



Holy Trinity
Church • Frome

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
2023
Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7.15pm

REPORTS INCLUDED

Vicar's Report

Churchwardens Reports

Electoral Roll

Financial Review

Health & Safety

Safeguarding

Other:

Resources: Trinity Hall, Church Office

Audio Visual Team

Sung Worship and Music

Choir

Discipleship and Small Groups

Mission

Pastoral Care

Parish Nurse

CAP—Debt Centre

Children & Families and Youth work

The Bridge

Men's Ministry

HOPE Frome

Neighbourhood Chaplaincy

Prayer and Squares

Bereavement Ministry

Floral Ministry

Mother's Union

ECO Church

Young Adult Pioneer Ministers

Frome Deanery Synod

*(The Trustees report forms part of the Accounts that,
as well as the minutes of the last APCM,
are published on separate sheets)*

Vicar's Report
Ian Snares
Review of 2022

How much can change in one year!

This time in 2022 (I'm writing in March 2023), Chris and Libby as Churchwardens were writing their introduction to Holy Trinity's 2021 annual report. And I was writing something very similar for St Wilfrid's Cowplain. We all knew that much change was likely to come, but none of us knew that I would be writing this Vicar's Report for Holy Trinity Frome.

I have now officially been Vicar for just over six months. And what a six months it has been! Frome is an amazing town and Trinity a wonderful church, and I very much feel that I've hit the jackpot being called to live and minister here.

What attracted me when I first saw the advert for this role was the combination of a town that cares (as seen in the independent Town Council, Fair Frome and so many organisations and initiatives serving the community) and a church that is passionate about Jesus and bringing his love to all who live in this very dynamic, quirky yet also very varied town. And I haven't been disappointed in what I've found!

I'm convinced that Jesus is at work here. He is building his kingdom, often in ways we cannot see. 'Church' is so much more than attending on Sundays, and it's been such an encouragement to me to see the breadth of ministries and activities that characterise Trinity.

So I want to say a very big 'thank you' to all who make Trinity the church that it is. Those who make our services happen (thank you to our clergy,

readers, sung worship leaders and musicians, those who lead and contribute to our services, welcomers and sidespeople, those who operate our PA and visuals). Those who work behind the scenes to ensure everything is in order (our wardens, vergers, administrators, those who look after our building and the hall, our treasurer, the PCC and Standing Committee, those leading us in safeguarding, all who simply help). Those who lead housegroups and other groups, children's and youth work, our pastoral care team, all who organise events, and everyone who makes Trinity a family and a place where people feel valued and supported. Those who reach out to the wider community, through the Bridge Cafe, our CAP Centre, our Parish Nurse, Bereavement Team, the various Hope initiatives, our Toddler Group and in all manner of ways supporting those who find life challenging. And I'm sorry if I've missed you...

And thank you to all who've welcomed Jo, Jonathan, Annabelle and me to Frome and the Trinity family. We were overwhelmed with your love and generosity upon our arrival last summer and it has been wonderful to start getting to know you all.

The Annual Review is a time to look back and give thanks to God for all he has been doing, and equally a time to look forward to how he is leading us. My hope and prayer is that Jesus will continue building His Holy Trinity and that each of us will know the part he is calling us to play. Maybe he is asking you to step up, perhaps even leading an area of our ministry and mission. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide as we seek to be Jesus' disciples who take up his call to lead others to also become his disciples.

Ian

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT 2023

The main topic of this report concerns the fabric of the church. However, we are both delighted that Ian's arrival has meant that certain responsibilities

can now be shouldered by his! Libby is intending to stand down at this APCM having served for 8 years as Church Warden. As her fellow Warden, I would like to say that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve alongside her; she has gone the 'extra mile' week in, week out and she richly deserves our sincere thanks. On the subject of serving as Church Warden, I strongly suspect that many people will have a very distorted picture of what is entailed, due firstly to Covid and then to the Vacancy. It was, undeniably, pretty 'full on' during those times.

However, the normal routines have now been re-established and having a Vicar makes a huge difference. The week-to-week work is not onerous! Yes, there are certain legal obligations that need to be fulfilled but the job remains, in essence, that of supporting Ian in his role.....which is a great privilege! A church of this size really needs two wardens, so I would encourage any of you who might have heard God calling then to this role to talk to Ian.

The church fabric remains in good order although with an older building, there is always maintenance of one sort or another to be done. Two of the 'Colour Source' spotlights have failed and it has been quite a formidable and expensive task to get them down and repaired.

A small fire in the kitchen resulted in the writing-off of the oven. Such things are incredibly expensive to replace and difficult to source. However, Chris Round identified a very similar oven in Uxbridge that had been bought and never used (how does he do these things?). Chris and Jonathon N-S travelled to collect it and, despite having to remove the kitchen door – frame and all – managed to install it successfully. Furthermore, the cost to the Church was nil as an anonymous donor stepped in to pay for it.....thank you, Lord!

The carpet section covering the baptistry has never fitted well and presents something of a trip hazard. Contact has been made with Ken Weston Rugs

(Locks Hill) as a suitable time will be identified when the carpet can be cut and whipped. Several of the chairs have lost their felt-based plastic runners; we have managed to get the chair company to supply several hundred replacements, free of charge and we are trying to keep on top of this, although the underfloor heating makes the plastic more brittle and then susceptible to breaking. The rest of the church is in good order.

Finally, we would like to thank all the Church members for their support throughout the year. Naturally, inevitably, the year has had its ups and downs but that is part-and-parcel of community life.....but there have been a great deal of the former than the latter, for which we thank God!

Chris Stafford and Libby Doewansey

ELECTORAL ROLL APRIL 2023

The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. Those entitled to have their names on this roll have to be 16 years of age or more and they must reside in the parish or be regular worshippers in the church whose roll they wish to join. The roll is completely renewed every six years, at which point all members have to re-apply for membership or else their names will be deleted. By this means, the continuing validity of the roll is maintained.

2019 happened to be the 6th year of the cycle and so the 2018 roll was scrapped and a new one started for 2019, so this still forms the basis for this year's roll; a completely new roll will have to be initiated in 2025, when all eligible church members will be required to complete the Electoral Roll registration form.

Calculating the numbers this year has been more straight forward now that the church is meeting normally Obviously, we are aware that some

members have moved away and some have passed away – we think especially of Dennis Neate and his family with the loss of Daphne - but we are aware that certain people have moved into the area and started to link up with Holy Trinity, which is greatly encouraging. I would like to report to APCM that the current number on the Holy Trinity Electoral Roll is 184, which represents an increase of 20 from this time last year.

