

## **Good Shepherd - Church Warden's Report 2022-23**

It's been another busy year at the Good Shepherd and I want to start by thanking our band of volunteers who help to keep everything going. Firstly, to David Fulljames and Rachel Phillips for all their work on preparing and presenting the worship materials on screen every Sunday and to Stephanie Hemming who continues (through the weekly mailing) to bring the joy of worship each Sunday for those of us attending in person and in continuing the connection of Christian community to those unable to join us in person.

A big thank you also to those across the parish who have been keeping in contact by phone with our congregation, especially Jane Brough, Chris Nickholds and Stephanie Hemming. My thanks go to all the members of the Good Shepherd committee for their hard work and commitment during the year.

We are blessed by everything that every one of our volunteers does to contribute to the smooth running of our church community.

Our income from hall hire has not only returned back to pre-Covid levels but is growing from strength to strength. It's great to see a number of community and support groups using our hall during the week for the benefit of our community. This is helping to keep our finances in a healthy position.

We have continued to meet our commitments for charitable giving to local, national and international organisations, including carrying on our support for a new CMS project: Marcio and Noemi Ciechanowicz, working with young people and communities in Sao Paulo, Brazil. We look forward during 2023 to continue to support the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, one of our Mission Action Plan priorities. I'm also grateful for the generosity shown through the year in special collections and during Christian Aid week. We have also paid in full our Parish Share (now called the Common Fund) to the diocese for 2022, including a voluntary element which helps to support parishes in financial need.

We are very grateful to those who led our worship and preached during the year, in particular to Phil, Lin, Jane and Richard and it's been great to welcome Malcolm to the preaching team, as well as Ben, Rachel, Adam and Malcolm to our team of intercessors.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Jane Brough, Deputy Warden, Lay Reader, flower arranger and cake maker extraordinaire! Jane continues to keep me sane (no mean feat!) and is a fount of wisdom and common sense! Jane and Trevor are always there and carrying out a variety of differing tasks, a big thank you both!

I would like to thank all at Good Shepherd for their unwavering generosity and support over the past years. Stephanie Hemming continues to do a marvellous job managing the money and works closely with Richard Humphrey and the Christ Church team to keep our accounts in good order.

I would like to give a special thanks to our Ward Councillors who agreed a grant from their Ward Fund in 2022 which made a significant contribution to the cost of our new chairs in church (almost all of which have now been constructed!) which are now in regular use.

It's been great to have a number of social events during 2022, thanks to all involved at both churches in organising these for us. It was great to see how we worked together on the Christmas Fair and Barbeque last year and we look forward to working together through 2023.

Many thanks to all of our congregation for their generosity, support, prayers, love and friendship in all we do to grow our church family and in the wider community. We remember those who have passed away over the last year, especially Rev Carol Harley, Colin Dowling and Jean Dalton. Carol loved to be with us at Good Shepherd and we very much miss her. Colin was a longstanding member of our church, a stalwart in the choir, always cheerful and supportive and as Ben so eloquently put it, he was the "hum" of our church. We continue to hold their families and friends in our prayers.

Whilst we still have our challenges, I've been really impressed with how we've pulled together across the parish. Through all this we have demonstrated God's love for one another and that we can spread His message whatever challenges we face.

David Hughes – April 2023

## **Christ Church – Church Warden’s Report 2022-23**

Being Church Warden at Christ Church continues to be both challenging, enjoyable and at times very difficult. Of course the hardest time during the last twelve months came at Christmas when our great friend Rev Carol passed away and sadly we still mourn and pray for her family. Also, we still hold Rev Lin in our prayers as she continues her chemotherapy. These events have meant that Rev Phil has come under a lot of pressure as he leads us day by day and it is good to see how many of our congregation continue to support him and help as much as they can.

