



St Anne's Church

West Heath

**Reports
for
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on
Sunday 8th May 2022**

**Parish Church of St Anne's
West Heath**

**Diocese of Birmingham
Church of England**

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Churchwarden's Report

January to December 2021

Lots of exciting developments took place in 2021 as the Covid restrictions were gradually removed, and Church could start to act in a more normal fashion.

The pews were no longer marked out with individual seating spread throughout the Church. Instead, we introduced a lanyard system which allowed people to choose for themselves where they wanted to sit and if they still wanted to remain isolated from other people. The colours of the lanyards were based on the traffic light system, with red meaning leave a space around me, yellow meaning you can sit by me but no physical contact and green meaning you can sit by me and shake my hand etc.

The Church started a prayer meeting, via zoom, once a week, which initially was on Tuesday afternoon before moving to Monday evening.

We began to look into the concept of becoming an eco-church, with a talk about climate matters given by Peter Baker and John Marshall to the PCC and to the full church congregation.

Rev. Paul began his sponsored walk around the parish. He aimed to walk 500 miles to gain money to pay for a new noticeboard at the front of the Church. He raised more than enough money to cover the cost over a period of about 6 weeks.

Live streaming of our services was introduced to allow those who didn't feel able to join us in person to take part in our church life.

Baptisms were restarted in August as part of our regular services, 3 people were confirmed and one church couple got married.

Submitted by *Janet Bradley*, Churchwarden

Fabric Report for 2021

- A garden refuse bin was purchased for the year so that we could easily get rid of garden rubbish. £45.00.
- SMS including HV Jones dealt with a couple of issues with the heating system. £404.29
- R.B. Services carried out the annual PAT testing of all portable electrical goods. £160.80
- Keys (for all key holders) were bought for the new lock on the front door of the George Goodger Hall. £61.00
- Rock salt was purchased for the paths. £9.98
- Northfield Glass Centre replaced two panes of broken glass in the rear door of the main building. £235.00
- The George Goodger Hall was broken into resulting in damage to the exterior door of the office and damage to the interior doors of the office and the print room. G. Beesley Carpenters repaired the exterior door and the interior door to the office and fitted a new door to the print room. £365.00
- G. Beesley Carpenters made and fitted a small security fence at the end of the passageway at the rear of the George Goodger Hall. £60.00
- Following Father Paul's successful fundraising walk a new noticeboard was made and fitted at the front of the Church by The Church Notice Board Company. £2,151.00
- G. Beesley Carpenters repaired and eased the interior and exterior doors of the main church building and replaced worn hinges with new ball bearing stainless steel hinges, then sanded and stained the exterior doors. £550.00
- G. Beesley Carpenters made and fitted front doors to the George Goodger Hall. £1,025.00
- G. Beesley Carpenters removed the existing shelving in the storeroom at the rear of the stage and fitted new shelves (using some existing materials) where required. This was paid for by Little Stars as this is where some of their equipment is kept. £120.00
- It was noted that some of the rubber stoppers on the feet of the plastic chairs in the Church and church hall were either missing or broken. New rubber stoppers were purchased and Janet, Ian and Fr Paul kindly fitted them to all the chairs. £374.09
- The final payment was made to Ryders Construction for the work on the toilets that was completed during 2020. £1,005.90
- A&T Highways laid new tarmac on the drive-in front of the Church. £1,320.00
- New light bulbs and spare light bulbs were purchased for the Church. £58.16

Thank you to everyone who volunteers with cleaning, gardening or maintenance as you save the Church a lot of money.

Submitted by *Georgina E. Arnold*, Churchwarden

Children and Youth Work

Little Star

- Little Stars open our doors again the second week of September 2021. I was very thankful that every member of the team came back to help, the team grow with Ron Trueman joining us and then Carole Hadley. Joy Trueman agree to become my deputy.
- At first, we tried a booking system like other stay and playgroups, setting up an email to enable us to do this. However, this just didn't work for us, after some discussion, we decided to go back to what had worked so well for us before lockdown to run an open-door policy. This was providing to be a success until the new covid reared its head, numbers went down again as grandparents decided to stay at home. One cold frozen morning, we saw only 3 families turn up.
- Thankfully numbers have started to grow again. The age of the children attending is younger than before lock-down, the oldest is now 2 years old and not 3. This could be because children are taken younger at nursery. The fact that we haven't been around for nearly 2 years, so the older children haven't attended Little Stars, before parents would try and arrange children's time at nursery so they could attend either a Tuesday or a Thursday at Little Stars. All the children were born in Lock-down; we have found that they have trouble socialising, mixing with one another, and being around other adults. This is slowly changing, which is lovely to watch.
- We have had a visit from the New Area Dean Phelim O'Hare. He took the time to speak to staff, parents and children. He took a bit longer to speak with Mark, Carole and Mark's mum Jane.
- We have had Catherine from Early Learning come and deliver a playdough activity. Which proved very popular and gave their parents a chance to talk to her.
- Revd. Paul will pop in when his diary allows for a quick visit to speak with people.
- I am just doing nursery rhythms at the end of meetings, as I'm teaching children, it's ok to do things together. Once this session goes without too many hitches, I will return to delivering a toddler service.
- Children's part of Sunday is slowly growing.

