

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY WITH ST JOHN PENGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1197262

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2021-12-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Holy Trinity Church
66 Lennard Road
London
SE20 7LX

Phone 02087787258

Email office@htsj-penge.church

Website www.htsj-penge.church

Activities

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

Activities: Church of England Parish We offer church services on Sunday and midweek, and a variety of community activities including toddler groups, school visits, food banks and work with elderly and vulnerable people in the community. We also conduct baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bromley
- Croydon
- Lewisham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£263,202	£212,786	-	-
2023-12-31	£196,775	£192,132	-	-
2022-12-31	£226,147	£183,748	-	-

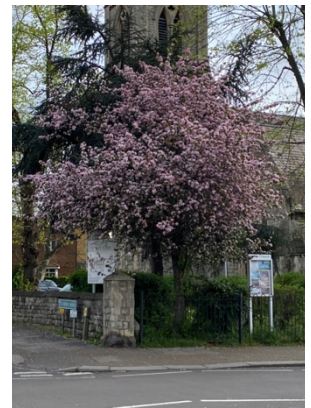
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jessica Clare Smith	Chair	2021-10-11
Dr Andrew Rhys Griffiths		2021-09-08
Dr Terry John Wright		2023-04-23
Emily Westbrook Jacks		2025-05-11
Frances Braithwaite		2024-04-28
Ian William Baldwin		2021-09-08
JANICE BARBARA BESSANT		2021-09-08
Julian Providence		2021-09-08
Marggie Gomba		2024-04-28
Oladunni Oluwakemi Ogundipe		2021-09-08
Rebecca Jane Short		2023-04-23
Richard John Thomson		2023-04-23
Russell James JONES		2021-09-08
Ruth Isabel Wright		2021-09-08
Sally Rosamund Nicholas		2025-05-11
Stephen John Lovell		2025-05-11
Suzanne Thomson		2021-09-08
Tamara Justine Cooper		2021-09-08
Valerie Carrier		2026-05-10

Accounts



Reports to the APCM 2024



APCM Reports 2025

1. Annual Report

- 1.1 Vicar's Report
- 1.2 Agendas & Administrative information
- 1.3 Electoral Roll Report.
- 1.4 Minutes of APCM 2024
- 1.5 Financial Review
- 1.6 Churchwarden's Report
- 1.7 PCC Secretary's Report
- 1.8 Fabric Report
- 1.9 Deanery Synod Report
- 1.10 Safeguarding Report

2. Worship, Discipleship & Pastoral Care

- 2.1 Worship Report
- 2.2 Music in Worship
- 2.3 Prayer Meeting
- 2.4 Living Well Pastoral Team
- 2.5 Sound, Zoom, Tech
- 2.6 Home & Community Groups
- 2.7 Lent Course
- 2.8 Communications / Website
- 2.9 Pastoral Care
- 2.10 Life Events: Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

3. Children & Young People

- 3.1 Blast
- 3.2 Blaze
- 3.3 Ignite
- 3.4 Pizza & Games

4. Growing as an Intergenerational Community of Faith

- 4.1 Messy Church
- 4.2 Connect
- 4.3 Little / Big Fish
- 4.4 Over 50's
- 4.5 Holiday Club
- 4.6 Knit & Natter
- 4.7 Men's Group

5. Building on our Traditions of Service in the Local Community

- 5.1 Living Well
- 5.2 Blend Choir
- 5.3 CAP
- 5.4 Lunch Club
- 5.6 Outdoor spaces
- 5.7 Schools
- 5.8 Pines & Needles
- 5.9 Mission Giving



Section 1: Annual Report



1.1 Vicar's Report

At the Bishop's Study Day recently, clergy and lay leaders from across the Diocese of Rochester were encouraged to take seriously "a theology of joy and playfulness". If there is one word that shouts from this collection of reports into the life of HTSJ during 2024 louder than any other, it is this one – "joy"! I'd like to use this report to reflect on joy in three images taken from the life of HTSJ in the past year.

First, the joy of **presence**. Picture a toddler. She is wearing a princess dress and a bright green wig, vigorously rocking the red seesaw and singing loudly, if out of tune, along with the CD ("Say I love you – I LOVE YOU!"). She is utterly and completely present in the moment, totally unselfconscious. Most of us struggle to achieve that level of presence in the moment. We live in an unprecedentedly distracted society. Addicted to our smartphones, we are constantly pulled away from the moment by the lure of the next notification, the next WhatsApp message, the next headline.



The God who revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush as "I am who I am" is the God of the present moment, the God who is, the God who, according to a significant stream of Catholic and Orthodox theology only reveals himself in the present moment. When we seek to encounter God in something that has been good in the past, we are likely to miss the joy of what God is doing amongst us now. When we seek to encounter God in a better future, we are likely to miss the signs of his work, the seeds of that future in the present. When we are distracted, like Martha, because of all the things that have to be done, we cannot fully enter into the joy which is to be found sitting at the Lord's feet, listening to what he says. (Luke 10:38-42).

I wonder what distractions, rose-tinted memories or unrealistic expectations we need to let go of, individually and collectively, in order to notice and experience the joy of what God is doing among us in this present moment?



Second, the joy of **partnership**. In my home group on a Thursday morning, as in any home group, we share both the challenges and difficulties of life – illness, loss, anxieties over family or friends – but also the joys – a cup of coffee, made with love, a cake which someone has brought in, a photograph of a tree in blossom.

Writing from prison, Paul writes to the Philippian church that he always remembers them "with joy" because of their "partnership in the gospel". When I tell others about HTSJ, I often say that, when we meet together, there's a lot of laughter and, often, tears. That's joy – not a brave "putting on a smile" when everything inside us is screaming or weeping – nor a refusal to face up to the very real challenges of life. Joy is about partnership – relationship – getting to know people and sharing the realities of life. This can be locally, or with people and places further away. One thing we're going to be talking about in 2025 is Mission Partnership, a rebranding of Mission Giving to help us think more holistically about how we build partnerships in the gospel with local, national and global organisations.

There have been lots of new people in church during 2024. I wonder what joy would be released if in the coming year each of us committed to building a relationship with one person we don't already know, and to "doing life" with them?

Third, the joy of **participation**. I was lucky enough to join with Blend Choir, who sang their hearts out at the Penge Music Festival back in April 2024. Performing on that day were two people who are blind, one with significant additional learning needs, and several with emotional and mental health issues which meant that standing on stage to sing was an enormous deal for them. They were performing in front of a number of highly gifted amateur and semi-professional musicians. And what everybody commented on afterwards was the joy which simply shone from them.



In Mark 4, Jesus tells a parable of a growing seed. The farmer plants the seed and then, night or day, whether the farmer is working or sleeping, the seed takes root and grows. The work of building God’s Kingdom is God’s work. God can and will build his Kingdom whether we are awake or whether we are asleep. But by the grace of God, we are invited to participate in God’s mission to our community and world. And, when we participate, when we work together to build something worthwhile, joy is released. We see this every time we run Messy Church. We see it at Living Well. We see it in the range of people named in these reports, and in all the others, unnamed, who faithfully serve on Sundays and throughout the week. Thank you all so very much.

I wonder if God is nudging us to participate in some way, either in the life of the church or in some different way, in the building of his Kingdom? Or whether there is someone God is calling us to encourage?

Thank you all so very much for a year in which your partnership in the gospel and participation in God’s Kingdom life has once again released so much joy.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit.” Amen.

Jessica Smith, Vicar



1.2 Agendas & Administrative Information

Agenda for the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 11th May 2025

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Thanks and Prayer

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 11th May 2025

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of last year's APCM (28th April 2024)
2. Matters arising from the minutes, if any
3. Election of PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives
 - a. 5 PCC members (4 for three years, 1 for one year)
 - b. 2 Deanery Synod member (for one year – elections to be held in 2026)
 - c. LLM, Readers, Pastoral Assistants
 - d. Sidespersons
4. Adoption of the Electoral Roll (copy available for inspection)
5. Fabric Report (including fabric, goods, ornaments)
6. PCC Secretary's Report
7. Financial Report (including Financial Statements for Year Ending 2024)
 - a. adoption of audited accounts
 - b. appointment of the independent examiner for 2025
8. Safeguarding Report
9. Other written reports are available for inspection
10. Vicar's Report
11. Any Other Business
12. Closing Prayer

The new PCC and wardens will gather at the front of church immediately after the meeting to appoint officers and confirm the date for the first meeting.

1.3 Electoral Roll Report for 2024

The roll was revised in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28th April 2024.

There were 159 names on the revised roll, as against 155 in the previous year.

73 of those names were resident in the parish and 86 were non-resident.

6 names had been added to the roll.

2 names had been removed from the roll.

I again acknowledge the indispensable part played by Hazel Willson, who had signed up almost all the names added to the roll; thank you Hazel.

Richard Thomson, Electoral Roll Officer

1.4 Minutes of AVM & APCM held on Sunday 28th April 2024

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge: Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM)

Sunday, 28 April 2024 at the St John, Penge site

Present in church: Viola Ambikiire, Lorraine Baker, Ian Baldwin, Val Baldwin, Valerie Beckway, Frances Braithwaite, Valerie Carrier, Bethan Carney, Carol Carter, Pete Carter, Tamara Cooper, Margaret Davies, Yvette Evans, Betty Friend, Maggie Gomba, Juliet Gramaglia, Alex Griffiths, Andrew Griffiths, Gareth Hall (CAP), Emily Jacks, Russell Jones, Khaiz Katunguka, Robert Lambert, Diane Lovell, Steve Lovell, Steve Miller, Sue Miller, Sarah Murrell, Sally Nicholas, Kemi Ogundipe, Gill Owens, Diane Pemberton, Alison Penfold, Laura Polaine, Cordelia Providence, Julian Providence, Lionel Riches, Margaret Riches, Ray Shergill, Beccy Short, Yesica Siheret, Lin Skinner, Jessica Smith (chair), Sue Smith, Michelle Stewart, Christine Stone, Colin Stone, Richard Thomson, Sue Thomson, Michael Vance, Richard Williams, Sarah Whiting, Hazel Willson, Ruth Wright, Terry Wright, Charmaine Yip

Present via Zoom: Sally Jones, Maria Layne, David Osbourne, Mary Osbourne

Apologies for absence: Jessica Moscrop

Introduction

JS welcomed everyone and opened with prayer.

Election of churchwardens

After six years, Ian Baldwin relinquished his duties as churchwarden. Jessica Smith thanked him for his faithful work over a period which happened to include a global pandemic, a church merger, and a year as sole churchwarden.

Beccy Short and Richard Thomson were elected as the new churchwardens, though they will be supported by others when necessary and appropriate.

Proposed: Sue Thomson | **Seconded:** Pete Carter | **all in favour**

Jessica thanked everyone whose work at HTSJ incorporates churchwarden-style responsibilities and closed the AVM with a prayer.

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday, 28 April 2024 at the St John, Penge site

Present in church: Viola Ambikiire, Lorraine Baker, Ian Baldwin, Val Baldwin, Valerie Beckway, Frances Braithwaite, Valerie Carrier, Bethan Carney, Carol Carter, Pete Carter, Tamara Cooper, Margaret Davies, Yvette Evans, Betty Friend, Maggie Gomba, Juliet Gramaglia, Alex Griffiths, Andrew Griffiths, Gareth Hall (CAP), Emily Jacks, Russell Jones, Khaiz Katunguka, Robert Lambert, Diane Lovell, Steve Lovell, Steve Miller, Sue Miller, Sarah Murrell, Sally Nicholas, Kemi Ogundipe, Gill Owens, Diane Pemberton, Alison Penfold, Laura Polaine, Cordelia Providence, Julian Providence, Lionel Riches, Margaret Riches, Ray Shergill, Beccy Short, Yesica Siheret, Lin Skinner, Jessica Smith (chair), Sue Smith, Michelle Stewart, Christine Stone, Colin Stone, Richard Thomson, Sue Thomson, Michael Vance, Richard Williams, Sarah Whiting, Hazel Willson, Ruth Wright, Terry Wright, Charmaine Yip

Present via Zoom: Sally Jones, Maria Layne, David Osbourne, Mary Osbourne

Apologies for absence: Jessica Moscrop

Minutes of the APCM held on 23 April 2023 | *pp. 10–14 of the APCM reports*

The APCM approved the minutes of the last meeting with one amendment to #7 ('Beccy', not 'Betty'), and Jessica Smith signed them as an accurate record.

Proposed: Richard Thomson | **Seconded:** Yvette Evans | **all in favour**

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Election of PCC members, Deanery Synod representatives, and sidepersons

Jessica Moscrop, Julian Providence, and Michael Vance had reached the end of their terms of office, though Jessica and Julian were standing for re-election. Steve Miller relinquished his position on the PCC a year early due to an expected and imminent relocation. Beccy Short and Richard Thomson, formerly elected to the PCC, are now HTSJ's churchwardens. Taking into account an existing vacancy, the APCM could elect up to seven people to sit on the PCC for the 2024-25 period.

Ian Baldwin, Frances Braithwaite, Maggie Gomba, Jessica Moscrop (re-election), and Julian Providence (re-election) had been nominated and were approved by the APCM as PCC members. Jessica Smith also proposed to co-opt Ollie Mitwali onto the PCC for one year (at present, Ollie does not meet the requirements for full PCC membership). Hazel Willson and Ruth Wright remain the Deanery Synod representatives.

Proposed: Beccy Short | **Seconded:** Ruth Wright | **all in favour**

Jessica Smith thanked everyone for their faithful work.

Adoption of the electoral roll | *p. 8 of the APCM reports*

Richard Thomson noted there are now 159 people on the electoral roll.

Proposed: Frances Braithwaite | **Seconded:** Tamara Cooper | **all in favour**

Jessica Smith thanked Richard and Hazel Willson for their work in consolidating the electoral roll. There is a need to elect a new electoral roll officer now that Richard is a churchwarden.

Fabric report | *p. 27 of the APCM reports*

Jessica Smith noted that new signage at both sites would be in place once Bromley Council grants planning permission. She also confirmed a faculty has been granted for permanent removal of the choir stalls.

PCC Secretary's report | *pp. 25–26 of the APCM reports*

Surprisingly, perhaps, nobody asked any questions.

Financial report | *pp. 15–23 of the APCM reports*

Andrew Griffiths delivered a brief presentation on HTSJ's finances, explaining that the newly adopted Parish Giving Scheme is proving its worth. Andrew thanked HTSJ members for their

continued financial support, and thanked CAP, Russell Jones, Edward Lee-Smith, and Tony Catherall for their work.

Andrew also announced that Anne Yeardley, a longstanding member of both HTSJ legacy congregations who died in 2023, left a generous legacy of around £60,000.00 for HTSJ's worship and work, including the recruitment of a family worker.

The APCM adopted the audited accounts.

Proposed: Steve Lovell | **Seconded:** Michael Vance | **all in favour**

The APCM appointed Tony Catherall once more, with gratitude, as the independent examiner for 2024.

Proposed: Beccy Short | **Seconded:** Margaret Davies | **all in favour**

Jessica Smith thanked Andrew for his continued work as the treasurer.

Safeguarding report | *p. 29 of the APCM reports*

There were no questions, and Jessica Smith thanked Ruth Wright for her work as parish safeguarding officer.

Other written reports

Jessica Smith thanked everyone for providing written reports as necessary as well as for the work underlying them to which the reports testify.

Rebecca Day is stepping down from her position as Living Well's Operations Manager; Jessica thanked Rebecca for her work.

Gareth Hall, CAP centre manager, noted Lin Skinner planned to step down as debt coach, and thanked Lin for her work. Gareth also thanked Jessica, Ray Shergill, other volunteers, and various local churches for their support of CAP during the year.

The APCM accepted the written reports.

Proposed: Richard Thomson | **Seconded:** Hazel Willson | **all in favour**

Vicar's report

Taking her lead from Isaiah 43, Jessica focused on growth and the new things God is doing at HTSJ. Among these are an emphasis on prayer during Thy Kingdom Come (9–19 May 2024); the appointment (hopefully!) of a family worker in the autumn; a confirmation service at the St John site planned for 22 September 2024; Ray Shergill's ordination as priest and Laura Polaine's ordination as deacon (for St Peter and St Paul, Bromley), both on 28 September 2024; and the commencement of Hazel Koungoue's ordination training and Charmaine Yip's training for Licensed Lay Ministry, both in September 2024. Jessica offered further thanks to everyone who worships and serves at HTSJ.

Any other business

There was no other business, and so the APCM closed with prayer.

Terry Wright, PCC Secretary



Holy Trinity with St John's Penge

Report of Financial Activity for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and also those found in the Church Guidance, 2017 edition.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination; I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept respect of the charity as required by section 63 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; and
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Yours faithfully



T. J. Catherall
77 Merlin Grove
Beckenham
BR3 3HS
07/03/2025

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 December 2024

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. 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 view provisions'. They have also been prepared under FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)). As Holy Trinity merged with St John's Penge on 1 September 2021 to form a new benefice, the accounts represent a merging of the two churches.

In utilities, the mast use is netted against costs – the mast company spent and reimbursed £32,535 in utilities payments in 2024.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available or individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less, which are written off when the asset is acquired. The item is not capitalised, but all items are in the Church's inventory.

Tangible fixed assets

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of market value.

Loans

Following the merger of the two parishes the loan with the Diocese of Rochester was written off through a grant from the Trust for London Fund within the gift of the Archdeacon.

Short Term Deposits

These are cash held on deposit with a bank, credit union or (for the Church Repair Fund) with the Diocese.

Unrestricted funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project.

Restricted funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds

These are restricted funds that must be maintained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown below.

Diocesan building fund

On a monthly basis we put aside £180 for the Holy Trinity site and £10 for the St John's site with the diocesan building fund. This designates money towards repairs of the respective buildings, as is intended to provide funds to respond to concerns raised by quinquennial surveys. The different amounts reflect historically different approaches to these funds from the respective PCCs, and we will need to agree a collective policy. At present there is £18,356 in the Holy Trinity site account and £2,486 in the St John's site account with the diocese.

Staff costs

	2024
Wages, Salaries & Pension costs	£32,266
Average no. of employees	4

During the period the PCC employed a part time administrator and a part time cleaner. No payments were large enough to attract social security costs. These employees equate to less than one full time employee.

The PCC also employed two people to run the CAP centre.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

Analysis of transfers between accounts

	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total
CBI Investment Fund income	£942	(£942)	0

Summary of restricted funds

St John's building	£15,552
Youth Worker	£19,887
CAP	£43,672
Total	£79,111

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

Income Resources	Unrestricted	Restrict ed	Endowmen t	Total 2024	Total 2023
Voluntary income	£174,640	£1,056		£175,696	£89,718
Investment income	£3,237	£282	£942	£4,461	£2,731
Church Activities	£66,176			£66,176	£67,987
Other resources		£16,869		£16,869	£36,339
Total	£244,053	£18,207	£942	£263,202	£196,775
<hr/>					
Resources Expended					
Missionary Giving	£6,520			£6,520	£6,804
Church Activities				£183,161	£157,334
Parochial Organisations	£182,105	£1,056		£23,105	£27,066
Total	£188,625	£24,161		£212,786	£191,204
<hr/>					
Transfers	£942		-£942	£0	
Net income/outgoings	£56,370	-£5,954	£0	£50,416	£5,571
<hr/>					
Gain on investment			£778	£778	£2,921
<hr/>					
Total funds					
01/01/2024	£127,577	£85,065	£33,975	£246,617	£238,123
31/12/2024	£183,947	£79,111	£34,753	£297,811	£246,617

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Income for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2024	Total 2023
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving Gift Aid	£72,869	£0		£72,869	£63,463
Income Tax Recovered	£17,103	£0		£17,103	£13,385
Building project	£0	£0		£0	£0
Other Planned Giving	£4,297	£0		£4,297	£6,647
Plate Giving	£1,619	£0		£1,619	£1,856
Donations	£16,434	£0		£16,434	£885
CAP 2022	£0	£0		£0	£2,912
Other (restricted)	£0	£1,056		£1,056	£570
Legacies and grants	£62,318	£0		£62,318	£0
Total	£174,640	£1,056	£0	£175,696	£89,718
Activities generating funds					
Interest and Dividends	£3,237	£282	£942	£4,461	£1,803
Income from Church Activities					
Hall Lettings	£37,870	£0		£36,352	£36,352
Weddings and Funerals	-£910	£0		£637	£637
Little Fish	£11,166	£0		£11,948	£11,948
Mast	£18,050	£0		£19,050	£19,050
Total	£66,176	£0	£0	£66,176	£67,987
Parochial Organisations					
CAP Project	£0	£16,869		£16,869	£36,339
TOTAL	£244,053	£18,207	£942.00	£263,202	£196,775

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity

Resources Expended for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Missionary giving	£6,520		£6,520	£6,804
Admin	£180		£180	£219
Building project	£0		£0	£2,386
Building maintenance	£22,803		£22,803	£17,027
Catering	£479		£479	£209
Children and youth	£614		£614	£1,372
Cleaning	£1,828		£1,828	£2,522
Diocesan Share	£75,448		£75,448	£73,246
Discretionary fund	£620		£620	£57
Evangelism	£0		£0	£238
Insurance	£13,056		£13,056	£11,804
IT, sound and vision	£0		£0	£758
Minister's expenditure	£916		£916	£99
Other (restricted)	£0	£1,056	£110	£110
Printing and publicity	£7,042		£7,042	£1,827
Safeguarding	£76		£76	£38
Salaries and pension	£15,930		£15,930	£15,685
Sundry	£0		£0	£664
Training	£31.00		£31.00	£90
Utilities	£40,178		£40,178	£25,993
Vicarage	£2,370		£2,370	£1,189
Total	£188,625	£1,056	£189,681	£164,138
Parochial Organisation				
CAP Project	£0	£23,105	£23,105	£27,066
Investment transfers			£942	£928
Total	£188,625	£24,161	£213,728	£192,132

Holy Trinity with St John, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Investment	£34,753	£33,975
Total Fixed Assets		
Short Term Deposit	£82,451	£67,932
Cash in Bank	£180,607	£144,708
Total Assets	£297,811	£246,615
 Funds		
Fixed Assets	34,753	£33,975
Restricted Funds	£79,111	£85,065
Unrestricted Funds	£183,947	£127,575
Total	£297,811	£246,615

St John the Evangelist Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
CAP Centre Accounts at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Gift Aided Income	£4,400	£2,890
Non-Gift Aided Income	£0	£240
Gift Aid Reclaim	£800	£3,247
Other	£11,669	£29,962
Total	£16,869	£36,339
Expenditure		
Salary, Admin and Pension	£19,336	£23,330
CAP Central Admin (Office)	£3,600	£3,400
Expenses	£60	£60
Client Blessing	£109	£276
	£0	£0
Total	£23,105	£27,066
Balance Sheet		
1 Jan 2022	£49,908	£40,635
Net Income/Outgoing	-£6,236	£9,273
31 December 2023	£43,672	£49,908

Andrew Griffiths, PCC Treasurer

1.6 Churchwardens' Report

It has been a busy first year for us both as we step into the roles of Church Warden, lots to learn and get on with. It is good to have two Church Wardens again as we can share the load.

We would like to give enormous thanks to Ian Baldwin for all that he did during his time as solo Church Warden and Steve Miller who helped with so many building and technology issues during his time with us.

The introduction of the Service Coordinator role last year has greatly helped in the smooth running of our services and we thank the team who have taken on this duty. Plus those who have helped with ad hoc tasks through the year, including the erection of our lovely new signs at the St Johns site. We're determined to erect new signs at the Holy Trinity site as well, even though Bromley Council have for the second time refused us planning permission for them.

For the church this has been another year of growth and we welcome all of you who are new members to the family of Holy Trinity with St John's. It has been wonderful to see God working in all that we have done.

Richard Thomson & Beccy Short, Churchwardens

1.7 PCC Secretary's Report

The inclusion of a statement from the PCC Secretary in the APCM report summarising the thoughts, words, and deeds of the PCC during the past year is a requirement, perhaps merely a tradition, that ostensibly is meaningless. After all, should anyone from HTSJ wish to learn more about the PCC's activities, the proceedings from any of its six meetings¹ held during 2024 are available free of charge from the PCC Secretary, who is me. But minutes are seldom exciting – no, it's true – minutes are seldom exciting (unless they're, say, the minutes of the August Society for Stroking Kittens and Bunnies, or the Chartered Institute of Lamppost Sniffers), and so my reasoning is that the PCC Secretary's report functions as a desired, even necessary, summary of the PCC's deliberative orchestrations (or orchestrated deliberations) to spare HTSJ members the task of reading full sets of minutes.

So what did the PCC do in 2024? Aside from overseeing the usual matters of safeguarding, building maintenance, and financial management, all of which necessarily take up much of its time (and did; see the aforementioned six sets of minutes for details), brave and noble PCC members continued to refine HTSJ's Mission Action Plan. Lest ye forget, allow me to remind you of the plan's three priorities:

- to grow (in depth of relationships as well as in number) as an outward-looking intergenerational community of faith;
- to empower and enable all to flourish, use and develop their gifting in a variety of ministries and leadership; and
- to build on the tradition of both legacy churches in serving the local community; to grow as a church for our community which reflects that community.

In many of its meetings, as well as its away day in June (held in Beckenham rather than Ibiza or the Cayman Islands or Skegness; the budget wouldn't stretch), the PCC considered how these priorities continue to shape HTSJ's Worship, Welcome, Witness framework. At its away day, the PCC also reflected on the Church of England's *Living in Love and Faith* programme, though, in light of the ongoing (shall we say) uncertainty regarding its legacy, such reflection remains little more than that. The PCC has also considered generosity – not just financial generosity, of course, but generosity more broadly in terms of using skills and gifts and giving time, all of which flesh out the #WorshipWelcomeWitness goals and HTSJ's mission priorities. Otherwise, the PCC authorised Pines & Needles to set up its well-received Christmas tree store during the Advent season, and continued to contemplate the possibility of allowing baptised children and young people to receive Holy Communion.

All good things must come to an end; so, too, must this report, so I'll say no more. Actually, let me say a *little* more. If this report functions as an adequate summary of the PCC's work in 2024 covered nowhere else in this volume, then I have successfully spared you no small amount of fine detail; and you might be grateful for that. However, if you *do* eagerly desire the greater gifts that are the fine details, then by all means email me – pccsecretary@htsj-penge.church – for the minutes. And if you still don't want to read these despite my unrefined, yet almost certainly persuasive, sales patter but nonetheless sense you have a burning desire to know more about what the PCC is and does, please do ask Jessica or me or any of its members. The PCC's work is not always glamorous, but it's certainly not meaningless.

Terry Wright, PCC Secretary

1.8 Fabric Report

Our buildings continue to be a challenge as well a joy. Both buildings are getting older and as we use them so much throughout the week it is a never-ending task to keep track of the wear and tear issues.

At the Holy Trinity site we have carried out the following:-

- The Pre-School roof has been patched as a small gap had appeared.
- The boilers have been serviced and checked.
- New external motion sensitive lights have been installed to give better lighting over the doors and entrances.
- The Diocese installed new motion sensitive lighting on the far side of the car park which helps with entering and exiting the vicarage.
- There has been some major clearing out and sorting around the building, both by the church and the Living Well team including at least two skips of rubbish which has been taken away.
- Living Well repositioned a container and moved the giraffe bus to free up space in the car park.
- All the line markings have been redone in the car park area with a clear sign by the vicarage gate.
- One of the ovens in the main kitchen has been condemned and work is now going on to get and install a new oven and bring piping, vents and power supplies up to new regulatory standards. As the main users of the kitchen Living Well are funding this work.

At the St John's site we have carried out the following:-

- We have a new photocopier/printer installed in the office. It is linked up to computer so you can print from there as well.
- There have been new, brighter lights installed in the hall. Thank you to Ian for his initial work in the planning of this.
- We have fixed the external lights around the back of the building and are still working on sorting the light in the corridor and the ladies toilet cubicle.
- We held a work day to sort and clear the West Tower and clean some areas that don't get much attention.
- The boilers have been serviced and checked.
- Pines & Needles successfully ran their Christmas Tree store in our front garden. We made some new friends and enjoyed seeing the lights in the dark nights before Christmas.
- We had a major power outage in December, but UK Power were able to keep us going and sorted out the cabling issues.

