

*Holy Trinity Headington Quarry*  
**REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES**  
**January – December 2021**



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## **Introduction**

2021 has been a challenging year, but we have weathered the storm of the pandemic with resilience and perseverance. It would be easy to look back over the year and be reminded of the challenging and difficult moments; but I would encourage us to dig deep into the resources of our faith and find what C.S. Lewis calls ‘signposts of joy’—experiences that surprise us and bring us out of ourselves into a deeper divine reality. There have been many such moments for us as a church community in 2021: our newly lit and redecorated church interior; our new ability to live stream Sunday worship and other pastoral services; the postponed weddings that finally took place; the joy of singing hymns again; our forest church and forest tots services; a film about C.S. Lewis and his deep spiritual connection to Holy Trinity. Although we need to work hard to see them, I hope these and other signposts of joy will be our lasting memories of 2021, and that our APCM this year will be a chance to give thanks to God for all we have experienced together, and to pray for the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit as we look to the future in faith and trust.

Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott

## **Overall Governance**

### **PCC**

2021 was another memorable year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the PCC is very grateful to the Wardens, Dave Smith and Margaret Taylor, for all they did during this extraordinary time. The PCC met six times in 2021 - in January, March, May, July, September and November. These were held via Zoom due to the pandemic.

The PCC passed resolutions to approve the installation of a new sound system; the redecoration of the church and the cost of Wi-Fi and camera for the livestreaming of services and funerals. Dave Smith has overseen much of this work, including ensuring that the services broadcast on Radio Cherwell continue to run smoothly. The latter were originally pre-recorded but with the new sound system in place, it became possible to livestream the 10am service.

20 Binswood Avenue: Richard Stoneman oversaw further improvements to the property in 2021 with a view to being able to offer the house to a possible curate in 2022. The extent of the renovations needed became clearer towards the end of the year and the PCC agreed that more investigation was needed including seeking advice from the diocese.

The future of how the Coach House is run was the subject of ongoing discussion, with the Coach House Management Committee resolved to finding the best possible solution for all concerned.

During the autumn, a review of the church charities took place with the final selection for the next four years being:

Local: The Archway Foundation and The Oxfordshire Homeless Movement International/Non-local: Christians Against Poverty and WaterAidUk

The APCM was held in May, via Zoom, due to continued Covid-19 restrictions.

The membership of the PCC underwent some changes and at the APCM, Dominic Vickers was re-elected. Andrea Taylor was co-opted for a further year until 2022. Philippa Logan and Sue Saville stood down and Diana Harrison and Frances Farrar were elected.

Peter Garside stepped down as Church warden and was replaced by Margaret Taylor. David Knight also stepped down from the PCC following the APCM.

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

Felicity Wallendszus  
Secretary to the PCC

### **Church Wardens**

2021 has been a busy year, dealing with the pandemic, moving forward with new projects and 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 Laura and we see it as a privilege to support her both in practical terms and with prayer in her ministry with us.

There is so much that goes into keeping our church and graveyard open, safe and welcoming and we would like to thank all the people who make this possible.

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**

- Appointment of a new contractor to look after the Church Yard.

- Collating and reviewing risk assessment, archives and documentation relating to the Churchyard working groups
- Initiating actions specified by the Archdeacon as part of his visit

## **Church Fabric**

### **Regular services and checks**

- Fire extinguisher service
- Lightning rod check
- PAT testing (this was carried over as all the new equipment in church doesn't need to be tested this year)
- Boiler

### **Inventory and churchyard memorials**

The annual church inventory has been compiled, this was carried forward from 2020 due to the pandemic.

### **Church lighting and sound**

The PCC agreed to the proposal from Light Perceptions to install improved lighting together with integrated improved capabilities for sound production. Work on this together with capability for live video broadcasting of services and events via a new WIFI system is being carried out and new lighting has been installed which has really brightened up the church.

### **Church Interior Decoration**

The whole church was redecorated after the completion of the lighting system installation

### **Pews**

*As permitted by the building project permission* We removed one pew from the back of church to make space both for wheel chair/pram storage and to ease congestion when people are leaving

the service. We have removed one pew and made good the space in front of the pulpit to make space for some accessible seating. This pew was badly infected with wood worm and has been assessed as beyond repair. We have also removed one other pew to make space for the new sound and livestreaming system

The final pew at the back is awaiting collection by the Kilns as it has a particular connection to CS Lewis.

