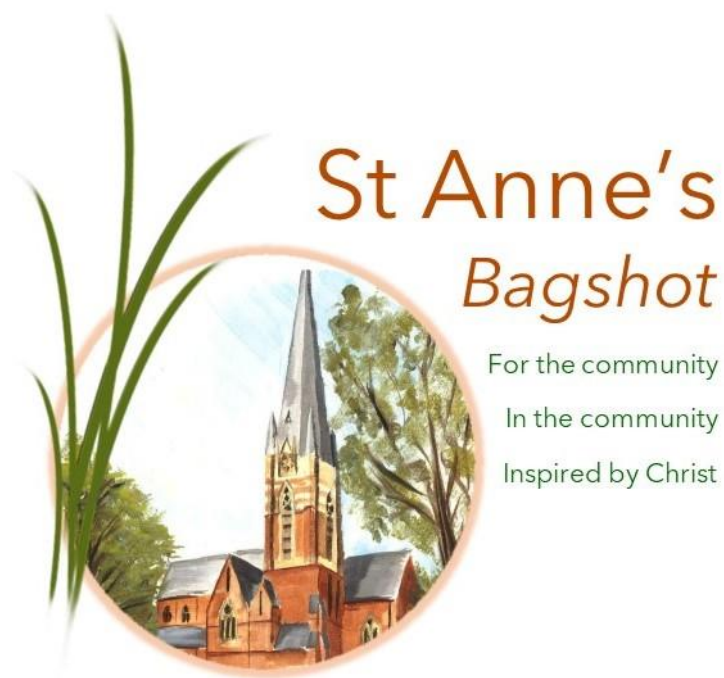


Report and Accounts of 2022 for the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St. Anne Bagshot



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2. Aims and purposes

St Anne's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Andreas Sistig, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church and Church Centre complex of St Anne, as well as St Anne's Parish Hall, all situated in Church Road, Bagshot.

3. 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 parish community at St Anne's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through worship and prayer, learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus. Furthermore, provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish forms a major focus of our work as a church. To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Anne and the Church Centre Complex.

4. Achievements and performance (including reports by various groups)

4.1. Safeguarding

As in previous years, the PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

All PCC members, along with the incumbent, have a duty of care to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults in the church community. As charity trustees, PCC members are legally accountable for ensuring good safeguarding practice in the parish and that safeguarding is a governance priority. To ensure that this has been achieved to date, the PCC reviewed and adopted the House of Bishops Policy Statement which outlines the Church of England commitment to safeguarding and underpins all policy and practice guidance. We also have a rolling 'safeguarding' agenda item in our PCC meetings as well as our weekly Ministry Team meetings during which the vicar or designated safeguarding lead to the PCC (Andreas Sistig and Neil Lyddiatt) regularly update the PCC and Ministry Team on all safeguarding relevant issues and whether any reports have been filed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) in the last few weeks.

In previous years the parish would undergo an annual Safeguarding Self Audit (this was last completed in November 2021). Since 2022 this has been replaced by the parish dashboard, an online portal which fulfils the same purpose as the self-audit.

We regularly consult and update the dashboard by taking the recommended actions on training of volunteers and updating and reviewing risk assessments as well as policies.

As a parish we participated in the Diocesan PCR2 campaign (review of previous safeguarding cases) campaign which concluded in 2022. Furthermore, all current safeguarding concerns/reports were speedily and rigorously documented and processed by our parish safeguarding officer and the clergy in accordance with diocesan requirements and, where appropriate the DSA (Jackie Broadfoot) was consulted/informed. As in previous years our ChurchDesk people management system has continued to be a great help both in managing the safe recruitment process of volunteers as well as keeping relevant records up to date.

Helen Perry, Neil Lyddiatt, Andreas Sistig

4.2. Churchwardens' fabric report

The work of upkeep and maintenance of the church fabric has continued throughout the year.

Routine testing of statutory/compliance items remains ongoing, including fire extinguishers, portable appliance testing and carbon monoxide monitoring. A site visit with the county fire officer resulted in only minor edits to our fire risk assessment, and a very positive report from him. Gordon Hunt, our Health and Safety Officer, has continued to oversee all things H&S related - for which we offer deep thanks.

A meeting took place with the Surrey Heath environmental health officer – although she was primarily inspecting our tenant (Miriam Grace), she was positive about our own set up, and a few adjustments were made in the light of her advice.

The organ has been regularly tuned and maintained.

Further to the Quinquennial inspection report from 2021, the survey of the stained glass and leaded lights in 2022 and the faculty approval, we are planning for the works to be completed by the second quarter 2023.

An application for an Archdeacons licence was successfully obtained so that repairs could be made following water ingress, caused by the rainwater downpipes in both the south & north aisles. Redecoration will take place in 2023, following a period for the walls to thoroughly dry out.

We continue to work with Miriam Grace about day-to-day management of the kitchen. A new commercial dishwasher has been installed.

The storeroom was reconfigured to accommodate FNYC equipment alongside other items of our own, as well as Miriam Grace. Keeping this space accessible for all parties remains an on-going priority.

As required under canon law, the Inventory, Terrier and Log have been maintained throughout the year.

Sue Hunt and Carolyn Nahajski

4.3. Volunteers

As in previous years, the churchwardens would like to express their sincere and deep gratitude to all the volunteers who help in so many ways with the liturgical, pastoral and social life of the church, as well as with the maintenance and general running of St Anne's.

Thanks to: sides-people; readers; intercessors; servers; crucifers; sacristans; choir members; helpers in the junior church, family@4 and Pixies; evening service helpers; bell ringers; sound desk managers; flower arrangers; makers of refreshments; church cleaners (including the brass); those who support the administration work, including the office; the safeguarding team; pastoral assistants and those who officially visit others; those who keep the grounds so well-tended, either regularly or for one-off events (such as ahead of Remembrance); those involved in eco-church activities, such as the allotment, litter pick and bees; PCC members; and finally, to all those who quietly got on and did jobs behind the scenes. We are acutely aware that this list is not fully comprehensive, but to you all, many thanks indeed.

We wish to express our thanks also to Ellen, Jennifer and Kester - for their specific volunteer contributions as clergy/LLM.

This year a special note of thanks must go to the committee members and numerous volunteers who organised and ran the Queen's Platinum Jubilee exhibition in June - with a specific shout out to Neil and Jo Lyddiatt.

