

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for year ended 31st December 2022

Welcome

During 2022 Covid restrictions were finally lifted and more people returned, albeit slowly, to worship in church and activities in the Ministry Centre. As a church we committed to praying for numerical and spiritual growth every day at morning prayer and in our Sunday worship. As a result, we witnessed new people joining us at both Sunday gatherings and there was an increase in people attending our outreach groups, FACT, Luncheon Club, CAVE, Knit and Natter, including an increase in the number of young people connecting with us.

Holding on to our Bible motto verse for 2022 has made us more reliant on God and less reliant on ourselves. Sometimes doing less to be more intentional about the outreach offered and the development of relationships. We started the year with a fantastic church weekend away to Cloverley Hall with the theme to 'stir one another up'. **Rev Neil Short** helped us to think through how we can reach out to our local community and the whole weekend enabled us to encourage one another post pandemic and to continue to build on the firm foundations of our faith.



In February 2022 God answered our prayer and sent us **Fiona Collins** to oversee and manage the cleaning of the Ministry Centre. Fiona has proved to be a valuable member of the team and thanks to her hard work and dedication the Ministry Centre is always sparkling. We are thankful to the many volunteers who step in to clean the Centre when Fiona is on annual leave. The Church cleaning is looked after by **Jenny Rawcliffe** and the Busy Bees team. A big thank you to everyone who has made the church so welcoming for weddings, funerals and on Sundays. In 2022 our **Victoria Foster** stepped down from overseeing the flowers in church after over 10 years in post. We are extremely grateful for Victoria's commitment and hard work to ensure the church looked welcoming and beautiful. Victoria has now handed the baton on to **Lesley Birchall** and **Barbara Stevens** who are doing an excellent job but could do with more volunteers.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Café volunteers, Café Vista remained open for the majority of 2022. A big thank you to **Lesley Birchall** for her hard work and commitment to

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Café Vista and Café team leaders **Ann Roberts** and **Lisa Matthews**. The Café has welcomed new volunteers in the last twelve months and we are grateful to all our team of volunteers for giving of their time and making Café Vista a hub of our community. The Café is operating at full capacity and we are delighted that it is back to where it was before the pandemic again thanks to the dedication of so many volunteers.

In 2022 we embarked on an exciting new project to design a new website. Having identified our website designer, **Ste Anders** from Masterpiece Creative Design we prayed for people to join a small working party to help create the content. This prayer was answered when amazingly God called two people, both of whom worship at Christ Church via our online platform **Adele Eccleston** and **Nigel Sharpe**. For a period of six months Adele and Nigel met weekly with Ste Anders to create a website that would enable Christ Church to engage with new people whilst also ensuring our current congregation were kept informed of news and events. Nigel and Adele worked hard to ensure that the historical details of Christ Church were accessible to people. They also added the all important 'I am new' section a vital first step for newcomers. As a result of our new website we have had more baptism enquiries and people accessing our events. I am extremely grateful to Nigel and Adele for all their hard work, diligence and commitment to this essential project and for their continued support in ensuring that our website is kept current and relevant. During the design process



one of the key aims was to make the website more accessible to our visitors to ensure that there was a good proportion of videos as well as text. Thanks to **Michael Lake** for filming various members of the congregation and for giving new people insight into our church family, life and ministry.

As well as the new website we also designed a new logo for Christ Church. The inspiration for the new design came from the name Aughton, which means the Oak Homestead, suggesting that Aughton was home to many oak trees. In addition the Bible has several references to oak trees as a symbol of strength and endurance. Our new logo is a daily reminder that as followers of Jesus, we must look to Him to give us the strength of an oak tree, producing many acorns to bear witness to Him, so that others will come to know Him.

In addition to the website Adele agreed to oversee the content for 'A Church Near You', a C of E initiative that enables people to locate their nearest Church. Nigel agreed to produce the information slides for our Sunday worship. All of these projects have ensured that Christ Church is on the map locally, nationally helping us achieve our main mission statements to welcome people as they are and to share the love of Jesus.

After our Ministry Centre co-ordinator, Vicky Sime's resignation in March 2022, sadly we were unsuccessful in filling her post. However, in May 2022 God heard our prayer and blessed us with **Naomi Munyahu**. Naomi has proved to be a wonderfully dedicated, hardworking member of the team. We owe a lot to Naomi for her diligence,

commitment and service to the life and Ministry of our church. Thanks to Naomi and the volunteers the Ministry Centre has not only kept running but has also expanded with new groups joining. In 2022 we also partnered with the probation service and worked alongside the community payback team. Thanks to this team the church and Ministry Centre grounds have been cleaned, painted and maintained.

Throughout 2022 the PCC were committed to securing money to employ a new youth worker, engaging with Fit For Mission, and ensuring that Christ Church continues to look beyond the walls of the church into the community.

With the return of Sunday in person worship, we were able to continue offering online worship for the vulnerable, those still unable to return to church and those living further afield. Our online prayer community continued to grow with an average of 12 people on zoom, 10 live on FB and 120 people viewing the service throughout the day/week. 2022 saw the most baptism services at Christ Church since 2013 with 19 baptisms, four of which were full immersion and six Thanksgiving services. Sadly, the pandemic meant that some weddings were cancelled and so, unusually, there were no weddings in 2022. However, our work supporting the bereaved continued with 21 funerals. We thank God for those church members who entered into glory – **Edward Crabb, Jean Dennier, Irene Davies, Ron French and Pat Oldfield**. In addition, 10 more names were added to the memorial.

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Worship and Prayer

Part of our prayer for growth is the line 'joy to our worship'. Following a meeting with Sarah about how to move things forward with the Music group and attract new members we decided to organise a training day in October. This was led by **Andy Clark**, a worship leader and songwriter based in Chester who is part of the Resound Worship organisation. The day was a great success as it encouraged several new people to get involved and gave all of us a chance to reflect on what we do in the band, and new ways to approach songs.

After the training day we re-introduced a Monday evening practice (*monthly initially*), which helped as a way of easing new people into the team. We were delighted to welcome back **Millie Casey** playing clarinet and our two new singers **Jenny Capstick** and **Emily Smith**. It has also been great to welcome **Sarah O'Donoghue** to some practices and she has kindly stepped in at short notice when we have been low on singers.

Tess Raynor has also become a fairly regular member of the band on either piano or drums and we are all keen to see more interaction with the youth band in future. The aim is that one day there will be more than one band leading worship at the 10:45 service so that everyone gets the opportunity to get involved and also to have a break.

John Raynor

I am grateful to all those who help us bring joy to our worship:

Eunice Woof, Graeme Scroggie, David Smith, Mark Jones, Debs Raynor,



John Raynor, Tookie Chessher, Jeff Shaw, along with **Adele Spence, Julia Wilson, Bill Casey** and **Tess Raynor.** The youth worship band continues to grow under the guidance of **Neil Frackelton** and **Debbie Jones.**

The group continues to meet and rehearse on a Monday evening and play an active part on our monthly Night LYFE service. I also want to thank **Pete Chalk, Bill Evans, Wally Coppelov, Jonathan Lock, Bill Casey, Alice Howarth, Eileen Hughes, Billy Regan, Laurence Abernethy, Cian O'Donoghue, David Cobbold, Wardens** and **Deputy Wardens** for all their technical support in our services.

