

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

IN THE BENEFICE OF LANGELEI

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
ON SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023 at 11.30 am**

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AGENDA

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ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Apologies for absence – *please advise the Secretary if you are unable to attend*
2. Election of Churchwardens - see nominations for election on the notice board.
(Those entitled to vote are either on the Electoral Roll of the parish, or live in the parish and are on the register of local government electors)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(Church members are invited to attend and those on the Electoral Roll to vote)

1. To approve the minutes of the APCM held on 3 April 2022.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. To receive reports for 2022/23
 - 3.1 Electoral Roll report
 - 3.2 Report on the proceedings of the PCC including Safeguarding, and parish activities
 - 3.3 The financial statement of the church for the year ending 31 December 2022, and to approve the accounts
 - 3.4 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church
 - 3.5 Reports from Deanery and Diocesan Synods
4. Elections
 - 4.1 To elect lay representatives to the Deanery Synod
 - 4.2 To elect lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
 - 4.3 To elect lay representatives to the Benefice Team Council
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year.
6. To receive a report from the Rector
7. Any other business

Secretary: Sue Gouch 07808 929219

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Items 1 & 2: minutes of the last APCM, 2022

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY LEVERSTOCK GREEN

In the Benefice of Langelei

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Held on Sunday 3 April 2022 in the Church and on Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev'd Lizzie Hood welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers. She thanked Miles Cooksey for enabling this to be a hybrid (in person and on Zoom) meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Brown, Pat Driver, Barbara Chapman, Lesley Hawtin, Kathy and Terry Perry, Gillian Redman, Matt Tattersall and Anne Twiggs. 27 Parishioners attended in church and eight on Zoom.

Election of Churchwardens Karen Ball had just completed her second term in office and was happy to stand again. John Walker had now served five terms and had hoped to stand down. In the absence of anyone else being willing to take on the role, he had nobly agreed to serve for a final year. Lizzie thanked them both for their hard work and commitment. Karen had been nominated by Linda Cooke and seconded by Tim Bourne. John Walker had been nominated by Kathy Perry and seconded by Beverley Burgess. Their re-appointments were approved without dissent. Lizzie explained that John cannot be re-appointed next year, as he will have completed six years as a Churchwarden, which is the maximum period of tenure, so someone will need to step up and start giving that thought now.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 11.38 am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. The minutes of the Meeting held on 25 April 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.

2. There were no matters arising.

3.1 **Electoral Roll Report** – Norah Tattersall reported that there had been no changes to the position set out in the agenda papers. The electoral roll opened at 140 members. During the year, five new people had joined and two had re-joined, resulting in seven additions. Three people had left the roll, having moved away, and two had sadly died. Thus the current number on the roll is 142. Lizzie thanked Norah for all her work on the Roll.

3.2 **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council** - There were no questions on this or on the Parish Activities in 2021. Lizzie gave thanks to Pauline Lindsey for her work as Safeguarding Officer and advised that she had given three years' notice of her retirement. Lorraine Ellis pointed out that her name had been omitted from the PCC membership list and Linda Cooke apologised for this.

On behalf of the Churchwardens, John Walker reported as follows: "Karen and I would like to thank the Deputy Churchwardens Mike Hawtin, Kathy Perry and Beverley Burgess for all their support and hard work during the last year. Mike has continued to use his knowledge and experience in maintaining the fabric of the church, and Kathy has handled the cash, organised our merchandising and assisted with many activities. Beverley has continued to organise the catering and has managed social events with her usual efficiency.

"As stated in the fabric report, the church is fundamentally in a good state of repair. During the year, we carried out the refurbishment of the kitchen and also a re-ordering of the Trinity Room. This involved a considerable amount of work for a team of volunteers. As a result of these changes, we are now making much more efficient use of the space in all of the rooms.

"As usual we are indebted to Simon Bounds, Patrick Joyce and other helpers for keeping the churchyard neat and tidy. Simon and Patrick undertake an enormous amount of work throughout the year, and we are indebted to them for their dedication. The footpaths through the churchyard are used extensively by village residents, and they also appreciate how well the churchyard is maintained.

“Following the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions, we have almost returned to normality with our services. During the year, the church community has adapted to the changes in the rules with patience and stoicism. The streaming of services on YouTube has become standard practice and is popular particularly with members of our congregation who are unable or hesitant to return to church. Terry, Mike and Miles have done an excellent job in mastering the technology, and we are most grateful to them for taking turns to provide this excellent service.

“The Archdeacon’s Visitation was carried out in August by Revd Mike Macey. He was satisfied with all aspects of the inspection including the maintenance of church records. He was particularly complimentary about the condition of the church and our improvements to the Trinity Room.

“In conclusion, we would like to thank all the volunteers who willingly give their time to help with the running of the church in whatever capacity large or small. Without your contributions, the church simply would not function. In particular, we need to recognise the significant part played by the members of the PCC.

“Finally, we would like to thank and congratulate Lizzie for her strong leadership of the Church over the last 10 years. The Church and indeed the whole village are privileged to have her at the helm!”

3.3 The Financial Statement for the Year ending 31 December 2021 and Financial Status – Martin Chapman ran through the key points of his report and thanked everyone for giving financially. If people would like to re-consider and give more that would be welcome, as collections and regular giving are both down, whilst our expenses are going up. Lizzie explained that, in recognition that Holy Trinity has 100% of her hours (and more) the allocation of the Parish Share between the churches within the Benefice has been changed so we (and All Saints) now need to pay 100% of a priest’s time, instead of 75% as hitherto. This will be phased in so that, for each of the next three years, we will need to find an additional £3,000, leading to a total increase in our Parish Share of £9,000 p.a. The increases will not be easy in the face of rising household bills. Martin Chapman proposed, and Mike Hawtin seconded, that the accounts be approved and this was agreed. Lizzie expressed her deep gratitude to Martin for his daily work on behalf of the church.

3.4 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church - The report was received and Lizzie thanked the wardens, their deputies and all who work to maintain the church, as well as those who have donated items during the year.

3.5 Reports from Deanery and Diocesan Synods – Beverley Burgess, Colin Gage and Mike Hawtin serve on the Deanery Synod and Colin Gage, Mike Hawtin and Lizzie on the Diocesan Synod. Mike pointed out that all churches are currently struggling financially. The reports were received.

4.1 To elect lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council – Linda Cooke’s and Norah Tattersall’s terms of office had come to an end and Charles Baker has stepped down. There are therefore three vacancies, but no nominations had been received. No nominations were received from the floor and there was therefore no election. The church has twelve seats for lay representatives on the PCC but will have only nine in post. Marguerite Dallas had indicated a willingness to serve but has not been on the electoral roll long enough, and will be moving away in six months. She was co-opted to the PCC for half a year without dissent. Norah had agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer. Linda Cooke was standing down as Secretary and Lizzie thanked her for her work.

4.2 To appoint Tim Bourne to the Parochial Church Council as representative Lay Reader – Jane Smart is unable to attend PCC meetings and Tim Bourne was appointed without dissent.

4.3 Benefice Team Council - Lizzie apologised for the error in including this in the agenda. Appointments will be made at the next meeting of the PCC on 4 May.

