



Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2022

Registered Charity No. 1185390

Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary
Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens
11.30am on Sunday 26th March 2023 in St Oswald's Church

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Clerk (to both meetings)
 2. Minutes of last meetings (24th April 2022) Page 2
 3. Election of Churchwardens
-

Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11.40am on Sunday 26th March 2023 in St Oswald's Church

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM 2022 and any Matters Arising Page 2
3. Report on Changes to Electoral Roll Page 14
4. Annual Report on Proceedings of PCC (and activities of the Parish generally) Page 14
 - To include: Safeguarding Page 15
 - Ministry Team Report Page 16
 - Reports from St Oswald's groups and organisations Page 22
5. Treasurers Report. Page 18
 - To include
 - Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2022 Page 4 -11
6. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Page 19
7. Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod Page 22
8. Election of representatives to the Deanery Synod
9. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner
11. Any Other Business

Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens
11h45, Sunday 24th April 2022**

45 people present (see Record Book)

The Revd Nigel Rode opened the meeting, standing in for Revd Duncan Ballard, welcomed those present and began with prayer.

- 1) It was agreed that Susan Damesin, Minutes Secretary, would act as clerk for both the meetings.
- 2) The Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 June 2021 – St Oswald's and 21 July 2021 – St Mary's, were approved.
- 3) Election of the churchwardens: A single nomination had been received for Paul Elliott. Decision to appoint Paul Elliott was unanimous. Special thanks were given to Paul Elliott as he has already completed his term as churchwarden and for the last 12 months has been doing the job on his own as no other nominations had been received.

In view of the situation that the church is facing another year with only one warden, Janet Wright as Secretary sought the approval of those present for the appointment of three 'Sunday' wardens. Not a legal role but as it was felt that this was important, the approval of those present at the meeting was sought to three Assistant Warden positions: Ashdon Toombs, Andrew Wright and Linda Barbour. Decision to appoint the three Assistant Warden positions was unanimous.

Paul Elliott as he accepted the position of churchwarden then thanked all the people on the clergy team, the parishioners who helped on the rotas which had got us through the Covid period and said he hoped to see other people standing for churchwarden.

This then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary

**Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
12h00, Sunday 24th April 2022**

1. Apologies for absence were noted – there were five apologies. Those present numbered 45 (See Record Book).
2. The Minutes of the APCMs 2021 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from those Minutes.
3. The report on changes to the Electoral Roll were noted on page 7 of the Annual Report. Increase from 111 last year to 136 (St Oswald's 114, St Mary's 22).
4. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally had been circulated prior to the meeting and thanks were proposed to all the people who had produced the reports. Special mention on some activities during the year "Follow the Star" and the "Walk of Words".
5. Safeguarding report on page 10 by Celia Dickinson, the Safeguarding Officer.
6. Ministry Team report on page 10 of the Annual Report document. Thanks from Maggie and Nigel Rode for all the support they had received from everyone.
7. 2021 marked the end of an era for the bookstall and after many years Linda and Ron Torr have relinquished the running of the bookstall. They received a gift from the congregation and flowers. Also, Paul Elliott wished to acknowledge the retirement from officers of the church flower arrangers, Celia Yates and Margaret Dawson. Elizabeth Bridges has taken on the combined position.

8. The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31 December 2021 – also circulated before the meeting. The report outlined the position of the different funds administered by the Treasurer. Receipts and payments for both St Oswald's and St Mary's appear on pages 23 and 24 of the document. It was noted that in 2022 the same amount will be paid to the Common Fund as in 2021 which is 60% of the amount required for payment by the Diocese. Reasons being for the reduction as lack of services due to Covid, fewer services in village churches and a considerable concern at the size of the request by the Diocese. Donations were made as usual to the chosen three charities, however. There followed a short discussion on the benefit of using the Parish Giving Scheme for the weekly/monthly giving by parishioners. There being no queries on the accounts a vote of thanks was made to Michael Hyde.

Vote on accepting the accounts proposed by Mike Warner and accepted unanimously.

9. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Oswald's church. This covered the work required on the spire due to wind erosion, the lead on the chancel roof which is the responsibility of the Church Commissioners and the repair of the tarmac around the church, the responsibility of the Derbyshire Dales. Some of the matters are covered in the "Place for All" project which has 27 sub-projects. Comments by Mike Almond on this. The inventory for St Oswald's has not changed in 12 months – although there needs to be discussion on the cane-seated chairs in the Lady Chapel which need replacing. Mappleton needs to complete an inventory.
10. Report on Deanery Synod to be found in the Annual Report on page 14. No comments.
11. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC: Janet Wright held two nominations – one for Janet Wright and one for Linda Barbour who have both completed three years on the PCC and are standing again. Two other vacancies at present and there should be representatives from Mappleton (Hayley Sims was co-opted in 2021). Hayley Sims (nominated by Maggie Rode and seconded by Mike Warner). David Spencer (nominated by Celia Dickinson and seconded by Nigel Rode). Four names put forward: Linda Barbour, Janet Wright, Hayley Sims, David Spencer. Mike Warner proposed all were elected. Elected unanimously.
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner of accounts: Mr B. Montgomery of the firm of PKF Smith Cooper, Ashbourne was appointed as the independent examiner of accounts for another year if he is willing. All in favour. Thanks were noted to him for his work and to Mr Michael Hyde, Treasurer, for his report.
13. Any other business. Queries made on the subject of planting of trees in or around the church to celebrate the Queen's Canopy tree planting plan. Also, a query re: disabled parking in the carpark which will be discussed at the Resourcing Forum.

The Meeting closed at 12h40 with the Grace.

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022

ST OSWALD'S PCC - ASHBOURNE

Receipts and payments

Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Special - Special Purposes Fund (Designated) Fund			
Receipts			
Other voluntary receipts		5,000.00	5,000.00
Donations appeals etc		5,003.14	-
Legacies		55.00	242.13
Donations in memory		10,058.14	5,242.13
Total Receipts		10,058.14	5,242.13
Payments			
Church Running Expenses		-	1,200.00
Parish training and mission		-	40.00
Administration		-	-
Copier rental		-	1,240.00
Church Repairs & Maintenance		1,870.00	1,046.00
Church major repairs - installation		1,870.00	1,046.00
Hall Repairs & Maintenance		3,940.00	11,570.50
Hall + major repairs - structure		3,940.00	11,570.50
Total Payments		5,810.00	13,856.50
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		4,248.14	(8,614.37)
Brought forward balance		16,714.75	25,329.12
Total carried forward balance		20,962.89	16,714.75
Bellmrgs - Bellringers Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Other voluntary receipts		484.50	20.00
Donations appeals etc		484.50	20.00
Total Receipts		484.50	20.00
Payments			
Church Running Expenses		70.00	-
Church maintenance		70.00	-
Total Payments		70.00	-
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		414.50	20.00
Brought forward balance		2,949.93	2,929.93
Total carried forward balance		3,364.43	2,949.93

Choir - Choir Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Other voluntary receipts		60.00
Donations appeals etc	200.00	60.00
	200.00	60.00
Total Receipts	200.00	60.00
Payments		
Church Running Expenses		60.80
Choir music & vestments	42.52	60.80
	42.52	60.80
Total Payments	42.52	60.80
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	157.48	(0.80)
Brought forward balance	2,830.35	2,831.15
Total carried forward balance	2,987.83	2,830.35

Organ - Organ Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Other voluntary receipts		127.00
Donations appeals etc	481.00	127.00
	481.00	127.00
Total Receipts	481.00	127.00
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	481.00	127.00
Brought forward balance	3,143.79	3,016.79
Total carried forward balance	3,624.79	3,143.79

