

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES
January – December 2023



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Overall Governance

PCC

PCC Report 2023

This year was notable for the beginning of the building work to extend and make internal changes to the church. 2023 was designated 'The Year to Build' and the PCC is very grateful to the Vicar, the Wardens and to everyone else who has worked so hard this year as we finally began this long-awaited project.

The PCC met in person five times in 2023 - in February, April, May, July, September and November.

The PCC passed the following resolutions:

- To apply for a loan of £250,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid for the completion of the building works, secured against 20 Binswood Avenue.
- For the PCC to explore having oversight of the running of the Coach House.
- To create a subcommittee to oversee children and families work.
- To create a subcommittee to oversee plans to install sustainable heating in the church.
- To erect bike racks by the Coach House - and these are now in place thanks to members of the Eco Team.
- To reduce the amount of parish share paid by HTHQ to £35,000 (and an additional payment of up to £8,000 if possible) with a commitment to increasing our parish share payment in the future. This was due to financial constraints in the budget.

A group was also set up to oversee the arrangements for the celebration in September of the completion of the building works and also the 175th anniversary of HTHQ in November 2024.

Miss Andrena Palmer, children's and outreach worker with the URC church in Risinghurst and Church Army evangelist began some collaborative work with HTHQ this year as she has also trained in lay ministry in the Anglican church. Specifically, Emily and Andrena worked together to organise the carol-singing pilgrimages in Headington and Risinghurst.

The APCM was held in the church in May. The membership of the PCC underwent some changes and at the APCM. Dave Smith stood down as Churchwarden and Janet Masters was elected in his place for an agreed period of one year. Joan Jones (Electoral

Roll Officer), Richard Stoneman (Treasurer) and Felicity Wallendszus (PCC Secretary) were re-elected onto the PCC. Margaret Woodcock, Janet Foot and Mark Poolman stood down as deanery reps and Yue-Yi Hwa, Tom Crook, Raj Patel and Janet Masters were elected.

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

Felicity Wallendszus
Secretary to the PCC

Church Wardens

With the commencement of the building work in 2023, it has been an interesting year for the wardens. During the summer the vestry and lady chapel were cleared, and property was boxed up and moved to the Jackson Room. The Sound System was moved by Dave Smith to a new but rather cold home within the church, allowing the continued broadcasting of services via Radio Cherwell. The project commenced on 9th October and the boxing in of the North Aisle has allowed services to continue throughout. We are enormously grateful to Kingerlee for their willingness to work around church activities to allow this to happen. The wardens have attended monthly planning meetings with the Vicar and Derek Taylor and all those associated with the building process, to receive reports on the progress and discuss any issues or decisions that need to be made. As a result of the work on the building it has been impossible to check the inventories but when the property is moved back into the church this will be completed.

The Wardens have been concerned for Health and Safety issues throughout the project and have instigated a cleaning rota each weekend after the builders have finished for the week, to ensure the church is left in a clean and safe condition for services. A group of welcomers also met to discuss issues related to providing a warm and safe welcome for the congregation. Following a Health and Safety review a rail has also been erected on the steps to the boiler room. A faculty application has been required for a repair of the statue of the Madonna and it will be replaced in position as soon as the building work is completed.

The churchyard gardener mows the grass as and when required, and Susan Houlton has formed a group to help keep unattended graves tidy. As a result of a survey done earlier in the year, two trees had to be felled and other maintenance of trees occurred. The wardens were alerted to Hemlock growing in the Churchyard which they duly removed. During the progress of the building work, the builders have gone out of their way to provide access to graves as required.

The Coach House caretaker left during the year, and some of these duties have been taken on temporarily by two young people, with backup from a weekly cleaning company. We hope to eventually bring this under the umbrella of the church administration.

We are very grateful to the army of volunteers who have assisted us in the work this year and have given their time and skills to the many activities that occur week by week, some quite noticeable, others not, but all very appreciated. We would particularly like to thank all those who have contributed to services each week, negotiating the frequent changes and challenges brought about by the building work with a smile. Thank you.

Margaret Taylor and Janet Masters

Children and youth

Children & Families ministry

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 establish a new Children and Families sub-committee to attend to the 'big picture' view of how our various initiatives interact, and to plan for the upcoming months. The sub-committee met for the first time in October 2023.