5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year – Geoffrey Dix was thanked for his work as Independent Examiner for the accounts. He had indicated a willingness to do this again. Proposed by Martin Chapman, seconded by Maureen Bellett and agreed that he be appointed to examine the accounts for the current year. Linda Cooke was asked to write to him.

6. To receive a report from the Rector – Lizzie reported as follows:

“It’s interesting to look back at last year’s APCM minutes. We had just returned to in-person worship in church on Easter Day. We did not know how the Government’s Roadmap would pan out or what the future

would hold. It's hard looking back to remember quite what we were allowed to do when, or how things gradually re-opened, but we find ourselves in a very different place this year. And we are poised to take another big step by restoring the full service from this Easter Day with more music, more readings, more choreography in the liturgy.

“At last year's meeting I said I didn't want to rush into anything, or restore activities just because we did them before Covid, but instead to spend time listening to God and to our community, to discern what we are being called to do NOW; what the community needs from us NOW in terms of service and support.

“We began by tackling this as a whole team of four churches, reviewing how we work together, what value we can bring to the individual parishes by being a team, and we decided we are together for mutual support. Our new mission statement for the team is “Enabling and supporting the churches of our team to grow and flourish as we share the love of Christ in our communities.” The real work takes place in the parish and the community.

“This piece of work coincided with the retirement of the Rev'd Richard Howlett and so we had the opportunity to review how ministry was distributed around the four churches. We concluded that, with three stipendiary vicars on our complement, there should be one full time at Holy Trinity, one full time at All Saints, and one full time to be shared between St Mary's and St Benedict's on a 75/25 split initially. And that we should pay for them in those proportions. In order to pick up the momentum at St Mary's and St Benedict's, services times were changed to 9.30 and 11.15am so that their priest can be at both churches EVERY week. This has been working well since January.

“At Holy Trinity we also listened to our church members by means of a questionnaire which went out last August, and had conversations with people around the village. As a result, we were able to take those views into account when we rewrote our Mission Action Plan, which was approved by the PCC at its November meeting. That MAP has been laid out in this report pack on pp8-9, but I would like to draw your attention to it, as ideally it should be known by the whole church membership. We have set ourselves a small number of (hopefully) achievable and measurable goals for the year:

1. To develop worship - not just 'return to normal', but to meet current needs, so offering family worship monthly, and to form a worship committee to steer our pattern of worship.
2. Also worship related, but taking into account those who are more hesitant to return, we are offering Wednesday mornings as a quiet, safe service, and have made 3rd Wednesdays the opportunity to offer transport in the form of a Community Action Dacorum minibus for those who need it. And we have coffee afterwards, so there is a social element to their outing too. And we will continue to bear in mind the needs of those who are still not returning to worship and have no online facilities. We now have various church constituencies to consider!
3. We decided it was important to reintroduce all the varied social activities to help people re-establish relationships and have some social contact after all the months of lockdown. Everything is back now, except for Sewing Group which will not restart. Isolation is a very often expressed need in our community. So Friendship Teas are important, along with Saturday Coffee Shop, and Cathy has started a Colouring Group on a Monday afternoon, and I'm leading a bereavement support group along with Neville Funeral Directors called Talking Elephants.
4. And finally we want to keep up our efforts to make our buildings fit for purpose. After all the work undertaken last year, it is a pleasure now to use the Trinity Room, Alban Room and old choir vestry. They are clean and tidy and the storage layout makes sense.

“We have picked up again our plans to have the church open during the day, and will be forming new committees to take forward other work - we now have a new Events Committee, and we will form a Fabric Committee and Worship Committee in early summer. I shall be taking the 2nd half of my Extended Study Leave (aka Sabbatical) from 25th April to 12th June, so I am trusting that you will all support your wardens in contributing to the running of the parish during that time, and beyond.

“I am delighted that we have been able to appoint a very lovely and capable priest in the Revd Alice Jolley to serve at St Mary's and St Benedict's, and we look forward to her arrival over the summer and a Licensing

service on 6th September. But my involvement with those two churches won't end there as I will be mentoring Alice in her first incumbency, and we have to make St Benedict's viable.

"There is a lot to be thankful for, and lots of new shoots of growth. However, on a day to day basis life doesn't feel significantly less of a challenge from my perspective than it did in lockdown. It's still a grind! Back at the start I think we were all of one mind as we navigated the new territory. Now I don't know where we are - who 'the church' is - who's in and who's out. There are still big waves of infection, some people may be cautious, but I suspect a lot of people have lost the habit of church, and we have certainly lost many of our volunteers. I think we are back at about 60% of our former worship numbers, and the jobs are falling on the shoulders of too few, who are feeling worn down. We need:

About four more sidespeople to give out hymn books

About four more welcomers to greet people at the porch on Sundays

52 pairs of cleaners - one for every week of the year, or 26 pairs if they're happy to do it twice, or 13 ...

Another five people to make coffee after Sunday service

Crucifers for Sunday 10 o'clocks

A Children's Society champion

A Newsletter editor

And what would we do if Simon couldn't do the gardening every week? Is a monthly gardening party to support him really beyond our capacity?

... and I could go on.

"I have been nursing St Benedict's these last few months as it's in crisis; two to twelve people at Sunday worship; no warden after their APCM; five on the PCC; only one person to do everything for worship - set the heating, open up, prepare the altar, read, pray, play the CDs for hymns, and then tidy up afterwards. That's tough. But it's not as disheartening as coming back to a vibrant church like this with an Electoral Roll of 142, a worshipping congregation of c250 and find no-one prepared to sit on the PCC, or to give John a break and be a Warden. I am shocked to see that there are parallels in these two very different contexts. I work a 40 hour week, and I volunteer for 30-40 hours a week for you on top of that - gladly, I'm not complaining. But this is not my church. I'm not sure it's even your church. It belongs to the whole community. And as a Christian family our mission is to worship God as beautifully as we can manage, to share the Gospel, and to serve the needs of our neighbours. This is a shared enterprise and it requires a contribution from everyone without exception. I really do think we are headed for trouble unless we redress the balance. It's too easy to pat ourselves on the back for all that's going on here, for the warmth of our welcome (which IS wonderful) but not if it's breaking people in the process and putting them off church for life! I'm not going to apologise for being frank, I hope we'll all go away and think about this seriously.

"But I won't end on that note. By the grace of God, we have weathered a very difficult year. We have shown courage, resilience and imagination. We have continued to nurture the faith of children and adults in various different ways, baptising 20 individuals, offering weekly school worship, toddler church and junior church, and nurture courses adapted to Covid restrictions. We have offered comfort and support to the bereaved with 28 funerals or burials of ashes, an annual service of remembrance, Friendship Teas and cards on anniversaries. We have continued to offer our best worship according to circumstances, both in person and online, and celebrated the seasons of our faith. And we have built community through opportunities for people to gather and develop a sense of belonging. We welcome new people to worship almost every week, which is a joy. We have had fun together and strengthened friendships. We have contributed to a number of charities, and hope that we will have the opportunity to offer hospitality to some Ukrainian refugees - the offer has been submitted. Some of us have been exploring our understanding of Living in Love and Faith, and we hope to make progress on becoming an Inclusive Church in the year ahead.