Flower - Flower Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Other voluntary receipts		2,500.00
Donations appeals etc	-	2,500.00
	-	2,500.00
Total Receipts	-	2,500.00
Payments		
Church Running Expenses		2,500.00
Flower equipment	2,500.00	-
	2,500.00	-
Total Payments	2,500.00	-
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	(2,500.00)	2,500.00
Brought forward balance	3,181.22	681.22
Total carried forward balance	681.22	3,181.22

Hall - Church Centre (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Activities for generating funds		-
Church hall fund raising	20.00	-
	20.00	-

Total Activities for generating funds	20.00	-
Total Receipts	20.00	-
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	20.00	-
Brought forward balance	636.80	-
Transfers to/(from)	-	636.80
Total carried forward balance	656.80	636.80

Ossie's - Ossie's Kitchen Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Other voluntary receipts	-	-
Donations appeals etc	-	-
Other receipts		
Other funds generated	-	-
Ossie's Meals & Shop	-	-
Total Receipts		
Payments		
Church Running Expenses	-	-
Cleaning	-	-
FareShare	-	-
Admn. Meal Supplies	-	-
Consumables	-	-
Ossie's sundries	-	-
Total Church Running Expenses		
Total Other voluntary receipts		
Total Other receipts		

Total Payments		
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	-	-
Brought forward balance	-	-
Total carried forward balance		

Fabric - Fabric Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Other voluntary receipts	1,064.87	388.85
Donations appeals etc	6,000.00	258.68
Legacies	730.00	3,948.97
Non-recurring one-off grants	207.04	-
Fabric income	221.45	-
Donations in memory	8,223.36	4,596.50
Total Other voluntary receipts		
Investment Income	825.51	1,166.20
Fixed interest income	242.72	18.02
Deposit fund interest	1,068.23	1,184.22
Total Investment Income		
Receipts from church activities	335.23	-
Fund raising	335.23	-
Total Receipts from church activities		
Total Receipts	9,626.82	5,780.72

Payments		
Church Running Expenses		
Church running - insurance	5,533.68	4,766.46
	5,533.68	4,766.46
Church Repairs & Maintenance		
Church major repairs - structure	4,986.00	396.00
Church major repairs - installation	-	13,073.83
	4,986.00	13,469.83
Total Payments	10,519.68	18,236.29
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	(892.86)	(12,455.57)
Brought forward balance	229,913.04	214,107.63
Adjustments	(24,376.90)	28,260.98
Total carried forward balance	204,643.28	229,913.04
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund		
Receipts		
Planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	5,513.00	5,106.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,330.00	2,356.00
Parish Giving scheme	39,265.92	36,011.40
Other planned giving	1,635.00	3,018.01
	47,743.92	46,491.41
Collections and other giving		
Loose plate collections	5,548.43	2,588.07
Contactless	4,438.09	4,170.01
One-off Gift Aid gifts	1,530.50	2,426.00
Baptism collections	530.94	431.40
Wedding collections	894.76	686.72
Funeral collections	106.39	28.50
	13,049.11	10,330.70
Other voluntary receipts		
Giving through church boxes	2,246.03	861.49
Donations appeals etc	1,838.20	1,962.92
Breakfast church	195.39	111.50
Refreshments	815.32	-
Non-recurring one-off grants	3,500.00	3,950.00
Special collections	671.29	-
	9,266.23	6,885.91
Gift Aid recovered		
Taxrecoverable on Gift Aid	13,929.91	12,809.95
	13,929.91	12,809.95
Other receipts		
Churches re expenses	1,500.00	120.00
	1,500.00	120.00
Activities for generating funds		
Bookstall sales - fund raising	2,810.83	800.00
Church hall fund raising	329.77	30.00
Parish magazine sales	-	35.00
	3,140.60	865.00
Total Activities for generating funds	3,140.60	865.00

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Receipts from church activities			
Fees for weddings and funerals		7,188.29	6,703.00
Church hall lettings - objectives		6,283.00	3,164.00
Fund raising		2,491.00	-
		15,962.29	9,867.00
Total Receipts		104,592.06	87,369.97
Payments			
Cost of generating funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		807.04	18.54
Bookstall costs		807.04	18.54
Missionary and Charitable Giving			
Giving to missionary societies		1,262.76	1,000.00
Giving - relief and development agencies		1,000.00	1,000.00
Special collections		408.53	-
Home mission		1,000.00	1,000.00
		3,671.29	3,000.00
Common Fund			
Common Fund		46,788.00	46,786.00
		46,788.00	46,786.00
Clergy and Staffing costs			
Salary of parish administrator		6,871.35	7,047.76
Working expenses of clergy		1,128.08	746.80
Vicarage - water		301.59	440.25
		8,301.02	8,234.81
Church Running Expenses			
Education		105.00	-
Church office - telephone		556.56	530.34
Organ / piano tuning		644.00	288.00
Church maintenance		4,181.73	4,975.05
Cleaning		1,410.01	-
Upkeep of services		1,040.02	338.57
Organist & choir		3,818.60	897.60
Administration		1,931.88	1,556.95
Printing & stationery		483.92	267.79
Copier rental		1,008.00	1,008.00
Bank charges		265.31	176.40
Church running - electric		3,500.87	907.75
Church running - gas		3,044.48	2,446.46
Church running - water		95.20	34.83
		22,085.58	13,427.74
Hall Running Costs			
Hall running - electricity		1,438.90	954.48
Hall running - gas		1,420.55	628.97
Hall running - insurance		1,020.00	939.00
Hall running - maintenance		5,777.12	1,339.00
Hall running - cleaning		5,685.89	10,493.60
Hall running - water		461.22	314.70
		15,803.68	14,669.75
Governance Costs			
Governance costs examination/audit fee		30.00	25.20
		30.00	25.20
Total Church Running Expenses		13,427.74	13,427.74
Total Hall Running Costs		15,803.68	14,669.75
Total Common Fund		46,788.00	46,786.00
Total Clergy and Staffing costs		8,301.02	8,234.81
Total Missionary and Charitable Giving		3,671.29	3,000.00
Total Receipts from church activities		15,962.29	9,867.00
Total Cost of generating funds		807.04	18.54
Total Church Running Expenses		22,085.58	13,427.74
Total Hall Running Costs		15,803.68	14,669.75
Governance Costs		30.00	25.20

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022		01 January 2021 31 December 2021	
		30.00		25.20	
	Total Governance Costs				
	Total Payments	97,486.61		86,162.04	
	Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure	7,105.45		1,207.93	
	Brought forward balance	7,820.94		7,249.81	
	Transfers to/(from)	-		(636.80)	
	Adjustments	-		-	
	Total carried forward balance	14,926.39		7,820.94	