Chris Stafford

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR HOLY TRINITY 2022

This report covers the financial year and calendar year 2022, ending 31 December 2022. This year will again be remembered for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as was 2021, however as the year progressed so Covid restrictions were eased, the long-lasting effects of Covid do continue to affect every single aspect of Holy Trinity's significant spectrum of activities from Praise and Worship, Toddlers and through to Finances. However, as may be realized from the annual accounts, the General Fund has somewhat recovered slightly from the significantly reduced 2020 offerings and the then marginally increased 2021 offerings.

Total receipts on the ordinary unrestricted fund, which represent the General Fund only, were £146,926 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. For direct comparison purpose with year (2019) the unrestricted General Fund income was £164,346. Hence a reduction on income, 2022 cf 2019 of £17,420. Total expenditure in the year from such income amounted to £146,169. The largest item was our Parish Share of £97,554 which was paid to the Diocese of Bath and Wells to enable it to provide clergy and support services. The net result for these funds was a small surfeit of £757 compared with a surfeit of £23,626 in 2019 and surfeit of £25,615 in 2018.

Designated Funds total receipts were £53,349 and expenditure was £44,768 resulting in a surfeit of £8,580. These figures cover all designated Funds held by Holy Trinity. The funds mostly affected are the Hall; the Nurse (little income just expenditure), and the Bridge, income affected by recovering from Covid effects.

Restricted Funds, which are; Children & Youth, Debt Centre, Fabric and the Redevelopment Funds had an income of £43,461 and an expenditure of £47,519 resulting in a deficit of £4,058. The Children and Youth Fund and Debt Centre Funds account for this deficit. However, it must be realised that when Andrew and Elizabeth Alden were appointed to be Young Adults Ministry representatives in Frome and surrounding villages then Holy Trinity was asked to hold a Fund for their work. This Fund, YAM REST is also now a restricted fund but does not feature in the figures noted above. This YAM REST fund should not be considered as being available for any HTF uses. We merely act as Banker for this fund's finances.

The PCC has continued its long-standing policy of giving (tithes) 10% of general income to mission which for 2022 has included support for ministry in Bitola, North Macedonia and our association with the fledgling evangelical church there through TEN, however charitable giving in 2022 has not reached that %age being at £9,384 compared with giving at £125,816.

Toddlers has significantly recovered from year 2021 and has consequently provided Toddler's contribution of the usual £1,000 towards the C & Y fund.

The Fabric Fund has a negative balance of £5,710, this negative balance is slowly being reduced as income is realised from investment allocated only to Fabric, through 2022 this income amounted to £722

The Redevelopment (restricted) Fund was also resourced by a loan from The Diocese for £100,000 which is due for repayment over 10 years (2017-2027) repayments made to the end of this report period total £60,000. The

redevelopment Fund stands at a negative £29,472 at the year-end which takes account of the outstanding £40,000 loan liability. Following a lump sum given in 2021, we were able to service the Diocesan Loan this year, 2022, with current finances; and we should be able to service the loan from this fund, for 2023, however this may be a challenge for ensuing years.

The Bridge account had an income of £17,288 which included Government grants (Covid related) amounted to £3,667. The Bridge expenditure was £15,411 almost entirely due to fixed costs, Rent and Maintenance, resulting in a surfeit of £1,876. The PCC previously decided to carry out significant maintenance at The Bridge through 2020, 2021 and into 2022, this maintenance cost was £3,196 during 2022. The Bridge management, led by John and Wendy Rootes have rebuilt the work of The Bridge, following the Covid restrictions being lifted to a result where a surfeit has been realised financially.

The Hall Fund income has significantly increased following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions resulting in a small surfeit of £380, while the Hall Hire Income runs the direct Hall expenses, as previously noted in my annual reports, the General Church suffers cost for Administration and other aspects that are paid from our General Fund. The Hall is normally contra charged by the General Fund a sum to cover these appropriate costs.

Charitable Status

Holy Trinity Church is registered with the Charity Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Frome. Registered number 1129366.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which covers three months of Parish Share payments to cover cash flow problems near the year end and to cope with unforeseen situations. Some funds are invested in CBF deposit funds. However, it can be realised from these accounts that the

Church finances, having suffered due to COVID-19 comply with this policy with the current reporting year being almost balanced, Income/Expenditure.

Outlook and Budget

We will have to service the Diocesan Loan, for the TT-TL project, at a repayment rate of £10,000 per year for the next 4 years. We currently have no plan or pledges to cover this, however this fund is in credit and can currently service the next 1 + years.

The Children and Youth workers Fund is in a robust position. The Toddler's fund is recovering as Toddler's activities have re-commenced.

Members should be aware that the Children and Youth and Debt Centre are separate funds, as is Redevelopment, and the Parish Nurse and if not specifically noted and supported by your giving then they enjoy no other income, furthermore these are Restricted Funds and monies can only be spent on their defined purposes except in extreme circumstances.

The Church members' giving was significantly affected by COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021. Recovery from this effect has occurred through 2022 but not yet fully. It may be realised from these accounts that offerings on the plate each week as cash, totaled £26,925 in 2019 but only £11,519 in 2022, a reduction of £15,406, however, standing orders and other regular giving has recovered and is similar to pre Covid levels. These reductions affect the overall church activities and the reserves held in savings. It should be realised that the surfeit in general income from pre Covid years financed the provision of our Parish Nurse and Debt Centre, in order to maintain these outreach activities, we need to return to a surfeit position of in excess of £20,000 annually

Our Parish Share for 2022 was again based upon reporting to the diocese completed in April 2020 covering the church attendance for the previous year, 2019 (pre-Pandemic). The Diocese decided this year, 2023 our Parish

Share should remain substantially the same as 2022; while the financial outlook for 2023 remains acceptable, due to our reserves in the General Fund being £48,597 we look forward to church returning to normal and regular worshipping members numbers returning to pre COVID-19 level but more importantly the associated income returning. Current habits of not carrying cash and use of Card Payments have persuaded the PCC to install a Card Donation system, however this has not been as successful as hoped.

As an aside a Legacy to a Registered Charity, such as Holy Trinity, can be a very efficient way to reduce Inheritance Tax rates, and provide funding to the charity, the legacy is therefore significantly greater than the drawdown on inherited assets, due to the remaining taxable inheritance being taxed at a reduced rate. If anyone is interested in this matter, please talk with me.

Chris Round.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The PCC has agreed an updated Health and Safety policy which is available to view in the Church. Annual risk assessments are carried out on the building and its contents and any activities and work carried out. All risk assessments are available to view in the office.

The accident book is reviewed at each PCC and appropriate actions put in place if necessary.

The fire alarm is tested every six months and the emergency lighting and fire extinguishers are checked on a regular basis and serviced annually. The fire alarm front panel has recently been replaced.

Please contact the office if you have any health and safety concerns.

