

**St John the Divine Selsdon**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 5th May 2024**



**Rector**

Revd Canon Younis Francis

**Hon Clergy**

The Rev'd Dr Stephen Wright  
The Rev'd Michael Skinner

**Churchwardens**

Martyn Brown  
Debbie Brown

## The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon

A meeting of parishioners\* to elect churchwardens will be held on

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.30am

### Agenda

1) Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

2) Election of Churchwardens. Nominations received.

Debbie Brown	proposed by Jean Cockerell seconded by Alison Graham
Martyn Brown	proposed by Alan Turner seconded by John Harris

3) Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens.

Nominations remain open until the meeting commences. For further nominations to be valid they must be received in writing by the priest-in-charge before the commencement of the meeting.

*\*For this purpose, "parishioners" means those whose names are on the electoral roll of the parish, or those persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on the register of local government electors by reason of such residence*

## The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The Rev'd Canon Younis Francis welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

##### **1. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2022.**

These were agreed to be an accurate record and Margaret Mead proposed they should be accepted as such; Alice Hicks seconded this motion.

##### **2. Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations for the two positions –Martyn Brown and Debbie Brown. There being no other nominations, it was unanimously agreed that they be elected. The Rector thanked them for their support over the past year.

##### **3. Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens**

Debbie Brown advised the meeting that the current Deputy Wardens, Monica Turton, Andrew Hicks, Robert Thornton and Judith Coleman had agreed to serve for the forthcoming year. She thanked them all for their help and support which had been invaluable during the past year.

# **The Parish of St John the Divine, Seldon**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.30 am.**

### **Agenda**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (enclosed – pages 5-7)

#### **Review of 2023**

4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (pages 8-17)
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC (page 18)
6. Report on the Electoral Roll (page 19)
7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comment on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church) (page 20)
8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (page 21)
9. Other Reports (pages 22-36)
10. Parish Priest's Report (pages 37-42)

#### **Elections for 2024 onwards**

11. Elections for 4 lay persons to serve on the PCC
12. **Appointment of sides persons**
13. **Appointment of independent examiner to the PCC**
14. **Any other business**

*There will be a short meeting for all PCC members straight after this APCM – both those currently serving and those newly elected.*

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **1. Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rev'd Canon Younis Francis.

### **2. Apologies for Absence –** Brian and June Mason, Janice White, Tim Orchard, Ian Brentnall, Sylvia Hughes, Gill Salter, Marina Aston, Fiona McSorley, Auvernal Jenkins and Ann Woods.

Jean Cockerell had sent her apologies by letter in which she offered her thanks to the 'family' of St. John's for the kindness and support they had shown her over the past, difficult, year.

### **3. Approval of Minutes for APCM 2022**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as an accurate record. This was proposed by Andrew Hicks and seconded by Robert Thornton and agreed unanimously.

### **Review of 2022**

### **4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

The Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were available at the meeting together with the Treasurer's report.

Susan Tilley, PCC Treasurer, advised that she had nothing further to add and no questions were forthcoming.

### **5. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC**

Helen Lishmund had submitted a report included in the APCM booklet outlining the proceedings of the PCC during 2022.

### **6. Report on the Electoral Roll**

Janice White had submitted a report that there were 191 on the electoral roll. She had included in her report details of eligibility and how to apply for inclusion on the Electoral Roll of the parish.

### **7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comments on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church)**

The Churchwardens had submitted a report, Martyn Brown add that the Quinquennial inspection had taken place in the last year and the church was in good order with no major outstanding issues.

## **8. Report on the Proceedings of Deanery Synod**

A written report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod could be found in the Annual Report and Accounts. The Rector thanked Alice Hicks who was standing down from the Deanery Synod after six years as Lay Chair.

He reminded the meeting that the Archdeacon had presented her with the Lancelot Andrewes Medal for her service over many years both at this and previous parishes.

## **9. Other Reports**

The Rector advised that written reports had been submitted and asked if there were any questions or comments on the various reports.

Church Garden Report – Ann Orchard asked what the situation was in regard to grass cutting. Michael Lishmund advised that quotes were being obtained to have the grass cut professionally but it had been agreed that for forthcoming season the Rector's son would undertake grass cutting.

Building and Maintenance - Martyn Brown advised that a further report had been received from the consultant and it was planned to replace the existing boiler with new condensing boilers and fan radiators. It was planned to go with a conventional system as heat pump systems would cost in the region of £250k and therefore unaffordable. It was hoped to install in the summer of 2024.

Ann Orchard asked if solar panels were viable but was advised that they would not mitigate heating costs and would be expensive to install. They could be treated as a separate project and would be good for green credentials but financially viable at present.

In regard to the Servers Report, the Rector thanked the fourteen servers for their time and commitment.

### **Church Flowers**

Helen Lishmund advised the meeting that the team had a woodland theme last Christmas saving purchasing expensive flowers and £50 had been donated from the flower funds to the St. Francis Food Hub.

### **Church Hall Report**

Martyn Brown commented that grateful thanks should go to Amanda Sinclair for managing the hall bookings so efficiently and taking good care of the hirers. He drew attention to the fact that hire of the hall had raised nearly £40,000 in the last year.

Sunday School – Margaret Mead commented how good it was to have a Sunday school that grandchildren could attend even when they were not here all the time.

Drama Group

It was noted that the Drama Group is closing with a Quiz Night to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.

## **10. Parish Priest's Report**

The Rector had submitted a lengthy written report. He commented that this was his second APCM at St. John's, the two years having gone so quickly that he felt things must be going well. He felt, as a family, that they were in a very good place.

He commented that St. John's is a great parish with great people, too many to mention everyone by name. He expressed huge thanks to everyone for making his life so easy – a ministry of service to the parish and service to God.

## **11. Elections for 2023**

### **Deanery Synod**

There were 4 nominations for 4 places on the Deanery Synod and the following were duly elected:

Robin Orchard, Helen Lishmund, Stephen Srikantha and Susan Tilley.

There were 6 nominations for 6 vacancies on the PCC and Simon Archer, Jane Guglielmi, Alice Hicks, Sarah Parsons, Gill Sharpe and Amanda Sinclair were duly elected.

