



Christ Church Alsager
Loving Worshipping Serving

Annual Report for 2023

**For the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 28th April 2024 at 12:30**



Christ Church Alsager
Loving Worshipping Serving

Our Vision Statement:

We aim to be a loving and growing community which is Bible-based and Holy Spirit-led. We worship Jesus and seek to serve him in our everyday lives.

Our strapline

Loving Worshipping Serving

Vicar's Report on 2023

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4.10

I was ordained deacon in Winchester Cathedral on the 5th July 2009, so 2023 marked 14 years of ordained ministry. I was delighted when our PCC and Bishop Sam approved my request to take a three-month sabbatical. I'm really grateful to everyone who stepped up during this time to provide the cover necessary to make it possible for me to take this time away from parish ministry.

For the spiritual aspect of my sabbatical, Aly and I were able walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostella in Northern Spain following a route called, 'The Way of St James', an adventure that we had hoped to do for some time. We completed the 500+ mile walk in 35 days and loved every moment of it. For those who like stats, I walked 1,185,908 steps! Aly wasn't able to do the first seven days so we are returning again this year to put that right.

For the study aspect of the sabbatical, I researched the needs of dementia sufferers and their support groups and how we could become a Dementia Friendly Church. I was struck by a statement on the Dementia UK website (www.dementiauk.org) that said, "By 2025, it's estimated that over one million people in the UK will have a diagnosis of dementia – and almost all of us will know someone living with the condition". Aly and I had a lovely time visiting the two dementia focused activities that take place in Alsager, namely Heydays at the 13 Club and Alsager Memory Café at the library. Our mid-week Coffee and Communion service is where we are most likely to encounter people with dementia in our church activities. On 10th February 2024 we held a Dementia Friends Information Session led by Kath Reader, the DFC Project Lead for Alsager. It was well attended, we all became Dementia Friends and were presented with our forget-me-not dementia friends badges. Some were keen to help our church move towards being a Dementia friendly church.

In April, The Bishop of Stockport presided at our confirmation service, with 78 people in attendance (including 4 children). Six candidates were confirmed (one 14 year old, one 19 year old and four aged between 25 and 67).

In November, The Bishop of Chester appointed our curate, The Reverend Sister Heather Susan Kemball, to be Curate-in-Charge of the parish of All Saints, Church Lawton in the Deanery of Congleton. In other words, two miles up the road! We gave a Heather and Alan a good send off with a Cèilidh (thanks go to Karen and Mark Holland for organising this) and many of us helped to fill All Saints Church at Heather's licensing service officiated by The Bishop of Stockport.

Church members getting confirmed; those who are confirmed being called into ordained ministry; and those who are ordained moving on to be church leaders elsewhere are all signs of a healthy church (although no church is ever perfect!). Healthy churches also recognise that we all need to

be growing on our frontlines (that is the places where we spend most of our time and the people with whom we engaged with the most) to enable us to grow into the people Jesus intends us to be, so we can bear good fruit for him. That's why I love our 'frontlines selfies board' in the church hall that was populated in January. I'm always happy to add news selfies to the board!

Once again, this year's annual report gives an insight into the breadth and depth of the mission and ministry of Christ Church. It needs to be acknowledged that we couldn't do the things mentioned without the support of our volunteer workforce. Many thanks to every one of you.

I've been reflecting of late on the prayer of Jabez (see 1 Chronicles 4.10). I think it resonates with our vision statement. Jabez was an honourable man (4.9), and I also suggest a zealous man eager to serve the Lord. It's also a wonderfully practical prayer.

Firstly, Jabez asked the Lord to '*bless me*'. The people of Israel were blessed so that they could be a blessing to all nations. Jabez wanted to be a blessing to other people.

Secondly, not only did Jabez know his frontline, but he also wanted to see it expanded, so he asked the Lord to, '*enlarge my territory*'. This wasn't a land grab, or a request to grow his personal wealth, it was a desire for greater influence so he could be more fruitful for the Lord.

