

HOLY TRINITY

Potten End

The Church at the Heart of the Community



ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31st December 2022

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar: Revd. Joseph Roberts

Churchwardens: Julie Griffiths and Andrew Smith

Deputy Churchwarden: Nigel Chadwick

Deanery Synod Representatives: Julie Griffiths, Jane Drake and Mike Wallis

Team Council Representatives: Julie Griffiths and Mike Wallis

Treasurer: Katie Bett

Sacristan: *Position vacant*

Verger: Daniel King Smith

Music: Richard King, Daniel King Smith and Andy Smith

Members of the Parochial Church Council:

the Vicar, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives; Simon Barnard; Katie Bett (Treasurer); Ann Charlton; Emma Harris; Esther King-Smith (Electoral Roll officer); Bev Hamilton (Safeguarding officer – co-opted); Hilary Matheson (Secretary); Sara Raybould; Chris Sharpe; Ken Walker; Claire Wallis; Revd. John Russell (ex-officio); Revd. Stuart Owen (ex-officio).

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2020) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Holy Trinity is one of five parishes which together constitute the Berkhamsted Team Ministry.

Stewards:

John Ansell, Anna & Simon Barnard, Bett family, Ray Bull, Robin Charlton, Julie Griffiths, Harris family, Carole Harrison, King Smith family, Hilary Matheson, Michael & Barbara Mitchell, Chris Normann, Sara Raybould, Roberts family, Andy Smith.

Vicar's Introduction

Time seems to be blurring into one – for I really found it hard to recall whether what happened was either 2021 or 2022! It's perhaps too easy to look back and say that 2022 was a fairly 'normal' year when, as I had to be reminded, it begun with restrictions until the spring. there wasn't as much singing in church, and we never shared in the common cup (the wine) until Easter day.

Reiterating a point that I made in last year's report (or was it the year before?!), I think that it is a strong testament to all the hard work, devotion and dedication of so many in the church family, that though the times within our world have looked different, our worship, fellowship, mission and presence (all that make up our life and witness) has not just continued, but in fact in some ways has grown.

I genuinely mean it when I say that 2022 seems to have been the year of new life sprouting up. This Annual Report demonstrates that, and I encourage you all to read it with renewed vigour and passion. Yet while we gaze back and celebrate the sterling effort of so many in realising our vision (of which is hard to convey in a written report), we can't help but do so with our vision looking forward. Not just because many of you will be reading this nearly half-way into 2023, nor that as Christians we work for the Kingdom of God as disciples of the now and still to come, but that Holy Trinity will soon be entering into an interregnum in the autumn, with my departure as your Vicar in late August.

I would not have imagined at the beginning of 2022, that this would be my last Annual Report. Yet as you'll read, a lot can happen in the space of the year, and we are sadly where we are. So we must now pragmatically prepare for the future, strengthen those foundations of what builds up our common life together, protect and encourage to grow all that has been tended to. However, this report is not about me. In fact, it is about you! It about all those who are entwined in the life, ministry and mission of Holy Trinity. The fantastic work that has happened and is still ongoing, in making Holy Trinity 'the church at the heart of the community' and long may that continue.

After my leaving, I can't say that things will be easy and will look the same. But please as you look back on the past year, truly be inspired by what has been achieved and continues to be, as a family effort. Continue to play your part in being a member of the body of the one church, of which we are all called to serve, to minister and to grow.

Thank you everyone. From the bottom of my heart, it has been a real joy and privilege to live, serve and minister alongside you all. Thanks for the love, friendship and support you've given both me and my family. Please pray for us and we pray for you. Here's to the future! Yours in Christ, the Revd. Joe Roberts.

*Please note, this Annual Report is an extended narrative to the **Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022**. A copy of this is available to view in church and copies can be obtained by either emailing treasurer@holytrinitypottenend.org.uk or by visiting our website and clicking on the 'annual reports and financial statements' on the 'Welcome' drop down list.*

In this report we are trying to tell the story of what the church has done over the past year, providing a vision of what the church is here to do, how it has been managed and held to account by the PCC.

Financial review

In 2022 we saw the end of the legal restrictions related to Covid that we had seen in previous years, and as a result the Church was able to return to in-person worship and the Church community were able to re-engage in social events together. This, together with a number of generous legacies received in 2022, has had a positive impact on our overall financial position.