ST OSWALD'S PCC - ASHBOURNE

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2022

		Balance	Previous balance
Investments			
6520: CCLA (CBF) Investment Fund Shares			
Fabric Fund	Restricted	190,079.47	208,981.72
		190,079.47	208,981.72
6530: CCLA (CBF) Fixed Interest Fund			
Fabric Fund	Restricted	35,929.84	41,404.49
		35,929.84	41,404.49
	Investments	226,009.31	250,386.21
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
6501: Bank current account			
Bellringers Fund	Restricted	3,364.43	2,949.93
Choir Fund	Restricted	2,987.83	2,830.35
Fabric Fund	Restricted	(36,069.88)	(33,901.75)
Flower Fund	Restricted	681.22	3,181.22
Church Centre	Restricted	20.00	-
Organ Fund	Restricted	3,624.79	3,143.79
Special Purposes Fund	Designated	13,962.89	9,714.75
General fund	Unrestricted	20,563.19	(6,542.26)
Agency collection	Restricted	10,840.95	16,020.87
		19,975.42	(2,603.10)
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account			
Fabric Fund	Restricted	14,703.85	13,428.58
Special Purposes Fund	Designated	7,000.00	7,000.00
General fund	Unrestricted	(5,000.00)	15,000.00
		16,703.85	35,428.58
	Cash At Bank And In Hand	36,679.27	32,825.48
Agency Accounts			
6699: Agency collections			
Agency collection	Restricted	10,840.95	16,020.87
		10,840.95	16,020.87
	Agency Accounts	10,840.95	16,020.87
	Grand Total	251,847.63	267,190.82

St Mary's Church Mappleton - Receipts & Payments

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Collections	1,249.33	703
Parish Giving Scheme	516.00	-
Donations	1,351.23	2,043
Gift Aid recovered	105.00	-
Wedding & funeral fees	2,071.00	1,704
Church box	145.77	173
CBF Interest	33.29	5
CBF Dividend	563.38	545
Memorials	177.00	422
Okeover Est. re. cleaner	360.00	360
Donation re. mowing	140.00	435
Hire of Church	60.00	-
	<u>6,772.00</u>	<u>6,390</u>
Payments		
Common Fund	2,000.00	-
Insurance	1,268.22	1,224
Electricity	1,282.48	252
Water	52.14	-
Fire equipment	198.96	72
Repairs	160.00	-
Mowing	1,167.00	435
Tidying churchyard	1,296.00	-
Admin. support	250.00	-
	<u>7,674.80</u>	<u>1,983</u>
Opening balance	11,812.10	
Deficit	902.80	
Closing balance	<u>10,909.30</u>	
<u>Represented by</u>		
CBF Deposit Fund	5,000.03	
NatWest Current a/c	5,909.27	(also 1,242.63 Fabric)
CBF Investment Fund		
916.81 Shares	Cost	5,500.00
	Value at 31/12/2022	18,942.58
Fabric		
Donations in memory of Rosemary Gather	595.63	
" " Joan Duckmanton	647.00	

Correspondence Address:

St Oswald's Parish Office
School Lane
Ashbourne
DE6 1AN

Incumbent:

Revd. Duncan Ballard
3, Spire Close
Ashbourne
DE6 1DB

Bank:

Lloyds Bank Plc
Compton
Ashbourne
DE6 1DY

Independent Examiner:

Mr. B. Montgomery
Smith Cooper
54 St. John's Street
Ashbourne
DE6 1GH

Introduction

Background

St. Oswald's and St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with its clergy in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St. Oswald's (except the chancel), the Church Centre and the Church of St Mary's.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ashbourne, St Oswald's with Mappleton, St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Incumbent: The Revd. Duncan Ballard

Retired Clergy The Revd Maggie Rode
The Revd Nigel Rode
The Revd Pip Short

Readers: Mr Mike Warner
Mrs Lynda Herbert

Churchwardens: Mr Paul Elliott

<i>Representatives on the</i>	Mr Roger Harrison	From 1/12/2020
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr Peter Walker	From 1/12/2020
	Mr John Elwell	From 1/12/2020

<i>Elected Representatives</i>	Mrs Jane Almond	From APCM 2020
	Mr Toby Gaddum	From APCM 2020
	Mrs Celia Dickinson*****	From APCM 2020
	Mr Michael Hyde****	From APCM 2020
	Mrs Lindsay Walker	From APCM 2020
	Mrs Elizabeth Bridges	From APCM 2021
	Mrs Susan Damesin***	From APCM 2021
	Mr Michael Halls	From APCM 2021
	Miss Celia Yates	From APCM 2021
	Mrs Linda Barbour *	From APCM 2022
	Miss Hayley Sims	From APCM 2022
	Mr David Spencer	From APCM 2022
	Mrs Janet Wright**	From APCM 2022

* Electoral Roll Officer ** Secretary *** Minute Secretary **** Treasurer ***** Safeguarding Link

Committees

During 2022 the PCC operated with committees as follows:

Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business between meetings of the full Church Council. It also acts, when required, as the financial planning group. Membership consisted of Incumbent (from September 2022) 2 retired priests with PTO, Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer and another PCC member invited from a rota.

Forums.

During 2022 only the Resourcing Forum met.

Resourcing Forum

To provide support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises (church and church hall) and grounds, and on the best use of our financial resources.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Officer (ERO) records those members of St. Oswald's Church, Ashbourne and St Mary's Church, Mappleton who are eligible to vote in Church elections. The ERO reports to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at its meetings and provides a regular update of its current total of numbers from both churches.

During 2022, a revision only of the Electoral Roll was prepared. A completely new Electoral Roll is required to be compiled in 2025.

As of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 26th March 2023, the numbers recorded for St. Oswald's Church, Ashbourne are **115** (114 in 2022) and for St. Mary's Church, Mappleton are **22** (22 in 2022). This combines to a total of **137** parishioners."

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish (2022)

2022 marked a slow return to life more as it was before the pandemic, within the parish. As many people were vaccinated (some multiple times) and a new, less virulent, variant of Covid appeared, we were able to reintroduce many of our annual activities – despite a resurgence of infections in the Autumn.

The PCC met 6 times during the year with Standing Committee meeting between. We made use of technology, continuing to meet on 'Zoom' early in the year, and then sometimes consulting PCC members by e-mail (as all had access to e-mail) when a rapid decision was needed. In the latter half of the year an average of 16 members met in person at each meeting.

At the beginning of the year the Resourcing Forum proposed a budget which was unanimously accepted. At subsequent meetings the Treasurer could report with reference to that budget. This became especially important in later months when energy prices rose rapidly (See Treasurer's Report). Two Contactless Giving points were installed, one combined with a large 'windowed' collection box. Use of the Parish Giving Scheme was encouraged.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy discipline Measure 2016 (to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding). It reviewed the implementation of policy, procedures and practices during the year and continued to receive Safeguarding Reports from its Parish Safeguarding Officer at each meeting.

The Resourcing Forum planned and monitored a number of projects to improve the fabric of St Oswald's church, Hall and grounds. (See report on 'Fabric, Goods and Ornaments'). The Church Commissioners have taken responsibility for the cost of replacing all the lead on the Chancel roof (Work began at the end of September). A lot of work to tidy St Mary's churchyard was undertaken and a Quinquennial Inspection of St Mary's church was completed in December. In February the PCC devoted a whole meeting to receiving a report from the 'A Place for all in Ashbourne' Steering group and endorsed their programme.

By the end of the year the pattern of regular services included Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion & 6.30pm Evensong, a weekly online service of Morning prayer (with thanks to Tony and Dierdre Wilmore), daily online Morning and Evening prayer (with thanks to Lynda Herbert), a monthly 9am Breakfast Church and monthly service of Holy Communion at St Mary's church. During the year a robed choir returned at St Oswald's and began to process, Holy Communion was offered in 2 kinds (individual communicants decided whether to receive both) and administered at the Crossing, then at the High Altar. Our team of Servers were again able to contribute to the services. Mask wearing and social distancing measures were slowly withdrawn.