Submitted by *Chrissie Price*, Youth Worker

Prayer Ministry

1. We retired to Birmingham in order that I could offer our chronically unwell daughter and her young family more consistent practical support than we were able to from Essex. This is continuing somewhat less than at first, but as a regular weekly commitment of 19 hours, some of which I share with my husband. This restricts what I can do at St Anne's during the week.

2. Last year Fr Paul encouraged me to apply to the Diocese of Birmingham to have my license as a **Reader** transferred from the diocese of Chelmsford. This has happened and I have recently started – and plan to continue - to be on rotas to assist in leading, and to preach.

3. I was asked to keep in contact with some people during the first "lockdown", and have continued to do so, although two of them are able-bodied and don't seem to need it! Recently I've been invited to join the Pastoral Group.

4. As a response to Covid19 pandemic restrictions, Fr Paul also asked me to lead a weekly Parish Prayer Meeting on Zoom for an hour on Monday evenings. He later asked me to take responsibility for the **prayer life of the Church**. With a great deal of God's help, technical help, encouragement and trial and error, I started the meeting on Zoom. Between 3 and 8 people are regular on Zoom, and others ask for prayer via WhatsApp.

I plan to continue - and continue also to and to write a summary of how we did pray for others to read on WhatsApp and make their own if they weren't able to join.

5. This year, on Sundays and by phone, I plan to try to talk to individuals about how they pray individually, what they find helpful or difficult about group prayer, to see if there are other ways we could pray together.

6. I would like to see if there are ways to include the children on Sundays and during the week; and to include others who are not able to join because of the time of day or digital difficulties.

When we joined St Anne's, there was the opportunity on Sundays, to ask for private prayer in a designated area in the Church. For obvious reasons this has lapsed.

One obvious way forward would be at least to equip the votive stand that is still in Church, with a steady supply of candles, and perhaps a "prayer tree", or a book in which people can write their prayers of thanksgiving and petition. I plan to discuss this with others on the Ministry Team etc.

Finally, I am very grateful to God - plus my husband, Fr and Mrs Cho, and to the Ministers and people of St. Anne's for their fellowship and support. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Submitted by *Gillian Kimber*, Lay Reader with PTO

Bible Teaching Ministry

1. In the last two years, since the publication of my book '**A Pathway into the Bible - Walking with God Then and Now**' and its associated **Booklets**, we have established a pattern of Bible Study at St Anne's, based around the book but using Zoom, specially produced Video courses, a St Anne's Family WhatsApp. chatroom and our Parish website.

2. This Bible Teaching up to 2021 has included:

(i) A Video course surveying the whole Bible called '**The Whole Backstory to Easter**' - used as a Lent/post Easter Course

(ii) A Video course on Mark's Gospel called '**An Apprenticeship with Jesus Christ**' - used as a Lent Course

(iii) A Written Course introducing the four Gospels called '**The Gospels for Christmas**' - used as a pre-Christmas Course available on WhatsApp. and then on our website

(iv) A Written Course on the letter to the Ephesians called '**The Gospel for the Local Church**' - available on WhatsApp. and then on our website

3. The current Course now running on my Facebook Page (Trying To Think Christianly), on WhatsApp. and then on our website, is a called '**Gifts, Service and Leadership in the Church.**'

It consists of 12 brief sessions, drawing on various New Testament passages, and including 3 discussion questions in each study. It is serving as a 2022 pre-Easter Course. Paper copies of the Course are also provided at the back of Church. After each Study appears on WhatsApp. each Saturday morning, people are invited to answer the questions, to ask their own questions, or to comment. I respond to people's contributions and, at least once each week, I write a follow-up post with a chatty INTRODUCTION, a THOUGHT, a SUGGESTION, and a REMINDER of how to take part in the Studies. So far, thoughts arising out of the Bible Studies and themes emerging from Sunday Sermons have, praise God, started to link together.

4. As 2022 progresses, I will build on the interactions that arise out of the current Bible Studies and seek to develop this multi-platform format as we go along. If at any time it becomes possible to have in-person Bible Studies again, I shall seek to continue to keep our studies multi-platform so that as many as possible can take part whatever their situation. Potentially, this can include the housebound and the frail elderly in shared Bible Study for the first time at St Anne's, just as Livestreaming has included them in Sunday Worship.