We have managed to get permission and erect our new signs at the SJ site, but have been refused Council permission a second time for the signs at our HT site. We are not accepting this decision and are taking steps to challenge it. Thank you to the team of Mick Vance and Keith McMillan for helping to erect the SJ site signs.

We thank Ian Baldwin for all his work as the previous Church Warden and his continued help and advice over the last year. We thank Pete Carter for his help and advice at the HT site with his knowledge of the building. And finally we thank Julia Jones in the office who continues to field emails and phone calls as well as meeting engineers and work men especially at the HT site.

Richard Thomson & Beccy Short, Churchwardens

1.9 Deanery Synod Report

There have been 3 meetings during the last year:

Feb 20th 2024 – at SJP (5 clergy/11 laity). This included a presentation by Anna Khan, CEO of Welcare, a Christian family support charity, providing practical and emotional support to enable families under stress to thrive – with a particular emphasis on partnering with schools concerning post-covid mental health problems.

Also Helen Randall spoke of the ‘Bereavement Journey’ course at present being run in conjunction with Matthew’s cafe at Christ Church Beckenham.

July 9th 2024 – at Christ Church, Anerley (3 clergy/13 laity). Following extended worship, and as Claire Boxall, the Bishop’s ‘Called Together’ manager, was unable to attend – Father Jeremy (Area Dean) introduced the new Diocesan Strategy, ‘Change, Serve and Grow’, in which churches are encouraged to grow younger and more diverse, with a mission to seek God’s kingdom and share His love. In an increasingly secular society, Christians are a ‘Bible’ for many people, and practical faith is important.

Liam Conlon the newly-elected MP, a Christian, had expressed a wish to meet more people in the Deanery.

October 3rd 2024 – at St George’s Beckenham (6 clergy/12 laity). 2 new clergy were welcomed:- Rachel Winn (St Paul’s), and Father Russell Stagg (St James/ St Michael and St Augustine). Also a curate, Mark, at C C Anerley. And Ray Shergill was congratulated on ordination to the priesthood.

There was a presentation by Fr Jeremy Blunden (Area Dean) on Diversity and Inclusion – with reference to St George’s, Beckenham. This included work with children; a dementia audit; attention to Black History Month; listening to those on the margins, and treasuring each person. Every monument in St George’s had been investigated, and a statement acknowledging damage done in the past through links to slavery has been issued.

A profitable and helpful meeting, covering a range of subjects, had taken place with the new local MP.

Hazel Willson & Ruth Wright, Deanery Synod Representatives

1.10 Safeguarding

2024 was a fairly busy year for safeguarding at HTSJ. The care, vigilance and support of many people remained invaluable to try and ensure that people are safe in our church. Safeguarding is an individual and collective outworking of Jesus's love for all others. This feeds into the HTSJ vision statements regarding welcome and witness. By its nature, some actions are unseen, but in 2024 the PCC particularly discussed ways to raise the profile of safeguarding in our church.

The ongoing rounds of DBS checks and safeguarding courses continued throughout the year. We are thankful that those working with children, vulnerable adults, the PCC and those working in CAP, have particularly taken these tasks and the role of safeguarding seriously.

During the year the PCC were informed of several national, diocesan and local matters, as well as took part in discussions to enhance understanding and local practice. Details about issues raised at each meeting are as follows:

March:

Ruth had attended the annual safeguarding conference held by the Dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury in January. The topics were support regarding stalking and obsessive behaviour, the sexual assault referral service and national safeguarding standards. Ruth provided feedback from the conference in the PCC meeting.

The new national standards were published in 2023, following various consultations and work from 2020, which included an independent audit. There are 5 standards and 54 indicators about what 'good' looks like in each parish. It is not a code, rather guidance for parishes and be reviewed regularly by the PCC. More details can be found on:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards>

May:

Following the APCM, the PCC formally agreed that it 'is committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance. [and] ... adopt the House of Bishops' "[Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement](#)"

The PCC also formally agreed the varied activities that are put on by the church outside of main services, which may/do involve children and/or 'vulnerable' adults.

The PCC formally agreed the Parish Safeguarding Team members – Pete Carter, Sue Thomson and Ruth Wright. Sue replaced Beccy Short as a Deputy Safeguarding Officer, and thanks were given to Beccy for her role over the previous few years.

July:

The PCC began work on the safeguarding standards, starting with 'Standard 1: Culture, Leadership and Capacity'. The PCC thought through various questions about where HTSJ was at and how it could improve. Then in groups, members discussed a case study, following a recommendation from a member who had completed the Church of England's 'Leadership' course. Afterwards, members individually and anonymously answered questions on how safe they felt in HTSJ. Feedback on the tasks was helpful to identify areas of understanding and improvements to strengthen safeguarding at HTSJ.

October:

The PCC were informed of the positive feedback from the previous meeting's anonymous questionnaire and discussed it further.

December:

The PCC discussed the pastoral letter from Bishop Joanne Grenfell, Lead Bishop for Safeguarding in the Church of England, regarding the Makin Report. Jessica had previously raised the letter and

report with the congregation and advised that support was available to anyone. The PCC discussed how safeguarding could be highlighted more at HTSJ.

Each meeting:

At every PCC meeting brief details were provided about whether any safeguarding referrals were made since the previous meeting. In almost all instances, it was reported that something had been referred to the Parish Safeguarding Team. Liaison with statutory agencies and Rochester Diocesan Safeguarding Team, took place as necessary.

If anyone has any questions or comments about the details above, or has suggestions to improve safeguarding at HTSJ, please contact the Safeguarding Team or Jessica.

***Ruth Wright, Parish Safeguarding Officer,
Pete Carter & Sue Thomson, Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officers.***



Section 2

Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care



2.1 Worship Report

As Christians, we are called by Christ to two loves: to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 26:34-40). In our corporate worship, we seek to grow in love for God, out of which our love for our neighbours will flow. Worship is part of our DNA as Christians, and, as the first “W” of our vision statement, at the heart of all that we do.

We are blessed by the sheer numbers and diversity of people involved in leading our worship week by week, and by their gifting in different ways. It takes between 20 and 30 people (out of an average adult congregation of 60-70) to prepare and lead our 10.30am service on Sundays – and more are involved in our services through the week.

The Worship & Preaching team meets around 6 times a year to reflect on our worship as a church and to think prayerfully through our teaching programme. In 2024, we spent time during Lent reflecting on the tough questions Jesus asked his disciples on the road to Jerusalem in Mark’s Gospel. From Pentecost through the summer months, we reflected on our witness, with a long series from Acts 1-10. Through the autumn, we considered Generosity from 2 Corinthians 8-9, and then God’s Justice, from the book of Amos. We also re-thought the way we administer Communion (twice, in the end, as numbers attending continue to grow – what a great challenge to face!)

Our smaller services too are being blessed with life and energy. At 8am, we now regularly welcome somewhere between 8-12 people (up from 3-4 two years ago), and worship on a Friday and a Saturday is growing both in numbers and in depth of commitment and relationship. It is worth noting that we regularly welcome 30-40 adults to worship week by week across the different services that take place at our Holy Trinity site.

We are blessed too by the diversity of worship styles across our church. From the quiet, spoken Communion service at 8am, to the somewhat noisier informality, and the sheer joy, of the 10.30am, from the interactive, café-style of Connect or Messy Church to the traditional hymns with organ at our more reflective Communion and seasonal services, from the contemplative feel of a Wednesday afternoon, to the Wholeness and Hope service at Living Well – all have their place in helping all of us to find our space to draw near to the God who longs to draw near to us.

In September, we rejoiced in the baptisms of Ollie Mitwali and Justin Gardner, the reaffirmation of baptismal vows made by Valerie Smith, and in hosting the Bishop of Rochester and our sister churches in the Deanery for the confirmation of three adults and five young people. The following week, a number of us headed to Rochester where we celebrated Laura Polaine’s ordination as deacon and our curate, Ray’s ordination as priest. The community of Penge invited us to be part of the Remembrance Day service, and we welcomed back more people than ever to coffee afterwards. We were also asked to host both a memorial service on behalf of our local funeral directors, , and the Community nativity, and we attended Carols in the Park at Alexandra Rec. It is a huge privilege to be invited by the community to be part of community celebrations, and to see them wanting to bring God into their seasonal traditions.

None of this happens without huge commitment from you, the Body of Christ. I would like to thank everybody who gives of their time and energy so freely week by week, and, especially, to thank the Worship & Preaching team for their dedication, wisdom and practical and moral support! Do speak to any of us if you want to talk about any aspect of worship, or if you sense God is calling you to participate in some way.

Jessica Smith

2.2 Music in worship

Music remains a big part of HTSJ's identity, and it has been a joy to see how the music in worship has evolved over the last year. The biggest change was Steve and Sue Miller moving to the south coast and the transition from their wonderful leadership – we thank them for their many years of inspirational leadership of music and worship.

We have welcomed Mike as a leader, and we have enjoyed setting up new leadership structure, having planning meetings, and organising jam sessions to learn new material.

Many thanks also to Colin for his years of dedicated service.

We also welcome anyone who want to use their instrumental or vocal gifts and skills in God's service. Please speak to one of the worship group leaders in the first instance.

Our music remains focused on the need to lead others in worship of God, and in a coherent whole within the flow of the service. God is faithful and good, and we know he has led our small group through some big changes and into a new and exciting place.

Andrew Griffiths & Hazel Willson

2.3 Prayer Meeting

If worship is the lifeblood of Christ's church (see 2.1 above!), then prayer is the lifeblood of our worship. We gather to pray on the first Monday of every month, from 8-9 pm, usually (but not always) at our Holy Trinity site.

These prayer meetings are not just for an elite group of the weird and wonderful – they are for everybody. Possibly even for you! The exact structure and contents vary according to the season, what is going on and the person leading, but the hour may include sung worship, Bible readings, silence, open prayer, more creative prayer stations, and liturgy. We pray for the needs of individuals, the church, the community and the wider world.

Our Prayer meetings in 2024 included, for example, a special journey through prayer stations for Thy Kingdom Come between Ascension and Pentecost, an evening of prayer for families during the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups, and a vigil for the victims of the Southport attacks and the subsequent riots in August.

Do feel invited to come on a Monday evening and “taste and see” what the prayer meeting is like. You will be warmly welcomed, and there is no pressure to pray out loud or to join in anything that you are uncomfortable with.

We also have a WhatsApp group for sharing prayer requests, which helps us to pray for one another. If you would like to be added to this group, please speak to Ian Baldwin, Sue Thomson or Jessica Smith.

Finally, a huge thank you to all who pray, whether on a Monday evening, through a WhatsApp group, or in your own unique way, for the work and ministry of HTSJ and for those within it for whom you have particular concern.

Jessica Smith

2.5 Living well Pastoral team

2024 saw the formation of a pastoral team at Living well, coordinated by Ray our curate. There are 8 regular members of the team. This has enabled the prayer ministry to expand, offering regular prayer on Tuesdays and Saturdays, as well as the long-established Friday prayers. The pastoral care team provides a strong link between the church and living well. At the moment all members of the team regularly worship at Holy Trinity with St Johns.

Tuesdays

Living well on Tuesday afternoons is a very busy place. Guests queuing for food from the food bank or waiting for sandwiches tea coffee and cake. My role is to Listen to guests and pray with them. Sounds easy doesn't it! Not so. It's about getting people's trust. Knowing it is a safe place to Bare all. I have learnt a lot since I first started coming to living well. Fiona has a craft table where guests can relax and unwind and engage in a craft they haven't tried before! Or rekindle their drawing skill. I have met many people at Living Well and heard their Story some sad some in a hope less situation! These are people that Jesus loves, and he brings them knowing that the Volunteers that is all of us are his Hands and feet. Living Well is a family to all of us, and we all need family whatever age we are.

Gill Owens

Friday Prayer

On Fridays we continue to see between 8 and 16 people welcomed to the group. We begin at 2.15pm after the living well meal and finish at approximately 3.15pm. We begin with sung worship and end with sung worship. During the session we look at a bible passage, have a short reflection and discussion and then go into a time of prayer. The session is very interactive with all the guests participating in readings, prayer and discussions. We have seen several guests starting to attend church regularly and really grow in confidence. There is a real strong community feel and mutual respect and support from both guests and volunteers.

On the last Friday of the month the service follows a different pattern, as we host the Wholeness and Hope service. This gives people the opportunity for individuals to pray with prayer couplets.

In 2025 we hope to offer a discipleship style course to guests, we are looking at the Hope Explored course.

It is a real privilege to be a part of this great team and to walk with the guests on their and our spiritual journeys.

Sue Thomson

Saturdays

Jesus full of compassion, served the poor, the outcast, and those in need. I share his heart for those in need in my community and surrounding areas who are struggling.

Living well Saturday morning service was established 9th March 2024 by our curator Ray and me. It is a place where the love of Christ is seen in his people and the blessings he bestows upon them.

Living well opens its door to guests at 10:30am, offering food from the food bank and light refreshments. As a volunteer, my role is to welcome every guest with an open heart, listen to them, and gently invite them to prayer.

The Prayer session began with just three attendees, but we have been blessed to see that number grow steadily to eight guests. We gather for our session between 11:00-11:15 am, once everyone has collected their food and had time for coffee or tea. Our time together includes worship in song, reading of scripture, and reflection whether through words, silence, or music.

We continue with prayers of intercession, the Lord's prayer, song and a final blessing. We usually finish around 11:40 am. Guests are encouraged to participate by reading scripture, suggesting songs and sharing testimonies.

We have also witnessed guests getting involved in other church activities and attending Sunday morning services at both the 8:00am service at Holy Trinity and 10:30 am service at St John's. The prayer session have helped guests build relationships and form a supportive community. It has opened doors for individuals to use their unique gifts, couple have led prayer and shared reflections and short teachings.

The pastoral ministry will continue to be a beacon of hope and healing, offering a space for all who enter to feel seen, heard, and valued, as we grow together in faith and fellowship, we trust that God will continue to guide, provide, bless this ministry drawing more hearts into his loving embrace.

Kemi Ogunidipe

2.5 Sound, Zoom, Tech

We have worked hard during 2024 to establish greater consistency in sound, projection and tech across our two sites. Thanks to Steve Miller, Steve Lovell, Justin Gardner, Mick Vance and Mike Coates for your work on this.

We are learning to make better use of our OneDrive for sharing resources and enabling different people to set up different services for projection. Thanks go to the projection team for their flexibility and willingness to set up for one another in weeks where there are multiple services. During December, we had to construct its own itinerary for the laptop!

There are still occasional blips, sometimes caused by human error, often by matters beyond our control. We know that Zoom can be frustrating, especially the sound quality – thank you to our regular Zoom attendees for your patience, and for sticking with us.

If you would like to be involved in the tech team, please speak to Steve Lovell or to the person at the desk on any given Sunday.

2.6 Home Groups

Home Groups meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at different times and in different locations around the parish, including online, with around 40 adults and occasionally one or two young people taking part regularly. If you are new-ish to the church, then a Home Group is a great opportunity to get to know and grow in friendship with a group of people in a mutually encouraging and supportive environment. Each group has its own particular character but will normally involve a time of fellowship and friendship (which may or may not include cake!), a time of study and discussion, with a Bible passage and often a video, and a time of praying for one another. Many groups keep in touch during the week via WhatsApp.

During 2024, the Home Group programme included studies based around our Sunday sermon series – including a focus on Generosity and some challenging discussions on the book of Amos. We also opened up a discussion on the questions around identity and sexuality which are being posed within the national Church, through following the introductory course to Living in Love and Faith. We aim to ensure that home groups are safe places where a range of views can be listened to and expressed, and where people with different perspectives can grow in understanding of one another.

Currently, home groups run at the following times and are led by the following people:

- Tuesday evenings, led by Yvette Evans (women's group)
- Wednesday evenings, led by Ian Baldwin (in person)
- Wednesday evenings, led by Russ Jones (online)
- Thursday mornings, led by Margaret Davies / Jessica Smith (in person, Holy Trinity site)
- Thursday afternoons, led by Sue Thomson (in person)
- Thursday evenings, led by Kate Campion-Smith (in person and online)

If you would be interested in taking part in any of these groups, please do speak to one of us to find out more.

Jessica Smith

2.7 Lent Course

Our Lent course in 2024 was run, as is now our custom, within our Home Groups, with the open invitation to Take Up a Home Group for Lent. We welcome those who are not normally in home groups to join in for a particular course, with no obligation to continue after Easter.

In 2024, we followed the former Archbishop of Canterbury's Difference Course, aiming to think about how we engage with people whose experiences and perspectives are very different from ours. We found some of the video testimonies especially provided much food for thought.

Jessica Smith

2.8 Communications / Website

You would perhaps be surprised that, since its launch at our APCM in 2023, there have been over 175,000 views to the home page of our website, over 7000 to our Sunday services page and, as I write, ten days before Easter, over 400 to our page for Holy Week and Easter this year. The website has become one of the principal ways with which we communicate with our community, and through which the community finds us, and through which they communicate with us. I respond to around a dozen requests per week from people who have contacted me via the website.

Steve Miller, who set up and maintained the website so faithfully and carefully, departed in August and, with him, a wealth of knowledge and expertise. I am grateful to Ollie Mitwali, Steve Lovell and Julia Jones who all help to keep the information online up to date. There is always work to be done here – if you have gifts in this area that you would like to share, we would be delighted to share the load!

As indicated in the wardens' report, we have finally been able to put up our new signs at the St John's Site. These have been admired by visitors to the church and by passers-by alike – and have greatly enhanced our communication of who we are and what we stand for. We have been frustrated by the repeated planning refusals for the Holy Trinity site, but are working on this!

Finally, if you are a Facebook user, do find and like our Holy Trinity with St John's page. We use it to communicate many of our special services and events, and to tell the story of what goes on midweek in our buildings.

Jessica Smith

2.9 Pastoral Care

Pastoral care by its very nature happens and should happen in private and without fanfare. Like safeguarding, it is the responsibility of the whole church. I am so grateful for the care and concern you, as the people of God, show for one another, not just on Sunday mornings but throughout the week. A huge amount of pastoral care goes on informally before and after services both via prayer ministry and in conversation, during the week via phone calls, WhatsApp and in person, and, of course, in all our midweek activities, at Living Well, CAP, Little Fish, Open Doors, Home Groups, Knit & Natter, Community Lunch... I am also aware of how blessed I am at HTSJ with a congregation who care so generously and kindly for their clergy!

Sometimes, however, more formal pastoral care is needed. During 2024, this included visits to people at home and in hospital, taking Communion to people who were housebound, funeral visiting and, of course, the work of the new Living Well Pastoral team, described in section 2.4 above.

If you, or somebody you are concerned for, needs or would like to be visited in this way, please don't hesitate to get in touch and ask. People are often concerned not to be a bother, or that I and others are "too busy". We are not! In Galatians 6, Paul commends to the Galatians the practice of "bearing one another's burdens". Pastoral care is an outworking of this, and of the love for one another that Christ calls us to. Something can always be moved, and time always be found for this Kingdom work.

I am grateful to everybody who shares in this work – especially to the prayer ministry team, to Ian, our Pastoral Assistant, to Janice and Hopeton for their work at Open Doors, and to the pastoral teams at Living Well. Safeguarding is vital in our pastoral work, and I also thank Ruth and the safeguarding team for the developments in that work over the year which have helped us to keep on building the safe and healthy culture that God calls us to be.

Jessica Smith

2.10 Life Events: baptisms, weddings, funerals

Part of our pastoral role as a Church of England parish church is that anybody living in the parish (or with an appropriate qualifying connection) has the right to have their child baptised or to be married in church, or to ask us to conduct their funeral, either in church or at the cemetery or crematorium.

During 2024, we conducted one infant baptism, at our Holy Trinity site on a Sunday afternoon in August, for Janae, daughter of Sean and Letitia Evans, supported by family, friends and the regular congregation of the afternoon Reflective Communion service. As previously referenced, we also conducted two adult baptisms and a service of renewal of baptismal vows.

Two very different weddings took place in church, on July 27th and September 7th, both with full congregations and following a series of marriage preparation meetings. We read banns for four couples.

Between us, the funerals team of Janice, Ray, Hopeton and me conducted four funerals at the crematorium and four in church, including, tragically, in October, the funeral of Daejaun Campbell, a sixteen-year-old knife-crime victim, with nearly 300 people in attendance.

If you are interested in seeking baptism for an infant or child, or simply in finding out more about it, please do talk to me.

Jessica Smith



Section 3

Children & Young People



Sunday Morning Children's & Youth Work

During 2024 we are excited that God has provided us with enough leaders and helpers to split the children and youth work into 3 distinct groups allowing for the delivery of sessions to be more targeted at that age group.

3.1 Blast

BLAST is our youngest organised children's group for preschool children and those in infant school.

BLAST continues to welcome a group of between 8-15 children on a weekly basis to complete fun and engaging activities which allow these children to understand more of the love that Jesus has for them. Children are between 3-7yrs of age and some younger siblings come with their parents as well. The children meet in the main hall allowing for a diverse range of activities to take place.

We are truly blessed to have 3 amazing leaders (Fiona, Sue and Alana) who are supported by 6 helpers (Cordelia, Alison, Menuka, Gillian, Margaret and Cath) on a rotation during the month and are empowered to use their own talents in developing material for this age group. Three core teams work together to plan the sessions and deliver a fun and engaging experience for the children.

The Blast team have created a community of children who are learning together to understand more of what it means to follow Jesus and love God through the way they live their lives. The leaders use the Scripture Union material to prepare sessions. The sessions include activities such as making sheep biscuits, creating sensory experiences of bible stories, parachute games, acting out the parables of Jesus, engaging in worship through music and movement of their bodies. Playdough and creating puppets have been some firm favourites this year. The activities are differentiated by age group so that all of the children can access the key messages at their level. The team has been using their gifts and talents to witness to the children about what it means to them to live by faith and have a relationship with Jesus.

The team have loved getting to know some of the parents and families more from this age group and really value being able to support them in their journey of faith. Please pray for this group that the team would continue to have the energy and enthusiasm in planning the sessions and that the children would learn more of what it means to love God and love others too.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.2 Blaze

BLAZE is the largest and fastest growing group in our children's work at present. BLAZE caters for all primary age children, from 7yrs-11yrs. They meet in the office downstairs and are now reaching numbers that mean it can be a bit of a squash to get everyone in! This is a growing community of faith where all are welcome and encouraged to share their interests and gifts to contribute to activities in the group. There are consistently 8-14 children coming to BLAZE each week, with a diverse range of experiences of church and faith.

We have 3 dedicated leaders (Sally, Diane and Jonno) who have put in huge amounts of time and effort to prepare sessions for this group of children. They are supported by a group of 3 other passionate helpers (Tamara, Ruth, Maargie) who kindly give up their time each month to help these children to know what it means to experience the love of Jesus. Over the past year they have had great fun in lots of different activities including spaghetti towers, expressive artwork, silly games, creative talks and great discussions. The group uses the GO material from Youth For Christ, which is engaging and full of inspirational ideas which go into leading the sessions. This enables the leaders to be creative about how they engage with this group of children.

The biggest challenge in this group is the small amount of space and supporting a group with huge diversity in terms of need, experience of faith, understanding and ability to engage for a whole session. Please pray for this group of children that their understanding of faith would continue to grow and that they would learn what it means to know Jesus as their friend and saviour.

From April 2025 the BLAZE leadership will be changing slightly and we would like to say a huge thank you to Diane for all her hard work and support of children, not only over the last year, but for the many years she has helped with children's work at HTSJ and Holy Trinity before that. You are an inspirational leader and you will be missed by both the children and team alike. Thank you also to Marggie for her support this year in BLAZE, it has been much appreciated.

We are still looking to expand the team supporting this age group so if you would like to be involved, please do get in touch with Kate and we can discuss how you can support this great team.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.3 Ignite

Ignite is our youth group that meets in the upper office every Sunday morning for young people of secondary school age (and beyond!). We begin all our sessions by chatting, welcoming the young people and sharing breakfast together. This enables us to find out what has been going on for the young people that week and encourage them in whatever they have been experiencing.

The Ignite team consists of Kate, Jonno, Julian and Richard, who rotate with two of them supporting this group each week. Ignite follows the Youth for Christ material Lumen, which allows the young people to engage in a diverse range of thematic ideas on faith and biblical understanding. During 2024 we have looked at real life issues of justice and poverty and what it means to respond in faith to these issues. We have also looked at creation and the fall, and how this applies to our every day lives. We finished the year thinking about God's upside-down kingdom and how we can be a part of that too.

Every session begins with an icebreaker whether that be quizzes, Pictionary, balloon games, learning skills of making wine glasses sing or competing to see who can plank for the longest! We then have a time of discussion around a topic and a talk from the YFC video which we then use as a starting point for discussion. All ideas are welcome and we try to encourage the young people to feel this is a safe place they can ask questions and challenge anything they want to discuss.

On an average Sunday we currently welcome between 3-6 young people, with a mixture of people attending each week. There are about 14 young people on our registers. We have also had the chance to have a few social events, including a bowling night and a pizza and film evening. We would love to develop these social opportunities further in 2025, and are looking at ways to work in unison with youth from St Paul's Church, Beckenham on this front.

The leaders have been modelling what it means to live a life following Jesus, showing by example how we can share the love of Christ with others. Please pray for these young people as they face the challenge of working out their own faith in a complex and changing world. Please pray that each of them would come to have a living relationship with Jesus that guides their decisions and paths as they journey through life.

We would always welcome more helpers to support with this age group and feel that it would be great for the young people to feel more supported by the congregation at large. If you would like to be more involved with these young people we would love to hear from you.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.3 Pizza & Games

Pizza and Games is a 2-hour social and play session for children School Years 3 and above. It is run in the church hall of the St John's site on the first Sunday of each month. There is no 'Sunday School' element to it - it is just a session for children to get together.

We tend to attract a group of around 6 - 8 children each week. There is a team of around 5 helpers. Parents and carers sometimes stay as well.

We set out games ranging from badminton to table tennis and some card and board games, crafts and other activities and the children choose what they want to play. We serve pizza and garlic bread, squash and hot chocolate.

There is always a fun and relaxed atmosphere in the hall and playing games gives a chance for adults and children to talk and get to know one another better. We hope the children not only have fun but also sense the love and value God has for them. These sessions are now well established and they are a great way for children to enjoy each other's as well as adult company in a fun, safe and relaxed atmosphere and in doing so to enjoy being at church.

There is no formal 'Worship' but the adults' commitment to these sessions and their love and care for the children is an act of worship and thanks for these amazing young lives. Certainly, HTSJ's mission statement of 'Welcome' of the children into this safe and happy space and 'Witness' of God's love and care for them always features strongly throughout Pizza and Games sessions.

Julian Providence



Section 4

Growing as an Intergenerational Community of Faith



4.1 Messy Church

Messy Church is an opportunity for all ages to come together to ask questions and learn together through a wide range of activities, games, crafts and a short time of lively worship. Messy Church is open to all in our community, young or old. We invite families from Little Fish along as well as often extending invitations to children at St John's School. Following the success of our two Messy Church events in 2023 we held five sessions in 2024. Messy Church was held for Pancake Day, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christingle. The events were very popular averaging 70 children and their families. Our most well attended session was Messy Christingle which had 180 attendees, with around 90 children. Highlights across the year have been the ever popular themed treasure hunts around the church, the quiet sensory tent with calming lights, the cooking of 150+ delicious pancakes, beautiful stain-glassed tissue paper jars, amazing junk model animals, creative prayer stations, joyful dancing and innovative accessible short talks including Jessica memorably turning dust into sparkles!

One of our regular Messy Church attendees recently commented 'My children love Messy church, they are so engaged and immersed in all the activities. All the volunteers are so amazing and even when I have gone on my own with the boys there is always someone to help out. My kids love the crafts they make and they generate good conversations about the theme of the Messy Church'

Our aim at HTSJ is to be a truly intergenerational church and Messy Church is a brilliant example of this. We have attendees aged less than a year and helpers in their 80s all coming together to celebrate and learn together. We would like to give huge thanks to the large team of volunteers who prepare activities, set up tables, lead crafts, serve refreshments and tirelessly clear up the Mess of Messy Church – we really appreciate you all!

Ruth Wright & Cordelia Providence

4.2 Connect

According to one author, intergenerational worship is less a style of worship (which some of us love and some of us hate) and more a spiritual discipline. One of our church mission priorities is to grow as an intergenerational community of faith and, on that basis, we believe that it is good for us to meet together regularly across the generations and share in worship.