"We have much to be thankful for, and many opportunities to serve God in this place. I would like to thank our wardens and PCC, our ministry team, and Norma in the office for their support. I would like to thank you all for your friendship, and your fellowship on the journey of faith. Let's go forward in hope and trust in Christ."

Marguerite Dallas offered to act as Secretary for the next six months, prior to her moving away, and this was welcomed..

Linda Cooke thanked Lizzie, on behalf of everyone, for all she does for the church.

7. **Any other business** - People were invited to sign up for a table at the Quiz Night on 14 May. There is to be a Big Summer Fun Day at the end of July and a Crib Festival in December.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm when The Grace was said.

3.1 Electoral Roll report

The electoral roll at last year's APCM opened with 142 members.

Changes to the roll for this year are as follows:

11 new people have joined the electoral roll.

6 people have left the roll due to 2 people having died and 4 people moving away.

The number on the roll at this year's APCM is therefore 147 – an increase of 5 people.

Applications to join or re-join the roll open again at the end of the APCM.

Norah Tattersall, Electoral Roll officer.

3.2 Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Rev'd Lizzie Hood, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Its membership consists of the Clergy, one Lay Reader, two Church Wardens, three representatives to the Deanery Synod, and those elected by the Parish to serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

Following the APCM in 2022 those on the PCC are: Rev'd Lizzie Hood (Incumbent and Chair), Rev'd Jos Perris (Associate Priest), Cathy Ayling, Karen Ball (Church Warden), Tim Bourne (Lay Reader), Beverley Burgess (Deanery Synod rep), Martin Chapman (Treasurer), Miles Cooksey, Lorraine Ellis, Colin Gage (Deanery Synod rep), Mike Hawtin (Deanery Synod rep), Pauline Lindsey (Safeguarding Officer), Chinyanta Nkonkomalimba, Suzanne Nkonkomalimba, Kathy Perry, Gillian Redman, and John Walker (Church Warden). Marguerite Dallas agreed to be the PCC secretary until the end of September 2022 due to personal circumstances.

The PCC meets every other month, in person and at its meeting in May 2022 it approved the following appointments: Treasurer – Martin Chapman, Secretary – Marguerite Dallas, Deputy Church Wardens - Beverley Burgess, Mike Hawtin and Kathy Perry, Health and Safety Officer – Karen Ball. All on the Electoral Roll were appointed as Sidespeople. Gillian Redman was appointed as our representative on Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead. In November 2022 the PCC approved the appointment of Sue Gouch as PCC Secretary. The PCC is required to appoint a Standing Committee which has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to the overall directions given by the Council. This comprises the Rector, Church Wardens and Deputy Church Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer. The Standing Committee conducts business by email and its work is reported to each PCC meeting.

Throughout the past year the restrictions due to covid have reduced but we remain mindful of the ongoing risk of infection. The Mission Action Plan was reviewed at the January 2023 meeting and accepted at the March 2023 meeting. At the March meeting, the PCC agreed that we could reintroduce the handshake during the Peace, if people were comfortable with this, but it was personal choice. The PCC also agreed that we would not allow the sipping of wine at communion from the chalice but continue with intinction of the bread. The Safeguarding report was updated

and accepted by the PCC. At the March meeting, the PCC made the decision to not allow dogs in the Trinity Room because of the risk of allergic reaction. It was agreed that during dry weather tables and chairs would be placed in the churchyard so that dogs could join with coffee and any external activities.

3.2 cont. Report on Safeguarding

I have regularly reported to the PCC on Disclosure and Barring clearance and the required training to support this.

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents within Holy Trinity since the last APCM.

The three PSO's within the Benefice have continued meeting. The training sessions we had planned for the autumn had to be cancelled due to illnesses and bereavement. Our intention is to get these organised soon. I will be running our courses at HT.

Our Safeguarding policies were reviewed and approved at our January PCC meeting and updated copies are in four folders (EH, PL, vestry cupboard and bookcase in the Trinity room for public access).

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Pauline Lindsey, Parish Safeguarding Officer

3.2 cont. Report on Parish activities

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH REPORTS

Baptism Report - This year 16 children and 3 adults were baptised here at Holy Trinity. Baptism services are generally held after our Sunday service or on Sunday afternoons. Church families may choose to make it part of morning worship and this year we welcomed Luke Millar during the service on 9th October.

Lizzie holds preparation classes for parents before booking and a member of the team assists her. On the day, two people are there to welcome the families and their guests and act as sidespeople. If anyone would like information on what being a helper entails or would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Perry.

My thanks as always go to the whole team for ensuring a warm welcome for baptism families at Holy Trinity.

Kathy Perry, Baptism Co-ordinator

Choir - The restrictions on singing imposed during the pandemic are now behind us. In March 2022 we were still only singing four hymns at the Eucharist in order to keep the service short and minimise the time for which people were gathered indoors and possibly spreading infection. At Easter the gradual hymn was reinstated and by June we were back to singing six hymns. All year the choir has been singing an introit and an anthem at the Eucharist, although not for family services. We are back to our normal pattern of rehearsals.

The choir sang for the switch on of the village lights in November and at the Carols by Candlelight in church in December. They also sang for two weddings and a funeral. They learnt a special anthem for the Platinum Jubilee in June.

We are pleased that John May has continued to play the trumpet for special occasions. The organist is particularly grateful to the assistant organist Matt Tattersall this year for standing in for several Sundays during her period of ill-health as well as playing regularly once a month, and she would like to record her thanks to the choir for all their support not only musically but also on a personal level.

The nine members of the choir are very dedicated and maintain a good standard of singing, but we would welcome more singers especially in the lower parts.

Rosemary Knight

Children's Praise - This quarterly, Sunday afternoon service for young children and their families started back in 2013 and ran regularly until the lockdown of 2020. It was fun, and light, and gave children a very comfortable environment for simple worship, and a social time afterwards for the whole family. Numbers did not justify reviving it post-Covid, so I 'called time' on it at the end of 2022 in order to put our energies into Woodland Worship. I am grateful to Ben Masters and his family for their support over the years.

Lizzie Hood

Junior Church - Junior Church at Holy Trinity continues to deliver a rich, engaging and varied liturgy for our children and young people. We have been seeing regular numbers between 5 and 10 children, ranging in ages from toddlers to around eleven years of age. The children are led by a small but dedicated team of adult leaders, all of whom are highly experienced in working with children and young people. Ideally the team needs to grow in numbers, to help share out the weekly rota workload and additional duties. Enquiries are being made with suitable candidates in-line with our safer recruitment policies.

The leadership team takes a broad and inclusive approach to learning, catering for different ages and learning styles. We are well equipped with resources and materials and put these to good use. As part of our approach, we promote learning through games, arts and crafts, various media and practical demonstrations. Our key objective is for the children to associate Church with having fun in a safe and non-judgemental learning environment, whilst hopefully learning and growing in faith as they mature. There is a clear pathway for children to grow at Holy Trinity Church, from joining the Toddler Church to Junior Church and on to the Youth Group from around 10 years old. Many of our young people then continue their faith journey through Confirmation and beyond. Our team objective for the next twelve months is to develop and further our inclusive approach to learning, with a strong focus on neurodiversity.