## **12. Appointment of Sides people**

Sidespeople

The full list of sidespeople is -

Janet Brown, Sue Condon, Penny Cook, Barbara Goldsmith, Auvanel Jenkins, Libby Lawrey, June Mason, Wendy Moulton, John Rapp, Eunice Sinclair, Lesley Taylor, Robert Thornton, Brenda Webb, Robin Orchard, Anne Orchard and Sue Tilley.

## **12. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was proposed to appoint Mrs R Cossins of MJS Associates as Independent Examiner and this was agreed unanimously.

Proposed by Dudley Mead and Seconded by Andrew Brown.

## **13. Any Other Business**

Dudley Mead advised the meeting that a discount for heating costs could be applied for where a building was only in use for restricted hours. He felt that the Diocese should be pressing for this.

There being no further business the Rector thanked everyone for their support and then closed the meeting with the Grace.

## Treasurer's Report for 2023

The accounts for 2023 have been examined and are printed on the following pages. Our Reserves have increased by approximately £50K from 2022 to £ 201797. However, whilst this would appear to be good news our total income has reduced by about £30K and our total expenditure has increased by £8K. In 2022 we received several substantial legacies which account for £20K of the reduction in income and the other £10K is due to a reduction in our regular giving and general donations. The increase in expenditure is spread across many areas as detailed in the accounts and some areas have reduced expenditure. There was a saving in church running costs but an increase in church maintenance, an increase in upkeep of the grounds and education but a reduction in hall running costs, an increase in events costs and charitable giving.

Our Reserves are detailed on page 9 of the accounts where you can see that the funds for the replacement boiler are £122K with the general reserves are £28K and the repairs and maintenance reserves are £35K.

The outstanding amount for the Garden Room Loan from the Diocese is £4.5K and will be fully paid off in June this year!

Yet again I am grateful for the assistance of Jim Gordon and Michael Lishmund for the work they do in banking the weekly money received and managing the Salaries and Gift Aid.

**Sue Tilley**  
**Hon Treasurer**



---

**Parochial Church Council**  
**of**  
**St. John the Divine, Selsdon**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**The Revd. Canon Younis Francis**  
**The Rectory**  
**Upper Selsdon Road**  
**Selsdon**  
**Surrey CR2 8DD**

**Bankers**

**CafCash Ltd**  
**Kings Hill**  
**West Malling**  
**Kent**  
**ME19 4TA**

**Independent Examiner**

**Mrs R Cossins FCCA**  
**MJS Associates**  
**Eagle House**  
**Cranleigh Close**  
**Sanderstead**  
**CR2 9LH**

# Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

## Annual Report 2023

### Background

The PCC of St. John the Divine has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Younis Francis, to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church buildings and the hall.

The PCC meets regularly to discuss matters arising during the year.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative rules.

Rector

The Reverend Canon Younis Francis

### Honorary Staff

The Reverend Michael Skinner

The Reverend Stephen Wright

Peter Crocombe SPA

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

### Churchwardens

Mrs Deborah Brown

Mr Martyn Brown

### Deputy Churchwardens

Mrs Judith Coleman

Mr Andrew Hicks

Mr Robert Thornton

Mrs Monica Turton

The PCC met eight times during the year. The Electoral Roll is 187.

The Restricted Funds represent over 50% of our assets this money is allocated for the replacement of the heating system in the church.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Canon Younis Francis  
Rector

### Representatives of the Deanery Synod

Mrs Helen Lishmund

Dr. Robin Orchard

Mr Stephen Srikantha

Mrs Susan Tilley

### Elected Members

Mr Simon Archer

Mr Ian Brentnall

Mr James Gordon

Mrs Jane Guglielmi

Mr Ian Harley

Mrs Alice Hicks

Mrs Sarah Parsons

Miss Joanna Sands

Mrs Gill Sharpe

Mrs Lesley Taylor

Mrs Janice White

### Committees

The PCC has a Standing Committee this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

St. John the Divine has several committees and sub-committees of the PCC, some of which are mentioned below.

### Buildings and Maintenance Committee

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of plant such as church buildings and fabric, and the church grounds.

### Hall Committee

Oversees the running of the hall, the cleaning and maintenance.

## Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

### Independent Examiner's Report

to the PCC of St. John the Divine, Selsdon.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out herein is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with any 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 41 of the Act: and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*WJS Associates*

Date:

*8th April 2024*

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Voluntary Income	2(a)	108609	29169	137778	175948
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	38756	12245	51001	48514
Income from investments	2(c)	3185	0	3185	0
Church activities	2(d)	6265	0	6265	4256
Other incoming resources	2(e)	2602	0	2602	1071
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>159417</u>	<u>41414</u>	<u>200832</u>	<u>229790</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(a)	90	0	90	90
Fund raising costs	3(b)	3694	0	3694	1172
Charitable Activities	3(c)	4000	1467	5467	5407
Ministry	3(d)	137932	695	138626	132662
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>145716</u>	<u>2162</u>	<u>147877</u>	<u>139331</u>
<b>NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<u>13703</u>	<u>39252</u>	<u>52953</u>	<u>90458</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		13703	39252	52953	90458
<b>BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY</b>		65771	83073	148844	58386
<b>BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER</b>		<u>79474</u>	<u>122323</u>	<u>201797</u>	<u>148844</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER

		2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	Note 4	0	0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	Note 5	4880	5143
Cafcash Current Account -Church		53810	163002
Deposits with CCLA		153158	139
		<u>211848</u>	<u>168284</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors due within one year	Note 6	10051	14785
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>10051</u>	<u>14785</u>
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>201797</u>	<u>153499</u>
Creditors amounts falling due after one year	Note 7 Diocesan Loan	0	4655
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>201797</u></u>	<u><u>148844</u></u>
<b>Represented by Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	Note 8	79474	65771
Restricted Funds	Note 8	122323	83073
		<u>201797</u>	<u>148844</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Canon Younis Francis  
PCC Chair

## **Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. 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.

#### **Funds**

Endowment funds, are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

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

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

#### **Incoming Resources**

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

#### **Resources Expended**

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

## **Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon**

### **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1973

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected, at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