Total incoming resources from unrestricted funds were £90,011 (2021 £61,464), of which £48,172 (2021 £46,990) were giving and associated gift aid, £6,873 (2021 £3,791) were PCC fees received, £12,728 (2021 £7,887) related to income received from letting the Church Room and Newsletter adverts and donations, and £17,102 (2021 £0) related to legacies received. Use of the Church Room increased in 2022 contributing a surplus of revenue over cost of £3,349 (2021 £270).

Total planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), envelopes and standing orders was £28,513 which was a decrease of 9% from the previous year (£31,314). This reduction in planned giving was partly offset by an increase in plate collections and gift aid envelopes of 31% to £9,033 (2021 £6,901). The Social Committee planned a number of successful events during the year, which in addition to the continued sale of Holy Trinity merchandise contributed ~£3,000 to our income (2021 ~£2,000).

£79,259 (2021 £74,599) was spent from unrestricted funds. Contributors to the increase included ~£1,000 related to repairs to the Church Room, ~£1,200 related to organist fees for both regular services and life events, ~£1,500 related to an increase in the Charitable giving. In 2022 the PCC agreed to further increase its level of giving from 5% to 9%, closer to our Outreach aim of 10%. This was a result of the improved financial position during the year. Our Parish Share contribution, which we continue to pay in full, remains to be a significant cost for Holy Trinity and this year accounted for 64% (2021 66%) of the total expenses relating to the work of the Church.

The net movement in unrestricted funds was an increase of £10,752 (2021 £3,135 decrease).

Total incoming resources from designated funds were £152,658 (2021 £4,505), of which £150,000 (2021 £0) related to a very generous legacy. A portion of this legacy was used in 2022 to refurbish the Church Room (£42,768). These costs have been capitalised and will be depreciated over a 10-year period.

Overall, the net movement in total funds for the Holy Trinity was an increase of £145,222 (2021 £6,030 decrease).

During the year we invested £25,000 from the legacy income received into the CBF Investment Fund. After a challenging year in the investment markets our total investments recognised an unrealised loss of £10,435 (2021 £8,459 unrealised gain).

Reserves policy

The PCC aim to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets), which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to around £18,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year-end was £145,861 (2021 £55,306) which is well in excess of this target.

It is our policy to invest our fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Investments and Savings accounts.

The PCC also holds reserves against the potential risk of losing a major donor of the church, a regular church room letting or newsletter advertiser.

Katie Bett

Church Wardens' Report

We were obviously extremely disappointed when Joe informed us of his decision to join the Army, but rest assured, plans are already in place as to how we continue his amazing work from September, as we also start again to look for another incumbent. The way the Church of England operates makes this process quite long-winded but having experienced this only a few years ago we are well prepared to move forward.

Following the very important maxim that the church is not the building, but the people and the community Joe has continued to reach out to everyone and continued to 'live stream' Services from the Church. Thanks to the very generous

donation from the Churchwomen's Fellowship, the broadcast quality video and audio equipment continues to provide quality streaming. The numbers of people from far and near, including as far away as Greece and Japan who join us online has been remarkable. Joe's enthusiasm and drive and the talented people who have worked with him has been wonderful. Every week, we are constantly reminded just how as a Church, we are extremely blessed by the creative talent we have in our Parish.

We would also like to thank Pamela Hale, Linda Taylor, Margaret Holt and Sylvia Brown, whose very generous legacies have helped us improve/upgrade our facilities in both the Church and Church Room.*

Since the retirement of Frank and Mary Mitchell we are still without a Sacristan (a position that involves coordinating the altar frontals, arranging washing of linen and ordering church requisites) but Daniel King Smith continues to be our Verger, for which we are extremely grateful.

During 2022, Church business continued as usual. This included:

- Churchwarden's routine visual inspection of the church buildings & grounds
- Maintenance of the church logbook and inventory
- Annual maintenance of the boiler and required Gas Certificates
- Annual testing of fire appliances and electrical apparatus
- Maintenance of the Churchyard
- Installation of pew cushions in Church*
- New front and side doors were fitted in the Church Room*
- A new floor and upgraded lighting were also fitted in the Church Room*
- A projector and screen were installed in Church to enhance our worship*
- Further development of the Parish Giving Scheme
- Coverage of the role of Sacristan coordinating the altar frontals, arranging washing of linen and ordering church requisites

The Garden of Remembrance is now finished and sadly starting to fill up.