Following the more severe periods of lockdown in 2020 and 2021, this year has seen a return of many of our volunteers to active service, for which we are extremely grateful. However, it is becoming clear that our volunteer base is increasingly struggling to cope with the demands of a busy and growing church community. This will inevitably result in a renewed effort to recruit more volunteers in 2023 and/or in changing the way in which we run various activities.

Thank you to you all for making St Anne's such a happy and thriving church community. Without you all, our church would not be the place and the community it is.

Sue Hunt and Carolyn Nahajski

4.4. Changes to parish staff

2022 has seen one major change in our parish staff, with the employment of our part-time parish office manager, Phillippa Pluess. This followed a very thorough recruitment process led by our church warden, Carolyn Nahajski (an experienced HR professional), in conjunction with Ellen and me, in line with both the Church of England safer recruitment requirements and also best practice. The PCC was delighted to appoint Phillippa to the position, effective 7th June 2022. Since then, Phillippa has become a much-valued part of the team, not least because she takes a great deal of administrative pressure off the clergy, wardens and treasurer, but also because she does so with a great deal of professionalism and humour.

Revd Andreas Sistig

4.5. Electoral roll

This year we have 112 people on the Electoral Roll, with 80 resident in Bagshot and 32 living outside the parish.

Lynne Cowley, Electoral Roll Officer

4.6. Worship, prayer and fellowship

Worship and prayer during 2022 has largely returned to its pre-pandemic form, with the addition that we broadcast the 10am Sunday service as well as selected other services via our dedicated YouTube channel. For those unable to attend in person there is also the continued opportunity to meet via Zoom after the service for fellowship.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer also continued via Zoom. With regards to Covid safe practices we continued to follow our Covid risk assessment for public worship which resulted in the decision not yet to re-introduce the Common Cup for Holy Communion services, and also to restrict the sharing of the peace to a friendly wave.

In terms of service styles we introduced an 'Eco Service' on the first Sunday of the month at 10am. This service is less formal and also includes a performance of the newly introduced 'casual choir', led by Alex Moore. The second Sunday of the month 10am service takes the form of Matins, followed by Holy Communion services on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays. The 8am service every Sunday was changed to be exclusively BCP. With regards to attendance, our Sunday services draw an average of 8-10 people for the 8am, 40-50 people for the 10am, 16-20 for the fortnightly Family@4 and 8-12 for the monthly Taizé service. The Wednesday service has seen a lively attendance of about 10-15 people on average. In summary, 2022 saw 17 babies and children baptised, 2 weddings, 3 funerals in church, 4 funerals in local crematoria or cemeteries and 1 confirmation.

Revd Andreas Sistig

4.7. Children and family ministry

2022 provided a welcome return to normality for much of our children's and families' activities, following the covid disruptions of the previous two years – but was also a time of rebuilding and trying new things.

In March, our Junior Church finally resumed after several delays due to covid spikes. Due to a limited number of volunteers, we began with sessions on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month (with some movement around Easter etc), using primarily Godly Play stories, occasionally alongside some more structured crafts or activities. This meant that, together with Family@4 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, there was something more easily accessible for families and children each Sunday of the month.

Family@4 has continued and saw some growth in numbers through the year, and it has been a delight to see the children especially growing in confidence in leading the readings and in sharing their questions and ideas – there is always something for all of us to think about. Two particular highlights were Sam's baptism within a Family@4 service, which saw both regulars

and guests joining in together with much enthusiasm and laughter, and our summer service with BBQ which had over 40 people in attendance. It was a joy to be able to share food and fellowship together on both occasions – something we will develop further in 2023.

Pixies Playgroup has grown into a very well-established community this year, with a core group of ‘regulars’ and a growing number who come when they can, including a good mixture of mums, dads, and grandparents. This year we’ve been able to reintroduce refreshments and enjoyed some singing together at the end of each session, bolstered on one occasion by a ‘taster session’ from Music with Mummies (something we plan to do regularly). It has also been wonderful to be able to invite baptism families along to the playgroup as a way of keeping in touch, and to have a number of Pixies families decide to get their children baptised.

Whilst we have had ongoing conversations regarding the future of FNYC, this has not yet been able to resume although the conversation will continue in 2023. However, Jonathan was able to join with other young people from around the deanery to participate in a joint Confirmation course at St Paul’s which used Youth Alpha material, and following his confirmation in November he continues to attend the youth group there; it’s great to be able to share our resources!

None of this would have been possible without a wide range of people pitching in, whether regularly or occasionally, to enable our children’s and families work to continue to grow and develop – thank you to all who have been part of this, and especial thanks to the Junior Church, Pixies and Family@4 teams for your commitment, ideas, and adaptability.

Revd Ellen Turtle

4.8. Pastoral care

Pastoral care in 2022 has also largely returned to its pre-pandemic form with both the clergy, ministry team as well as our dedicated pastoral visiting team (led by Helen Perry) resuming their visits of elderly, frail or lonely parishioners at home or in hospital.

One significant addition to the pastoral care provided by the parish in 2022 was that Andreas started to visit the local prison, both for pastoral support of the prisoners as well as helping to run the Prison Fellowship ‘Sycamore Tree’ course. Jennifer who is the lead Chaplain at Frimley Health Trust has also been able to visit members of the church and wider community regularly when they were in-patients. Likewise, Ann Bonella has continued to visit both Sunrise and the Neuro-rehab centre.

Revd Andreas Sistig

4.9. Ecumenical relationships

Our ecumenical relationships remain strong despite the fact that the only organised activities with other churches or faith groups were the annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday and Andreas’ attendance of the Surrey Heath Interfaith group meetings. We hope that 2023 will see a renewed growth in activities in this area.

Revd Andreas Sistig

4.10. Choir

During the summer, the choir learnt two pieces to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee; In Our Service and A Life Lived with Grace. At harvest we gathered around the piano to perform O The Life of The World in three-part harmony. For the Carol Service, the choir sang the American carol I Wonder as I Wander as well as a challenging setting of A Babe is Born. The sopranos enjoyed singing the descants for the congregational carols, accompanied by Brian Cotterill. We also meet on most Sundays with a 'casual choir' immediately after the service to rehearse a piece of music for the upcoming Eco church service on the first Sunday of the month.

Alexandra Moore

4.11. Bells and Bell Tower

The end of Covid restrictions meant that the bells have been rung for almost all of our main Sunday services during the year. In addition, the ringing team were pleased to contribute to the celebrations in the summer for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and later in the year to mourn her death by ringing on half-muffled bells.