2022 was the year of the new organ. Following a leak above the old organ which caused considerable damage and with the subsequent insurance claim we were able to purchase a new electronic organ. This was installed over a period of a few weeks followed by the final testing and fine tuning by Stephen Derringer from the Diocese.

Our 9.00am service grew in 2022 with an average Sunday attendance of between 40-60 people. The introduction of the good news slot in both services has meant that all members of the congregation can celebrate the signs of growth and new life not just on a Sunday but throughout the week.

We have continued to have our 'This Time Tomorrow' slot, at our 10:45 service. Numbers at 10:45 have been steady and we have seen some new families join us. The introduction of

refreshments between the two Sunday services has been a welcome addition and helped bring the two



worshipping congregations together. The Wednesday Communion service also grew in 2022 with an average attendance of 30 people. During Lent we successfully ran the Character course.

Our Upper Room prayer room continues to be a welcomed addition to the Ministry Centre and is used regularly for morning prayer Monday – Thursday and throughout the week by LYFE groups for meetings and prayer.

Mission, Outreach and Evangelism

In January 2022 we ran our first three-week Hope Explored course. As well as encouraging people to invite their non-Christian friends onto the course we also invited all our Baptism families to attend. A total of three Hope Explored courses were held in 2022.

In 2022 we ran another online Alpha in conjunction with St James Westhead. Thanks to the leadership of **Eric Wilson** and lots of willing host leaders and those offering prayer support we were able to journey with people.

In 2022 we launched our new Connect Sundays, an opportunity for members of the congregation to host a meal or be a guest, to enjoy fellowship and to get to know new people. Cian and Sarah also hosted two welcome meals for new people at the Vicarage.

On 14th May we hosted an organ recital with **Professor Ian Tracey** to mark the installation of our new digital sampler organ.

On Sunday 5th June we had a Jubilee Lunch in the Ministry Centre for the Queen's Jubilee and people were asked to wear something red, white and blue.

Later on in the month was Jackie's

priesting on Saturday 18th June at Liverpool Cathedral when members of the church were there to support her on this very special day. The following day was the Church Garden party at the vicarage. It was a wonderful day and we were blessed with good weather.

In September it was good to re-open the tower after two years of lockdown. We had the Tower Open Day where we had lots of people taking the opportunity to go up the tower and take in the views of the surrounding area. Refreshments were provided by members of the congregation and during the day we were entertained by a variety of singers and organists.

In October we hosted a 'light night party for the local community as an alternative to Halloween. In November our young people hosted our annual Tear Fund Quiz. Also, in November we had an open day where the plans for the re-development of the back of the church were on display. The congregation were invited to come and see the plans and to fill in a feedback sheet with their views and comments.

In December we saw an increase in attendance for our Nativity, Christingle and Carol services.

Leadership and development

In January we launched our Bible Motto for 2022: ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"*** Proverbs 3:5-6

In July 2022 we said goodbye to **Andy Monks** after he successfully secured a job as Head of Children and Youth at

Ascension Church, Balham. Andy's legacy continues in our children and young people's work. It is a real blessing to know that thanks to the leadership opportunities Andy gained during his time here at Christ Church he was able to bless another church and grow further as a leader.

In June 2022 **Rev Jackie Davies** was priested at Liverpool Cathedral. Jackie is now able to preside at communion and take weddings. As well as taking on more responsibilities in leading services and preaching, Jackie has also been working on developing a new initiative – Forest Toddlers. This will be launched in May 2023.

In 2022 **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue** was invited to join the National LYCIG (*Leading Your Church Into Growth*) team and invited to speak at two of the National conferences in 2023. Sarah has been supporting several clergy in the Liverpool Diocese in leading their church to growth. She was also asked by **Bishop Bev Mason** to support the work of evangelism in the Diocese of Liverpool. This will involve running seminars for curates in 2023 and representing the Diocese at the Northern Missioners conferences.

Leadership teams and Wardens

I personally want to thank all members of the PCC and Ministry team for their commitment and hard work in supporting the practical and spiritual life of Christ Church. I am thankful to **Jonathan Lock** for his wisdom, hard work and commitment to keeping Christ Church online and for all his hard work in ensuring the new AV system



is fully installed. Special thanks also go to **Graham, Jackie and Janet** and members of the Ministry Team: **Rikki Abernethy, Fiona Craig, Geoff Fallows, Jane Lake, Paul Livesley, Angela Mellor** and **Jeff Shaw**.

In the autumn of 2022, **Helen Livesley** stepped forward as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer for Children and Young people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Jaime Craig** for the many years of service he gave to this role. Our vulnerable adult safeguarding officer is **Karen Roberts**.

I would also like to thank our finance team for their hard work. In particular our PCC treasurer, **Mark Patterson**, for helping us all to understand the church accounts and ensuring that we save money on operational costs. In 2022 we welcomed **Jane Archbold** to the finance team. Jane has been a great asset to the team and a wonderful support to **Mark Patterson**. Special thanks also go to **Steve Hilton** for overseeing our Missions and Charities giving.

Finally, I want to thank our churchwardens **Patricia Slater** and **John Critchley** and deputy wardens **Carole Rankin** and **Dennis Koogje**. They are a great support to me and work tirelessly to fulfil their roles as wardens and deputy wardens, often at unsociable hours and sacrificing family time.

Rev Sarah O'Donoghue

Administrative Information
Christ Church Aughton, Long Lane,
Aughton, Ormskirk L39 5AS
Official correspondence to



The PCC Secretary,
Parish Office, at the above
address.

Objectives

Christ Church Aughton PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in this parish (*PCC {Powers} Measure 1956*). It is responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Ministry Centre and the curate's house in Peet Avenue. Christ Church Aughton is a broad and welcoming church that seeks to provide a spiritual home for all who seek God in Jesus Christ.

We proclaim the Gospel of Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, as part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of churches. We worship the one true God, enjoy and share the fellowship of all our members and friends and aim to share Jesus with everyone beginning in our community.

Appointment to the PCC

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Structure, Management and Governance

Christ Aughton PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission - no. 1129036

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has an important role in the governance and management of the church and its elected members are the representatives of the congregation.

PCC meetings are normally chaired by the Vicar. The Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Deanery Synod Representatives are ex-officio members. PCC members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the church, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The maintenance, repair, insurance of the church buildings and contents and the church grounds, are the responsibility of the PCC. Financial decisions are made jointly by the PCC and the Vicar. The full PCC normally meets every two months, with Standing Committee meetings on alternate months. The PCC receives regular reports from its Committees, Deanery Synod representatives, Ministry Team, Pastoral Care Team. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda.