The Church remains open every day for private prayer and remains a place of calm serenity. This is down to many members of the congregation, and we all owe them a huge debt of thanks:

- the Church cleaning team
- the flower arranging team
- all the stewards, readers and intercessors
- the volunteers who help to maintain our Churchyard

- the volunteers who unlock and lock the Church
- all those who freely give of their talents and time to make Holy Trinity the place it is today

We would like to thank Lucy Green who looks after the bookings in the Church Room which are now back to pre-Covid levels and also Sharon Miller, who keeps its spic and span.

The Newsletter continues to support the community and likewise the community supports the Newsletter, with donations (for which we are most grateful) which helps towards the rising production costs. However, we could do with more advertisers, as quite a few of our long-term advertisers have either retired or closed their businesses.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all as without your tremendous support, donations, practical help and good humour during this last year, we would have struggled. As we move towards a new era, we count our blessings and rejoice that Joe and his family were sent to minister to us and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Julie Griffiths and Andy Smith

Safeguarding Report

Our aim as a PCC is to keep the children and vulnerable adults in our community safe from harm. I hope that people in our village and the community of Holy Trinity, Potten End, feel safe and supported by our church, and know that they could turn to Rev Joe or the PCC members for advice and support. Over the past year, we, as a community have participated in many activities, be it services, parish gatherings, children's activities and social events. Both scenarios of mixing with others and being isolated and participating online, brings its own safeguarding challenges. We have appropriate policies in place to ensure that we keep all of the congregation and local community safe.

As required to report, Holy Trinity Potten End PCC have complied with their duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. This refers to our duty to have due regard for the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and that all persons named are familiar with key documents, "Protecting all God's Children" and "Promoting a Safer Church".

Over the past year there have been no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission (all PCCs are answerable to the Charity Commission).

We continue to receive regular updates from ThirtyOne:Eight (The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) in the form of an electronic newsletter sent to Joe and Bev. This keeps us informed of National developments and gives help and advice to us as a church community. We also have regular Safeguarding Bulletins from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Jez Hurst, to ensure that we are complying with guidance etc. Jez, and his team, are extremely helpful should we have any queries. There is also a new Zoom 'drop in' for Parish Safeguarding Officers monthly, which reflects our current way of holding meetings. Rev Joe and Bev also look regularly at the Parish Dashboard, which is the online check to ensure that we are compliant with all recommended safeguarding. There is an updated Safeguarding website for the Diocese too which can be found at www.stalbansdiocese.org/safeguarding.

All PCC members and those with roles that have direct contact with children have to be DBS checked (to an 'Enhanced' level) and from March 2022 – March 2023 4 new DBS checks have been carried out, three were renewal of previous PCC members and one new check. These checks are now valid for three years (used to be 5 years) and therefore several PCC members, myself included, who have had previous checks, will need to undergo a renewed DBS check in order to keep records up to date and ensure that we are not complacent in meeting our statutory obligation.

In following the revised requirement for all PCC members to have a greater depth of Safeguarding training, we are still trying to complete the required training. This came into effect in January 2022 and I can now report that almost all PCC members have now completed Basic Awareness training and Foundations training (bar two people), which will be valid for three years.

Seven members of the PCC have now completed the final training module on Domestic Violence, which we urge others to do as soon as possible to ensure we are compliant with the latest guidance.

As Safeguarding Officer, I am very happy to discuss matters individually with people whether personal or to share concerns about the welfare of others. My details can be found in the church porch and I am happy to meet with individuals to offer support.

Beverley Hamilton

Worship and Prayer

Worship and prayer continue to be the beating heart of Holy Trinity for all our parishioners, whether old or young, and especially all those who are young at

heart! All our services continue to grow and adapt, and we are safe in saying that we have a broad breadth of services which are attractive to all. We are pleased to say that participation continues to grow!

In ensuring that we enable all to engage in our services, we continue to live stream our Sunday morning and evening services, daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, Monday to Thursday – taken by Rev Joe and our vergers, Daniel and our monthly Compline service – taken by Rev Joe.

Our Sunday services follow a regular and now well embedded pattern of Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. We have our All-Age Worship service of Prayer and Praise on the Second Sunday of the Month and our Family Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday.

In the evenings we have Book of Common Prayer Evensong Services and our Celtic Services often bi-monthly.

