists of cash in hand, cash in the general fund current accounts and cash in savings and other deposit accounts.
- c. Other monetary assets consist of amounts owed for services delivered by the parish during the year for which payment has not yet been made.

### 5. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

**2020**

**2021**

	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. DONATIONS</b>						
<b>Planned Giving</b>						
Direct Debits and Standing Orders	66,255.50		66,255.50	67,186.90		67,186.90
Cash and Cheques	560		560	150		150
Youth Worker Fund		6,482	6,482		8,625	8,625
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>66,815.50</b>	<b>6,482</b>	<b>73,297.50</b>	<b>67,336.90</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>75,961.90</b>
<b>Open Plate Donation</b>	<b>1,417.90</b>		<b>1,417.90</b>	<b>767.14</b>		<b>767.14</b>
<b>Gift Aid Recovered</b>	<b>15,553.28</b>		<b>15,553.28</b>	<b>17,724.94</b>		<b>17,724.94</b>
<b>Grants</b>						
Anna Chaplaincy		21,030	21,030		5,913.60	5,913.60
Non-recurring Grants		7,200	7,200		3,500	3,500
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>28,230</b>	<b>28,230</b>		<b>9,413.60</b>	<b>9,413.60</b>
<b>One-off Donations</b>						
Tearfund Collections		680	680		0	0
CYC Fund Collections		0	0		0	0
Soul Survivor Collections		0	0		0	0
Miscellaneous (Car Park Landscape)		1,367.10	1,367.10		6,270	6,270
Church Re-ordering Work Donation		4,740	4,740		0	0
Other Non-recurring Income		0	0		10,575	10,575
<b>Total One-off Donations</b>		<b>6,787.10</b>	<b>6,787.10</b>		<b>16,845</b>	<b>16,845</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>83,786.68</b>	<b>41,499.10</b>	<b>125,285.78</b>	<b>85,828.98</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>120,712.58</b>
<b>b. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>						
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,256		1,256	199		199
Weekend Away Contributions	6,380		6,380	0		0
Building Work Fee Contribution	500		500	0		0
Income from Use of Church	7,075.10		7,075.10	9,200		9,200
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>15,211.10</b>		<b>15,211.10</b>	<b>9,399</b>		<b>9,399</b>
<b>c. BANK INTEREST</b>	<b>1,249.63</b>		<b>1,249.63</b>	<b>1,136.60</b>		<b>1,136.60</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>100,247.41</b>	<b>41,499.10</b>	<b>141,746.51</b>	<b>96,364.58</b>	<b>34,883.60</b>	<b>131,248.18</b>

