

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry
REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES
January – December 2022



Vicar's Introduction

1. Overall Governance

- PCC
- Wardens

2. Children and youth

- Children
- Quarry Foundation School
- Tots Service
- Forest Church

3. Music, worship, spirituality

- Worship pattern
- Online services and Radio Cherwell
- Servers
- Prayers for hope and healing
- Music, choir, music group
- Julian Group
- Home Groups
- Church Library

4. Communications

- Parish Newsletter

5. The church building

- Building Development
- Flower arrangers
- C S Lewis and visitors
- Caretaker/Verger
- Friends of Holy Trinity

6. Community and outreach

- Pastoral care Team
- Summer Fete
- Christmas Event
- Thursday Lunch Club

7. The wider world

- Deanery Synod
- Eco-Church
- Parish charities
- Archway Foundation

Introduction

2022 was a year of consolidation and stability after the significant disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic. One highlight for me was the opportunity to take part in the triennial C.S. Lewis Summer Institute (postponed from 2020). We welcomed delegates to church for their inaugural ‘hymn-sing’, which was a joy-filled and spirit-filled evening, featuring poetry, music, scripture, and song. The conference theme was *Surprised by Love: Cultivating intellectual hospitality in an age of uncertainty*. As we reflected on this theme, I was able to share with delegates our exciting plans to offer greater hospitality to all who visit and worship with us at Holy Trinity, through our forthcoming building project. At the end of the year, the PCC declared 2023 as our ‘year to build’, and we look forward very much to getting our project off the ground in the coming year. May the Lord strengthen us for the task ahead, as we continue to build one another up in love and grace.

Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott

Overall Governance

PCC

2022 was notable for the relaxation of Covid-19 regulations. The PCC is very grateful to the Wardens, Dave Smith and Margaret Taylor for all they did this year as we began to return to ‘normal’ again.

In July, we were very pleased to welcome Rev. Emily Hockliffe Essex as our new curate.

The PCC met six times in 2022 - in January, March, May, July, September and November. The first three meetings were held via Zoom. The second three meetings were held in church as it was decided that the risk of infection from Covid-19 had decreased sufficiently to make this safe.

The PCC passed the following resolutions:

To place Commonwealth War Graves signs at the two churchyard entrances.

To review policies regularly.

To commit to moving to a renewable electric heating system as soon as practically possible.

To replace the gas boiler with domestic hydrogen ready gas boiler, commercial filter system and pipework improvements.

To accept the revised building plan as proposed by Christian Randall, architect.

20 Binswood Avenue: Substantial improvements were made to the property in 2022 to bring it up to the required standard. A financial contribution was made by the diocese for this work to be completed.

The APCM was in May. We were glad to be able to hold this in church again because it had not been possible to do so since 2019 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The membership of the PCC underwent some changes and at the APCM, Monika Blackwell, Helen Day, Jan McLeod, Nicholas Rollin and Mike Wooldridge were re-elected. Andrea Taylor was elected, having previously been co-opted. Derek Taylor stood down.

All those who stood down were warmly thanked for all they had contributed over their tenure.

Felicity Wallendszus
Secretary to the PCC

Church Wardens

2022 has been a year to catch up, as we started to see things opening up after the pandemic, we started to work through our backlog as well as dealing with all of the day-to-day activities that come with the role, which are to support the vicar and maintain the fabric of the church and churchyard. We are both in regular communication with the whole church community and we see it as a privilege to support you and be supported by you all in the life of Holy Trinity.

Below is a summary of activities from the last year

Church Yard

Trees - Tree survey and recommend maintenance were carried out by Nicholsons, our contracted Tree Surgeon.

Maintenance

- Tree work survey was completed – there are a couple of trees that need urgent work to avoid damage to nearby buildings, we will prioritise these.
- Wall adjoining quarry school
- Church yard wall – the west end wall adjacent to forest has completely collapsed. We have a quote for this and are looking into how we prioritise this work. It falls outside of our normal running budgets so we need to discuss with the PCC.