<b>Note 2 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
2(a)	<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
	Planned giving				
	Gift Aid Donations	77830	0	77830	80932
	Tax Recoverable	22995	0	22995	25251
	Collections (open plate)	4109	0	4109	3903
	Donations, appeals etc.	3675	19164	22839	31925
	Legacies	0	10005	10005	31824
		<u>108609</u>	<u>29169</u>	<u>137778</u>	<u>173835</u>
2(b)	<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
	Bookstall	300	0	300	392
	Church hall lettings (non church)	34285	3094	37379	39960
	Garden Room	4171	0	4171	2113
	Events	0	9151	9151	8162
		<u>38756</u>	<u>12245</u>	<u>51001</u>	<u>50627</u>
2(c)	<b>Income from Investments</b>				
	Bank Interest	3185	0	3185	0
		<u>3185</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3185</u>	<u>0</u>
2(d)	<b>Income from Church Activities</b>				
	Fees	6265	0	6265	4256
		<u>6265</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6265</u>	<u>4256</u>
2(e)	<b>Other incoming resources</b>				
	Grant for new computers	102	0	102	1071
		2500	0	2500	0
		<u>2602</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2602</u>	<u>1071</u>
	<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<u>159417</u>	<u>41414</u>	<u>200832</u>	<u>229789</u>
<b>Note 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
3(a)	<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>				
	Christian Stewardship	90	0	90	90
		<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
3(b)	<b>Fund raising costs</b>				
	Events	3694	0	3694	1172
		<u>3694</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3694</u>	<u>1172</u>
3(c)	<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
	Missionary and charitable giving				
	Overseas	0	0	0	936
	Home	4000	1467	5467	4471
		<u>4000</u>	<u>1467</u>	<u>5467</u>	<u>5407</u>
3(d)	<b>Ministry</b>				
	Diocesan Parish Share	51000	0	51000	49000
	Fees	3523	0	3523	2284
	Clergy expenses	1122	0	1122	745
	Church running expenses	13192	0	13192	19957
	Church maintenance	7425	0	7425	3023
	Cost of services	20904	695	21598	21492
	Upkeep of grounds	4428	0	4428	67
	Education	4240	0	4240	18
	Hall running costs	24545	0	24545	29588
	Choir	3698	0	3698	3256
	Organist	3355	0	3355	2732
	Independent examiner	500	0	500	500
		<u>137932</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>138626</u>	<u>132662</u>
	<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<u>145716</u>	<u>2162</u>	<u>147877</u>	<u>139331</u>



Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

**Note 4 FIXED ASSETS**

		Computer equipment	Other Fixtures & Fittings Office Equipment
Gross Book Value	At 1 January 2023	0	0
Additions in 2023		0	0
Gross Book Value	At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		2023 £	2022 £

**Note 5 DEBTORS**

Gift Aid Recoverable	4880	5144
	<u>4880</u>	<u>5144</u>

**Note 6 CREDITORS**

Short term creditors	10051	14785
	<u>10051</u>	<u>14785</u>

**Note 7 CREDITORS**

Due after 12 months	<u>0</u>	<u>4655</u>
---------------------	----------	-------------

**Note 8 FUNDS OF THE PCC**

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Legacies	0	10005	10005	31824
St. John's Church R & M Fund	35609	0	35609	26000
Church Clock Repair Fund	1805	0	1805	1804
Donated for Gifts etc	0	2795	2795	2795
Rector's Discretionary Fund	824	0	824	824
Training/Bursary Fund	792	0	792	791
General Reserves	25654	2400	28054	28054
Boiler Replacement	14790	107123	121913	56752
	<u>79474</u>	<u>122323</u>	<u>201797</u>	<u>148844</u>

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC FOR 2023**

The PCC met on seven occasions since the last APCM. Officers are appointed at the initial meeting following the APCM including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with the Electoral Roll Officer. The Standing Committee is appointed being the Rector (Chair), Churchwardens, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary. The Standing Committee meets regularly to agree the agenda for PCC meetings and can agree items of expenditure under £500 without needing PCC approval.

At each meeting of the PCC, after approval and matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, any correspondence is notified. Reports are then received from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. Every meeting receives up to date reports on Church Hall Management, Events and Deanery Synod meetings together with a Health and Safety and Safeguarding report.

Other items discussed at the meetings throughout the year were –

Appointment of Eucharistic Assistants  
Parish Support Fund  
Salaries and Honoraria  
Hall Rentals  
Charitable Giving  
Insurance  
Policy Reviews  
Parochial Fees

And, of course, several times and at much length – Project Warm church.

At their meeting in November the PCC unanimously agreed the proposals to update the church heating system following receipt of the comprehensive report produced by the Project Warm Church team of Martyn Brown, Andrew Brown, James Gordon and Andrew and Alice Hicks, for which they were thanked and the proposal forwarded to the Diocesan DAC Committee.

As PCC Secretary I was pleased to report at the January meeting that the Guides had finally agreed a lease under faculty legalizing the situation of their hut on church land following some five years of negotiation.

**Helen Lishmund**  
**PCC Secretary**

## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR 2023

The Electoral roll started this year with 188 members and ended with 186 members. 5 people very sadly passed away, Marion Petty, Pat Hall, Ian Geddes, Ron Last and Beryl Dennison.

New members added were, John Harris, Elizabeth Brown, Michael Brown.

One in every six years the preparation of the new church electoral roll takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of the roll is next year (2025).

New people are always welcome to join the electoral roll during the year, you must be baptised and aged 16 or over and complete an application form declaring one of the following statements:

§ I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am a resident in the parish.

§ I am a member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

§ I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to talk to Fr Younis or Janice White.