Susanna Hanson

SAFEGUARDING

As the church has opened up to more activities since Covid restrictions, there have been many new volunteers needing DBS checks, alongside collecting references, and getting the volunteers to do the necessary online training. Alongside this, there has been renewal of DBS checks for those continuing in their voluntary roles.

Since last year, there has been a change, in that DBS clearance is now needed every three years instead of every five years.

Safeguarding Training for all volunteers and paid workers within our church, should be updated every three years. So, all who have not done training since it was done in the church four years ago need to do this online. The leaders of each activity group have been making their volunteers aware of this situation. The Basic and Foundation levels of training are on the Diocesan Portal.

During the past year, the Safeguarding Team at the Diocese have been supportive with applications for DBS, with online and face to face training, and with specific safeguarding cases.

Ruth Haines

CHURCH OFFICE

The office has seen many changes with the arrival of Ian, Rachael taking Maternity Leave and Brigit stepping in to keep the office afloat. A very big thank you to the lovely volunteers who come in to help with various things; Maggie and Jackie help with folding bulletins and stapling magazines together on Fridays and Zoe pops in on occasional Tuesdays to help Kally with computer based work on Bookings and Invoicing. We do need more computer literate people to volunteer to help with various different office activities, whether this is invoicing hall hirers and arranging return of deposits, or collating the calendar for the following month's magazine, data input, printing reports, designing posters, sending emails, social media output...

Trinity Hall is a popular venue for parties on the weekends and gets booked up many weeks in advance. Regular bookings occupy most of the week in the hall. Recent confirmation for a new regular booking on every Friday, which has historically been a quiet day, means the hall is now booked every day and evening of the week, except for every 2nd Thursday evening.

We are currently negotiating with someone who would like to book every Tuesday. The variety of events in the hall is always varied. From dance lessons or Folk Dance, to Stroke Club socials, Three different choirs or singing groups, Mums and Toddlers and a Birth Talk group, weekly free hot meals to people on low income, exercise and educational groups.

There were no weddings in 2022, but already have three weddings booked in for 2023.

Baptisms have also been booked more often, in the past few weeks we have had five requests for infant Baptism dates. Thank you to Joyce who has taken over the ministry of knitting a tiny white teddy given to each child Baptised at Trinity together with a Toddlers Bible and a commemorative Candle.

The office is responsible for the website, the weekly bulletin and the monthly magazine—for this we rely on receiving dates and information about events coming up in good time so that they can be advertised to the local community and to the other local churches.

There is a regular flow of visitors into the church, some to admire the Burne-Jones windows, some to sit and reflect - some to be amazed at the history of Trinity. It is always uplifting to meet visitors to the church. Frome Festival 2022 gave us a lovely opportunity to welcome more people in to see our beautiful church.

Kally and Brigit

AUDIO VISUAL TEAM

The Audio Visual team has developed in a few small ways in the past year. Gerry retired after many years faithfully operating the sound desk at Sunday 9am, Wednesday mornings and funerals. We thank him for all the years of faithful service.

Dave continues to broadcast the live 9am Sunday service each week on Facebook – a service that attracts a regular and loyal following of people around the world, Western Australia, Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, India, as well as various people in Frome who sometimes cannot attend the service for reasons of ill health or other commitments. These services are viewed many times on catch-up later in the day; numbers are often in the hundreds! There are often appreciative comments from people who have stumbled upon the broadcast by 'chance' but we know Whose fingerprints those are! (Reference to John Samways wonderful Book – 'God's Fingerprints' available for £5 in church)

We are currently looking at ways to improve the equipment, moving away from using a mobile phone; this should give us better sound quality on the Broadcast.

I am always on the lookout for new volunteers to help with sound, projection and Facebook broadcasts, if you are technically minded and have good hearing, please speak to me if you'd like to sit with me for a week or two to get used to how to do it. It is simple once you know the purpose of all the buttons.

We also use an I-pad which allows us to operate the sound desk remotely from any part of the Church, it is used mainly on Wednesday mornings and allows the operator to sit in the main body of the Church.

"Videopsalm" is a new projection software that has been trialed and found to be much easier to operate. The team is now changing over to this new software. The songs database for Videopsalm is not available online as it is for the previous – glitchy – program we were using. I am gradually building

up a new database of the songs that are regularly sung during services.

With a big thank you to all who assist with running the Audio Visuals, we look forward to a new year of more people on the team and seamless operating - with the hope of obtaining some new equipment.

Dave Dunn April 2023

MUSIC GROUP

I would like to start by thanking those who lead the musical side of the worship at Holy Trinity, at both Sunday services and at the mid-week communion. We now have a team of over ten people who sing, play and lead us and who have an important role in encouraging the congregation in their worship. Changes to the 9.00 am Service have seen the introduction of slightly more modern hymns and the use of the screen and projector to display the words. I hope that these have brought more variety to the service without losing its traditional feel.

Our recent 'Worship Jams' have also been a particular highlight and have given an opportunity for more musicians to try their hand and learn some new songs. Anyone is welcome to come along to these and sing or play with us. Popular recent introductions to the repertoire for the 11 am service include "Yet not I, but through Christ in me", "Evermore", "Yes and Amen" and "King of Kings". It has been very good to welcome our new vicar, Ian into this group and to share his enthusiasm for Spirit-filled worship.

Ruth Burden

CHOIR

We were be able to continue singing at the 9am service about once a month plus the occasional special services. We have practices on the previous two Friday evenings, and during the service sing anthems or worship songs during the administration of communion, and the occasional descant and/or harmony for hymns.

During 2022 the choir also took part in the joint services on Easter Sunday, Ian's licensing service and the Christmas Carol service. We have benefitted from several new singers joining us recently, bringing the maximum number up to 12.

If you are interested in joining us please speak to me after a service, or give me a ring.

Margaret Perry (01373 453962)

DISCIPLESHIP AND SMALL GROUPS

Most discipleship happens unseen and unannounced as we share our lives together and inspire one another to follow Jesus. More intentional discipleship happens as we listen and seek to apply the teaching at the different services, either following the lectionary in our special series such as the current Alpha series. Alpha has for many years been part of Holy Trinity's discipleship menu and has for many years been a FACT, inter-church initiative. Sadly, FACT is not functioning at the moment, so we are running Alpha in HT for the whole church. We have usually followed up Alpha with Focus on Faith, a more in depth discussion group.

Small groups are an important context for discipleship. There are currently 12 small groups meeting at various times throughout the week. Two of the groups are developing the 4W Cell Church model to encourage everyone to participate and encourage outreach and mission. Small groups are an important element of HT community life and we would encourage everyone to consider joining one.