Church Fabric

Regular services and checks

- Fire extinguisher service
- Fire extinguisher training
- Fire extinguisher signage
- New permanent key chain for chancel door lock
- Lightning rod check
- PAT testing
- Boiler Service (see specific note)
- Rail added to the boiler room stairs
- Gas meter replacement

Inventory and churchyard memorials

The annual church inventory has been compiled and submitted to the diocese.

Church boiler

Discussed at PCC in September we agreed to replace the heating boiler in Church. This work was completed in September, with a much more efficient boiler and a number of pipework alterations. The new system is designed to reduce our energy consumption by 25%, early signs are that we realise this over the coming months. The other commitment at PCC was to continue to move towards carbon neutral in line with the Church of England strategy, we want to thank the Eco group for its input and especially Chris McLeod for pulling all of this together.

Cost of Energy Crisis

Heating the church takes a lot of energy and with the cost of gas increasing, working with the PCC implemented several energy saving measures, these include

- Only heating the church before regular large congregational services

- Reducing the temperature of the thermostat within the church
- Encouraging attendees at services to dress for a cooler church
- Providing warm drinks from the vestry for smaller services

We maintain our commitment to welcoming and as such we also heat the church for occasional services.

External Lighting

We replaced the exterior lighting on the South side of the church with new, low energy fittings and motion sensors.

Thanks to the Friends of Holy Trinity for supporting us in the project.

Health and safety inspection

The wardens and verger conducted a walk around. Areas worked on this year included securing fire blankets and providing a comfort box, containing items needed in the event that someone is unwell in Church.

Statue of the Madonna and Child

We now have a faculty to carry out the repairs, due to the delay there has been an increase in the cost of the restoration which will come out of church funds.

CS Lewis Merchandise

Thanks to Adrian Wood (Verger) who continues to stock the CS Lewis table at the back of church. This year everything sold out and we look forward to new lines and old favourites for 2023.

Contactless payment machine

The device has been working well over the last year.

Warm Spaces Project

Along with other community groups in Headington we are using the Coach House to offer a warm space on Fridays in December. Thanks to all involved in making this happen in December.

Coach House

This is a new section but reflects the work that goes on in the coach house. Thanks to Margaret and Derek for their efforts here. Works completed in the last couple of months include

- Fixing the external steps to the office – these were in a very dangerous state
- Repairing the external roof above the office – damp was appearing where a number of tiles had moved or fallen off
- Radiators in the main hall – a number were not working and needed to be fixed ahead of the warm space initiative

Plans for February – clear out the store cupboard.

Blessings

Margaret Taylor, Dave Smith

Children and youth

Children

We are thankful for all those who give their time and talents to support children's work in the parish. It has been especially good to welcome our new curate, Emily, to the ministry team, as we develop fresh vision for this important work, and look to consolidate our pattern of all-age worship and wider outreach with local schools.

Quarry Foundation School

The school continue to use the Vicarage Wood for forest school, which provides another important source of connection between school and church. We welcomed the children to church on several occasions in the year: Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and for their summer leavers' service. We value our connection with the school and look forward to developing it further in the year ahead.

Tots Service

Our weekly 'tots service' has continued during term-time, providing an opportunity for babies, toddlers, and preschools (and their carers) to worship together in a friendly and interactive manner. The service follows a loosely liturgical format, with a thanksgiving song, Bible story, activity, and prayers. In the winter months, we meet in church (listen out for the church bells as we begin!) and in the warmer months we enjoy worshipping together in the forest. We have welcomed new members over the coming year, as existing members have moved up to school, and we look forward to seeing what God has planned for us in the year ahead.

Laura Biron-Scott

Forest Sunday School

The Forest Sunday School sessions with children and adults took place weekly during the 10am service in 2022. Each Sunday, we gathered at the log circle for our welcome, gathering prayer, singing, story, and related activities. It was very rarely necessary to leave the woods and use the Coach House instead due to bad weather – quite remarkable!

During 2022, the children started to collect the children's cross during the first hymn and return it to the altar on arrival back in church. This began to help us feel more connected to the service going on in church.