**Janice White**

## CHURCH WARDENS REPORT FOR 2023

The last year has been very busy and we are extremely grateful for the help, support and advice that we receive from the Deputy Wardens, Andrew, Judith, Monica and Robert as well as from the broader congregation

There are many successful activities which are attracting new people into church as well as meeting the needs of our congregation. Film Club, Quiz Nights, Computer Club, Coffee Mornings, Toddlers and the various courses are all very well attended

We await the Archdeacon's Visitation but the on line returns have been completed

The actions raised in the Quinquennial Report are being addressed and you will have noted also that the areas in front of the Hall and the garage have been resurfaced, speed bumps replaced and an additional disabled space created in front of the Guide Hut

The Project Warm Church Team have worked incredibly hard completing Faculties, visiting churches, meeting contractors etc. and it is a source of intense frustration that our request for a Faculty has been rejected. We are appealing the decision and await the outcome of that appeal

We were sad to say goodbye to Amanda Sinclair in September but we are pleased to welcome Laurel Hobbs as our new Office Administrator

A special note of thanks goes to Helen Lishmund as she steps down from her role of Parish Secretary after fourteen years. We are extremely grateful for all that Helen has done. She will be a hard act to follow

Our Church would be the poorer without the incredibly music produced by Tim, Jonathan and both the Choir and the Come and Sing Choir. We realise that we are extremely fortunate to have the privilege of listening to you week after week

Finally we give thanks for the spiritual leadership of Younis and Nancy, Stephen, Michael and Peter

**Debbie Brown and Martyn Brown  
Church Wardens**

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2023

It has been a quiet year in Deanery Synod. There has been no Lay Chair until the meeting in February 2024 and the Deanery Secretary has been ill, so minutes and notifications of meetings have been absent.

There was a service on Ascension Day Thursday 18th May at St Mary's Addington to which the Deanery Synod was invited and there was a Deanery Social also at St. Mary's Addington on Wednesday 21st June 2023.

The Deanery Synod met on February 28th this year. The Rev'd Peter Wyatt was elected as the clergy representative to the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and Ian Beazley was elected as lay representative.

Janet Davies from St. Mary's Addington was elected as Lay Chair.

There was a lengthy Finance Report as there had been a change of account address and authorised signatures.

The Rev'd Carol Coslett, guest speaker, gave a talk on lay ministry. She spoke about commissioned, authorised and licensed lay ministers and about the possibility of affirming groups of people in church who fulfil specific roles; for instance, choir and music, coffee rotas, welcomers etc possibly in a service held once a year as a way of saying thank you. She also advised that current SPAs are now to be called Pastoral Lay Ministers.

There was a session on news from the various churches and Karen Holloway from St. Mary's spoke about a bereavement course she had attended last year in Croydon South Deanery. She was hopeful the churches in Croydon Addington Deanery could work together in offering bereavement support. St. John's advised that we are currently providing a service every other month and Karen was hoping to attend the next service with a view to moving a joint venture forward.

The following dates have been agreed for 2024 –

Deanery Ascension Day – 9th May at 7.30 pm Venue tba

Deanery Synod meeting 5th June

Deanery Pilgrimage Saturday 15th June

Summer Social Saturday 22nd June

Attendance at Deanery Synod meetings is often very poor, but I am pleased to report that there is always representation from St. John's.

**Helen Lishmund**  
**Deanery Synod Representative**

## **CHURCH GARDEN REPORT FOR 2023**

A thank you must go to Zeron and Father Younis for keeping the lawns under control as this is a thankless task and otherwise the work would have to be contracted out; unless, of course, there are any volunteers out there?

The rationalisation of the front border has helped considerably with labour and a compost area has been created at the back of the car park to help with our green credentials.

Help is always needed; our sessions are usually on a Saturday morning for two hours. Keep an eye out on the weekly sheet.

**Michael Lishmund**

## BUILDING & MAINTENANCE REPORT FOR 2023

### **Project Warm Church**

In April we received the feasibility report from our heating advisor, Martin Dow of EngDesign. The recommendation was for a replacement gas boiler supplying hot water to fanned convector radiators. A scope of works was produced which was sent to potential contractors to obtain initial costings. These ranged from £80,000 to £120,000. All the contractors were vetted, and visits made to reference sites.

In October we submitted our proposal to the DAC for approval. The application was rejected and we were asked to provide further reports to justify our decision not to utilise non-fossil fuels. (Heat pumps or infrared)

At the end of 2023 the 'boiler fund' stood at £120,000. We are unable to seek external grant funding until we have the faculty granted.

(As at April 2024, we are still in discussion with the DAC. We have expressed our frustration with them regarding the lack of clear and timely guidance (with real examples) in what is required to get the proposal approved. To break the deadlock, we have agreed to carry out a further feasibility study of heat pumps. At our insistence, there is a proposal to meet with some of their expert/advisors).

### **Quinquennial Report**

We are working through the points raised in the report. The flat roofs above the main entrance and robing vestry have been repaired. The work to resolve water ingress/leeching though the parapets in that area in the long term are still on hold. The plan is to cap the parapet wall tops to prevent water ingress which will require a faculty (as yet, method TBA). Work on the faculty will start in 2024.

Our inspecting architect, Clive England has retired and a new architect will be appointed.

### **Planned Maintenance**

All routine maintenance has been carried out in accordance with the schedule (Alarms, Fire Detection, Extinguishers, PAT testing, Boiler Service etc.)

### **Electrical Work**

The external lighting around the west end path to the Garden Room has been upgraded (faulty lamps replaced and now on a time clock system. The non-working car park flood has been repaired, as have church drive lumieres.

For convenience and safety reasons (now that the garden room can be accessed from the church glass doors at the rear) the lighting at the rear of the church has been reconfigured. Previously the entrance lights were operated from the console at the east end meaning a walk through an unlit church when dark. An outside sensor light

has been installed, the porch light can be turned on by the entrance and sensor lights have been installed in the nave to provide a lit route to the east end and Garden Room.

We thank Neetha for here continued regular cleaning of Church and Garden Room and to Catherine Sands and band of volunteers for the 'Deep Clean' completed.

**Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown**  
**April 2024**



## CHURCH FLOWERS REPORT FOR 2023

The Flower Team hopes that you have enjoyed the flower arrangements placed in church over the past year. Special thanks to all those who donated flowers bought for arrangements and to Michael Lishmund and the Garden Team for growing flowers and foliage for cutting in the church garden.