Our children's services include a Family Holy Communion in which the children take part in the Eucharist – preparing the bread and wine, a healthy Wild Church, and our Rooted young persons, who often prepare the prayers and intercessions for our services. Rev Joe continues to visit our Church school and lead services there, as well as the school children attending services within the church regularly.

All the key Festival days of the Church calendar were celebrated, with special services aimed at children and adults as appropriate, including Lent, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Our Rooted group took over the running of the Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve to much amusement!

Alongside the normal seasonal services, we held an outdoor Remembrance Service (with the main road outside the church closed to allow for a larger community event) and Community Carols on the Green, which we hope will now take place annually as part of our village celebrations.

In addition, this year, we joined with the whole village community to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a number of services including the Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon.

Sadly, a few months later, we joined with the Country mourning her passing with prayer and commemoration.

Our music Worship has continued to thrive. We are so blessed to have so many accomplished musicians and singers within our congregation – both here and,

thanks to technology, afar. Our special thanks go to Daniel King Smith, whose personally written meditations start each Sunday morning service and Andy Smith who has written or arranged, along with Sara Raybould, all of our Worship songs and Celtic Service music. Dan and Andy composed the original music to accompany our Stations of the Cross Services during Lent. Special thanks also goes to Richard King for his organisation of the annual Nine Lessons and Carols Service in December, and for his regular playing of the organ Sundays.

Our commitment to worship continues to thrive and remain at the heart of our Church. For it is our worship that we are energised, refreshed, fed and commissioned to be able to serve as the body of Christ in the world.

Claire Wallis

Nigh on all our liturgy/readings/hymns for our Sunday morning/special services can be found regularly uploaded to our website and available through our weekly email. This is no mean feat and so huge thanks must be given to Claire Wallis who works tirelessly to ensure that this happens. Claire also creates the PowerPoint slides for our worship using the projector screen. This is greatly appreciated – thank you so much! Rev Joe.

Life Events

Holy Trinity strives to be present, offering comfort, care and love throughout the various rhythms of life, from birth to death to letting go, so to be able to welcome people to church at these important moments is a real privilege.

Whether because of the pandemic and the effect of lockdown, there had sadly been an increase in the number funerals (10), memorial services (4) and burial of ashes (11) in 2022, compared to 2021 – this reflects the national picture. Some of these also were for faithful members of the church, who we give thanks for and remember on our hearts.

Yet while there wasn't as many baptisms and weddings as in 2021 (coming now out of the 'post-lockdown freedom wave'), we still conducted 4 baptisms and 3 weddings in 2022. This signifies to me the affectionate place, from those both within the parish and beyond, of Holy Trinity in people's lives and that of their families.

This should be a key reminder of the importance of Life Events in our church, as an integral part our ministry in serving the community. Through them we are

seeing fruits appear, with a clear, growing engagement of people attending our regular worship and fellowship, and I hope and pray that this continues.

Rev. Joe Roberts

Mission and Discipleship

At Holy Trinity there are different ways in which people can deepen their own faith and also participate in the mission of God's church.

In Lent last year, a significant number (both from the parish and other churches) were involved in the national Church of England undertaking that is Living in Love and Faith (LLF). Richard Hackworth and I led people in thinking about issues of sexuality, relationships and identity. This then was fed into the LLF project, which put forward proposals on the blessings of same-sex marriages, that has now been approved by General Synod. The Advent study was in keeping with our Eco-Church commitment (of which we are bronze accredited) by reflecting upon Sleepers Wake (Getting serious about climate change) by Nicholas Holtam. This was less well-attended, but I know that members of the congregation engaged with it, as I brought more books for people who didn't attend! Plus, it is great that the bible group has resumed at David and Yvonne Neville-Rolfe's house, as is the monthly prayer meeting in church.

If deepening our faith through study, reflection and fellowship, is a key component of our Christian living (of which I hope that it is), it seems that finding a suitable time as to when it takes place and choosing the 'right' resource to engage with, must be taken into serious consideration going into the future. As is the person(s) able to lead it.

Special mention must be made to our important social media presence, especially through our website and Facebook. This has continued to not just be a good tool to advertise what we do but also has allowed us to help people in their own faith journeys and relationship with God. Through various posts, prayers, videos, etc. Facebook has without a doubt increased our 'reach' and is subtle way to grow engagement. We have also been blessed with Daniel King Smith taking on the role of collating and sending out the weekly email. This goes out to not just those in the congregation but anyone who signs up to receives it. We know it is used by people in following along with the readings and hymns, even if they are at church or not.