Miles Cooksey

Music and Meditation - The M&M group continued to meet monthly until Frances' illness and then her accident caused it to be suspended. When meeting, we spend 30-40 minutes listening to music interspersed with readings. We are very grateful to Frances for all the work she puts into preparation, with Rebecca's help with the technology.

Tim Bourne

Nurture and Growth Team – comprises Norah Tattersall (Chair), Lizzie, Tim Bourne, Jean Britt and Linda Cooke and we meet two or three times a year to consider possible events and courses, and in particular to plan our Lent and Advent courses. The Advent course last year focused on individuals involved in the story of the Incarnation, and our Lent course is exploring different forms of prayer. We are also currently running “Stop for a Second” after church on the second Sunday of each month, when the theme of the sermon is discussed. We welcome feedback.

Norah Tattersall/Linda Cooke

Occasional Offices

Six marriages were conducted at Holy Trinity during 2022. Each couple is invited to a wedding preparation evening at the beginning of the year, after which one to one support is offered throughout the planning process, culminating in a wedding rehearsal a day or two before the 'big day'.

Fourteen funeral services were held at Holy Trinity, fourteen at local crematoria, and a further thirteen interments of ashes over and above those funerals taken by the ministers of the parish. Ongoing support is offered through pastoral visits, the annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, and by invitations to join Talking Elephants, Friendship Teas or Saturday Coffee Shop.

There were no Confirmations.

Lizzie Hood

Sacristy and Servers – During 2022 worship began to look more 'normal', stage by stage. We returned to having a team of 3 - crucifer with 2 acolytes - for Sunday Parish Eucharists, and have 6 children able and willing to be acolytes in pairs at the monthly all-age worship. The PCC has kept Communion arrangements under regular review and is currently not ready to resume sharing the communal chalice, though during the year it approved the intincting of wafers by the priest. Norah Tattersall organises the training of servers, Sarah Kiesa organises the rotas, Karen Ball and Kathy Perry launder the linens, and John Buxton acts as sacristan, ordering altar supplies. We thank them all for their service.

Lizzie Hood

Toddler Church - We started helping Tim and Lizzie at Toddler Church just before Easter 2022, continuing when Tim 'retired' in June, with help from Gillian Redman and Vicky North who joined us in September. The numbers fluctuated during the year, with up to 15 toddlers (overwhelming for all concerned), and a regular group of 8-10 toddlers and babies who come with their mums, dads,

grandparents or carers. It is a very supportive, welcoming group and it is lovely to see new mums chatting and joining in the songs and crafts. We start with a time for the adults to chat, with Lizzie and the helpers taking care of the very little ones and the older toddlers playing with the toys. Then it's into church, with the children ringing the bell on the way in, for songs with musical instruments, a story and prayers before returning to the Trinity Room for a craft session. During the year we've planted seeds, made pictures with autumn leaves and made boats and a storm collage. Our biggest achievement was our contribution to the Crib Festival, when we drew round the children and they covered the drawing with material (with the help of their adults). Lesley then did an amazing job putting it all together so that the children were the characters in the Nativity. It has been so lovely to see so many of the families attending Church services and events throughout the year, bringing friends with them to share in the life of the Church, not just on a Thursday morning. We meet every Thursday morning in term-time from 10.00 and welcome any parents, grandparents and carers with toddlers and babies to join us for fun and company, while learning about Jesus, the Light of the World. A big thank you to Lizzie for her patience with us and to Tim for everything he has done in the past 16-17 years for the Toddler Church, a wonderful job and leaving us with a lovely legacy of the 'pom, poms' in the songs!

Lesley Ripley and Lorraine Ellis

TYG - Youth Group report - The Youth Group has gone from strength to strength. Huge thanks go to Marguerite Dallas and Miles Cooksey who ran it alongside Lizzie and myself for the first half of the year until sadly Marguerite moved to Norfolk. Since September, we have had lots of new young people join us and it has been wonderfully encouraging to see the group grow. There are now about 16 young people in the group and on occasions all 16 of them have come which has been great fun. We play lots of games, which has to include their favourite 'Hide and Seek'! We always enjoy a meal together, either pizza or baked potatoes and chat about school and life in general. There is always a spiritual focus where we discuss an important theme relevant to the time of year. We sometimes set them a challenge for the month (*which reminds me I owe a few of them some chocolate!*) This year Liam and Alice have joined the group of leaders which has been wonderful. It is always such a privilege to spend time with young people as we share our own experiences together and learn and grow together. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm-7.30pm and hope and pray that the group continues to develop. As we consolidate the foundations of the group, our plans are that we will introduce some new and exciting events to the youth group this year. Details of which are to be confirmed.

Jos Perris

Welcomers - Now we're settling back into a routine of services we are still looking for more "meeters and greeters" and we're delighted to welcome Sam to the merry team. It is fun – and it's a great way to get to know people. No training is needed – and the most important role in the job is to smile and say hello when people arrive and say goodbye when they leave. Please step up and help – you will be at church anyway and it is a very important form of outreach. Another very valuable form of outreach is having a cup of coffee after the service and we are very short of people to arrive at church 10 minutes early to bring milk, set the cups and to leave the service 10 minutes before the end to put the coffee on, serve and clear up – you don't even have to wash up as we have a super new dishwasher. If you find that you are scheduled to help on any rota and are unable to attend, please can **you** arrange a replacement and then let Sarah Kiesa know. And finally – as ever, our eternal thanks to Sarah Kiesa who runs the juggling act of organising all the rotas. We really can't manage without her.

Gillian Redman/Sarah Kiesa

FABRIC, FINANCE & MISSION REPORTS

Charity Donations in 2022

From 5% of our income in 2021

NSPCC	£1119
DENS	£1119

Embrace the Middle East	£1119
ActionAid	£265

Separate collections

Children's Society	Box collection
Lent Lunches	Paid direct
Pakistan Floods	£724
Ukraine	£1089

Martin Chapman

Children's Society - This is a national Christian based organisation providing support to all children and teenagers. We have two fundraising events each year, a Christingle Service in Holy Trinity when we raised £394.70 and a Childrens' Society Home Charity box opening coffee morning and raffle when with a lot of catering and counting support we raised £1089.02.

If you would like to have a box to put spare change into please contact Lizzie or me. I find it very useful when I do someone a favour ie taking them to the hospital/getting shopping etc and they want to pay me – I give them the box and they pop what they like in it so it's win win!

Gillian Redman

Mission Action Plan - The Mission Action Plan, MAP, was reviewed by the PCC in the last quarter of 2022. The MAP was discussed at a number of meetings where new goals and actions were agreed for the latest version.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the existing Priority 2 – Wednesday Services - and its Smart Goals had been successfully achieved, this was by way of a partnership with Community Action Dacorum, CAD, whereby a number of volunteers from Holy Trinity have been able to reach out to the most vulnerable parishioners, following Covid, to enable them to attend a service in Church every 3rd Wednesday.

Priority 3 – Reintroduce Social Activities - has also been achieved in as much the Friendship Teas, Social events, and various groups i.e. Craft, Men's Group, Women's group etc have all been revived and are well attended.