At Easter we had arrangements of spring flowers and lilies. We provided a Lily Easter Tree to give people the opportunity to write the names of loved ones on remembrance cards to be placed on the tree with donations being used to buy the lilies for Easter in memory of those named.

Other special festivals during the year were the fruitfulness of Harvest and our Remembrance Day celebration kindly supported by Ann Orchard and Robert Thornton.

The theme for Christmas was based on the beauty of the natural world. The church was filled with greenery and tree decorations from previous years making a stunning display which was environmentally friendly and low cost. Thanks to all those who donated foliage and beautiful arrangements of lilies.

We continue to examine the way we use and arrange flowers to be as environmentally positive as possible. To this end we have sourced and are now using biodegradable flower foam and have used vases and fixing wire in arrangements.

I would like to thank our talented team of Flower Arrangers who make all this possible and invite anyone who is interested in getting involved to talk to me or Helen Lishmund. You don't need any qualifications or experience, just a love of flowers so do please make contact!

**Gill Salter**

## CHURCH HALL REPORT FOR 2023

Income from rentals was virtually the same as 2022 at £39,879 (£39,961) though we had a larger surplus at £15,334 (£9,986)

Hire rates were reviewed and increased by between 4% and 5% for regular hirers and by 6.5% for weekend parties.

We lost one hirer during the year, the karate group moved nearer home. We are seeing an increase in small groups using the Garden Room. Weekend children's parties continue to be popular.

The hall is well used for church functions and during the year we catered for The Seder Lunch at Easter, Kings Coronation Lunch, Christian Aid Lunch and Harvest. We had three quiz nights, and a new venture is the film club.

Routine maintenance is carried out as required and the floor was deep cleaned and polished using the new floor scrubber and polisher.

With the winding up of the Dramatic Society plans are in hand to clear the undercroft of props, staging and costumes. No doubt the space will be used to store other 'stuff'.

Amanda left us towards the end of the year so a big thank you to her for managing the diary, marketing the hall and generally keeping an eye on all hall activities.

Laurel joined us in December and will I am sure continue the good work.

And finally, we must thank the 'meet and greet' hosts who look after weekend parties and to Neetha who keeps the hall clean and tidy.

**Andrew Brown, Martyn Brown, Laurel Hobbs**  
**Hall Management Team**  
**April 2024**

## MEETING GOD IN SILENCE REPORT FOR 2023

Meeting God in the Silence takes place every Monday evening (except Bank Holidays and as mentioned in church notices) from 6-6.30 in the Garden Room. All are welcome, and free to try out silent prayer to see if it is for them.

Our group has grown in size over the last year, and we now have around 8-10 regular attendees and one joining remotely via Zoom. We start and finish with readings and short prayers.

All are free to spend the time in silence in a way that is right for them. Some of the group may wish to just spend some quiet down time or prayer during a busy week, others to practice the discipline of Christian Meditation using a mantra or focusing on the breath.

The group is registered with the World Community of Christian Meditation and there is a referral system via their website for anyone outside St Johns to join the group. There are two regular attendees who have joined in this way.

Our group has developed links with Jane Hoskins who runs Seeking Stillness, which provides half days of themed quiet time in All Saints Warlingham on a regular basis, and some of our group also attend the CTSA quiet morning in September.

The WCCM itself provides guidance, training, retreat days and events on topics relevant to the Christian contemplative tradition at their base in London. Susan Oakes has recently taken on a voluntary role as a member of a team coordinating WCCM groups in the Surrey area which facilitates sharing of ideas and support.

**Susan Oakes**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2023

We have had another successful year in Sunday School with the number of children regularly attending continuing to grow. It is great to hear how much the children enjoy coming to Sunday school and seeing how their confidence has grown over the past year to speak in front of the congregation sharing our learning and creations. The children enjoy the games, crafts and stories in line with the lectionary that are shared each week and are always very proud to share what they have made. A highlight for the Sunday school this year was their performance of the Nativity at the crib service on Christmas Eve. The children had a couple of rehearsals on the morning of Christmas Eve and all did a fabulous job reading, acting and remembering their parts. For the 2nd year running we were lucky to have a baby playing the role of Jesus. We received great feedback from visitors to St Johns. This year we are planning to share with the congregation the Sunday school's nativity prior to the Crib service on Christmas Eve. Another highlight of the year was our annual Easter Sunday egg hunt. This year we took a new approach to the egg hunt, doing it during the service in the hall which allowed children and their families to join the congregation for refreshments after the service. We received positive feedback from this and the children as always enjoyed seeking the eggs and chicks in their teams.

We have been very lucky the last couple of months to have had a student helping in Sunday school from Whitgift School as part of his D of E award. The children have enjoyed having a teenager supporting them in Sunday school.

As always, a big thank you to all our wonderful teachers and additional adults for all the help and support they give to make St John's Sunday School successful. It would be brilliant if we could have another Sunday School leader to join our team to be part of the rota. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks.

**Katie Notaro**

## SACRISTAN REPORT FOR 2023

All the Silverware and Credence Table equipment and vessels are accounted for and in good order. The new Ciborium (storing the consecrated elements left in the Aumbry) purchased by Maureen Jupp in memory of her husband, Barry, needs to be engraved. This will be arranged. We now use a glass flagon to store the wine used for communion.

Maureen Jupp continues to look after all the linen, including any required maintenance. She has completed the modification of the white frontals to have the same dove graphic as the other frontals. They now all match for which we thank her.

The change in storage cupboard arrangement continues to work well working well.

Following a generous donation from a member of the congregation a set of oil burning vinyl candles have been procured for the Advent Wreath. This will make maintenance/cleaning much easier. We are exploring the concept of using the same type of candles for the Lenten Wreath. Confirmation is required of correctly coloured variants.

Indeed, all of the candles used for the Church services (high altar and acolytes) have been converted to an oil canister feed type. They make maintenance and cleaning much easier.

We continue to source consumables from F A Dumont, who continue to carry better stocks and deliver in a timely manner. Charles Ferris is the back-up firm.