As always, our church newsletter is a fantastic way for us to keep parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our church and our community and

includes articles that help develop people's knowledge and to grow in their faith. A huge thanks to Andy Smith who edits it, and to all who contribute and distribute it around the parish and beyond.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith and it should be noted that while Holy Trinity continues to be financially challenged, we have supported financially various mission and charitable works such as St. Francis Hospice, DENS, the Red Cross and Christian Aid to name but a few. 9% of our income went on outreach giving, an increase from the 5% in 2021.

Regarding our community outreach, Tuesday Gathering continues to be the only stay and play/coffee morning in the village. It demonstrates our mission to serve and shows compassion to all in providing a safe space for anyone to come along. We also were able to register Tuesday Gathering and Tuesday Lunches as a Warm Space over the winter, which while we inundated by volunteers, we weren't by clients attending. Sadly, Tuesday Gathering is coming to an end in its current format over the spring – it just isn't sustainable. However, it always was just going to be a temporary initiative and has gone on longer than Jaime and I envisaged. At the time of writing, we're hoping that the momentum that we've built isn't completely lost, and I know that there are discussions by those who attend to take it forward in a new and reimagined way.

This brings us full circle to the immense importance of practically serving and responding missionally, in being the church of the heart of the community. Living God's love through generosity, prayer, service and the deepening of faith, can have not just a significant impact on our own lives but also upon others. Let us all play our part as members of the body of the Church.

Revd. Joe Roberts

Families and Young People at Holy Trinity

Whilst 2022 started with some Covid restrictions still in place, that didn't stop our families and children's work from continuing.

Wild Church was able to continue to meet in person and in January we started the year with an outdoor Christingle service in the Churchyard. This was well attended, with families coming together to create their own Christingles, which were then lit from the fire pit and marshmallows toasted for smores. Wild Church has continued to meet each month and whilst numbers have fluctuated, it has been a joy to meet with families, engaging with faith outside of our building and looking for signs of God's creation in the world around us. This has included

taking a survey of plants growing in the churchyard, nature walks in the surrounding area, and making and flying kites for Pentecost.

Trinity Kids continues to meet on the first Sunday of the month, with an average of 6 children each time. This allows our younger members of the congregation an opportunity to engage with and respond to the readings of the day in an age-appropriate manner, often involving games and craft activities suggested and adapted from our Roots on the Web subscription.

Throughout the rest of the month our worship pattern is varied, including Second Sunday Praise and Fourth Sunday Family Communion which have an intentional focus of the church family all worshipping together. This continues to attract a number of families. It is wonderful to see our younger members of Holy Trinity playing an active part in our worship, leading our prayers, reading scripture and assisting at the Eucharist.

Our liturgical pew bags continue to be available to children coming into church for any service, and alongside the Roots sheets provide input for children to engage in worship.

Rooted is an area of our families and children's ministry that continues to grow – now hosting around 14 young people from school years 5-8 in the Vicarage each month. This gives them a space to ask questions and engage with their faith over food, discussion and videogames.

While some of our Rooted young people have grown up in the church (especially through Messy Church), a number have had no engagement with church prior to attending Rooted. Furthermore, they have played an active part in the life of our church, enriching our worship by writing and recording prayers for services throughout the year, and at Christmas helping with our Nativity service on Christmas eve, narrating the script and assisting with the tech.

Jaime Roberts

Potten End Church of England Primary School

Another busy year here at Potten End, fresh off of our successful Ofsted visit and continued grading as Good, we have not rested on our laurels one bit!

As the summer term came to a close, we said farewell to both our Year 6s as well as closing the door on our Nursery provision. Whilst this was a sad moment, we have been able to invest in developing the space for the benefit of our whole school but developing a fabulous new Library. We were able to secure funding

from both our own budget as well as a generous donation from Friends of School to allow us to have some beautiful bespoke furniture made and installed. My favourite is the book nook and the shelf unit in the shape of a tree.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the congregation here at Holy Trinity (& the wider community) we were able to raise nearly £700 from our 'Would I Lie to You' wine event – this was generously matched from the legacy of Mrs Hale (a former teacher at the school). With this huge donation we have been able to fill the shelves of the library with beautiful, inclusive, accessible and (mostly importantly) up to date books from all genres and allow us to continue to buy as needed. It truly is a wonder to behold, and we hope we can welcome the wider community in to see it very soon. We are so very grateful.