On Good Friday, after a service for families and children in the Coach House, we were able to use the woodland for an Easter egg trail involving finding out more about Holy Week – a really wonderful way to enjoy being outside in the natural world.

It was possible to continue with Forest Sunday School so regularly due to an established team of leaders and helpers.

Felicity Wallendszus

Music, worship, spirituality

Worship pattern

Our worship pattern has settled into a regular weekly format of Sunday and midweek celebrations of the Eucharist: 8am and 10am on Sundays and 10am on Wednesdays. We have enjoyed a monthly evensong service and other special services including: Taizé, Advent and Christmas carols, All Souls Service, and a themed service for Climate Sunday. Thanks are owed to all who contribute to the smooth running of our worship services: those who welcome, those who prepare the altar linen and supplies, those who sing and serve, those who offer refreshments and hospitality, and so many more who help in often small and unseen ways. It has been wonderful to settle back into a stable pattern of worship, and to welcome new members to our worshipping community.

Online services and Radio Cherwell

Our online services have continued throughout the year and we are extremely thankful to Dave Smith, Kevin Masters, and Karl Wallendszus for their expert work at the sound desk: managing two separate audio streams simultaneously, and also providing a recording of the sermon for our church website. The online services continue to be an important form of pastoral outreach to the housebound and those in hospital, and to a wider community of worshippers who seek to worship at C.S. Lewis's church. We are very grateful for our collaboration with Radio Cherwell and for their continued support.

Lent courses

Our Lent Course this year followed the Diocesan *Come and See* initiative, focusing on The Lord's Prayer. Two groups met – a daytime group in the Coach House, and an evening group on Zoom. We enjoyed the opportunity to reflect together on the rich theology and spirituality of the Lord's Prayer, and to deepen our appreciation of this ancient prayer of the church.

Prayers for hope and healing

Our online contemplative prayer group continued to meet most Thursday evenings for half an hour of silent prayer on Zoom. We appreciate being able to hold and share the silence together, and reflect on the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we close. Many of us are drawn to the work of contemplative author Richard Rohr and we look forward to reflecting on his book *The Universal Christ* in the year ahead.

Laura Biron-Scott

Altar Servers

Back in October 2021 we restarted serving at the Eucharist and combined this with the sacristan role. This has continued throughout 2022 at the Sunday 10am Eucharist and on other special occasions. The team is very small – during the year we lost Carrie Barron who returned to her role with British Airways and sadly Diana Harrison through illness. On the positive side Richard Churchill has joined the team. My sincere thanks go to Janet Foot, Helen Dancer and to Richard who have performed the role so well over the last few months. On a positive note, Emily has introduced Lucy and Abby into the team, and they have been acolytes at two All Age Eucharists. It has been wonderful to see young people assisting at the services and it is hoped that this will increase going forwards.

Adrian Wood

Music, choir, music group

Having restored a pre-pandemic regular pattern of worship by the end of 2021, this year has been a time to rejoice in a return to normality in our music. Monthly Choral Evensong continued, providing uplifting music to all those present. In March, we visited St Nicholas, Old Marston for the return leg of our joint Choral Evensong endeavour, which was a wonderful occasion to worship together with another choir and congregation. Lent, Holy Week and Easter were back to their choral glory. We hosted St Nicholas choir once again in October, with some wonderful music-making all round. In November we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the installation of the Tickell organ with a concert which was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was a splendid representation of

some of the musical talent among the congregation. Advent Carols and the Christmas Carol Service shared some superb music, set alongside evocative readings.

The Music Group continued to provide introits and songs during communion once a month, as part of the wonderful variety of music that Holy Trinity enjoys.

The end of 2022 also saw the end of my time at Holy Trinity, where I have served for 7 years as Musical Director. I wish the church well in their next musical chapter.

Rosie Tweddle

Julian Group

During 2022 we managed to meet each month in person with no recourse to Zoom; good as it was during the pandemic, we found that shared silence with people in the same room has a much greater impact than seeing people on a screen.

We continue to meet on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm at my house.