In place of these two priorities a new goal has been set to Develop Active Participation and Active Discipleship. Going forward there are now just three priorities in place and a full version of these can be found below.

MAP enables us to set targets as part of our vision for Holy Trinity for the next five years and is achieved through worship, activities, groups and outreach.

MAP 2023:

Priority 1 - Develop worship within the Church

to continue the journey back to 'normal' and consider new patterns of worship

SMART Goals

- continue to develop monthly all age worship to provide a variety of styles for different ages and tastes, and encourage new worship leaders
- rebuild, recruit and train altar servers, sides-people, intercessors and leaders for all children's groups and weekday worship
- form a Worship Committee to look at all aspects of our services, especially music, and include young people on it. Continue to consider those people who are still not comfortable coming to church with the high incidence of COVID, and make provision, where possible

Priority 2 - Develop active participation and active discipleship

encourage all church members to discern what they can contribute to the running of the church, giving time, talents and finance as appropriate

SMART Goals

- use APCM and other gatherings eg simple lunches at which Rector & wardens can listen to views on nurture needs and present picture of the church's breadth of activity

- keep list of vacancies in public view via a leaflet, posters or bulletin notices
- develop the finance committee into a stewardship committee, with remit to oversee stewardship appeals and to look for cost savings
- plan and deliver an appeal for church and community members to review their financial support of the church

Priority 3 - Develop our buildings

to continue work started during lockdown to improve facilities, reduce clutter, improve storage and make our church and Trinity Room complex fit for current use

SMART Goals

- keep up the momentum on rationalising storage and developing the Trinity Room and Church to meet our current needs. Carry out 'quick wins'
- open the church during daylight hours. Install CCTV cameras, make provision for safe storage of valuables, rotas for opening/closing, and develop guides to help visitors interpret the building
- re-form the Fabric Committee with a remit to consider more major works that would require costing and prioritising. Consider the suggestions put forward by surveyor Anthony Parisi and church members, and report to PCC
- make progress towards our aim of net zero carbon by 2030

Karen Ball

Cleaning - Although we pay to have the Trinity Room, kitchen and toilets professionally cleaned once a fortnight the church is cleaned by volunteers. I have found it particularly disappointing that in spite of repeated requests to our large and enthusiastic congregation there are so few people who are prepared to spend an hour and a half dusting, sweeping and vacuuming our church. The more people who sign up, the less often individuals need to do it. I am happy to show you the ropes and it takes less time if you do it with a buddy.

Gillian Redman

Flower Arranging - Our worship is enhanced each week by a group of ladies who supply and arrange the flowers and who also come together at festival times to decorate the church. Thanks go to these ladies for their commitment. Special thanks must go to Wendy Honour who does so much to ensure that the flowers are kept up-to-date.

Deborah Dix

Publicity Group - We use various methods to get our publicity out to the congregation and wider community with posters, banners, leaflets, Facebook, various websites, the weekly bulletin and quarterly Benefice newsletters. (The latter ceased publication in the autumn.).

Lizzie has continued to leave reading materials in the porch for people who visit the church, particularly the lonely and bereaved. She keeps in touch with everyone every week by email and letter, keeping us all informed of what's going on in the parish, the village and the Benefice. Thank you Lizzie.

Lizzie and the churchwardens make sure the notice boards are kept updated. Thanks to Terry, Mike and Miles, Holy Trinity's services are streamed on YouTube and Facebook. This is invaluable for those still isolating or unable to come to church. Thanks to Rebecca Lawson for keeping our info up to date on the 'A Church Near You' website and to Mike for updating the Benefice website.

Beverley Burgess

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL REPORTS

The Craft Group - The Craft Group continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons and we've gained some new members over this past year, who have brought some new skills to the group. We continue to produce items for sale raising funds for the church not only within HT but at village events and the coffee mornings at the cricket club. Thank you for your continuing support.

Jean Britt, Jenny Chaney, Pauline Lindsey

Events Committee - The Events Committee was formed in January 2022 with a remit to oversee the social and fundraising activities of the parish. Previously the overall planning was rather unhelpfully split between the Social and Finance Committees. The membership comprises some members of each of these committees with some 'new blood' added for fresh ideas and a broader age representation. The Committee was able to publish a Social Programme in January, which gives us a basic structure for the year, and other events may be added from time to time more spontaneously. The Social Committee still exists to lead on the catering, and we hope that parishioners will step up to form working groups for different events. The Events Committee is not there to do it all!

Lizzie Hood

Friendship Teas - We meet on the 4th Thursday afternoon of each month in the Trinity Room for a cup of tea and a piece of homemade cake. The numbers attending have dropped a little recently but it is a very friendly group and all are welcome. It is a combined initiative between the church and the two W.I groups in the village with the aim of providing company and conversation. Why not give us a try!

Pat Driver

LG School Foundation Governors - Following the pandemic, we have now returned to all our old activities which is a joy for everyone. We have resumed our services in church, which seem to have increased in popularity amongst the parents and they are often standing room only. The locally agreed RE syllabus has been refreshed and comes into force in September. The school has embraced the Emmanuel Project, which supports the teaching of other world faiths, alongside Understanding Christianity. Additional resources and materials ensure teachers' knowledge is high and pupils continue to receive stimulating and challenging religious education. Last year, all pupils completed the Archbishop's Youth Trust award. This is aimed at promoting character education and encouraging young people to be courageous advocates in the communities.

Lizzie continues to lead worship in school once a week and our aim is to begin inviting the community to join us again. We've also initiated Woodland Worship (using the principles of Forest Church) which takes place every 3rd Tuesday of each month. It's proven to be very popular with children up to Year 4 and it's wonderful to welcome members of Holy Trinity too (you don't need to bring a child to attend!)

Our RE Week is held in March. This is an enrichment week, where we move away from our normal timetable and focus on one particular aspect. The children will be having visitors from a range of world faiths as well as our Easter service. They will be making prayer flags for our spiritual gardens, bracelets to remind them of the life of Jesus and the ever-popular Eastingle. The school continues to be over-subscribed, which is good from a financial point of view, but increasingly frustrating in our desire to serve the children of the parish. The pressure on places will only increase now the development in St Margaret's Way has started. We have the space to expand but this will need to be an HCC decision.

The school continues to sponsor Melany in Peru. The children have just completed a sponsored event so we can continue to send her to school and receive medical care through Compassion, a Christian charity. The children are always fascinated to know that she lives in a jungle village and her school has no internet connection. What a contrast to life in Leverstock Green!

Terry Perry

Mothers' Union - Holy Trinity no longer has its own Branch, but we have a few Diocesan members who meet on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month for Corporate Communion. This Wednesday service now has a minibus for collecting folk who could not otherwise get to church, so the social aspect continues, with coffee after the service. We are grateful for Eileen Adams' leadership in recent years.