Connect aims to help us in this growth by enabling us to make connections across the generations. During Connect, we:

- connect with God the Father as we worship and pray together
- connect with Jesus, as we learn from scripture together
- connect with the Holy Spirit as we share stories of the Spirit's work in our lives
- connect with one another as we spend time together

A lot of the learning and the prayer happens on our tables, in small groups, as we are involved in an activity and, during this time, an eighty-year-old may learn from an eight-year-old, and vice versa. We have been learning to worship not just with our voices but with our whole bodies – and some of the most powerful moments have been when we are singing and signing our worship together. We have been learning to pray from a simple stimulus, maybe passing an object around the table, or sharing sweets of different colours. We have been learning from scripture, responding to Bible passages from Genesis to Acts with creativity. And we have been learning to recognise and to articulate God's work in our lives, thinking through questions such as "What has brought you joy this week?", "What has encouraged you?" together.

Connect is not for children. It's not for adults. It's for us, the church, the Body of Christ, to come together, to work out our faith together in the messy business of loving and sharing life together.

I'd like to thank those who regularly welcome, serve refreshments before and after the service and manage the tech, Charmaine for all her work in leading and preaching, and Sue Miller, whose careful work on logistics and organising the boxes is much missed!

Jessica Smith

4.3 Little Fish

Little Fish and Little Fish Saturday are our toddler groups (play and stay) operating at the St Johns site on Monday and Wednesday and one Saturday a month during term times. We welcome around 60 families on a Monday and Wednesday and 20 to 30 families on a Saturday. That means we welcome over 100 adults and 150 children to our building each week.

We provide a safe, stimulating, varied play space for pre school children, including a dedicated baby area. There is a bible story, with biscuits and drink for the children followed by tea and coffee for the adults. The session finishes with songs.

During the sessions we try to make time to chat with the adults and children, over time we get to know the families. Many families come to the various 'Messy' events throughout the year, often bringing older school age siblings, which they really enjoy. This is a real link to the community.

We require four adults in order to run the sessions safely. However we are two short on a Monday as one can only do two sessions a month and the other has had to stop due to ill health. We want to thank Helen Parker for her hard work in the sessions and the story telling and craft ideas. We pray for her healing. The Wednesday team are currently covering this shortage but it is becoming more difficult. Therefore, we ask if there is anyone who could help in any of the following:-

- Monday from 8.30 to 11.30am to help with the session
- Monday and/or Wednesday from 10.45 to 11.45 to help clear up.
- Third Saturday from 8.30 to 11.15am to help with the session.
- Third Saturday from 10.30 to 11.30am to help clear up and set up for Connect.

Little Fish is a great example of 'Welcome and Witness' which are parts of the HTSJ's vision. Those who attend appreciate the range of activities and the opportunities to meet other families. Through our conversations we have been able to support and encourage both children and the adults, whether parents, grandparent or carers. It is an opportunity to serve those across all generations.

Finally, a thank you to the team for their hard work and the fun we have.

Ian Baldwin

Open Doors

Open Doors is a group mainly for those over 50, with a few exceptions.

We aim to give the members of the community a chance to meet socially. We have found that many older people become socially isolated; and we aim to address that issue, giving them the opportunity to socialise and use cognitive skills.

We meet most Wednesdays and begin with lunch at 1pm followed by a choice of activities: Boccia, Games (the most popular game is Rummikub), Art and Craft or a chance to sit and chat. The group proudly produced an Easter banner, which was used for the Easter celebration.

During the afternoon tea, coffee and cakes are on offer. We average 22 people each week. A big thank you to those who cook the meals, especially Peter and Carol, Ben, Mark and Julia. We do need more people to cook; if you would like to help in any way, please contact Janice. Also thank you to those who host etc. and to Sue and Sally who provide the Art and Craft activities.

Janice Bessant

Holiday@Home

Holiday@Home is intended for those who are isolated at home, especially during a time when family members go on holiday and leave the older family members at home. So it is an adult holiday club which meet for two sessions. The first, Winter Holiday at Home, met from 21st to 23rd February, and during that time we offered Silk Painting cards, Watercolour Painting and Textile Crafts along with the usual Boccia and Giant Team Scrabble

The Summer Holiday at Home was from 5th to 8th August. The club was well attended, and people came from a varied number of groups. It gave everyone a chance to get to know each other; and there was a good mix of church members, members of the community and members of Open Doors etc.

There were a number of activities on offer, including Watercolour Painting, Découpage, Fabric Origami, Silk Painting cards in addition to the Carpentry project, which was to build a potting bench for the garden.

Boccia or Table Tennis, Singing and Giant Team Scrabble were also on offer.

A big thanks to all who came and helped, (the list would be too long; so if you helped, THANK YOU). We finished on the Wednesday with a Drumming Workshop led by Kay from Joo Doo Drums.

Janice Bessant

4.6 Knit & Natter

Knit & Natter meet on the first Saturday of the month, between 10am-1pm at our St John's site. We are a social, supportive and crafty group. It is a very relaxed atmosphere as we sit around together. People are welcome to just pop in briefly or join us for the morning. We enjoy eating cakes and/or biscuits with lots of tea and coffee.

Our numbers have stayed with between 7-15 people each month, but we have had a few people popping to visiting after seeing the posters outside.

We are happy to be part of the large team of knitters supporting Betty by knitting lots of squares for her to make into blankets for sending to the Ukraine. She has just completed her 40th blanket.

We always have a jigsaw on the go and regularly help Jessica with some of the prep for Connect Services and her visits with local schools.

But mainly we enjoying being together, chatting and sharing art and craft ideas.

Please do join us if you are able, we would love to see you.

Beccy Short

4.7 Mens' Group

A men's group, formed by Ray, our curate, met several times during 2024, for various sporting activities, and for a Christmas meal.

This has enabled men in the congregation who might not otherwise get to know one another to build relationships across generations, and to enjoy spending time together.



Section 5

Building on our Traditions of Service in the Local Community



5.1 Living Well



Living Well Bromley - 2024 Summary

2024 was a busy and very productive year for Living Well. Despite high levels of demand, we kept all of our services running and made a real difference to the lives of a huge number of people. We were able to work with more partners than ever before to provide additional free services and expand our unique approach to supporting the “whole person”.

In 2024 we provided the following:

- 11,543 free hot meals
- 10,571 food parcels for adults
- 5,976 food parcels for children
- 607 foodbank home deliveries
- 875 advice sessions
- 629 counselling hours
- 234 free cafe sessions
- 18 clothes bank sessions
- 40 art cafe sessions
- Weekly Blend Choir meetings
- Prayer sessions
- Laundry and shower facilities
- Pastoral care support

We also worked with a number of partners to provide our guests with the following:

- Free eye tests and glasses
- Blood pressure checks
- Energy advice
- Health team appointments
- Free hair cuts

We did all of this thanks to our army of amazing volunteers who spent **24,500 hours volunteering!**

Due to increased demand and decreased food donations, **we spent £77,916 on food.**

We are extremely grateful to all the churches, schools, local businesses and individuals who supported us throughout the year.

Kate Lott, CEO Living Well

5.2 Blend Choir

The choir met in Holy Trinity on Thursday evenings throughout the year, for sociable refreshments from 6:30 then singing from 7:00 until 8:00.

We had the pleasure of performing at Penge Congregational Church as part of the Open Penge music festival in April, and on two occasions in July and December we made guest appearances at Living Well fundraiser concerts by Sydenham choir Hidden Voices.

We sang at Holy Trinity services on Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday, and in the Carol Service at St John's we sang "Cloth for the Cradle", a carol from the Iona Community.

Numbers held steady and average weekly Thursday attendance in the last three months of the year was 14 people. Typically, they would be a mix of guests and volunteers from Living Well and Open Doors, and worshippers from this church and other local churches.

I am responsible for choosing songs which I hope are affirmative, but the credit for teaching us how to sing them with meaning and energy must go to our regular piano accompanist Liz Hills; we are truly grateful for her musicality, resilience and good humour. Sincere thanks are also due to our occasional pianists Jessica Smith, Paul Grimwood, Hazel Willson and Anna Wetherell.

We have a wonderful team who provide us on arrival with tea and coffee, cake and biscuits, all served with a smile at the table, and when we finish wash up. Big thanks to Liz Spencer, Diane Banks, Val Carrier, and Trevor Carrier. Also, to Sue Thomson for signature home-baked star biscuits and banana bread.

The choir originated from Living Well Friday activities, and we most gratefully acknowledge Living Well's ongoing support which allows us to operate with no charge to participants.

We are open to all, so if you want to try us out one Thursday evening, please come to Holy Trinity Church at 6:30 pm and you will be warmly welcomed!

Richard Thomson

5.3 CAP

Debt help service

In 2024 our debt help service remained heavily in demand. CAP's head office recognises that our mission is to serve primarily clients who have acute financial need and other complex needs, and our clients' profile at our centre reflects this focus. Most clients pursue an insolvency solution rather than managed debt repayment.

We have seen some clients go debt free. Our head office is now advising a number of clients to regularise their finances before they deal with their debts, and clients are following this advice. By changing their spending patterns before they go debt free, clients improve their chance of living sustainably for the longer term. Other clients are grateful to receive our advice and then deal with their debts independently.

We have helped clients to buy essential items through Acts 435.

We frequently signpost clients to other support agencies and/ or liaise with those agencies. These include Living Well advocacy service, CAB for immigration advice or on contentious issues, and housing and care services. During 2024 we started spending a morning per term at Bromley Foodbank where we talk to their clients and, where appropriate, sign them up to CAP or signpost them to other agencies.

We had a lunchtime social for clients before Easter, and a dinner for clients before Christmas. The events were well attended and convivial and spontaneous. One client shared some lines of their own poetry.

Money course

We ran CAP's new format of money course in February and again in November. Our participants included some debt clients. The participants appear to have found the course a very useful guide to budgeting and managing their money, and some have stayed in touch. We are very grateful to Lin Skinner for helping to lead the courses, and to our volunteers who helped to host them.

Vision of Holy Trinity with St Johns: welcome, worship, witness

Welcome: Our aim is that all clients are comfortable to share their financial and other needs in a friendly, secure and professional environment. We see clients at our office or, increasingly, in their home. We offer food bank to all clients, and we run social events for them.

Worship: The team opens each day reading God's word and praying and we join regular cluster meetings and London wide meetings with the wider CAP family. We offer prayer to all clients. Most are happy to receive prayer, whether or not they have a faith. We issue monthly prayer letters to our partner churches and supporters, and their prayers sustain our work.

Witness: We aim to show God's love to our clients by providing the CAP service and addressing their needs. We share our faith with clients where we have an opportunity to do so.

Our team

The year saw some changes in our team. Lin Skinner took a sabbatical and then stepped back from work as a debt coach, for family reasons. We are very grateful for all her expertise and tireless help throughout the 5 years she served in this role. And we are delighted that she has stayed with us as a volunteer and continues to help lead our money coaching courses.

We are delighted that Tabitha Foot has joined our team as a debt coach. She did her main training in November and started providing front line advice to clients in December. She is making a valuable contribution to our service.

For much of 2024 I was the only debt coach in our centre, and worked extra hard to maintain the service. It is great to be back at full strength.

Our wonderful volunteers Lin, Sally Jones, Gail Gee, Sarah Murrell and Paul Breakspear provided invaluable support in many ways to the debt coaches. Russ Jones and Andrew Griffiths have helped us to manage the centre's finances. Thanks to you all, and everyone else who has supported our centre.

Supporting churches

Finally I would like to thank everyone in Holy Trinity with St. John's Penge, Christ Church Beckenham, St John's Eden Park, St Paul's Brackley Road, Grace Church Beckenham, and Neighbourhood Church Beckenham and our many individual donors and supporters, for their support through prayer, food bank donations, provision of gifts for client events and financial giving. Our centre is financially reliant on the funding we raise. May God bless every one of you.

Gareth Hall, Centre Manager

5.4 Lunch Club

Lunch Club continued to meet on Thursdays, 11.30am-1pm at our St John's Site, throughout 2024.

Events included:

Laughter Yoga Workshop
Free Haircuts for our Members
Craft Workshop inc. Card making, Easter bonnets, Christmas wreaths.
Tai-Chi Workshop
Musical Exercise Session
Talk on how animals were used in the war
Cake Appreciation Society
Barbershop Singers
Visit from a Pearly King
Annual Visit to Heart of Penge Cafe
Talk regarding current scams
Mayor of Bromley Visit
Carefree choir singers
Paul Betts singing
Christmas party.

New sponsors:

Antonella's
Mega Saver
Three Gents Catering
Bethlem Hospital Restaurant
SoulTown Festival

Upcoming Events:

VE Day Celebration
D-Day Celebration- Liam Conlon to attend
Day trip by coach to Eastbourne
Heart of Penge visit
Drumming Workshop
Pantomime trip to Catford Theatre
Private sponsor who is funding our coach trip and theatre trip

We have been nominated for a King's award and are awaiting the outcome. We feel privileged to be nominated.

We have a new Instagram page- please follow us @lunch_club_penge

We would love to thank Holy Trinity with St John's for all their support and giving The Lunch Club a home.

Karen Britton, Lunch Club Organiser

5.6 Outdoor Spaces

Sue Smith and a small team of faithful volunteers work hard to maintain the Community Garden at our Holy Trinity site as a welcoming space where people can sit and enjoy the beauty and peace of nature. Thanks also to Mark and to Peter who work hard to keep the grass cut and the grounds looking tidy, and to Eddie who faithfully maintains the sacred garden.

Thanks too to the people who turn out on a Saturday for working parties to manage the outside space at the St John's Site.

It's fair to say that, on both sites, there is a need for people to get involved and to help not just keep nature under control but to enhance the beauty of and create a welcoming feel around our buildings. If you enjoy gardening or are able to give just an hour or so every so often to maintenance or improvement work, or if you would like to build a team to make this happen, please do speak to Jessica or to a churchwarden.

5.7 Schools

2024 was another busy year in terms of school visits, both us going into schools and schools coming to us.

St John's Primary

We maintain a very close link with St John's Primary. During 2024, either Ray or I went in to take collective worship on a Tuesday morning most weeks during termtime. We also hosted the whole school for four special services – Easter, the July Leavers' Service, Harvest and Christmas.

Each class from the school came to St John's for a visit to enhance their learning in RE. Year 6 looked at the Sermon on the Mount, engaging in lively conversation around some of Jesus' most challenging teachings and spending time reflecting quietly on the Beatitudes. Year 5 took part in activities around God's call to justice. Year 4 reflected on three images of Church in the New Testament – as a spiritual house, as the body of Christ and as a feast of bread and wine. Year 3 explored the Lord's prayer through six interactive stations. Years 1 and 2 looked in some depth at the Easter story, and Reception thought about the risen Jesus appearing to the disciples on Lake Galilee in John 20 and did a range of fishy activities.

I also went into school regularly as part of my role as a member of the Aquinas Advisory Committee. In October, following the retirement of the previous Chair, I took over as Chair of this group.

Other Schools in the Parish

We also maintained good relationships with other schools in the parish during 2024:

- We visited **Alexandra Infants School** for Easter, Harvest and Christmas assemblies, and welcomed Year 1 for a visit to our Holy Trinity site, where they explored the parable of the Lost Sheep.
- We visited **Alexandra Junior School** for their Harvest Assembly and welcomed Year 5 for a visit to our Holy Trinity site to look at Christian worship, where we covered baptism, Communion and service, in partnership with Kate from Living Well. The whole school came to us for their Christmas Carol Service in December. The Alexandra Junior Choir also sang for the Community Nativity.
- Children from Year 1 at **Harris Kent House** and, separately, **Harris Crystal Palace**, visited our St John's site during December to explore the Nativity story.
- In a new partnership, we hosted the Christmas performance for **Harris Crystal Palace**, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 on two separate Tuesdays in December.
- We hosted the **Harris Girls' School** on Lennard Road for their Christmas concert at our Holy Trinity site.
- Finally, in another new partnership, we welcomed very small children from **Community Vision Day Nursery** to explore the Christmas story through play

I am very grateful to the teams who support with these visits, especially during the very busy time in December. If anybody would be interested in being involved with this, please do speak to me.

Jessica Smith

5.8 Pines & Needles

In autumn 2023, the manager of the Pines & Needles Christmas Tree store had asked us if we would be willing to host their pop-up store during December 2023. We said it was too short notice, but that we would definitely consider it with the PCC for 2024.

Following an extensive discussion and a number of meetings with David, the manager, the PCC agreed to host this store during November-December 2024, with Pines & Needles paying rent for the site and for the electricity they used. Despite a couple of teething problems around keys that resolutely refused to fit the lock and all the electrics going down on a Friday night at the end of November, the partnership proved successful, and the team onsite were a joy to work with. People came onto the church grounds and discovered the range of activities we offer – and how much we are open during the week. Those who bought a tree were offered a flyer with our Christmas services.

We are likely to be involved in discussions with Pines & Needles for the coming year, and look forward to the opportunities this partnership might open up for further welcome and witness in the future.

Jessica Smith

5.9 Mission Giving

As part of our vision to be a community of mission, the PCC of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge, made the decision to set aside £6,500 to support mission organisations that are linked with our vision and purpose. These organisations were agreed based on the historic giving of the church,

As in 2023, these totalled:

- CAP - £1,625
- CMS (the Day family mission link) - £1,625
- Essubi - £812.50
- Release International - £812.50
- Living Well - £812.50
- St Christopher's Hospice - £812.50

Further, the PCC agreed a budget of £6,500 for 2025, and the allocations will be discussed and agreed by PCC, based on the recommendation of a small group who will look at how we give in the future. As ever, suggestions are always welcome.

Andrew Griffiths, PCC Treasurer

Accounts



Reports for the APCM 2022



Contents

Section 1: Annual Report

- 1.1 Agendas
- 1.2 Vicar's Report
- 1.3 Electoral Roll Report
- 1.4 Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM 22nd May 2022
- 1.5 Financial Review
- 1.6 Churchwardens' Report, including Fabric Report
- 1.7 PCC Secretary's Report
- 1.8 Deanery Synod Report
- 1.9 Safeguarding Report

Section 2: Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care

- 2.1 Worship Report
- 2.2 Music in Worship
- 2.3 Prayer Meeting
- 2.4 Wednesday Morning Prayer
- 2.5 Friday Prayers
- 2.6 Tech in Worship
- 2.7 Home & Community Groups
- 2.8 Lent Course
- 2.9 Exploring... Workshops
- 2.10 Communications & Website
- 2.11 Pastoral Care
- 2.12 Life Events: Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

Section 3: Children and Young People

- 3.1 Blast / Blaze
- 3.2 Ignite
- 3.3 Pizza & Games

Section 4: Working towards Intergenerational Community

- 4.1 Messy Church
- 4.2 Connect
- 4.3 Little & Big Fish
- 4.4 Over 50's: Open Doors
- 4.5 Holiday@Home
- 4.6 HT Pre-School
- 4.7 Knit & Natter

Section 5: Community & Mission

- 5.1 Living Well
- 5.2 Blend Choir
- 5.3 CAP
- 5.4 HT Community Garden
- 5.5 Work with Schools
- 5.6 Mission Giving
- 5.7 Auction

Section 1 Annual Report

1.1 Agendas

Agenda for the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Thanks and Prayer

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of last year's APCM (22nd May 2022)
2. Matters arising from the minutes, if any
3. Election of PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives
 - a. 12 PCC members
 - b. 2 Deanery Synod Representatives
 - c. LLM, Readers, Pastoral Assistants
 - d. Sidespersons
4. Adoption of the Electoral Roll (copy available for inspection)
5. Fabric Report (including fabric, goods, ornaments)
6. PCC Secretary's Report
7. Financial Report (including Financial Statements for Year Ending 2022)
 - a. adoption of audited accounts
 - b. appointment of the independent examiner for 2023
8. Safeguarding Report
9. Other written reports are available for inspection
10. Vicar's Report
11. Any Other Business
12. Closing Prayer

The new PCC and wardens will gather at the front of church immediately after the meeting to appoint officers and confirm the date for the first meeting.

1.2 Vicar's Report

In September 2022, we welcomed a new Bishop of Rochester to our Diocese in a service in Rochester Cathedral. Bishop's Jonathan's sermon on that day contained a simple message to the churches: Change – Serve – Grow. And, here on the outer reaches of the Diocese in Penge, these three words feel like an excellent summary of the last year.

2022 was a year of enormous change for us. It is worth remembering that it is only since last Easter that we started to worship together as one church every Sunday. That change brought new life, joy and energy into our worship, into our fellowship and, especially, into our children's work. It has also felt uncomfortable for some, as both legacy churches have settled into a new pattern and a new way of being. And this was, of course, sharpened and highlighted by the decision in July, following a period of wide consultation, to settle our 8am service at the Holy Trinity site and the 10:30am at the St John's site from the beginning of October. I do not underestimate how hard this change was for many people, and the deep sadness it brought for some. However, it also brought opportunities – new services in the form of Connect, Wednesday Afternoon Prayer and the Sunday Communion service, Pizza and Games for young people, all of which are flourishing, and some new HTSJ ways of celebrating Christmas and Easter that may or may not develop, in time, into traditions! We have not been immune, either, to the changes happening all around us in society – the tragedy of war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, which has had such an impact on the work of Living Well and of CAP, the summer of three Prime Ministers and countless cabinets, and, of course, the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

One thing that did not change during 2022 was the commitment of so many people in our church congregation to serve both one another and the wider community. These reports bear witness to the life of this church thriving through service in many ways. We served young families, through Little & Big Fish, our “gold standard” toddler groups, and the pre-school. We served older people through Open Doors and the joyful celebration that was Holiday@Home. We served the most vulnerable through Living Well – the pressure upon which was documented by an article in the FT and a CNN news report – and CAP, the response to whose fundraiser was of such overflowing generosity. We offered our buildings to community groups, including for a new Warm Space on a Thursday lunchtime which has been a blessing to many. We have served through knitting squares for blankets for people in Ukraine, and through our Mission Giving donations. And, of course, so many of us have served in unseen, unnoticed ways throughout the year – supporting, cleaning, mending bits of the buildings that have come unstuck, being on the PCC, stewarding our accounts, welcoming, listening, caring, praying. You are too many to name – but thank you to all who keep the life and service of our church going day by day and week by week. You are an inspiration and a huge encouragement!

And, thirdly: grow. Whilst our church membership, in terms of the electoral roll, remains steady, we have seen around 70 adults and anything from 10-25 children and young people attending on Sundays across our two sites and different services. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new people during the year. In addition, we have seen huge growth in the numbers attending all our midweek activities as the fear of Covid recedes and people are actively seeking places of relationship and community. But growth is not only that which can be measured. We have grown in relationships with one another. We have grown in understanding of each other – and in understanding of what the adventure of merging our legacy churches actually entails. We have grown, I hope, spiritually, as we have worshipped together, prayed together, learnt together and shared our life together. And we look forward to seeing how, in God's time and by God's grace, the seeds planted during 2022, both those sown in weeping and those sown in joy, will blossom and bear fruit in the future.

Whatever the next year holds for us, I can guarantee three things: we will continue to change, serve and grow – for this is the calling of all God's people for all time. We are called to change, to be transformed

into the image of Christ who called us to follow him, to serve after the pattern of our Servant King, and, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow into the life he calls us to, day by day.

“... all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Rev Jessica Smith, Vicar

1.3 Electoral Roll Report

There are 155 names on the roll, as against 156 last year.

71 of those names are resident in the parish and 84 are non-resident.

8 names have been added to the roll.

9 names have been removed from the roll.

I again acknowledge the indispensable part played by Hazel Willson, who has signed up almost all the names added to the roll this year; thank you so much Hazel.

Richard Thomson, Electoral Roll Officer

1.4 Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM 2022

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge

Minutes of Annual Vestry (Parish) Meeting (APM) on 22nd May 2022 held on the St John's church site

(The meeting was held in person and on zoom)

Context: This was the first formal APM and APCM since the formation of the United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge on 1st September 2021.

Both churches were in an interregnum at the time.

Rev Jessica Smith was installed as Vicar for the benefice on 13th October 2021.

Record of Attendance for APM and APCM

Present:

In church: Jessica Smith (chair), Lorraine Baker, Ian Baldwin, Valerie Baldwin, Valerie Beckway, Fiona Barnes, Peter Carter, Carol Carter, Sunil Chandy, Jonno Campion-Smith, Kate Campion-Smith, Margaret Davies, Tom Davies, Yvette Evans, Betty Friend, Alex Griffiths, Andrew Griffiths, Diane Lovell, Anne McClaughry, Rod McClaughry, Steve Miller, Sue Miller, Francoise Moore, Jessica Moscrop, Sarah Murrell, Natalie, Sally Nicholas, Kemi Ogundipe, Gill Owens, Alison Penfold, Laura Polaine, Cordelia Providence, Julian Providence, Margaret Riches, Lionel Riches, Beccy Short, Catherine Stewart, Nick Stewart, Richard Thomson, Sue Thomson, Sarah Whiting, Hazel Willson.

On zoom: David Osborne, Mary Osborne, Rob Smith, Sue Smith, Ruth Wright, Terry Wright, Harold and Maria.

Apologies: Val Carrier, June Gibson, Veronica Hughes, Russ Jones, Sally Junes, Christine Stone, Colin Stone, Mick Vance.

1. The meeting opened with prayer

Revd Jessica Smith (Vicar) welcomed the parishioners.

The Agenda for the meeting could be found on page 7 of the Annual Report 2022.

2. Apologies for absence

See above

3. Election of Churchwardens

Jessica explained that now we have come to the end of the transitional arrangements for the benefice of Holy Trinity with St John's which was established on 1st September 2021, we would move from having four churchwardens to two churchwardens who would be responsible for both church sites. Jessica thanked the four churchwardens for all they have done over the years and in the transition to the new benefice.

Jessica explained that as Steve Miller has completed 6 years as churchwarden he has decided to step down as churchwarden.

Peter Carter has decided to step down after 13 years as churchwarden.

Ian Baldwin and Jonno Campion-Smith are both willing to stand again and have been nominated as Churchwardens.

Nominations:

Ian Baldwin

Proposed: Steve Miller; **Seconded:** Russell Jones

Jonno Campion-Smith-

Proposed: Sunil Chandy; **Seconded:** Margaret Riches.

The proposal to elect Ian and Jonno as churchwardens for the benefice was approved.

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Diane Lovell; **All in favour.**

Ian and Jonno were duly elected for a term of one year.

Jessica read out a summary of the churchwardens' responsibilities.

Jessica said how enormously grateful she was to Ian, Jonno, Steve and Peter, for all they had done in preparations for her arrival in October 2021 and over the transitional period.

Jessica presented Steve and Peter with a gift in appreciation for all they have done.

Jessica then invited Ian and Jonno to be presented with the keys for both churches as a sign of their joint responsibilities across both sites.

Jessica reminded people that the churchwardens have the role of taking responsibility across the parish but there needs to be a team supporting them on the ground. Further discussions would take place to ensure this.

4. Thanks and Prayer

Jessica prayed for the church, for Steve and Peter for all they have done, and for Ian and Jonno as they continue and the future. We are encouraged to support them and help them for the glory of God across the parish.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 22nd May 2022

The meeting was held immediately after the Annual Vestry (Parish) Meeting (APM) on 22nd May 2022 on the St John's church site (The meeting was in person and on zoom)

Record of Attendance for APCM

- As for APM (see above).

1. Approval of the minutes of APCM's 2021

- a. **Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham, 23rd May 2021**
- b. **St John the Evangelist, Penge, 25th April 2021**
- c. **Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Special Church meeting 20th September 2021**

Jessica explained that each of the churches had held their own APCM in April / May 2021, and that an Extraordinary / Special church meeting was held on 20th September 2021 after the establishment of the United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge on 1st September 2021.

Jessica said that members of the legacy Holy Trinity congregation could approve the minutes of the Holy Trinity APCM and that members of the St John's congregation could approve the minutes of the St John's APCM. Any member present at the Extraordinary meeting in September 2021 could approve the minutes of the Special Church meeting.