As the new school year started, we were delighted to welcome a full cohort into our Reception class & they have settled in well. We were pleased to observe this class was the first to fully experience our new Phonics programme – Read Write Inc – and it has proven hugely successful in developing a flexible and adaptable programme to allow all our children to flourish.

Our Friends of School has been reignited with new leadership and we have been delighted that the whole school community could come together more regularly and enjoy social events such as movie nights, bake sales, discos and of course the wonderful Christmas Fair.

We welcomed several new Governors onto the Board, both parents and community governors and it is a delight to see their energy and enthusiasm.

We continue to self-reflect on how we can develop deeper levels of faith within the school and our beautiful new reflection space outside of Year 5 really brings to life our Christian values and visualises our motto 'rooted in faith, we nurture, grow and flourish' – which is very much well embedded into the community – both in words & acts. We continued to enjoy Collective Worships with Rev Joe as well as some led by the children who are this year's Spiritual Leaders, we have enjoyed being able to also come back into Church for regular worship too.

Community events such as our very well attended Remembrance Day and Community Carols were wonderful, a special highlight was Alexander's exceptional playing of The Last Post.

Whilst our Ofsted inspection is now thankfully in the past we continue to ensure we are doing all we can ahead of the inspection by SIAMS. We were anticipating this within this school year but are now aware we will be inspected within the

new inspection framework in September 2023 – never one to rest on our laurels – Mrs Kennedy has ensured we are continuously improving our offering to our children. Not only have we received a Primary Science Quality Mark but also received our second Wellbeing Quality Mark for Diversity & Inclusion: Wellbeing for all. The inspector was particularly struck by the warm and inclusive atmosphere demonstrated by both staff and pupils:

“The school’s motto is ‘Rooted in faith, we nurture, grow and flourish’ and across the school it is visibly evident that the school provides a strong, supportive community where faith is at the heart...Potten End school clearly has wellbeing for all at its heart and the ongoing work on inclusion and diversity is pushing this to a deeper level.”

We are delighted that this is so very clear for all to see and once again thank all of our Staff but especially our Headteacher, Mrs Kennedy, for relentlessly maintaining and developing deeper connections between the children’s faith and wellbeing.

Emma Harris

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team is a small group of volunteers who visit those from the church and wider community who are struggling with being housebound, sick, bereaved or just need a friendly chat over a cup of tea.

The team has continued its work during a year when most people were happy once more to have visitors in their homes but sending cards and telephone calls are still the most used forms of contact.

We send birthday cards to all the people we know about in the community who reach 90 and above. We would be grateful if anyone reading this report could let us know if they are aware of anyone in this age group that we might have missed. Cards are also sent to people who are new to the village as well as those who are unwell or recently bereaved. Again, please let us know if you are aware of anyone in these categories to whom a card should be sent.

The Rev. Joe has taken Holy Communion to some of those on our pastoral care list who are housebound, as well visiting residents in Annett House and Castle Village.

All those on the pastoral care list were taken a posy on Mothering Sunday. At Christmas time gift boxes from a Hertfordshire charity were distributed to some and small gifts and cards to others.

All those who had been recently bereaved and had had services at Holy Trinity were sent personal letters of invitation by The Rev. Joe Roberts to a service of remembrance. The service was well attended, and refreshments were provided after the service.

Sadly, two of the community who were visited by members of the team died during the year.

I would like to thank the six members of the pastoral care team for their valuable contribution to our work in the community. If anyone would like to join the pastoral care team or is aware of someone who might appreciate a visit from a member of the team, please let me or Rev. Joe Roberts know.

Ann Charlton

Social Committee

I would like to thank all members of the Social Committee for their commitment and hard work, the events have been an opportunity to keep our community together and welcome people into Church.

Whilst the pressure to fund-raise has lessened, it has been important that the work that we are undertaking raises important funds for other areas including the School and the Village Hall. As always, the work of the Social Committee is about fellowship and community.

I would also like to make mention of all of the willing volunteers that do coffee after church. It has been most heartening to see that we need more coffee every week and people stay much longer. I think this has become a very important social activity for many, particularly those who live alone.

We have continued to have steady sales for our mugs and the Blank/Christmas cards have begun to sell again.