In March St Oswald's held a Vigil for Ukraine, after it was forced into war with Russia. Large numbers of people came for all or part of the time. During early June H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was marked with a Flower Festival (thanks to our flower arrangers) in church and a 'Walk of Words' in the churchyard. Sadly, in September the churches helped mark the death of Queen Elizabeth. Books of Condolence were placed in church and special bellringing arranged. This was followed by the Proclamation of King Charles III at Evensong, and then a special Commemoration service for her late Majesty. In December St Oswald's hosted a Christmas Tree Festival, the start of the Lantern Parade and a Christmas Eve Crib service which 400 people attended. St Mary's church was nearly full for the Christmas day service.

Links with local schools were maintained and strengthened. St Oswald's Primary School held Easter, End of (School) Year, Harvest and Christmas services in the church. In addition, from September, they began a planned visit to church for every school year group as a part of their RE curriculum.

Social activities were finally possible. The ever popular 'Teddy Parachuting' was widened into a larger event by the former 'Edward Bear' team and was highly successful both socially and financially. An exhibition of artwork by members of the congregation drew a surprising number of exhibitors. A harvest lunch raised funds for the USPG: Church of North India project we support, and a 'Bingo, Fish and Chips' evening caused much hilarity and raised funds (Thank you Irene) Separate reports about each of our regular activities follow – this report is not complete without them.

The amazing work by the Ossie's Kitchen Team continued throughout the year and we are so grateful to Revds. Nigel and Maggie Rode for coordinating that, as well as taking responsibility for the parish in Revd Duncan's absence. Thank you too, to the other members of the Ministry Team who made this possible – Revd Pip Short, Mike and Lynda. A notice announcing the end of the process of suspension of the Revd Duncan Ballard was read out by the Bishop of Repton Rt Revd. Malcolm Macnaughton, after the service on 20th March. We were delighted to welcome back Revd. Duncan at the end of August on a phased return.

Janet Wright

(Approved by PCC at meeting 13/03/23)

Safeguarding (Annual Report 2022)

The Safeguarding umbrella of St Oswald's Ashbourne & St Mary's Mappleton churches aims to prevent abuse from happening and respond well and appropriately if it has occurred. This work is led nationally by the Church of England, locally via the Derby Diocese team and within parishes by the clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

With this in mind the checks of members of the church leading groups, assistants, the PCC and clergy have security checks 3 yearly (this used to be 5 yearly).

Training regarding Safeguarding continues and is a requirement of the Church of England. Post Covid this is predominantly via Zoom. In person training is available for those unable to access a computer. A new training course is now being delivered to make people more aware of problem of Domestic Abuse. This has to be delivered in person.

Celia Dickinson (PSO)

Ministry Team Report

For the period 1st January to 20th August 2022

The year began with a continuing need for caution as the nation emerged from the worst of the Covid pandemic but this did not prevent us from holding regular Sunday Services 10.30am and 6.30pm at St Oswald's and once a month Services at St Mary's.

The seasonal and Festival Services of Lent and Easter were observed at both St Oswald's and St Mary's and it was pleasing to note the progressive return of congregation attendance, especially the St Oswald's 10.30am Easter morning service with an attendance of 140, the largest since pre Covid.

Up until June we continued to administer Holy Communion, in the form of 'wafer and wine made one', in the pews but as of June returned to administering Holy Communion at the rail in accordance with Church of England guidelines. The return was welcomed; although initially viewed with caution, confidence to receive in both kinds, taking the chalice, soon began to return to normal.

With thanks to the technical support of Tony and Deirdre Wilmore we continued to record Services each week, either at Mappleton or St Oswald's each receiving an average viewing of around 25, but with probably more than one person viewing at a time, gives an indicative 'on line' congregation of about forty. Thanks also go to Andy Wright, Ash Toombs and the Breakfast Church Team as that congregation continued to build. With schools now providing early years education this impacted on 'Edward Bear' but thanks go to that team for their loyal support to the cause.

Following the outbreak of Russia's war with Ukraine in February, a 'Vigil for Ukraine' was held at St Oswald's on Thursday 10th March with readings, music, prayers, silence, a very moving personal story and the lighting of candles. It was much appreciated by all who attended, including school children and their parents and £1,900 was raised in support of the relief effort. The occasion was supported by a special 'Walk of Words' with pictures of places in Ukraine as a reminder of the country's beauty before being ravaged by the Russian shelling.

In April, a group of twenty-one Pilgrims from St Oswald's, Thorpe, and the Ashbourne Methodist Church made a five-day Pilgrimage to Iona. They were blessed with fine weather and all returned safely to Ashbourne having richly benefitted from the Iona experience.

Much of May was spent preparing for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations in June; a joyous occasion with a beautifully floral decorated church and a very fitting 'Walk of Words' in the churchyard with text and pictures marking the Queen's long reign.

On the 19th June Right Reverend Bishop Libby Lane kept a long-standing engagement to Preside and Preach at the 10.30am Service at St Oswald's. At her particular request, and there being no other Services in the Ashbourne Group of Parishes that day, congregations from all of the Group churches were invited and attended. Rev'd Nigel appealed to all of our congregations that this should be an opportunity, not to forget the issues of the past two years, but to begin to heal the wounds, especially as plans and preparations were being made for Rev'd Duncan's resumption of his Ministerial Duties scheduled for the 20th August.

In addition to the aforementioned special occasions, we have held a Civic Service for the Mayor of Ashbourne, supported the Ashbourne Branch of the Royal British Legion and welcomed St Oswald's School into church for special Services marking Mothering Sunday and Easter. Our regular monthly attendance to lead schools' Collective Worship at St Oswald's, Ashbourne Primary, Hill Top and Clifton has continued and a new education collaboration with St Oswald's School put in place that commenced in September.

Occasional Services continued somewhat unabated with an average of one funeral a week (across all our churches) eight weddings (and a further three to follow) and ten baptisms in the period to the end of August.

All in all it was a most busy eight months with much achieved, none of which would have been possible without the help and support of so many people, not least Rev'd Pip Short, Reader Mike Warner, Church Warden Paul Elliott, Director of Music Michael Halls, Claire Critchlow in the Parish Office.

It was the prayer and team work of all in the congregations that brought St Oswald's, St Mary's Mappleton, and the other churches in our Group, through the twenty challenging months so that Rev'd Duncan resumed duties with congregation attendances regularly back to pre-Covid levels. Everyone's support has been so gratefully appreciated.

Rev'd Nigel and Rev'd Maggie Rode

Vicar's Report

This will be my 7th Annual Report here at St Oswald's and St. Mary's. I normally give my report (rather than the formal statutory report) in the form of a sermon: this year however, because there is so much going on, I have decided to write it.

I'm never sure how much people listen to spoken reports (or sermons!) Firstly, they are out of date even before they are delivered and secondly, I am not convinced that anybody reads written reports either! It has been pointed out to me that most of our congregation meets after church, we speak to each other, and we have the weekly newsletter, so what is the annual report for?

Really, it is for one thing alone, which is to fulfil our obligations as a charity and to file a full set of accounts and reports at the AGM each year, which could be a very boring task indeed – and in many places it will come as no surprise to you to learn that it is just so. The good news for us is that we actually do have things to talk about.

This is a very active church, and it helps to discuss our activities at the APCM because it might just be that it will help us to do them better — and maybe some things are not quite as well received as we might like to think that they are. Personally speaking, I try and review what I do and how I do it and to change as much as I can every year or so, otherwise we can all get a little stale, a little too complacent in the face of a world that is changing very rapidly.

So what important things do we have to talk about regarding 2022?