Practice evenings, and the two weddings for which bells were requested in 2022, have been assisted by the experienced ringers from neighbouring towers. It is good to report that new people have joined to learn the art of bell-ringing and have reached a level of skill that they are now able to participate in Sunday service ringing.

David Perry

4.12. St Anne's Ladies Group

St Anne's Ladies Group have had a very successful year. We usually have 20 - 25 guests at our meetings with varied and interesting speakers.

In July we held a wine and musical evening in the church garden which was very enjoyable and well attended.

The Ladies' Group also organised the Church Christmas Fair last November, after a gap of three years due to previous Covid restrictions. This took place in the Church Centre and inside the church. The fair was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all of the committee for their hard work over the year.

Brenda Shepherd, Chair

4.13. St Anne's Visiting Team

In 2022 the Visiting Team were able to resume regular visiting of the sick and the housebound in the parish. In addition, building on the experience of Covid, pastoral phone-calls were also made to some individuals. In accordance with best safeguarding practice, individual Visitors

made brief written reports of each visit. Likewise, regular group meetings were held and a record of the meetings was written up and filed securely in the church office.

The Church Visitors do a service which is appreciated by the vulnerable people they visit and who themselves give back much to the person visiting them. This supplements the work of the clergy and the many individuals within the church who visit and care for friends and neighbours who are in need.

Helen Perry

4.14. Marriage Preparation

In the aftermath of Covid there were only two weddings in 2022. Five couples attended our Marriage Preparation Day, three couples planning to postpone their weddings until 2023. This relatively small group worked very well together, with the course leaders, and as individual couples. They addressed aspects of marriage such as communication, the resolution of conflict, financial issues and parenting. The clergy spoke to the couples about the importance of the marriage service as well as answering questions on the practicalities of the wedding day. Over an excellent lunch the couples were able to speak to Yvonne Fealey about their wedding flowers. Feedback showed how much the couples enjoyed and valued their experience of the day.

Helen Perry

4.15. Small Groups

The Bible study group has returned to meeting monthly at the home of Eve Nightingale-Sharpe.

We have looked at a number of books from the Bible using video material from The Bible Project, discussion in the group and reading from the Bible.

We are always open to new members joining us. If you would like to know more, please contact June Pugh or Derrick Fenn.

Derrick Fenn

4.16. Surrey Heath Deanery Synod

There were four meetings during the year where reducing costs in view of the energy crisis was very much to the fore.

In March at St Anne's, the Area Dean asked us to consider the events in Ukraine and said that nobody could have predicted that the Covid crisis would be overshadowed by a war in Europe. Churches in the deanery had already stepped up to the challenge by donating items to be sent to Ukraine and helping refugees.

At the June meeting at St Martin's, Old Dean, Synod was asked by St Mary's, Camberley, to consider a proposal of changing the Canon Law so that Holy Communion is celebrated in the

parish every week rather than every Sunday, therefore not diminishing the importance of Holy Communion but giving parishes more flexibility in its mission and ministry.

The Deanery Eco-Church representative spoke about the challenges for churches to achieve the bronze, silver and gold standards.

In September at St Lawrence's, Chobham, the idea of setting up 'warm hubs' from November until March where people could be warm, have a hot drink, socialise and receive energy and debt advice. St Paul's partnered with the council to offer a 'drop in' for Ukrainian families, but attendance was dropping as families returned home.

A question was raised over how individual parishes were handling the requirement for the Common Cup at Communion. In the context of increasing Covid numbers it was likely that a return to a shared common cup was not imminent.

St Mary's, Camberley was the venue for the December meeting at which the presentation of the Diocesan Net-zero strategy up to 2030 was presented. It focused on insulation in 2022-5, then heating technology and includes schools and vicarages. Urgent advice needed on boiler replacements due in next couple of years.

This diocese has double the number of Eco-Church awards and signups than any other diocese.

Deanery Synod suggested that there was an opportunity for a shared, collective approach to avoid duplicating costs across parishes. Opportunities included survey costs and building planning.

The Area Dean emphasised the opportunity for parishes to collaborate and combine their requirements to seek collective tenders for services, leading to more cost-effective operation.

Lynne Cowley and Diane Wild

4.17. Eco Church

We had a very successful Eco year as we were awarded the Bronze Eco award from A Rocha. We had to take a detailed look at our use of energy, care for the environment and show engagement with both the congregation and the wider community.

The year started with a talk by Derrick Fenn on bee keeping and was well attended and led on to a small group keeping a hive in the church garden. We learnt a huge amount about these fascinating creatures and coped with a few nasty stings when we got too close. We drew off some of the honey at the end of the season but left plenty behind to sustain the bees over winter. A handsome amount of £450 was made from donations in return for jars of St Anne's Organic honey and we were delighted by such generosity. The bees are here to stay!

Recycling improved in 2022 with dedicated bins in the church centre for soft plastics, pill packets, milk bottle tops, batteries and water filters. Thank you to the volunteers who regularly empty these.

The church organised a litter pick at the beginning of December, which was attended by people from across the community. Thanks to Nicki for organising high-vis tabards promoting the eco-project, which helps in our community engagement for events such as this.

For the 2nd year in a row, we grew potatoes and tomatoes but added courgettes (successful), aubergines (not so much), and managed a small butternut squash. Proof of concept has been established and we are working on plans to enhance the garden and use more expert knowledge within the team to build on this early success.

The tubs at the front of church were refreshed with new compost and we have opted for perennials instead of bedding plants to improve sustainability and have also chosen bee and insects friendly plants to fit our eco theme.

Finally, a massive thank you to the flower team who have managed to make a huge reduction in their use of Oasis (a very nasty plastic product) and followed the RHS lead using more difficult, older techniques and have done a great job.

Kate Dyerson, Eco Lead

5. Financial Review

Summary

The accounts for 2022 show some small but significant changes when compared with the previous year. The income to our unrestricted (General) account, has shown an increase of around 6% over 2021. However, an increase in expenditure of around 14% means that the small surplus recorded in 2021 has become a deficit of around £6,000 in 2022.

Our church community has responded generously, as in previous years, to appeals for the support of refugee families, people in hardship and a number of church projects including the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Other restricted funds for the ongoing support of the fabric of St Anne's and also St Anne's Parish Hall, discussed below, all show healthy balances.

Consistent with long established PCC policy, we continue to maintain an unrestricted reserve which is equivalent to six months of regular expenditure.