5. In preparation is a Video course on the Acts of the Apostles called '**A Training Placement with the Early Church.**' This is likely to be a 9 Session Course surveying the whole of Acts but with particular focus on the 12 Evangelistic Speeches that occur in it.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servants of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
(2 Timothy 3.16)*

Submitted by **Revd Stuart Kimber**, Retired Priest

Ministry to the Elderly

Redhill Court

I have visited Redhill Court weekly when covid allowed. I have visited our St. Anne's family members, XXX including the day before this person died (I know that the family were particularly grateful that I visited just before this person's death), XXX, XXXX and XXX's mother. I started to visit a group of residents, made up of a combination of all 4 flats, we met in one of the 2 dementia flats' day rooms.

I had to start to deliver a small service designed with the dementia residents firmly in mind, as they made up the larger part of the group. This Service included the old vision of the Lord's Prayer, the gospel reading for that day, a short talk and questions about what they felt about the gospel reading. I also included Christmas, and Christmas Carols using a small CD player (as home's one wasn't working).

Redhill Court then got covid in the home so visiting was stopped, unless in a pod outside. All are too unwell to use the pod I have been unable to see them at the moment.

Austin Rose

Since the first lockdown, I have visited and been shown around the home by 2 members of staff. I visited for a second time, and I was taken to visit 35 residents in their own rooms. I was able to get to know them and their spiritual needs, I also prayed for each of them. Unfortunately, before I could visit again, the home policy changed so that only family members could visit residents.

Keeping in touch

I have been keeping in touch by phone with members of St. Anne's family who have for being shielding during covid or are now unable to leave their homes.

Plans for the future

- Start to visit both Redhill Court and Austin Rose again once all restrictions have been removed.
- Writing 2 different Services for Homes. As Redhill Court and Austin Rose have different needs.
- Taking Services into Redhill Court and Austin Rose.
- To start a Messy Church for older members, on a Monday afternoon.
- To take funerals if needed.
- To do follow up phone calls or visit the families of the deceased.

Submitted by *Joan Aye*, Licensed Lay Reader

Eco Church Report

In October last year, about the same time as the United Nations conference on the climate emergency was held in Glasgow, John Marshall and Peter Baker led a "Climate Sunday Act of Worship" here at St Anne's to bring our attention to the state of God's Creation.

Following that service, John and Peter contacted the organisation Eco church which has developed a scheme for churches to show how the gospel is good news for planet earth. The Eco church vision is that churches should include the care for creation as a significant part of the role of loving our neighbours and faithfully following God.

With the backing of the churchwardens and Fr. Paul, St Anne's was signed up to Eco church and we were sent a questionnaire. We were asked about our worship and teaching, our buildings and grounds, about how we relate to the local community and the wider world and also how we at St Anne's response to the challenge of being environmentally sustainable.

Eco church have now responded to our answers and we are pleased to report that we have done enough to receive an award at the bronze level. The award plaque was presented at the Palm Sunday Service and will go on display.

John and Peter are now considering what actions we at St Anne's need to do to prepare for a silver award and further acts of worship are planned. After Christian Aid week in May when we step out in God's mission to help our sisters and brothers across the globe, there will be a service that will focus on the theme of biodiversity. How can we care for and safeguard our non-human neighbours across the world, plants and animals far and near?

Submitted by ***Peter Baker***, Eco Warrior

The Incumbent's Report

The APCM is the best opportunity to reflect on how far we have come this past year. Since the last APCM in 2021, many challenging and fulfilling things have happened to our Church. However, nothing would have been possible without the help of the Holy Spirit and much dedication and hard work by the team of people here at St Anne's Church.

We have the Sunday service at 10 am, and its attendance has been maintained between the 30s and 40s. The number has never been under the 30s since we restarted having our Sunday service in the Church. Due to the Covid pandemic's impact on our church ministry, the most significant and successful change during this time is that our Sunday service became available online via live streaming. We have over 50 regular Sunday service viewers online at present. Also, I am so glad that we restarted the weekday Thursday communion service at 10.30 am from 28th April 2022.

The Sunday services in the Church came back to normal after the Covid restrictions were eased. We now sing, talk with masks on, shake hands if you want, or hug if you wish to during the Service. Fortunately, we were also able to restart the Holy Communion but only for bread, as of now, we do not share wine. In the Church, we are still keeping distance from our brothers and sisters with face-coverings as much as possible with the lanyard system we introduced to do this task effectively. It is painful but worth keeping in order to protect ourselves and friends and family. We are enduring this well, hoping that everything will return to normal one day soon. The meaning of the word 'normal' here is Worshipping with fellowship. The baptisms and weddings were done in the Church, and the funerals were done at the Church and the crematorium with Covid measures.