All-Age services

Seven All-Age Eucharist services took place in 2023, celebrating Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, St Barnabas the Encourager, Harvest, a Nativity service, and Christmas Day. Children and young people were involved in a number of ways, including serving and welcoming, writing and delivering prayers, and performing the readings.

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 at Easter, and for their summer leavers' service, and – once the Building Project was underway – joined them at school to celebrate Harvest and Christmas.

Tots Service

This has been a year of two halves, with the latter part of the year providing an opportunity to begin a trial of a new format for our tots service. Our weekly service, including thanksgiving songs, a Bible story, activity, and prayers, continued during

term-time during the Spring and Summer. With many of our existing members moving up to school, and the location changing to the Coach House, the autumn term has been a trial period for a 'Stay and Play' format on an occasional basis (for the time being). This follows a hugely successful two-week Stay and Play programme over the summer holidays. The new format provides a space for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers (and their carers) to play together and complete craft activities, before offering a Bible Story and prayers for those who wish to stay. We look forward to seeing how God grows this initiative over the coming year.

Emily Hockliffe Essex

Forest Sunday School

The Forest Sunday School sessions with children and adults continued to take place weekly during the 10am service in 2023. After going up to collect the children's cross from the front of church, we gathered at the log circle in the woods for our welcome, prayer, singing, story, and related activities.

We occasionally gathered in the Coach House if it was very cold but it was good to be able to enjoy being outside in the woods most Sundays – often joined by the robin and the vicarage cats!

Highlights this year included having a fire in the log circle with hot chocolate and marshmallows and also managing to have fun and play a number of games with the large parachute. Emily also joined us several times to write prayers with the children for the all-age services.

On Good Friday, as part of an activity morning 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 – despite a bit of drizzle and mud!

It has been possible to continue with Forest Sunday School so regularly thanks to everyone who helps on the weekly rota.

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 occasional evensong services (also jointly with St Nicholas, Old Marston) and other special services including: Taizé, Racial Justice Sunday, and a joint Christmas carols with All Saints. 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.

Altar Servers

Back in October 2021 we had restarted serving at the Eucharist and combined this with the sacristan role. This has continued throughout 2023 at the Sunday 10.00 Eucharist and on other special occasions – Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Ascension Day etc. The team is small but dedicated, and we have one server on duty each week. My sincere thanks go to Janet Foot, Helen Dancer, Carrie Barron and to Richard Churchill who have performed the role so well over the last 12 months. On a positive note, Emily has continued to introduce Lucy and Abby into the team, and they have been acolytes at some 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

2023 was a year of transition for the music at Holy Trinity. The departure of Music Director Rosie Tweddle at the end of 2022, left a vacancy for an Organist and Choir Director. I was happy to be asked to cover one or two Sundays early in 2023, and this turned into a pattern of playing for the year, in the absence of a more permanent appointment and replacement for Rosie. The Director of Music position was advertised on-line early in 2023, with limited response, but this then was placed on hold due to the impending building works. It would have been disruptive to any new appointment, with restricted church and organ access.

During 2023, the music team and choir have been able to continue the pattern of Evensongs at the start of each month, and in March and October we took the choir to join forces with St. Nicholas Church choir in Old Marston. We also joined forces with St Andrew's Headington for Ascension Day and St Andrew's Day.

We are fortunate at Holy Trinity to have talented deputies in place to assist with keyboard and organ playing in my absence, and thanks are due to the Vicar's husband Dominic, and to David Knight. The loyal core choir members continue to support the worship at Holy Trinity and performed at the monthly Evensongs, and significant church-calendar special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day and Ascension Day.

The start of the building work in October 2023 meant that the Tickell pipe organ needed to be wrapped up and protected from building dust. After looking at some possible hire-instruments, the decision was made to manage with the existing electronic keyboard, able to emulate a church organ. With some help from the audio team, its output was enhanced to provide an appropriate sound for accompanying services. The Tickell pipe organ was re-instated temporarily for Christmas and the New Year, and it was nice to have it back in action! The organ continues to perform well after 32 years, but will likely benefit from a check-up and tuning after the building work is completed.

On a personal note, I have very much appreciated the friendly welcome and fellowship at Holy Trinity throughout the year. I look forward to continuing to serve the church, and to work with the choir and leadership team as we plan further activities for 2024 and the future.