### **Quinquennial inspection**

This is a five year check on the fabric of the church building. It is paid for by the Diocese but commissioned by Holy Trinity. This was completed in July by Christian Randall, Conservation Architects. Works to address the recommendations are in progress and will continue through 2022/23

### **Health and safety inspection**

The wardens and vergers completed a review of polices and also conducted a walk around. Areas identified as in need of attention were trip hazards relating to areas where pews have been removed, securing fire blankets and addressing the wobbly lectern.

### **Statue of the Madonna and Child**

We had plans to have this repaired and restored, however the shelf supporting it collapsed resulting in quite a lot of additional damage. The work to repair has been assessed and we have funds to proceed with the repair.

### **Church Windows**

We are grateful to Derek Taylor for a lot of work in and around the church over the last year including cleaning the North West Window.



### **Commonwealth War Graves**

Following on from a PCC resolution to install signs indicating the presence of Commonwealth War Graves, the signs have now been installed in the churchyard gates

### **CS Lewis Merchandise**

Thanks to Adrian Wood (Verger) who reinstated the CS Lewis table at the back of church. Current stock is made up of items bought pre 2020 but we will be replenishing over 2022

### **Contactless payment machine**

This was replaced with a temporary model in the summer of 2021. The supplier (Goodbox) couldn't get parts for our defective touchscreen model but will replace with a new one when stock is available.

Blessings

Margaret Taylor, Dave Smith

## **Children and youth**

### **Children**

Children's work is an area of ministry that we continue to develop and reflect on as a PCC. We are thankful for all those who give their time and talents to support children's work in the parish, especially to Andrea Taylor who has joined the PCC as a representative for children and families, and Felicity Wallendszus who assists Andrea in leading Forest Church. We are aware of the need to develop this ministry further, and would value everyone's prayers as we discern the best way forwards for our particular context.

### **Tots Service**

Formerly the Pram Service, the Tuesday morning worship service for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers restarted again in July. Due to Covid restrictions, we met outdoors in the churchyard forest to begin with, which made it possible to sing and share refreshments together. We moved into the church in the colder months. Music and movement are very important parts of the service, and I dusted off my guitar in order to accompany the singing (it has now been played at a couple of baptisms too!). It was not easy to discern the future direction of the Tuesday morning service, and making changes to such a long-standing fixture of church life at Holy Trinity was not an easy process. I would like to thank all those who have been involved with this service in the past and who stepped down in 2021.

### **Forest Church**

We continued to make use of the forest space in 2021 and held a very joyful 'Good Friday for Families' service there in Holy Week. In September 2021, we began a new initiative: Forest Sunday School. This meets almost every Sunday during the Parish Eucharist, and is resourced by a team of wonderful leaders and assistants: thank you for making this possible and for your hard work and commitment to this important ministry.

### **Quarry School**

The school continue to use the Vicarage Wood for forest school, which provides another important source of connection between school and church.

Laura Biron-Scott

# **Music, worship, spirituality**

## **Worship pattern**

During the Third National Lockdown in January, our worship moved online once again. It was a real joy to restart public worship on Palm Sunday and in time for Holy Week. The 10am Parish Eucharist and the Wednesday midweek communion services were the first to resume, followed later in the year by the 8am Communion and a monthly Choral Evensong service. We continue to keep our core worship pattern under review as we discern the needs of our worshipping community and how to make the best use of the resources we currently have.

Our online services have continued throughout the year and we should be extremely thankful that we were able to mark every Sunday of the year with a worship service of some kind. 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 hope this will continue well beyond the pandemic.

## **Lent courses**

Two Lent Courses took place online – a Lent poetry challenge led by Laura, and the USPG Lent Course 'For Such a Time as This', led by Rob, which explored our response to the climate crisis.