**Maureen Jupp & Andrew Brown**

## ST. JOHN'S WIVES & FRIENDS REPORT FOR 2023

The wives have had a very successful, enjoyable and physical year. We have had fabulous speakers and great entertainment. The year has flown, and it seems only yesterday that I was asked to put together the annual report. We began the year with a very informative talk on holistic treatments given by one of our very own Janet Tuck, she has visited us many times with information and demonstrations on alternative treatments. The local Rotary Club joined us for an in-depth talk on their fund raising and charity work in Selsdon and Sanderstead area and one of the organisers is the husband of one of our committee members. We have introduced film nights and popcorn evenings; these have proved very popular and well attended. The group always supply and put together the posies for Mother's Day for the children to present on the service in church and following serve cake and wine in the hall after the service, once again enjoyed by the congregation. Many of the members help on both occasions, which is most appreciated. We held our Easter services in the warm hall followed by hot cross buns and sausage rolls. Father Younis presided over the service, and it was thought provoking, and all appreciated the evening.

A very energetic soul dance led by dance teacher Donna took us through routines galore, she is always very patient with us thank goodness. We always like to support charities and we held a Beetle Drive food and drink evening raising a healthy amount of money for Christian Aid. Our annual mid-summer walk was enjoyed by all, even though the party became lost en route but with the help of google and mobile phones managed to find the way out, this followed by food and well-earned drink in the local watering hole. The National Westminster Bank gave an excellent talk on scams as this is increasing, all found it very informative. A fully trained nurse, our very own Catherine Sands, and her son gave a fantastic First Aid demonstration. She showed us all how to use the new defibrillator that has been installed outside the hall, brilliant evening. We join with our sister group from St. Anthony's, Hamsey Green, they came along to us for a spooky Halloween evening dressing in black and wearing a hat. There were games, hot food and wine and they congratulated us on a brilliant evening. For the Christmas period, we had Songsations entertain us with Christmas well known songs which we heartily joined in. Then we had our very special Christmas meal at the Little Bay, South Croydon.

I would like to thank Father Younis and clergy for all their support both in presiding over services during the year, also his culinary skills, along with his wife Nancy for demonstrations also for Father Younis' technical skills for our film nights.

The group and I are very grateful for the time spent supporting our evenings. I would also like to both thank and mention my hard-working committee who work extremely hard through the year making sure that the meetings go smoothly. For any information regarding the group, please feel free to contact me on 020 8657 6672

**Jane Guglielmi Group Leader**

## TODDLERS REPORT FOR 2023

It has been another successful year for the Toddler and Baby Group. We opened in September after the summer break and after a good clean of the toys, cushions, and costumes. We also said goodbye to Amanda Sinclair who was a great supporter of the group. The numbers in the Thursday group have increased this year, perhaps as a result of the closure of the group at Selsdon Baptist Church. This means we have been very busy. During the Spring Term there was an average of 30 toddlers attending on Mondays and 38 on Thursdays. The people who attend are parents, grandparents, carers, or childminders so we have a great mix of adults who are also very happy to help.

We are very grateful for our good friends who volunteer to help at the group on Mondays and Thursdays and welcome our visitors. Many thanks to Helen Lishmund, June Mason, Ann Woods, Janet Brown, and Sophie Tredgett who help on Mondays. A special thank you to Heather Jeffries and Diana Ogg for their help on the craft table and to Ann Woods for leading the singing. On Thursdays, thanks go to Marion Gordon, Marguerite Sparks, and Sue Tilley. Special thanks go to Monica Turton who helps on both days and especially to Ann and Peter Crocombe who, every Thursday, help and set up the toys in the morning. We are also grateful to Laurel Hobbs for setting up the toys on Mondays and supplying the goodies. Special thanks go to Martyn and Janet Brown who set up the toys every Monday in the Autumn term in the gap between Amanda leaving and Laurel arriving.

We are also very grateful to have received a donation of £250 from one of the childminders who uses the group. This was used to buy some new puzzles and a train set.

In December we had our annual Christmas Party. It was very busy and the children enjoyed their special treats and each received a present from our guest, Father Christmas, (thank you Martyn Brown). There was special entertainment from a guest elf and lots of fun was had.

We always enjoy seeing so many children at St Johns and in December we welcomed a new baby born to one of the mothers who attends on Mondays. There is no greater joy than this. We are always looking for more volunteers to help and we are sure you will find it an enjoyable activity for a couple of hours.

**Fiona McSorley – March 2024**

## PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT FOR 2023

*“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* Philippians 4:6-7

The whole congregation joins in their ministry of prayer every Sunday and whenever we pray for those named on the Sunday leaflet.

The Prayer Circle simply commits to upholding every day in their private prayer time a few more people who have requested support. Many of these have life changing circumstances needing long term commitment.

At present 44 individuals and 17 families are being helped in this way.

Twice a month a few of us meet, and within the context of an informal service, we remember everyone who has requested prayer. We do this in quiet thoughtfulness for their situation and with respect for the trust placed in us.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact:

Barbara Woodhead                      020 8657 3790

Kathleen Holt                            020 8651 1815

**Barbara Woodhead**

## MEDITATION GROUP REPORT FOR 2023

*“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”* Isaiah 30. v.5

We hear a lot about mindfulness these days, times when we are not really present in our own lives. Meditation invites us into the presence of God.

It is a time for contemplation, silence and stillness, to sit quietly and be still in body, mind and spirit, a time for prayer, moments of reflection and trust.

In our meditation group, we try to achieve this with music, prayer and silent reflection on a chosen theme.

We are a small group and meet twice a month on Tuesdays between 10.15 – 11.30 am, alternating between Barbara Woodhead at 3 Cowley Close and Kathleen Holt at 12 Ridge Langley.

For further information, please speak to us on:

Barbara Woodhead:                      020 8057 3790 | Kathleen Holt:                      020 8051 1815



**Barbara Woodhead and Kathleen Holt - Meditation Group**  
**ST. JOHN'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY REPORT FOR 2023**

Sadly, this will be the last report from SJDS, as the group is undertaking the process of closing.

There have not been any productions since the pandemic, and the number of volunteers both behind the scenes and to take part on the stage is prohibitive – there is only a limited interest in Alan Bennett monologues and soliloquies!