Tom Harflett

MISSION

Mission has always been a vital element of the life of Holy Trinity and we aim to give a tenth of our non-designated income to mission beyond ourselves. We currently support Mike and Brigit Adams with FEBC, Chris and Nora Morton in France, Stephen and Irene Tucker working with Wycliffe and Josip and Biljana a Pastor in North Macedonia. We give occasionally to the diocese of Marsabit in North Kenya where Rob Martin from HT was the Bishop and established the Diocese. We also occasionally support Good News for Everyone, formerly the Gideon's through Richard Loveless who is involved in the leadership of the organisation. A group from HT visited Josip and Biljana in October and we are hoping to visit again next autumn.

Tom Harflett

PASTORAL CARE

Over the last year the pastoral care team has seen a few changes, with some deciding to stand down, and new people coming on board. We are 15, but would love to see some more men volunteer!

We have started to meet every 6-8 weeks with Ian, to support and pray for each other, and pray for some of the people we help. At our first meeting, it was agreed that our first concern is to help people rely and trust in the Lord through the tough times in their lives. To stand beside them, pray with them on the way, and to remind them they are loved and not forgotten - so pastoral care involves visiting, making phone calls, shopping, giving lifts to church or appointments, listening to, and praying with, people.

Also at our meeting it was agreed that it is good to encourage people to use the facilities in Frome - Active and In Touch if they feel lonely and need company, the Frome Community transport for lifts. We need to use what our local community offers as well as provide help ourselves.

To help the PC team communicate better we have started a WhatsApp group.

This year we have seen several of our elderly parishioners go into care homes, either for respite care or permanently, and it is important to continue to or even increase, our visiting to them, as their lives have changed so dramatically. Also there are several who are housebound and we are planning to start again, a small team to take communion to those in their own homes and in the care homes.

Every week we review the church attendance, to see if there are those who haven't been for 3-4 weeks, and need a phone call, and for those who still haven't returned after covid, we are trying to make contact and encourage them back.

We rely on the small group leaders to care for their members, James and I touch base when we can to cover the young families. I am hoping someone from the young families group might consider coming on the pastoral care team.

We still need someone who could co-ordinate transport for lifts to church and hospital appointments. This is not onerous, but does require someone happy to make phone calls.

Jan, the Parish nurse and I meet regularly to share her load, and go over who needs help. Jan only works for Trinity on Wednesdays and Thursdays so we must be careful not to bombard her on a Sunday with needs and requests, and allow her to Worship in Peace! Fortunately, Trinity is full of amazing people who look out for their friends and neighbours, but we must continue to be pro-active and communicate well.

Thank you to those who are not on the PC team but who do so much to help others. If anyone feels called to join the PC team, please let me know.

Sue Martin

PARISH NURSE

Being a parish nurse is a unique role which blends caring for the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of those within the church family, but also extends out into the local community to serve, support and signpost anyone in need.

Community outreach podiatry by Caroline a Registered Podiatrist continues to provide invaluable eight weekly sessions for those unable to source/afford podiatry, and so are having problems with mobility. Rotary Club are currently providing this with a generous donation that I sourced from them.

I am providing monthly health education sessions at Phoenix court which are well received, and I am in touch with Trinity First school regarding a monthly visit to talk about health issues in line with National Curriculum guidelines. I have links with Beckington surgery and Active and InTouch who refer people to me as appropriate.

Jan Zriel

DEBT CENTRE

During 2022 we had in excess of 50 potential clients referred by the Job Centre, the Food Bank, Tony Perry, Citizens Advice, Housing Associations, Social Services and some were self-referred.

During the year more than 10 enquiries were general conversations regarding the possibility of debt due to the cost of living crisis and the best way forward for the individual when debt became a reality.

There were 41 referred clients who had existing debt problems:

- 12 have disengaged at some point in the process
- 11 were helped with signposting, specific advice and/or given a CAP Self Help Pack.
- 18 clients have engaged with a full CAP Debt Plan. Some have been given their own Debt management Plan which is a means of paying back the debt over a period of time.

- Others have applied for and received a Debt Relief Order or insolvency through bankruptcy via the Official Receiver.

There is a small team accompanying me on home visits and follow up befriending, plus a team of prayer warriors who give prayer cover for visits. There is a Prayer meeting held on first Wednesday of each month at Trinity at 3pm, all are welcome.

All clients receive the Hope magazine in their opening pack. We tell them of our faith during the first visit and ask if they have any faith. We usually offer to pray for them during the first and last visits.

Some housegroups and a couple of individuals made up Christmas Hampers for selected clients, they were top quality and a lot of thought and care had been put into them and they were gratefully received. Many thanks.

Phil Gray

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK

SUNDAY MORNING KIDS CHURCH

It's been a busy year and I am so pleased to say that we've seen significant growth over the last few months and we are now averaging between 25-30 kids most weeks, which is really exciting.

We've been running our 'Kids Alpha' in the hall in recent weeks and these sessions have been immense fun, a great chance for kids to understand the basis of our faith and some key Bible characters (as well as build friendships). I am praying that the understanding that has been taken on board in these last few weeks will be transformational for these kids as they continue to grow in life.

A heartfelt thank you to Abi, Charley, Beth, Tom and the young leaders for stepping up and making this happen. I am aware that with the current number of volunteers, it is not sustainable to be putting in so much effort, planning and leadership in the long term. So, if you are interested in being a

leader or helper at Kids Church please do come and see me and we can have a chat about what the role entails - it really is the best fun, and so rewarding!

WILD WORSHIP

Wild Worship has continued to thrive and, although we see lots of people from our Trinity Church family, it has become it's own little community and there's definitely something so special about being outside in nature worshipping the living God together. We usually have between 40 - 50 people coming along, which means on the Sundays that we meet we are probably the second or third biggest Christian gathering in Frome! We do have lots of fun and the sessions usually contain a mix of fresh coffee, messy crafts, games, a Bible story, testimony, sung worship & food from the fire. A big thank you to Jane for providing refreshments, Luke for keeping the fire going (and safe!), Jack & Lou for leading worship and talks, and Ruth for her creative ideas!

TRINITY FIRST SCHOOL

It's been such a privilege to see the relationship with Trinity First School grow and expand in recent years. It's a real joy to have this as part of my role and to see children in our community be exposed to faith, life with Jesus and the role of the Church in the town. As ever with children's ministry, we hope to lay some foundational blocks through which they can see the world, know the reality of God's love and grow as loving, kind individuals.

Assemblies

Every 3 weeks Veronique Camacho (a mum from School) and I lead assemblies at Trinity First School. We've done a range of Old and New Testament stories in recent terms (Including Jonah, The Good Shepherd, Zaccheus etc). As I write this, we are in the middle of a week of 'Holy Week' assemblies. We started with Palm Sunday (and even had a real donkey!) and I have just this morning led one on The Last Supper. Tomorrow will be the

22 Crucifixion and we will end with a big Easter celebration at Church later this week. It is such a blessing to be able to share the Gospel story in this way with the 293 pupils and all the staff.

