**Parish Wardens Report 2022**

Firstly, it is worth noting that this year we have moved to a model of Parish Wardens rather than Church Wardens and so, rather than two church-specific reports, this is a unified report looking at the 2022 year. Through 2022 the roles of Parish Warden have been filled by Barbara Armstrong, Paula Barber, Brian Carmody and Stuart Main. Whilst three of us will usually be found worshiping at Holy Trinity, we each take a parish-wide approach to the role.

Last year it was mentioned that the Holy Trinity ramp to the rear fire exit was a temporary measure until we applied for the faculty to make it permanent. This faculty is now going through the process of approval (you may have seen the required notice on the front door) and so the ramp should be staying.

The biggest work at Holy Trinity, of course, has been the repairs to the roof. Under the careful stewardship of Brian this work proceeded really well this year. Many thanks to all involved from Foster and Mason, the architect, and all of you for your grace as we navigated scaffolding inside and outside. It wasn’t without challenges as a removed stone often showed up another issue that needed resolving but it is a job really well done and helps to secure the future of the fabric of the building for many more generations to come.

The Holy Trinity District Church Council decided not to pursue the proposed extension to the west end of the church. Instead we’ll invest some money in the fixtures and fittings around the kitchen and welcome space to make it more functional for the increasing number of people from the wider community using it throughout the week.

At St Cuthberts the gardens are looking as good as ever thanks to the regular work of Kevin, first overhauling and now tending them each week. Great thanks also to Mike doing the lawns. Both of these links came through connections with the Friends of Bunnyhill and Jen’s role as chaplain to the mayor Alison Smith. It’s great to have these community links for the mutual benefit of church and community. The notice board outside the church has been fixed and moved by Bev’s husband Ed and his friend, Davy. They have been an amazing blessing to us carrying out all manner of odd-jobs around the site. We are very grateful.

Sadly at both sites we’ve seen some vandalism in the last year with windows and guttering broken at St Cuthberts and graffiti at Holy Trinity. All the more reason to be reaching our community with the love and hope that comes from Jesus!

Back in September Archdeacon Bob Cooper carried out his inspection of both churches. In his letter to the wardens afterwards he remarked “*Thank you too for the way you keep the records and the church – most commendable!*” It’s fair to say this doesn’t just happen and there was a lot of pre-work from the whole team and clergy and so it’s nice to have that effort recognised in the resulting response. As ever there are some actions for follow up and these are being worked through along with aspects of the last quinquennial inspection.

Going forward into 2023 we have rationalised our sub-group structure to give greater clarity around the purposes of different groups and Rev Jen has been able to use this to put together a full meeting programme for the year. Generally each committee meets monthly with the exception of over the summer.

* PCC (Parochial Church Council) is made up of the elected members, clergy, wardens, and Deanary Synod representatives. It is the ultimate decision making body of the parish.
* Standing committee is made up of the wardens, clergy, treasurer and the PCC secretary as and when we appoint one. It deals with any urgent matters that arise and cannot wait for PCC and also sets the agenda for PCC meetings.
* Finance committee is made up of the Team Rector (Rev Jen), treasurer (Lynne Colling), Tom Parkin, Brian Carmody and Stuart Main. They take a more strategic oversight of the finances and bring a report to each PCC meeting.
* Then each church has it’s DCC (District Church Council). These will look at church specific matters but need to bring any proposed actions to the PCC for ratification. Again, a report from each DCC meeting is brought to each PCC.

On the buildings side we’re continuing to look at our obligations to meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2030 whilst maintaining the fabric of the buildings and making sure they are meeting our current day to day needs. This includes reviewing the heating at both sites, looking at new windows at St Cuthberts and continuing to repair and renew the interior at Holy Trinity. In each case we need to look for grant funding to carry out the works and so a large part of the task is to identify potential sources of funding, apply and pray. One of the diocesan priorities is caring for God’s creation and the target of net zero emissions is a key part of that.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement and all you do to maintain good running of the churches. From reading, intercession, flowers, cleaning, cooking, updating noticeboards, serving on committees, serving tea and coffee, welcoming, serving at communion… the list goes on and we can’t possibly name everyone. Church is a family and we all play our part and we, as the wardens, are grateful for each one of you.