First of all, I was absent for the majority of it! However, I was secure in the knowledge that Maggie, Pip, Mike and Nigel were doing a first-rate job of moving the churches forward, and that the congregation was in safe hands with Paul with the assistance of Andy, Janet, Michael H (both of them!) and all the PCC. I returned to churches that were in good spirits and the welcome we received will live with me and Ellie forever. Secondly, we continued to worship God and serve the people in an attractive and open-hearted fashion (it's been wonderful to welcome the Ukrainian families into church, and see so many school children use St Oswald's every week). Thirdly we fulfilled all the requirements made of us by the laws pertaining to charities and places of worship. So far so good.

In addition to that we have had good attendances – we seem to have largely bounced back to pre-COVID numbers, which is remarkable. We have also been joined by a number of new people and families, and people still want to come to our churches to celebrate their Weddings and Christenings. Sadly we have lost a significant number of faithful worshippers this year, and their loss diminishes us immensely. Nevertheless, though we most certainly should not be complacent, for a relatively remote rural set of parishes we do very well. But as we all know, to cease to grow is to die.

Unfortunately, in this age of double-digit inflation the income of the churches has not kept up with our outgoings – and this will become a problem in 2023 where we predict a shortfall of £7,000. I'm afraid there are no lottery grants or donations that will help us keep the church hall warm and clean – this is down to us and is our responsibility. We are more and

more reliant on our income from the hall, fundraising, grant applications and one off donations than ever before. Bluntly put, we are reliant on people who are not generally part of our worshipping community to subsidise us. This is not good, and it raises questions about how realistic our expectations are of ourselves and our site.

One of the answers to this question is 'A Place for All' – a small but perfectly formed committee who are working on major plans to make our churches sustainable well into the future. Another answer is 'Ossies kitchen' and 'Carer's Count' which continues to provide hospitality and a hot meal to over 80 people every week. Still more answers can be found in 'Breakfast Church' which does so much to welcome in young families who might not feel at home in our more formal Sunday services, in our robed choir with the truly magnificent standard of music they produce week after week, and also in the quiet and efficient administration of the parish that carries on behind the scenes (thank you Claire, Michael S, Val and the Mother's Union to name but four). I want to thank you – and thank God – that the people of our Churches are "Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you for a reason regarding the hope that is in you, yet answer with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).

But most of all I want to thank you all, fellow pilgrims, for sharing your journey with me. It is an immense privilege.

2022 has been a strange and unforgettable year, and I doubt 2023 will see 'service as usual' resumed! But despite all the challenges, we still saw God at work as people came to faith, lives were changed, and people were touched by God's love. Our aim is that in 2023 we will see new opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with our community and to enable our Vision Statement – encountering God love, peace and beauty - to be true for as many people as possible.

To God alone be the Glory and to His people be the work.

In Christ
Rev. Duncan Ballard

Treasurers Report

& Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2022

Financial Statements are on pages 4 -11 (Received and approved at PCC meeting on 13th March 2023.)

Finance

The treasurer's comments on the several funds in Receipts and Payments:

Bellringers Fund – An increase of £414 during the year with the balance standing at £3,364.

Choir Fund – Donations of £200 and a purchase of £43, so a small increase to £2,988.

Fabric Fund – The receipts include a legacy of £5,000 from Mr Roger Edge who moved away but I believe his father was greatly involved with St Oswald's and £1,000 from Mrs Diane Deighton. Also £396 from The Old Trust, £500 from the Flower Fund and £169 from the Art Exhibition. The work on the West end path cost £4,061 and work on the South door cost £925. The Insurance Premium was £5,534.

Unfortunately, the year-end balance reduced from £229,913 to £204,643 because of a £24,377 reduction in the value of the CBF shares. This must be the first such fall for several years.

Flower Fund – The opening balance of £3,181 reduced to £681 because £2,500 was returned to the Flower Arrangers.

Organ Fund – An increase of £481 to £3,625.

Special Purposes Fund – The opening balance of £16,715 increased to £20,963 at the year end. A second anonymous donation of £5,000 was received towards the improvement of the audio system, a legacy of £5,003 was received from Mrs MR Broomfield. Additional work on the internal wall in the hall cost £3,940. A payment of £570 was made to Greenwoods out of the lottery grant previously received and £1,300 was taken towards the design of a Heat Pump scheme.

General Fund – The year 2022 was probably the new normal regarding services and income. Planned giving was £47,744 and together with attached Gift Aid represents more than half of our total receipts. Payments were monitored throughout the year by the Resourcing Forum and amounted to £97,486 giving a surplus of £7,105.

This was only possible by our not paying in full the Common Fund amount of £86,096 requested by the Diocese. This figure includes St Mary, Mappleton and St John who paid £2,000 each. St Oswald's paid £46,788 so the overall amount paid was 54.3% of the requested amount.

It was decided that we would give the usual £3,000 to missionary and other charitable organisations, this was allocated as follows:
USPG £1,000 for the Church of North India, £1,000 to ACE Youth Trust, £500 to Ossie's Kitchen and £500 to The Farming Community Network.

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Oswald's Church 2022

Report for the APCM March 2023 Covering January 2022 to December 2022 (received and approved at PCC meeting 13-03-23)

Introduction

There has been little change of significance since the last APCM.

A separate group have been progressing the "Place for All" project with a view to developing an Expression of Interest to be used as the basis of grant applications for improvements to the Church, the Church Centre and the environment around St Oswald's.

Fabric

During 2022 progression of the priority items raised by the Quinquennial Inspection conducted by Mark Parsons our Church Architect in September 2020 were undertaken.

Progress was made on the items identified as follows:

Priority Items

1. Installation of Roof Alarm protection for the lead sheeting on the church roof was completed in 2021.
2. The interior of the spire is suffering from "wind scour" which needs to be attended to. The stone is being eroded by wind entering via the lucarnes (unglazed openings) which can be addressed by fitting windbreaks. These will replace the existing bird-netting, many of which are already in need of repair. Identification of a project manager and contractor is still outstanding.
3. The lead sheeting on the Chancel roof is wearing thin and is slipping giving rise to occasional leaks, most notably over the organ console. In addition, the overlaps between the sheets were considered to be inadequate for the pitch of the roof. The Church Commissioners accepted Chancel Repair Liability and they appointed our architect to manage the project to relay the lead on the Chancel roof. The contract commenced in September 2022 and was to be complete by the end of January 2023.

Less Urgent Items

In no particular order, other items to address are:

- Trip hazards and uneven patches in places on the footpaths, from the gates and around the SW corner of the building. Responsibility for repairing the footpaths has taken most of 2021 to resolve between Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC). DDDC accepted responsibility and undertook repairs to the tarmac to the southwest corner of the church.
- The wooden block flooring in the Nave and S Transept requires relaying or replacing. This has been included in the "Place for All" project.
- Some drainpipes and gullies required attention to refix and/or unblock and these have been addressed.
- Pointing work is required in numerous places. Quotations for this work were obtained but the contractor withdrew due to retirement. New quotations are being obtained.
- Some floor tiles in the Chancel by the choir stalls, require repair or replacement. No action to date.
- All the doors require treatment with linseed oil and repainting the ironwork. Quotes have been obtained, but alternative advice received indicates that the doors should not be treated.
- The South Transept door requires attention to improve its attachment to the doorway. During 2022 the South door has been rehung with new hinges.
- The gates require redecorating (DDDC responsibility). No action to date.
- Access to the Boiler House is hazardous and requires upgrading. Boiler house steps have been cleaned. Further attention is required.