Unrestricted (General) Fund

The Unrestricted (General) Fund supports the day-to-day operations of St Anne's, including the Parish Share paid to the Diocese, the largest part of which funds Diocesan Clergy. The major contribution to this fund is Planned Giving by members of our congregation and wider community. Income from Planned Giving was slightly lower than in 2021 and one-off donations suffered a significant reduction of nearly £4,000. However, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, as well as being a happy and successful community event, made a healthy contribution to our fundraising. The major factor in our increased income was the fees received for the hire of our Church Centre, from £7,500 to nearly £20,000. This was predominantly due to use by the Miriam Grace Day Club. The overall change in income was an increase of around 6%.

Expenditure in 2022 showed an increase of around 14%; due mainly to three different factors: an increase of around £6,000 in Parish Share, a 100% increase in gas and electricity costs, and the employment of a part-time Parish Office Manager. The Parish Share increase is a consequence of a change in its method of calculation which has affected St Anne's particularly harshly compared with many parishes. Utility costs increased due to the renewal of contracts early in 2022 but the effect has been less than that experienced by domestic consumers, as fortunately we renewed before the impact of the war in Ukraine was fully experienced. The PCC has also implemented economy measures to reduce heating costs as far as reasonably possible. Other costs were controlled fairly closely to 2021 levels.

The deficit in 2022 is a reminder to the PCC and the whole St Anne's community of the need to increase our income. Sadly, current forecasts for 2023 do not show any signs of improvement in our finances, with most indications being of a deteriorating situation. This has to be addressed if St Anne's is to continue to be an active church in the Bagshot community.

Restricted Funds

The objectives and finances of our Restricted Funds are summarised in Sections 8 and 9 of the accounts. The main points are summarised below under the headings of a) Charitable Giving, b) Funding of Projects within St Anne's and c) St Anne's Parish Hall. During the year the PCC combined the residual balance of the Bagshot Together Covid 19 Community support fund with the Vicar's Discretionary Hardship Fund. This was carried out with the agreement of major donors as the two funds had similar objectives and the objectives of the Covid Support Fund had been met.

a) Charitable Giving

During the year St Anne's held a Quiz Night raising £760 for Tearfund and again donated the proceeds of the Christmas One-Card Scheme equally divided between the Toilet Twinning Project and Connect Counselling Service in Camberley. In addition to several small donations to individuals, the Vicars Discretionary Hardship fund made significant donations totalling £2,500 to our two local schools to enable them to support local children in hardship.

Support was also provided to an Afghan refugee family with whom we have contact.

As in previous years our Christingle collection went to the Children's Society. St Anne's also provides ongoing support to Connect through a regular monthly contribution from our unrestricted funds.

In addition to making financial contributions, St Anne's is one of 18 local churches who are linked with The Besom in Camberley to provide food and other items to local families and individuals who are going through a time of difficulty and lack of money. Our Harvest donations, and those from Connaught Junior and Bagshot Infant Schools, were passed to The Besom and several bags of 'festive food' were sent to produce Christmas hampers.

b) Funding of Projects within St Anne's

St Anne's has two funds, The Friends of St Anne's and the Derek Shearing Legacy, which can be used for repair of the church fabric and/or to support our work in the community. In 2022 the Friends fund provided equipment for the broadcasting of services on YouTube and also to

supplement the funds raised for a new rapid Church Centre dishwasher. Generous support was provided for the provision of flowers to decorate the church on the occasion of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

c) St Anne's Parish Hall

Although the Trustees of St Anne's Parish Hall are the Diocesan Board of Finance, the entire responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Hall is that of St Anne's PCC, who assume all liabilities. The Trust Deed indicates that the Hall is for the benefit of the people of Bagshot, not just the church, so the accounts of the Parish Hall are reported as one of the Restricted Funds of the PCC, with Note 9. to the Financial Statement providing the detail.

Hiring income increased substantially (by 77%) due to the return of regular hirers post-Covid, new regular hirers and a greater number of occasional bookings, mainly for children's parties. Expenditure increased only slightly, mainly due to increased utility costs. The outcome was a surplus of nearly £2,000 compared with a deficit of around £600 in the previous year. The Parish Hall maintains a healthy balance of nearly £23,000 to cover likely maintenance and renewal costs in the future. We are indebted to Nick Dorrington who looks after the Hall and liaises with the hirers.

Plans are being developed for improving the frontage and the drive at the side of the Hall. The aim is to improve the outward appearance of the Hall but also to facilitate additional parking, especially for the disabled. In conjunction with Bagshot Scout Group, we are also exploring options for replacing the store behind the Hall.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (unrestricted cash plus readily liquidated investment assets) which equates to at least six months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to ~£57,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the unrestricted free reserves at the end of 2022 was ~£61,500 (excluding the outstanding unpaid Parish Share). Note that although the Vicar & Wardens fund is technically a restricted fund, the limited restrictions on its use mean that we have included its balance of £21,626 in the available reserve.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and longer term in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, both managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. The latter fund generates an income of around £800 p.a.

Parochial Church Council of St Anne's, Bagshot

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Notes	£	£	2022 £	2021 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	84,853	9,538	94,390	98,954
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	2,252		2,252	890
Income from Investments	2(c)	864	209	1,073	838
Church activities	2(d)	21,488	7,339	28,826	16,229
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		109,457	17,085	126,542	116,911
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>					
Cost of generation of voluntary income	3(b)	521	43	565	252
Fund-raising costs	3(c)	614	-	614	195
Church activities	3(a)	114,854	12,618	127,472	112,286
Regular Expenditure		115,990	12,661	128,651	112,732
Special projects			2,905	2,905	3,699
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		115,990	15,566	131,555	116,431
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES		(6,533)	1,519	(5,014)	480
Revaluation of assets					
Gains (losses) on investment assets:	5(b)	(3,853.56)	-	(3,853.56)	4,134
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(10,386.75)	1,519	(8,867.34)	4,614
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		638,571	82,167	720,738	716,124
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		628,184	83,686	711,871	720,738

Parochial Church Council of St Anne's, Bagshot

Balance sheet at 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Notes			2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible	5(a)	647,602	-	647,602	647,602
Investment	5(b) & (c)	29,028	21,626	50,655	54,299
		676,630	21,626	698,257	701,901
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6.	17,791	1,640	19,430	19,514
Cash at bank and in hand		25,097	65,140	90,237	92,764
		42,888	66,780	109,668	112,278
LIABILITIES					
Creditors-amounts falling due in one year	7.	91,334	4,720	96,054	93,441
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		(48,446)	62,060	13,614	18,837
Creditors-amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		628,184	83,686	711,871	720,738
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted		628,184		628,184	638,571
Restricted	8.		83,686	83,686	82,167
		628,184	83,686	711,871	720,738

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by

Revd Andreas Sistig (PCC Chairman)

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions. It is also the first year that they have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

They have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups which owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Changes to previous accounts

No material changes have been made to the accounts for previous years. (A minor adjustment has been to 2021 figures where Occasional Gift Aid Envelope donations have been transferred from the Planned Giving to the the Donation category. The total Voluntary Income for 2021 is unchanged.)