Lizzie Hood

Pastoral Care Group - We meet regularly to share with each other about visits and calls that have been completed. Home Communion is now being given when requested, home visits and phone calls continue to be offered where we know that there is a need. We are still a small team –

Barbara Batten, Pam Batten, Tim Bourne, Pauline Lindsey, Gillian Redman, Lesley Ripley and
Rev Lizzie Hood. Pauline Lindsey

Social Committee Report - 2022 turned out to be a full year after the previous two years of pandemic restrictions. We started with celebrating Lizzie's 10 year anniversary at Holy Trinity with Prosecco and cake in February, and a Scrabble afternoon tea was kindly organised by Val and Dick Selby. We welcomed back the Chiltern Hills Brass Band Concert but held it at St Benedict's as their space is more suitable.

Lent saw our usual social events with a Pancake Tea, Lent Lunch and Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea boxes. We served Hot Cross Buns with coffee on Easter Day and breakfast on Easter Monday for those walking on the pilgrimage to the cathedral.

Our usual 2 quizzes in the school hall in May and 'Beryl's Quiz' in November were popular, thanks to Mike and Lesley Hawtin's daughter and son in law. The Ploughman's supper was well received and proved to be more profitable than fish and chips. We were once again able to organise a churchyard barbecue on Trinity Sunday which was well attended and very enjoyable.

Our stall at the village fete on the theme of the Queen's Jubilee was suitably decorated but sadly we didn't win a rosette! After the success of the previous year's Summer Fun Day, Gillian organised an even bigger one in July with lots of stalls, refreshments, a bouncy castle and games for the children.

The Strawberry Tea in our garden in aid of Breast Cancer Care was probably one of the hottest days of the year!

Lizzie held a Pet Service with refreshments in August and 'Hymns & Pimm's' was very popular again with our singing accompanied by friends of John May. For our Harvest Supper, we held a Family Film Night with hotdogs and popcorn, and this was sold out! A Halloween Light event in the churchyard was another successful 'first'.

In Autumn we catered for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving and had a stall with the craft group at the Winter Fayre in the village hall. This gave us an opportunity to advertise our Christmas events and services. A separate committee organised another hugely successful Nativity Crib Festival at the beginning of December. At our last event, the Carols by Candlelight service, we served mince pies & mulled wine and it was great to see so many new people in church.

We are very grateful to **everyone** who helped with all our events last year. They are a good outreach in the community and help with much needed church finances. Special thanks to the Social Committees for all their help and to Jenny Chaney who has now stepped down from the Committee for her contribution over the last few years. Beverley Burgess

Talking Elephants - This is a bereavement support group initiated and run by Neville's Funeral Service. It has been meeting at Holy Trinity since March 2022 on 3rd Tuesday mornings, 11am to 1pm in the Trinity Room, and numbers are growing steadily. We were glad to be able to offer space to the group as it very much falls in line with our mission to support the community, and for that reason I have made it a priority to be involved as often as I can. It is open to anyone who has suffered a bereavement, not necessarily a recent one, but who would value the opportunity to share experiences and support with others in confidence. Lizzie Hood

Traidcraft and Coffee Shop - Coffee Shop continues almost every Saturday, and is usually full at some point during the morning. We are very grateful to all the volunteers, and particularly to those whose name appears almost every month.

Traidcraft had difficulty during the pandemic in maintaining stocks, and sadly some goods we had in stock went out of date. We have recently (March 2023) heard that the trading arm of Traidcraft has gone into administration. However, an organisation calling itself "We Are Fair Trade" and consisting of former Traidcraft staff is trying to continue the work. They have bought most of the remaining Traidcraft stock and are setting up buying arrangements, and are also trying to get agreement on the use of the Traidcraft brand name. We hope their efforts will be successful.

Tim and Sue Bourne

Trinity Men's Group - The Men's Group continues to meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday every month in the Trinity Room for a fish and chip and beer supper. Almost always we have a speaker - either from within our own ranks or from outside - and the projector and screen are used regularly for illustrative presentations.

Our numbers have grown through 2022 from about 9 at the start to 18 at the end. A very good banter has been had by all and our grateful thanks go to Sarah Keisa for organizing us all. We usually charge £10 for the meal, and during the year we amass a small profit to enable us to donate to Holy Trinity which last year was £145.

It is fun, many friends have been made and you are welcome to join us.

Dick Selby

Trinity Readers - We are still a fairly small 'house' meeting group and our choices of books are suggested by our members, who in turn run the meetings. The choice of books is quite varied. Our 2023 sessions include well known authors as well as writers new to some of us. Regular favourites like Agatha Christie, writing as Mary Westmacott, are joined by relatively new authors, such as Liane Moriarty. Similarly historical novels about the Trojan War and Charles the first rub shoulders with Tom Hanks.

We are back to using the Library Book Group Scheme for most of the books. This, of course, helps with the cost as well as meaning we don't have to look far, Leverstock Green Library being very helpful.

We are always happy to welcome new members.

Elizabeth Cooper

Trinity Women's Group - Trinity Women's Group has had difficulties with the lack of people stepping forward to join the committee and also with falling membership meaning less finance to pay for speakers. We have a programme organised up to September and will review in July whether it is viable to continue as we are.

Going forward we are going to advertise more widely, ie posters in the Village Pharmacy, The Trinity Room and by word of mouth to hopefully grow our membership back to pre-covid to between 25 and 30.

Cathy Ayling (leader)

Item 3.3

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN Treasurer's Report - Year ending 31/12/2022

Firstly, a big **thank you** for all the generous contributions of time and money during 2022 which allow us to continue the work of Holy Trinity Church. We ended the year with a **running costs gain of £7,556** This was much better than anticipated due to fundraising efforts. However, Church members regular contributions were not as high as anticipated which means that the Church has to find **£91 a week** from reserves, grants, donations or fundraising to cover costs.

Our total assets increased to £171,598 (£155,400 in 2021) and our CCLA investments could realise a further £9,000 when we need them. We will need them for:

- Repairs to walls and windows due to extensive settlement cracks
- Replacement of rotting Trinity Room roof
- Replacement of obsolete and inefficient heating system
- Redecoration of Church interior
- Energy costs which have doubled
- Increases in Parish Share to pay for Clergy and support from the Diocese

A building of this type will always be expensive to maintain, and we would like to extend the ministry of the Church in Leverstock Green - which will require further resources.

In comparison with 2021:

- Collections and Regular Giving by standing order or weekly envelope increased by £3,839, below inflation.
- Income from donations was down by £919
- Our shared Administration costs (the Benefice Office at All Saints) were £7,375, an crease of £117
- Heating Oil cost £1,964 (2021 was £1,181)
- Electricity cost £4,119, £967 in December alone (2021 was £2,508)
- Our contribution to the Diocese for Clergy & central services was £59,798 (2023 should be £66,579).
- Fund raising was reduced by £936

Highlights!

- We have provided varied opportunities for worship, ministry and friendship every week. This ministry benefited from the use of web technology, email, and printed material to keep in touch with our members and the wider community. This was facilitated by a small group of operators to whom we are very grateful.
- We received an energy grant from the diocese of £1279
- Our members contributed £8,632 in fundraising by selling tea towels, books, craft and other items.
- We held a Crib Festival which raised £2,718 – well worth the hard work involved.
- We took part in the Rotary Club Santa Sleigh collection which raised £350

Charities

- We have set aside £4,860 for Charities, 5% of our income, as in previous years. We contributed to Action Aid, Pakistan flood and Ukraine support appeals, The Children's Society, NSPCC, Christian Aid, DENS, and Embrace the Middle East.
- Suggestions for this year's distribution of the 2022 allocation will be most welcome.