The Society has been a part of the church since the 1930's, and generations of families have taken part in plays – both serious and humorous, music halls and some memorable religious productions in the church. Many others have worked behind the scenes in direction, lighting, set design, refreshments, ticketing and all the other aspects of both hard work and enjoyment that are part of the special aspects of amateur dramatics.

Thanks to all the Rectors and Vicars of St John's who have been Honorary Presidents of SJDS.

The final work of the group is to begin the process of removing all the props and materials that are stored behind the stage in the cavernous room that is unknown to many! We apologise for the delay, as we are struggling to get a date from house clearance, but we hope that it will be done by the time of the AGM.

Many thanks to those who have supported us down the years. Whilst this special group is no more, please support other Dramatic Societies in the Croydon area, which continue to entertain and perform, and whose productions are advertised in local media, Inside Croydon and by word of mouth.

**Hilary Richardson - Hon Treasurer**  
**For the Committee of St John's Dramatic Society**

# **BEREAVEMENT & PASTORAL CARE REPORTS FOR 2023**

## **Bereavement Ministry Team**

We set up our Bereavement Ministry Team almost two years ago, with six members of our congregation agreeing to be part of this team. We started by spending some time discussing and agreeing what we should be doing, and preparing ourselves for this important ministry. In our first meeting we looked at the scriptural and spiritual basis of Bereavement Ministry; to ground ourselves in the faith-inspired basis of this ministry, knowing that what we do is in practical direct response to the faith that we share, in the knowledge that all we do is done in the name of Our Lord. At a later meeting Rev'd Hilary Fife's joined us and gave us a presentation on bereavement, based on her work and experience as Chaplain to Croydon University Hospital; Hilary also circulated some very helpful handouts. At our next meeting we considered listening skills, confidentiality and signposting – all based on some basic Samaritans training.

Having thought about what we should be undertaking as part of this ministry we agreed that we should start by holding "Remembering Loved Ones" events – these take the form of a quiet short service in church followed by refreshments in the Garden Room, which give us a chance to meet, chat to, and support, those who have been bereaved. Prior to our Remembering Loved Ones event we circulate invitations to everyone on our parish database who have been bereaved in the last four years. In addition to these events, as individuals we keep an eye on, and try to support, those within and outside the congregation who have been bereaved recently.

We continue these events, as well as supporting our annual All Souls and Quiet Christmas services.

In the near future we will be considering extending this ministry further.

**Peter Crocombe (St John's LPM)**

## **Pastoral Care Group**

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.  
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

*John 13:34-36*

The Pastoral Care Group was established at about the same time as the Bereavement Ministry Team, and part of our Group aim was to identify anyone in the congregation who needs physical or emotional support; identify what sort of support they need; if housebound or in hospital or are otherwise mobility-challenged, to determine whether they would like to receive Communion at home/hospital; to identify anyone who is about to receive hospital treatment or surgery. Essentially, we aim to make contact with, and respond to needs of, individuals within the congregation.

The Group meets every two months and consider any members of our congregation who need support, care or attention. Do please let us know of anyone in the congregation who might need our help or support.

**Peter Crocombe (St John's LPM)**

### **Befrienders Team**

St John's already has a fine reputation for being a welcoming friendly church, but we thought it important that we should aim to continue this by actively helping towards making St John's an even more inclusive, welcoming and supportive congregation. Many people at St John's are already very good at welcoming newcomers, but it deemed important to have a Team who see this befriending ministry as a priority Sunday by Sunday.

As a reflection on St John's welcome – I was recently talking to members of a newish family to St John's, who told me that they had previously been trying out various local churches, but did not feel at all welcome wherever they went - they then arrived at St John's and immediately felt really welcome and at home. A great reflection on our church, but we should not allow this to let us become complacent.

Our Befrienders aim to actively participate in making newcomers to church feel welcomed, appreciated and at home. As part of this ministry we aim to: be "with" newcomers and those who appear to be alone, and introduce them to other members of the congregation; look out for and sit with/chat to anyone or any couple or family group in the Church Hall who appear to be sitting on their own – just giving them time and the opportunity to introduce themselves; or take any other initiatives thought appropriate to welcome and support anyone new to our church.

We basically want newcomers to feel that they "belong" and feel at home at St John's. Many thanks to our Befriending Team and all other members of our congregation who make our church the welcoming place that it is.

**Peter Crocombe (St John's LPM)**

## **SERVERS' REPORT FOR 2023**

St John's is blessed to have a very reliable and professional group of servers.

We currently have fourteen servers who assist at 8.00am,10.00am Choral Evensong and other Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic services.

One of the key aims of our Servers is to prepare everything needed for the services and help role in the smooth running of the services.

I am really grateful for the time and commitment of all our servers and for making sure that all our services are properly and efficiently assisted.

**Younis Francis**  
**APCM 2024**

## **Rector's Report – AGM 2023**

---

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

It is that time of the year again to look back and be grateful to God for all that we have been able to achieve as people of God and look ahead in hope and faith.

St John's Mission Statement states:

*St John's exists to worship God and show the love of Jesus Christ in Selsdon. We seek to be an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming Christian community, exploring ways we can serve Christ and share the gift of faith.*

This year we had an exercise to reflect on our mission and ministry through MAP (mission action plan).

We reflected on our strengths and weaknesses, possibilities and challenges. It was an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge what we have achieved so far and how we can continue to grow in our faith, fellowship and reach out to the wider community.

In this report I would like to reflect on some of the key areas of our mission and ministry.

### **Worship**

Worship is key element of who we are and how we experience God's presence in our lives. St John's has a variety of services both formal and informal that offer us opportunities to nourish our faith and spiritual life.

We have also built a good relationship with the uniformed organisations who take an active part in the services at least four times a year.

We have been building on our work with the Sunday school. The Sunday school Team and children take an active part in our worship by reading lessons, leading intercessions and sharing their work.

### **Outreach**

I am glad to say that our outreach activities continue to be a great way of reaching out to the wider community and share our faith and fellowship. I would like to give thanks to God for these opportunities and I am really grateful to all those who help in planning and organising these events.