Pond area renovation

We worked really hard over the summer to make the pond area a useable, inspiring, natural space

instead of the dangerous and 'out of bounds' area that it had become for the school. I thoroughly believe that we should be a blessing in our community and this project was, in truth, bigger than I had imagined. To name a few things we did, we ended up building a large outdoor shelter, putting together some planters, clearing out the pond, burning and cutting back weeds and overgrown areas, creating a chalk board, installing a bat box, putting up a boundary around the pond, planting some new trees and moving more wood chip than I'd like to recall!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped with this - too many to name, but you know who you are! Also a huge thank you to the local community for providing trees, wood chip, wood and other useful things.

Governor responsibilities (Ethos Group, Gov. monitoring etc)

I've also been serving on the Governing board for a few years now, and at the start of the year became the Vice Chair. Again, it's a privilege to play my part in the governance of the school and it's wonderful to have Ian as part of this board now too. This is a varied but important role and I pray that my presence is a blessing and that, sometimes, I can provide some wisdom and creativity to this team. The school is always seeking to improve and so we need to be a focused and understanding governing board. However, it is also currently facing several challenges including the pressure to choose a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) to join, an upcoming building project in the quad area, the looming OFSTEAD inspection and the challenge of running an



Part of this role has also been to go and visit classes, monitor the quality of work that students are delivering, hear from teachers about the curriculum and participate on the head teachers performance review. Last month, I was asked to attend a class where the pupils asked me several questions about Church leadership; during this visit one of the pupils said loudly "I want to be a forest school teacher but I am also going to tell people about Jesus!".

I am also on the Ethos committee; this focusses on how the school is run, the culture of the school, and how the values are integrated into the daily life of the school. This group meets every half term and is a valuable space to reflect, meet with pupils and discuss how the culture of the school is developing. As part of this, we discuss how we are distinctively Christian, which is always an interesting discussion and a good opportunity.

Staff Socials

A final word on Trinity First School, I have just started heading up some social activities for the staff at school. These teachers work unbelievably hard and have little time for enjoying time unwinding with colleagues and we have an opportunity to bless these important workers in our community. We've run a small quiz (thanks to Chris G and Joel B for their input and leading) and plans are underway to do a BBQ in the summer term.

YOUTH WORK

Before writing about each individual group I want to say that the teams that help run the youth programme at Trinity are incredible. Partnering with Zoe, Joel, Fay, Chris, Jane and Tony is great and I feel like we are finally starting to have a team that can continue to foster a safe, fun and exciting place for young people in both our church and wider communities. In an ideal scenario, we'd have a couple more leaders for us to alleviate some pressure on Zoe & Joel who, in particular, pour lots into the youth work at Trinity. Having a slightly larger team would also help to continue, grow and expand

our vision for ministry to young people in our local area. Although we never have had them in the same room at the same time we have around 30 young people that we are working with through the youth programme, although most groups we have between 8 - 10 young people coming along. We are also putting plans in place to take a group for a couple of days to the 'Satellites' youth festival at The Bath & West Showground this summer.

Wildfire Youth Group

This is our Sunday afternoon youth group which currently runs on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. We spend time sharing food together, playing games and breaking off for the last part of the session to read the Bible, have some discussion and a short prayer time.

Youth Discipleship Group

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month and I was so pleased to launch this group a few months ago as an intentional space for us to encourage young people in their discipleship. We started with the intent of replicating the 4 W's community of grace model, however we've realised that it's probably too much to look at all 4 W's during one of our sessions. So we are currently just re-shaping this to make it into a home group that works for our young people.

Youth Games Cafe

Tony, Zoe, Joel and I run this group and it's a safe space for young people to come along to play games, have some refreshments and build friendships with one another. Badminton, ping pong, board games and group games are the main activities that take place, although we like to make a space for young people to suggest activities. Hopefully this informal 'hang out' space will continue to evolve and grow in the coming months.

Trinity Toddlers

Trinity Toddlers has really bounced back in the last year and we are now almost always sold out for our Thursday sessions. These continue to be times

for free play, singing, snacks and we have started to see a few more 'Kingdom moments' in this community too, from one family coming along to our Sunday morning Alpha to little conversations over coffee. I would suggest that having a few Church folk coming along on a regular basis has helped to shape this culture too (Sam Sneddon, Ally Dray, Libby Doewansey and Rachael Markham are all regulars). However, we pray for more! As ever, my thanks to the volunteer team that help to host this group, it quite literally wouldn't happen without you (Mary, Rosemary, Fliss, Sue & Ally).

Trinity Toddlers were also invited to start up a monthly toddler group at Rossetti House care home, and although numerous outbreaks of covid within the home have occasionally cancelled these, we have managed to run the group three times. It is lovely to watch the residents engage with the small babies and toddlers; I think the biggest age gap we saw was a lady who was 103 cuddling a 6 week old baby!

'TRIPLE B' MEN'S GROUP (BIBLES, BURGERS AND BEERS)

The Gospel is full of challenge and encouragement but for so many of my male friends from Church, many of whom also have careers, relationships, parental responsibilities etc it's hard to create a little bit of time in the diary for their own discipleship. So once a month I am going to be leading a small Bible study group upstairs in The Griffin over some food and drinks. There's a group of 11 men who are keen to be part of this so far and I am looking forward to getting started.

11AM TEAM

During the vacancy I had the privilege of leading this amazing team who sought to lead our 11am service and aimed to reconnect again with so many in our community after the pandemic, many of whom were questioning whether they wanted to return to church as it was. Every team meeting has been full of creativity, love and prayer and I believe that we did our best to both sustain and renovate this service to be in a good place and state for Ian's arrival (and I hope he agrees!) and it's been great to have

Ian on board to take on this team and add in his wisdom, ideas and plans.

CAROLS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

This year we led our first 'Carols around the campfire' event and despite the poor weather had around 70 people come along - many who do not come to anything else that we lead as Church. We had a great time, starting with hot drinks (mulled wine & hot chocolate) and goodie bags for kids before crossing the playing field to gather around the fire to worship God (led by Jack C and Beth B). I had the chance to share a brief talk and Ian led some prayers. We will definitely look to run this event again this year, but will pray for better weather!

A review of 'Campfire Carols' from Ali Hoblyn:

A big thanks to James, for all the thought and effort that went into this lovely event! That the rain held off enough was an added bonus. My support efforts were hampered due to bringing two lively granddaughters (6&4) that needed tracking... However, I wanted to say that I watched their reactions as Jack and particularly Alessia, sang - and they were so engaged; I really felt them making a connection with something beyond their everyday experience. Giving children exposure to such an experience - and a loving faith community - is surely the point of Wild Worship, so many thanks again to all who keep it going!