Approval of minutes as an accurate record of the meeting:

- a. **Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham, 23rd May 2021**

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Jonno Campion-Smith; **All in favour**

- b. **St John the Evangelist, Penge, 25th April 2021**

Proposed: Sue Miller; **Seconded:** Val Baldwin; **All in favour**

- c. **Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Special Church meeting 20th September 2021**

Proposed: Beccy Short; **Seconded:** Margaret Davies; **All in favour**

2. Matters arising from above minutes. None

3. Elections

a. Parish Church Council (PCC) members

A church with our number on the Electoral Roll can have 12 lay members on the PCC.

10 people have been nominated to be PCC members. All these members have been serving on the transitional PCC since September 2021.

Four members of the transitional PCC have stepped down for a range of reasons.

Jessica thanked the transitional PCC for the important work that had been done with packed agendas and important decisions that needed to be made.

Jessica thanked those stepping down: Val Carrier, Steve Lovell; Keith McMillan; Winston Vethroy for all they have done.

Nominations of PCC members: Proposed:

Peter Carter

Steve Miller

Andrew Griffiths

Sally Nicholas

Tamara Cooper

Yvette Evans

Jessica Moscrop

Julian Providence

Sue Thomson

Michael Vance

Ruth Wright

Nick Stewart

Stephen Lovell

Ian Baldwin

Sally Nicholas

Hazel Willson

Andrew Griffiths

Sue Miller

Laura Polaine

Stephen Miller

Seconded:

Fiona Barnes

Julian Providence

Ian Baldwin

Sue Thomson

Rebecca Short

Steve Miller

Ian Baldwin

Catherine Stewart

Richard Thomson

Francoise Moore-Edwin

Therefore there are two vacancies. Anyone interested in coming onto the PCC should speak to Jessica or any member of the PCC.

Jessica suggested we voted for the approval of all ten people who had been nominated

Proposed: Carol Carter; **Seconded:** Sarah Whiting; **All in favour**

Therefore everyone on the list above was duly elected to the PCC.

b. 3 Deanery Synod representatives

Jessica explained that our 3 Deanery representatives were elected to serve until 2023 and that all three representatives are willing to continue.

Our three Deanery representatives are: Margaret Riches; Hazel Willson and Ruth Wright.

Thanks extended to Margaret, Hazel and Ruth.

The elected PCC members and Deanery Reps were asked to stand up so that people were aware of who they were.

c. LLMs , Readers, Pastoral Assistants

Jessica explained that all those who hold these roles have the right to attend the PCC.

Jessica said she is very grateful for their ministry and support.

Ian Baldwin; Janice Bessant; Sunil Chandy; Russell Jones.

d. Sidespersons

The list of people who act as sidespersons is covered by the Welcoming teams on the Church rota, therefore the individuals on these teams were proposed to cover these roles.

Proposed: Andrew Griffiths; **Seconded:** Gill Owens; **All in favour**

4. Adoption of the Electoral Roll and Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

Sally Nicholas (PCC secretary) explained that there was an update to the Electoral Roll report for the Parish of Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge from that published in the Annual report (page 6). There had been an agreement, by email, from the PCC to update the Electoral Roll. The updated report had been provided by the Electoral Roll Officer, Richard Thomson. Sally read the update out in full.

The updated Electoral Roll report is for the period 1st September 2021 to 8th May 2022.

'There are 158 names on the roll.

69 of those are resident in the parish and 89 are non resident.

There are 102 women on the roll and 56 men.

10 names have been added to the roll.

33 names have been removed from the roll.

I (Richard Thomson) gladly acknowledge the enormous part played by Hazel Willson in the revision, not only for signing up every one of the added names, but also earlier on for having curated the St John's names and transferred them to the combined roll; thank you so much Hazel'.

Proposal that we adopt the revised Electoral Roll and appoint Richard Thomson as the Electoral Roll officer

Proposed: Yvette Evans; **Seconded:** Rod McClaughry; **All in favour**

5. Fabric report (including fabric, goods and ornaments)

The fabric reports for Holy Trinity church and St John's church could be found on pages 30&31 of the Annual report.

Following clarification about the Church Terrier and Log book relating to equipment log, and repairs, the churchwardens will ensure these are updated for both churches in line with the fabric report as needed.

The meeting was asked to approve the fabric report and corresponding updates to the Terrier and Church log book.

Proposed: Jonno Campion-Smith; **Seconded:** Valerie Baldwin; **All in favour**

6. PCC Secretary's report

There are three PCC secretary's reports on pages 23-29 of the Annual report.

a. Holy Trinity Beckenham: January - August 2021

b. St John's, Penge January - August 2021

c. Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge: Sept - December 2021

Sally was asked if she had anything to add to the reports and the meeting was asked if anyone had any questions. There were no additional comments or questions.

Jessica thanked Sally for all her work for the PCC and Sally Jones for her time as PCC secretary for St John's.

7. Financial Report (including Financial statements for the year Ending 2021)

Andrew gave an overview of the accounts with some accompanying slides.

The accounts had been audited by Tony Catherall, independent examiner.

Andrew outlined income and expenditure, the restricted and unrestricted funds and the year end position. He said that although we were in a healthy financial position as a church we should remain frugal, be good stewards and build on mission and God's story.

Questions / comments

A question was asked about whether there was a plan to bring back the plate collection.

It was explained there is a donation box at St John's and a plate usually put on the welcome table at Holy Trinity but that no plan to resume the plate collection during the Sunday morning worship had been made. This would need to be agreed with the PCC.

Andrew said that cash is difficult to handle and that standing orders are preferable. This issue would be taken to the PCC. There were no other questions. The meeting was then asked to adopt the audited accounts.

a. adoption of audited reports

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Valerie Baldwin; **All in favour**

b. appointment of the independent examiner for 2022

It was proposed that Tony Catherall continue as independent examiner of the church accounts.

Proposed: Margaret Riches; **Seconded:** Hazel Willson; **All in favour.**

Jessica said she gave huge thanks to Tony Catherall for being the independent examiner and huge thanks to Andrew and to Edward for painstakingly working on the separate church accounts and then bringing them together.

8. Safeguarding report

The safeguarding report is on pages 33&34 of the Annual report.

A question was asked as to whether there had been any particular issues.

Jessica said that there were two potential issues that were investigated.

9. Review of other written reports:

Jessica said that other written reports could be found in the Annual report and thanked people for their contributions. Jessica asked if there were any questions on the reports. There were none. The meeting was asked to approve the other reports collectively.

Proposed: Margaret Davies; **Seconded:** Andrew Griffiths; **All in favour**

10. Vicar's report

Jessica said that after 7 months of talking about 'the merger' it was time to talk about 'unity'. Rather than blend everything it is important to recognise the rich diversity of people and made reference to 1 Corinthians 12 - various gifts; same God.

We need to honour the unique vocations of each person and grow in confidence - a new vocation as a united church.

Jessica then showed a video from Sunil's recent sermon which illustrated the Trinity in the form of different musical instruments joining in a Bach Fugue. In a choir or orchestra being in harmony in such a way is difficult and requires good communication between the musicians and listening to all the other parts. Each musician needs to hold their own part whilst being aware of the other parts. Our own unique vocations need to be brought together so we can fulfil that vocation given to us by Jesus to 'Go and make disciples'. This is what we need to do as church - to let our hearts sing and to serve the community. If you want to talk more about your vocation do speak to Jessica.

To fulfil this vocation we need to wait on God and work together and lay aside our preferences.

We need to make the hard decision as to where to settle the 10.30am Sunday morning worship. Jessica emphasised that both churches buildings will remain open, and both will remain open for worship.

Alternating buildings in the way we are at the moment is particularly hard for the most vulnerable and those we are trying to reach out to.

It is likely that the 8am service would be at the other building and there are other prayer and worship opportunities during the week eg Friday afternoon, Morning Prayer, and prayer on the phone on Wednesday.

The PCC will consult as widely as possible about this and the congregation is urged to engage in the process and seek God's wisdom.

Jessica said that Communication is sometimes difficult. The two legacy churches communicated in different ways and this is being brought together eg News and Notices.

Communication is important both internally and externally and Jessica gave thanks to the Communications crew who are working hard on the website. Jessica said it is important that people say what is working and not working; that we care for one another and get to know one another - get to know what makes one's heart sing. The parish weekend has been wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better.

Jessica gave thanks to everyone for making her feel so welcome, for prayer and for walking a sometimes bumpy path.

Jessica wanted to give thanks to a few people not already mentioned:

- to Sue Miller for leading the children's work at St John's for six years who is now going to focus on her vocation in leading music.
- to Julia in the office for her resourcing and cheerfulness.
- to the worship and preaching team, sound and zoom team, welcome and refreshment team, and all the people who help with cleaning.

Jessica said it is both a privilege and responsibility to be with us, and she is excited about what God is going to do next.

11. Any other business / Further questions

There were no further questions or comments.

Jessica thanked everyone for their attention, patience and contributions.

12. Closing Prayer - concluding with saying the Grace together.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary



Holy Trinity with St John's Penge

Report of Financial Activity for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and also those found in the Church Guidance, 2017 edition.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination; I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept respect of the charity as required by section 63 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; and
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Yours faithfully



T. J. Catherall
77 Merlin Grove
Beckenham
BR3 3HS

27/02/2023

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 December 2022

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. 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 view provisions'. They have also been prepared under FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)). As Holy Trinity merged with St John's Penge on 1 September 2021 to form a new benefice, the accounts represent a merging of the two churches.

CAP received various amounts of income including a crowd funding appeal - £14,254 was paid into the unrestricted account and transferred to CAP, and show in the CAP accounts. The unrestricted account also pays CAP salaries and is reimbursed (total - £5843.08), this is deducted from Other Restricted in expenditure. However, £3453.32 is outstanding and will be reimbursed in 2023.

In utilities, the mast use is netted against costs – the mast company spent and reimbursed £26,346 in utilities payments in 2022. The Diocese of Rochester refunded £8,434 of Parish Share, which was taken in error.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available or individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less, which are written off when the asset is acquired. The item is not capitalised, but all items are in the Church's inventory.

Tangible fixed assets

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of market value.

Loans

Following the merger of the two parishes the loan with the Diocese of Rochester was written off through a grant from the Trust for London Fund within the gift of the Archdeacon.

Short Term Deposits

These are cash held on deposit with a bank, credit union or (for the Church Repair Fund) with the Diocese.

Unrestricted funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project.

Restricted funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds

These are restricted funds that must be maintained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown below.

Staff costs

	2022
Wages, Salaries & Pension costs	£31,280
Average no. of employees	4

During the period the PCC employed a part time administrator and one part time cleaners. No payments were large enough to attract social security costs. These employees equate to less than one full time employee.

The PCC also employed two people to run the CAP centre.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

Analysis of transfers between accounts

	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total
CBI Investment Fund income	£932	(£932)	0

Summary of restricted funds

St John's building	£16,127
Youth Worker	£19,963
CAP	£40,635
Total	£76,725

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

Income Resources	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
Voluntary income	£104,194	£8,890		£113,084	£151,886
Investment income	£382	£16	£932	£1,330	£730
Church Activities	£63,100	£808		£63,908	£35,809
Other resources		£47,825		£47,825	£13,560
Total	£167,676	£57,539	£932	£226,147	£201,985
Resources Expended					
Missionary Giving	£5,687			£5,687	£3,758
Church Activities	£145,011	£12,500		£157,511	£165,841
Parochial Organisations		£20,550		£20,550	£23,921
Total	£150,698	£33,050	£932	£183,748	£193,520
Net income/outgoings	£16,978	£24,489	£932	42399	£8,465
Transfers	£932		-£932		
Total	£17,910	£24,489	£0	£42399	£8,783
Gain on investment			-£4,143	-£4,143	£3,919
Total funds					
01/01/2022	£112,434	£52,236	£35,197	£199,867	£187,165
31/12/2022	£130,344	£76,725	£31,054	£238,123	£199,867

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Income for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving Gift Aid	£71,026	£158		£71,184	£82,649
Income Tax Recovered	£17,979	£0		£17,979	£31,212
Building project	£0	£0		£0	£0
Other Planned Giving	£3,737	£220		£3,957	£5,751
Plate Giving	£3,185	£0		£3,185	£1,685
Donations	£2,214	£0		£2,214	£10,951
Legacies	£0	£0		£0	£368
Council tax and other refunds	£129	£6,908		£6,908	£7,412
Grants	£5,924	£1,604		£7,528	£7,250
VAT Refund	£0	£0		£0	£4,608
Congregational loans	£0	£0		£0	£0
Total	£104,194	£8,890	£0	£113,084	£151,886
Activities generating funds					
Interest and Dividends	£382	£16	£932	£1,330	£145
Income from Church Activities					
Fair	£0	£0		£0	£249
Hall Lettings	£35,019	£0		£35,019	£17,027
Weddings and Funerals	£734	£808		£1,542	£2,365
Little Fish	£7,531	£0		£7,531	£1,868
Mast	£19,816	£0		£19,816	£14,300
Total	£63,100	£808	£0	£63,908	£35,809
Parochial Organisations					
CAP Project	£0	£47,825		£47,825	£13,560
TOTAL	£167,676	£57,539	£932	£226,147	£201,985

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Resources Expended for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
Missionary giving	£5,687		£5,687	£3,758
Admin	£343	£81	£424	£8,417
Building project	£12,543		£12,543	£22,550
Building maintenance	£639		£639	£11,215
Children and youth	£1,138		£1,138	£992
Cleaning	£1,659		£1,659	£2,968
Diocesan Share	£72,256		£72,256	£79,259
Discretionary fund	£98		£98	
Evangelism	£45		£45	£226
Governance	£0		£0	£0
Insurance	£10,382		£10,382	£10,034
Interest	£0		£0	£356
IT, sound and vision	£1,722		£1,722	£1,915
Minister's expenditure	£381		£381	£170
Other (restricted)	£0	£12,419*	£12,419	£2,188
Printing and publicity	£2,582		£2,582	£1,776
Salaries and pension	£15,685		£15,685	£5,244
Training	£386		£386	£130
Utilities	£23,413		£23,413	£8,163
Vicarage	£1,739		£1,739	£10,238
Total	£150,698	£12,500	£163,198	£169,599
Parochial Organisation				
CAP Project	£0	£20,550	£20,500	£23,921
Total	£150,698	£33,050	£183,748	£185,651

*£18,262 minus £5,843 CAP salaries refunded. £3,453 is still owing and will come from 2023 accounts.

Holy Trinity with St John, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Fixed Assets		
Investment	£31,054	£35,197
Total Fixed Assets		
Short Term Deposit	£106,762	£86,609
Cash in Bank	£100,307	£78,061
Total Assets	£238,123	£199,867
Funds		
Fixed Assets	£31,054	£35,197
Restricted Funds	£76,725	£52,236
Unrestricted Funds	£130,344	£112,434
Total	£238,123	£199,867

**St John the Evangelist Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
CAP Centre Accounts at 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
Income		
Gift Aided Income	£3,619	£3,355
Non-Gift Aided Income	£280	£135
Gift Aid Reclaim	£649	£516
Other	£43,277	£9,554
Total	£47,825	£13,560
Expenditure		
Salary, Admin and Pension	£15,595	£17,431
CAP Central	£3,300	£6,000
Admin (Office)	£81	£106
Expenses	£714	£289
Client Blessing	£859	£95
Total	£20,550	£23,921
Balance Sheet		
1 Jan 2022	£13,359	£23,720
Net Income/Outgoing	£27,276	-£10,361
31 December 2022	£40,635	£13,359

1.6 Churchwardens' Report (including Fabric Report)

Wardens Report

By Jonno Campion-Smith and Ian Baldwin, Church Wardens

This has been both a challenging and exciting year as we discover what the new benefice of Holy Trinity with St Johns Penge evolves into. The challenge has been bringing people together whilst making some difficult decisions. It is sad that some people have left, whilst others continue to feel troubled. However it is encouraging to see people joining activities on both sites and new people joining the congregation. As we look at the vision new exciting opportunities will arise to serve God in Penge.

We have been encouraged to see the two sites being put to good use for a wide range of activities. A massive thank you to everyone involved in leading and supporting those activities. We look forward to seeing how these valuable resources are put to use as we develop and grow into our new vision.

Wardens are also involved with the buildings and here are some of the main items:-

- The roofs continue to be maintained by a local roofing firm with twice yearly gutter clearing and slate repairs as and when identified.
- The electrical and lighting systems, emergency lighting, smoke alarm system, fire extinguishers and gas appliances are regularly serviced. We continue to have regular visits from a pest control firm and the problem with mice in the church buildings is less of an issue. However the sites still need to be kept clean and tidy.
- In October the water heater was replaced at the HT site in November the fire alarm panel was replaced at the SJ site.
- In December the Pre-School closed and the trustees kindly gave some tables and chairs to the church.
- In March we purchased a new TV and white board both on wheeled stands.
- Both buildings will have their Quinquennial Inspections this year. These will enable us to better plan and budget the maintenance of the two sites.

The vicarage at HT site has been let by the Diocese until September 2023. The new curate, Rev Ray Shergill, is expected to begin in October 2023 – and living in the HT vicarage.

We are grateful to all the help and support people offer. Our thanks to Pete Carter and Steve Miller who, even no longer wardens, offer their knowledge and advice. Also to Angelo, Julia and Beccy for their help, support.

Finally my thanks to Jonno, who has decided not to re stand, for all his work and especially his IT skills (Google docs and doodle polls -who knew!).

Ian Baldwin, Jonno Campion-Smith, Churchwardens

1.7 PCC Secretary's Report

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary's report 2022

The United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge was established on 1st September 2021. 2022 was the first full year as a United Benefice and with Jessica as our vicar and chair of the PCC. We held 9 PCC meetings in 2022 and a PCC away morning in January 2022.

Regular standing items include Finance update, worship report, safeguarding report, update and decisions on maintenance issues, discussion and agreement for particular events or activities to take place including worship and outreach activities.

During the first part of 2022 the transitional PCC with members from both legacy churches, and four churchwardens continued. At the APCM in May 2022 four PCC members stood down and we elected two wardens with the other two becoming PCC members. In the autumn two further people stood down from the PCC. Having established the Benefice, the aim going forwards is to return to the usual pattern of elected PCC members standing for a three year term each so there is regular turn over on the PCC. The PCC aims to be a broad representation of Church members and has the responsibility of ensuring good stewardship and Christian life across the benefice including the practical, financial and strategic aspects of the Church and their buildings.

The budget for the benefice for 2022 had been agreed at a Special Finance meeting in December 2021. In January 2022 we held a PCC away morning which focussed on exploring who / where we feel we are now as a newly established benefice and who / what God is calling us to be.

A PCC meeting and administration process has been established and 8 PCC working groups were set up at the beginning of the year:

Worship	Community identity
Finance	Children and Young people
Pastoral	Missions and Ministry
Communications	Governance and Buildings

During the year it became clearer how each of these groups would continue and evolve. A Standing Committee was established towards the end of the year who would meet during alternate months to the PCC to focus on the Finance, Governance and Building issues that need regular review and progress.

Some difficult discussions and decisions were made by the PCC in 2022, principally relating to the 10.30am Sunday service.

At the beginning of the year we had a 10.30am service on each of the two sites in the benefice (Holy Trinity site and St John's site) with Jessica alternating between the two and one joint service a month. It was decided that from Easter that all 10.30am services be joint services, alternating sites each week. One service / month would be developing the monthly Messy church service to an intergenerational service.

In May there was a Church weekend with various activities taking place on Saturday and concluding with the APCM on Sunday after the 10.30am service.

A sub group of the PCC led a consultation open to all the congregation, at the end of June / beginning of July to help inform the decision that needed to be made about the church site for the 10.30am Sunday service going forwards. This was a particularly difficult decision for the PCC to make at the PCC meeting on Monday 4th July. Jessica announced the decision made in church on Sunday 10th July that 'following extensive consultation with the congregation and prayerful, honest, and detailed discussion in a long

meeting on Monday evening, the PCC has agreed that our 10:30am services will take place at the St John's site. This will take effect from October 2022'. Jessica said she 'wanted to emphasise again that the PCC is absolutely committed to keeping both buildings open as sacred spaces and places of worship'.

In the weeks following the announcement about the 10.30am service being on the St John's site from October, three letters were received by the PCC regarding the decision. The PCC focussed on this issue and after extensive thought, prayer and discussion responded to the letters and offered meetings with the individuals. It was also decided that there would be an 8am Holy Communion every Sunday on the Holy Trinity site and a 5.15pm monthly Communion on the Holy Trinity site on same Sunday as Connect (the new 10.30am Intergenerational service).

Other worship related decisions included:

- The approval to have an Easter based Messy church outreach event on Good Friday and a Christingle based Messy church at the beginning of Advent, both of which were very successful.
- For the Easter and Christmas services to be shared across both sites.
- The PCC also approved Hopeton Reid to be Licensed for Funeral Ministry; the licensing was carried out by the Archdeacon during a 10.30am service in October.

With the 10.30am service being established on the St John's site from October 2022, a budget was agreed to resource the children's and young people's groups on a Sunday morning and, in particular, to refurbish and equip the room the Ignite (Young people's group) meet in.

Other items discussed throughout the year included:

- Finance - updates on income and expenditure issues eg utility costs, hall hire, giving and gift aid, charity giving, salaries for paid staff. In April the General Giving Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester joined the PCC meeting on zoom to give us an overview of the Parish Giving Scheme which we will explore further in 2023.
- Safeguarding - regular reminders about DBS checks and training requirements; the updating of the safeguarding referral process and decision to have a 10.30am service focussing on Safeguarding in November.
- Covid related issues - particularly arrangements for receiving Holy Communion.
- Multi-cultural report; the Diocesan 'Lament to Action' report; Unity report.

Other Activities:

- requests and liaison with Living Well and CAP; updates and requests from Little Fish and Open Doors.
- Approval for holiday@home for over 50's to be held for a few days in August.
- Approval for additional 'Warm spaces' event to be held to St John's site.

Very sadly the PCC were informed in October that the decision had had to be taken to close the Holy Trinity Pre-school, as it was no longer financially viable. The Pre-school closed in December at the end of term.

Looking ahead the PCC agreed a 'Vision' process to be carried out during the 10.30am service on the last Sunday of January, February and March 2023, to help inform the next steps for the church / benefice. The PCC is very aware that 2022 has been a year of great change and that there have been difficult emotions around the transition to a United Benefice and in particular the decision around the site for the 10.30am Sunday service and that none of the decisions have been made without considerable discussion and prayer.

The PCC welcomes any feedback from the congregation and has committed to be more visible, with regular updates after each meeting. If any member of the congregation wants to raise any issues, or

know more about any of the issues we discuss or make decisions on, they are encouraged to speak to, or contact, a member of the PCC.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary

1.8 Deanery Synod Report

In 2022 there were two standard synod meetings and one combined meeting with other deaneries in the diocese.

In the March and July 2022 meetings the main topics were:

Ukrainian refugees

Support for Ukrainian refugees were in place within the deanery area, including St. George's church liaising with the council and various other agencies regarding accommodation. Living Well, café lunch, Little Fish and a hub at St John's Eden Park. Hope Church in Bromley Common, was also looking at expanding their services. The sharing of resources and food banks, clothing, as well as advice and prayer stations was to be developed. English courses at Bromley Adult Education Centre in Penge. It was recognised that dual language speakers/ teachers to befriend would be of great value.

Eco Church Award

St. George's Beckenham and latterly St Paul's Beckenham, with support from St George's, had started to work towards the Eco Church Awards, where the vision was to care for the environment; God's creation. There were three levels of awards, bronze, silver and gold awards to work towards in five different areas for each church: Worship, Buildings, Reducing carbon footprint, Community and global waste, Life style. At the time, it was not known if there are any grants available to apply for to support.

Communications

At the July meeting Jennifer Ross, Communications Manager and Bishops' Media Adviser and Katerina Gerhardt, Communications Assistant (07526 171

583, communications@rochester.anglican.org) provided a presentation about what their small diocesan team could provide to churches. These included:

- Providing relevant and accessible two-way communicators, highlighting diocesan and parish news, campaigns, safeguarding and reports.
- Supporting the diocesan family with a weekly digest, quarterly magazine 'Together', webinars, guidance and website information for church-goers and seekers.
- Crisis, press and FOI support for churches.
- Advice on digital, presentations, copyright to consent.
- Local parish website and communications advice.

Two good blogs from the national church were suggested:

Communicating well as a church – laying the groundwork:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/communicating-well-church-laying-groundwork>

Communicating well as church – making a plan

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/communicating-well-church-making-plan>

The November joint meeting was a combination of five Deanery synods to welcome and hear from Bishop Jonathan. There was a time of worship, then he answered various questions (lighthearted and

serious!) posed by members of the congregation, covering his life and journey to the present post.

Margaret Riches, Hazel Willson and Ruth Wright, Deanery Synod reps. 2022

1.9 Safeguarding Report

The church's Safeguarding Team (Beccy, Pete and myself) have continued to ensure that the congregation and church users are aware of safeguarding matters and responsibilities. This is because safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility!

On 28th February the joint PCC approved C of E's 'The Promoting a Safer Church Policy'. A day session covering the C of E's 'Basic Awareness' and 'Raising Awareness Domestic Abuse' courses took place on 9th July. Although the sessions were not well attended, there was some good discussions with those present. Other people have undertaken the training online individually instead of being at the session.

In the summer the C of E introduced a new safeguarding course 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking', which some church members have completed.

The Safeguarding Sunday service in November highlighted the issue of safeguarding within the church. Church members were encouraged to look at the safeguarding courses and complete courses as necessary, or as they wish via <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> (Please can anyone completing a course provide us with a copy of their certificate for information).

The church's Safeguarding Team have worked hard to complete DBS checks within the new three-year framework, a move from them lasting five years.

The new joint safeguarding email address was launched in November: safeguarding@htsj-penge.church

A handful of safeguarding issues arose during the year, which were handled by the church's Safeguarding Team and Jessica, with some assistance from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

More details about church safeguarding can be found on:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safer-church> and
<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding?tagid=>

Ruth Wright, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Beccy Short and Pete Carter, Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officers

Section 2 **Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care**

2.1 Worship

As God's people, we are, above all else, a people called to worship. Worship forms us as a people; it unites us; it draws us into the presence of God, opens us up to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, and nourishes us to go out and share the love of Christ that we have received with others.

During 2022, there have been enormous changes in the worshipping life of our church. It is worth remembering that, as I write this, in March 2023, a year ago we were still largely worshipping as two separate congregations. It was only after Easter that we united for all our services, initially alternating between sites on Sunday mornings.

To facilitate this coming together and to provide some consistency, the Worship and Preaching team worked hard behind the scenes during Spring 2022 to create templates for Orders of Service that would work across both sites. We also thought carefully and prayerfully about sermon series that would help us hear God's voice through the ups and downs of merging, with series including 1 Corinthians 12-14, Jonah, prayer and the letter to the Ephesians.

The decision to settle our 8am service at the Holy Trinity site and the 10:30 service at St John's was not an easy one, but in God's grace our worshipping life as Holy Trinity with St John's has continued to grow and flourish, with 70+ adults and 10-20+ children and young people attending across the two sites on most Sundays. We remain committed to ensuring that our life of worship and community continues to flourish across both our sites.

From the autumn, in addition to these two services, new opportunities for worship have begun to spring up. Our monthly evening Communion service on the HT site has been well received, with a regular congregation of 15-20, as has the weekly Wednesday afternoon prayer, with a regular congregation of 11-12. Friday afternoon prayers at Living Well continue to flourish, with 8-14 people attending – my thanks to Sue and Richard and to Ian and Val who offer this faithfully week by week.

We have also offered a wide variety of special and seasonal services, which have been well-attended and well-received:

- Services for Holy Week and Easter, including a Palm Sunday service uniting our two sites and Messy Easter on Good Friday
- a special Communion service to remember the life of Her Majesty the Queen during September
- a relicensing and anointing by the Archdeacon of our Lay Ministry team, including the licensing of Hopeton Reid as Funeral Minister in October
- Commemorative Service, remembering those we love who have died, at the end of October
- 3 Remembrance services, our morning worship at SJP, the Act of Remembrance on the High Street and an afternoon Act of Remembrance at HT in November
- Services for Advent and Christmas, including Messy Christingle, Carol Service, Crib Service and Midnight Communion

After an exceptionally busy and at times tumultuous year, I would like to thank especially the Worship and Preaching Team, whose prayerful support, wisdom and good humour have been absolutely invaluable to me personally, and whose gifting in leading and preaching at services are a huge blessing to us as church.