During 2022 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue**
(Chair)

Curate: **Jackie Davies**

Wardens: **Mr John Critchley**
Mrs Patricia Slater

Deputy Wardens: **Mr Dennis Koogje**
Mrs Carole Rankin

Deanery Synod: **Mr David Cobbold**
Mr Bill Casey

Elected members:

Mr Jonathan Burke (PCC Secretary)
(2022-2023)

Mr Mark Patterson (Treasurer)
(2019-2022)

Miss Jessica Harrison (2022-2025)

Mr Joe Johnson (co-opted annually)

Mrs Louise Kelly (2021-2024)

Mr Jonathan Lock (Reader)
(2022-2025)

Mr John Shaw (2020-2023)

Mr Roger Spence (2020-2023)

Mr Peter Stewart (2022-2025)

Mrs Jodie Taylor (2022-2025)

Bankers: RBS, Drummond House
Branch, 1 Redheughs Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH12 9JN

Independent Examiner: Collins and
Co Chartered Accountant and Registered
Auditor, Suite 13, Hattersley House, 1
Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, L39 2AY

Architect: Schafer Associates, 56
Belvedere Rd, Ashton-In-Makerfield,
Wigan, WN4 8RU

Day to day management and control
of the Church is exercised by the Rector
and Wardens: The **Rev Sarah
O'Donoghue**, Wardens **Mr John
Critchley** and **Mrs Patricia Slater**,
contactable via the Ministry Centre
office on 01695 424530

Committees

The PCC operates through four sub-committees, which meet as required between full meetings of PCC. Each sub-committee includes one or more co-opted member who serves by invitation of the relevant sub-committee chair (*who must be an elected member of the PCC*), in consultation with the vicar. The principle of three-year memberships also applies to co-opted members.

PCC members receive
regular instruction and



advice on their roles as Trustees, on health and safety issues, risk assessment and management, and on child and vulnerable adult protection procedures, from the relevant PCC officers.

Standing Committee

Required by law, it transacts the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the full Council. Membership of the Standing Committee is the Vicar, the Churchwardens, Deputy Church Wardens, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

Stewardship Committee

To assist the treasurer in all areas involving finance, including compliance with procedures, gift aid, administration, financial planning, budgeting, charitable giving and special appeals. The stewardship committee are also responsible for the personnel of paid employees and volunteers. Membership in 2022 was **Mark Patterson** (Chair), **Jenny Ray** (Secretary), **Roger Spence**, **Dennis Koogje**, **John Appleton** (co-opted), **Steve Hilton** (co-opted), **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue**

Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the Church building, Ministry Centre and the Curate's House. Membership for 2022 was **Josh Johnson** (Chair), **Liz Mawdsley** (Secretary), **John Critchley**, **Jonathan Burke**, **John Shaw**, **Sarah O'Donoghue**.



Ministry Team

This committee includes members of the PCC and Ministry team. This committee is responsible for overseeing services, leading, preaching, young people and pastoral care. Membership for 2022 was Sarah O'Donoghue (Chair), Angela Mellor, **Geoff Fallows**, **Andy Monks** (left July 2022), **Graham Rutter**, **Rikki Abernethy**, **Jonathan Lock**, **Fiona Craig**, **Jane Lake**, **Jeff Shaw**, **Paul Livesley**, **Janet Roberts**, **Jackie Davies**.

Ministry Centre Operations Committee

To assist the Ministry Centre Administrator in the management of all the Ministry Centre activities including Café Vista and its maintenance. Membership for 2022 was **John Shaw** (Chair), **Vicky Sime** (Secretary left May 2022), **Lesley Birchall**, **Kath Elliott**, **Carole Rankin**, **Wendy Arthur**, **Sarah O'Donoghue**.

The electoral roll

At present there are 252 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 190 are resident in the parish, 62 of which are not resident within the parish, 92 male and 160 female.

PCC Secretary's Report

This is my first report having taken over from **Laurence Abernethy** last year. I should like to say a big thank you to Laurence for the time and care he took in bringing me 'up to speed'. I should also like to express my thanks to **Jenny Wray** and **Liz Mawdsley**, my fellow 'scribes' for providing the reports from the Stewardship and Fabric sub committees respectively.

The PCC meets alternate months, excluding August and December, with most members sitting on the Stewardship or Fabric sub-committees which meets in the months PCC is not meeting, so if you ever wondered where so many people went on the second Tuesday of each month ~ now you know.

There are three main areas of work undertaken by any PCC. Firstly, the routine review of what the sub-committees are doing, including authorising expenditure or looking at what needs to be done. Secondly, instigating actions and initiatives, usually referring further work to the sub-committees as most activities need somewhere to be undertaken and any activity has cost implications. An example of such instigation would be the 2020 vision group. Thirdly, is reacting to external influences, such as deanery or diocesan initiatives, the actions of other bodies or changes in the various regulations by which the PCC is bound, for example the Charity Commissioners. I will run through a few examples of each below but it is not an exhaustive list so please forgive me if I omit something of particular importance to you.

Routine. Paying the bills and keeping the books is never going to be glamorous but it is an essential activity. This year has seen a lot of work undertaken to save money by merging contracts for the security system, getting the best deal for electricity, including obtaining the rebate due because we are a charity, and determining how best the financial functions can be undertaken in the Ministry Centre. In addition, there has been much debate about how best to

meet the practical needs of opening and the movement of furniture within the Ministry Centre. On the fabric front there has been a lot of work done on the new AV desk and the costing of the re-ordering the back of church, with much investigation of various potential types of heating. Each year a certain amount of work is done to meet the needs identified in the quinquennial survey required by the diocese. **Josh Johnson** is the fount of all knowledge when it comes to things quinquennial. One standard item on the agenda is 'Safeguarding'. Happily, there has been nothing to report in this context except the appointment of a new Parish Safeguarding Officer for Children and Young People ~ **Helen Livesley** and the appointment of new volunteer ~ **Milly Casey** to ensure we are all suitably checked.

Instigated. One of the primary priorities at CCA is mission and to this end we have spent many a vexed hour trying to determine the right balance of workload and how to recruit a Youth Worker and or a Families Worker. In the event recruitment of a Youth Worker has, as yet, not been successful but, obviously, this is not something we will be giving up on and we will continue to look at recruitment methods or alternative strategies. 2020 vision continues to be a major part of the future, albeit fraught with difficulties. As many a 'work in progress' has caused people to comment, "it will be lovely when it is finished".

Reactionary. There are two major issues that have dominated our discussions this year. The Scouts placing



railings across the front of the proposed Garden of Remembrance adjacent the Sands has precluded further work and despite various overtures to discuss the situation no response has been forthcoming. Secondly, and, much more significant, has been the 'Fit for Mission' initiative from the diocese which has taken a lot of time in reading, debate and attending information gathering sessions. This continues to predominate our activities and will continue to do so after a decision to join or opt out has to be made this autumn, probably October. Whichever way is chosen will have a profound effect on how we operate once we make that choice. The stress and anxiety this burden of responsibility causes should not be underestimated.