Andrew Patterson

Music group

The Music Group continues to sing on the first Sunday of each month. Drawing from a range of world music including the Iona Community and Taize, the group provides introits and songs during communion, and occasionally, an extroit. We occasionally sing during other service such as the racial justice service, and we enjoyed singing at the John Radcliffe's Christmas concert. The group has enjoyed Andrew the organist stepping in to support our singing. We would welcome new singers, especially tenors - we practice once a month.

Monika Blackwell

Julian Group

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm at my house in Headington. We take it in turns to choose a passage for group meditation and we meditate on it in silence for half an hour. We discuss the passage, why the person chose it 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 and Fellowship groups

Home Group

Our home group meets in central Headington in different members homes. We have 9 regular members so sadly at the moment have no room, literally, for new members. We meet roughly every three weeks to share news and concerns and then have a period of study which varies enormously. At the moment we're reading Tarry Awhile by Selina Stone which was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, looking at wisdom from black spirituality.

I asked a couple of members what they felt about the group. I quote

'We are very different people but we have come to love each other and value the sense that we are an organism of prayer and compassion. And funny.'

'I have found the home group so valuable and enjoyable. As a relative newcomer to HTHQ I was immediately made to feel very welcome. The group is a 'safe' place to discuss honestly our personal spiritual journey'.

For myself it is the one evening meeting I have tried to keep attending during my illness because it challenges, comforts and offers such Christian friendship.

Sue Saville

Fellowship Group

Our Fellowship group has continued to meet monthly. We meet for about an hour and a quarter usually on a Wednesday evening, and enjoy fellowship over a cuppa, followed by a study led by one of us, and finish with Compline and prayer for one another. During the early part of the year, we studied the lives of some of the saints including St Francis and St Frideswide. More recently we have been following a study guide on Bunyan's 'Pilgrims Progress'. We enjoy the opportunity to meet together in fellowship outside of church, and support each other through the ups and downs of life, and would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Janet Masters

Communications

Parish Newsletter

We produced five editions of the online parish newsletter in 2023. The subscriber list grew slightly over the course of the year, with the February 2023 newsletter being emailed to 109 recipients, and the November 2023 newsletter going out to 133 recipients. As in previous years, Helen Day continued to post printed versions of the newsletter to those without email access.

In the months leading up to our church building works, it was a particular joy to receive newsletter contributions from visitors to our church: C.S. Lewis pilgrim Sarah Anderson, whose lovely thank-you note to Adrian Wood appeared in the April 2023 newsletter; Veronika Michalkova and Eva Krascsenitsova, who make regular visits to Holy Trinity and whose message of encouragement appeared in the July 2023 newsletter; and Rachel Hillebrand, who visited the church with a Christian literary group and shared a thoughtful reflection in the September 2023 newsletter. Their words remind us of the beautiful privilege of serving as 'an open door between heaven and earth, showing God's love to all'.

My thanks to all who contributed written items and photographs to the newsletter in 2023. Contributions are always welcome at newsletter@hthq.uk. Previous editions of the newsletter can be accessed by visiting hthq.uk/newsletter and clicking on the 'Archive' link.

Yue-Yi Hwa

The Church Building

Building Development

In Advent 2022, the PCC declared that 2023 would be our 'year to build', and we set out in faith and hope to make this vision a reality. We began each Sunday service with our building project prayer, underpinning our plans with prayer and thanksgiving. In the first half of the year, we focused on our finances: receiving updated costs from the contractors, Kingerlee, and securing a loan from Methodist Chapel Aid to enable us to start the work before the (second) expiry of our planning permission in November. We also launched a fresh fundraising campaign, and we are grateful to the generosity of so many people who have given their time, talents, and financial resources to support the project. In the second half of the year, we finalised the details of the contract with Kingerlee, and the work began in mid-October (the Bishop of Oxford came in September and ceremonially dug the first hole for the foundations!). We are grateful to our contractors for managing the project so sensitively, and by the end of the year the foundations and outer shell of the extension were firmly in place, providing hope for the year ahead as we look forward to the completion of the project in the summer of 2024.

Laura Biron-Scott

Flower arrangers

It has been an interesting year for the flower arranging team!