Thirdly, he asked for the Lord's '*hand to be on him*', which was essentially asking for God to be with him. He didn't want the blessing of God without the presence of God, echoing Moses, who said to the Lord, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us." (Exodus 33.15). Jabez recognised that we need God's guidance so that we can be a blessing.

Fourthly, he asked the Lord to '*keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain*'. Being a blessing makes us a target which is why Jabez asks to be kept from harm! The more the Lord uses us, the more likely it is that the devil will want to trip us up. If we are given God's blessing, more influence, and his presence, we may well find ourselves under attack. But the good news is that if God grants the request, the Lord will be with us and use us for his glory! Note... God granted Jabez's request!

Please pray with me the Prayer of Jabez, that we might see revival in our time.

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that you bless us, increase our influence, have your hand up on us, and keep us from harm. For your glory. Amen.

Daran

Church Wardens' Report on 2023

May the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17 -

2023 has been a year when the kitchen at the church hall seems to have been full of people working to provide teas and coffees, meals, and other refreshments almost every day of the week. Truly we have seen the favour of the Lord and known the establishing of the work of our hands in providing hospitality. It has been good to work together to make Big Breakfast, Parent Chat, Cherubs, Tea on Tuesday, Alpha, Coffee and Communion, Chat 'n' Chill, Messy Church and Sunday refreshments happen. Friendships have grown and fellowship has taken place as people have worked side by side in the kitchen.

On the balcony in church too, at other times, hands are working to provide Audio Visual support and organ accompaniment and it has been good to see new people become involved using their talents and skills in this way.

We are grateful to the band and thank God for his favour upon them as they lead us in worship week by week. Then there are those with communication, financial, administration and practical skills offering their hands and talents to keep the church going.

We appreciate the Community team who come and tend the churchyard weekly, those who act as vergers, those who welcome at church services, who preach, teach, and lead prayers. The list is unending and, although there are occasional pleas for extra helpers for some activities, very rarely is anything cancelled for lack of hands. It is good to be part of a team where people make themselves available, roll up their sleeves together and, in so doing, deepen their relationships with others and share God's love, making Christ Church the welcoming, caring place it is. We recognise that, without the favour of the Lord and continued prayer for this, it would be a hollow place. We aim to allow all who visit Christ Church to recognise the welcome we provide and recognise something of God's presence.

During Daran's 3-month sabbatical leave in 2023, several people took on greater workloads and responsibilities and we are particularly grateful to Heather and Debbie in this respect.

Financially, there have been some tense moments during the year but thankfully we have come through these and even seen the installation of new, more energy efficient heaters in the church hall.

I, (Richard) new to the role this year, have seen how everyone is looking to support God's work in Alsager, this goes from the PCC through to all the activities mentioned above; stewarding the funding and generous donations we receive, and optimising our impact; none of this can be done without those willing to give of their time and skills. We see how the many different people at Christ Church all pull together and each person provides their own unique contribution.

Thanks to the generosity and willingness of so many the church continues to grow, and we give thanks and continue to ask that the favour of the Lord our God would be upon us all to envision, lead us forward, establish the work of our hands and provide more hands for the work in 2024.

Jane Askew & Richard Hewitt

Fabric Report

They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. Luke 6.48

Since the last APCM there is not a great deal to report on the upkeep of the fabric at Christ Church.

The good news is that the new cameras on the Church roof are a success and allow us to monitor the condition of the roof (leaf, twig and seed fall etc.) and Dave White and I have frequently cleared the roof over the year. It is the general opinion that blocked roof drainage in heavy storm conditions is the main cause of leaks into the Church.

Other good news - the Community Service Team throughout 2023 have maintained our church yard and kept the driveway and carpark free of leaves during autumn. Without them we would have big problems! Please continue to pray that they come to work at Christ Church.

Further good news – the heaters in the Church Hall have been replaced with modern infra-red units which should prove to be more energy efficient than the previously installed heaters. Furthermore, these were supplied free of charge by a very generous member of our church family for which we should all be extremely thankful.