## 6. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

2020

2021

	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted Fund (£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>a. CHURCH ACTIVITIES &amp; SUPPORT COSTS</b>						
<b>Church Running Costs</b>						
Church Maintenance	1,105		1,105	454.78		454.78
Church Repairs & New Building Work	2,731		2,731	7,985.97		7,985.97
Publicity	612.99		612.99	275		275
<b>Service Running Costs</b>						
Flower Arrangement	50		50	84.09		84.09
Music Worship	569.17		569.17	555.58		555.58
Refreshments	199.95		199.95	41.04		41.04
Other Service Costs inc Choir	420.06		420.06	564.49		564.49
Shared Lunches, Gifts and Socials	180.44		180.44	517.33		517.33
Education and Training	1,084		1,084	64.94		64.94
Ministers Working Expenses	116.99		116.99	241.81		241.81
Vicarage Costs	523.16		523.16	537.58		537.58
Pastoral and Discipleship	115.61		115.61	34.38		34.38
Weekend Away Expenses Quinta	5,468		5,468	430		430
<b>Total Church Running Cost</b>	<b>13,176.37</b>		<b>13,176.37</b>	<b>11,786.99</b>		<b>11,786.99</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>3,096.82</b>		<b>3,096.82</b>	<b>2,317.02</b>		<b>2,317.02</b>
<b>Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use of Springfield Centre</b>						
Church Utilities	5,795.03		5,795.03	4,563.91		4,563.91
Springfield Project	3,375		3,375	5,625		5,625
<b>Total Heating, Light, Water &amp; Use</b>	<b>9,170.03</b>		<b>9,170.03</b>	<b>10,188.91</b>		<b>10,188.91</b>
<b>Common Fund</b>	<b>51,320.64</b>		<b>51,320.64</b>	<b>51,320.64</b>		<b>51,320.64</b>
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	<b>777</b>		<b>777</b>	<b>931</b>		<b>931</b>
<b>Curate Housing</b>	<b>176.20</b>		<b>176.20</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Church Financial Administrator Salary</b>	<b>4,528.77</b>		<b>4,528.77</b>	<b>5,103.08</b>		<b>5,103.08</b>
<b>Other Administration Costs, Centre Bills, Caretaker &amp; Parish Administrator Salary</b>	<b>2,599.70</b>		<b>2,599.70</b>	<b>1,875</b>		<b>1,875</b>
<b>TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITY &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>84,845.53</b>		<b>84,845.53</b>	<b>83,522.64</b>		<b>83,522.64</b>
<b>b. RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>						
<b>Charitable Giving</b>						
Overseas Missionary Societies	5,872.10		5,872.10	3,000		3,000
Home Mission/Springfield	3,688.24		3,688.24	5,595.75		5,595.75
Other Home Mission Expenditure	1,520		1,520	3,012.95		3,012.95
<b>Total Charitable Giving</b>	<b>11,080.34</b>		<b>11,080.34</b>	<b>11,608.70</b>		<b>11,608.70</b>
<b>Outreach Activity</b>						
Parish Missioner Salary		11,051.48	11,051.48		12,244.47	12,244.47
Parish Missioner Pension Contribution		538.56	538.56		595.96	595.96
Ana Chaplaincy & Other Resources		2,011.13	2,011.13		2,076.29	2,076.29
Ana Chaplaincy Salary		16,832.16	16,832.16		19,963.78	19,963.78
General Expenses & Consumables	0		0	76.80		76.80
<b>Total Outreach Activity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,433.33</b>	<b>30,433.33</b>	<b>76.80</b>	<b>34,880.50</b>	<b>34,957.30</b>
<b>Youth Work Costs</b>						
Camps including Soul Survivor	135.25		135.25	0		0
CYC Expenditure		0	0		0	0
Youth Work Resources		697.03	697.03		815.79	815.79
Education and Training	83.83		83.83	6		6
Youth Leader/Facilitator Salaries		16,769.72	16,769.72		18,572.69	18,572.69
Youth Leader/Facilitator Pension Contribution		321.47	321.47		1,718.01	1,718.01
<b>Total Youth Work Costs</b>	<b>219.08</b>	<b>17,788.22</b>	<b>18,007.30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21,106.49</b>	<b>21,112.49</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCING MINISTRY</b>	<b>11,299.42</b>	<b>48,221.55</b>	<b>59,520.97</b>	<b>11,691.50</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>67,678.49</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>96,144.95</b>	<b>48,221.55</b>	<b>144,366.50</b>	<b>95,214.14</b>	<b>55,986.99</b>	<b>151,201.13</b>

## **KEY INFORMATION ON THE ST CHRISTOPHER'S, SPRINGFIELD PCC CHARITY**

The St Christopher's PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity. The Charity Registration number is: 1151491. The registered name of the charity is: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Christopher's Springfield although it is commonly called St Christopher's, Springfield PCC.

### **Membership of the PCC**

The Members of the PCC are the Trustees of the St Christopher's, Springfield PCC. Charity. Members are generally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) usually for a period of three years.

### **PCC Membership**

During 2021 the following people served as members of the PCC:

Clergy: Tom Thomas (Vicar)

Churchwarden(s): Phil Grimes (elected annually)

Representatives to the Deanery Synod: John Dyer (elected 2018) and Mike Smith (elected 2020)

Elected members:

Catriona Heatherington	(elected 2019)
Stephen Taggar	(elected 2019)
David Hartley	(elected 2020)
Sue Green	(elected 2020)
Helen Cremins	(elected 2021)
Margaret Gordon	(elected 2021)
Alex Nance	(elected 2021)
Alison Roper-Hall	(elected 2021)

PCC Officers:

Chair - Tom Thomas

Vice - Chair Alison Roper-Hall

Secretary - Helen Cremins

Treasurer - Stephen Taggar

Electoral Roll Officer - Sheila Cardin

Stewardship Secretary - Margaret Gordon

Although the Vicar is the Chair of the PCC as defined by the Church Representation Rules, it is the practice at St Christopher's for meetings to be chaired by a lay member of the PCC i.e. the Vice-Chair.

## **Governing Documents for the PCC:**

As part of the Church of England the PCC follows the agreement between The Church of England and the Charity Commission that for all PCCs the “Governing Documents” for the charity will be:

1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended
2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC Powers Measure defines the powers of a PCC It states that the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as “promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church”. The full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents) The Church Representation Rules define how members are elected to the PCC, the rules for the Electoral Roll and how PCC Officers are appointed. The full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form can be found on the legislation.gov.uk database at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3)