Additional Fabric Items

In addition to the Quinquennial items the following issues were addressed during 2022:

- During Winter 2021 intermittent faults with the church heating system were encountered resulting in one boiler not being operational for 3 months. In March 2022, after several attempts at repair, it was discovered that two of the boilers had failed heatshields. This was due to an endemic design issue. Both were repaired.
- Subsequent to the repair of the pathway by DDDC, the PCC decided to make improvements to the West end of the church, by resurfacing the path from Mayfield Road to the West Door and to improve access to the church by creating a permanent ramp to the West Door.
- Some components of the Church sound system are proving unreliable. A proposal to upgrade the system was agreed by the PCC. The system is due to be upgraded in 2023 once all the equipment is available.

Goods and Ornaments

No changes to the Inventory have been recorded.

Paul Elliott – Church Warden

Carsington Deanery Synod

In the last year (2022), as is normal, there has been opportunity for the sharing of news, updates and practice from our constituent churches and wide-ranging discussions on a range of topics including

- The impact of the Covid pandemic on Churches, Services and Parishioners
- Events
- Platinum Jubilee
- Energy crisis, and what parishes were offering in the way of warm hubs.
- Diocesan Vision
- Statistics for Mission

In March we were joined by our new diocesan secretary Kate Godfrey. Several synod members spoke about their parishes, which gave a wonderful portrait of our deanery. Kate was impressed and reflected on what she had heard and felt and told us it was remarkable as to what was achieved. Kate gave us a whistle stop tour of her background before we moved on and discussed the new Archidiaconal structure. We also discussed our concerns regarding congregation numbers, clergy time and safeguarding.

The CDM (Clergy Disciplinary Measure) was discussed that it is not fit for purpose and needs reviewing at a national level as the time the process takes is entirely inappropriate. It was then raised at Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

At our Deanery Synod in June, we enjoyed sharing thoughts and experiences around Harvest which was great as we were able to prepare in a proactive way rather than reflecting on it after.

We were joined by The Reverend Alan Griggs, Agricultural Chaplain who told us more about the Derbyshire Chaplaincy which was part of Rural Action Derbyshire. Alan spoke about farmers and how the chaplaincy compliments and supports parish work and as a team they work pro-actively and re-actively, the chaplaincy is based at the Bakewell livestock market which gives a safe, informal place to meet, and build relationships. Farming is one of the most high-risk and challenging industries but is now also recognized to have negative implications on mental health of those involved.

The Rural Mission Group created a new leaflet called 'Faith in the Countryside' which includes the full list of well dressings, agricultural shows, and lots of events across the diocese.

In our final synod of 2022 we welcomed Steve Johnson, Living Generously Advisor. Steve's presentation was extremely informative, we learnt more about additional ways of giving such as contactless giving, QR codes and The Parish Giving Scheme. Steve also encouraged all churches to apply for a free contactless device, even if your church already has one!

Emily Brailsford spoke to us briefly about Mothers Union and the work they do. Mothers Union is for everyone, men, women, married, unmarried, with children or without children, there are over 4 million members worldwide.

Our 2022 Deanery synods enabled us to share our thoughts, fears and ideas which enabled us to put forward questions to Diocesan Synod. It is important to remember that if a PCC has a question or would like something to be debated, they can ask the Deanery Leadership Team to consider adding it to the Deanery Synod agenda.

We wished Canon David Truby and Father Benedict Crowther-Alwyn all the best as they retired. We warmly welcomed Duncan Ballard back at the end of August and we also welcomed Phil Mitchell's new curate The Reverend Lisa Taylor.

We make every effort to make synods as relevant and interesting as we can and would encourage members to make suggestions for future synods and finally, we would like to thank the Deanery Synod members for their continued support to Carsington.

The Reverend Phil Michell
Assistant Area Dean

Claire Critchlow
Deanery Administrator

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations

Bellringers

The bellringers have had a successful year, ringing regularly on Sundays, and weddings and funerals when requested. Practice nights have been well attended, and progress has been made by all. Thanks are due to Peter and Celia for their commitment to training our new recruits.

On Shrove Tuesday a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung before the town's annual Shrovetide Football Match. It was rung in memory of Rev. David Sansum who died in December 2021.

In common with churches nationwide special ringing took place in June to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Sadly later in the year we rang the bells full muffled on her death and the tenor bell was tolled.

On a more cheerful note we enjoyed a ringing outing to 5 local churches, including lunch and afternoon tea, and in July held a BBQ for ringers and families.

In August we held our AGM, which resulted in a change of officers. Peter stood down as Tower Captain and Ringing Master and was thanked for his hard work over several years. Roy has taken over as Ringing Master, and Gill as Tower Captain. Val has taken over the Treasurer's job from Jane, who has moved out of the area – thanks went to her. David continues as Steeplekeeper and Jackie as Secretary.

Finally the bellringers would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and the clergy for allowing us to ring the bells.

Jackie Burns & Gill Elliott

Bookstall

Aims & Objectives

We took over responsibility for running the bookstall in January 2022 and agreed that our aims were:

1. to provide a source of **Christian literature and cards** to the church congregation and visitors
 - here, profit is less key – for example, sourcing second-hand copies for some books to try to reach as wide an audience as possible.
2. to **raise money** for the work of the church through sales of general and local interest books and cards.



New Developments

- **card payment** is now possible at the bookstall; this already constitutes a significant proportion of the takings, and a QR code option is coming soon.
- **new signage and advertising** to raise awareness of the presence of the bookstall, with rotation of stock on a 'seasonal' table.
- introduction of a range of **Christian cards** by local artist Hannah Dunnett
- specific books featured for **Advent and Lent**, tying in with sermons or discussion groups – these have had good levels of interest.
- provided a stall with **children's' activity books** at the Teddy Bear Parachuting event this led to very few sales, but perhaps raised awareness.
- hosted the usual **Traidcraft Christmas cards**, from which the church receives 10% of the profits.
- added in a **Royal School of Church Music card range**, with all profits to the church
- **second-hand books** now available at coffee after church on Sundays, with profits to the bookstall, kindly organised by Irene Wilson.

We enjoyed our first attempt at decorating a bookstall-themed Christmas tree!



Lent and Easter



Advent and Christmas



Children's Activity Books

Expenditure/Takings

Total expenditure for the year: £807

Takings for the year: £2810

Profit made: £2003

We have had some significant donations of Ashbourne history books, plus some children's books from Aldi. There are significant quantities of old stock, especially guidebooks/sheets and postcards.

Plans going forward

There are some challenges ahead: cheap cards and books are more difficult to source, and not all the suppliers used previously are now available.

Children's books do not sell well, despite the proximity of the school: further advertising in this direction is needed.

We continue to review what is selling and to adapt and innovate!

Thanks to:

Ron and Linda Torr, for their advice and support during the bookstall 'handover'.

Michael Hyde, for bearing with Sarah as she discovered the new world of ordering and invoices.

Edmund Urquhart, for his excellent review of our Lent book.

Irene Wilson, for volunteering to run the second-hand book table at coffee.

Sarah Morris & Emma Silvey

Breakfast Church

Breakfast church met throughout the year, on the second Sunday of the month, in the Church Hall. Families were welcomed with breakfast (cereal, toast, bacon or sausage baps, pancakes, coffee, tea, juice) and have the opportunity to chat and catch up. We celebrate birthdays, and light a candle as we move into a period of worship with songs, an activity/talk and prayers. Our themes were chosen from 'Messy Church' ideas or parts of Jesus' teaching. The worship followed a recognisable pattern which we are led through 'on screen'.