Early in the year the hot water system was changed which meant that for a while we were without hot water, not that the flowers needed it, but we did in order to wash vases and pots thoroughly and to stop our hands freezing.

Of course, life changed when the building work started, and we lost access to the vestry and any water at all. We also had to take all our buckets, watering cans, pots, trays, vases, artificial flowers, and greenery and store them in our homes. We bring them back as needed each week and then take them back home again.

We decided to use our resources to get more artificial flowers and have been using them in our arrangements instead of real flowers. We know that some people have not noticed the change!

We did use real flowers as well at Christmas and Easter and the builders were very helpful in putting vases on the pillars.

In the main though the artificial flowers have kept us going and we are now experts at selecting the good one from the shops and garden centres and trying to keep costs down

Also, with the help of Susan Houlton we discovered a hitherto unknown tap in the churchyard which we put to good use for Easter arrangements.

We are looking forward to being back to normal in the summer especially in time for the celebration of the new build in September and we will be asking for your donations then. We are also looking forward to having new storage facilities in the new building. It will be good not to have to store things under the pews or in our homes.

We hope that you have not been too disappointed with our attempts to keep the flowers going and look forward to having “normal service” resumed soon.

Margaret Woodcock.

Helen Nowicki

Visitors C. S. Lewis

With travel restrictions finally lifted after Covid, 2023 was an excellent year for visitors. We saw a considerable number of groups of which the majority came from America where interest in C S Lewis remains remarkably high. In addition, it is impossible to estimate the number of individuals who visited as they can come at any time any day. The stock that had been acquired back in 2020 (and not used because of the pandemic) was eagerly purchased by the visitors and by the time the “C S Lewis corner” closed in October due to the pending building works, little stock remained. Our best-selling items were once again the Narnia tea towels and the China mugs featuring the church and The Kilns. “Narnia” shopping bags were introduced as a new line, and they also sold out very quickly. When my work at Christ Church permits, I have led most of the group visits myself. My sincere thanks go to Mike Wooldridge and Roy Kerry who also led groups, and both received excellent feedback. With the new facilities resulting from the buildings project, we expect our visitor numbers will increase. More “guides” will hopefully be needed going forwards, 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, 2023 was another successful year in that the church building was open every day during the year during daylight hours. This has also continued since the building works commenced in October. 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 vergers 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 vergers I assisted Laura, or whoever was officiating, at the various funerals held at Holy Trinity in 2023. The three weddings held at Holy Trinity in 2023 were all truly joyous occasions and I reported (with pictures) these in the church newsletter.

Adrian Wood

Friends of Holy Trinity

At an extraordinary general meeting held on 23 June 2023 it was unanimously agreed that the Friends of Holy Trinity should be dissolved. Since it had proved impossible to find a replacement for Mike Hill as Chair, and fundraising would continue to be dominated by the building project for some time yet, it was agreed it would be sensible to draw a line under the charity, leaving open the possibility of a new body with similar aims to be formed in the future.

During twenty years the Friends contributed substantially to the repair and enhancement of Holy Trinity. In recent years they were the major donors for the new lighting system; they funded the new boiler (as they had its predecessor); and their final grant was for new external security lights.

A short history of the Friends can be found in the Archive pages of the Holy Trinity website.

Ian Alexander (Secretary)

Community and outreach

Pastoral Care Team

The pastoral care team exists to support people who are enduring difficult times. These difficulties may be mental or physical; they may simply reflect the ravages of old age. Our aim is to nurture anyone who is struggling, with regular contact and the practice of listening.

Refreshments after the church services on Wednesday and Sunday mornings provide an important opportunity to listen to those who need to talk and we are hugely grateful to the many members of the congregation who take part in the provision of these refreshments. We also rely on members of the congregation to alert us to anyone who

might need a bit of support and there is a message in every notice-sheet to alert people as to who to contact.

For those who are unable to attend church, several of our members are happy to offer Home Communion in people's own homes. This can be a short- or long-term commitment, depending upon need. Alternatively, the pastoral care team runs the lifts to church rota, for people who like to attend church but are unable to get there. During 2023, we were giving regular lifts to three people who would otherwise not have been able to attend our church services on a Sunday morning. I am delighted to say that the ranks of drivers were swelled substantially during the year, so that we now have six regular drivers on the rota, and several more who have offered to fill in occasionally if necessary. We are very grateful to them all for giving up their time to perform this task, which is really appreciated by everyone who is driven to church. All the drivers have been DBS-checked.