One of the group chooses a passage for group meditation and we meditate on it in silence for half an hour. We discuss the passage and what it means to us. Later we move on to a social time together over tea and biscuits. New members are very welcome – please speak to me if you are interested.

Sheila Allcock

Home groups

We have two home groups attached to Holy Trinity. They happen on a week night and each group meets on a day that they have

chosen in a different area of Headington, mostly on a three week to a month basis.

Janet Masters leads one group which meets at Pat Lucraft's home. Janet says they are quite a small group now and they'd love some new members. They usually have a Bible Study, often using a book to help them. At the moment they're studying Rowan Williams 'Being Christian'. So do please contact Janet if you're interested in joining.

The group that I'm attached to meets in central Headington in different members' homes. We have 9 members so at the moment we'd struggle to make room for new members. We too use a variety of publications to help us in our faith journeys. At the moment we're looking at 'Praying the Psalms' by Walter Brueggemann which we've all found challenging.

Home Groups have been a wonderful way for me to connect with others at a deeper level in the church and to share our faith experiences. Please talk to Laura, Janet or myself if you like to think further about joining a home group.

Sue Saville

Church Library

One of the many results of the pandemic is that people seem to have got out of the habit of reading (or certainly borrowing books from the Church Library). Unfortunately the shelves available at the moment do not allow for an eye-catching display – I'm hoping that this will be rectified when there is a rearrangement at the back of the church.

I would like to encourage more people to make use of this Church resource for their own personal growth in their faith.

Sheila Allcock

Communications

Parish Newsletter

We continued to produce the online parish newsletter on a regular basis, settling into a post-Covid frequency of every 2–3 months. The online newsletter was started by Felicity and Karl Wallendszus in 2020, who handed it over to Rosie Tweddle in the autumn of 2021. Rosie in turn handed over newsletter editing to me in early 2022. Helen Day continues to post printed versions of the online newsletter to those who are unable to access it online.

Each edition of the newsletter includes short writeups and photographs relating to various events and aspects of parish life, all voluntarily contributed by range of people. Some highlights from the past year include a compilation of tributes to Daphne King (May 2022 newsletter), a pair of writeups about a World War II-era watercolour of the church (July 2022 & September 2022), behind-the-scenes pieces from the flower arranging team (March 2022) and the sound team (September 2022), and of course the lovely updates from the Forest Sunday School.

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome at newsletter@hthq.uk. Many thanks to all who have contributed!

Yue-Yi Hwa

The Church Building

Building Development

Our building project progressed well in 2022, as we continued to enjoy the benefits of our new sound and lighting system. A steady stream of donations and fundraising grants came in during the year, and grateful thanks are owed to all those who have so generously given to the project. We reviewed our budget towards the end of the year and considered whether it might be possible to build a scaled back version of the project, in response to inflationary pressures on building work. However, in the end, we decided to press on with our original plans, and the PCC has declared the coming year as our 'year to build!'. We look forward in faith and hope to the year ahead.

Laura Biron-Scott

Flower arrangers

The flower team led by Margaret Woodcock and aided and abetted by her team, Doreen Jarvis, Sylvia Martineau, Helen Nowicki and Ann, come into Church every Friday morning except during Lent and Advent, to make up the arrangements you see in church each week. The team take it in turns to buy the flowers on a Thursday and take them into church to cut the ends and put in buckets

Much of the greenery is provide by our sixth member of the team, Susan Houlton from the churchyard and her garden and the rest we mostly provide from our gardens

As you are aware, we rely on donations from the congregation as we receive no funding from the church and also from weddings and baptisms. So we ask you to be generous with your donations and do please tell us if you are wanting to commemorate loved ones

birthdays, wedding anniversaries or anniversaries of deaths or even exam results!

Usually we make up 2 main arrangements and smaller ones in the chapel and on the CS Lewis window sill.

We do of course do much more for feast days such as Christmas and Easter and also for weddings. For special occasions we conscript other kind volunteers to help us.