The Future - Budget for 2022

Our unavoidable expenditure continues to rise, and our Parish Share and fuel costs will rise considerably, so we would welcome an increase in income from regular giving and donations from our Members. We would strongly encourage members to join the Parish Giving Scheme, or to consider payment by regular banker's standing order. Anyone who is a taxpayer can Gift Aid their donations by completing a Gift Aid form, available from the Treasurer, to enable us to reclaim tax, which added almost £14,489 to our funds in 2022.

As Treasurer I am in the fortunate position of rarely having to handle cash as paying in and Gift Aid records are all handled by Kathy and Terry Perry. I would like to thank them for all their hard work. We are most grateful to Geoffrey Dix who has undertaken the task of Independent Examiner.

Martin Chapman – Treasurer – 13/1/2023

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2022

Year Commencing 01/01/2022

2022 Full year budget		To Date Actual	To Date Budget	To Date Exceeding Budget	Difference	Last Year 2021
£	INCOME :	£	£	£	£	£
6,950	General Collections	7,447	6,950	497	2,910	4,037
50,000	Planned Giving	48,898	50,000	-1,102	1,019	47,879
10,488	Tax Relief (Accruals+PGS)	14,480	10,488	-2,007	1,487	12,983
8,000	Fees	5,763	8,000	3,763	4,454	5,359
9,000	Donations	7,291	9,000	-1,709	-919	8,210
9,000	Fund Raising	8,632	9,000	-368	-836	9,586
50	Hall Hire (fund raising)	250	50	200	215	25
100	Interest and Dividends	468	100	368	410	56
97,686	TOTAL	97,228	97,500	-359	8,550	88,679
	EXPENDITURE :					
2,000	Clergy Expenses	1,198	2,000	800	-323	1422.83
2,700	Church Servants	2,464	2,700	236	-224	2688.00
1,500	Society	1,432	1,500	68	-330	1781.89
7,500	Administration	7,375	7,500	125	117	7258.00
6,500	Church Upkeep	8,813	6,500	-2,313	2,481	6331.58
50,798	Parish Share	59,798	50,798	9	299	59548.00
3,500	Repairs and Maintenance	3,831	3,500	-331	824	3087.60
4,879	Charitable Giving (5% of income)	4,859	4,879	-20	425	4433.93
88,377	TOTAL	89,873	88,377	1,296	3,238	86,452
9,210 Gain	Operating Surplus >>	7,856	9,210	-1,854		2,227

BALANCE SHEET FOR 2022

	2022 £		Gain/(Loss)	Brought Forw. 2021
ASSETS :				
CCLA Deposit Accounts	59,041		0	59,041
Diocesan Board of Finance - Sygrave Fund	23,352	Cannot use	0	23,352
Debtors				
Inland Revenue	0	9,219	-2,938	12,157
Investments: Diocesan Bd. of Finance(Restrict)	601		0	601
Cash : Bank Accounts & cash	59,384	As Cash sheet	19,135	40,249
CCLA Investment Account	19,877	10,000	376.66 shares	0
CCLA Global Equity Fund	9,209	10,000	1899.44 shares	0
TOTAL	Value**	171,598	16,199	166,400
REPRESENTED BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AS FOLLOWS :				
General Reserve - Accumulated Surplus	64,357		7,710	56,647
Emergency Building Fund (Designated/Unres)	25,524		0	25,524
Sygrave Capital (Unouchable Endowment)	23,352	Cannot use	0	23,352
Sygrave Income restricted for Church Repairs	19,737		4,699	15,048
Creditors	4,596		1,237	3,359
Expenditure				
Charitable giving designated	4,596			
Holding Account	17,423		890	16,533
Vicar's discretionary fund	612		0	612
Junior Church	482		0	482
Hall Hire (COGS)	8,466		250	8,186
Toddiers Church	378		-166	544
Youth Group	87		0	87
Choir Fund	311		0	311
Traidcraft	2,507		772	1,735
Car Park Fund (Restricted)	916		0	916
Flower Fund	536		350	-16
Positor Grave Fund for churchyard	1,276		222	1,053
Craft Group Donations	698		88	610
Sundry Trust Funds	601		0	601
TOTAL ASSETS	171,598	-0.00	16,199	166,400

Signed  Date 23 Feb 2023

Independent Caspar

Income from Investment Funds

£ Confirmed by DBF statements

Poultar (Churchyard Upkeep)	349.63
Child (organ Maintenance)	0.67
Sygrave (Church Repairs)	4,889.34

The Benefice of Langelei

Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of Leverstock Green – 2022 Accounts

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

Signed:



Geoffrey Dix
Independent Examiner

Item 3.4 FABRIC, GOODS, ORNAMENTS AND CHURCHYARD REPORT

FABRIC

1. The fabric of the church building remains fundamentally sound. A further survey of the cracks in the chancel walls by the Morton Partnership has confirmed the cracks are unsightly but are not compromising the structural integrity of the church walls. A meeting with the surveyor and Corinthian Stone has concluded we should go ahead and repair the cracks with an appropriate filler.
2. The PCC has accepted a quote for the work which will be carried out once the weather improves. Mongoose Studio will assess the need for specialist repairs to the windows. Once the work is complete, our decorator will repaint the chancel walls.
3. The flat roof of the Trinity Room is a cause for concern. Although the drains are cleared regularly to minimise accumulations of rain water, some areas of the roof are soft and sagging. The roof will need replacing in the short to medium term.
4. The oil-fired boiler continues to give good service but may require replacement at any time if it fails and cannot be repaired. Moreover, the replacement of the oil-fired heating system is a priority if the church is to meet the Church of England Net Zero Carbon target by 2030.
5. To this end, we have taken advantage of a new Diocesan scheme to provide grants towards the cost of an Energy Audit. The Audit was carried out in January and will give us advice on the type of electrical heating system which is best suited to meet our needs. We are awaiting the report.
6. The five yearly Electrical Installation Condition inspection was carried out by CLS Electrical Services in September. The Report stated the installation is well maintained and in good working. However, the overall report is graded unsatisfactory because CLS has identified a lack of protection by Residual Circuit Devices (RCDs). We are taking expert advice to establish if any urgent rectification is required.
7. In preparation for the opening of the church on an unmanned basis during the day, we intend to install a CCTV system as a deterrent against theft and vandalism. We have received an Archdeacon's letter approving the installation, and the Parish Trust has approved a grant of £2,970 to cover the cost of the system.
8. The fluorescent tubes in the Trinity Room and the Old Vestry have been replaced with standardised LED units. The new lighting is 80% cheaper to run and will help us to meet our environmental targets.

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

9. The Church Inventory was checked by the Churchwardens on 2nd February. All items were present, and the inventory has been signed off by the Incumbent.
10. The Terrier document listing the Additions and Deletions has been completed and signed by the Incumbent and Churchwardens.
11. The dishwasher in the kitchen has failed and was deemed to be beyond economical repair. A more environmentally efficient replacement has been purchased.
12. An Archdeacon's letter has approved the acquisition of new Purple Vestments which are being funded by a donation.