Major events since last APCM have been:

4th June – Jubilee Open Day Event

We provided craft in church and prayer opportunities for the featured tree. Also, people worked on the church stall and provided Messy Church styled activities.

Sunday 12th of June – Patronal Event in the Church Room

30th July – Eds "Summer Church Chill"

This was a lovely, chilled event as always. Many thanks to Ed and Victoria Pickard.

1st October – 70/80's Disco

(joint event with Village Hall) – raised £242 for HTPE

21st October – 'Would I Lie About Wine to You?'

(raised £670 for Potten End School Library)

30th October – Refreshments for Service of Memories.

25th of November – Film Night

Singalong with Grease – this had to be cancelled through lack of ticket sales.

2nd December – King Smith Concert 'Screen and Film Music Take 2'

11th December – Nine Lessons and Carols

Mince pies and mulled wine followed in the Church Room

19th December – Christmas Church Open Day

with activities, craft, merchandise sales and raffle then at 6pm 'Carols on The Green' where HTSC provided refreshments.

The Social Committee raised a substantial amount this year as noted in the Church Accounts Report.

Due to lack of time on my part and the increase of events being offered by the Village Hall and others, we have not organised any further major activities this year. The only social event so far this year was fizz after Easter Sunday Service and Joe and Jaime ran the 'live' screening of the Coronation with refreshments.

I had proposed to PCC that we celebrate 155 years of Holy Trinity Church with a Dinner Dance event and Open Day this Summer but with the news of Joe's departure I am afraid I did not feel it was appropriate. Others may wish to take this forward.

I understand that Joe and Jaime will be organising a social gathering in July in celebration of Jaime's success in being taken forward for ordination.

The Social Committee will be organising a community leaving event in the Village Hall for Joe and his family on Friday 18th August. Apart from this, there are no planned events as yet.

If we are to keep Holy Trinity going during what could be another long interregnum, we need to pull together as a community, both inside and outside of Church. Therefore, if there is anything particular you think may be a popular activity, please let me know. I am happy to support anything, but it would be great if a few more people stepped forward to lead. It would be even better if we had more people attend the events!

I am also giving notice that I will step down from running the Social Committee at the end of the interregnum.

Sara Raybould

Church Women's Fellowship (CWF)

The CWF programme got off to a slow start this year, largely due to the long shadow of Covid and the associated lockdowns. Meetings followed their usual pattern though, with talks on charities by Ivy Silk who brought us up to date with news from Indian Mother and Child; Lyndsey Ems who told us more about the local Hope charity; and Mike Wallis who described the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and how helpful its work is to many who have monetary problems. During the Winter, bad weather caused some meetings to be cancelled, but in true 'Fellowship style' we met two or three times for tea (and cake) and a good old natter.

During this year as usual, we gave donations to several selected local and national charities. We were also pleased to donate towards the purchase of books for the school's new and library. We were later invited to visit the library and found it very impressive. At Christmastime the children kindly brought us warm apple-crumble that they had made themselves. It was good to have them visit and chat with us – and their crumble was absolutely delicious!

Toni Butler

Churchyard

Yet again I am pleased to report that, thanks to excellent care from our loyal band of volunteers (and with some welcome newcomers), our churchyard continues to be a peaceful and treasured sanctuary for us all.

This year's cutting and strimming rota has now commenced and will continue through to October when, like last year, it will culminate in a general leaf pick and tidy up in time for Remembrance Sunday. Our thanks also go to the wider community - including the Scouts - for their help with this.

As always, any new volunteers would be welcomed. The graveyard is divided into four sections, and there is a choice of either mowing or strimming (or preferably both!) one or more of these sections at regular intervals throughout the grass growing season. We were lucky during the summer last year, as the lack of rain reduced the need for regular cutting; let's hope it is the same this year!

Our new mower and strimmer which operate with rechargeable batteries rather than petrol, appear to be working well and assist with the CofE commitment to be as 'Green' as possible.

The wildflower area in the churchyard, close to the Church Room, is now beginning to establish itself and should soon be looking good! In the adjacent area, the new garden of remembrance has now been created, together with a pathway and bench. The surrounding area was grassed over following removal of the Golden Cyprus tree last year and is now looking great. The main pathways to the Church have also been re-tarmaced to remove all the potholes and trip hazards.

Simon Barnard

Living God, draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love
with generosity and joy, imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