TRINITY SOCIALS

In the last year we've had a few social events, including three games nights and several walks. The walks will continue to be planned bi-monthly, in various locations. We are also having conversations about planning other social events. If you have any ideas, please do let me know!

To close my APCM report, I would just like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our lovely church family for their love, support and prayers over the last

year. It is a privilege to be Associate Minister here and to look to serve our community as we grow as a community of disciples here at Trinity. Also a huge thanks to all of the volunteers who help to run all of these different groups and events; it could not happen without you.

James Markham

THE BRIDGE CAFÉ

The Lord has provided for us in so many ways this last year, with new customers coming in and quickly becoming friends, with new volunteers, so well-equipped and experienced to do this challenging work and with a steadily increasing income through sales and generous gifts.

Work on refurbishing the café has continued with new flooring in the stockroom and an extractor fan in the kitchen to help reduce condensation. We have been meeting regularly with Ian, Tony, Jan and Phil to see how our various ministries can support one another, as they have many overlaps, in particular our connection with Tony and his administration of The Hardship Fund, and our link with Jan's Thursday Afternoon support Group at the Church.

Sunday Teas have been running fortnightly since last Autumn and are proving popular with our Bridge community. It has been very good to be able to share with them what motivates us in terms of our faith and to reassure them of God's love for them, and the hope that we have in Christ. A couple more volunteers for these teas would be very helpful.

John & Wendy Rootes

MEN UNITED REPORT 2022

There are 3 co-leaders of the Men United programme; Dave Dunn, Mike Adams and Rob Martin.

After a crowded first two months in 2022, we settled into a routine of roughly three-monthly Men's breakfasts on Saturday mornings, Men's Curry nights on Thursdays and Men's online reflection and prayer times on Thursday evenings

a.) Men's Curry nights: our 3 speakers were James Carey talking about "Where is God in the chaos?": Henry Pomeroy sharing his faith journey and how he takes major decisions in the light of his faith: and Rev. Jonathan Hunter-Dunn, vicar of Shepton Mallet, on "God, reason, science and Jesus". About 20-25 people attend at the Rugby Club, with food prepared by our ex-Navy chef, Keith. Tickets are £10 and we have given the surplus of £270 to Fair Frome.

b.) Men's breakfast: we met 5 times at HTF, after a fuller start than usual. We've talked about the Great Commission, being a godly man, mental health and Elijah, relating to civic authorities and Ian has shared his faith journey. We used to be 10-15 people, but more recently 20-25. Costs are £5 and the surplus (included above) also goes to Fair Frome.

c.) Men's Online: we met 4 times, and have looked at the example of some significant men in the Bible – Barnabas, Hezekiah and Pilate, with an Ascension reflection. Between 6-10 of us have gathered on zoom

We are a Christian group, but have welcomed everyone coming to the Curry Nights, having been invited by their friends. Please come and join us, as long as you are a man! NB men do the cooking.

Rob Martin (March 2023)

2023: Next Online April 27th; Breakfast May 20th; Curry Night June 28th

HOPE FROME 2023

After the worst of Covid was over, it was clear that HOPE Frome needed a fresh start. After 12 years of faithful service, we formally said "goodbye" to the HOPE Van with many thanks going out to all the volunteers, prayer warriors, and visitors who supported this project. But with no HOPE Van, and the mothballing of our parent organisation, Frome Area Christians Together (FACT), we had to ask ourselves "What does God want us to do now?" So we went back to our beginnings, and asked the police, town council, and

several other community organisations to see what needs we could fill. After much prayer and consultation, it seemed that God was clearly pointing us toward a multi-generational approach to serving and engaging with young people and young adults in outdoor public spaces. This has developed into the **Parks Popup Project** (see @1625parkspopup on Instagram), which meets Saturday evening in parks and open spaces at varying frequencies throughout the year, providing food, drink, and fun activities. The Frome Independent Market started back up in 2022 and asked if we wanted to continue running our Oasis water and respite tent. This is an excellent opportunity to share the love of Christ by serving our community. Initially, due to lack of staff and leadership, we had to say "no", but God didn't want to see the opportunity pass. The Independent Market asked again a few months into their calendar and thanks to Phillip Camacho (Frome Christian Fellowship) stepping up to lead, Oasis is now back operating in full swing.

Amongst all of this, we still needed to overcome one big obstacle - how to exist without a parent "Churches Together" organisation. HOPE Frome has no legal standing on it's own, and was always meant to be represented by all Christian communities in the Frome area, not just Holy Trinity. For the interim and purely for legal and insurance reasons, HOPE operates under HTC Frome. We still welcome, encourage and seek participation from Christians in the Frome area.

If you wish to help or get involved with any of our projects, please do get in contact with me or any of the HOPE members to find out more.

Gary Lee, HOPE Frome Coordinator

gmllee@mac.com 07515 589200

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAPLAINCY IN PACKSADDLE 2022/3

Neighbourhood Chaplaincy in Packsaddle continues to be encouraging! We have two new chaplains and we have met monthly during the past year to pray for our community and have had some wonderful answers to prayer. We have recently been given a lovely picture of God walking in a garden,

and of us gathering together on our Green, where our Community Orchard has now been planted.

Tuesdays on the Green, when we invite anyone in the Packsaddle community to join us for a chat and a cuppa, is about to restart for the summer. (During the winter, we kept in touch with monthly indoor coffee mornings.) And we are planning three pop-up cafés over the summer.

At the start of September, we plan to create harvest displays as we have done before, outside our homes or in our windows, demonstrating God's provision for us. And, as our neighbourhood seems to be a community of dog walkers, we are going to try something new later this year by having a celebration of creation/pet service in September on the Packsaddle Fields.

But it's not all about events – day to day we endeavour to share Jesus' love with our neighbours by supporting them when they are ill, lonely, anxious, just given birth or are in need in some way. God is working through these friendship opportunities – we long to see Him breakthrough into the lives of those around us.

Miriam and Heather

PRAYERS AND SQUARES.

We started Prayers and Squares in December 2014 and have given 88 quilts to date. Added to that we have given 20 Prayer Squares.

A Prayer Quilt is given to someone in crisis. It cannot be a surprise; it cannot be purchased and it is not about the quilt but about the prayers tied into it. It is normally requested by a sponsor on behalf of the recipient and some sponsors have made donations.

A square can be given whenever requested on behalf of someone else. Each quilt costs about £50 to make for basic supplies so the 88 we have given have cost £4,000. To date, donations to help with the costs have amounted to £1360. A few quilts have been made from members' own

supplies and sometimes we have donations of fabrics. Any money donated is used to purchase supplies for Prayer and Squares. At present we have £138 in the cash box. Some of the donated money has purchased supplies. Whilst the PCC agreed some time ago to financially support, I have not called upon them so far, preferring to sponsor this myself. There is a small group of ladies who gather when we can and when needed, to help with making of the quilts and I wish to thank them for their help and support.