We are delighted to do these arrangements for people to remember their loved ones and We will also try to incorporate requested colour schemes and favourite flowers but may have to adapt as sadly some flowers do not survive in arrangements.

We hope you enjoy our efforts as much as we enjoy doing them and we hope that they are able to enhance your worship and prayer at Holy Trinity. We would welcome anyone new people to join us or to learn more about what's involved.

Helen Nowicki

Visitors C. S. Lewis

Fortunately, 2022 saw some return to normality after the pandemic with individuals and groups beginning to return to Holy Trinity. We resumed selling goods in the church using in the main supplies of postcards, Narnia Window cards, Narnia tea towels etc. that we had purchased early in 2020 ready for that summer's visitors who of course were unable to visit due to the pandemic. That stock sold very well in 2022 with our best-selling items being once again the Narnia tea towels. By the end of the year almost all the stock had been sold and we will be introducing new lines in 2023. When my work permits, I have led most of the group visits myself and my sincere thanks go to Mike Wooldridge and Roy Kerry who have helped in leading groups who have wished to visit the church and churchyard over 2022. As we attempt to increase the

number of tours that we provide It would be nice if we could train up some more “guides” so if anyone would like to become involved in this area, please speak to myself or one of the clergy.

Adrian Wood

Caretaker/Verger

As regards the caretaking function, 2022 was another successful year in that the church building was open every day during the year during daylight hours. This enabled the local community to find a quiet place for contemplation and private prayer, and for our many visitors to see and enjoy the spiritual home of C S Lewis. My thanks must go to Zig Nowicki, to Laura and to the churchwardens, for assisting me in the unlocking and locking up role. As well as looking after the main door, this role involves checking the other two outside exits are locked, all lights are off, and that the church is generally left in a respectable condition.

The verger role at the Eucharist involves ringing the church bells before and during the service and advising the President/Deacon of the estimated congregation size for the purpose of preparing for communion. As verger I assisted Laura, or whoever was officiating, at the funerals held at Holy Trinity in 2022. The weddings held at Holy Trinity in 2022 were all truly joyous occasions and I reported these in the church newsletter. I monitor supplies of candles etc. and liaise with Flora Alexander who kindly orders these on our behalf. I am very grateful to Flora for her work in this area.

Adrian Wood

Friends of Holy Trinity

During 2022 the committee of the Friends of Holy Trinity met three times with meetings held virtually online (and hybrid). The AGM was held physically in the church and online 8th July 2022. The accounts for 2022 showed a balance of £1119 at the end of year. During 2022, the Friends provided a grant of £3500 towards the new boiler. The main focus of the Friends in 2022 has been discussion around the future of the Friends. After serving over a decade in the executive committee Mike Hill and Sally Thompson have indicated they are stepping down from Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Mike tendered his resignation at the AGM this year and Sally later in the year. Also after 20 years of supporting the committee John Drummond has stepped down. I would like to thank all our committee members, past and present, for their tireless effort and support. Despite these challenges this year, the Friends have welcomed new membership to the committee and have engaged with the PCC with various funding and promotion initiatives. To move this forward in 2023 the Friends will need new leadership. It is recognised that the church building redevelopment project is a major focus for fund raising and the Friends continue to work sympathetically alongside this.

Mike Hill (Chair)

Community and outreach

Pastoral Care Team

The efficacy of vaccinations and the end of pandemic restrictions meant that in 2022 we resumed all our core activities of pastoral care. We were able to visit people, both in their homes, wearing

masks if so desired, and also in nursing homes as these gradually reopened their doors to visitors. We have also been able to take Holy Communion, where desired, to people who cannot get to church, an immensely valuable service. Care still needs to be taken of course; masks are required in nursing homes and hospitals and we are all very careful not to visit vulnerable people when we ourselves do not feel well.

The service of refreshments after the church services on Wednesday and Sunday mornings, which resumed in 2021, has continued and provides a valuable opportunity to chat and to listen to those who need to talk. The Sunday coffee rota is organised from within the pastoral care team now; the Wednesday one has historically been made up of pastoral care team members or ex-members. Most importantly, though, many members of the congregation take part in these rotas and we are immensely grateful to everyone who does so.