It is almost 4 years since our last 5-year Quinquennial Inspection and Report carried out in June 2020 from our Architect. Our next inspection is due in 2025. Progress in tackling the recommendations made in the Report has been slow, partly due to the Pandemic and partly due to financial pressures on the Church finances and therefore we have pushed back some of the intended, albeit not critical/essential remedial works. Significant matters raised that we have not yet examined in detail include:

- Commission a report into the condition of the nave stain glass windows and ferramenta
- Action on the aforementioned report
- Reform catch pit outlets on the church roof
- Replace damaged/spalling stones to the church walls, repoint poor areas of pointing generally.
- Improve guarding height to bell ringing gallery

The above will require specialist trades to complete and we may not have completed these works by the next Quinquennial Inspection. There are many other items that we can carry out ourselves as a Church body and hopefully people will step forward should the church arrange a series of work-days? Going forward I would suggest that the Church Wardens and PCC collectively meet to review the current quinquennial report to put together a list of priorities to tackle before the next QI inspection in 2025.

Geoff Chatterley

PCC Report

*May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us, establish the work of our hands for us.
Psalm 90.17*

PCC Members

Ex-officio members: Daran Ward (Vicar and Chairman); Dave Fidal until April 2023, Richard Hewitt from April 2023, Jane Askew (Wardens); Julie Newman (secretary); Heather Kemball until September 2023.

Ex-officio Deanery Synod reps, Shirley Jones, Aly Ward , Debbie Preston

Elected members: Alison Thomas from April 2023, Andrea Chatterley, Geoff Chatterley, Mark Holland, Steve Roberts, Beverly Steel (treasurer), Rachel White, Joelle Warren until April 2023, Colin Follett, Julie Newman until April 2023. Gillian Bowers until January 2024, Dave Fidal from April 2023, Phil Follett-Laing from April 2023, Jess Follett-Laing from April 2023.

Co-opted members: Molly Johnson until April 2023 (youth rep), Julie Newman from April 2023.

PCC meets at around 6 week intervals on a Monday in the church hall, it is made up of elected individuals who discuss and decide on many matters, including those below:

PCC Discussions

In 2023 we said goodbye to member Joelle Warren who contributed so much for countless years, with vast knowledge and experience.

We have been kept up to date on finances, safeguarding, children's work (now lead by Jen Follett) and youth work. Geoff and Andrea Chatterley have handed over grant applications to Andrea and Ivor Lewis and Mike Askew who continues to be involved. We thank Andrea and Geoff and Mike Askew for the work they have done over the years on grant applications.

We have benefitted from the efforts of David Fidal, David White, Debbie Preston, Geoff Chatterley, Mark Holland and Beverly Steel who have spent time looking into fuel costs, potential heating improvements and insurance premiums to the various buildings to keep expenditure down.

We reviewed our hall and room hire charges to keep them in line with other facilities in Alsager.

We were pleased to authorise the summer coach trip to Southport planned by Jen Follett for families and a new venture of singing carols on the green.

We were grateful for Jane Askew chairing our meeting whilst Daran was on sabbatical.

A satisfactory resolution for the future of the disused St Lukes Church at Oakhanger, continues to be sought.

Julie Newman, PCC Secretary

Treasurers' Report

Total receipts on unrestricted funds* were £218,875. Unrestricted congregational giving was £153,593. A further £40,080 came from 18 months of reclaimed Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £4,843 were also received as well as Grants of £32,173, including a new grant from CE Council specifically for Tea on Tuesday.

A very generous response was made to the Giving day, which is so very much appreciated, and turned the predicted deficit into a positive outcome for the year end.

The total expenditure of £222,998 was in line with budget. The excess spend on energy was largely offset by the error in budget for Churchyard maintenance. A high spend on tree maintenance in 2022 meant that we were over cautious in our 2023 budgeting.

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance which equates to at least three months' expenditure. This is normally equivalent to about £55,000, an increase of £5k to the figure quoted in previous years.

In addition we have a Buildings Reserve of £26k, towards addressing items raised in the most recent quinquennial report.

On behalf of the PCC, we would like to thank everyone who gives financially to support the work of the church. There are many activities highly valued by or parishioners and the wider community of Alsager. We thank God for your generosity and continued commitment to his work within Christ Church.