The PCC meetings have continued via zoom or in the Church. The Standing Committee has been meeting regularly before the PCC meetings. The attendance and devotion of our PCC members have been excellent, and their efforts to manage all the church businesses have been made well. I do appreciate their decision to go for another term as PCC members. Also, a warm welcome to newly elected members. Special thanks to Elaine, who took all the minutes tirelessly.

I have set a system to carry on our ministry here at St Anne's without a full-time priest. All the church ministry we focus on this community, West Heath, is run by each minister in charge independently. The ministers' team meet when we have issues to discuss. This is an excellent opportunity to share our thoughts and insights for the ministry that we are in charge of. Through this meeting, we encourage and support each other's ministry. I would like to thank my excellent colleagues, Stuart, Ian, who recently retired, Joan, and Gill, who recently joined the team. Also, special thanks go to Chrissie Price, who voluntarily works as a youth worker.

Eco-church is one of our main concerns which recently grab our attention and we received Bronze Award. We had a special Sunday for this important mission and Peter Baker and John Marshall were appointed as eco-warriors who are in charge.

The churchwardens and incumbent met from time to time when issues arose. At the meetings, we discussed various issues, particularly in this pandemic situation. Georgina and Janet have worked extremely hard, not just working hard but also very effective. Whatever happened to our church building or church family, their responses to the matters were speedy and proper.

Mainly, Georgina has looked after all the property issues, including repairing damages. Janet has handled all the pastoral caring matters 24 hours and 7 days. I am so proud of having them as our churchwardens and thank God for their decision to go on another term.

During Covid, the church halls were closed, so there was no activity related to the children, such as Little Stars and Messy Church. Now we have reopened all the activities. Since Chrissie was newly appointed as our children and youth worker, the team has worked hard to promote the ministry (As you see in their report). Special thanks to Joy, Ron, Sarah, and those not mentioned here.

The Church was maintained through cleaning, gardening, and repairing. The Church has been sustained by the hands of beautiful people. I do not want to miss this opportunity to thank them. Special thanks to Joy, Ron, Chrissie and Georgina for cleaning the Church every week. Great thanks to Elaine and Peter for looking after our garden. Thank you, Stephen, for regularly coming to check all the details of the building. Now he is retired as a handyman of God's house.

All the articles in the vestry for the service were looked after by Joyce Forty who washed linens, and supplied candles, bread, and wine. I cannot miss saying thank you to Joyce. Thank you.

Also, special thanks to our webmaster and I.T. technician. Thank you, Charitas, for your ceaseless efforts in this work. Charitas asked me not to forget to mention Malcolm (Elaine's husband) for his technical support for jobs related to I.T. Thank you, Malcolm. And Joshua, who is in charge of live streaming.

As mentioned in the presentation on the Finance Sunday that we held on 24th April, this global pandemic (recently rocketing living costs caused by the Ukraine War) brought great financial strains to the world, and the Church was not an exception. For example, one of the significant financial incomes we usually made was created by hall renting, but due to the lengthy closure of church halls, the income literally became zero. In this situation, we all walked hard to help our church finance in various ways, such as generous donations, Legacy, Spring Fare, and even Fundraising Crafts. But, unfortunately, we need to keep doing it. And even though we suffer from financial strains, we never stop opening our food bank on Thursdays and Saturdays and releasing our tiny discretionary funds to those in need.

The Prayer Meeting via zoom is one of our sources of strength that we can get our endurance to go through all the tribulations. Gill leads this meeting with her caring heart. We praise God, thank God, and ask God to help us in this meeting. Thanks, Gill, for leading us into prayer for all.

Our teaching ministry, which is led by Revd Stuart, an excellent bible teacher, is one of the strongest ministries we have been doing here at St Anne's. All the lessons written by Stuart have been uploaded onto our websites, and Facebook allows many people, even from outside of our Church, to learn more about the Bible. This teaching has been extended into our WhatsApp chatroom for deeper discussions and debates. Thanks to Stuart, who helps me keep my words, saying, "I would like to make St Anne's Church where people can hear the words of God."

Needless to say, Safeguarding is our prior concern. All the requirements from the diocese regarding Safeguarding have been met, including policies and posters, and so on. A safeguarding team handles any safeguarding issues raised among our Church and community.

Lastly. We are heading for another time requiring our firmer faith and endurance. My time as the incumbent of St Anne's is approaching its end in August. Even though we know that God will answer our prayers, we do not know what the answer will be like. However, one thing that we are sure of, or that we should be certain of, is that whatever it will be, we will obey Him.

May the God of mission who alone brings growth to your Church send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, help us grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and service to our local community through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cho'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P'.

Fr Paul Cho