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. (The Miss Pike Legacy fund is an exception to this.) Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Funds designated by the PCC itself for a particular purpose are also unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which required a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For any thing acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently, the only item purchased costing more than £1,000 has been the Church Centre and its furnishings. All funds expended on the Church Centre project have been treated as capital expenditure. All other expenditure has been charged to Resources Expended when it occurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are charged to Resources Expended when the item is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving	57,121	1,910	59,031	60,221
Tax recoverable	15,409	1,594	17,003	17,952
Collections	2,598		2,598	1,169
Donations	9,725	6,034	15,759	19,613
	<u>84,853</u>	<u>9,538</u>	<u>94,390</u>	<u>98,954</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fete	-	-	-	460
Other	2,252	-	2,252	430
	<u>2,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,252</u>	<u>890</u>
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	-	209	209	3
Dividends	864	-	864	836
	<u>864</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>1,073</u>	<u>838</u>
2(d) Income from church activities				
Wedding and Funeral Fees	1,525		1,525	3,419
Sale of books & magazine	123		123	1,120
Church Centre hire	19,840		19,840	7,535
Parish Hall income		7,339	7,339	4,156
	<u>21,488</u>	<u>7,339</u>	<u>28,826</u>	<u>16,229</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>109,457</u>	<u>17,085</u>	<u>126,542</u>	<u>116,911</u>

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
3(a) Church activities				
<i>Missionary and charitable giving</i>				
Connect Christian Counselling	600	170	770	745
The Children's Society	115	-	115	90
Covid 19 Bagshot Community Support Fund	-	-	-	216
Frimley Park Scrubs Fund	-	1,020	1,020	-
Holding Crosses	-	110	110	272
Afghan Refugee Support	-	700	700	1,665
Tear Fund	-	756	756	-
Toilet Twinning	-	120	120	120
Vicar's Discretionary Hardship Fund	-	2,720	2,720	-
Other	10	-	10	181
Totals c/f	<u>725</u>	<u>5,596</u>	<u>6,321</u>	<u>3,289</u>

3(a) (cont)		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	Totals b/f	725	5,596	6,321	3,289
<i>Ministry:</i>	Diocesan Parish Share	82,689		82,689	76,606
	Clergy expenses	2,438		2,438	2,337
	Clergy housing	395		395	405
	<i>Church running and maintenance</i>				
	Heating, lighting & water	6,688		6,688	3,394
	Maintenance	1,178		1,178	6,876
	Insurance	4,970		4,970	4,923
	Service consumables	452		452	209
	Music	20		20	59
	Laystaff	7,895		7,895	2,555
	Marriage preparation	213		213	20
	Office supplies	1,371		1,371	1,860
	ChurchDesk	1,215		1,215	977
	Office Equipment			-	-
	Telephone	431		431	393
	Magazine/bookstall costs	81		81	140
	Junior Church	56		56	114
	Youth Club			-	-
	Training			-	-
	Misc	1,384		1,384	1,055
	Eco-Church		828	828	276
	Jubilee Flowers		598	598	
	Covid Support Costs			-	328
	Church Centre running costs	2,653	161	2,814	1,746
	Parish Hall running costs		5,434	5,434	4,724
		114,854	12,618	127,472	112,286
3(b) Generation of voluntary income					
	Card processing fees	73	43	116	192
	Stewardship/Income generating costs	449		449	59
3(c) Fund raising costs		614		614	195
Regular Expenditure		115,990	12,661	128,651	112,732
3(d) Special Projects					
	Dishwasher for Church Centre		1,725	1,725	
	New Boiler for Church Centre			-	3,699
	Equipment for YouTube broadcasting		1,180	1,180	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		115,990	15,566	131,555	116,431

4 PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

A small immaterial part of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have been related to his services as chairman of the PCC. No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5. FIXED ASSETS

5(a) Tangible	(All unrestricted)	Freehold land and buildings	Church Equipment	Total
ACTUAL COST	At 1 January 2022	647,602	-	647,602
	Add additions at cost	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022	<u>647,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>647,602</u>
DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2022	-	-	-
	Add charge for year	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Tangible assets after depreciation		<u>647,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>647,602</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Centre to which no depreciation is applied. Church equipment comprises office equipment and furniture in the Church Centre.

5(b) Investments (Unrestricted)

The PCC holds 1,406 Income Shares (no change since 2008) in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

Value at 1 January 2022	32,882
Value at 31 December 2022	<u>29,028</u>
Gains/(loss) on revaluation	(3,854)

5(c) Investments (Restricted)

The whole of the Legacy Fund (£21626.48) at 31 December 2022) is invested in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund, managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. Interest is declared daily and varies according to London money market interest rates. It is paid gross on a quarterly basis.