I would also like to thank all those who are involved in our worship week by week – the welcomers, musicians, those who deal with sound and projection, those who work with children and young people, those who read and lead intercessions, those who serve the refreshments we all appreciate so much. As somebody pointed out during our vision discussions, the sheer numbers of people involved are hugely impressive and “a lot of people work very hard.”



Thank you all for your steadfastness, patience and support over what has been a sometimes bumpy journey this year. It is always a delight, a joy and a privilege to worship with you – I look forward to all that God will do among us during 2023.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.2 Music in Worship

Music is an integral part of worship at Holy Trinity with St John's, led by a small, faithful team of musicians and singers. Songs for worship during each service are chosen after liaison with the service leader and preacher for that service, and the focus is always to use songs or hymns that fit in with, and support, the theme and teaching of those services. Different styles of music are appropriate for different styles of service, and different styles are also more appropriate for different points within each service. We are very aware that different people find different types of music helpful and try to achieve a good balance, using a mix of contemporary and more traditional songs and hymns.

Music would not be such an effective part of our worship services without the significant commitment of the musicians, singers, and teams managing the projection and PA systems. The contribution made by Colin Stone, playing the organ for some services at the Holy Trinity site, is also very much appreciated.

Sue Miller

2.3 Prayer Meeting

The monthly prayer meeting has continued in various guises during 2022. We began the year on Zoom but attendance fell as Zoom fatigue set in.

During the summer months, we tried some different ways of meeting, including a prayer walk around the parish during Thy Kingdom Come in early June, praying in different locations around the parish. In the autumn, at the request of Home Group leaders following feedback from their members, and to avoid a conflict on Wednesday nights, we moved the prayer meeting to a Monday. Since then, the meeting has been led by different people each month and has involved a range of different approaches to prayer – from sung worship to silence, from prayer stations to small groups, from creativity to contemplation.

Prayer is the beating heart of the church, and the activity which, above everything else, will shape us as a congregation, and I would urge everybody to make this hour-long meeting on the first Monday of the

month a priority if at all possible. It's very relaxed; nobody will put pressure on you to pray aloud, and a wonderful opportunity to spend time with God with others.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.4 Wednesday morning prayer over the phone.

A group of around 6 have met each Wednesday at 8am over the phone using a phone conference call. We used the Daily Prayer app format, the service sheet was emailed on Tuesdays. It was a good opportunity to pay together for many issues.

Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

2.5 Friday Afternoon Prayers

Prayers take place every Friday after the Living Well meal. They are well attended by guests with between 5 and 14 people regularly attending. In recent months we have introduced a couple of hymns and a short, themed study. Since we introduced the study, it has been noticeable how much more the guests are engaging in both prayer and discussion. Once a month on the last Friday of the month we focus on healing. We pray for each other's needs, for the needs of the community and about things on our heart.

We are very grateful for Ian and Val's input; they have been willing to lead the prayers in our absence. We are planning to do a lent course and Rebecca has kindly purchased booklets which we can give to guests, we also have a supply of Bibles we can gift to those who need them.

During the colder winter months, we have met in the church building before the alter, but once the temperature increases, we will return to the garden.

Richard and I have felt so blessed by these meetings and love facilitating them.

Sue Thomson

2.6 Technology in Worship

The use of technology in services (PA, projection and zoom) plays a crucial role in ensuring that services run smoothly and are as accessible as possible.

There is currently a team who share the projection and zoom roles across both sites, although the PA team is small and one or two additional people willing to join this team would be much appreciated. It is a technical role, but training can be given.

Technology is never without challenges! Considerable work has been done to work towards a resolution of the difficulties with the sound desk at the HT site. It is taking time to establish the best way to organise this resource and to ensure that it is always ready to be used for any service or other church event.

At the point where the two churches merged, different projection software was being used on each site, making it harder for the team to operate the projection on the site where they were unfamiliar. We are looking to consolidate this and will shortly be using the same projection software on both sites, which will give more flexibility among the team.

Steve Miller

2.7 Home & Community Groups

Home groups continued to meet in a variety of places around the parish, on Zoom and in hybrid form. Through the upheaval of the merger process, they have been valued by many as safe spaces to process thoughts and find spiritual and emotional support.



Most of the time, the home groups used follow-up material linked to the Sunday morning sermon series:

- January/February: 1 Corinthians 12-14 – thinking about who we are as church
- February/March: Jonah
- Easter Season: a series based on the lectionary readings for Easter
- Summer: Great Prayers of the Bible
- September/October: Ephesians
- November: Called to... mini-series
- December: People of Advent

The home group leaders have met several times with me to give feedback on how things are going and, in particular, to think about the question of how we encourage groups to merge. We are aware that, whilst our worship and general church life is becoming ever more merged, home groups remain largely (though not totally) linked to one of the legacy churches. We have been trying to balance the advantages of merging with the benefits of being with a group of people who know each other well, and have each time concluded that evolution in this area is much better than revolution!

During autumn 2022, we enjoyed two social activities organised by two different home groups – a Saturday breakfast at the Moon & Stars and a Christmas social evening. We look forward to more of these during 2023.

Home groups are open to all and we would encourage you to get involved. If you are interested in finding out more, please do speak to me or to any home group leader (names published on the posters on notice boards in church).

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.8 Lent Course



A whole church Lent Course took place during 2022 on the book of Jonah, in support of our Lent sermon series. This was designed to prepare us theologically, through applying the lessons from the story of Jonah to our church situation, and socially, by offering opportunities for mixing between members of different home groups attached to the legacy churches, for the next stage in the merger process.

Two sessions were offered each week – a Wednesday evening online group and a Thursday morning onsite group in the Holy Trinity lounge. In total around 40 people took part for at least two sessions, although the online group, in particular, suffered rather from Zoom fatigue.

We used a free online course from the Bible Project, with video teaching and a booklet with questions to consider each week.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.9 Exploring Workshops

Holy Trinity with St John's held two *Exploring* workshops during 2022. My intention behind organising the workshops was to help congregation members explore aspects of the Bible and Christian faith on themes that aren't often covered in sermons or home groups. The workshops featured a mixture of hopefully easy-going teaching and informal group work and discussions.

The first workshop was held at St John's in May and looked at the time between the Old and New Testaments, including the history of Israel during this period, the origins of groups such as the Pharisees and Sadducees, and some of the Jewish writings produced. The second workshop, which took place at Holy Trinity in November, covered the book of Job and the question of suffering, and considered the structure, text, and messages of Job in some detail.

Around sixteen people from both legacy congregations attended each workshop, which I, as the organiser, found very encouraging. Two further workshops are scheduled for 2023.

Terry Wright

2.11 Communications / Website

After some delays, considerable work on the new church website has now taken place and we expect that the new website will be ready to go live very soon. This will then continue to evolve as more content is added, so that it becomes as reflective as possible of who we are, and what we do, as Holy Trinity with St John's.

Other areas which will then be looked at include:

- Signage – external noticeboards at each site
- Internal notice boards as necessary
- Reviews of ongoing communications within the church family

Steve Miller

2.12 Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a huge part of our life at church and involves, fundamentally, the way all of us relate to each other. When we phone or text a friend at church who is going through a hard time, we are offering pastoral care. When we invite somebody who has not been able to attend church for a while for a coffee, we are offering pastoral care. When we notice somebody who is standing or sitting alone at the end of a church service and go to speak to them, we are offering pastoral care. When we make a cup of tea for someone who has arrived early for church (some people do!), we are offering pastoral care. So pastoral care, in the informal sense, is happening all the time, thanks to your sensitivity, care and concern for one another.

But pastoral care also happens in a more formal sense and one of the challenges of 2022 was making this work in the larger, merged church, setting. A pastoral care working group, led by Ian and comprising Janice, Hopeton, Margaret, Sue T, Hazel, Ruth and Jessica met several times during the spring and summer to try to fill some of the post-Covid and post-Merger gaps. Amongst other things, we:

- wrote Easter cards to those members of the two legacy congregations who had not returned since Covid, with letters inviting them explicitly to our Easter services
- re-established prayer ministry after the 10:30am service, which takes place in the side chapel at the St John's site
- set up a prayer request WhatsApp group and encouraged people to sign up to it, and an email address prayer@htsj-penge.church where anybody can submit a prayer request

Much of pastoral care is, by its very nature, confidential. Home visits and telephone support for people in need take place, but it is inappropriate to report on them in detail. Care is also offered through, eg. the provision of food bags from the small foodbank at the St John's site for callers at the Vicarage, and through signposting people in need to sources of help – significantly Living Well, but also groups like Open Doors for the lonely and church and community-run Warm Spaces around Penge.

We are always willing to offer pastoral support to those seeking it – but we are not mind-readers. So, if you know of somebody who is in need of a phone call or a visit or support beyond that which you can offer, please do speak to Jessica, Ian or Janice and we will ensure that care is given.

Ian Baldwin, Pastoral Assistant, Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader, Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.13 Life Events

Baptism

It is part of the calling of a Church of England Church that any parent of an infant living in the parish has the right to ask for their child to be baptised.

We celebrated six baptisms of infants during 2022, for children aged from a few months old to three years, during our 10:30 am services.

It has been good to welcome the families and their wider family and friends to these services, which they have found welcoming, joyful and inclusive. Only one of the families was a “church family”, but, pleasingly, we are still in touch with three of the other families, who have attended Messy Christingle and some Connect services and, occasionally, on other Sundays.

Baptism preparation has largely happened through conversation between Jessica and the families. I would like to be more intentional about this, and about following up with families afterwards – if this is an area that interests you, please do talk to me.

Weddings

As with baptisms, those living in the parish or those with a Qualifying Connection to the church have a right to be married in church. We celebrated two weddings during 2022 – that of Letitia and Sean in June at our Holy Trinity site and of Ash and Santon in October at our St John’s site.



Funerals

Janice and I between us conducted 5 funerals during 2022.

In October, we were delighted that the Archdeacon licensed Hopeton Reid as a Lay Funeral Minister after he completed his training with the diocese.

Every funeral involves an initial conversation with a funeral director, at least one meeting with the bereaved family, and preparation of the service before the funeral itself takes place. It is both a responsibility and a privilege to walk alongside people in their bereavement.

In late October, we held our annual Commemorative Service at the Holy Trinity site which included the reading out of a list of names of those we wanted to remember and the opportunity to light a candle for them. There were 36 people present, a good mixture of visitors and regular congregation members, and people appreciated both the space to give thanks, remember and grieve and the time of fellowship afterwards over tea.

I am very grateful to Janice for sharing in funeral ministry with me and look forward to Hopeton also joining the team in 2023.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

Section 3 Children and Young People

3.1 Blast and Blaze



2022 has been a new beginning for children's work at HTSJ with the coming together of the children's work across the two legacy churches. BLAST and BLAZE now run on a Sunday morning during the 10.30am service and provide fun activities, a caring and safe environment, as well as an opportunity for children age 3-11yrs to learn about faith. BLAST (preschool/ infant age) and BLAZE (Junior age) meet together in the church hall and follow the outline from the material from

Heartshapers. The sessions generally consist of an icebreaker game, followed by the bible story for the day, then some form of response in the form of a craft or activity together, and finally creative prayer ideas are used to finish the session. This could be using bubbles, prayer boxes or even party blowers. The leaders use a variety of activities to explain ideas and engage the children. These are differentiated by age group to provide for all children in the session. There have been creative prayer stations used during sessions, as well as understanding God through nature by using both the indoor and outdoor spaces, enacting the fall of the walls of Jericho and much paint, glue, tissue paper and playdough put to good use!



We are so grateful for the amazing and committed team who input into the children's work at HTSJ. There are currently 3 leaders (Diane, Fiona and Jonno) who are ably supported by a team of 9 fantastic and enthusiastic helpers (Cordelia, Sue, Sally, Val, Cath, Margaret, Ruth, Jade, Gillian). It has been so encouraging to see this team work so well together and bring many of their skills and gifts to demonstrate to the children what it means to live by faith and have a relationship with Jesus. It has also been really encouraging to see how children from the two legacy congregations have integrated so well and consider each other friends now as they have fun and learn together. Although numbers are not everything, it has been really heartening to see a consistency of children coming back every week. Between the two groups there is an average of around 12-16 children every Sunday and on occasion this number has reached the early 20s!

We know there are those in the congregation who pray regularly for the children and their leaders, and for this we are so grateful. We are asking that others would join them as we seek to encourage all the children in their spiritual journeys of faith throughout 2023.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.2 Ignite



Ignite is the youth group for HTSJ. During 2022 we began meeting again on a Sunday morning at the same time as the 10.30am service in the upstairs room. We meet every week, other than the second Sunday of the month which is Connect. Each session with Ignite involves games and activities to engage with a particular life issue and look at what the Bible has to say about this. We use the Youth for Christ material to do this and amongst other things, have looked at what the Bible has to say about relational poverty,

trustworthiness, and how we see ourselves. We have breakfast together at the start of the session, including many crepes and hot chocolate!

It has been really encouraging to see a consistent number of young people attending on a Sunday morning, including those who do not have parents at the church. Our numbers range from 2-12 and usually there are 6-8 young people on any given Sunday. We have managed to organise a pizza and film night and are hoping to make social activities a regular event for the young people. The team working with Ignite consists of Kate, Julian, Jonno and Angelo. It has been great to have a consistent team of people who have been able to get to know the young people better throughout 2022, and we are grateful for all those who pray for the young people – this is invaluable.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.3 Pizza & Games

Pizza and Games is an informal 2-hour session after church on the 1st Sunday of every month for 7 to 18 year olds where children and youth can enjoy a relaxed social time together around pizza and games as the names describes. Pizza and games is a continuation of a session that took place at the Holy Trinity pre-merger.

We set out badminton and board games, lego and more interactive games in the church hall and just invite them to spend time with one another and leaders. There are no activities associated with a church service as the time is simply about fellowship and eating pizza.

There have been about 10 children and youth attending most weeks ages 7 – 17, with the younger age group more strongly represented, and the atmosphere has been relaxed and vibrant with children and youth being able to relax and be themselves and have fun as well. The mix of age does not appear to have been an impediment as the different age groups gravitate to their own activities but also mix in the same space as well.

The church hall lends itself well to these sessions with space to spread out and run around as well.

We hope to maintain these sessions as long as there is an interest. There is a core group of 3 helpers but it would be good to have others dropping in to help as it is a great way for children and you to get to know the adult of the church and vice versa. Because this is an activity working with children and young people, safer recruitment applies – please speak to Ruth, our Safeguarding Officer, or to Jessica if you are interested in being involved in this.

Julian Providence



Section 4 Working Towards Intergenerational Community

4.1 Messy Church



Messy Church has evolved in two ways during the course of 2022.

Firstly, the monthly Messy Church that was taking place at 10:30am on a Sunday has evolved into Connect. The decision to do this was not easy and strong views were held on both sides, but we began trying out different ways of “doing” this sort of worship during the Summer term and actively sought feedback and engagement from those attending. During the summer, our Messy Church congregation also submitted suggestions for the name for the “new” service from the autumn, and we voted on a shortlist in July – in line with all our discussions on this issue, it should have been no surprise when the outcome was a tie and we had to have a deciding vote!

Secondly, we have developed a community focused, currently seasonal, Messy Church. Messy Easter on Good Friday morning was attended by ... children and ... adults and Messy Christingle on the first Sunday of Advent kicked off our Christmas celebrations in style with ... children and ... adults attending. Both times, numbers of adults include a team of around 25 volunteers, who give of their time and gifts in preparation, setting up, welcoming, leading craft activities, serving refreshments and tidying away.



The importance of our existing relationships with members of the community – especially those built up through Little and Big Fish and through our baptism work – has been very evident in the attendance at these services.



Messy Church could not happen without the dedicated support and hard work of a large team of volunteers – thank you all for your commitment.

If you would like to be involved in Messy Church in the future, please speak to Jessica.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

4.2 Connect

Connect began in its current form in September 2022 and our first service was somewhat overshadowed by taking place during the period of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth. However, during the autumn, we began to build momentum, with a Harvest Festival, a service for Christ the King and a Christmas Celebration. The decision to serve breakfast before the service in December proved very popular and has had lasting consequences!



Connect has sought to be intentionally intergenerational in approach. An intergenerational service involves much more than people of different ages worshipping side by side, with some sections designed to appeal to adults and others designed to appeal to children. In a truly intergenerational community, all ages are included and all of us are invited, in humility and wonder, to listen to and learn from those of different generations. And so we arrange the church café-style for Connect, so that people are encouraged to talk and share with one another –

whether that is a parent connecting with a child, an eighty-year-old connecting with someone in their forties, or a sixty-year-old with a young adult.

Our stated aims at Connect are:

- to connect with God the Father as we worship and pray together
- to connect with Jesus as we study the Bible together
- to connect with the Holy Spirit as we share stories of God's work in our lives
- to connect with one another as we spend time together

Our services follow the same broad structure as our other Sunday services, but are intentionally more interactive and less wordy. We are seeking to learn through doing and through the conversations inspired by what we are doing.



This is a service that continues to evolve, but I believe that it is an exciting development in the life of our church. And you can come for breakfast!

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

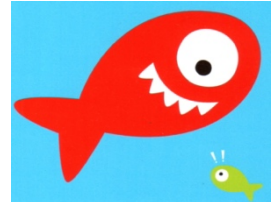
4.3 Little / Big Fish

These are our toddler groups serving the local community, running during term time.



Little Fish runs on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9.30 – 11am, although the team are there earlier and later than these times, to prepare and clear up. Each session caters for up to 60 'family units' which means that at each session there could be about 70 adults and 90 or more children. Mondays are almost always full, and Wednesdays are getting fuller. During a week, we are welcoming over 100 adults and over 150 toddlers through the doors.

Big Fish runs on one Saturday morning each month (usually the 3rd Saturday) 9 – 10.30am, although again, some of the team arrive earlier than this to ensure that everything is ready, and stay later to set up the church for the Sunday morning service. This has grown considerably as a group compared to before pandemic, and the numbers are currently around 45 adults and 50 – 60 children at each session.



At all these sessions we aim to provide a safe space where children can play with a very wide range of toys, and where parents can chat together and connect with each other and with the team. Each session includes a bible story and ends with a lively song time. From a mission perspective, one of the most valuable aspects is the opportunity for relaxed and meaningful conversations with many of those who visit, and the links that this brings.

The Fish teams are very committed, but there is an urgent need for at least two additional people to join the Little Fish team. Currently we are short of two team people on a Monday, and this is being covered by Wednesday volunteers doubling up each week. For those who are not available during the week, but who could come along one Saturday a month, additional volunteers would also be welcome for Big Fish.

During October 2022, we had the privilege of being invited to join a research study being carried out by the National Institute for Christian Education Research (NICER) based at Canterbury Christ Church University. They were looking at 'Spirituality in church-run toddler groups.' The team visited over 4 sessions and spent time observing and chatting to parents/carers, children and the team. The final report will be published when the research is complete, but their initial feedback was incredibly positive about both the provision and the atmosphere in the group. The feedback that the researchers had from the parents and carers was glowing and it is clear that the group is providing an extremely valuable service to the community. The researchers had visited many other groups, and all had experience in working with children of this age, and they described Little Fish as 'The Gold Standard' of church toddler groups. As a team, and as a church, this is a great affirmation of the work we are doing.



Steve Miller

4.4 Over 50's – Open Door

Open Door is a group mainly for those over 50, with a few exceptions. We aim to give the members a chance to meet socially. Many older people become socially isolated and we aim to address that issue. We met most Wednesdays starting with lunch at 1pm followed by a variety of choices of activities, Boccia, art and craft and games,(Rummikub has very been popular) or a chance to sit and chat. All with tea, coffee and cakes. We average 20 people each week.



A big thank you to those who cook the meals especially Peter and Carol, Robyn, Angelo and Julia. We do need more people to cook, if you would like to help in any way please contact Janice
Also thank you to those who host etc. and to Sue and Sally who provided the art and craft activities. In September we changed the group name to Open Doors.

Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

4.5 Over 50's – Holiday@Home



Holiday@Home is an adult holiday club that met 1st to 3rd August. The club was well attended and people came from various number of groups, it gave everyone a chance to get to know each other, there was a good mix of church members and others from Open Door etc.

There were a number of activities on offer, including watercolour painting, decorating flower pots.

And Boccia or Table Tennis. Singing with

Jessica and Giant Team Scrabble.

We had a garden party on the Tuesday at St John's Vicarage.

A big thanks to all who came and helped, (the list would be too long, so if you helped THANK YOU.

We finished on the Wednesday with a Drumming Workshop led by Kay from Joo Doo Drums.



Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

4.6 Holy Trinity Pre-School

This will be the last report from the pre-school and will be a mixture of happy times and sadness. The year started with a bang as in early May, I received a phone call from OFSTED to say that they would be coming to do an inspection the following day. I quickly contacted Camilla, the head teacher and she rallied her staff to get things ready for the inspection. The inspector came and duly inspected and a few days later we received the rating which was "Good". Given the time that they had to prepare, the staff were congratulated on this.

During the year many events took place. Claire from Penge library came and read a book and led a planned activity.

In July, they had a visit from Wild Fangs, who brought along some of their exotic animals such as chinchillas, giant hissing cockroaches, tarantulas, scorpions and many more. The children really enjoyed this visit.

In July they had an end of term party where the children were entertained by Honey Bee party entertainer, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Now comes the sad bit. After the summer break, it became obvious that all was not well financially. Our treasurer had done a projection and determined that the pre-school would be running at a loss which was unsustainable. The trustees had an emergency meeting and regrettably it was decided that the pre-school would have to close. It was decided to close at the end of the autumn term. This would give parents and staff two months' notice instead of the statutory one month and that there would be enough money to pay the staff their statutory redundancy which had been worked out by the Treasurer and one of the trustees who worked in HR. After announcing the closure, a meeting was held with parents to explain the reasons for closure, which were low numbers of children on roll and no increase in funding from London Borough of Bromley.

During the autumn it was felt that as it would be the last term the pre-school operated it should be made as entertaining as possible for the children, so a few events were held close to Christmas. Wild Fang came in again with his exotic animals, a magician came in just before Christmas, his rabbit was a success with all the children. Jessica came in and gave a talk and led an activity about the Nativity. This was enjoyed by the children and some of the trustees. In October, Jessica did a talk at Harvest festival and led an activity. The feedback from the parents on this was excellent.

The year finished with an end of term party on December 20th, Honey Bee entertained the children and parents were invited to attend. After the party and the clearing up, the staff and trustees went out for a meal together.

After the pre-school closed, work had to be done to close the charity. Application was made to the Charities Commission to dissolve the charity, and this was accepted. There will be a three-month notice period and if no objections the charity will be dissolved, and the trustees will cease to be trustees. As a condition of the dissolution, all assets must be disposed of, in the case of the pre-school this is the children's equipment. Being a CIO charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), no profit must be made from the disposal, so the trustees decided to donate the equipment to other pre-schools in the area associated with churches. They duly came and took what they wanted. At the time of writing, the pre-school area is cleared and duly handed back to the church. There are a few small items left in the shed in the pre-school playground and two Wendy houses. It is hoped to dispose of these at some stage.

In closing, I would like to thank the staff for their support and understanding during this trying time and wish them good fortune in the future.

Pete Carter, Chair of Trustees

4.7 Knit & Natter

We've had another good year at K&N. We're enjoying being able to meet in-person at the St Johns site. We've seen a small growth in numbers and its been lovely to start to get to know some new people.

Some of us have been focusing on helping Betty by knitting lots of squares so she can turn them into blankets which are then sent out to Ukraine. But we do this whilst continuing to drink tea, eat cake and, of course, lots of nattering.



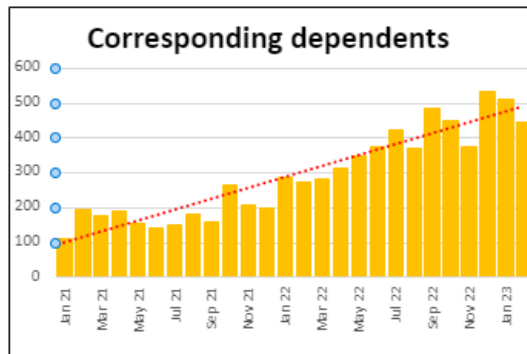
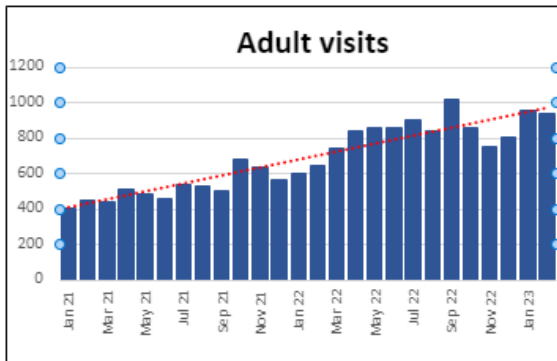
We welcome all comers and look forward to getting to know more new people. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, between 10:30am and 1pm (flexibly during that time).

Beccy Short

5.1 Living Well



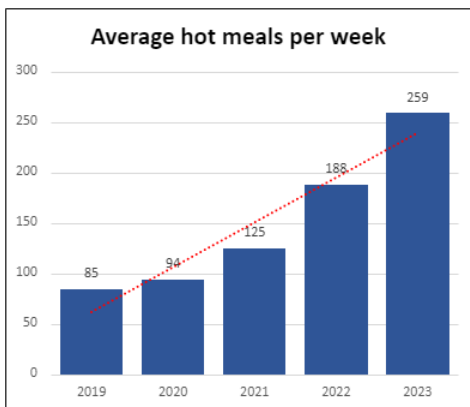
Foodbank



- Food bank visits in 2022 were 70% higher in 2022 than in 2021. 12,381 bags were handed out.
- September 2022 saw the most food bank visits in a month since reporting started.
- Donations were not able to keep up with such high demand, and therefore a new policy was introduced at the start of October. The number of visits that a guest is permitted to make each week was reduced from two to one. Also, families with more than 2 children began receiving a large family bag rather than multiple standard family bags.
- December saw the highest number of unique adults since reporting started.
- From April we had to start buying food to supplement the foodbank totalling more than £20,000.

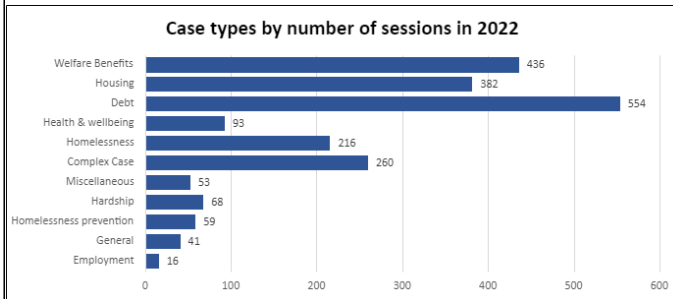
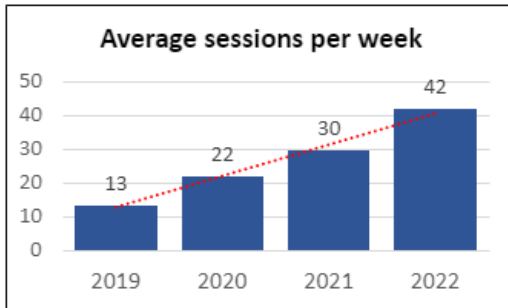
Community Café

Continues to run during foodbank sessions. On Tuesdays the **Art Café** is also open offering art activities to guests to encourage engagement and is led by our Art Therapist Fiona Barnes. This has become a popular activity with users coming from outside of Living Well.



Community Lunches Hot meal provision was 53% higher in 2022 than in 2021, with 9,569 hot meals given out in total. We were able to reopen a table service option for those wanting to eat at Living Well. Takeaways still remain the favourite option.

Advocacy



- Debt was the most common issue that sessions focused on, continued to remain high, though the number of welfare benefits and housing sessions were also significant.
- There were 41% more advocacy sessions in 2022 than in 2021, with 2,178 sessions in total. The number of guests being seen also increased, though by a lower amount of around 13%. This reflects each guest having more sessions on average than in 2021 .
- We achieved the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) for a second time.

New look Living Well

WE'RE MADE UP OF



We launched our new branding and a clear, precise tagline, vision, and values:

Tagline: Food and support that changes lives

Our vision: food and fuller lives for all in our community

Our mission: ensuring people have food, guidance and the support of an uplifting community to live life to the fullest

Other services Clothes bank is run every 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly, Blend choir every Thursday evening and prayers every Friday after the foodbank session. We continue to offer face-to-face and telephone counselling and pastoral care.