Jonathan Burke (PCC Secretary)

Treasurer's report

Firstly, I'd like to emphasise that I couldn't fulfil the duties of the treasurer role without the help and support of a number of people including **Jane Archbold** (*Finance Officer*), **Jen Ray** (*gift aid and GASDS*), **John and Janice Appleton** (*giving envelopes*), **Steve Hilton** (*Missions and Charities Officer*) and **Naomi** (*general admin support*), **Paul and Bev Collins** (*Accountants*) for which I am very grateful.

As with everyone, the current financial crisis has had an impact on the church finances which is ongoing. The monthly payments on the Ministry Centre loan have increased by £325.15/month since April 2022, whilst

our estimated energy bills have increased threefold to £33,000/year. Although we have had some financial



support from the government, there is a still a substantial increase in our monthly outgoings. This means that we will start to eat into our reserves of £35k over the coming months. With this in mind, we are grateful for your continued donations in these difficult times and I will continue to ensure that we make the most of the contributions we receive.

We had a Gift Day in June towards the salaries of a Youth Worker and Children's/Family worker. The total giving for the Gift Day so far is £39,089.96 (£46,509.95 inc. Gift Aid). As we wait on God, these restricted funds will be held until we are able to secure the right people to take on these roles.

As with previous years, we have been blessed with a number of legacies and gifts which have helped to keep us afloat as well as support the ongoing work to develop the church to make it more accessible and amenable. This emphasises the ongoing importance of legacy giving in supporting our ongoing mission to reach people with the gospel in our surrounding area.

The donation station has now been operating since September 2022 and is collecting an average of over £200 per month. We are currently renting the device on a quarterly basis. However, Jonathan Lock has now sourced a cheaper device that we have purchased outright for sole use in the church, which should be much easier to set up and use (*Hallelujah*). I would like to thank **Steve Hilton**, the outgoing Missions and Charities Officer, for his contributions to this role over many years and to **Stephen Marsh** for taking on this role.

Mark Patterson (Treasurer)

Finance Officer report

I took on the role of Finance Officer in June 2022 following the resignation of Vicky Sime, the previous FO. I am employed for 4 hours a week, my main responsibilities being:

- Recording all incoming receipts and Banking Monies
- Recording all outgoing payments to suppliers
- Bank Reconciliation
- Invoice Generation and Reconciliation
- Petty Cash Management
- Preparation of accounts for submission to the accountants Paul Collins & Co

It has certainly been a steep learning curve and without the help of numerous individuals I would not have been able to complete my duties.

My appreciation goes to, **Milly Casey**, **Jenny Ray**, **Mark Patterson** our Treasurer and of course **Naomi**, who keeps the office running on a daily basis. Finally, special thanks to **Lesley Smith** who comes in every week to count all the cash received, be it café takings, membership fees, donations and so much more. She also takes all receipts round to the local post office to bank, a somewhat onerous task which she always does with a smile, I am forever grateful for her help, support and friendship.

Mondays

. . . at the Ministry Centre although quieter than the rest of the week, still sees a fair number of visitors come through the doors. Bumps and Babes meet upstairs every week in the cinema room between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and the volunteers who set up for

Toddlers (*Tuesday Meeting*) come in just after 1:00pm. Morning prayer, led by Sarah and Jackie, is held in the small prayer room, bringing in regular worshippers. Once a month the Knit and Natter group meet on a Monday morning in Café Vista, always a lively morning! And without fail we get at least two visitors every Monday asking, “Is the Café open” We also welcome church members to the Whole Church Prayer meetings at 12:00 noon and again in the evening at 7:00pm on a monthly basis.

I will leave Mark and the Accountants to deliver the key financial points, but I thought worthy of note the revenues received from the smaller outreach groups that regularly meet at the Ministry Centre.

Bumps and Babes (Monday)

January to December 2022 £266

Cave (Friday)

January to December 2022 £361

Toddlers (Tuesday)

January to December 2022 £1697

Luncheon Club (Wednesday)

January to December 2022 (£4819)
(£1900 expenses)

We have a list of regulars who hire rooms in the Ministry Centre: U3A Ukulele Group. Spanish Lessons for Kids and Women’s Institute. In addition we have ad hoc bookings for parties, weddings, local business conventions, and main hall hired on local election day.

I am looking forward to the coming year, the continuing use of the building by our regulars and the potential for growth in the business. Changes to staff, updates to some of the administration processes planned and focus on how the Ministry Centre will best



serve the Community all point towards an exciting and rewarding 2023.

Jane Archbold, Finance Officer

Mission and Charities

For the year ending 31st December 2022, the Missions & Charities account received income from the monthly tithe (£12,144) and from a Diocese rebate received by the church (£6,839). It also gratefully received a legacy of £15,000 from the estate of Mary Clayton and an anonymous donation of £8,500. The latter two donations have been ring-fenced for the future financing of one or more Youth Workers.

The account also received funds raised by the Knit & Natter group (£1,896) and distributed to Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Foodbanks, Ykids!, We are Hope Street.

Also, the 'Girlie Night In' group raised £1,284 and distributed to Skelmersdale Foodbank, Children in Need and Macmillan (*in honour of our friend Gay Wells*).

A total of £11,227 was paid out to charities chosen largely by the LYFE groups. They include Lifewords, Age UK, Mercy Ships, Prison Fellowship, Centrepoint, West Lancs Debt Advice, Queenscourt Hospice, Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Foodbanks, and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

We supported other Christian organisations that rely on our support such as the Bible Society (£500) and St Cleopas Toxteth (£1,000) and assisted

Christ Church Primary school, hit hard by the huge increase in heating costs (£1,500).



For families and individuals in despair and with nowhere else to turn, a total of £1,840 was given at the Vicar's discretion. Finally, the account assisted some church members to attend the weekend away at Cloverley Hall with a contribution of £1,336.

Steve Hilton

Wardens' Report

Over this past year at Christ Church there have been changes and challenges. God is working His purpose out as he 'nudges' us into action. Our prayer for growth is being answered, and the people of His church are growing spiritually and numerically. We thank God for this.

We have been challenged with finances, and with our buildings and structure. God has answered with generous giving from the congregation and in providing resources. Cafe Vista has been busy and the ministry centre's activities have grown. We thank God for Fiona, our cleaner; the church cleaning gang; the ministry centre administrator, Naomi and now her new colleague, Gail who responded to God's nudge. We thank God for all those who volunteer and look to the future with gladness that there will be cafe ambassadors to give support, love and prayer in this place.

Men's ministry at Christ church has also grown with a new venture ~ The Cave. God certainly 'nudged' the men into action to provide a place for a new expression of faith here.

Over the year the people of God here have been growing and looking outward into the local community. There have been events inviting local people and members of other churches to seek faith

and become more of God's family. We look to the future when, working together, more people will come to know the living God we worship. We are challenged in this by the Fit for Mission initiative and prayerfully hope to continue to work together with local churches and congregations.

As wardens we have learnt new systems within church ~ particularly the use of the new AV system ~ and hope to facilitate worship, in the background at each service. We thank God for the continuance of online services and the improved website allowing the church to be accessible to all who wish to explore faith.