Numbers attending remained in the high twenties to low thirties (with children representing half that number) and many of the families are 'confirmed regulars'.

We had welcome help and support in some months from Irene Wilson and Lindsay & Peter Walker and were delighted that Revd Duncan could join us towards the end of the year.

The Breakfast Church team,
comprising Gill Elliott, Ashdon Toombs, Janet and Andy Wright

Carers Count

'Carers Count' met on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the year where anyone who is caring for another, be it at home or in professional care, are welcomed for a couple of hours respite with plenty of tea and coffee, fun and laughter as well as the mutual support from those sharing or who have shared similar experiences.

Many of the attendees have become good friends so the mutual support, when needed, is extended beyond the monthly gatherings.

Attendance at the monthly meetings in the Church Centre is usually about twelve, the exception being December when sixteen enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the 'Shoulder of Mutton'.

Since 'Covid' the Derbyshire Carers Association have been unable to maintain its link with us but, for the benefit of both current and future members, we hope to be able to restore the link during 2023.

Revds. Maggie & Nigel

Choir

2022 felt much more normal than the previous two years as regards the musical life of St Oswald's church. I want to begin by thanking each member of the choir for their enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment. The average attendance at choir practice on Friday evenings is 21, Sunday morning 18 and Sunday evening 19. About ten of these choristers will be at both Sunday services each week. The figures are broadly comparable with the figures for the three years prior to Covid. However, the average age of the choir has increased, the ability to have holidays and family visits is noticeable and the engagement of new people is an ever-obvious conundrum. We are working on it! Hugh is working with children at St Oswald's Primary School on a programme entitled Hymnpact while Roger continues to support the music in Clifton School. I want to place on record my thanks to Roger and Hugh for personal support at all times, especially with playing the organ. It will come as no surprise to you that organists from St Oswald's help to ensure there is real music in many of the churches within six miles of our church. Roger also very kindly ensures that the recorded services have musical input throughout the year.

Our dedicated team of choristers managed to sing 160 anthems (123 different anthems) covering 96 Sunday services including ten full Choral Evensongs plus the Queen's Platinum celebrations in February, services to mark her death later in the year and the accession of King Charles. The largest choir attendance at any service was for the funeral of my father in October. We have learned new music; it would seem that apparently all music is new when much of it has not been visited for three years. There was a real first though; in November, we sang a new anthem especially composed for us by Stuart Beer: A Hymn to God the Father is designed to be sung in Holy Week

and you will hear it again then. It is complex and getting to grips with it was interesting. Stuart came to hear us deliver its first performance. It was commissioned by the RSCM. Thank you.

We are yet to achieve the full range of music as it was before Covid. Hopefully 2023 will see the range of music provision extended. We do support choristers with exam entry fees and grants to enable them to pursue musical excellence.

Well done to Jessica for her great contribution as Head Chorister last year. She is studying music at Birmingham University now. We are always pleased to see returning choristers! We are so fortunate to have such a great choir leading our worship. I greatly appreciate what each chorister brings to the life of St. Oswald's church and its outreach into the wider community. Ashbourne should be proud of its musical beating heart.

How lovely to have Duncan fully engaged in the life of our church again. Support and encouragement for the choir by clergy is vitally important so thank you to Duncan and the team.

Thank you everyone.

Michael Halls

Connect Group

The 'Connect Group' encourages us to connect with one another, discussing material we have read during the days before, learning from one another and growing our faith, whilst sharing highs and lows – and cake and drinks!

We meet weekly (with breaks when most of us are away/busy), and alternately in 2 homes. A typical session would begin with 'check in' where we each had the opportunity to share the highs and lows of the previous week. We would then spend time discussing, or reflecting on, something we'd agreed to study in that week, breaking for refreshments at a convenient point. We finish with prayer for each other.

We began the year with a shared meal, and at Lent used a Lent course based on the film 'Touching the Void' (a "gripping true-life tale of 2 climbers fight for survival when disaster strikes") relating the story to our own journey through life. We then tackled 2 different courses from USPG. At Advent we joined with others in St Oswald's in using daily readings from 'Barefoot Ways' by Stephen Cherry and planned to continue to use it until Candlemas in 2023

We have regularly been a group of 7 but our homes would take one more if anyone would like to join us.

Jane, Elizabeth, Rachel, Gill, Rosemary, Janet and Andy

Edward Bear

January 2022 saw Edward Bear return under the name Rhyme and Wriggle. It was thought that the airy nature of the Church was more suited to families coming together after Covid.

(We had been active during 'lockdown' with weekly live Facebook meetings and Peter had written a book called the Lockdown Adventures of Edward Bear, which is available through the church bookshop).

We understood we were almost two years on since we ran Edward Bear Praise and Play workshops, and the children who had attended Edward Bear were now older, and families may have found other support with their children. Our client base had been steadily changing, with a focus on younger children attending because more children were accessing free nursery places when they became three years old.

We advertised the idea on social media and the local newspaper and were thrilled to see some familiar faces return as well as one or two new families with small children. We met in the Edward Bear area in church and kept our meeting to an hour. We lit our candle to bring Jesus into our space and into our hearts, exchanged news and then sang our rhymes and wriggled for an hour!

After Easter 2022 we took Edward Bear Praise and Play back into the Church Centre. We observed the wearing of masks, windows open and extended Rhyme and Wriggle, bringing out a few toys, craft, and refreshments. The original team consisted of seven volunteers, and we managed to offer a somewhat reduced but happy atmosphere for our families. Edward Bear Praise and Play, it seemed, was back.

During this time, we had advertised within the Church Newsletter, approached the PCC and written an article in the local paper for help to run EB with the possibility of someone coming forward to take over the leadership. We were a mature group of people when Edward Bear closed because of Covid and were now two years on with a mixture of added responsibilities but all still very committed to making Edward Bear a success. We were overjoyed when George Smythe (now married and a Smythe-Dillon) came forward, a local mother of two (a baby daughter just weeks old) and a parent governor of St Oswald's Primary School.

We all came together to talk and share our ideas and as Springtime came, George was beginning to get into her stride. We managed to organise a successful Teddy Parachuting at the end of Ashbourne Arts Festival fortnight which included one or two extra stalls to help with fundraising. Teddy Parachuting 2022 made around £1000.00 all of which was donated to St Oswald's Church. During the summer term, Edward Bear met weekly often with a reduced team. We still were getting parents/carers and children attending but numbers were reduced. Ashbourne had a plethora of alternative mum's and tot's groups, some on the same day and we were still gathering speed. How wonderful it was at this time that we welcomed Duncan back into St Oswald's church and he soon met the Edward Bear team, met up with George Smythe, committing some of his return-to-work time to supporting Edward Bear.

It became obvious to the existing team for a variety of reasons that it was time for some of us to step away, whilst others were happy to remain. Some of the team had been involved with Edward Bear since its conception over twenty-six years ago, we were all committed to Edward Bear in supporting parents, carers, and young children on their /Christian journey. We were about to break for the summer holidays.

George with support from Duncan and some of the remaining team began to plan for September and how Edward Bear could continue, perhaps re-invent itself for the autumn. It was at this time that Peter wrote to the PCC and asked if there was a way St Oswald's could explore ways to fund a paid children's worker for a few hours every week to support George with EB and build up relationships with young families throughout the town. One of many pathways to encourage young families into St Oswald's Church, to perhaps explore Christianity as a family for the first time.