I would also like to thank Mark Holland (Covenant Secretary), Derek Nyland (examiner of the accounts) and Debbie Preston who provides invaluable support to all.

Beverly Steel & Dave White, Co Treasurers

* This means the PCC can choose how they spend the money, whereas restricted funds have to be spent in a specific way.

Deanery Synod Report

March Synod: Guest Speaker, Bishop Sam, opted for a question and answer approach for his address. A wide range of topics was discussed including: the spiritual education of young people; the ongoing the impact of Covid on numbers attending church services; problems that small parishes have in meeting their parish share; concern about the availability of curates; problems facing General Synod relating to Living and Loving in Faith

June Synod: Guest speaker, Jared Brown, Youth Minister at Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield. Jared found that a strong foundation of work with children and young people had been laid down by his predecessor and he had built on this strong foundation. He saw the heart of his work to be all about establishing a relationship with Jesus. The Youth Work in the parish was diverse and designed to reach as many young people as possible. He worked closely with schools especially the local secondary school and had established a Christian Union which was well attended and led by pupils.

October Synod: Rev Peter Froggart and members of the Diocesan Missionary Team will give a talk and lead a discussion on The Diocesan Vision, "TOGETHER IN CHRIST, SHARING HOPE". This is an initiative which stresses the importance of the local Parishes in the diocese and what can be achieved by working together. One and a half million people live in our diocese and for this vision to be successful it must be seen to make a difference to their lives. The emphasis throughout the presentation was on communication and "working together in loving generosity". Faith and prayer underpin all our actions as we work to raise awareness of the needs of the people we serve and the environment in which we work. This vision needs commitment. Emphasis was laid on the important role of volunteers and the creative use and sharing of resources.

Daran Ward

Music Group Report

Sing to the Lord a new song. Psalm 98:1

It has been such a privilege to lead the worship at our church for another year, and it is a service that we never take for granted. Once again, a dedicated group of musicians (organ, keyboards, drums, guitars, saxophone, french horn, singers) have made a joyful noise, helping to lift our voices and minds to God as we sing new and older songs.

We were particularly pleased to be able to lead worship at the Carol services and the Blessing that we sang at the end of the service touched us as much as other people. Once again, my thanks to everyone involved. It has been a lot of hard work, much of it unseen, but I am so grateful for your hard work in practising and playing Sunday by Sunday.

There have been a few changes to the team over the past year as we have welcomed new members and said goodbye to others. Most notably, last year we thanked Sue Farrington for her many, many years of faithful service and we will also be saying farewell to Dave Hermitt for his wonderful bass playing ... our services will never quite be the same without his exuberant bass lines. Thank you Sue and Dave! I am also grateful to Ben and Laura for taking over the leadership of the band rotas. This, like all rota organisation, is a thankless task and I am so grateful to them for picking it up. 😊

A last thank you to those members of the congregation who encourage us and give us helpful feedback. This has been even more appreciated than usual.

One final point, if anyone reading this would like to get involved in the band in whatever capacity, please do come and speak with me.

Andrew Warren

Prayer Ministry and Prayer@6

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Ephesians 6:18

The prayer life of our church is at the centre of who we are and what we do as a body of Christ.

Prayer@6 has continued to take place every Sunday evening between 6pm and 7pm. The meetings are attended regularly by a core group of 8 people with others joining as and when they can. The meetings offer time to worship and to enter into God's presence, listening to God and interceding for our church, country, and world. At times we also take to the streets of our town to pray for our community. There has been one evening dedicated entirely to worship with the possibility of another one to be held on 7th March, watch this space.

It would be wonderful to see the prayer meetings grow so please come along to spend time together and with God.

The prophetic and prayer ministry. Since the pandemic it has been difficult to re-establish prayer ministry and the team has become depleted. In attempt to reignite this ministry and become a church which is regularly praying for each other and listening to what God has to say, we have organised a prophetic prayer ministry training morning to be held on March 23rd which will be led by a team from New Wine.