It has not always been easy to answer the command of Jesus to Peter (*and us*) to 'take care of my sheep' and to 'follow me' but, as a church and as wardens, we are learning to hear God's small voice and to act on it. (*John 21:16,19.*) Overall, it has been an exciting year in the life of the church and we look forward to the new challenges ahead and for further growth in the church.

Tricia Slater and John Critchley

Graveyard Report

The grass in the graveyard is cut at intervals through the growing season. Members of the congregation and the parish continue to maintain the flowerbeds and the Garden of Rest. The wardens have been working hard removing waste from the graveyard.

Tricia Slater and John Critchley, Wardens; Carole Rankin and Dennis Koogje, Deputy Wardens.

Fabric Report

This report covers all the buildings owned or managed by the church. To include the Church, Ministry Centre, and the Curate's house at 25 Peet Avenue. The remit of the Fabric Committee is centred in two areas.

- 1) Maintaining the existing fabric of the Church and all church properties both external and internal including keeping the external grounds in a tidy and safe working order.
- 2) Improving the buildings, and their facilities to the benefit of the church and the wider community.

CHURCH

The Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken in April 2020 the contents of which were reviewed.

Ninety five percent of jobs which were required for the first 12-month period have now been carried out. We need to complete the remaining five percent by the end of August 2023.

Regarding the jobs for the period 12 to 24 months, 95 percent of the jobs have been carried out with the remaining five percent of jobs being completed by April 2024 with a cost of some £5000.00.

The jobs that have been carried out over the last 12 months are as follows.

1. Boiler fan and ignition relay replaced.
2. Boiler serviced.
3. New digital hive system fitted to control central heating.
4. New sound and vision system fitted - 2020 vision.
5. Fit new lead and glass window to vestry.
6. New Organ fitted and working.



OUTSIDE

1. Initial works on Memorial Garden carried out then ceased.
2. Outside metal railings repainted along with handrail to steps and external doors stained/repainted
3. Tarmac to top of steps bordering the A59.
4. Fix lead flashing to roof / junction of church tower on north elevation.
5. Electrician carry out rewiring for sound desk
6. Clear and clean surface water and combined drains around the church

Proposed works to be carried out over the course of the next 12 months providing funds are available.

- 1) Complete the remaining five and five percent of works for both 12 and 24 months that are required in the quinquennial report.
- 2) Construct new disabled toilet and social area to the rear of church - 2020 vision
- 3) New Glass doors to Church entrance - 2020 vision
- 4) Change central heating boiler and system - 2020 vision
- 5) Fill and repair tarmac footpath around the church to help disabled access.
- 6) Clear vegetation from top of church tower repair flashings.
- 7) Re-point and repair stonework in various sections around the church.
- 8) Carry out condition survey of Church tower.
- 9) Complete setting up of new Sound and Vision system.
- 10) Replace Cracked Hinge



stones to Doors to Choir vestry and Chancel.

- 11) Hopefully start the Memorial Garden
- 12) Commence remaining items required in the quinquennial report before April 2025

The grass cutting and the maintenance of the hedges both to the church and ministry centre grounds are under contract by Max who has carried on doing an excellent job again this year.

A special thank you to the Community Service workers who carry out maintenance work to the grounds, tidying up the graveyard and removal of all dead flowers and painting to the Church and Ministry Centre. Also, the great work carried out on a regular basis by our own volunteers keeping the graveyard flower beds to both church and ministry centre gardens so neat and tidy.

A special thank you to the ladies volunteers who carry out the cleaning to the church on a weekly basis organised by **Jenny Rawcliffe** and the Busy Bees.

Ministry Centre

Jobs that have been carried out over the last 12 months are as follows.

- 1) The Ministry centre central heating system required new control valves fitted to each manifold to reduce pressure and the system totally flushed out. Also new digital valves added to the radiators upstairs. This has improved the efficiency and the performance of the heating system.
- 2) New electrical sockets fitted around the sound and video system to make safe wiring for health and safety reasons

- 3) Make safe wiring to bottom of staircase to wall lights
- 4) Repair lighting to lift.
- 5) Service the dividing moveable partitioning to main hall.
- 6) Repairs and maintenance to automatic Entrance doors.
- 7) Service boiler and gas safe certificate.
- 8) Carryout usual general maintenance
- 9) Part remove the safe from the main office.

Joe Johnson

2020 Vision Working Group

Members: **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue, David Dennison, Joe Johnson, John Appleton, Jonathan Lock, Liz Mawdsley, Rikki Abernethy**

Purpose of Group

To take forward the plans to improve accessibility and facilities for the disabled, including the provision of accessible toilets, re-siting/re-fitting of kitchen, improving the access to church including new doors for the church porch and the re-ordering of the inside of church. The group has met on 12 occasions since the last APCM.

The first four meetings were spent reviewing and refining the plans produced by the Diocesan Architect, Bill Schafer, in consultation with others including Rob Blackmore from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (*DAC*), who has expertise in church heating systems and particularly underfloor heating.

An explanatory booklet was produced alongside the proposed plans for the phased re-ordering and a 3-D model of the proposed changes which was made by Bill Schafer's daughter, Sally. These were available in church over a 4-week

period culminating in an opening morning on 19th November 2022 which was open to all church members and members of the community to review. Sally presented a 'fly-through video' of the proposed plans to assist people in capturing a 3-D impression of what the re-ordering would look like. All members of the congregation were encouraged to complete feedback forms during this four-week consultation period. Written feedback was received from 49 people ~ (29 individuals and 10 couples). There was overwhelming support that we should go ahead with phase 1 providing the improved access, entrance, including glass doors, accessible toilets and re-location of the kitchen. There was concern raised regarding the underfloor heating and we have, therefore, spent some time exploring the options again. This has included visiting other churches to assess the effectiveness, visual acceptability, noise implications and discussions with independent heating engineers including exploring the option of infra-red radiant heating. We are awaiting further information regarding infra-red heating. However, at present the working group considers that underfloor heating is the best option, as it provides an efficient means of heating the church with no intrusion on the visual appearance of the church interior and no noise.

The group has recommended to the PCC that Bill Schafer should be formally appointed as Architect to the project. We are awaiting costings from builders. Once these have been obtained, they will be provided to the PCC and,



provided the PCC supports going ahead with Phase 1, a faculty will be submitted to the DAC. It will not be possible to start work on the project until the faculty is approved. It is hoped that it may be possible to start work in Autumn 2023.

Rikki Abernethy and Liz Mawdsley

Deanery Synod Report

Christ Church Aughton is part of Ormskirk Deanery. The Deanery Synod at which we represent Christchurch met three times. In July 2022, at Rainford, the meeting was entirely given over to a presentation from Liverpool Diocese on the alarming risks of declining membership and financial trends in the churches of the Diocese and a diocesan action plan, 'Fit for Mission'. In November, at Lydiate, the main subject was the Leading Your Church Into Growth (*LYCIG*) programme with some very positive feedback from Upholland, Digmoor, Dalton where a clergy and lay team had attended LYCIG training. The same meeting also featured a moving account from Lydiate rep. Debra Walker on an official visit with Bishop Bev. to Kumasi Diocese in Ghana as the guests of the Bishop of Kumasi and the Ashanti King of the Region.