6. DEBTORS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
Tax recoverable	12,814	1,116	13,930	15,095
ChurchDesk payment in advance	2,429		2,429	3,644
Others (3)	2,547		2,547	775
	<u>17,791</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>18,907</u>	<u>19,514</u>
7. LIABILITIES	TOTAL Unrestricted	TOTAL Restricted	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
Amounts falling due within one year				
Guildford diocese	88,180	-	88,180	89,119
Utilities	1,100	51	1,151	1,338
Wedding fees/deposits - in advance	974	739	1,713	364
Donations due	115	2,321	2,436	556
Other creditors (6)	965	1,609	2,574	2,064
	<u>91,334</u>	<u>4,720</u>	<u>96,054</u>	<u>93,441</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Miss Pike Legacy Fund (Vicar & Wardens' Account)	This Legacy Fund derives from the bequest to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the good of St Anne's Church. To that extent the funds constitute a Restricted Fund and expenditure is restricted to purposes complying with these terms.
Friends of St Anne's	For maintenance of the church building and to enhance the contribution of St Anne's to the local community.
Derek Shearing Legacy	Derek Shearing, a resident of Bagshot who died in 2020, bequeathed a legacy of £20,000 to St Anne's 'to be applied solely for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of the parish church'.
St Anne's Parish Hall	The trustees of the Parish Hall are the Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance but St Anne's PCC is solely responsible for the management and maintenance of the Hall, together with all associated liabilities. Under the terms of the Trust Deed, the Hall is for the benefit of the people of Bagshot (not just the church). The finances of the Parish Hall are included with those of the PCC as a Restricted Fund. The St Anne's Hall detailed financial statements are provided as Note 9.
Refugee Fund	This fund is an amalgamation of the previous Syrian and Afghan refugee funds reported in previous years. It aims to provide support to refugee families being housed in our area.
Grant to Friday Night Youth Club (FNYC)	Surrey County Council provided FNYC with a grant of £500 for the purchase of sports equipment.
FNYC Tuck Tax	A proportion of the payments made by members of the Friday Night Youth Club (FNYC) for snacks etc. is retained for donation to charities. Club members decide which charities will receive donations but due to Covid no decisions have been made during 2021.
Church Centre Dishwasher Fund	Funds donated by Church members, towards the replacement of the Church Centre Dishwasher by a faster machine more suited to centre usage.
EcoChurch Project	The EcoChurch Project is our initial local response to the developing environmental crisis threatening mankind. This restricted fund is a result of donations from Waitrose and individuals in our community.
Bagshot Together Covid-19 Community Support	The start of the COVID lockdown in March 2020 resulted in Bagshot residents working together to support the more vulnerable members of our community. Demand for this service, provided entirely by volunteers, was significant in the early days of the pandemic but declined to zero in early 2021. After consultation with the major donors, it was agreed in early 2022 that the residual funds of around £4,000 should be transferred to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund for the purpose of supporting members of the local community suffering hardship.
Bagshot - Frimley Park Scrubs Appeal	As for Bagshot Together (above), this fund is no longer required for its original purpose. As specified in the original appeal, the residue of £1,020 has been transferred to Frimley Park Hospital to be used to support projects to enhance the well-being of Frimley Park Hospital staff.
Vicar's Discretionary Harship Fund	A fund to be used by the Vicar at his discretion, and on a confidential basis, for the support of local residents suffering hardship.
One-Card	Donations to the One-Card scheme at Christmas made in support of Connect Counselling Service in Camberley and the "Toilet Twinning" project.
Holding Crosses	A fund for the purchase of "Holding Crosses" and other items to be given by Frimley Park Hospital Chaplains to their patients as tokens of comfort and reassurance. The residual balance has been transferred to the Chaplains' Department at Frimley Park to support their ministry to patients and staff.
Jubilee Flower fund	To provide floral decorations in the church on the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, any excess funds to be used for church flowers as required at a later date.
Tear Fund Quiz	Donations made in support of Tear Fund during a Quiz Night.

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

Fund movements	Vicar & Wardens Account	Friends of St Anne's	Derek Shearing Legacy	St Anne's Parish Hall
Balance at 1 January 2022	21,418	14,459	18,275	20,751
Incoming resources	209	2,388	-	7,339
Resources expended	-	2,747	-	5,434
Balance at 31 December 2022	21,626	14,100	18,275	22,655

Fund movements	Refugee Fund	Surrey CC Grant to FNYC	FNYC Tuck Tax	CC Dishwasher Fund
Balance at 1 January 2022	356	312	750	-
Incoming resources	2,281	-	-	325
Resources expended	722	-	-	325
Balance at 31 December 2022	1,916	312	750	-

	Eco-Church	Covid 19 Community Support	Frimley Park Scrubs Appeal	Vicar's Discretionary Fund
Balance at 1 January 2022	650	4,006	1,020	59
Incoming resources	1,585	-	-	5,306
Resources expended	828	4,006	1,020	2,720
Balance at 31 December 2022	1,407	-	-	2,645

	One-Card	Jubilee Flower Fund	Holding Crosses	Tear Fund Quiz
Balance at 1 January 2022	-	-	110	-
Incoming resources	290	601	-	760
Resources expended	290	601	110	760
Balance at 31 December 2022	-	-	-	-

9. St Anne's Parish Hall - Financial Detail

Incoming Resources	2022	2021
Individual bookings	1,510	720
Regular bookings	5,829	3,436
	7,339	4,156
Resources Expended		
Cleaning costs	826	578
Hall Manager	800	800
Utilities	1,318	893
Cleaning Materials/Covid	40	11
Maintenance	181	413
Insurance	1,326	1,315
Miscellaneous/Admin	943	715
Total Routine payments	5,434	4,724
Surplus (Deficit)	1,904	(569)
Balances brought forward to 1st January		
NatWest	21,059	21,382
Creditors	308	417
Debtors		356
	20,751	21,320
Balances at 31st December		
NatWest	23,441	21,059
Creditors	832	308
Debtors	46	-
	22,655	20,751
Movements in Funds	1,904	(569)

10. Prior Period Comparative SOFA Restated

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £
INCOME			
Voluntary Income	89,585	9,370	98,954
Activities for generating funds	890	-	890
Income from investments	836	3	838
Church activities	12,074	4,156	16,229
TOTAL INCOME	103,383	13,528	116,911
EXPENDITURE			
Church Activities	101,521	10,765	112,286
Fund raising costs	195	-	195
Cost of voluntary income	170	82	252
Regular Expenditure	101,886	10,847	112,732
Special Projects			
Church Centre Boiler		3,699	3,699
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	101,886	14,545	116,431
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES	1,498	(1,017)	480
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	4,134	-	4,134
NET INCOME(EXPENDITURE)	5,631	(1,017)	4,614
Total Funds brought forward	632,940	83,184	716,124
Total Funds carried forward	638,571	82,167	720,738

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Anne's Parochial Church Council (PCC) on the accounts for the year ended:

31st December 2022

Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

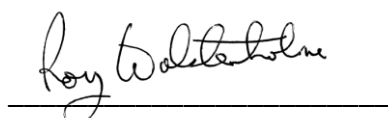
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Signed



Roy Wolstenholme

Retired Accountant

(previously a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)

6. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is officially registered with the Charity Commission as THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST ANNE, BAGSHOT, SURREY, Registered Charity Number 1171379.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Anne's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the curate, churchwardens, the LLM (Reader), members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church as well as two elected Deanery Synod Representatives and any elected Diocesan or General Synod representatives.