Led by our clergy team, our regular meetings provide an important opportunity for members of the pastoral care team to support each other in what can sometimes be difficult and challenging work.

Anne Tarassenko

Summer Fete 15 July 2023

Visitors seemed to be having a really nice time enjoying entertainment from the Morris Dancers, the Quintet and Rosie the Barrel Organ. The weather was good and we had a good turnover of people all afternoon.

We took £1,904.40 (Gift Aid: £225.50) up by over £500 on the 2022 total.

We continue to try to reduce the quantity of unsaleable goods by not advertising a White Elephant Stall. We continue to be mindful of ways to reduce waste and also not be a dumping ground.

We had more cakes supplied this year after making many requests in the notices.

We all think we need fresh younger blood on the committee. Even though we do well financially we need to be mindful of our carbon footprint and how we can reduce this, yet provide valuable entertainment and quality products people want to buy.

We always need more helpers

Lisa Hill

Christmas Event 18 - 19 November 2023

The Saturday was a good day with a nice atmosphere and a good turn out with a gentle trickle of people. It was also great to see new faces involved as stall-holders and we were delighted with the response to the call to HTHQ bakers. We did host the Event on the Sunday, even though we thought we wouldn't this year after last year's takings were very low. But as it was the last time before coffee after church moves to the new build we decided to go ahead.

We raised around £1,387 (Gift aid to be added) which we were very pleased with. 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 sustainable.

Lisa Hill

The Thursday Lunch Club

The Thursday Lunch Club has continued to thrive this year. The guests are always very appreciative of everything that TLC does; they really enjoy the whole experience of social occasion combined with a hot meal. We have served lunch to between 20 and 25 guests every fortnight, bar the month of August, during 2023. Although guests are sometimes forced to leave us, usually as a result of illness or moving away, we have a constant supply of new guests to replenish the numbers.

At our AGM in 2023 our Co-ordinator, Katya Drummond, stepped down. We are tremendously grateful to her for her years of hard work and dedication in this role. She has been outstandingly successful in leading the TLC and, particularly, in getting it started up again after the pandemic. We miss her as our team leader, but thankfully we did not have to say goodbye to her, as she continues to co-ordinate the drivers who bring the guests to lunch.

The role of TLC Co-ordinator is now shared between James Larminie and Anne Tarassenko. Broadly speaking, James is in charge on the day, whilst Anne does the administration. David Kiggell continues to serve as our Treasurer and we are very grateful to him for all his fine efforts. Largely because of donations from previous years, our finances continue to be healthy, and we have not been forced to raise the cost of lunches (£5), even through this period of rising prices and inflation. The cooks have been very inventive in continuing to produce delicious meals at relatively low cost.

We have unfortunately lost a few helpers and would welcome any new volunteers. We're particularly stretched when it comes to drivers: our guests are elderly, and

usually live on their own, and having a driver that they recognise, and are used to, is a big plus for them. We also need volunteers to help with setting up for the meal and with clearing up afterwards. Every volunteer does work that is invaluable in providing this service for people who are elderly and lonely. Please do contact me if you might be able to help in any of these roles.

Anne Tarrassenko

The wider world

Deanery Synod

Cowley Deanery Synod



There has been continuing discussion this year about the Deanery Parish Share allocation and the mechanism that is used to work it out. This is the money that each parish is asked to contribute to the Diocese, and pays for the costs of ministry, training, and parish support. As costs increase many parishes are struggling to make their contribution and feel vulnerable. There has been an 8% increase in parish share, we are now receiving less subsidy from the Diocese as the Urban Deprivation Fund is being reduced, and deanery reserves are empty. Synod has agreed to review the mechanism this year.

An open meeting took place in October, where parishioners were invited to consider how parishes could work more cooperatively to reduce the stipendiary costs. How can we balance aspirations with resources? Does the current model allow us to give best service and opportunities for people to encounter, and experience, the love of God in

Jesus Christ, whilst being affordable? Should we consider other models to meet the changing challenges? Synod has agreed to 'invest time and energy to consider restructuring the Deanery, so that we are better placed within the constraints of resources to continue to build the kingdom of God.' It is recognised that some parishes are already supporting one another, but could also cooperate on specific projects.