Liverpool, Kumasi and Virginia Dioceses are linked in a 'Triangle of Hope' that reflects and seeks to learn and heal from the atrocity of the slave trade. In February 2023 at Burscough a half-day meeting was again given over to exploring more of the detail, implications, reservations and outright

objections to the Fit for Mission proposals. In addition to the meetings of Synod there have been a



number of further opportunities for Synod members, PCC members and ordinary church members to explore and learn more about Fit for Mission. Christ Church representative **Bill Casey** has also served as Deanery Secretary. 2023 is the year for election of New Deanery synod representatives at the APCM. Christ Church is entitled to elect up to five representatives.

David Cobbold and Bill Casey

Reports from Church Groups and activities

I hope as you read the brief reports from each of the ministries/groups within our church family that you will be encouraged by how we have achieved our mission to share Jesus with everyone and to enable people to 'Come as they are'.

School links and partnerships

This year we have continued to work in partnership with our church school offering pastoral support to teachers and pupils in the school. We visited school weekly for collective worship and supported the Worship Warriors group. We hosted Harvest Festival and Christmas services as well as a Year 6 Leavers' service. We have also supported the RE curriculum with lessons on Pentecost, the Bible, Baptism/Belonging, Eucharist, Transition to High School workshops. Sadly, due to an increase in Covid infections in school we were unable to run the Easter Experience. In September we hosted our reception class welcome lunches. A new initiative for 2022 was to set up a link with St Cleopas C of E Primary School in Toxteth. Staff and pupils have been enjoying the

link partnership and we look forward to much fruit from this in 2023. **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue** continues to be a School Governor along with **Mrs Tess Jutla** (*Foundation Governor*) and **Mr Neil Heyes** (*Chair of Governors*).

Bumps and Babes

Since starting up during the pandemic we have supported a small number of parents with their babies and in their new role in life.

We thought that we needed to advertise a bit more widely so had leaflets printed but found that word of mouth and personal invite and recommendation brought growth. Presently we, therefore, have 15 babies on our register including two sets of twins. (*Some of our past members are now brought to Toddlers*).

Mostly it is mums that attend but we also have a few dads and the occasional grandmother. The aim of Bumps and Babes is to provide a safe place to talk and receive support, demonstrating God's love. There is no set agenda. We welcome all discussions and parenting concerns. The group is now on our church website and we have a dedicated WhatsApp for attendees. We invite members to church events and let them know about the possibility of Baptism or Thanksgiving for their little ones. This past year one of our attending babies has been baptised and 2 more parents have enquired for the future.

Tricia Slater and Rachel Rutter

Toddlers

Many thanks to all our fantastic group of helpers. Toddler Group is going from strength to strength. We now average 34

children each week and the waiting list is growing too. We are starting a new venture after Easter called Forest School. It will take place once a month. Our parents and grandparents are all so kind, helping us which adds to a lovely relaxed atmosphere.

Wendy Arthur and Sue Leigh

Diddy Disciples

Diddy Disciples has been running nearly every week over the past year ~ only pausing when the main service is aimed at children.

In the group we have children aged roughly 0-6 years and children move on to Xplore when they feel ready. We have had 10 different children attend the sessions over the year and an average attendance of three children with their parents.

We continue to use the Diddy Disciples program written by **Sharon Moughtin Mumby** which involves simple easy to catch songs within Bible storytelling and is really well received as well as being easy to deliver. The sessions have been led alternatively by **Debs Raynor** and **Charlotte Chappell**. We also have two helpers on hand ~ **Nell Marshman** and **Gill Simpson** - who haven't been joining recently, as parents are tending to stay with their children but are happy to be called upon in case of an influx of children.

Charlotte Chappell

Xplore

We have had a very positive and fun year with our 5 to 11 year-olds in our Xplore group. We meet on a Sunday morning and we are a group of about eight to



10 children with some weeks expanding to include baptism children or visitors. We continue to use the Roots resource and broadly follow the same Bible passage used in the main service and this gives us a really good platform for teaching our children the life changing message of the Scriptures.

Our Xplore team welcomed **Annette** and **Robina** this year as new helpers and they have been working with **Neil**. We run a three-week rota with the other teams which are **Louise** and **Debbie** and **Jane** and **Helen**. We have been enjoying the 'Saddleback Kids' You Tube videos which are age-appropriate introductions to Jesus' teaching and we often supplement the video story with our children's bibles as we have excellent readers.

We are delighted with how the children of different ages love being in each other's company with the little ones enjoying the big boys' funny antics! Those three big boys will be leaving us for the young people's group in September and we will be sorry to see them go (*if we can find them as they are always hiding in cupboards and under chairs!*). We have also had a number of events throughout the year which have focused on the Xplore age group and these have gone very well including the Light Night in October and the Pancake Party in February. We had a church wide Christmas party after our Nativity service this year which meant that lots of younger children joined us. Our Nativity itself was really wonderful. The

children have very limited practice time but they always step up and give their very best.



We didn't have anyone unwell this year so all of the children took part and blessed us all in the way they told us the story of Jesus' birth. Lots of children (*plus some very lovely teenagers*) joined us at the front in their Nativity costumes. We thank God for his blessing on us all this year as we have taught these funny (*and very talkative!*) bright children and we look forward to continuing to do so in the next year.

Jane Lake

Youth

We have had a busy and blessed 12 months, thoroughly enjoying a return to normality after the stop/start pattern of meeting online during lockdown. We have continued to meet as Momentum on Sunday mornings during the 10:45 service, using the Youth for Christ session material, as well as on Wednesday evenings during term time.

We have a marvellous team of leaders, some of whom prepare and lead sessions, with a helper present too each session (*including to meet safeguarding requirements*). We have experimented with different themes and age groups, settling recently to a rhythm of separating into two groups; years 7-9 and 10-13, using different material in our weekly meetings, then joining forces for games week at the end of each half-term.

It has been great to send a number of young people off to university in September and welcome some new year 7s. We have had between five and 15 young people on Sunday mornings, and between 15 and 25 on Wednesday evenings.

We have had a number of successful weekends away over the past 12

months. These are exciting times when we invariably see growth in friendships and faith, that richly reward the investment of time and energy.

The first was our Scarisbrick Summer camp in June 2022, when we said a fond farewell to Andy Monks, and celebrated the years of blessing we had together. Andy led the weekend on the theme of John 14 v 12 “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the father”, encouraging and challenging us to his last day. We then took 25 young people to the Vineyard ‘Dreaming the Impossible’ youth festival in Staffordshire in August, when the theme was ‘Yesterday, Today and Forever’

Hot on the heels of this in September we had a youth weekend away to Edale in the peak district on the theme of peace, and a further trip to St-Johns-In-The-Vale in February when we explored what the story of Samson taught us about relationships and God’s purpose for our lives. With the faithful enthusiasm of Neil and Debbie, we have continued to hold our monthly Night Lyfe service, a time of informal worship led by the youth band, with a focus on testimony and a life application talk. Whilst created with and for the young people, a number of ‘grown-ups’ have made it a fixture in their diaries too.