## **Prayers for hope and healing**

Prayers for Hope and Healing is a contemplative prayer gathering that meets on Zoom on a Thursday evening from 8.30-9pm. We begin with an opening reflection or thought and then sit together in silent prayer. We also explore some wider themes in contemplative Christianity. This is not a 'closed' group and anyone

is welcome to join us – please ask Laura or Janet Masters if you would like to know more.

### **Music, choir, music group**

2021 saw a gradual but very welcome build-up of music at Holy Trinity back towards something vaguely resembling pre-pandemic normality. Whilst things were still very uncertain at the start of the year, gradually we were able to introduce more congregational singing, including mass settings and increasing the number of hymns. Masks were still very much in place but we were full of joy at being able to sing more again.

It was wonderful to reintroduce Choral Evensong, which has continued to take place monthly since the summer. As a particular symbol of hope, we were able to host a joint Choral Evensong with St Nicholas, Old Marston in October. It felt amazing to have so many singers worshipping together and was the start of what we hope will be an ongoing pattern of joint worship. The Music Group also returned to singing once a month from October, so that our musical pattern of worship was finally back to what it had been in 2019.

We were also to hold live in-person services of Advent and Christmas Carols, which were well attended and full of hope for further developments with less social distancing to come later next year. I am grateful to the choir for their perseverance through all the various restrictions and difficulties, and for providing uplifting music at a time when it was so sorely needed. This was also extended to those listening online, who were able to tune in to our regular livestream in collaboration with Radio Cherwell.

We look forward with hope to the next year when normality will be further restored and hopefully the social side of music at Holy Trinity can resume fully.

Rosie Tweddle Music Director

## **Julian Group**

I'm pleased to say that we managed to keep going during 2021 using Zoom. We can now meet properly and have made a significant change in that we now meet on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm rather than in the evening of the first Tuesday. Our members are mainly retired and, particularly in the winter months, afternoon meetings are preferable. One of the group chooses a passage for group meditation and we are silent for half an hour. We then discuss the passage and go on to a social time together over tea and biscuits. New members are very welcome.

As with everything else this has been a strange year for us. We have continued to have our monthly meetings via Zoom. One of the group chooses a passage for meditation as usual and we are silent for half an hour. We then discuss the passage and go on to other conversation as we did in the real world. The only thing that is missing is the coffee and biscuits!

Sheila Allcock

## **Home groups**

The "Quarry" Homegroup has continued to meet throughout the last year, initially fortnightly by Zoom, and more recently monthly in person, with some people joining us via WhatsApp. We mourned the loss of our dear friend Jeremy Herklots in January, and have said goodbye to Joan Walding as she has stepped down from ministry at Holy Trinity. Last year our discussions centred around recent sermons, and more recently we have been discussing chapters from John Stott's book, "The Radical Disciple". We pray together and usually finish our time together sharing Compline. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month between 7pm and 8.15pm, and if you would like to join us you would be warmly welcomed.

Janet Masters.

The 'Headington' Homegroup continues to be a vibrant group of 10 who meet in each others homes. They are currently studying Forty Days With The Messiah, Reflections on the words of Handel's Oratorio. For any more information on the group please contact Jon Catterall or Sue Saville.

### **Church Library**

Owing to Covid the Library was little used during 2021, but it is now operational again. Following some very good donations, briefly described in the Church Newsletter section "Library Corner", books are being borrowed again. There is a good selection of books by and about C.S. Lewis as well as some recent books on theology. 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**

After experimenting with producing an online parish newsletter in 2020, we continued with this format in 2021. Regular newsletters were produced, with a variety of people volunteering to write short pieces of text with accompanying photographs.

For those who are not able to access the newsletters online, Helen Day very kindly sent copies by post.

In the autumn of 2021, Felicity and Karl Wallendszus stood down from editing the newsletter, and Rosie Tweddle volunteered to take over until a new editor could be found.

Thank you to everyone for all your contributions!

Felicity Wallendszus

# **The Church Building**

## **Building Development**

Our building project progressed well in 2021. The project went to tender and we appointed a contractor in January. The first phase of work took place in early 2021, and the church building now benefits from comprehensive rewiring, a new lighting system, an upgraded sound system, WIFI, and a redecorated interior. 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. The end is in sight, we hope, and we ask for prayer and support in our fundraising and in discerning God's vision for our beautiful church building.

