

## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT TO APCM FOR YEAR 2022**

### **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

**The year was, in some ways, unlike any other with national and international events affecting the life of the village and the church, but the PCC continued in its primary purpose of co-operating with our minister Rev Linda Washington and Rev Nigel Washington, our assistant minister to promote and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in this parish pastorally, evangelically, ecumenically and socially. We also continue to be responsible for the fabric of the church building. In that aim we are deeply indebted, as in other years, to the efforts of our churchwarden, Dee Curtis, whose workload is massive.**

**We have so many to thank for their help in all our aims and purposes, the Friends for their financial help with the upkeep of the fabric. There is a wonderful band of helpers working on events and maintenance, some are on the PCC, Bridget Chevalier, Patricia Keymer, Tony Sugars, Alan Chaney and others who are not, the Doctors Long, Rita, Sally and Roger Stares, Malcolm Curtis, Angela Rowlings, Rachel Williams, Carol Wilden, Rachel and Doug Hook, June Vyse**

**We also thank both Diocese and Deanery, Central Beds and the Parish council for grants this year for heating and for our work with young people and reaching new people.**

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Looking back to the beginning of 2022, the parish was gradually coming out of lockdown with some worship, bible study and prayer meetings still being virtual. Messy church was cancelled in January and February.**

**Over the year we have returned to normality, but there so many extraordinary events maybe it was normality plus!**

**Messy Church re-started as successfully as ever, Youth Group had managed to continue to some extent during lock down and returned to regular meetings.**

**Services returned to church regularly and there was a Lent course in person.**

**We responded to the war in Ukraine by raising money at the Lent lunches, which were held as normal in the Wilkinson Hall, in co-operation with Chalgrave and the Methodist church. We had a very moving concert in church with Maria and Izabella to raise money for and awareness of the Ukraine.**

**We celebrated our 800 year anniversary with events centred around St George's day, a concert, Art attack for the children, a talk on St George, a walk and a service of celebration with the Bishop. In September we had a Petal and Purl festival, with amazing flowers and knitted models representing aspects of church life and history. It was a great success but it had involved a lot of hard work from many wonderful helpers, flower arrangers knitters and publicity, over many months. We especially thank Angela Rowling, June Vyse and Rita Stares. We mourn Rita's passing as she had been so deeply involved with St George's for so many years.**

**Throughout the year Bridget Chevalier did a sponsored walk totalling over 800 miles and her sponsorship raised money for St George's, we thank her and her sponsors.**

**In June we joined with the whole village to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee with a service and bell ringers and individual involvement in village wide events. In September we mourned the death of the Queen and celebrated her life and Christian service to the country throughout the Petal and Purl festival which included a floral tribute and a book of remembrance.**

**It was a busy weekend with our usual Sunday service, the festival, the licensing of Rev Linda Washington as Rector followed immediately by a very well attended service of remembrance for the Queen. We are delighted that the**

**suspension of the living of the benefice has been lifted and we can greet Rev Linda Washington as our rector. We are also glad to welcome Rev Nigel Washington to our services more often following his retirement from Westoning, Tingrith and Harlington and to welcome Malcolm Curtis as reader as he is no longer committed to Woburn.**

**With the demise of Churches Together in Toddington and Chalgrave we lost the parish magazine and we are extremely grateful to Frances Brown for taking over the running of the church website and our section of the A Church Near You website. It would be wonderful to get a newsletter up and running but we already ask a lot of our band of helpers.**

**In the later colder months, from the beginning of November, we responded to the rise in the cost of heating by running Warm Winter Wednesdays in the Wilkinson Hall, opening the Hall from 10.30am to 3pm and supplying soup, bread rolls, baked potatoes, coffee, tea, biscuits sometimes cake, conversation and jigsaws. These have continued into this year.**

**We have continued to support the Food Bank financially and with food. We have made donations to Water aid and have been involved with Azalea, based in Luton, by cooking for their Alpha groups.**

**We made faltering steps towards an eco-church award.**

**There have been 3 Weddings 18 (15 in church 3 at the crematorium) funerals and 9 (two infant, four children three adults or youths) baptisms.**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £51,433 of which £30,091 were voluntary donations including gift aid. Restricted donations of £410 were also received along with grants of £12,228. Investment dividends of £424 and bank interest of £6.

These are set out in the accounts.

These receipts represent a further increase in reserves over 2020 and 2021. The increase came about through the continued generosity of individuals and also from the re-starting of regular Wilkinson Hall hirings which produced revenue of £5,326. Fundraising events such as coffee mornings and Ploughman's lunches, which were reintroduced following the pandemic, also raised £3,094. The Petal and Purl festival, which formed part of the 800 year celebrations, generated income in excess of £3,000.

Costs during the year were kept under control. In particular energy costs were kept at a reasonable level. Fixed price contracts for gas and electricity were negotiated in 2021 and this has enabled the worst of the price increases to be avoided. The church has also benefitted from heating grants from St Albans diocese, Toddington Parish Council and Central Beds council. The church was able to pay the full Parish Share of £20,817.