We have advertised twice for a replacement youth worker, but unfortunately no suitable candidates have applied. The team is far from discouraged however, God has generously provided energy and vision to us as a team, as well as reliable and anointed helpers. Please join us in

praying that God will continue to bless and encourage the young people, and for us as a youth team as we seek to find ways to encourage, disciple and mentor the young people in the way of Jesus.

Fiona Craig

Luncheon Club

Since returning in September, we have increased in numbers which takes us to our full capacity of 60 members. It is still run every two weeks, which is a huge success, along with Holy Communion once a month.

The Christmas meal had a great turnout of 84 people including staff. We are grateful to Toookie who comes and plays for our Luncheon Club, and to all the volunteers who give of their time.

Unfortunately, we lost two of our members Roy Sturgen Allister and Irene Davies.

Pauline Welsh

Bell Ringers

This year we have managed to ring for most Sunday services but have rarely used the full capacity of our bells, due to the shortage of ringers and especially new recruits. Without **Edmund Rothwell** in particular we would struggle to keep the bells ringing and given Edmund’s age, I’m concerned for the future, as getting and keeping new recruits is difficult.

Our bells remain in need of much attention as highlighted in the many reports we have had by professional/bell advisers etc.. Though we keep managing to keep them going for now. We have rung for all major events, Queens funeral and will ring for the coronation of the King. We



have recently been boosted by Sefton ringers as they are having their bells restored, so we have been able to practice on Monday evenings. They've also boosted us on Sunday mornings, helped by tea/coffee/biscuits at the bottom of the tower! **Paul Coggan**

Knit and Natter

After a busy return to our monthly meetings in 2021, our group has continued to support local charities, premature babies, homeless and refugees as well as supporting one another in sharing patterns, skills and friendship.

In September we held a very successful afternoon tea when sandwiches, cakes and scones were enjoyed by over 70 people.

In November we held a coffee morning, offering cake, tea and coffee. There were also several Christmas crafts on sale, including chocolate orange with covers resembling Christmas puddings and pixie hats.

In February this year, we decided to have an extra meeting when a group of us decided to have tea/coffee at Hope Street café. I went expecting no more than 6 ladies to attend. It was amazing because at least 15 ladies came in support of this charity. We had a great morning of chatting and doing chair exercises organised by our host, Sheila.

All proceeds from these events have been given to charity. We managed to raise the incredible sum of £1,161.71 during the year.



This year we are supporting Hope Street and continue to create strong friendships within the

group, which has now welcomed at least two new people this year.

Irene Critchley

Ministry Centre

The Ministry Centre was built to Glorify God, it is his building. It is our job to maintain it and encourage people to use it so that they may come to better know the Lord.

The past 12 months have been very encouraging with the number of people coming to the Ministry Centre steadily increasing especially those visiting Café Vista.

Naomi has been supporting the centre as a temporary administrator and we are very grateful for all the help that she has given. Special thanks to Naomi for doing a sterling job and holding the fort.

The building is now starting to show some signs of age and the outside needs to be painted this year. There have been some problems with the plumbing in the downstairs kitchen and the water heaters have needed attention. Some of the main hall windows have needed attention and all of the remote thermostats have been serviced. Special thanks to Graham Elliott and Joe Johnson for their help and advice.

The AV system in the main hall was recently revised and simplified and a Bluetooth audio receiver has been fitted to it. The main doors continue to cause problems and at the moment we are not using the outer doors in automatic mode.

There is some concern at the high cost of the electricity bill and efforts are being made to reduce electricity consumption. Most of the cost is due to

the lighting and we would encourage users to turn the lights off when they are not needed.

John Shaw

Café Vista Saturday Breakfast

2022/23 has been a renewal period for Saturday Breakfast. Now that the effects of the pandemic have passed the number of customers has continued to increase, particularly non-Christ Church members. Showing cartoons in the Cinema room remains very popular and normally all of the tables in that room are taken with parents and children.

Classes in Spanish for young children in the other half of the Cinema room has helped to boost numbers as many of the parents stay in the Café. There is a wide spread of ages using Saturday Breakfast, from babies to the elderly, all are welcome. Menu prices were increased in January together with milkshakes and hot dogs being added to the menu. Milkshakes are particularly popular.

There is a great mixture of young and old volunteers helping to serve, all organised by **Nell** and **Eddie Marshman** and we thank them for their continuous support and the support of the many volunteers who serve upstairs. Special thanks also to **Tony Culshaw** and **Graham Elliott** for cooking and for **David Cobbold** and **Bill Evans** for supporting them in the kitchen. We look forward to having Bill back in the summer. The Lord has provided the building and the personnel to enable Saturday Breakfast to work. Thank you, Lord.

John Shaw

21

GNI (Girlie Night In)

Our events this year have had a women's theme: their health, wellbeing and position in the workplace. Two film nights showing 'Hidden Figures' and 'The Help' supported this theme well. Also, Sabi Kaur MBE, the first Merseyside Sikh Detective Inspector spoke to us with great inspiration and motivation about her place as a woman in the force and as a mother in a Sikh family with all the associated traditions.

We have also had lighter, more sociable evenings including Maghull Ukulele band and The Ragtag Misfits. Our Christmas craft evening was very successful with a floral demonstration from Hartley's.

Many faces at GNI are becoming regular and familiar. We have seen some attending church services too. There is always a welcoming and accepting atmosphere where our faith is demonstrated and promoted to all.

Thanks go to our team **Sarah, Jackie, Lesley Stewart, Jane Lake, Lisa Matthews, Lynn Lyon, Sue Luck, Jodie Taylor** and **Jenny Lee**. We sadly lost our founder, **Pat Oldfield**, who is our inspiration still and will be always. Thanks go to the 'Cave' men who regularly put out our tables and stage if needed.

GNI Team

Cave

The Cave is a men's group meeting every Friday morning from 10.00 to 12 noon in the Ministry centre. We have been running for just over a year and have a regular attendance of members of Christ Church and men from



our local community. We are an inclusive group seeking to create an informal space where men feel welcomed and able to form relationships with others over a hot drink and a biscuit or two. We are really excited that some of the men have brought others to Cave and are now attending Church. **Peter Stewart**

MATCH ~ (Men's Ministry)

Men All Together in Christian Hope

Match held one event in 2022, a Christians in Sport Quiz and Curry night. Around 100 people attended and enjoyed a great evening hosted by Christians in Sport. Our curry team provided a fantastic range of curries and a CIS rep gave a short talk inviting non-Christians to explore more about Jesus.

We have an association with Christian Vision for Men who provide suggestions on how to hold events which gives an opportunity to develop friendships with non-Christian men and we would be very keen to develop connections with school dads. We just need someone with a passion for reaching out to non-Christians to organise these events. If that's you please let us know.