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 our newest member Ann, come into Church every Friday morning except during Lent and Advent, to make up the arrangements you see in church each week.

We are so pleased that we have been able to return to our full compliment of arrangements after the pandemic but were pleased that we were able to maintain one arrangement throughout that time.

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 C.S. Lewis window.

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.

Helen Nowicki

### **Visitors C S Lewis**

Fortunately, 2021 did see some limited improvement on the previous year as regards visitors' numbers coming to Holy Trinity. Although, due to ongoing COVID travel restrictions, there were no group visits from overseas, individuals and small groups from within the UK were visiting once again in the latter months of 2021. We did not resume selling goods in the church but, circumstances allowing, this will happen early in 2022. Fortunately, stock levels remain high as we purchased new supplies of postcards, Narnia Window cards, Narnia tea towels etc. early in 2020 ready for that summer's visitors who of course were unable to visit due to the



pandemic. That stock was securely and safely stored and will be able to be offered for sale in 2022. In the diary we have some booking for the first three months of the year and hopefully more will be requested as the year goes by. My sincere thanks go to Mike Wooldridge who will help me in leading groups who wish to visit the church and churchyard over 2022.

Adrian Wood

### **Caretaker/Verger**

As regards the caretaking function, 2021 was successful 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 any 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, 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 2021. Pleasingly we also staged five weddings, most of which had been postponed from 2020. These were all truly joyous occasions and I reported these in the church newsletter. Pleasingly in October we restarted serving at the Eucharist and combined this with the sacristan role. This has proved a great help for Laura and for Rob. We have a team of five who kindly undertake this role. I monitor supplies of candles etc. and liaise with Flora Alexander who kindly orders these on our behalf. I am very grateful to the servers and to Flora for their work in these areas.

Adrian Wood

## **Friends of Holy Trinity**

During 2021 the committee of the Friends of Holy Trinity met (online) twice and the AGM was held (physically and online) the 18th September 2021. Meetings tended to be held virtually online. The accounts for 2021 showed a balance of £4642 at the end of year. During 2021, the Friends provided a grant of £3860 for redecoration work in the church and a grant of £25,000 for electrical wiring and lighting work. A demonstration of the new lighting was supported following the AGM. Funds raised were achieved through the Friends subscription and a donation to support a restricted grant for the church redecoration, for which we are extremely grateful. The Friends sought legal advice and proposed at an extraordinary general meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 that their constitution be amended to allow a quorum at any general meeting to be achieved with a reduced number of members present (at least ten members or one fifth of the total membership, whichever is the lower) and also endorsement for any such meetings organised by video conference to be valid. These proposals were accepted. The Friends continue to consider funding opportunities where they can be most effective and are engaged with the PCC to confirm forthcoming projects post-pandemic.

Mike Hill (Chair)

## **Community and outreach**

### **Pastoral Care Team**

During 2021 we were able to resume much (though not all) of our pre-Covid activity after the easing of the third lockdown in March. The rapid spread of vaccine availability meant that most of the team had received their first vaccination in the early months of 2021, so that, once lockdown restrictions lifted, we were able to visit people in their homes again, as well as to chat outside church when Holy Trinity re-opened at the end of March. However, difficulties

remained with visiting people in care homes and hospitals, and of course we were very careful always to work within the Covid rules and to ask people how they felt about home visits, as well as to take lateral flow tests before visiting anyone.

We all felt strongly that pastoral care was (and remains) an important component of our congregation's journey away from the pandemic. Loss of confidence and loss of mobility have affected many people, not to mention the illness caused by Covid, both short-term and long. We were therefore very cautious about planning social gatherings as we emerged from lockdown restrictions. The service of refreshments after the church service was gradually resumed on both Wednesdays and Sundays, offering valuable opportunities for chat and exchange of news to people who may have been very lonely during the lockdowns. During the autumn, Laura was able to resume offering Home Communion to several people who are housebound.

During 2021 we were delighted to welcome Janet Masters to the team. Janet brings (relative) youth and at the same time many years of experience as a District Nurse and is a fantastic addition to the team. We were incredibly sad to lose Sue Saville from the team because of her severe, and still ongoing, illness. Margaret Taylor was forced to step down as well, because of all the extra work she has taken on as Churchwarden.