Lizzie Round

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement Team attended the funerals that took place in Holy Trinity during 2022. Probably due to the vacancy there seemed to be less than normal.

We have received feedback during the year of how the presence of the Bereavement Team at funerals has been welcomed. It is an enormous privilege to be there supporting families with prayer and practical help at these occasions when they come together to say 'Farewell' to loved ones and give thanks for their lives.

Fran Reed, who had been a stalwart of the team for many years, left for a new home in Chippenham during 2022 and we do wish her and Brian every happiness there.

We welcomed Val Howell on to the team and it's good to have her kind help and thoughtfulness on these sad occasions. However, we could do with a couple more caring and compassionate people to strengthen the team. If you feel called to offer help in this way, please speak to our Vicar, Ian, one of the Churchwardens or one of the current team about what is involved.

We are grateful to the Church team, Ian, the Churchwardens, our lovely

vergers, organists, sound system operators and all those we ask to help at funerals.

We continue to keep in touch with those who have been bereaved with Anniversary cards. Also, at Christmas we sent 'First Christmas' cards together with details of Christmas services.

It's been lovely to support Jan with her Bereavement course when we can, and other initiatives including the bereavement café which provided some continuing fellowship for those who had attended the course.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2022 Commemoration of the Departed Service such a success. We had help with welcomers, cake makers and people who just chatted and befriended those who came to remember loved ones. The retiring collection resulted in a cheque for £100 sent to Children's Hospice South West.

Alan Byrom

FLORAL MINISTRY

Ann stepped down from organising the flowers last year. There are currently 8 ladies who help with the flowers and we would always welcome more people to join us.

We are now using the font to display flowers and this means we are using very little oasis-if any, for environmental reasons.

We had a gathering before Christmas for lunch and spent time learning new flower arranging skills, led by Kristen Vincent.

Five of us made over 100 Mother's Day posies which were handed out on Mothering Sunday.

There is currently £24.39 in the flower fund, donations are always appreciated and can be put into the collection in an envelope labelled Flowers, or in the box on the wall to the right of the main church door as you're looking out to the street. I will add that to the report with a request for donations.

Daphne Neate, who spent many years lovingly helping the flower team at Trinity, passed away. Her daughter and I are arranging flowers for her funeral on Wednesday 12th April.

We are looking forward to making the flower displays for Easter and the upcoming coronation of King Charles III.

Georgina Boyden

MOTHER'S UNION

Like many organisations, Mothers' Union didn't get off to a very good start in 2022 and didn't meet in April. COVID was the culprit and our meeting cancelled. However by May we were able to get together again. We always begin our meetings with a short act of worship with members taking it in turns to lead. On this occasion, we enjoyed an excellent account of a "Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela" by a resident of Beckington.

On 1st June, we spoiled ourselves with a Cream Tea with a very special Queen's Jubilee cake made by a member. Then we put our brains to a quiz on the Royal Family and a raffle for jubilee items. The proceeds were sent to MU's 'Summer of Hope' to support women around the world.

In July we were off on another visit with slides - this time a visit to Iona. Beautiful photographs and interesting memories of a special holiday. We then took a break in August.

In November Gaye Curtis, who is responsible for our MU links with members in countries around the world, gave us a wonderful update with slides of the amazing work done by our special links in False Bay in South Africa, Shinyanga in Tanzania, two dioceses in Nigeria and one in India. It is always heart-warming to see their amazing enthusiasm for MU and their pride in their uniforms - blue dresses with the MU logo.

We met in Beckington Church for an Advent Service in early December followed by tea and mince pies. The end of another busy year at MU. 2023

began with our AGM on 11th January and our annual Wave of Prayer Service on 1st February.

Susan Clark

ECO CHURCH

John Samways and Maggie Hancock stepped back from leading Eco church and new team of Fay Kelly, Brigit and Mike Adams and Joel Baxter have taken up the role and would love more people to join the team.

The aim is to engage the church in the idea of Creation Care being considered in all areas of life through articles in the magazine, themed services with external speakers and additional events throughout the year.

In 2022 further local trees/saplings were planted on the eco patch where the group is endeavouring to include plants/trees which represent the green corridor surrounding Frome. A car park clear up was organised in March 2023 to tackle the encroaching weeds.

1625 - Young Adult Pioneer Ministers

What is a Pioneer? It is a trendy term - and much used in the secular world as well as the church. In Christian ministry, Pioneers work to reach those who are unlikely to experience the love and grace of Jesus by joining an existing congregation worshipping in a church building. As well as reaching those beyond the church community, they will often work with those they are reaching to support them to form new ways of worship or exploring discipleship which reflect their interests and priorities. This would be in partnership with local churches. So, for example, you may have heard of 'Messy Church,' which works to engage families who may struggle with the quiet and controlled atmosphere of much church-based worship; or 'Forest Church,' which aims to reach those who love the outdoors.

In Frome and the area around, very few if any young adults regularly worship in existing churches - of any denomination. The Diocese of Bath and Wells employs Andrew and Elizabeth Alden as a job share to engage with young adults - 16-25 years old - to befriend them, to invite them to explore the way of Jesus and then to build some form of worshipping community. They are coming up to the halfway point of a five-year post. At this stage the Young Adult Pioneers have a number of regular projects which enable them to meet young adults. These include weekly lunches with young adults at the YMCA, a monthly book club set-up in conjunction with Hunting Raven Bookshop in Frome, pop-up events with the HOPE team once or twice a month - but weekly in the summer - in one of the parks in Frome, a garden project called *The Giant's Garden* which offers growing space for young adults, a monthly open home, they offer chaplaincy at the Army Cadet Force and one-to-one discipleship and mentoring. Some of the young adults are now exploring discipleship and Andrew and Elizabeth hope that by the end of 2023 there will be a discipleship group meeting regularly to explore the way of Jesus.

Ministry to young adults is costly. We hope that the Deanery will be encouraged to know that some of the cost of this is paid for from those outside of the Deanery. For example, the YMCA lunch is paid for by a praying friend who knows Andrew and Elizabeth from before Frome, who himself was at one stage in the care system; £500 was given by an individual to buy fruit trees and bulbs for the Garden and money for the wall repair and raised beds there came from Andrew's former church; and the parks ministry has seen over £400 given by individuals. However, there is still some way to go before a community of young adults in the area can be self-supporting - if indeed this is ever possible. Andrew and Elizabeth are deeply grateful to the Deanery for their gifts and **events like the Barn Dance (see flyer)** which will raise money to enable more young adults to hear the good news of Jesus.

We would love you to find out more about their work. If you use Instagram you can follow three of the projects mentioned above at:

@1625bookclub

@1625thegiantsgarden

@1625parkspopup

Otherwise, give them a ring and arrange to have a coffee together. Andrew's number is 07894 736788.