Geoff Fallows and Pete Chalk

FACT (Feeling Alone Come Together)

FACT has become everything we hoped it would be. A lively, friendly and welcoming group which is starting to grow again post covid. We started cautiously after lockdown, meeting only fortnightly until September



2022. We continue to meet every Friday now.

We meet at 11.00am until 12noon upstairs in the Ministry Centre for coffee, biscuits and a chat, with some now staying on for lunch together afterwards. We have recently welcomed two new members from the community who, in their second week with us, joined us for lunch and continue to do so. We meet, chat and support one another, we think of ourselves as the Friday Friendship Group and all are welcome. Fact, more or less, clashes with 'Cave' so although we are open to all we only have one male stalwart, Stan, who prefers our company and has been a member from the beginning.

22

We supported the MacMillan Coffee Morning as a group at the end of September. At a later meeting we had a taster session of 'move it or lose it', an exercise class led by Margaret Wilkinson. This led to many FACT members joining her class each Wednesday morning. We are all enjoying and benefitting from these classes.

We have links with Age Concern and periodically they come to talk to us and keep us up to date with what help is available and provide us with an up to date set of leaflets about what is available.

At our most recent meeting **Lisa Matthews** showed us a short film of her time in Uganda with **Millie Casey**. It was very interesting and thought provoking leading us to appreciate what we have in comparison.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Friday staff at Cafe Vista for their kindness every week. They have become like an

extended family to our group and enabled us to add another dimension to FACT by encouraging us to stay on for lunch. The team attend to us in our own room, no matter how busy the cafe is and we thank them for their cheerful contribution to each meeting and the excellent food! **Bridget Wainwright**

Pastoral Support

The Team, comprising 31 members continues to give valuable pastoral support to many people, both within the Christ Church family and further afield in our community.

As life has largely returned to normal after the pandemic, this support is on a needs basis and we are encouraging people, wherever possible, to get out and join in activities and meet family and friends. There is still regular telephone contact and visiting for those who need it, but we are expanding our support through church activities and the Lyfe groups that meet weekly. Support is also available to different age groups through, Bumps and Babes, Toddler Group, Youth activities and Luncheon Club, FACT, Knit and Natter and Cave. Attendance at all these groups is growing weekly and this is wonderful to see. We hope to extend this group support further in Café Vista very soon with a team of Café Companions, working alongside the café volunteers each day.

There are pastoral team members, giving support in nearly every Church group and activity and we have welcomed new members to the team too. The team has five groups, each with a leader and they are encouraged to keep in touch and support each other.

They give monthly feedback to me, and urgent concerns are addressed as soon as possible.

In December we held the annual 'Service of Hope', for those remembering the lives of loved ones. 65 people attended and really appreciated both the reflective and moving service and the fellowship afterwards, when we offered refreshments and gave each person a booklet to help them at home. We plan to hold this service again in the Autumn. Pastoral support is at the heart of all we do at Christ Church and I would like to sincerely thank all the team, who work so tirelessly, to support the most vulnerable in our community.

Angela Mellor

Pastoral Support Coordinator

23

LYFE (Living your faith everyday) groups

Lyfe Groups are the opportunity at Christ Church to get together regularly with other like-minded people to discuss faith, life and everything in between. It is an environment where we build trust and are able to be open and honest about issues, whilst learning from each other through the power of the Holy Spirit more about what it means to follow Jesus. Lyfe groups are a support network for members offering prayer and practical support for anyone and everyone in their group. It is our intention that every church member is given the opportunity to be connected to a Lyfe Group, and all Lyfe Groups have an open-door policy welcoming new people at all times. It is the model that Jesus himself lived by and it is how we as a



church can disciple each other through Jesus' teaching and example.

Through the course of the year groups can develop their own style and can use our Sermon series as a guideline for discipling each other. But the ultimate aim is just to provide a framework which enables people to meet together, to pray together, to support each other and to grow in faith. We also encourage groups to find ways to engage with others outside of church to share their faith and invite others on our Hope Explored Enquirers Courses, to support the local community, and to partner with charities and causes that they feel share the hope and love of Jesus to those around us. We strongly encourage you to join a Lyfe Group at Christ Church, if you would like to know more, please see Sarah or myself.

Geoff Fallows

Ormskirk Churches Together

Churches together Ormskirk is a group of church leaders and church representatives from each church in Ormskirk. This is a wonderful ecumenical group to be part of, mainly because of the people who are part of it. Everything discussed is done together and collegiately. At these meetings we discuss all that is going on in our churches and around Ormskirk. Which is wonderful to hear how

God is working through the people and the places in this community. We have spent a lot of time at these meetings planning joint events and services. Such as the week of prayer service, the street pastor's celebration service, Ukrainian prayer vigil, Good



Friday walk of witness and service, Christmas events and much more.

We have lots of ideas and plans for the coming year ahead, so watch this space!

Rev. Jackie Davies

Homes for Ukraine support group

The Homes for Ukraine Support group aims to support hosts & their guests. There are a number of Ukrainians living locally in West Lancashire, including four staying with members of our congregation.

Christ Church has been involved by being part of the Support group and offering hospitality. We have tried to help the Ukrainians to settle in this country and build supportive networks. More specifically a number of our congregation have helped to arrange and facilitate some social gatherings for guests and hosts in our Ministry Centre. In September a large group gathered with most people meeting for the first time. There was a smaller gathering in October and another one with Ukrainian food in November. In December several families came to our brass band Carol Concert. You may meet a couple of Ukrainian ladies volunteering in our cafe, helping at luncheon club, another happily does gardening for some members of our congregation and another is studying for an MA at Edge Hill.

Janet Roberts

Ormskirk and Skelmersdale and District Foodbanks

Christ Church continues to support the foodbanks in West Lancashire by providing food, toiletries, financial

donations and volunteers for Ormskirk and Skelmersdale and District foodbanks. In recent months Christ Church School have also started collecting goods. Over the last year about 1,600kg of food has been donated which is the equivalent of 3,800 meals. There has also been nearly £1,000 donated from the church, LYFE groups, Café Vista and Knit and Natter. We are most grateful for all this support. The foodbanks provide about 3-days' worth of food and advice to people who find themselves in circumstances whereby they are unable to afford basics such as food.

Pete Chalk and Peter Stewart

Ecumenical relationships

Christ Church is a member of Ormskirk Churches Together and is represented by Rev Sarah O'Donoghue. However, this group did not meet in 2021.

Following the Deanery Mission plan a cluster was formed between Christ Church Aughton, St Michael's Aughton, Holy Trinity Bickerstaffe, St James Westhead, St Thomas Lydiate and St Cuthbert's Halsall.

The clergy from all the churches meet regularly for prayer and support as well as working on joint ventures, including the Wellbeing Journey and online Alpha. Members of Christ Church are also actively involved and support the work of West Lancs Debt Advice, Food Bank, Healing on the Streets, Street and School Pastors, Ormskirk Ambassadors and Christians Against Poverty, Southport.

Having read the APCM report please could you commit to praying daily for five things for the life and ministry of Christ Church and our community

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5