The team has also been running the lifts to church rota since it was re-started after the pandemic. We currently provide regular lifts for three people who would not otherwise be able to get to church without the expense and difficulty of using taxis. Thanks are due to all the drivers, without whom we could not offer this service, for which its users are always extremely grateful

One of our drivers was forced to step down through illness and another is standing down at the end of the current rota, so we really do need one or two people to volunteer to join us as drivers, so that each person need only be on duty every 6 weeks or so.

We have been immensely fortified in spirit by the addition in 2022 of Margaret Whipp to our meetings. Her thoughtful meditations and probing questions are helping us to perform our activities as pastoral carers in a more spiritual manner and with the confidence

that we are supported by the other members of the group in our work.

Anne Tarassenko

Summer Fete 16 July 2022

Even though the number of people through the gate was down a little, visitors seemed to be having a really nice time at this traditional event and we made around £1,700.

This year we attempted to reduce the quantity of unsaleable goods by not advertising a White Elephant Stall. Instead we encouraged donations of good quality unused goods. Although the fete could be considered to be the 'original recycling event', we continue to be mindful of ways to reduce waste and also not be a dumping ground.

We had a very low turn out of cakes. But the sweets in a jar on the Tombola went down very well.

The Quartet was very well received, created a lovely atmosphere and enabled people to listen and shop at the same time (result).

Also the committee is long standing and committed but the youngest member is 55, the mainstay are in their 80's. With one committee member having recently had a hip replacement and another waiting for a knee replacement it leaves very little manual help to set up and take things down.

The other challenge continues to be getting helpers.

Christmas Event 19- 20 November 2022

The Saturday was a good day with a nice atmosphere and a good turn out. The Sunday was very disappointing so we have decided that from 2023 we will only run the Christmas Event on one Day.

We are thinking of a possible alternative for a different day but nothing is decided. Even so we raised around £1,300 which we were very pleased with.

With the cost of living/fuel bills etc I do feel both events have a place. They offer tradition, entertainment, company, bargain buys and community engagement. But some new committee members would be welcome and it would be beneficial to think of ways that we can reduce waste and maybe introduce new stalls for the current drive for all things environmental and climate driven

Lisa Hill

The Thursday Lunch Club

The Thursday Lunch Club is being very well supported. We have an enthusiastic body of guests who are most appreciative of everything that TLC does. It is nice to know that people enjoy coming and that we are doing something which helps to cope with loneliness and isolation among the elderly. We have also recruited some new helpers and are delighted to welcome them as part of the team. Our finances continue to be healthy.

In the last year we have had nine new guests and I am constantly getting enquiries. We have 27 people on our list and at recent lunches there have been over 22 or more guests. Some of the older guests have stopped coming through age and infirmity and we miss them and wish them well. The new guests tell us how much they enjoy coming and think that the food is excellent. Interestingly, several of the new guests are Italian by origin and there is often an Italian table at lunch. The son of a new guest told me how much his mother was enjoying the lunch club and that she really liked talking to people of her own generation. A number of

guests are quite lonely and TLC is one of the few things that they go to. We have enjoyed a range of excellent meals. Since recruiting new cooks last year, the menu has become even more adventurous. It has always been good and a long standing guest at TLC said to me that he was surprised that there wasn't a queue outside for the wonderful food.

We have said goodbye to a couple of helpers. Joan Walding, who was a member of the TLC team from the outset, stepped down after the AGM in 2022. Holy Trinity Parish compiled a book to mark Joan's retirement as a Lay Minister. Anna Brooke and I were asked whether we could add to this appreciation of Joan's contribution. Joan was delighted and asked to pass on her thanks and good wishes to everyone at TLC. Anne Blackman, who is another long term member of the TLC, stopped driving and meeting and greeting guests but has continued to produce beautiful flowers for the tables. Anne is handing over that role and we are most grateful to her for her help and support over many years. Jenny Parker has stepped down from cooking and Jackie Phillips, who helped with the washing up decided that she need to prioritise her own health. We are very grateful to both Jenny and Jackie for their help and wish them all the very best in the future. We have welcomed a number of new helpers since the AGM last year. All have been recruited by word of mouth and through local churches. Daphne Jefferies is a driver and her support is very welcome. John and Carol Glasson have also joined the drivers and we are very grateful for their help. John Macauley has joined the team of cooks and is a welcome addition there. Melanie Huggett's willingness to help is marvellous. She was being an occasional driver but also helps in setting up tables and meeting and greeting guests. She was willing to help with washing up when there was a gap and is going to help with flowers. Frank Murray is no longer able to help us with the calendar and we are grateful to John