Toddlers Group  
Film and Food  
Computer Club

Quiz and Curry Night  
Lunch in the Pub  
Easter Workshop  
**Discipleship**

Discipleship is an important part of our mission and ministry. In order to explore our faith and learn about different aspects of our faith we regularly organise a number of study sessions or workshops. These have proven to be very popular and successful.

The Rector's report is traditionally the opportunity to say "thank you". I always worry about naming people to thank because I know I will miss someone out. Anyway, I still think it is important to mention some people, and groups by name for their hard work and commitment.

First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every member of this congregation for their prayers and service, for their dedication and commitment, for their gifts and talents, and for generosity both in serving through their time and talents, and the generous stewardship to support the mission and ministry of this Church.

I am deeply grateful for all you have done – in the past year and pray that we will all continue to move forward in sharing the love of God with others in the years to come.

A special note of thanks to Fr Michael, Fr Stephen, and Peter our SPA, for their time, commitment, wisdom, and vision for this Church. Thank you for your gentle way of advising, guiding, and supporting me in planning and meeting the pastoral needs of the community.

I would like to thank the churchwardens Debbie and Martin, for their wisdom, commitment, and insights for making sure that life and ministry flow smoothly. As I thank you both, I also thank God for the gifts that he has given you. Thank you to all the PCC members, deputies, and duty wardens for playing such an important role in the mission and ministry of St John. Thank you to our Deanery synod and Churches together representatives.

I am very grateful to Sue for her work as Treasurer, and those who assist – Jim and Andrew for all they do to help with banking, Michael with PAYE, pensions, and gift aid – gift aid makes such a difference to our income so if you're a taxpayer and have not opted in to gift aid, please speak to Michael as soon as you can!

A huge thank you to you all for your regular financial gifts to St John's which enable us to continue the mission and ministry here in Selsdon.

A special note of thanks to our Vestry Team, Maureen, and Andrew who carry on in an efficient way their duties making sure that everything is in order and ready for services, and I rely heavily on them! They anticipate the needs in the Church – even those the clergy sometimes are not even aware of.

Thank you to Tim, our director of music, and Jonathan, our organist for their dedication to the musical life of this Parish and to the choir – together they produce excellent music.

Thanks to Janet our Electoral officer, PCC secretary Helen, the Readers, Intercessors, Servers, Flower Arranging Team, Church Hall Management Team, Church cleaners, Gardeners, different rota teams, Welcoming team, Baptism Support team and Susan Oakes for leading the “Meeting God in Silence”. Thank you to Jane for leading St John’s wives and friends group and so many others who use their time and talents for the mission and ministry of St John. Thanks to Brenda and John for all their hard work in organising the Book sales.

Our Parish administrator Amanda retired due to personal reasons during the year. A big thank you Amanda for all her hard work in looking after the church hall bookings, Toddle’s Group, and all matters concerning church and worship.

We were able to appoint Laurel Hobbs as parish administrator towards the end of the year. I am really grateful to her for all her hard work in carrying out all the responsibilities so diligently and efficiently.

Thanks to Katie, Nancy and Ann and all the helpers of the Sunday school for starting the Sunday school and enabling the children to learn the bible stories.

As a church, we entirely depend on the generosity of our members and other supporters of the church for the smooth running, upkeep, and maintenance. Besides regular giving, we are often blessed by generous donations to the church. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported the “Warm Church Appeal” so generously.

You must have noticed that the church now has a beautiful set of Stations of the Cross and the red banners at the baptistery. The stations were made possible due to the generous donation from Jean Cockerell in memory of Barry and the banners were bought from the sale of books organised by Brenda and John.

Thanks to Martyn and all the members of the “Project Warm Church” working group for their hard work. As you know our initial application for faculty was turned down so we are still working on it. Thanks to you all for your generous donations toward the “Warm Church”.

Thank you to Peter Crocombe for leading the following groups and also organising the all age service.

Befrienders  
Pastoral Care Team  
Bereavement Group

I know almost everyone contributes to the mission and ministry of the church one way or another, some are more visible than others, and some just quietly do things without being noticed. So a big thank you to each and every member of the congregation.

In order to keep this Church going and growing, our regular and prayerful giving to the church remains very important indeed. Our gift-aided giving remains important too.

Our numbers attending Services and other activities have been very healthy or rather has been increasing. In the past year, we have seen some new people coming through our doors.

In the past year we had some very successful services and events and courses namely:

Harvest Lunch  
Remembrance Sunday  
Crib Service  
Christingle service  
9 Lessons and Carols  
Lunch in the pub  
Holy Week and Easter Services  
Passover Seder Meal  
Lent Meditations

Thanks to Janice White and her team of supporters for organising and helping in all social and church community events.

These are all encouraging signs that we are growing as a Church in our worship and fellowship. We need to continue growing inwards and grow outwards in our Worship, discipleship, Ministry, and Vision.

Our journey as a church will have its joys and pains. However, all growth includes these. Reaching out to all and ministering to all ages is a challenge but also rewarding. We need to be a church that is inviting, welcoming, compassionate, and real (this does not mean that we are not a welcoming Church).

Our calling as Christians is to make St John's attractive in all respects so that people from all walks of life are attracted to us because of our worship, ministry, fellowship, social events, etc. be they old, adult, young, youth, children or babies.

This is a continuous challenge for all of us. We can only achieve this with the grace of God and the support of each other. We need to be ever prepared to grow and reach out because there are still many people in our community who need to know that we are here to share God's love with them.

As we look at various possibilities of sharing God's love with others, we also need to be thankful to God for what has been achieved and look forward with hope and faith to continue serving God in this parish and sharing the love of God with all.

I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity of serving Him and his people in this place, and for the gifts that each one of you brings to the ministry in the Church of God. Once again thanks to all, each and every member.

I do want to remind you that being a priest reminds me deeply of human frailty – particularly of my own. So I offer my own apologies to you if I have in any way upset you or offended you, or not lived up to your expectations, or done things in a way you don't like too much. I am sorry, and I ask your forgiveness.



May God bless us all.  
Fr Younis  
April 2024