Rebecca Day, Operations Manager, Living Well

5.2 Blend Community Choir

Blend is a community choir primarily for Living Well guests and volunteers, but also has members from the church and local community. It meets on a Thursday evening at Holy Trinity site. We start at 6.30pm with cakes and refreshments. The choir sings from 7-8pm, we end with a reflective song (Take oh take me as I am) and a prayer.

The average attendance has been 9.

Since Kerst , our founder, moved to Germany a year ago we have had five different pianists, we have been blessed by these people and are grateful for their ongoing input. The choir members enjoy much laughter and joy, there is a great sense of community.

We have a committed team of volunteers, both from Living Well and from the Church, headed up by Rebecca Day who has given us great practical and moral support. The piano has been tuned this month. Jessica our vicar attends whenever her other commitments allow and is a great source of advice and support.

Although we have not been able to hold our own concert this last year, we have made guest appearances at services and concerts.

In November we sang a song at the remembrance service at Holy Trinity, in December we sang at the carol service and at a fundraising concert with hidden voices.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are now practising a hymn for Good Friday afternoon and plan to sing at the May Living Well plant sale.

Our pianist suggested we could do a promotional sing along at the Living Well community lunch to encourage more members.

We are always happy for church members to visit or join us and welcome your prayers. The benefit to those who participate are many, singing is great for releasing endorphins and with a mixture of secular and Christian songs, its great for the soul. Thank you for your continued support.

Sue and Richard Thomson

5.3 CAP Centre



CAP CENTRE REPORT - 2022

By Rachel Williams, CAP Centre Manager

At the beginning of 2022 we had resumed face to face meetings with clients, but were still having to wear face masks and by the end of the year everything had returned to normal.

Our centre is always busy and the current economic climate increased demand for our service. Clients have struggled more than ever before with energy costs, food costs and in some cases keeping a roof over their heads. Two of our clients had difficult decisions to make around selling their homes to clear their debts. However, we have still helped 5 clients go debt free in 2022 and £65,264.30 was repaid and £27,251.71 was written off through insolvency. That is a total of £92,516.01 debt cleared last year.

5 clients might not seem like a large number, but these are the ones who went debt free. There is always a proportion of clients who decide not to work with us and some who do, but aren't able to complete the entire process. We need to remember that we still have an enormous, positive impact on the clients' lives. CAP's covid emergency aid response enabled clients to have online food shops delivered to their door and top ups were given towards the cost of energy bills. We always offer prayer and Lin, Gareth and I often go the extra mile to help support our clients in difficult and challenging situations. We have supported clients through ACTS 435 enabling funds to be raised for debt relief orders and essential items for the home.

Words can not adequately express the amazing response to our Crowdfunding campaign. In my last report I said that funding was a real issue, but at the time of writing this report March 2023, we have more money in the bank than we have ever had before! My original target was £25,000.00, but we not only reached that target we doubled it!!!!!! When we step out in faith God provides. OUR GOD CAN DO MORE THAN WE EVER IMAGINE. PRAISE HIM.

Before I go any further, I would like to thank both Lin and Gareth for the amazing work undertaken during this last year. Well done to you both, I couldn't have kept things going without you. I would also like to thank Sally Jones, Gail Gee, Christine Wood, Sarah Murrell and Paul Breakspear for being our CAP volunteers. In addition Russ Jones and Andrew Griffiths for their help and support with the finances. I appreciate your time, commitment and service to our centre.

Christians Against Poverty are still in the process of our "Debt Transformation Program." We are looking at all the services that CAP offers, our debt service, our money courses, our job clubs and our life skills. More information should be available next year. Head Office moved locations, but are still based in Bradford.

I have detailed below my key objectives:-

1) **Ensuring all that we do is centred on serving our local community.**

Serving Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord is our calling in the Debt Centre. We need to action our faith and working for CAP enables us to do this.

2) **Prayer**

Praying regularly for the centre, our clients and funding. On a Monday and Wednesday morning, we pray and read our bibles before we start our work. This has always been a priority of mine.

3) **Finance**

To engage more individuals and churches to regularly support our work.

4) **Food Bank**

To continue to provide food as and when it is needed to our clients.

5) **CAP Volunteers**

To continue to grow our volunteer team. I am always on the lookout for more volunteers to help support our clients, run events, lead CAP money courses and various other roles too. I am very keen to have a strong body of people able to see clients with us.

6) **Drop in sessions**

Our client drop in has been temporarily suspended. Initially we had quite a few clients who would come on a Wednesday morning, but as time went on the numbers decreased. Some of our clients don't live near the church and often don't have transport or money to pay for travel costs.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in Holy Trinity with St. John's, Christ Church Beckenham, St John's Eden Park, St Paul's, Brackley Road, Grace Church in Beckenham and Neighbourhood Church for their support through prayer, food bank donations and financial giving. We couldn't run this centre without you. May God bless every one of you.

Rachel Williams, Centre Manager

5.4 HT Community Garden

This garden wraps around the east and north sides of the church building and is visited by guests and volunteers attending the Living Well charity, members of the public and our churches, used occasionally for outdoor worship and cared for by volunteers.

In May there was a successful plant sale raising funds for Living Well. In the summer a diseased tree was removed bringing new light to the vegetable and flower beds, and in autumn lots of new daffodil and tulip bulbs were planted.

The garden is always open and provides a welcome and calm space to sit and enjoy the flowers, birds and the changing seasons.

Sue Smith

5.5 Work in Schools

Part of the role of a Church of England church is to be present for all who live and work in the parish. In our parish we are blessed to have a church school (St John's Primary), an infants school (Alexandra Infants), a junior school (Alexandra Juniors), two community primary schools (Harris Primary Crystal Palace and Harris Kent House) and a secondary school (Harris Girls). We are even more blessed to enjoy excellent relationships with all of them.

Work with schools was one of our key areas of growth during 2022.

St John's Primary

One of my favourite moments of the week is Tuesday morning Collective Worship at St John's Primary, a weekly link with the children and staff there and an opportunity to share a Bible story and hear the children's enthusiastically expressed views on it!

During 2022, each class, from Reception to Year 6, visited the church (St John's Site) to deepen their understanding of the work they were doing in RE. Following two years of COVID, end of term assemblies for the whole school in church also returned to the St John's site, with an Easter service, the Leavers' service, Harvest Festival and the Christmas service. It is pleasing that the number of adults attending these services has grown through the year and, with the support of a team of willing volunteers from the church, we were able to welcome them with coffee and mince pies before the Christmas service.

Working with the Deputy Head, Kat Nash, I was able to apply successfully to the Diocese for a grant to develop an outdoor area in the school into a sacred garden – and I very much hope that this will be a place where we can work with the school to start to bring church to their families.

Yvette Evans and I also supported the school as critical friends through the Aquinas Advisory Committee.

Other Work with Schools

We are growing our relationship with other schools in the parish, especially with the primary schools. Our involvement during 2022 included:

- assemblies at Alexandra Infants and Juniors for Harvest, Christmas and Easter
- Alexandra Junior whole school carol service at Holy Trinity site
- Crystal Palace Primary Year 4 visit to St John's site to learn about Christingle
- Kent House Primary Year 1 visit to St John's site to learn about the Nativity
- Harris Girls Christmas concert at Holy Trinity site

Thank you to all who supported these visits as welcomers and to work with groups of children, especially during the busy run-up to Christmas.

If anybody is interested in praying for or being involved in work in schools, please do speak to me.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

5.6 Mission Giving

The PCC of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge, made the decision to set aside £6,500 to support mission organisations that are linked with our vision and purpose. These organisations were agreed based on the legacy giving of each church, with half allocated to those St John's used to support and half to Holy Trinity. These totalled:

- CAP - £1,625
- CMS (the Day family mission link) - £1,625
- Essubi - £812.50
- Release International - £812.50
- Living Well - £812.50
- St Christopher's Hospice - £812.50 (this was not paid in the 2022 accounts, but will appear in 2023 accounts)

Further, the PCC agreed a budget of £6,500 for 2023, and the allocations will be discussed and agreed by PCC in due course - suggestions are always welcome.

Andrew Griffiths, PCC Treasurer

5.7 Auction

Our 12th Auction was held at the Holy Trinity Site on 26th March 2022. All the Lots sold had been donated over the previous year. Throughout the day we had approx 85 people in attendance, many of whom had supported our previous auctions. Breakfasts, lunches, tea, coffee & soft drinks were served throughout. At the end of the proceedings, lots of people asked when the next one would be.....a question that we couldn't answer!

The total raised was £2092, making a running total of all 12 auctions of just over £38,000.

Our thanks go to all who helped, in any way, to make the day a successful community event.

Lionel Riches

Accounts



Reports for the APCM 2022



Contents

Section 1: Annual Report

- 1.1 Agendas
- 1.2 Vicar's Report
- 1.3 Electoral Roll Report
- 1.4 Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM 22nd May 2022
- 1.5 Financial Review
- 1.6 Churchwardens' Report, including Fabric Report
- 1.7 PCC Secretary's Report
- 1.8 Deanery Synod Report
- 1.9 Safeguarding Report

Section 2: Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care

- 2.1 Worship Report
- 2.2 Music in Worship
- 2.3 Prayer Meeting
- 2.4 Wednesday Morning Prayer
- 2.5 Friday Prayers
- 2.6 Tech in Worship
- 2.7 Home & Community Groups
- 2.8 Lent Course
- 2.9 Exploring... Workshops
- 2.10 Communications & Website
- 2.11 Pastoral Care
- 2.12 Life Events: Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

Section 3: Children and Young People

- 3.1 Blast / Blaze
- 3.2 Ignite
- 3.3 Pizza & Games

Section 4: Working towards Intergenerational Community

- 4.1 Messy Church
- 4.2 Connect
- 4.3 Little & Big Fish
- 4.4 Over 50's: Open Doors
- 4.5 Holiday@Home
- 4.6 HT Pre-School
- 4.7 Knit & Natter

Section 5: Community & Mission

- 5.1 Living Well
- 5.2 Blend Choir
- 5.3 CAP
- 5.4 HT Community Garden
- 5.5 Work with Schools
- 5.6 Mission Giving
- 5.7 Auction

Section 1 Annual Report

1.1 Agendas

Agenda for the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Thanks and Prayer

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of last year's APCM (22nd May 2022)
2. Matters arising from the minutes, if any
3. Election of PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives
 - a. 12 PCC members
 - b. 2 Deanery Synod Representatives
 - c. LLM, Readers, Pastoral Assistants
 - d. Sidespersons
4. Adoption of the Electoral Roll (copy available for inspection)
5. Fabric Report (including fabric, goods, ornaments)
6. PCC Secretary's Report
7. Financial Report (including Financial Statements for Year Ending 2022)
 - a. adoption of audited accounts
 - b. appointment of the independent examiner for 2023
8. Safeguarding Report
9. Other written reports are available for inspection
10. Vicar's Report
11. Any Other Business
12. Closing Prayer

The new PCC and wardens will gather at the front of church immediately after the meeting to appoint officers and confirm the date for the first meeting.

1.2 Vicar's Report

In September 2022, we welcomed a new Bishop of Rochester to our Diocese in a service in Rochester Cathedral. Bishop's Jonathan's sermon on that day contained a simple message to the churches: Change – Serve – Grow. And, here on the outer reaches of the Diocese in Penge, these three words feel like an excellent summary of the last year.

2022 was a year of enormous change for us. It is worth remembering that it is only since last Easter that we started to worship together as one church every Sunday. That change brought new life, joy and energy into our worship, into our fellowship and, especially, into our children's work. It has also felt uncomfortable for some, as both legacy churches have settled into a new pattern and a new way of being. And this was, of course, sharpened and highlighted by the decision in July, following a period of wide consultation, to settle our 8am service at the Holy Trinity site and the 10:30am at the St John's site from the beginning of October. I do not underestimate how hard this change was for many people, and the deep sadness it brought for some. However, it also brought opportunities – new services in the form of Connect, Wednesday Afternoon Prayer and the Sunday Communion service, Pizza and Games for young people, all of which are flourishing, and some new HTSJ ways of celebrating Christmas and Easter that may or may not develop, in time, into traditions! We have not been immune, either, to the changes happening all around us in society – the tragedy of war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, which has had such an impact on the work of Living Well and of CAP, the summer of three Prime Ministers and countless cabinets, and, of course, the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

One thing that did not change during 2022 was the commitment of so many people in our church congregation to serve both one another and the wider community. These reports bear witness to the life of this church thriving through service in many ways. We served young families, through Little & Big Fish, our “gold standard” toddler groups, and the pre-school. We served older people through Open Doors and the joyful celebration that was Holiday@Home. We served the most vulnerable through Living Well – the pressure upon which was documented by an article in the FT and a CNN news report – and CAP, the response to whose fundraiser was of such overflowing generosity. We offered our buildings to community groups, including for a new Warm Space on a Thursday lunchtime which has been a blessing to many. We have served through knitting squares for blankets for people in Ukraine, and through our Mission Giving donations. And, of course, so many of us have served in unseen, unnoticed ways throughout the year – supporting, cleaning, mending bits of the buildings that have come unstuck, being on the PCC, stewarding our accounts, welcoming, listening, caring, praying. You are too many to name – but thank you to all who keep the life and service of our church going day by day and week by week. You are an inspiration and a huge encouragement!

And, thirdly: grow. Whilst our church membership, in terms of the electoral roll, remains steady, we have seen around 70 adults and anything from 10-25 children and young people attending on Sundays across our two sites and different services. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new people during the year. In addition, we have seen huge growth in the numbers attending all our midweek activities as the fear of Covid recedes and people are actively seeking places of relationship and community. But growth is not only that which can be measured. We have grown in relationships with one another. We have grown in understanding of each other – and in understanding of what the adventure of merging our legacy churches actually entails. We have grown, I hope, spiritually, as we have worshipped together, prayed together, learnt together and shared our life together. And we look forward to seeing how, in God's time and by God's grace, the seeds planted during 2022, both those sown in weeping and those sown in joy, will blossom and bear fruit in the future.

Whatever the next year holds for us, I can guarantee three things: we will continue to change, serve and grow – for this is the calling of all God's people for all time. We are called to change, to be transformed

into the image of Christ who called us to follow him, to serve after the pattern of our Servant King, and, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow into the life he calls us to, day by day.

“... all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Rev Jessica Smith, Vicar

1.3 Electoral Roll Report

There are 155 names on the roll, as against 156 last year.

71 of those names are resident in the parish and 84 are non-resident.

8 names have been added to the roll.

9 names have been removed from the roll.

I again acknowledge the indispensable part played by Hazel Willson, who has signed up almost all the names added to the roll this year; thank you so much Hazel.

Richard Thomson, Electoral Roll Officer

1.4 Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM 2022

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge

Minutes of Annual Vestry (Parish) Meeting (APM) on 22nd May 2022 held on the St John's church site

(The meeting was held in person and on zoom)

Context: This was the first formal APM and APCM since the formation of the United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge on 1st September 2021.

Both churches were in an interregnum at the time.

Rev Jessica Smith was installed as Vicar for the benefice on 13th October 2021.

Record of Attendance for APM and APCM

Present:

In church: Jessica Smith (chair), Lorraine Baker, Ian Baldwin, Valerie Baldwin, Valerie Beckway, Fiona Barnes, Peter Carter, Carol Carter, Sunil Chandy, Jonno Campion-Smith, Kate Campion-Smith, Margaret Davies, Tom Davies, Yvette Evans, Betty Friend, Alex Griffiths, Andrew Griffiths, Diane Lovell, Anne McClaughry, Rod McClaughry, Steve Miller, Sue Miller, Francoise Moore, Jessica Moscrop, Sarah Murrell, Natalie, Sally Nicholas, Kemi Ogundipe, Gill Owens, Alison Penfold, Laura Polaine, Cordelia Providence, Julian Providence, Margaret Riches, Lionel Riches, Beccy Short, Catherine Stewart, Nick Stewart, Richard Thomson, Sue Thomson, Sarah Whiting, Hazel Willson.

On zoom: David Osborne, Mary Osborne, Rob Smith, Sue Smith, Ruth Wright, Terry Wright, Harold and Maria.

Apologies: Val Carrier, June Gibson, Veronica Hughes, Russ Jones, Sally Junes, Christine Stone, Colin Stone, Mick Vance.

1. The meeting opened with prayer

Revd Jessica Smith (Vicar) welcomed the parishioners.

The Agenda for the meeting could be found on page 7 of the Annual Report 2022.

2. Apologies for absence

See above

3. Election of Churchwardens

Jessica explained that now we have come to the end of the transitional arrangements for the benefice of Holy Trinity with St John's which was established on 1st September 2021, we would move from having four churchwardens to two churchwardens who would be responsible for both church sites. Jessica thanked the four churchwardens for all they have done over the years and in the transition to the new benefice.

Jessica explained that as Steve Miller has completed 6 years as churchwarden he has decided to step down as churchwarden.

Peter Carter has decided to step down after 13 years as churchwarden.

Ian Baldwin and Jonno Campion-Smith are both willing to stand again and have been nominated as Churchwardens.

Nominations:

Ian Baldwin

Proposed: Steve Miller; **Seconded:** Russell Jones

Jonno Campion-Smith-

Proposed: Sunil Chandy; **Seconded:** Margaret Riches.

The proposal to elect Ian and Jonno as churchwardens for the benefice was approved.

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Diane Lovell; **All in favour.**

Ian and Jonno were duly elected for a term of one year.

Jessica read out a summary of the churchwardens' responsibilities.

Jessica said how enormously grateful she was to Ian, Jonno, Steve and Peter, for all they had done in preparations for her arrival in October 2021 and over the transitional period.

Jessica presented Steve and Peter with a gift in appreciation for all they have done.

Jessica then invited Ian and Jonno to be presented with the keys for both churches as a sign of their joint responsibilities across both sites.

Jessica reminded people that the churchwardens have the role of taking responsibility across the parish but there needs to be a team supporting them on the ground. Further discussions would take place to ensure this.

4. Thanks and Prayer

Jessica prayed for the church, for Steve and Peter for all they have done, and for Ian and Jonno as they continue and the future. We are encouraged to support them and help them for the glory of God across the parish.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 22nd May 2022

The meeting was held immediately after the Annual Vestry (Parish) Meeting (APM) on 22nd May 2022 on the St John's church site (The meeting was in person and on zoom)

Record of Attendance for APCM

- As for APM (see above).

1. Approval of the minutes of APCM's 2021

- a. **Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham, 23rd May 2021**
- b. **St John the Evangelist, Penge, 25th April 2021**
- c. **Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Special Church meeting 20th September 2021**

Jessica explained that each of the churches had held their own APCM in April / May 2021, and that an Extraordinary / Special church meeting was held on 20th September 2021 after the establishment of the United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge on 1st September 2021.

Jessica said that members of the legacy Holy Trinity congregation could approve the minutes of the Holy Trinity APCM and that members of the St John's congregation could approve the minutes of the St John's APCM. Any member present at the Extraordinary meeting in September 2021 could approve the minutes of the Special Church meeting.

Approval of minutes as an accurate record of the meeting:

- a. **Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham, 23rd May 2021**

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Jonno Campion-Smith; **All in favour**

- b. **St John the Evangelist, Penge, 25th April 2021**

Proposed: Sue Miller; **Seconded:** Val Baldwin; **All in favour**

- c. **Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Special Church meeting 20th September 2021**

Proposed: Beccy Short; **Seconded:** Margaret Davies; **All in favour**

2. Matters arising from above minutes. None

3. Elections

a. Parish Church Council (PCC) members

A church with our number on the Electoral Roll can have 12 lay members on the PCC.

10 people have been nominated to be PCC members. All these members have been serving on the transitional PCC since September 2021.

Four members of the transitional PCC have stepped down for a range of reasons.

Jessica thanked the transitional PCC for the important work that had been done with packed agendas and important decisions that needed to be made.

Jessica thanked those stepping down: Val Carrier, Steve Lovell; Keith McMillan; Winston Vethroy for all they have done.

Nominations of PCC members: Proposed:

Peter Carter

Steve Miller

Andrew Griffiths

Sally Nicholas

Tamara Cooper

Yvette Evans

Jessica Moscrop

Julian Providence

Sue Thomson

Michael Vance

Ruth Wright

Nick Stewart

Stephen Lovell

Ian Baldwin

Sally Nicholas

Hazel Willson

Andrew Griffiths

Sue Miller

Laura Polaine

Stephen Miller

Seconded:

Fiona Barnes

Julian Providence

Ian Baldwin

Sue Thomson

Rebecca Short

Steve Miller

Ian Baldwin

Catherine Stewart

Richard Thomson

Francoise Moore-Edwin

Therefore there are two vacancies. Anyone interested in coming onto the PCC should speak to Jessica or any member of the PCC.

Jessica suggested we voted for the approval of all ten people who had been nominated

Proposed: Carol Carter; **Seconded:** Sarah Whiting; **All in favour**

Therefore everyone on the list above was duly elected to the PCC.

b. 3 Deanery Synod representatives

Jessica explained that our 3 Deanery representatives were elected to serve until 2023 and that all three representatives are willing to continue.

Our three Deanery representatives are: Margaret Riches; Hazel Willson and Ruth Wright.

Thanks extended to Margaret, Hazel and Ruth.

The elected PCC members and Deanery Reps were asked to stand up so that people were aware of who they were.

c. LLMs , Readers, Pastoral Assistants

Jessica explained that all those who hold these roles have the right to attend the PCC.

Jessica said she is very grateful for their ministry and support.

Ian Baldwin; Janice Bessant; Sunil Chandy; Russell Jones.

d. Sidespersons

The list of people who act as sidespersons is covered by the Welcoming teams on the Church rota, therefore the individuals on these teams were proposed to cover these roles.

Proposed: Andrew Griffiths; **Seconded:** Gill Owens; **All in favour**

4. Adoption of the Electoral Roll and Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

Sally Nicholas (PCC secretary) explained that there was an update to the Electoral Roll report for the Parish of Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge from that published in the Annual report (page 6). There had been an agreement, by email, from the PCC to update the Electoral Roll. The updated report had been provided by the Electoral Roll Officer, Richard Thomson. Sally read the update out in full.

The updated Electoral Roll report is for the period 1st September 2021 to 8th May 2022.

'There are 158 names on the roll.

69 of those are resident in the parish and 89 are non resident.

There are 102 women on the roll and 56 men.

10 names have been added to the roll.

33 names have been removed from the roll.

I (Richard Thomson) gladly acknowledge the enormous part played by Hazel Willson in the revision, not only for signing up every one of the added names, but also earlier on for having curated the St John's names and transferred them to the combined roll; thank you so much Hazel'.

Proposal that we adopt the revised Electoral Roll and appoint Richard Thomson as the Electoral Roll officer

Proposed: Yvette Evans; **Seconded:** Rod McClaughry; **All in favour**

5. Fabric report (including fabric, goods and ornaments)

The fabric reports for Holy Trinity church and St John's church could be found on pages 30&31 of the Annual report.

Following clarification about the Church Terrier and Log book relating to equipment log, and repairs, the churchwardens will ensure these are updated for both churches in line with the fabric report as needed. The meeting was asked to approve the fabric report and corresponding updates to the Terrier and Church log book.

Proposed: Jonno Campion-Smith; **Seconded:** Valerie Baldwin; **All in favour**

6. PCC Secretary's report

There are three PCC secretary's reports on pages 23-29 of the Annual report.

a. Holy Trinity Beckenham: January - August 2021

b. St John's, Penge January - August 2021

c. Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge: Sept - December 2021

Sally was asked if she had anything to add to the reports and the meeting was asked if anyone had any questions. There were no additional comments or questions.

Jessica thanked Sally for all her work for the PCC and Sally Jones for her time as PCC secretary for St John's.

7. Financial Report (including Financial statements for the year Ending 2021)

Andrew gave an overview of the accounts with some accompanying slides.

The accounts had been audited by Tony Catherall, independent examiner.

Andrew outlined income and expenditure, the restricted and unrestricted funds and the year end position. He said that although we were in a healthy financial position as a church we should remain frugal, be good stewards and build on mission and God's story.

Questions / comments

A question was asked about whether there was a plan to bring back the plate collection.

It was explained there is a donation box at St John's and a plate usually put on the welcome table at Holy Trinity but that no plan to resume the plate collection during the Sunday morning worship had been made. This would need to be agreed with the PCC.

Andrew said that cash is difficult to handle and that standing orders are preferable. This issue would be taken to the PCC. There were no other questions. The meeting was then asked to adopt the audited accounts.

a. adoption of audited reports

Proposed: Richard Thomson; **Seconded:** Valerie Baldwin; **All in favour**

b. appointment of the independent examiner for 2022

It was proposed that Tony Catherall continue as independent examiner of the church accounts.

Proposed: Margaret Riches; **Seconded:** Hazel Willson; All in favour.

Jessica said she gave huge thanks to Tony Catherall for being the independent examiner and huge thanks to Andrew and to Edward for painstakingly working on the separate church accounts and then bringing them together.

8. Safeguarding report

The safeguarding report is on pages 33&34 of the Annual report.

A question was asked as to whether there had been any particular issues.

Jessica said that there were two potential issues that were investigated.

9. Review of other written reports:

Jessica said that other written reports could be found in the Annual report and thanked people for their contributions. Jessica asked if there were any questions on the reports. There were none. The meeting was asked to approve the other reports collectively.

Proposed: Margaret Davies; **Seconded:** Andrew Griffiths; **All in favour**

10. Vicar's report

Jessica said that after 7 months of talking about 'the merger' it was time to talk about 'unity'. Rather than blend everything it is important to recognise the rich diversity of people and made reference to 1 Corinthians 12 - various gifts; same God.

We need to honour the unique vocations of each person and grow in confidence - a new vocation as a united church.

Jessica then showed a video from Sunil's recent sermon which illustrated the Trinity in the form of different musical instruments joining in a Bach Fugue. In a choir or orchestra being in harmony in such a way is difficult and requires good communication between the musicians and listening to all the other parts. Each musician needs to hold their own part whilst being aware of the other parts. Our own unique vocations need to be brought together so we can fulfil that vocation given to us by Jesus to 'Go and make disciples'. This is what we need to do as church - to let our hearts sing and to serve the community. If you want to talk more about your vocation do speak to Jessica.

To fulfil this vocation we need to wait on God and work together and lay aside our preferences.

We need to make the hard decision as to where to settle the 10.30am Sunday morning worship. Jessica emphasised that both churches buildings will remain open, and both will remain open for worship.

Alternating buildings in the way we are at the moment is particularly hard for the most vulnerable and those we are trying to reach out to.

It is likely that the 8am service would be at the other building and there are other prayer and worship opportunities during the week eg Friday afternoon, Morning Prayer, and prayer on the phone on Wednesday.

The PCC will consult as widely as possible about this and the congregation is urged to engage in the process and seek God's wisdom.

Jessica said that Communication is sometimes difficult. The two legacy churches communicated in different ways and this is being brought together eg News and Notices.

Communication is important both internally and externally and Jessica gave thanks to the Communications crew who are working hard on the website. Jessica said it is important that people say what is working and not working; that we care for one another and get to know one another - get to know what makes one's heart sing. The parish weekend has been wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better.

Jessica gave thanks to everyone for making her feel so welcome, for prayer and for walking a sometimes bumpy path.

Jessica wanted to give thanks to a few people not already mentioned:

- to Sue Miller for leading the children's work at St John's for six years who is now going to focus on her vocation in leading music.
- to Julia in the office for her resourcing and cheerfulness.
- to the worship and preaching team, sound and zoom team, welcome and refreshment team, and all the people who help with cleaning.

Jessica said it is both a privilege and responsibility to be with us, and she is excited about what God is going to do next.

11. Any other business / Further questions

There were no further questions or comments.

Jessica thanked everyone for their attention, patience and contributions.

12. Closing Prayer - concluding with saying the Grace together.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary



Holy Trinity with St John's Penge

Report of Financial Activity for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and also those found in the Church Guidance, 2017 edition.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination; I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept respect of the charity as required by section 63 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; and
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Yours faithfully



T. J. Catherall
77 Merlin Grove
Beckenham
BR3 3HS

27/02/2023

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 December 2022

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. 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 view provisions'. They have also been prepared under FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)). As Holy Trinity merged with St John's Penge on 1 September 2021 to form a new benefice, the accounts represent a merging of the two churches.