Drummond for his efforts with this. John Wiltshire, who is one of the cooks, broke his ankle which necessitated quite a bit of reorganisation by the team of cooks. We are delighted that the ankle has mended and welcome John back. His cooking is always very tasty. Richard Brooke very kindly stepped into the breach on Maundy Thursday this year and cooked a delicious first course which was greatly enjoyed. A combination of the Easter weekend and school holidays meant that other cooks were not available. It was very kind of Richard to agree to do this. We are extremely grateful to everyone for their contributions to the lunch club. Every part of the team is very necessary and we couldn't make TLC work without you. Thank you so much.

Before the pandemic we used to have regular entertainment for our guests. It has not been easy to find replacements for this. We were delighted that children from St. Andrew's School came to sing in January 2023. It was a confident and enjoyable performance. We are looking forward to welcoming children from Headington Prep School who will be entertaining the guests on May 4th. The guests, however, seem to enjoy meeting one another and the buzz of conversation is very heartening. Post the pandemic it seems that people greatly appreciate the possibility of meeting friends again and chatting.

We received a number of financial donations in the previous financial year and this year TLC finances remain buoyant and we have not applied for new grants. We are very grateful to the parish of Corpus Christi for allowing us to hold lunches in the church hall and for use of the kitchen. They also provide us with a cupboard for all our equipment. We give them a contribution towards the cost of lighting and heating the hall. Leticia Gomes in the parish office is always very helpful with any problems that arise – ranging from a lack of kitchen towel or failure of the cookers to work. We

are glad that the various alterations to the church have been completed so that we are no longer vying for parking spaces with the builders vans!

I am enormously grateful to everyone in the TLC team and for their help and support and to all the guests for their appreciation of TLC. James Larminie's willingness to help in all aspects of TLC and also to stand in for me when I have been away is absolutely invaluable. As announced at the AGM last year I will be standing down as coordinator of TLC after the AGM although I will continue to drive for TLC. TLC does a splendid job and it is good to know that what we do is appreciated and valued. I very much hope that TLC continues to go from strength to strength. It has been a privilege and pleasure to get to know you all. I am very grateful to you all for your friendship and for the opportunity of collaborating with you in a very worthwhile activity.

Katya Drummond TLC Co-ordinator

The wider world

Deanery Synod

Holy Trinity parish sits within the Cowley Deanery, where there are 17 parishes. Representation from the parishes on the Synod will vary according to the numbers on their electoral rolls. Our parish currently can have 4 representatives as our congregation is the largest in the Deanery. The synod meets up to four times a year, and an important aspect of the meetings is time spent learning about the challenges our neighbours have in their ministry, and reflecting how we can support each other. Once a year Cowley and Oxford Deaneries have a joint meeting, and sometimes we have

guest speakers, such as Citizens UK, an organisation which empowers people to form alliances within their communities, to challenge injustices and build up stronger communities. Often the main considerations relate to finance and how the share is allocated. The 'Share' is the money annually required from the Diocese to finance ongoing parish ministry, and for our Deanery it is currently £481,459. For smaller parishes the share is becoming untenable, and difficult decisions need to be made about how many clergy we can currently sustain within the Deanery.

Please pray for our neighbouring parishes, and the Incumbents, Treasurers and Synod members who are involved in making these decisions.