CHURCHYARD

13. The churchyard continues to be maintained in good condition thanks to Simon Bounds and other volunteers.
14. We have received helpful support from DBC with the cutting the long hedge and clearing the accumulation of leaves. DBC also arranged the repair of the wall adjacent to Church Road. We are now required to pay the subscription charge for emptying the green bins.

Item 3.5 BEYOND THE PARISH

Benefice Team Council - It was agreed last year that instead of team services for special events, we would now have a united team service on the fifth Sunday in each month that has one; the venue for this would rotate between our four churches, and the service would follow the usual timing and pattern of the host church. Following discussion after a year of this arrangement, it was agreed that in future, rather than the time varying according to the host church, to avoid confusion it would always be at the same time (10.30am).
Tim Bourne

The Benefice of Langelei Environment Team - The team was formed in response to Climate Change for all Churches to become net zero carbon by 2030. We had meetings together to share ideas on reducing the carbon emissions by making small changes to our lifestyles, which we then published in the Benefice Newsletter.

There are Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Awards which our Churches need to work towards to become an eco-church. As this is now well underway, we have ceased this team and all churches within the Benefice are working independently towards this goal.
Cathy Ayling

LGRE fund - The Leverstock Green Religious Education Fund exists for "educational purposes related to the Ecclesiastical Benefice of Langelei in connection with the provision of religious education in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England by means of a Sunday School or otherwise". The Church Wardens of all 4 churches are Trustees, chaired by the Rector, and Peter Bladon is the Treasurer.

Leverstock Green Religious Education Fund Accounts for the period 1st January -31st December 2022

<u>Income</u>	£
Interest C.B.F Deposit	503.09
Interest C.B.F. Share Fund	10,785.16
Decrease in Market Value on C.B.F. Share Fund	(47,832.01)
<u>Total Loss</u>	(36,543.76)
<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Grants paid:-	
Nash Mills C of E Primary School (205)	270.00
P.C.C Holy Trinity -Summer Holiday Club (206)	360.00
St Mary's -Bibles for leavers Nash Mills School (207)	323.73
St Mary's – Bibles for Year 3 Nash Mills School (208)	156.58
P.C.C. Holy Trinity Bibles for leavers Leverstock Green School (209)	357.00
P.C.C. Holy Trinity – Books Christmas/ Nurture (210)	224.09
Revd.L Hood – Book Grant (211)	42.43
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	1,733.83
<u>Excess of Expenditure over Income</u>	(38,277.59)

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2022

<u>Liabilities</u>	£	<u>Assets</u>	£
General Fund			
Balance at 01/01/22	444,128.51	CBF Deposit Fund	42,165.69*
Loss from I& E A/C	(38,277.59)	CBF Investment Fund	362,630.30*
		NatWest Bank Account	1,054.93
Total	405,850.92		405,850.92

* Notes – As per statements from CBF

Certified as in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to me.

P.J.Bladon

J. Aylott

Hon. Treasurer

Independent Examiner

January 2023

March 2023

Deanery Synod

This report covers the proceedings of the Hemel Hempstead Deanery Synod for the period from March 2022 to February 2023. During the year there were two Deanery Synod meetings, covering a variety of different topics. The key areas of discussion are reported below:

Tuesday 28th June 2022 at All Saints Kings Langley

We thanked Rosina Gaddes who had stepped down as Deanery Lay Chair. We welcomed Malcolm Grant, Chair of Trustees of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Malcolm told us about the work of the Trust, including how they raise their funds and how the funds are distributed by the Trust in the form of grants. He explained the process that a church must adhere to in order to access a grant from the Trust. Churches were encouraged to consider participating in the Trust's 'Bike and Hike' fundraising event in September each year.

The Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon reported on deanery expenditure (covering Zoom subscriptions for the churches) and on parish share payment status.

We shared one joy and one challenge from each parish.

Father James told synod about 'Church in the Wild' at All Saints – a monthly family outdoor service with a story, related activities, and shared food or toasted marshmallows over a fire. We finished our meeting by experiencing Church in the Wild in the churchyard.

Thursday 23rd February 2023 at St Benedict's Bennetts End

We welcomed Mandy Davies, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, who gave us an overview of what she and the Diocesan Safeguarding team do. She shared information about their workload, and the kinds of things that they are dealing with day to day. She talked about Safeguarding Training and gave us some ideas of how to make the training less onerous, and how she could help.

Mandy then invited a Q and A from the synod members and safeguarding leads who were present, and answered several queries about training and certification. Positive feedback was given to Mandy that it is good to know there are experienced people at diocese level giving support where needed to parishes.

The Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon reported on deanery expenditure for the prior year, and parish share payment – a good result with only 2 churches not paying their full parish share (both with an action plan to tackle this).

We shared news from each parish.

Mike Hawtin

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead- CTHH provides a common voice for churches, facilitates communication between churches and encourages partnership between churches and the community. It is an organisation of Christian Faiths meeting regularly and arranging ecumenical worship, talks, walks of faith, World Day of Prayer, Lent Groups, Street Pastors, Christians Against Poverty, supports the Liberty Tea rooms and many more activities to promote the Christian Faith and raise visibility and awareness. The meetings I've been to have been informative and enjoyable but because they are not announced until couple of weeks before taking place I am frequently unable to attend.

Gillian Redman

Diocesan Synod - The Diocesan Synod is the democratically elected decision-making body of the Diocese of St Albans. Its membership comprises some 200 clergy and laity split approximately 50/50 and elections from the Deanery Synods to the Diocesan Synod are held every three years. Hemel Hempstead Deanery is allocated four clergy and three lay member places on the Diocesan Synod. The three elected lay representatives from our Deanery include Colin Gage and Mike Hawtin and the clergy members include Rev Lizzie Hood.

The Diocesan Synod appoints the members of the various Councils and Boards which govern the Diocese, with the exception of the key body The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), whose members are directly elected by the Deaneries from among their members of the Diocesan Synod. Colin Gage is a member of the DBF and the Diocesan Property Company. The Synod itself meets three times annually, and its president is the Bishop of St Albans. The DBF and other Councils and Boards, with their various sub-committees, meet up to six times annually.

The Synod on the **18th June 2022** included discussions on:

- The Diocese's Environmental policy
- Wellbeing of Clergy
- Parish Priorities for new housing developments in the Diocese
- The Annual Accounts of the various Boards and Councils.

The meeting on **15th October 2022** covered:

- Deanery Synod Elections from 2023 onwards
- Discussions on the Diocese approach to the national Net Carbon Zero Strategy and Fossil Fuels
- Approval of the Diocese Financial Budget for 2023
- Discussion on Clergy Stipend levels for 2023
- An update on the Reaching New People (Fresh Expressions) Project

On **11th March 2023**, the Synod concentrated on:

- Deciding the Diocese response to the Living in Love and Faith proposals and the General Synod resolution on same sex marriage etc
- Changes to the Diocese Grant schemes
- How to carry forward the proposals in the recent Growing Younger and More Diverse report

The next Diocesan Synod is scheduled for the 11th June 2023

Colin Gage