Thank you for your interest, and for investing the time to read this,
Andrew and Elizabeth Alden

Deanery Synod Report

The official Frome Deanery report gives a full account of its various activities during the past year. Holy Trinity has been represented on the Deanery Synod by David Chesterfield, Richard Loveless and Tony Perry. Mike Adams has been a member of the Deanery Missionary and Pastoral Group which has had an important role in devising an equitable reallocation of clergy given the loss of one full time post. Kally Dunn has continued in the role of Deanery secretary.

A prominent feature of last year was the Deanery Living and Loving in Faith course which was hosted by Holy Trinity. Members from all the churches attended and the content was informative and challenging. It also provided an opportunity to get to know people from across the Deanery.

Caroline Walker, as Area Dean, has provided strong and vigorous leadership with an emphasis on encouraging churches to work more closely together, and to share resources which would seem vital in pursuing the Deanery's primary aim for its churches to be "A transforming presence in every community".

Tony Perry

Annual Report of the Frome Deanery Synod - 2022

Background

Frome Deanery is one of 18 Deaneries in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Its Deanery Synod is regulated by the 1969 Synodical Government Measure which sets out five functions

- (a) to consider matters concerning the Church of England and other matters of religious or public interest;
- (b) to bring together the views of the parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- (c) to make known and, so far as is appropriate, put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- (d) to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that Synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion;
- (e) to raise such matters as the Deanery Synod consider appropriate with the Diocesan Synod in 1989

At 31 December 2022 Frome Deanery comprised eight benefices (two of which are held in plurality), 19 parishes, 28 churches, a population of approximately 35,000 (of whom approx 28,000 live in the town of Frome), and a declared active membership of 1,090* (* the figure is the total number on the electoral roll on the parish dashboards for 2018)

Membership and Officers

At 31 December 2021 the membership of the Deanery Synod was as follows

Clergy: 12 seats (including 2 PTO clergy) of which two, Beckington and Mells
Benefices were vacant
Lay: 36 seats of which at least 7 were vacant

The following members are serving on Diocesan Synod (2022 - 2025)
Revd Caroline Walker, Revd Liz Dudley, Mrs Lois Bushell, Mrs Elaine Gilbert and Mr Richard Loveless

The following have been officers of the Deanery Synod during the year:

Area Dean	Caroline Walker
Assistant Area Dean	Vacant
Lay Dean	Mrs Lois Bushell
Secretary	Mrs Kally Dunn
Treasurer	Mr Ian Crook

Committees

Frome Deanery Synod has one committee under the chair-personage of the Area Dean Revd Caroline Walker and Lay Dean Lois Bushell.

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG). This group consists of Mike Adams, Mike Wilshire, Andrew Alden, Andrew Morrison, Justine North, Lois Bushell, Caroline Walker, Jenny Waller, Colin Alsbury, Ian Snares and is sub divided into Vision and Structural remits. This group was presented to and approved by Deanery Synod and it is recognised that this group advises the Diocesan and Archdeaconry Pastoral Committees regarding pastoral organisation and the mission of the Deanery. It also takes a lead in the Deanery as a whole in planning for mission and ministry and as such has a responsibility for guiding the agenda of the Deanery Synod in such a way as to meet the needs of the Diocesan and Deanery mission objectives. The results of the Deanery Questionnaire were collated and looked at by the DMPG. The DMPG has met several times this year to speed up the Pastoral Reorganisation of the Deanery. They met on 22nd March, 9th April, 9th May, 8th June, 16th July, September 22nd & 3rd November. A Deanery Vision tri-fold leaflet was drawn up summarising our Planning, Resourcing, Communication and Support for the year ahead. (see attached pdf)

Our Deanery Accompanier changed from Ben Goodhind to Mandy Priestly.

Review of the year

There have been a few departures from the Deanery. Revd Cilve Fairclough left Mells Benefice at the end of May 2022. Revd Ronnie Crossman left the Beckington Benefice at the end of July 2022. In August 2022 Revd Ian Snares was appointed as Vicar of Holy Trinity Frome.

There have been three Deanery Celebrations held over the course of 2022

15th Feb - This meeting looked at LLF Pastoral Principles and then the LLF course was offered to the Deanery. It subsequently was run by the clergy of the Deanery at Holy Trinity Frome and between 30 - 40 people from across the Deanery attended.

15th June - The main focus of this meeting was the sharing of various Deanery resources. The results of the DMPG SWOT analysis and clergy brain storming film about the changes in parishes over the last 70 years were presented. Then CrossYoga - (HV), Foget-me-not cafe (HV), Giants Garden project (St Mary's), HOPE Frome (HT), Good News resources, Churchyards Biodiversity Day (SJ & SM), Bereavement Journey (SM) were all looked at. The members for the DMPG were presented to Synod and approved. And the Diocese 'Deanery Synod and its function' leaflet was circulated.

13th October - This meeting was held at St Philip and St James Norton St Philip. The DMPG presented its draft leaflet of Vision for the Deanery. People then discussed; How can we be a Transforming Christian presence in our community? & What are we doing already and how can we creatively add to that?

Frome Deanery pamphlet—see over —>

Planning

Fundamental to making our vision succeed is **thoughtful, prayerful planning**.

This will help us to:

- Focus on our priorities.
People rather than buildings.
- Use our resources more effectively.
Sharing rather than working in isolation.
- Measure our progress.
As we see things happen in our communities, for example better health or a reduced crime rate.

The Deanery Vision

We see ourselves as a pioneering deanery returning to the values of the early church as described in Acts 2:42-47 – fellowship based on love and prayer.

"That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were joined up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved."

Communicating

The Deanery is putting good communication structures in place, so information can be cascaded down to the churches quickly and effectively.

The more we share our successes and struggles, the more we can see how to support each other and celebrate our successes.

We aim to do this using social media such as Facebook and any and all up-coming platforms.

Supporting

Our vision is challenging, but we are confident we can succeed if we have the right mind-set and support each other.

This means having a can-do attitude and being prepared to take risks.

Honestly, we believe there is nothing more fulfilling than working together to create new beginnings and finding innovative ways of using our gifts.

Challenges can be fun, particularly when food is involved! Let's explore this more together.

About the word cloud

In 2021, the Deanery sent out a questionnaire to all its churches asking for views on the work of the Deanery, both now and in the future. This word cloud shows the activities and ideas that people mentioned.



Resourcing

We will have a team of 6 full-time priests across the Deanery who, together with trained/licensed readers, worship assistants and pastoral assistants, will enable networking and teams involving all our people to sustain Christian growth and witness in all our communities.

Initiatives will be cross-deanery and include both the rural and town churches working together.

The energy and passion of 1,090 church members will move mountains.