All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met nine times in person and once via Zoom during the year of 2022 with a very good average level of attendance.

7. Administrative information

St Anne's Church is situated in Church Road, Bagshot. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Anne's Church Office, 45 Church Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5EQ. PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Vicar:	The Revd Andreas Sistig (Chairman)
Associate Vicar:	The Revd Ellen Turtle
Wardens:	Mr Derrick Fenn (stepped down 22 nd May 2022) Mrs Sue Hunt Mrs Carolyn Nahajski (elected 22 nd May 2022)
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Kester Oliveira
Diocesan Synod Representative:	The Revd Jennifer Sistig (Self Supporting Minister)

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mrs Diane Wild (also appointed Secretary from 22nd May 2022)

Mrs Lynne Cowley

Elected members:

Mrs Anne Bonella

Dr Kate Dyerson

Ms Nicki Hunt (elected 22nd May 2022)

Mrs Carolyn Nahajski

Dr David Norminton (stepped down 22nd May 2022)


Dr David Perry (Treasurer)

Mr Paul Ray (elected 22nd May 2022)

Mrs Brenda Shepherd

Mrs Pat Stone (Secretary) (stepped down 22nd May 2022)

Our bankers are National Westminster Bank Plc and our Independent Examiner is Roy Wolstenholme, retired accountant and previously a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Approved by the PCC on 3rd May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Andreas Sistig (PCC Chairman)

8. Appendix A – Vicar's report

Churchill is often quoted as having defined success as the '*stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.*'

Perhaps that is one way of looking at the apostle Paul's relentless missionary journey around the Mediterranean in an effort to tell as many people as possible about Jesus. Sure, Paul had some great successes as we know – after all there was a thriving Christian community in Antioch, in Ephesus, Galatia, Philippia, Corinth and even in Rome – most of whom were founded by Paul himself or one of his companions. And although some of them lived only for a few years and others seemed to be plagued by a lot of conflict, they undoubtedly were the foundation of the gospel being carried into the farthest parts of the world.

But it definitely wasn't all smooth and plain sailing for Paul, and today's reading from the Acts of the apostles makes us appreciate that. For how many of us have heard about Paul's letter to the Athenians or that a Christian community even existed in Athens, despite Paul's efforts.

And it wasn't for a lack of trying or preparation – he even tells us that he went through the city, looking at all the amazing pieces of art, the statutes of philosophers, statesmen, military leaders and even gods. And you can just imagine what he might have thought – how can I explain to these people who, for all intents and purposes, had been the intellectual and philosophical giants of the known world for centuries – how can I tell them about the living God? The God I have encountered in Jesus Christ, the God of love, of compassion, of truth and forgiveness.

And perhaps in his wondering and pondering and even increasing desperation of how to find the right words so that people would listen to him, he may have suddenly found himself standing in front of this statue of the unknown God – and then the penny dropped! THAT was how he would try to explain who he was talking about to the Athenians.

He wasn't going to talk about something completely new – he was going to use an element already part of the Athenian spiritual world and experience – the fact that there were unknown Gods – to introduce Jesus to them.

He wasn't going to say that the God he was talking to them about was completely new to them – he simply said that they knew him already, but were just unaware of the details and the fact that THIS God, the God we see in Jesus Christ, was indeed even more powerful than Zeus, Poseidon or Apollo.

This Pauline strategy of connecting the experience of the God we, as Christians, worship to the experience of the people we speak to, is probably the most obvious and genuine way to introduce God to people – then and now.

You may wonder why I say that – well, it's obvious and again, we can take our clue from scripture:

- we are created in the image and likeness of God – there simply is something in us, call it a spiritual radar that is tuned into the frequency of God. Sure, sometimes we mistake other frequencies for that of God, but it cannot be a coincidence that of the 9 billion people on our planet the vast majority would consider themselves spiritual.
- And secondly, as Paul puts it in his speech to the Athenians, 'In him we live and move and have our being' – like fish in water – God has not only created us, but continues to provide the environment in which we can flourish – his creation is not one that was completed at the end of the 6th day but one that continues to unfold – it is a *creatio continua* – an ongoing creation and revelation.

So, when I talk with people perhaps in the context of baptisms or weddings or even in the pasta aisle at Waitrose, I do what Paul did – I say 'But you know him already – because you know love and peace and gentleness and kindness – you will have hopefully – experienced all those before and you long to both receive and also to give them to others. And in doing so you open a small window into an experience of God. You won't see the whole of God, in the same way in which you can't see the whole room when looking through the keyhole, but you get a pretty good idea of what it may feel like to walk through that door into the light and warmth of a place that is filled

with grace and love and peace and gentleness and forgives and wholeness and wisdom.

And yet, despite the obvious attraction of this image, not everybody wants to walk through that door – as the apostle Paul experienced in Athens and we often experience ourselves in our encounters with the world.

But, as Churchill (and more importantly, Jesus himself) said that shouldn't stop us from trying, even if it does feel like an unsuccessful stumble from failure to failure. And if we should ever feel downhearted by a failure, let's take encouragement from Paul's advice that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Having said that, I hope you will agree with me that our last year has been anything but a failure. In fact, I was quite overwhelmed when I realised that we nearly achieved all the things we had put on our Church Development Plan for the year.

So, allow me to just share 10 highlights with you that have filled me with great joy.

This last year we:

1. Recruited a part time Parish Office Manager – Phillippa Pluess.
2. Re-organised the tasks and workload of other office volunteers.
3. Recruited a new Church Warden, Carolyn Nahajski.
4. Restarted our fortnightly Sun afternoon intergenerational Family@Four service, Friday morning Pixies Playgroup and Friday Night Youth Club.
5. Ran a joint deanery course on 'Living in Love and Faith'.
6. Increased engagement through music by planning a Deanery Choral evensong and starting an informal choir.
7. Grew our Eco church programme, achieving bronze status and now aiming for silver in 2023/24.
8. Celebrated a wonderful Jubilee by having a very successful exhibition and a royal visit.
9. Joined the Inclusive Church network.
10. And last but not least my volunteer work at the prison and hospital in which some of you share and many more can, if you are interested.

So, what comes next?

Well, a new PCC with Laura Fox Longdon and David Lovell joining us this year and then, a new Church Development Plan – which is something that will involve all of us in the discerning for and drawing up of.

And it is about this journey from here onwards that I would like to just say a few words as well.