George was about to get married and it was about this time that Jack her fiancé was beginning to become more involved with EB Christmas was coming, George and her family decorated a Christmas tree in the EB area in Church and the 'old' Edward Bear team took responsibility alongside Duncan to make The Crib Service on Christmas Eve happen. St Oswald's Church was full to capacity with families and friends and at 4.30 Christmas Eve, some children came dressed in nativity costumes as well a selection of their favourite tv characters. The Edward Bear team provided angel wings/shepherds costumes/Mary and Joseph outfits and more to those children who wanted to be involved.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!"
– Psalm 127:3-5a (ESV)

Lindsay Walker

Fairtrade Church



We continued to serve Fairtrade refreshments after our main Sunday service – using Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar. We were also able to mark Fairtrade Fortnight by holding a ‘Traidcraft’ stall on one Sunday as refreshments were served.

As Easter approached, we sold ‘The Real Easter’ Eggs, made with Fairtrade chocolate and bought through ‘Traidcraft’. And in the lead up to Christmas, ‘Traidcraft’s’ Christmas cards were sold on our bookstall in St Oswald’s church with the support of Sarah Morris and Emma Silvey.

With thanks to Clare Sales (of Ashbourne Methodist church) who, as a ‘Traidcraft’ Fair Trader supplied many of the items we used or sold.

Flower Arrangers

There were several meetings over the year with good attendances. We would like to recruit more arrangers and will be seeking volunteers during the coming year.

Meetings were held prior to all major events – Harvest, Christmas, and Easter

We discussed the “Flowers for Our Queen” Jubilee tribute. These were mainly to organise where and what to display and the teams, which continue to function on a 4-weekly rota.

Where to obtain flowers was also on the agenda and agreement was between a wholesaler and local florist.

Jubilee Weekend Flowers for Our Queen.

We may not have got as many visitors as we wished because of other events and especially TV coverage of events.

We made a small profit of £155.

The event was held in conjunction with volunteers providing refreshments throughout the day.

Everyone who came seemed well pleased and there was praise for all the arrangements the innovations and the quality of the displays. A lot of hard work but with outstanding displays depicting all aspects of the Queen’s life.

During COVID and the lack of services, the Sanctuary Flower Rota ceased. However, Celia Yates is once again in charge of this and is working hard to complete the list.

We still get donated flowers from M and S for which we are very grateful as this sometimes enables us to do extra arrangements.

There were few weddings where the church arrangers were involved. When the couples come to “Wedding Preparation Day” most of them have by then organised their own florists to do their personal wedding party arrangements and any required in church.

We were asked to provide pedestals for a few funerals. A donation of £500 was made to the Church.

In my absence during my time in New Zealand, Margaret Dawson and Celia Yates have been organising Christmas and Easter and the forthcoming Coronation, for which I will be back.

Elizabeth Bridges
Chair/Secretary

Mothers Union

Ashbourne Mothers Union had 30 members in 2022.

MU began to meet monthly in February 2022 starting with the annual communion which was based on the Iona tradition. Several members contributed to the programme over the year with talks ranging from ‘My Topsy Turvy life’ to finding about Cursillo and the 2022 Oberammergau performance.

In May there was a celebration picnic in the park for the Platinum Jubilee. Then in July we got together for a cream tea to raise money for the national MU Summer of Hope Appeal.

We marked the global 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in November with a service and followed it up by using material from the campaign on our Christmas Tree in church.

Numbers attending the afternoon meeting, which incorporates an act of worship and prayer, have increased since Covid. Evening meetings have been varied, including a 'Supper and Saunter' and an evening learning Crown Green Bowling.

Members have continued working throughout the year with Edward Bear, Ossie's Kitchen, Breakfast church, Baptisms, Careline, Carers Count, and in many other areas of church and community life.

Nancy Bell

Ossie's Kitchen

The pattern of operating that we began in August 2021 continued throughout 2022 when twice a month freshly cooked three course meals were shared by seated Guests and meals were delivered to the housebound or families unable to come and enjoy a meal in the company of others.

Over the course of 2022 we sadly lost a few of our Guests and some have now become permanent residents in Care Homes, but we have been very pleased to welcome new Guests, particularly those referred by Social Prescribing and those from the Ukrainian community. Conversing via Google translate is an ongoing interesting challenge as indeed is the printing of Menus in both English and Ukrainian!



Across the year we provided some 1,200 meals with the biggest demand being for our Christmas meal on the 20th December when we provided seventy-five meals for Guests and ended the meal with carol singing and some of our Ukrainian Guests, including a four year old, singing a very emotional, traditional song.

If it were not for our wonderful Volunteers we simply could not operate. The range of Volunteer tasks start with spending time on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays collating Guest reservations and planning the basis of the menu, to receiving delivery of supplies from 'FareShare' on Monday before finalising the menu according to ingredients received, then doing any additional shopping required. Tuesdays begin at 10.30am with the Kitchen Teams, Grocery bag preparation, table laying, followed by greeting Guests and waiting at table, delivery drivers, pot washing and Kitchen clear down completed by 6.45pm, but it doesn't end there as Wednesday's tasks include taking recycling and waste to the 'Tip' and pastoral phone calls to any Guests who were unable to attend. Each sitting involved a minimum of twenty-four volunteers drawn from our pool of forty five, ranging in age from those volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award to those not so young (no age declared!) but energy and enthusiasm abound as does the team work, camaraderie and warmth of welcoming of our Guests.

In addition to the donations given by our Guests, we are very appreciative of the many individual donations, the Mayor of Ashbourne's 2021 Charity, the Ashbourne Rotary Club and a local trader for sponsoring the Christmas meal, and a donation towards future transport costs to bring Guests for meals. In preparation of upscaling to providing a weekly Service from the coming January through March to help the community cope with the Cost of Living and Energy Crisis, we are also very appreciative of a grant of £900 from Foundation Derbyshire towards the energy and cleaning costs of using the Church Centre and a donation of £500 from the PCC of Ashbourne used to purchase an additional freezer.

Part of the role of Ossie's Kitchen has always been to signpost our Guests, as needed, to various agencies from which they might benefit. By way of further support for our Guests we have been delighted to welcome an Outreach Officer from Citizens Advice Bureau who has been, and continues, to be of enormous help to a large number of our regular Guests as well as to our Ukrainian Guests.

NR & MR

Walking Group

As has become customary we started the New Year with lunch at a local pub, (although this year it was not preceded by a walk, which was rained off!).

Fortunately the rest of our walks in 2022 were blessed with mainly fine weather. They ranged in length from 7 to 10 miles with between 700 and 2000 feet of ascent. The areas visited included the Staffordshire Moorlands, with a particularly spectacular route along the Roaches with views over the Cheshire Plain to Jodrell Bank, the Derbyshire White Peak, and more locally Carsington, Wirksworth and Black Rocks.

The highlight of the year was the resumption of our long distance walks after a break of 4 years due the Covid. At the beginning of May, over 7 days, we walked the Cateran Trail in Perthshire, based in accommodation in or near Blairgowrie. The 65 mile route followed the tracks and paths used by cattle raiders in the middle ages and was very well waymarked throughout. The scenery was varied, from riverside paths to meadows, forests and high open moorland and hills. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and celebrated on the last evening with an excellent dinner at a local restaurant!

Such is our enthusiasm we have decided to make a long distance walk an annual event, normally in the Spring, in addition to our regular walks on the last Saturday of each month. Our goal in 2023 is the "Friends' Way 1", George Fox's journey through the north of England.

As usual anyone wishing to join us at any time would be most welcome. Details are usually in the online church newsletter or available from any of our members.

Jackie Burns.