We really need more people to be willing to use their gifts in this ministry so that we can ensure that there are always people to meet to listen to God before and during the services and to ensure that there are people available to pray with others each week.

As we pray in this way, we are showing our love for members of the body here at Christ Church and our aim is to create safe spaces for people to encounter and draw nearer to God. We have in the past offered Prayer ministry within services as requested by the service leader and it would be good to offer Holy Spirit blessing prayers during communion at 11am more often.

We do however, still need to work out how to develop opportunities for prayer ministry in Messy Church. If you feel called to use your gifts and serve on the Prayer Ministry team, please do let Daran or myself know. You will be part of a team and will always be praying with others. There are also guidelines which each member of the team follows.

Praying for and asking God to bless others through His Holy Spirit is both a joy and privilege. It's His work, not ours and we would love to see this ministry grow!

The dedicated church email address which enables people to request confidential prayer continues. All requests are shared within the team on a dedicated confidential WhatsApp group.

Andrea Chatterley

Children and Families Ministry Report 2023

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Our vision is that children and families experience God's love through all we are and do, that they come to know Jesus for themselves, grow deeper in their love for Jesus, and are equipped and excited to share this with others.

I want to give a special thank you to all of you for your involvement in Children and Families ministry throughout this year. I am blessed to have many helpers who often serve on more than one team. Your commitment, encouragement, prayer, financial giving and wonderful support is greatly valued and without you, most of what we offer simply wouldn't happen, so thank you.

Parent Chat continued to meet every Monday during term time. , we were able to introduce cross-stitch lessons and nail painting at separate intervals to encourage the mums. Many Mums have enjoyed coming to Big Breakfast first as well as Parent Chat.

Cherubs has continued to be a popular group for many parents, grandparents and carers. Some weeks are busier than others but it has proved to be a wonderful opportunity as a signpost for our other groups as well as growing relationships with our regular attenders. The group attracts many people from outside of Alsager which is encouraging, and the Teddy Bear's Picnic and Christmas party are always enjoyed by large numbers. This group has a dedicated team of helpers but would benefit from a few extra volunteers who could commit when others are on holiday.

Tea on Tuesday is a very popular group and this year has seen a growth in the numbers of families attending. This group serves with a dedicated team, some of whom prepare and cook food on a fortnightly rota; others help serve, wash up and clean up; and there are committed leaders who offer pastoral care and support. Many helpers offer their time on a weekly basis. A grant from Cheshire East has given Tea on Tuesday the financial support it needs to run and to enable it to continue running in the future, it relies on further grants and would love to welcome extra helpers.

Kids For God (KFG), our children's Sunday club meets in the hall two or three times a month. This group, which is aimed at primary school age children, invariably attracts quite a few pre-school children in addition. Numbers have varied throughout the year which could be due to an irregular timetable, as KFG is not on when it is Messy Church or an All-age Service. Changes were made in September, after a review, to begin each session in the hall as more than four families had commented that the start in church unsettled their children. This has introduced consistency and towards the end of the Autumn term, numbers had begun to increase. This group has lots of helpers which means that if you are on the rota, you will have lots of opportunities to be in church regularly too.

Messy Church continues to be a wonderful, fresh expression of church. Our dedicated team have found it easier to meet on Zoom for planning sessions. This has enabled more people to join the meetings who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. Messy Church always receives encouraging feedback from families and team helpers. Numbers have not been as high as they were in the previous year but this should not be viewed negatively. Many families enjoy sessions that aren't as 'noisy' and the Messy team have reported that the sessions have been 'quality time' with more opportunities to engage in thoughtful conversations about Jesus. This is something to celebrate!

Easter Detectives, our annual holiday club, is always a popular event. With several team helpers, we were able to offer craft activities, drama and baking. Then an opportunity to talk to the children about the Easter story with a video and songs to finish rounded up a great morning. Reviewing the event, plans began to be made to hold a three-day holiday club next year.

Work in Schools: Assemblies are delivered by Daran and myself in four local schools in Alsager, each half term. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with the children on a spiritual level and introduce Jesus to all the children.