CAP received various amounts of income including a crowd funding appeal - £14,254 was paid into the unrestricted account and transferred to CAP, and show in the CAP accounts. The unrestricted account also pays CAP salaries and is reimbursed (total - £5843.08), this is deducted from Other Restricted in expenditure. However, £3453.32 is outstanding and will be reimbursed in 2023.

In utilities, the mast use is netted against costs – the mast company spent and reimbursed £26,346 in utilities payments in 2022. The Diocese of Rochester refunded £8,434 of Parish Share, which was taken in error.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available or individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less, which are written off when the asset is acquired. The item is not capitalised, but all items are in the Church's inventory.

Tangible fixed assets

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of market value.

Loans

Following the merger of the two parishes the loan with the Diocese of Rochester was written off through a grant from the Trust for London Fund within the gift of the Archdeacon.

Short Term Deposits

These are cash held on deposit with a bank, credit union or (for the Church Repair Fund) with the Diocese.

Unrestricted funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project.

Restricted funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds

These are restricted funds that must be maintained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown below.

Staff costs

	2022
Wages, Salaries & Pension costs	£31,280
Average no. of employees	4

During the period the PCC employed a part time administrator and one part time cleaners. No payments were large enough to attract social security costs. These employees equate to less than one full time employee.

The PCC also employed two people to run the CAP centre.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

Analysis of transfers between accounts

	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total
CBI Investment Fund income	£932	(£932)	0

Summary of restricted funds

St John's building	£16,127
Youth Worker	£19,963
CAP	£40,635
Total	£76,725

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

Income Resources	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
Voluntary income	£104,194	£8,890		£113,084	£151,886
Investment income	£382	£16	£932	£1,330	£730
Church Activities	£63,100	£808		£63,908	£35,809
Other resources		£47,825		£47,825	£13,560
Total	£167,676	£57,539	£932	£226,147	£201,985
Resources Expended					
Missionary Giving	£5,687			£5,687	£3,758
Church Activities	£145,011	£12,500		£157,511	£165,841
Parochial Organisations		£20,550		£20,550	£23,921
Total	£150,698	£33,050	£932	£183,748	£193,520
Net income/outgoings	£16,978	£24,489	£932	42399	£8,465
Transfers	£932		-£932		
Total	£17,910	£24,489	£0	£42399	£8,783
Gain on investment			-£4,143	-£4,143	£3,919
Total funds					
01/01/2022	£112,434	£52,236	£35,197	£199,867	£187,165
31/12/2022	£130,344	£76,725	£31,054	£238,123	£199,867

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Income for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving Gift Aid	£71,026	£158		£71,184	£82,649
Income Tax Recovered	£17,979	£0		£17,979	£31,212
Building project	£0	£0		£0	£0
Other Planned Giving	£3,737	£220		£3,957	£5,751
Plate Giving	£3,185	£0		£3,185	£1,685
Donations	£2,214	£0		£2,214	£10,951
Legacies	£0	£0		£0	£368
Council tax and other refunds	£129	£6,908		£6,908	£7,412
Grants	£5,924	£1,604		£7,528	£7,250
VAT Refund	£0	£0		£0	£4,608
Congregational loans	£0	£0		£0	£0
Total	£104,194	£8,890	£0	£113,084	£151,886
Activities generating funds					
Interest and Dividends	£382	£16	£932	£1,330	£145
Income from Church Activities					
Fair	£0	£0		£0	£249
Hall Lettings	£35,019	£0		£35,019	£17,027
Weddings and Funerals	£734	£808		£1,542	£2,365
Little Fish	£7,531	£0		£7,531	£1,868
Mast	£19,816	£0		£19,816	£14,300
Total	£63,100	£808	£0	£63,908	£35,809
Parochial Organisations					
CAP Project	£0	£47,825		£47,825	£13,560
TOTAL	£167,676	£57,539	£932	£226,147	£201,985

Holy Trinity with St John's, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Resources Expended for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
Missionary giving	£5,687		£5,687	£3,758
Admin	£343	£81	£424	£8,417
Building project	£12,543		£12,543	£22,550
Building maintenance	£639		£639	£11,215
Children and youth	£1,138		£1,138	£992
Cleaning	£1,659		£1,659	£2,968
Diocesan Share	£72,256		£72,256	£79,259
Discretionary fund	£98		£98	
Evangelism	£45		£45	£226
Governance	£0		£0	£0
Insurance	£10,382		£10,382	£10,034
Interest	£0		£0	£356
IT, sound and vision	£1,722		£1,722	£1,915
Minister's expenditure	£381		£381	£170
Other (restricted)	£0	£12,419*	£12,419	£2,188
Printing and publicity	£2,582		£2,582	£1,776
Salaries and pension	£15,685		£15,685	£5,244
Training	£386		£386	£130
Utilities	£23,413		£23,413	£8,163
Vicarage	£1,739		£1,739	£10,238
Total	£150,698	£12,500	£163,198	£169,599
Parochial Organisation				
CAP Project	£0	£20,550	£20,500	£23,921
Total	£150,698	£33,050	£183,748	£185,651

*£18,262 minus £5,843 CAP salaries refunded. £3,453 is still owing and will come from 2023 accounts.

Holy Trinity with St John, Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Fixed Assets		
Investment	£31,054	£35,197
Total Fixed Assets		
Short Term Deposit	£106,762	£86,609
Cash in Bank	£100,307	£78,061
Total Assets	£238,123	£199,867
Funds		
Fixed Assets	£31,054	£35,197
Restricted Funds	£76,725	£52,236
Unrestricted Funds	£130,344	£112,434
Total	£238,123	£199,867

**St John the Evangelist Penge
Statement of Financial Activity
CAP Centre Accounts at 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
Income		
Gift Aided Income	£3,619	£3,355
Non-Gift Aided Income	£280	£135
Gift Aid Reclaim	£649	£516
Other	£43,277	£9,554
Total	£47,825	£13,560
Expenditure		
Salary, Admin and Pension	£15,595	£17,431
CAP Central	£3,300	£6,000
Admin (Office)	£81	£106
Expenses	£714	£289
Client Blessing	£859	£95
Total	£20,550	£23,921
Balance Sheet		
1 Jan 2022	£13,359	£23,720
Net Income/Outgoing	£27,276	-£10,361
31 December 2022	£40,635	£13,359

1.6 Churchwardens' Report (including Fabric Report)

Wardens Report

By Jonno Campion-Smith and Ian Baldwin, Church Wardens

This has been both a challenging and exciting year as we discover what the new benefice of Holy Trinity with St Johns Penge evolves into. The challenge has been bringing people together whilst making some difficult decisions. It is sad that some people have left, whilst others continue to feel troubled. However it is encouraging to see people joining activities on both sites and new people joining the congregation. As we look at the vision new exciting opportunities will arise to serve God in Penge.

We have been encouraged to see the two sites being put to good use for a wide range of activities. A massive thank you to everyone involved in leading and supporting those activities. We look forward to seeing how these valuable resources are put to use as we develop and grow into our new vision.

Wardens are also involved with the buildings and here are some of the main items:-

- The roofs continue to be maintained by a local roofing firm with twice yearly gutter clearing and slate repairs as and when identified.
- The electrical and lighting systems, emergency lighting, smoke alarm system, fire extinguishers and gas appliances are regularly serviced. We continue to have regular visits from a pest control firm and the problem with mice in the church buildings is less of an issue. However the sites still need to be kept clean and tidy.
- In October the water heater was replaced at the HT site in November the fire alarm panel was replaced at the SJ site.
- In December the Pre-School closed and the trustees kindly gave some tables and chairs to the church.
- In March we purchased a new TV and white board both on wheeled stands.
- Both buildings will have their Quinquennial Inspections this year. These will enable us to better plan and budget the maintenance of the two sites.

The vicarage at HT site has been let by the Diocese until September 2023. The new curate, Rev Ray Shergill, is expected to begin in October 2023 – and living in the HT vicarage.

We are grateful to all the help and support people offer. Our thanks to Pete Carter and Steve Miller who, even no longer wardens, offer their knowledge and advice. Also to Angelo, Julia and Beccy for their help, support.

Finally my thanks to Jonno, who has decided not to re stand, for all his work and especially his IT skills (Google docs and doodle polls -who knew!).

Ian Baldwin, Jonno Campion-Smith, Churchwardens

1.7 PCC Secretary's Report

United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary's report 2022

The United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge was established on 1st September 2021. 2022 was the first full year as a United Benefice and with Jessica as our vicar and chair of the PCC. We held 9 PCC meetings in 2022 and a PCC away morning in January 2022.

Regular standing items include Finance update, worship report, safeguarding report, update and decisions on maintenance issues, discussion and agreement for particular events or activities to take place including worship and outreach activities.

During the first part of 2022 the transitional PCC with members from both legacy churches, and four churchwardens continued. At the APCM in May 2022 four PCC members stood down and we elected two wardens with the other two becoming PCC members. In the autumn two further people stood down from the PCC. Having established the Benefice, the aim going forwards is to return to the usual pattern of elected PCC members standing for a three year term each so there is regular turn over on the PCC. The PCC aims to be a broad representation of Church members and has the responsibility of ensuring good stewardship and Christian life across the benefice including the practical, financial and strategic aspects of the Church and their buildings.

The budget for the benefice for 2022 had been agreed at a Special Finance meeting in December 2021. In January 2022 we held a PCC away morning which focussed on exploring who / where we feel we are now as a newly established benefice and who / what God is calling us to be.

A PCC meeting and administration process has been established and 8 PCC working groups were set up at the beginning of the year:

Worship	Community identity
Finance	Children and Young people
Pastoral	Missions and Ministry
Communications	Governance and Buildings

During the year it became clearer how each of these groups would continue and evolve. A Standing Committee was established towards the end of the year who would meet during alternate months to the PCC to focus on the Finance, Governance and Building issues that need regular review and progress.

Some difficult discussions and decisions were made by the PCC in 2022, principally relating to the 10.30am Sunday service.

At the beginning of the year we had a 10.30am service on each of the two sites in the benefice (Holy Trinity site and St John's site) with Jessica alternating between the two and one joint service a month. It was decided that from Easter that all 10.30am services be joint services, alternating sites each week. One service / month would be developing the monthly Messy church service to an intergenerational service.

In May there was a Church weekend with various activities taking place on Saturday and concluding with the APCM on Sunday after the 10.30am service.

A sub group of the PCC led a consultation open to all the congregation, at the end of June / beginning of July to help inform the decision that needed to be made about the church site for the 10.30am Sunday service going forwards. This was a particularly difficult decision for the PCC to make at the PCC meeting on Monday 4th July. Jessica announced the decision made in church on Sunday 10th July that 'following extensive consultation with the congregation and prayerful, honest, and detailed discussion in a long

meeting on Monday evening, the PCC has agreed that our 10:30am services will take place at the St John's site. This will take effect from October 2022'. Jessica said she 'wanted to emphasise again that the PCC is absolutely committed to keeping both buildings open as sacred spaces and places of worship'.

In the weeks following the announcement about the 10.30am service being on the St John's site from October, three letters were received by the PCC regarding the decision. The PCC focussed on this issue and after extensive thought, prayer and discussion responded to the letters and offered meetings with the individuals. It was also decided that there would be an 8am Holy Communion every Sunday on the Holy Trinity site and a 5.15pm monthly Communion on the Holy Trinity site on same Sunday as Connect (the new 10.30am Intergenerational service).

Other worship related decisions included:

- The approval to have an Easter based Messy church outreach event on Good Friday and a Christingle based Messy church at the beginning of Advent, both of which were very successful.
- For the Easter and Christmas services to be shared across both sites.
- The PCC also approved Hopeton Reid to be Licensed for Funeral Ministry; the licensing was carried out by the Archdeacon during a 10.30am service in October.

With the 10.30am service being established on the St John's site from October 2022, a budget was agreed to resource the children's and young people's groups on a Sunday morning and, in particular, to refurbish and equip the room the Ignite (Young people's group) meet in.

Other items discussed throughout the year included:

- Finance - updates on income and expenditure issues eg utility costs, hall hire, giving and gift aid, charity giving, salaries for paid staff. In April the General Giving Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester joined the PCC meeting on zoom to give us an overview of the Parish Giving Scheme which we will explore further in 2023.
- Safeguarding - regular reminders about DBS checks and training requirements; the updating of the safeguarding referral process and decision to have a 10.30am service focussing on Safeguarding in November.
- Covid related issues - particularly arrangements for receiving Holy Communion.
- Multi-cultural report; the Diocesan 'Lament to Action' report; Unity report.

Other Activities:

- requests and liaison with Living Well and CAP; updates and requests from Little Fish and Open Doors.
- Approval for holiday@home for over 50's to be held for a few days in August.
- Approval for additional 'Warm spaces' event to be held to St John's site.

Very sadly the PCC were informed in October that the decision had had to be taken to close the Holy Trinity Pre-school, as it was no longer financially viable. The Pre-school closed in December at the end of term.

Looking ahead the PCC agreed a 'Vision' process to be carried out during the 10.30am service on the last Sunday of January, February and March 2023, to help inform the next steps for the church / benefice. The PCC is very aware that 2022 has been a year of great change and that there have been difficult emotions around the transition to a United Benefice and in particular the decision around the site for the 10.30am Sunday service and that none of the decisions have been made without considerable discussion and prayer.

The PCC welcomes any feedback from the congregation and has committed to be more visible, with regular updates after each meeting. If any member of the congregation wants to raise any issues, or

know more about any of the issues we discuss or make decisions on, they are encouraged to speak to, or contact, a member of the PCC.

Sally Nicholas, PCC Secretary

1.8 Deanery Synod Report

In 2022 there were two standard synod meetings and one combined meeting with other deaneries in the diocese.

In the March and July 2022 meetings the main topics were:

Ukrainian refugees

Support for Ukrainian refugees were in place within the deanery area, including St. George's church liaising with the council and various other agencies regarding accommodation. Living Well, café lunch, Little Fish and a hub at St John's Eden Park. Hope Church in Bromley Common, was also looking at expanding their services. The sharing of resources and food banks, clothing, as well as advice and prayer stations was to be developed. English courses at Bromley Adult Education Centre in Penge. It was recognised that dual language speakers/ teachers to befriend would be of great value.

Eco Church Award

St. George's Beckenham and latterly St Paul's Beckenham, with support from St George's, had started to work towards the Eco Church Awards, where the vision was to care for the environment; God's creation. There were three levels of awards, bronze, silver and gold awards to work towards in five different areas for each church: Worship, Buildings, Reducing carbon footprint, Community and global waste, Life style. At the time, it was not known if there are any grants available to apply for to support.

Communications

At the July meeting Jennifer Ross, Communications Manager and Bishops' Media Adviser and Katerina Gerhardt, Communications Assistant (07526 171

583, communications@rochester.anglican.org) provided a presentation about what their small diocesan team could provide to churches. These included:

- Providing relevant and accessible two-way communicators, highlighting diocesan and parish news, campaigns, safeguarding and reports.
- Supporting the diocesan family with a weekly digest, quarterly magazine 'Together', webinars, guidance and website information for church-goers and seekers.
- Crisis, press and FOI support for churches.
- Advice on digital, presentations, copyright to consent.
- Local parish website and communications advice.

Two good blogs from the national church were suggested:

Communicating well as a church – laying the groundwork:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/communicating-well-church-laying-groundwork>

Communicating well as church – making a plan

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/communicating-well-church-making-plan>

The November joint meeting was a combination of five Deanery synods to welcome and hear from Bishop Jonathan. There was a time of worship, then he answered various questions (lighthearted and

serious!) posed by members of the congregation, covering his life and journey to the present post.

Margaret Riches, Hazel Willson and Ruth Wright, Deanery Synod reps. 2022

1.9 Safeguarding Report

The church's Safeguarding Team (Beccy, Pete and myself) have continued to ensure that the congregation and church users are aware of safeguarding matters and responsibilities. This is because safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility!

On 28th February the joint PCC approved C of E's 'The Promoting a Safer Church Policy'. A day session covering the C of E's 'Basic Awareness' and 'Raising Awareness Domestic Abuse' courses took place on 9th July. Although the sessions were not well attended, there was some good discussions with those present. Other people have undertaken the training online individually instead of being at the session.

In the summer the C of E introduced a new safeguarding course 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking', which some church members have completed.

The Safeguarding Sunday service in November highlighted the issue of safeguarding within the church. Church members were encouraged to look at the safeguarding courses and complete courses as necessary, or as they wish via <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> (Please can anyone completing a course provide us with a copy of their certificate for information).

The church's Safeguarding Team have worked hard to complete DBS checks within the new three-year framework, a move from them lasting five years.

The new joint safeguarding email address was launched in November: safeguarding@htsj-penge.church

A handful of safeguarding issues arose during the year, which were handled by the church's Safeguarding Team and Jessica, with some assistance from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

More details about church safeguarding can be found on:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safer-church> and
<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding?tagid=>

Ruth Wright, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Beccy Short and Pete Carter, Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officers

Section 2 **Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care**

2.1 Worship

As God's people, we are, above all else, a people called to worship. Worship forms us as a people; it unites us; it draws us into the presence of God, opens us up to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, and nourishes us to go out and share the love of Christ that we have received with others.

During 2022, there have been enormous changes in the worshipping life of our church. It is worth remembering that, as I write this, in March 2023, a year ago we were still largely worshipping as two separate congregations. It was only after Easter that we united for all our services, initially alternating between sites on Sunday mornings.

To facilitate this coming together and to provide some consistency, the Worship and Preaching team worked hard behind the scenes during Spring 2022 to create templates for Orders of Service that would work across both sites. We also thought carefully and prayerfully about sermon series that would help us hear God's voice through the ups and downs of merging, with series including 1 Corinthians 12-14, Jonah, prayer and the letter to the Ephesians.

The decision to settle our 8am service at the Holy Trinity site and the 10:30 service at St John's was not an easy one, but in God's grace our worshipping life as Holy Trinity with St John's has continued to grow and flourish, with 70+ adults and 10-20+ children and young people attending across the two sites on most Sundays. We remain committed to ensuring that our life of worship and community continues to flourish across both our sites.

From the autumn, in addition to these two services, new opportunities for worship have begun to spring up. Our monthly evening Communion service on the HT site has been well received, with a regular congregation of 15-20, as has the weekly Wednesday afternoon prayer, with a regular congregation of 11-12. Friday afternoon prayers at Living Well continue to flourish, with 8-14 people attending – my thanks to Sue and Richard and to Ian and Val who offer this faithfully week by week.

We have also offered a wide variety of special and seasonal services, which have been well-attended and well-received:

- Services for Holy Week and Easter, including a Palm Sunday service uniting our two sites and Messy Easter on Good Friday
- a special Communion service to remember the life of Her Majesty the Queen during September
- a relicensing and anointing by the Archdeacon of our Lay Ministry team, including the licensing of Hopeton Reid as Funeral Minister in October
- Commemorative Service, remembering those we love who have died, at the end of October
- 3 Remembrance services, our morning worship at SJP, the Act of Remembrance on the High Street and an afternoon Act of Remembrance at HT in November
- Services for Advent and Christmas, including Messy Christingle, Carol Service, Crib Service and Midnight Communion

After an exceptionally busy and at times tumultuous year, I would like to thank especially the Worship and Preaching Team, whose prayerful support, wisdom and good humour have been absolutely invaluable to me personally, and whose gifting in leading and preaching at services are a huge blessing to us as church.

I would also like to thank all those who are involved in our worship week by week – the welcomers, musicians, those who deal with sound and projection, those who work with children and young people, those who read and lead intercessions, those who serve the refreshments we all appreciate so much. As somebody pointed out during our vision discussions, the sheer numbers of people involved are hugely impressive and “a lot of people work very hard.”



Thank you all for your steadfastness, patience and support over what has been a sometimes bumpy journey this year. It is always a delight, a joy and a privilege to worship with you – I look forward to all that God will do among us during 2023.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.2 Music in Worship

Music is an integral part of worship at Holy Trinity with St John's, led by a small, faithful team of musicians and singers. Songs for worship during each service are chosen after liaison with the service leader and preacher for that service, and the focus is always to use songs or hymns that fit in with, and support, the theme and teaching of those services. Different styles of music are appropriate for different styles of service, and different styles are also more appropriate for different points within each service. We are very aware that different people find different types of music helpful and try to achieve a good balance, using a mix of contemporary and more traditional songs and hymns.

Music would not be such an effective part of our worship services without the significant commitment of the musicians, singers, and teams managing the projection and PA systems. The contribution made by Colin Stone, playing the organ for some services at the Holy Trinity site, is also very much appreciated.

Sue Miller

2.3 Prayer Meeting

The monthly prayer meeting has continued in various guises during 2022. We began the year on Zoom but attendance fell as Zoom fatigue set in.

During the summer months, we tried some different ways of meeting, including a prayer walk around the parish during Thy Kingdom Come in early June, praying in different locations around the parish. In the autumn, at the request of Home Group leaders following feedback from their members, and to avoid a conflict on Wednesday nights, we moved the prayer meeting to a Monday. Since then, the meeting has been led by different people each month and has involved a range of different approaches to prayer – from sung worship to silence, from prayer stations to small groups, from creativity to contemplation.

Prayer is the beating heart of the church, and the activity which, above everything else, will shape us as a congregation, and I would urge everybody to make this hour-long meeting on the first Monday of the

month a priority if at all possible. It's very relaxed; nobody will put pressure on you to pray aloud, and a wonderful opportunity to spend time with God with others.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.4 Wednesday morning prayer over the phone.

A group of around 6 have met each Wednesday at 8am over the phone using a phone conference call. We used the Daily Prayer app format, the service sheet was emailed on Tuesdays. It was a good opportunity to pay together for many issues.

Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

2.5 Friday Afternoon Prayers

Prayers take place every Friday after the Living Well meal. They are well attended by guests with between 5 and 14 people regularly attending. In recent months we have introduced a couple of hymns and a short, themed study. Since we introduced the study, it has been noticeable how much more the guests are engaging in both prayer and discussion. Once a month on the last Friday of the month we focus on healing. We pray for each other's needs, for the needs of the community and about things on our heart.

We are very grateful for Ian and Val's input; they have been willing to lead the prayers in our absence. We are planning to do a lent course and Rebecca has kindly purchased booklets which we can give to guests, we also have a supply of Bibles we can gift to those who need them.

During the colder winter months, we have met in the church building before the alter, but once the temperature increases, we will return to the garden.

Richard and I have felt so blessed by these meetings and love facilitating them.

Sue Thomson

2.6 Technology in Worship

The use of technology in services (PA, projection and zoom) plays a crucial role in ensuring that services run smoothly and are as accessible as possible.

There is currently a team who share the projection and zoom roles across both sites, although the PA team is small and one or two additional people willing to join this team would be much appreciated. It is a technical role, but training can be given.

Technology is never without challenges! Considerable work has been done to work towards a resolution of the difficulties with the sound desk at the HT site. It is taking time to establish the best way to organise this resource and to ensure that it is always ready to be used for any service or other church event.

At the point where the two churches merged, different projection software was being used on each site, making it harder for the team to operate the projection on the site where they were unfamiliar. We are looking to consolidate this and will shortly be using the same projection software on both sites, which will give more flexibility among the team.

Steve Miller

2.7 Home & Community Groups

Home groups continued to meet in a variety of places around the parish, on Zoom and in hybrid form. Through the upheaval of the merger process, they have been valued by many as safe spaces to process thoughts and find spiritual and emotional support.



Most of the time, the home groups used follow-up material linked to the Sunday morning sermon series:

- January/February: 1 Corinthians 12-14 – thinking about who we are as church
- February/March: Jonah
- Easter Season: a series based on the lectionary readings for Easter
- Summer: Great Prayers of the Bible
- September/October: Ephesians
- November: Called to... mini-series
- December: People of Advent

The home group leaders have met several times with me to give feedback on how things are going and, in particular, to think about the question of how we encourage groups to merge. We are aware that, whilst our worship and general church life is becoming ever more merged, home groups remain largely (though not totally) linked to one of the legacy churches. We have been trying to balance the advantages of merging with the benefits of being with a group of people who know each other well, and have each time concluded that evolution in this area is much better than revolution!

During autumn 2022, we enjoyed two social activities organised by two different home groups – a Saturday breakfast at the Moon & Stars and a Christmas social evening. We look forward to more of these during 2023.

Home groups are open to all and we would encourage you to get involved. If you are interested in finding out more, please do speak to me or to any home group leader (names published on the posters on notice boards in church).

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.8 Lent Course



A whole church Lent Course took place during 2022 on the book of Jonah, in support of our Lent sermon series. This was designed to prepare us theologically, through applying the lessons from the story of Jonah to our church situation, and socially, by offering opportunities for mixing between members of different home groups attached to the legacy churches, for the next stage in the merger process.

Two sessions were offered each week – a Wednesday evening online group and a Thursday morning onsite group in the Holy Trinity lounge. In total around 40 people took part for at least two sessions, although the online group, in particular, suffered rather from Zoom fatigue.

We used a free online course from the Bible Project, with video teaching and a booklet with questions to consider each week.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.9 Exploring Workshops

Holy Trinity with St John's held two *Exploring* workshops during 2022. My intention behind organising the workshops was to help congregation members explore aspects of the Bible and Christian faith on themes that aren't often covered in sermons or home groups. The workshops featured a mixture of hopefully easy-going teaching and informal group work and discussions.

The first workshop was held at St John's in May and looked at the time between the Old and New Testaments, including the history of Israel during this period, the origins of groups such as the Pharisees and Sadducees, and some of the Jewish writings produced. The second workshop, which took place at Holy Trinity in November, covered the book of Job and the question of suffering, and considered the structure, text, and messages of Job in some detail.

Around sixteen people from both legacy congregations attended each workshop, which I, as the organiser, found very encouraging. Two further workshops are scheduled for 2023.

Terry Wright

2.11 Communications / Website

After some delays, considerable work on the new church website has now taken place and we expect that the new website will be ready to go live very soon. This will then continue to evolve as more content is added, so that it becomes as reflective as possible of who we are, and what we do, as Holy Trinity with St John's.

Other areas which will then be looked at include:

- Signage – external noticeboards at each site
- Internal notice boards as necessary
- Reviews of ongoing communications within the church family

Steve Miller

2.12 Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a huge part of our life at church and involves, fundamentally, the way all of us relate to each other. When we phone or text a friend at church who is going through a hard time, we are offering pastoral care. When we invite somebody who has not been able to attend church for a while for a coffee, we are offering pastoral care. When we notice somebody who is standing or sitting alone at the end of a church service and go to speak to them, we are offering pastoral care. When we make a cup of tea for someone who has arrived early for church (some people do!), we are offering pastoral care. So pastoral care, in the informal sense, is happening all the time, thanks to your sensitivity, care and concern for one another.

But pastoral care also happens in a more formal sense and one of the challenges of 2022 was making this work in the larger, merged church, setting. A pastoral care working group, led by Ian and comprising Janice, Hopeton, Margaret, Sue T, Hazel, Ruth and Jessica met several times during the spring and summer to try to fill some of the post-Covid and post-Merger gaps. Amongst other things, we:

- wrote Easter cards to those members of the two legacy congregations who had not returned since Covid, with letters inviting them explicitly to our Easter services
- re-established prayer ministry after the 10:30am service, which takes place in the side chapel at the St John's site
- set up a prayer request WhatsApp group and encouraged people to sign up to it, and an email address prayer@htsj-penge.church where anybody can submit a prayer request

Much of pastoral care is, by its very nature, confidential. Home visits and telephone support for people in need take place, but it is inappropriate to report on them in detail. Care is also offered through, eg. the provision of food bags from the small foodbank at the St John's site for callers at the Vicarage, and through signposting people in need to sources of help – significantly Living Well, but also groups like Open Doors for the lonely and church and community-run Warm Spaces around Penge.

We are always willing to offer pastoral support to those seeking it – but we are not mind-readers. So, if you know of somebody who is in need of a phone call or a visit or support beyond that which you can offer, please do speak to Jessica, Ian or Janice and we will ensure that care is given.

Ian Baldwin, Pastoral Assistant, Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader, Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

2.13 Life Events

Baptism

It is part of the calling of a Church of England Church that any parent of an infant living in the parish has the right to ask for their child to be baptised.