There have been 4 clergy vacancies within our deanery this year and our clergy team have been assisting in ministry at Iffley, All Saints, New Marston and SS Mary and John. St Clements and Iffley parishes will shortly have new Vicars, and SS Mary and John and All Saints Highfield are continuing to discern their vacancy process.

Janet Masters

Eco Church Group

A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award

Congratulations and thanks to everyone at Holy Trinity for the time, energy and commitment which have earned us the prestigious Eco Church Silver Award. This recognises that we have achieved a silver level eco-friendly way of life in all five designated, and stringent, categories: Worship & teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & global engagement, and Lifestyle.

Inspired Efficiency Report & Sustainable Church Heating Working Party Following the unanimous PCC decision in September 2022 to install sustainable church heating as soon as practically possible, we were informed that Matt Fulford from the diocesan energy consultancy Inspired Efficiency, was due to conduct a follow-up survey of the church on 24th March. His report's main recommendations are for electric under-pew heating in the nave and chancel, with an air-to-air source heat pump at the west end. The responsibility for researching and implementing these changes falls to the PCC's new Sustainable Church Heating Working Party.

Fair Trade Stall Two stalls were set up, the first in church on 12th March to mark Fair Trade Fortnight and the second on 8th October outside church in fine weather. We're grateful to all involved for two successful half-hours' trading when goods to the value of £417.10 were sold.

Bike Stands We're very grateful to Roz Smith and to all others involved in equipping us with our additional bike stands for the Coach House car park. They were installed on 19th May and are much appreciated.

Autumn Talks Series

Three enjoyable and informative talks took place, all attracting a good crowd, the formal questions being followed by more discussion over refreshments. On 13th September David and Jenny Bird described the building of their eco house from initial vision to completed carbon-positive home, while on 11th October Jim Woods from the Shotover Preservation Society spoke about the history, flora and fauna of the former royal hunting ground, adaptation to climate change and the recent conservation achievements. For the third talk on 15th November, Laura and Rob took as their theme the 'fruitfulness of taking an aesthetic approach to the environment using the Book of Nature metaphor as a guiding framework,' turning to C S Lewis for more contemporary illustration. We're very grateful to them both, and to all our speakers for illuminating and memorable evenings.

Working with other churches

Members of HTHQ took part in three Eco initiatives with other churches during 2023: A workshop *For the Good of the City: Appreciating and Exploring our Christian Responsibility for the Built Environment*, on Saturday 14th January in St Andrew's Church, Linton Road.

Equipping Churches to Care for Creation: Bishop Gavin Collins, gave an inspiring keynote address at this half-day event on 17th June at All Saints' Didcot, where two representatives from HTHQ contributed short talks. Hilary Rollin's talk about the Co-Wheels car in the Coach House car park was subsequently turned into an article to be circulated by the Diocesan Environment Team.

Churches Together in Headington, Eco Focus: Fr Luke Norman from St Andrew's, Headington, organised a well-attended pilot meeting on 7th November, at which representatives of many of our local congregations described their Eco concerns and work, Hilary Rollin speaking on behalf of HTHQ. A wide-ranging discussion followed.

Jan McLeod

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 WaterAid UK

At Christmas 2023, there was an HTHQ Charity collections appeal for the four charities. A total of £1,294.67 was received over all the services. In addition, £500 was given directly to the Charities by people who wished to include Gift Aid. This means that

with the £250 given to each charity in 2023 by the PCC, each Charity has received a donation of £573.65.

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

The Oxfordshire-based Archway Foundation, which tackles loneliness and isolation and was founded more than 40 years ago, deserves a special mention because it has said farewell this year to its long serving Chief Executive, Sheila Furlong. Sheila was a nurse for 20 years before she joined Archway and her selfless service to the charity and those it has helped was honoured at a wonderful send-off in Abingdon. She has been succeeded by Angelo Fernandes.

To learn more about this particular charity that Holy Trinity supports – and watch a new 13-minute video about its work – please do visit the link below. The film was shot by Simon Harris, who previously produced the video tour of Holy Trinity, and it includes an illuminating interview with Holy Trinity’s Sue Saville about the significance of Archway.

www.archwayfoundation.org.uk

Mike Wooldridge
PCC member