I believe that the journey into the future for St Anne's – not unlike that of many other churches in our area and the whole Church of England - is somewhat of a mystery, certainly if one compares it to the church 30 or 50 years ago.

Societal changes have had such a profound impact on the church, on worshipping styles and patterns, congregation sizes and demographics, that I feel it is almost impossible to predict where our ship may be sailing to in the next 5 to 10 years.

And while that may be quite scary on some level, it is also hugely exciting and encouraging, because of the potential it opens up for growth, change and faithful contextualisation of the gospel – all the while without throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

I believe that St Anne's is in many ways quite uniquely positioned and even well prepared to enter into these challenging waters – why?

Because we trust God and one another and because we discern and tackle together what needs doing next – not in a cloud cuckoo land sort of way, but with a healthy dose of realism, skill and hard work and an even healthier dose of prayerful trust that God will somehow make something of it all.

This trusting journeying side by side into a challenging and uncertain future is not unlike the Exodus journey of the people of Israel. The American author Anthony Robinson summarises it as follows:

'We can see a wonderful illustration of [...] leadership in Moses, who over the long stretch of the Exodus and wilderness journey engaged in helping former slaves make the transition from one reality, slavery, to a new and different one, freedom lived in covenant with Yahweh.[...] But this change is a long and labored one, filled with difficult learning for all concerned. And even if Moses was granted some rather impressive technical moves, like a staff that transformed from wood to snake with a simple toss, in the end the work of this transformation is [the kind of] adaptive work which the people themselves must do. Time and again, during the years of the wilderness sojourn Moses was confronted by those who wanted a quick fix, a technical solution. They wanted him to assume the role of the expert who had the answers. "Give us bread," they demanded. Manna was provided, but the gift of manna only points to a deeper source of provision and to the new reality that is emerging, the reality of living in a trusting relationship with God. [...] The problem or challenge that Moses and the people faced was not clearly known or defined at the outset. It was much more than making it through the Red Sea and gaining freedom from Egypt. That was the "freedom from" aspect of the story. But that was followed by the "freedom for" element. To discern what they were free for required learning and change of hearts and minds. Nor was there any readily apparent or clearly applicable solution for this huge adaptive challenge. The solution, such as it was, required making the journey, living into the new reality of being God's faithful people in the midst of an uncertain situation.'

That is what we will have to do in the coming year. And although I would not dare to compare either myself or Ellen to Moses or Aaron, there is a degree to which even that comparison holds.

Neither Moses nor Aaron knew exactly where they were supposed to lead the people to, as it turned out they too had to learn to trust God and to stumble with enthusiasm from one failure to another (to quote Churchill again), until eventually they all reached the Holy Land.

To this continued journey into the unknown, side by side, I want to invite you now – let's go for another year in faith and trust that God will make something of the labour, energy and commitment we offer.

But before we embark on that journey of the coming year, let me close with the customary thank-yous which are, although a fixed annual feature of my report, by no means unimportant – on the contrary, they are heartfelt and most sincere, as I certainly know that I would not be standing here today were it not for you having stood beside me this last year.

A special thank you goes to:

- Phillippa Pluess – our parish office manager – whose friendly, competent and tireless work in the office has transformed especially the life of the clergy, wardens and treasurer.
- Neil and Jo Lyddiatt and the team for a wonderful Jubilee Exhibition which drew hundreds of people plus some royal visitors.
- The members of our PCC and especially Laura Fox Longdon who joins today and David Lovell who will join later in the year.
- To Lynne Cowley, Diane Wild and Nicki Hunt all standing again for Deanery Synod.
- Diane Wild, our PCC secretary.
- The Ministry Team – Ellen Turtle, Kester Oliveira, Helen Perry, Annie Bonella and Jennifer Sistig for their wisdom, encouragement and patience.
- The Steering Group – Sue Hunt, Carolyn Nahajski, David Perry and Ellen Turtle – who have worked extremely hard this past year in constantly having to discern and adapt to new regulations and circumstances.
- Ellen Turtle, for her work with children and families and for being an altogether fun, wise and reliable colleague.
- Our Churchwardens Sue Hunt and Carolyn Nahajski who have been working so very hard, often behind the scenes but I hope never without my support or gratitude! I appreciate you both very much.
- David Perry our treasurer who year after year brings a very steady, wise and altogether competent and diligent hand to the work of our finances, the Steering group and quite a few other things, thank you David.
- Stefan Nahajski – for his invaluable help with all things sound, Zoom, computer and in recent months also bee related!
- Kester Oliveira, who very soon now will depart for his curacy in Bristol. Thank you, Kester and Jose, for the past 5 years of journeying with us and for being a much-valued member of our church family. You will both go with our blessing and a prayer for a super new chapter in your life.
- Our office volunteers, especially Annie Bonella and June Pugh who have helped both me as well as Phillippa a great deal.

- Our Baptism coordinator Brenda Shepherd who brings so much joy and love to her role that it is pleasure to work with you.
- Kate Dyerson for her continued work on our eco church project – and the whole eco church team, but especially Paul and Christine for their work on all things vegetable related and Derrick with regards to our bees.
- Paul Ray for his DIY help and especially for the many hours spent renovating our church loo.
- For those who have organised various events throughout the year – Carolyn Nahajski who organised our Big Bash activity, Nicki who ran a fun quiz night, Derrick and Glynis who organised the Big Brekkie – and all the people who assisted in all these activities.
- For Ellen and her team of Pixies helpers, especially Dom, Sarah and Amelia who, without fail are there every Friday!
- Nick Dorrington, as always, for taking good care of the Parish Hall and its hirers.
- Our Electoral Roll Officer Lynne Cowley
- Our parish visiting team lead by Helen Perry who also serves as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and validator.
- Neil Lyddiatt our safe recruiting officer and besom volunteer, together with Richard Roots and Carolyn Bartlett.
- Our marriage preparation team lead by Helen Perry and Campbell Bartholomew.
- Our bell ringers, especially Nigel Nelson the tower captain and John Bauld, the steeple keeper.
- Alex Moore for filling our services with beautiful music and for leading our choirs, both casual and robed.
- Our stand in organists and our choir members, both robed and casual.
- Our guest preachers, readers, servers, sacristans, cleaners, flower arrangers, welcomers, sidespeople, gardening team, grass cutters, coffee providers and obviously all other volunteers which I inadvertently might have missed out.
- To my family – who supports, encourages and loves me even on the days when that is difficult.

Thank you all – from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in Christ,

Andreas.