Anne Tarassenko

### **Autumn Fair 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

There were several things that were against us from the outset of trying to organise the Autumn Fair. We were down a crucial committee member, we struggled to get enough helpers (which has become a regular problem) and the forecast for 2nd October 2021

was awful (and believe you me it was!). Even so we were not to be deterred.

We were very fortunate many years ago to have had funds donated by Elizabeth Rivington and funds raised by Shelagh Borden to allow us to buy the red and blue gazebos that have become part of the fetes fixtures and fittings, and this year they came into their own. During the afternoon two ladies mentioned how much they appreciated the event and enjoyed poking about to see what they could find. We had a steady stream of people all afternoon and Laura mentioned how nice it was that she had more time to chat to people as it wasn't too busy.

We thought we'd be packing up early, but in the end we didn't need to. There was a lovely atmosphere and people were determined to enjoy themselves. Dare I say it, but it felt like a normal event, although I must say we rarely have rain at the Summer Fete!

We raised around £600, nowhere near our regular fete takings, but all things considered we were pleased.

Lisa Hill

### **Thursday Lunch Club**

The Thursday Lunch Club restarted in September 2021. It was heart-warming to see how pleased the guests were that we had decided to do this and very gratifying to find that all helpers were happy to continue to support TLC.

During lockdown helpers and guests kept in touch by email and telephone. It was very good to see that those people who had no family close by were well looked after by friends, neighbours and the community. In June 2021 we had a very pleasant tea party in

the garden for helpers. It was lovely to see so many people again and we were very well provided with all kinds of delicious treats for tea. As Windmill School would be shutting Margaret Road at school pick up time, it was decided that it would be easier for everyone if the Lunch Club met half an hour earlier, so guests would begin to congregate at 12.00 noon, lunch would be served at 12.30 and would be over by 2.00 pm so that everyone could be picked up to be taken home before the road was closed. That has worked well.

In order to protect those coming to TLC we asked that all guests and helpers should be vaccinated and boosted against covid, and asked helpers, if possible, to take a lateral flow test before coming to lunch. A recent request to come to the lunches from someone who was not vaccinated and not prepared to be vaccinated was turned down. Another minor change is that before the pandemic Corpus Christi Parish used to wash all tea towels. Since the pandemic, tea-towels and oven gloves have been provided by TLC for washers up and cooks with the request to wash the ones that have been used.

Before lockdown ended TLC received a grant from the council to be spent on publicity. Posters and fliers were printed. The posters that were put up on the Headington Community Notice Boards on London Road seem to have been particularly effective and recruited several helpers: Jackie Phillips, who helps with the washing up, Rachael Treharne is helping to set up for a short while before she moves to Sheffield, and Iris Bond, who has helped me with applications for grants to the council. We have also welcomed Jane and Philip Holt as members of the team. Their efficient setting up and clearing away of tables and chairs is much appreciated. Ann Wilkins is a welcome part of the meet and greet team. Marianne Talbot has returned as a TLC driver and we are

very grateful to William Marx and Melanie Huggett for driving the guests.

Sadly Janet Roberts, who with her late husband Brian, had washed up for TLC ever since the beginning of the club, was diagnosed with cancer just around the beginning of lockdown. She seemed better when she came to the tea party last June, but then her health deteriorated and she died in March of this year. We are so very grateful to Janet and Brian for their support for TLC. We have also been very sad that Pip Murray has had to stop cooking for TLC. Pip had helped TLC for a long time producing generous helpings of delicious food. Frank's health meant that she had to prioritise support for Frank over other activities. Pip's cheery smile and her long association with TLC is greatly missed. Frank Murray had also been involved with TLC. He designed the calendar and helped with publicity material and we are very grateful to him for his willingness to assist. Anne Blackman, who had helped TLC for many years decided that she would continue to do the flowers but has retired from the meet and greet team. The flowers are greatly loved by the guests and so we are very grateful to Anne for continuing to do that, and it also gives some of us a chance of seeing her occasionally.