Janet Masters

Parish Charities

The four charities currently supported by Holy Trinity are:

Local: The Archway Foundation and The Oxfordshire Homeless Movement

International/Non-local: Christians Against Poverty and WaterAidUK

The intention is to support these charities for a total of four years. There will be a review in 2025.

Felicity Wallendszus PCC Secretary

Archway Foundation

The Archway Foundation has celebrated its 40th year this year, with a special service of thanksgiving at Merton College Chapel in June. Representatives of the founders' family, and Jeremy Irons, a patron of Archway, were present. Jeremy contributed to the service, and

later made a speech, endorsing the work that Archway does with those who are lonely and isolated, and commenting that the pandemic has illustrated how important human contact is for us all. He then cut a tasty celebration cake. An Archway anniversary presentation board has been doing the rounds of interested parishes and came to Holy Trinity in April.

Having operated during the pandemic primarily by phone contact, Archway has been reviewing its operating procedures particularly as demand for their services increases, and volunteer numbers are reduced. A pathway has been developed involving initial phone contact, then one to one contact, followed by invitations to small social gatherings which take place during the daytime. Archway welcomes anyone who might be interested in volunteering, especially those who might be willing to drive people to the social gatherings. office@archwayfoundation.org.uk

Janet Masters

Eco Church

Eco Church Group

- The Eco Church Group (hereafter ECG) expanded when Anthea Boylston and Margaret Samuel joined, thereby greatly facilitating the work we are able to do.
- ECG members contributed to our worship through the intercessions rota, invariably including an environmental component in the prayers.
- Members of the ECG consulted the latest edition of the Parish Buying Scheme and the contracts, costs and providers of energy from renewable sources. A new provider was recommended for gas; a new contract is now in place.

- The Group also brought to the attention of the Parish Administrator the wide range of products available through the office products contract, and the desirability of ensuring that we buy environmentally-friendly cleaning materials, recycled photocopier paper and toilet rolls.
- Eco initiatives from which we continue to benefit are the securing of a Co-wheels car in the Coach House car park, and the equipping of the Vicarage and Binswood Avenue house with solar pv. Malfunction of the latter has involved ongoing liaison with the installer of the panels by one member of the ECG.
- Solar panel generation readings were taken for the Binswood Avenue house, and submitted along with the vicarage panel readings to Good Energy for FIT payment.
- One member continued to take meter readings for HTHQ electricity and gas consumption, entering the data in Pilio to get calculations and comparisons with previous years.
- ECO Resources lists were created at intervals and made available on the HTHQ church website, alerting people to webinars, Zooms, talks and reading materials with an environmental theme.
- The ECG's proposal to PCC to include an environment-focused charity in our charitable giving (Water Aid) was agreed.
- As in 2021, practical life-style Eco Tips were provided in each week's printed Notices, many of these Tips originating in the Climate Conversation discussion groups run by two members of the ECG and attended by some 50 members of the congregation.
- The ECG felt that if cycling was to be encouraged, additional bike parking on the church premises would be desirable. Discussions were held with individuals about current bike

parking provision and optimum location; this led to the ECG being charged with researching into suppliers, the range of racks, hoops etc, and costings with a view to providing additional bike parking in the Coach House car park.

- Subsequent to their attending the InSpire course, two members of the ECG were approached by the diocese to support other churches in the deanery in their environmental developments; they replied that they would prefer to engage in mutual support, rather than putting HTHQ forward as a model.
- A display was held in church on 23rd October comprising panels created by Friends of the Earth making connections between the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis.
- After our Fair Trade stall on 29th May, in response to popular demand we suggested including a Fair Trade stall at the Christmas Event. This transpired to be impractical, so we suggested running a stall during Fair Trade Fortnight in March 2023.
- One member of the ECG was active in the Buildings Sub-group, and continued to build on his knowledge of heat pumps, making investigations, attending surveys conducted by a number of suppliers and comparing systems and quotes.
- As part of awareness-raising, we ensured that environmentally topical issues (including the Fair Trade stall) featured in the HTHQ e-Newsletter.

By the end of 2022, we concluded that our submission of the application for the A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award was imminent.

Hilary Rollin,