We celebrated six baptisms of infants during 2022, for children aged from a few months old to three years, during our 10:30 am services.

It has been good to welcome the families and their wider family and friends to these services, which they have found welcoming, joyful and inclusive. Only one of the families was a “church family”, but, pleasingly, we are still in touch with three of the other families, who have attended Messy Christingle and some Connect services and, occasionally, on other Sundays.

Baptism preparation has largely happened through conversation between Jessica and the families. I would like to be more intentional about this, and about following up with families afterwards – if this is an area that interests you, please do talk to me.

Weddings

As with baptisms, those living in the parish or those with a Qualifying Connection to the church have a right to be married in church. We celebrated two weddings during 2022 – that of Letitia and Sean in June at our Holy Trinity site and of Ash and Santon in October at our St John’s site.



Funerals

Janice and I between us conducted 5 funerals during 2022.

In October, we were delighted that the Archdeacon licensed Hopeton Reid as a Lay Funeral Minister after he completed his training with the diocese.

Every funeral involves an initial conversation with a funeral director, at least one meeting with the bereaved family, and preparation of the service before the funeral itself takes place. It is both a responsibility and a privilege to walk alongside people in their bereavement.

In late October, we held our annual Commemorative Service at the Holy Trinity site which included the reading out of a list of names of those we wanted to remember and the opportunity to light a candle for them. There were 36 people present, a good mixture of visitors and regular congregation members, and people appreciated both the space to give thanks, remember and grieve and the time of fellowship afterwards over tea.

I am very grateful to Janice for sharing in funeral ministry with me and look forward to Hopeton also joining the team in 2023.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

Section 3 Children and Young People

3.1 Blast and Blaze



2022 has been a new beginning for children's work at HTSJ with the coming together of the children's work across the two legacy churches. BLAST and BLAZE now run on a Sunday morning during the 10.30am service and provide fun activities, a caring and safe environment, as well as an opportunity for children age 3-11yrs to learn about faith. BLAST (preschool/ infant age) and BLAZE (Junior age) meet together in the church hall and follow the outline from the material from

Heartshapers. The sessions generally consist of an icebreaker game, followed by the bible story for the day, then some form of response in the form of a craft or activity together, and finally creative prayer ideas are used to finish the session. This could be using bubbles, prayer boxes or even party blowers. The leaders use a variety of activities to explain ideas and engage the children. These are differentiated by age group to provide for all children in the session. There have been creative prayer stations used during sessions, as well as understanding God through nature by using both the indoor and outdoor spaces, enacting the fall of the walls of Jericho and much paint, glue, tissue paper and playdough put to good use!



We are so grateful for the amazing and committed team who input into the children's work at HTSJ. There are currently 3 leaders (Diane, Fiona and Jonno) who are ably supported by a team of 9 fantastic and enthusiastic helpers (Cordelia, Sue, Sally, Val, Cath, Margaret, Ruth, Jade, Gillian). It has been so encouraging to see this team work so well together and bring many of their skills and gifts to demonstrate to the children what it means to live by faith and have a relationship with Jesus. It has also been really encouraging to see how children from the two legacy congregations have integrated so well and consider each other friends now as they have fun and learn together. Although numbers are not everything, it has been really heartening to see a consistency of children coming back every week. Between the two groups there is an average of around 12-16 children every Sunday and on occasion this number has reached the early 20s!

We know there are those in the congregation who pray regularly for the children and their leaders, and for this we are so grateful. We are asking that others would join them as we seek to encourage all the children in their spiritual journeys of faith throughout 2023.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.2 Ignite



Ignite is the youth group for HTSJ. During 2022 we began meeting again on a Sunday morning at the same time as the 10.30am service in the upstairs room. We meet every week, other than the second Sunday of the month which is Connect. Each session with Ignite involves games and activities to engage with a particular life issue and look at what the Bible has to say about this. We use the Youth for Christ material to do this and amongst other things, have looked at what the Bible has to say about relational poverty,

trustworthiness, and how we see ourselves. We have breakfast together at the start of the session, including many crepes and hot chocolate!

It has been really encouraging to see a consistent number of young people attending on a Sunday morning, including those who do not have parents at the church. Our numbers range from 2-12 and usually there are 6-8 young people on any given Sunday. We have managed to organise a pizza and film night and are hoping to make social activities a regular event for the young people. The team working with Ignite consists of Kate, Julian, Jonno and Angelo. It has been great to have a consistent team of people who have been able to get to know the young people better throughout 2022, and we are grateful for all those who pray for the young people – this is invaluable.

Kate Champion-Smith

3.3 Pizza & Games

Pizza and Games is an informal 2-hour session after church on the 1st Sunday of every month for 7 to 18 year olds where children and youth can enjoy a relaxed social time together around pizza and games as the names describes. Pizza and games is a continuation of a session that took place at the Holy Trinity pre-merger.

We set out badminton and board games, lego and more interactive games in the church hall and just invite them to spend time with one another and leaders. There are no activities associated with a church service as the time is simply about fellowship and eating pizza.

There have been about 10 children and youth attending most weeks ages 7 – 17, with the younger age group more strongly represented, and the atmosphere has been relaxed and vibrant with children and youth being able to relax and be themselves and have fun as well. The mix of age does not appear to have been an impediment as the different age groups gravitate to their own activities but also mix in the same space as well.

The church hall lends itself well to these sessions with space to spread out and run around as well.

We hope to maintain these sessions as long as there is an interest. There is a core group of 3 helpers but it would be good to have others dropping in to help as it is a great way for children and you to get to know the adult of the church and vice versa. Because this is an activity working with children and young people, safer recruitment applies – please speak to Ruth, our Safeguarding Officer, or to Jessica if you are interested in being involved in this.



Julian Providence

Section 4 Working Towards Intergenerational Community

4.1 Messy Church



Messy Church has evolved in two ways during the course of 2022.

Firstly, the monthly Messy Church that was taking place at 10:30am on a Sunday has evolved into Connect. The decision to do this was not easy and strong views were held on both sides, but we began trying out different ways of “doing” this sort of worship during the Summer term and actively sought feedback and engagement from those attending. During the summer, our Messy Church congregation also submitted suggestions for the name for the “new” service from the autumn, and we voted on a shortlist in July – in line with all our discussions on this issue, it should have been no surprise when the outcome was a tie and we had to have a deciding vote!

Secondly, we have developed a community focused, currently seasonal, Messy Church. Messy Easter on Good Friday morning was attended by ... children and ... adults and Messy Christingle on the first Sunday of Advent kicked off our Christmas celebrations in style with ... children and ... adults attending. Both times, numbers of adults include a team of around 25 volunteers, who give of their time and gifts in preparation, setting up, welcoming, leading craft activities, serving refreshments and tidying away.



The importance of our existing relationships with members of the community – especially those built up through Little and Big Fish and through our baptism work – has been very evident in the attendance at these services.



Messy Church could not happen without the dedicated support and hard work of a large team of volunteers – thank you all for your commitment.

If you would like to be involved in Messy Church in the future, please speak to Jessica.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

4.2 Connect

Connect began in its current form in September 2022 and our first service was somewhat overshadowed by taking place during the period of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth. However, during the autumn, we began to build momentum, with a Harvest Festival, a service for Christ the King and a Christmas Celebration. The decision to serve breakfast before the service in December proved very popular and has had lasting consequences!



Connect has sought to be intentionally intergenerational in approach. An intergenerational service involves much more than people of different ages worshipping side by side, with some sections designed to appeal to adults and others designed to appeal to children. In a truly intergenerational community, all ages are included and all of us are invited, in humility and wonder, to listen to and learn from those of different generations. And so we arrange the church café-style for Connect, so that people are encouraged to talk and share with one another –

whether that is a parent connecting with a child, an eighty-year-old connecting with someone in their forties, or a sixty-year-old with a young adult.

Our stated aims at Connect are:

- to connect with God the Father as we worship and pray together
- to connect with Jesus as we study the Bible together
- to connect with the Holy Spirit as we share stories of God's work in our lives
- to connect with one another as we spend time together

Our services follow the same broad structure as our other Sunday services, but are intentionally more interactive and less wordy. We are seeking to learn through doing and through the conversations inspired by what we are doing.



This is a service that continues to evolve, but I believe that it is an exciting development in the life of our church. And you can come for breakfast!

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

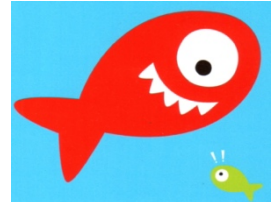
4.3 Little / Big Fish

These are our toddler groups serving the local community, running during term time.



Little Fish runs on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9.30 – 11am, although the team are there earlier and later than these times, to prepare and clear up. Each session caters for up to 60 'family units' which means that at each session there could be about 70 adults and 90 or more children. Mondays are almost always full, and Wednesdays are getting fuller. During a week, we are welcoming over 100 adults and over 150 toddlers through the doors.

Big Fish runs on one Saturday morning each month (usually the 3rd Saturday) 9 – 10.30am, although again, some of the team arrive earlier than this to ensure that everything is ready, and stay later to set up the church for the Sunday morning service. This has grown considerably as a group compared to before pandemic, and the numbers are currently around 45 adults and 50 – 60 children at each session.



At all these sessions we aim to provide a safe space where children can play with a very wide range of toys, and where parents can chat together and connect with each other and with the team. Each session includes a bible story and ends with a lively song time. From a mission perspective, one of the most valuable aspects is the opportunity for relaxed and meaningful conversations with many of those who visit, and the links that this brings.

The Fish teams are very committed, but there is an urgent need for at least two additional people to join the Little Fish team. Currently we are short of two team people on a Monday, and this is being covered by Wednesday volunteers doubling up each week. For those who are not available during the week, but who could come along one Saturday a month, additional volunteers would also be welcome for Big Fish.

During October 2022, we had the privilege of being invited to join a research study being carried out by the National Institute for Christian Education Research (NICER) based at Canterbury Christ Church University. They were looking at 'Spirituality in church-run toddler groups.' The team visited over 4 sessions and spent time observing and chatting to parents/carers, children and the team. The final report will be published when the research is complete, but their initial feedback was incredibly positive about both the provision and the atmosphere in the group. The feedback that the researchers had from the parents and carers was glowing and it is clear that the group is providing an extremely valuable service to the community. The researchers had visited many other groups, and all had experience in working with children of this age, and they described Little Fish as 'The Gold Standard' of church toddler groups. As a team, and as a church, this is a great affirmation of the work we are doing.



Steve Miller

4.4 Over 50's – Open Door

Open Door is a group mainly for those over 50, with a few exceptions. We aim to give the members a chance to meet socially. Many older people become socially isolated and we aim to address that issue. We met most Wednesdays starting with lunch at 1pm followed by a variety of choices of activities, Boccia, art and craft and games, (Rummikub has very been popular) or a chance to sit and chat. All with tea, coffee and cakes. We average 20 people each week.



A big thank you to those who cook the meals especially Peter and Carol, Robyn, Angelo and Julia. We do need more people to cook, if you would like to help in any way please contact Janice
Also thank you to those who host etc. and to Sue and Sally who provided the art and craft activities. In September we changed the group name to Open Doors.

Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

4.5 Over 50's – Holiday@Home



Holiday@Home is an adult holiday club that met 1st to 3rd August. The club was well attended and people came from various number of groups, it gave everyone a chance to get to know each other, there was a good mix of church members and others from Open Door etc.

There were a number of activities on offer, including watercolour painting, decorating flower pots.

And Boccia or Table Tennis. Singing with

Jessica and Giant Team Scrabble.

We had a garden party on the Tuesday at St John's Vicarage.

A big thanks to all who came and helped, (the list would be too long, so if you helped THANK YOU.

We finished on the Wednesday with a Drumming Workshop led by Kay from Joo Doo Drums.



Janice Bessant, Licensed Reader

4.6 Holy Trinity Pre-School

This will be the last report from the pre-school and will be a mixture of happy times and sadness. The year started with a bang as in early May, I received a phone call from OFSTED to say that they would be coming to do an inspection the following day. I quickly contacted Camilla, the head teacher and she rallied her staff to get things ready for the inspection. The inspector came and duly inspected and a few days later we received the rating which was "Good". Given the time that they had to prepare, the staff were congratulated on this.

During the year many events took place. Claire from Penge library came and read a book and led a planned activity.

In July, they had a visit from Wild Fangs, who brought along some of their exotic animals such as chinchillas, giant hissing cockroaches, tarantulas, scorpions and many more. The children really enjoyed this visit.

In July they had an end of term party where the children were entertained by Honey Bee party entertainer, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Now comes the sad bit. After the summer break, it became obvious that all was not well financially. Our treasurer had done a projection and determined that the pre-school would be running at a loss which was unsustainable. The trustees had an emergency meeting and regrettably it was decided that the pre-school would have to close. It was decided to close at the end of the autumn term. This would give parents and staff two months' notice instead of the statutory one month and that there would be enough money to pay the staff their statutory redundancy which had been worked out by the Treasurer and one of the trustees who worked in HR. After announcing the closure, a meeting was held with parents to explain the reasons for closure, which were low numbers of children on roll and no increase in funding from London Borough of Bromley.

During the autumn it was felt that as it would be the last term the pre-school operated it should be made as entertaining as possible for the children, so a few events were held close to Christmas. Wild Fang came in again with his exotic animals, a magician came in just before Christmas, his rabbit was a success with all the children. Jessica came in and gave a talk and led an activity about the Nativity. This was enjoyed by the children and some of the trustees. In October, Jessica did a talk at Harvest festival and led an activity. The feedback from the parents on this was excellent.

The year finished with an end of term party on December 20th, Honey Bee entertained the children and parents were invited to attend. After the party and the clearing up, the staff and trustees went out for a meal together.

After the pre-school closed, work had to be done to close the charity. Application was made to the Charities Commission to dissolve the charity, and this was accepted. There will be a three-month notice period and if no objections the charity will be dissolved, and the trustees will cease to be trustees. As a condition of the dissolution, all assets must be disposed of, in the case of the pre-school this is the children's equipment. Being a CIO charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), no profit must be made from the disposal, so the trustees decided to donate the equipment to other pre-schools in the area associated with churches. They duly came and took what they wanted. At the time of writing, the pre-school area is cleared and duly handed back to the church. There are a few small items left in the shed in the pre-school playground and two Wendy houses. It is hoped to dispose of these at some stage.

In closing, I would like to thank the staff for their support and understanding during this trying time and wish them good fortune in the future.

Pete Carter, Chair of Trustees

4.7 Knit & Natter

We've had another good year at K&N. We're enjoying being able to meet in-person at the St Johns site. We've seen a small growth in numbers and its been lovely to start to get to know some new people.

Some of us have been focusing on helping Betty by knitting lots of squares so she can turn them into blankets which are then sent out to Ukraine. But we do this whilst continuing to drink tea, eat cake and, of course, lots of nattering.



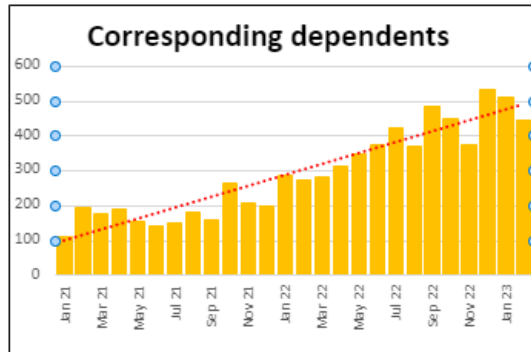
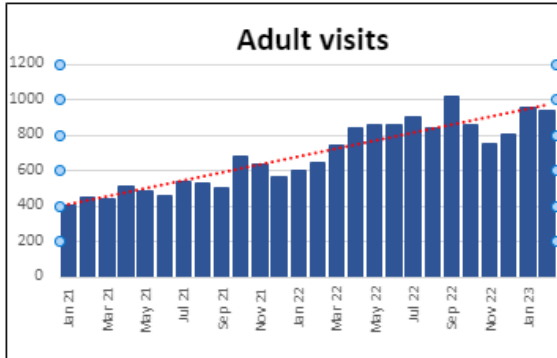
We welcome all comers and look forward to getting to know more new people. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, between 10:30am and 1pm (flexibly during that time).

Beccy Short

5.1 Living Well



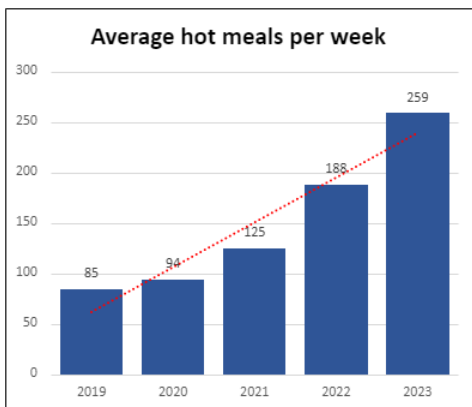
Foodbank



- Food bank visits in 2022 were 70% higher in 2022 than in 2021. 12,381 bags were handed out.
- September 2022 saw the most food bank visits in a month since reporting started.
- Donations were not able to keep up with such high demand, and therefore a new policy was introduced at the start of October. The number of visits that a guest is permitted to make each week was reduced from two to one. Also, families with more than 2 children began receiving a large family bag rather than multiple standard family bags.
- December saw the highest number of unique adults since reporting started.
- From April we had to start buying food to supplement the foodbank totalling more than £20,000.

Community Café

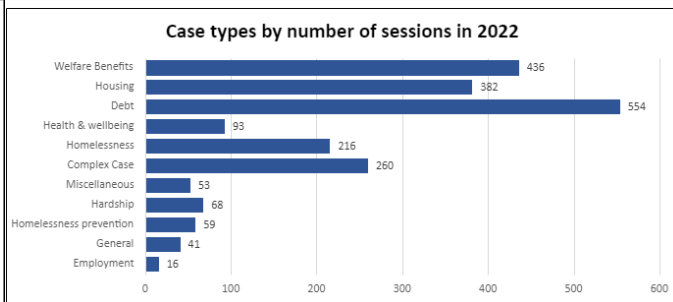
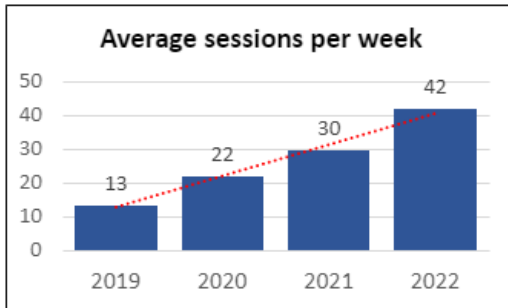
Continues to run during foodbank sessions. On Tuesdays the **Art Café** is also open offering art activities to guests to encourage engagement and is led by our Art Therapist Fiona Barnes. This has become a popular activity with users coming from outside of Living Well.



Community Lunches Hot meal provision was 53% higher in 2022 than in 2021, with 9,569 hot meals given out in total. We were able to reopen a table service option for those wanting to eat at Living Well.

Takeaways still remain the favourite option.

Advocacy



- Debt was the most common issue that sessions focused on, continued to remain high, though the number of welfare benefits and housing sessions were also significant.
- There were 41% more advocacy sessions in 2022 than in 2021, with 2,178 sessions in total. The number of guests being seen also increased, though by a lower amount of around 13%. This reflects each guest having more sessions on average than in 2021 .
- We achieved the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) for a second time.

New look Living Well

WE'RE MADE UP OF



We launched our new branding and a clear, precise tagline, vision, and values:

Tagline: Food and support that changes lives

Our vision: food and fuller lives for all in our community

Our mission: ensuring people have food, guidance and the support of an uplifting community to live life to the fullest

Other services Clothes bank is run every 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly, Blend choir every Thursday evening and prayers every Friday after the foodbank session. We continue to offer face-to-face and telephone counselling and pastoral care.

Rebecca Day, Operations Manager, Living Well

5.2 Blend Community Choir

Blend is a community choir primarily for Living Well guests and volunteers, but also has members from the church and local community. It meets on a Thursday evening at Holy Trinity site. We start at 6.30pm with cakes and refreshments. The choir sings from 7-8pm, we end with a reflective song (Take oh take me as I am) and a prayer.

The average attendance has been 9.

Since Kerst , our founder, moved to Germany a year ago we have had five different pianists, we have been blessed by these people and are grateful for their ongoing input. The choir members enjoy much laughter and joy, there is a great sense of community.

We have a committed team of volunteers, both from Living Well and from the Church, headed up by Rebecca Day who has given us great practical and moral support. The piano has been tuned this month. Jessica our vicar attends whenever her other commitments allow and is a great source of advice and support.

Although we have not been able to hold our own concert this last year, we have made guest appearances at services and concerts.

In November we sang a song at the remembrance service at Holy Trinity, in December we sang at the carol service and at a fundraising concert with hidden voices.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are now practising a hymn for Good Friday afternoon and plan to sing at the May Living Well plant sale.

Our pianist suggested we could do a promotional sing along at the Living Well community lunch to encourage more members.

We are always happy for church members to visit or join us and welcome your prayers. The benefit to those who participate are many, singing is great for releasing endorphins and with a mixture of secular and Christian songs, its great for the soul. Thank you for your continued support.

Sue and Richard Thomson

5.3 CAP Centre



CAP CENTRE REPORT - 2022

By Rachel Williams, CAP Centre Manager

At the beginning of 2022 we had resumed face to face meetings with clients, but were still having to wear face masks and by the end of the year everything had returned to normal.

Our centre is always busy and the current economic climate increased demand for our service. Clients have struggled more than ever before with energy costs, food costs and in some cases keeping a roof over their heads. Two of our clients had difficult decisions to make around selling their homes to clear their debts. However, we have still helped 5 clients go debt free in 2022 and £65,264.30 was repaid and £27,251.71 was written off through insolvency. That is a total of £92,516.01 debt cleared last year.

5 clients might not seem like a large number, but these are the ones who went debt free. There is always a proportion of clients who decide not to work with us and some who do, but aren't able to complete the entire process. We need to remember that we still have an enormous, positive impact on the clients' lives. CAP's covid emergency aid response enabled clients to have online food shops delivered to their door and top ups were given towards the cost of energy bills. We always offer prayer and Lin, Gareth and I often go the extra mile to help support our clients in difficult and challenging situations. We have supported clients through ACTS 435 enabling funds to be raised for debt relief orders and essential items for the home.

Words can not adequately express the amazing response to our Crowdfunding campaign. In my last report I said that funding was a real issue, but at the time of writing this report March 2023, we have more money in the bank than we have ever had before! My original target was £25,000.00, but we not only reached that target we doubled it!!!!!! When we step out in faith God provides. OUR GOD CAN DO MORE THAN WE EVER IMAGINE. PRAISE HIM.

Before I go any further, I would like to thank both Lin and Gareth for the amazing work undertaken during this last year. Well done to you both, I couldn't have kept things going without you. I would also like to thank Sally Jones, Gail Gee, Christine Wood, Sarah Murrell and Paul Breakspear for being our CAP volunteers. In addition Russ Jones and Andrew Griffiths for their help and support with the finances. I appreciate your time, commitment and service to our centre.

Christians Against Poverty are still in the process of our "Debt Transformation Program." We are looking at all the services that CAP offers, our debt service, our money courses, our job clubs and our life skills. More information should be available next year. Head Office moved locations, but are still based in Bradford.

I have detailed below my key objectives:-

1) **Ensuring all that we do is centred on serving our local community.**

Serving Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord is our calling in the Debt Centre. We need to action our faith and working for CAP enables us to do this.

2) **Prayer**

Praying regularly for the centre, our clients and funding. On a Monday and Wednesday morning, we pray and read our bibles before we start our work. This has always been a priority of mine.

3) **Finance**

To engage more individuals and churches to regularly support our work.

4) **Food Bank**

To continue to provide food as and when it is needed to our clients.

5) **CAP Volunteers**

To continue to grow our volunteer team. I am always on the lookout for more volunteers to help support our clients, run events, lead CAP money courses and various other roles too. I am very keen to have a strong body of people able to see clients with us.

6) **Drop in sessions**

Our client drop in has been temporarily suspended. Initially we had quite a few clients who would come on a Wednesday morning, but as time went on the numbers decreased. Some of our clients don't live near the church and often don't have transport or money to pay for travel costs.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in Holy Trinity with St. John's, Christ Church Beckenham, St John's Eden Park, St Paul's, Brackley Road, Grace Church in Beckenham and Neighbourhood Church for their support through prayer, food bank donations and financial giving. We couldn't run this centre without you. May God bless every one of you.

Rachel Williams, Centre Manager

5.4 HT Community Garden

This garden wraps around the east and north sides of the church building and is visited by guests and volunteers attending the Living Well charity, members of the public and our churches, used occasionally for outdoor worship and cared for by volunteers.

In May there was a successful plant sale raising funds for Living Well. In the summer a diseased tree was removed bringing new light to the vegetable and flower beds, and in autumn lots of new daffodil and tulip bulbs were planted.

The garden is always open and provides a welcome and calm space to sit and enjoy the flowers, birds and the changing seasons.

Sue Smith

5.5 Work in Schools

Part of the role of a Church of England church is to be present for all who live and work in the parish. In our parish we are blessed to have a church school (St John's Primary), an infants school (Alexandra Infants), a junior school (Alexandra Juniors), two community primary schools (Harris Primary Crystal Palace and Harris Kent House) and a secondary school (Harris Girls). We are even more blessed to enjoy excellent relationships with all of them.

Work with schools was one of our key areas of growth during 2022.

St John's Primary

One of my favourite moments of the week is Tuesday morning Collective Worship at St John's Primary, a weekly link with the children and staff there and an opportunity to share a Bible story and hear the children's enthusiastically expressed views on it!

During 2022, each class, from Reception to Year 6, visited the church (St John's Site) to deepen their understanding of the work they were doing in RE. Following two years of COVID, end of term assemblies for the whole school in church also returned to the St John's site, with an Easter service, the Leavers' service, Harvest Festival and the Christmas service. It is pleasing that the number of adults attending these services has grown through the year and, with the support of a team of willing volunteers from the church, we were able to welcome them with coffee and mince pies before the Christmas service.

Working with the Deputy Head, Kat Nash, I was able to apply successfully to the Diocese for a grant to develop an outdoor area in the school into a sacred garden – and I very much hope that this will be a place where we can work with the school to start to bring church to their families.

Yvette Evans and I also supported the school as critical friends through the Aquinas Advisory Committee.

Other Work with Schools

We are growing our relationship with other schools in the parish, especially with the primary schools. Our involvement during 2022 included:

- assemblies at Alexandra Infants and Juniors for Harvest, Christmas and Easter
- Alexandra Junior whole school carol service at Holy Trinity site
- Crystal Palace Primary Year 4 visit to St John's site to learn about Christingle
- Kent House Primary Year 1 visit to St John's site to learn about the Nativity
- Harris Girls Christmas concert at Holy Trinity site

Thank you to all who supported these visits as welcomers and to work with groups of children, especially during the busy run-up to Christmas.

If anybody is interested in praying for or being involved in work in schools, please do speak to me.

Rev. Jessica Smith, Vicar

5.6 Mission Giving

The PCC of Holy Trinity with St John, Penge, made the decision to set aside £6,500 to support mission organisations that are linked with our vision and purpose. These organisations were agreed based on the legacy giving of each church, with half allocated to those St John's used to support and half to Holy Trinity. These totalled:

- CAP - £1,625
- CMS (the Day family mission link) - £1,625
- Essubi - £812.50
- Release International - £812.50
- Living Well - £812.50
- St Christopher's Hospice - £812.50 (this was not paid in the 2022 accounts, but will appear in 2023 accounts)

Further, the PCC agreed a budget of £6,500 for 2023, and the allocations will be discussed and agreed by PCC in due course - suggestions are always welcome.

Andrew Griffiths, PCC Treasurer

5.7 Auction

Our 12th Auction was held at the Holy Trinity Site on 26th March 2022. All the Lots sold had been donated over the previous year. Throughout the day we had approx 85 people in attendance, many of whom had supported our previous auctions. Breakfasts, lunches, tea, coffee & soft drinks were served throughout. At the end of the proceedings, lots of people asked when the next one would be.....a question that we couldn't answer!

The total raised was £2092, making a running total of all 12 auctions of just over £38,000.

Our thanks go to all who helped, in any way, to make the day a successful community event.

Lionel Riches