Pip's retirement from cooking meant that recruiting new cooks became a most important priority for TLC. We are delighted to welcome Marie Fleming, Jenny Parker and Susan Ribeiro as new cooks and are very grateful to them for being willing to give up the time for us. Needless to say the food at TLC is excellent and as one of the guests said to me: "It is surprising that there isn't a long line of people outside the door waiting to have such a good meal!"

I was particularly pleased to hear that someone working for Age UK in Headington has been recommending the lunch club to possible

guests. Although we lost a few guests during lockdown, we have attracted twelve new guests since we restarted. There are now 26 guests on our books of whom about 20 come regularly. There is a constant stream of enquiries about TLC. Word of mouth seems to be the best method of recruitment and I was very pleased to be told by the son of one of our new guests: "My mother says that it is wonderful. She wishes that she had known about TLC years ago." This particular guest has since recruited two more people from the block of flats where she lives.

We no longer have any entertainment after lunch. Sadly, both Kate Gills who used to come and sing folksongs with the guests and Chrissie (Angela McGeehin's sister) who sang while Tim played the guitar, have died in the last couple of years. We all enjoyed their singing and are so very grateful to them for all that they contributed. The guests used to enjoy having children from St. Andrew's School to come and play and sing, but so far we have felt that precautions against covid mean that having children entertaining the guests like this might still present a risk and so this has not restarted. Although one guest has mentioned that it is a pity that there is no longer any music, the majority of guests have just been happy to chat to one another.

We have also had a number of very welcome and useful donations. As well as support from the Council, we have had generous grants from both Tesco and Waitrose. We also received a donation from the estate of John Carberry, who was a guest for a while and alarmed us by the way he used to travel around on an electric bike! I am glad that TLC was able to support him.

All in all, Thursday Lunch Club is thriving. We are delighted that the guests enjoy it, and that it helps to get a number of lonely and housebound people to socialise and enjoy the lunches. Lockdown

made it very clear that many of our guests really enjoy and benefit from coming. One driver emailed me after the first lunch in September to say that the person she was driving, was : “A new woman afterwards!” as she had hardly mixed with anyone during the previous 18 months. I am also extremely grateful to all members of the team for their efforts and hard work. We couldn’t run the lunches without all the various parts of the team and the various jobs they do. I am most grateful to James Larminie for standing in for me when I am away, and his understanding of the heating, the cookers, the fuse box and the dishwasher are all essential to the smooth running of lunches! We are also grateful to Corpus Christi Parish for allowing us to use the Church Hall and the kitchen.

Katya Drummond (TLC co-ordinator)

## **The wider world**

### **Deanery Synod**

September’s Synod via Zoom was cancelled.

A Zoom Synod took place on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, where the current parish share scheme was discussed. It was agreed that the supportive nature of the scheme was commendable, and we were encouraged to pray for the future of the parish share scheme. It was also noted that a chaplain had been appointed to the Academy school.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021, a Zoom meeting took place to agree the Parish Share.

A planned Synod on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 was cancelled.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> 2022, an open meeting took place with Bishop Steven, where he spoke about spiritual renewal.

Janet Masters



## Parish Charities

The four charities supported by Holy Trinity over a number of years were reviewed in Autumn 2021. These were: Opportunity International; Practical Compassion for Destitute Children; Asylum Welcome and The Archway Foundation.

The congregation were asked to nominate charities of their choice which fell into the categories of 'local' and 'international/not local' (which could, and did, include our existing charities). A total of eight charities were nominated and the final vote was made by the PCC. It was very close indeed and several people mentioned how hard it was to choose as all the charities are deserving of our support.

However, the final selection was made:

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 the next four years, at which point there will be another review.

Our contact, Malcolm, at PCDC (Practical Compassion for Destitute Children) emailed his thanks to Holy Trinity: *'Please would you thank the people there for all the years they have so faithfully supported the children. I am honoured with the long and kind, generous support they have given us over the years.'*

I'm sure we all look forward to being able to learn more about these charities in the coming months and years and to supporting them in the vital work they do.