We have continued to keep our system of welcomers who meet and greet people at the 11am service. During the last 12 months those of us who belong to this team have had two meetings to talk about our responsibilities and also to have a friendly chat. We now wear badges with our names on so that everyone knows who we are. Since the lockdown those of us who are able help to prepare for the service, setting up the altar, lighting the candles etc. However, our main role continues to be welcoming and I am very glad to report on how many new people we have welcomed this year as well as our old friends. During the cold winter months we have kept the main door to the church closed (although never locked) to conserve the heat in the church and so have welcomed everyone through the Jubilee Rooms. This has worked really well but since the beginning of April the weather has been warm enough for us to return to entering church through the main door.

In my role as Safeguarding Officer I know that the welcomers always ensure that all who come to Christ Church are safe and cared for. In November we were able to resume our safeguarding training which although it is compulsory for PCC members it is also of benefit to other congregation members. Our next training session is at 10.30am on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April in the Jubilee Rooms and all members of the congregation are welcome.

My grateful thanks again go to the Deputy Church Warden, Pam Humphrey, for her generous support and to all those who help to ensure that our times of worship go well. So thank you to all those who contribute to the beauty of our services: clergy and lay readers, assistants, readers, welcomers, the audio visual team, flower arrangers, brass cleaners and many others – indeed the whole congregation - who contribute to the wonderful welcoming atmosphere at Christ Church.

Joan Collins March 2023

## **REPORT FROM PCC SECRETARY 2023**

### **LAST APCM SUNDAY 24 APRIL 2022**

Meetings held in person – all 2022 and January, March 2023.

#### **Services**

- All Communion services are now held with both elements. Midweek services with Communion – Thursdays 9.30am and Friday prayer at 5pm. Both at CC.
- Harvest, Christingle, Crib, Remembrance and Christmas Services have all been held in church.
- We continue to live-stream Sunday 11am services.
- 7 baptisms have taken place in 2022/2023.
- The schools continue to hold as many services in church as possible to mark special occasions.

#### **Charities**

The following have been supported:

- Good Shepherd in Relief (Bilston) with goods.
- Good Shepherd Ministries (homeless) – food bank.
- The Children’s Society (boxes) £145.
- The Children’s Society (Christingle) £578.15. The Christingle is supported by school children, families and staff.
- Support for disaster collections £866.21.

- We continue to support overseas charities as well as local ones.
- See other reports for more information.

### **Health & Safety**

- Reviewed and action taken throughout the year in accordance with Government guidelines.

### **Finance**

- Money is raised through social events.
- Hiring out Jubilee Rooms provides a very good income for the church.
- Quiz evenings raise much needed funds.
- The Place of Welcome is proving popular. (Community outreach – free of charge).
- Dementia Support (free of charge).
- Little Angels (NCT) – free of charge.
- Barbecue held at GS because of better outside space breaks even. Good community spirit across both churches.
- Christmas Fayre – joint across both churches.

For more in depth financial matters consult other reports.

Our congregations are smaller since Covid. I would like to say thank you to all our worshippers in church or on-line for their continued support and giving.

### **General**

- Rev Lin is continuing to recover from surgery.
- Rev Carol Harley passed away December 2022. We all miss her.
- New gates at both entrances to CC.
- Bike racks in place at CC.
- A new bench next to the yew tree at CC.

### **Schools Commitment**

- As a Foundation Governor for CC schools it is a pleasure to go into school every week with the 'Open the Book' team for whole school worship.
- I go into nursery every Wednesday morning. Worship through story-time.
- As a church school we have two inspections i.e. OFSTED and SIAMS.

JUNIORS – The SIAMS inspection took place 23 01 2023. The outcome grade was EXCELLENT. Thank you to my fellow Foundation Governor team members and school staff. We all have our own individual strengths, making a very strong team.

It just remains for me to say thank you to all, whatever your contribution large or small. Keep well, keep safe, keep in touch. God bless.

From Sue Wilson – PCC Secretary.

P.S. Thank you for your support and friendship, kind words, prayers and cards after the death of my husband of 55 years.