Felicity Wallendszus

### **Archway Foundation 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

The Archway Foundation is a local charity which was set up by a Mental Health nurse 40 years ago, to serve those hurt by loneliness. It is one of the charities supported by our church financially, and practically by several members of our congregation. Loneliness is an experience that many of us may go through at various points in our life, and it is estimated that 9 million people in the UK are often or always lonely, and that 40% of people aged between 16 and 24 report being lonely. Archway currently seeks to alleviate the distress caused by social isolation by providing telephone and face to face support to individuals, and supportive social groups in Oxford and Abingdon. If you would like more information about Archway, please go to: [archwayfoundation.org.uk](http://archwayfoundation.org.uk)

Janet Masters

### **Eco Church**

The Eco Church Group (hereafter ECG) continued to meet in 2021, thanks to Zoom, the main focus of attention being as follows.

**Awareness-raising in the build-up to COP26** (UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) held in Glasgow in November 2021. Climate Sunday, an initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, urged churches to hold their own service celebrating creation. To this end we proposed that Holy Trinity should hold a Climate Sunday service, coinciding with Churches Count on Nature Week, to which The Revd. Charlotte Banister-Parker, known for her environmental interests, was invited by Laura to preach .

November 6, designated COP26 Global Day of Action, saw a march from Manzil Way to Broad St., attended by members of our ECG. At the Holy Trinity Confirmation service on October 24, one of the ECG had drawn Bishop Steven's attention to the march. He subsequently attended, spoke, and mingled with the crowd.

In pursuit of the objective to live more sustainably, as individuals, families, and as a church community, we focussed on the five

categories outlined in A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyle, Community and Global Engagement.

### **ECG and External activity:**

- We had meetings and information exchange of ideas on eco matters with St Michael and All Angels Summertown, St Mary's Bayswater, St Nicholas Old Marston.
- HTHQ was one of 6 parish churches in the diocese to be invited to send two representatives on the InSpire course run on Zoom by University College London's Climate Action Unit, to equip churches to promote more effective climate change action. (See below under Climate Conversations)
- One member of the ECG was invited, as in previous years, to attend the Oxford Diocese Environmental Task Group.
- Three members of the ECG attended the Oxford Churches and the Environment Group, which unfortunately folded after a short time.

### **Other ECG activity within Holy Trinity:**

- Liaison with and participation in Forest Church.
- Thoughts about holding an eco talks series had to be abandoned due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19.
- The USPG Environmental Justice Lent Course, led by Rob Gilbert was attended by 4 ECG members + 2 further members of the congregation.
- One member of the ECG was on the Buildings Sub-Group, and contributed knowledge and expertise on technical matters. This led to investigations into electricity-powered carbon-neutral heating systems - air source heat pumps-, and engaging ESOx to research options for a new heating system at Holy Trinity.
- Two members of the ECG explored the Parish Buying Scheme (the C of E Purchasing Group) to investigate contracts, costs and

providers of energy from renewable sources. A new provider was recommended for electricity; this contract is now in place. The same will apply for gas when the current (unbreakable) contract ends.

- They also brought to the attention of the Parish Administrator and Treasurer the wide range of products available through our office products contract.
- One member continued taking readings for gas and electricity, entering them in Pilio to get calculations and comparison with previous years.
- Solar panel generation readings were taken for the Binswood Avenue house and were submitted along with the vicarage panel readings to Good Energy for FIT payment.
- ECO resources lists were created at intervals and made available on the church website, alerting people to webinars, talks and reading materials with an eco theme
- The ECG's proposed to include an environment-focused charity in our charitable giving (Water Aid) was implemented.
- ECG members contribute to our worship through the intercessions rota, invariably including an environmental component in the prayers.

A requirement after the 8 meetings of the InSpire course was a project to be carried out in the delegates' church, with guidance from the course leaders. For us this took the form of Climate Conversations, initially focusing in part on how the lockdown might have changed patterns of behaviour, leading to a more sustainable life style. Thirteen groups were held, with pilot meetings in gardens in August; cooler weather and Covid regulations caused a hiatus, with activity resumed when conditions allowed. Participants' suggestions for a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle were to lead to the 14-page document of actions for individuals and families (now on the website). This project is ongoing in 2022, with the focus shifted onto community actions.

Hilary Rollin