Our weekly lunchtime Craft Club is run jointly with Jonny from Wesley Place Methodist Church, visiting Cranberry and Pikemere Primary Schools. The Club is very popular and is a great way to build relationships and share stories about Jesus.

In the Summer term, Sam and I visited three primary schools to offer 'It's Your Move' lessons which is a session to support Year 6 pupils with their transition from primary to secondary school. This is also a great opportunity to introduce Sam and chat to them about our youth groups that they will be able to access in secondary school.

At Christmastime, Pikemere School visited the church to hold their carol concerts and Cranberry invited Daran and myself to do a service in their school. In addition, the Year one children visited for their annual Christmas activity sessions in church.

A local Beavers group visited us at Easter and Christmas as one of their aims is to learn about other faiths. Around 20 children at each session have enjoyed craft activities, treasure trails and short talks.

Family Fun Afternoons: The February half term included Shrove Tuesday, which became a wonderful opportunity to visit Milton Park and then return for pancake themed games, pizza and pancakes. Around 40 people joined in with the fun. In October half term, we had a bouncy castle in the hall with face painting, crafts and a toddler area. Over 80 people visited us and were grateful to be able to come to a free event to entertain their children in the half term.

Alsager Carnival. This was a great opportunity to engage with our wider community. As we were setting up, a queue began to form for face painting and the queue did not go down until it was time to pack away. As well as offering crafts to cater for 100 children, a vast number of leaflets were handed to families to advertise our different groups. Many people commented that Christ Church is 'a church that has a lot going on.'

Southport Day Trip. This was a hugely successful event and was generously subsidised by an anonymous donation which our families were enormously grateful for. One 53-seater coach enabled many families to join us and an additional car with a family came along too. This trip did not end up being widely advertised as the places were all snapped up within a week. The weather just about held out for us but a few were disappointed that they couldn't have a paddle as the tide was too far out! Plans for a different destination and an additional coach to accommodate more people next year were noted.

Community Fun Days. There were two fun days held in the summer in Wood Park with around 100 people attending each one. For the first time, we were able to include a free barbecue which was well received. The water slide was another highlight and it was great to join together and serve with both the Community and the Methodist Churches. We were also thankful to lots of volunteers who helped to run the event.

Light Party. In October, we held our annual Light Party with a superhero theme. The children who came enjoyed the life-size cut outs of famous superheroes which was a fabulous platform in which

to introduce Jesus, our eternal superhero! It is good to be able to offer an alternative to other celebrations occurring on October 31st.

One World Day. This annual event, held in the Civic Hall for the Alsager community, occurred a month later than its usual slot in early October. This had an effect on fewer people in attendance as there were many other events happening around that time. Despite the change, the families who visited enjoyed a variety of Messy Church style activities and it was yet another opportunity to hand out leaflets.

Christmas Events. The Christmas Lights Switch-On in Alsager town is normally the first event to begin the Christmas season. As usual, this was well attended and a great opportunity to give out our Christmas cards, listing all our Christmas services as well as blessing the community with chocolates.

In addition to our annual Cherubs and Tea on Tuesday Christmas parties, a party was held for our Kids For God group, for the first time this year. The children were very excited and it was an opportunity to develop the relationships within the group while celebrating Christmas. It is hoped this will begin a tradition of an annual Christmas party.

Our 'Messy Nativity' has become our 'Pop-up Nativity'. Provided with a script from The Bible Society, this style of nativity enables all children and adults to be involved and dress up as their favourite character from the Christmas story. After donning their costumes in the hall, we made our way up to church for lots of fun drama and carol singing which was enjoyed by all.

On the day before Christmas Eve (otherwise known as Christmas Eve Eve), we held our annual Crib Service. This year, we introduced the Christingle too and many families joined us in church. The highlight had to be the rather large pass the parcel around the pews!

Jen Follett, Children and Families Leader

Youth Work at Christ Church in 2023

Spring Term

The year started strongly, and having delivered a set of lessons at Alsager School using the GSUS Live resource, Sam was invited back to deliver another set of lessons to Year 9 learners on 'Mission & Evangelism', and why Christians share their faith. These lessons were well received by staff and students, and Sam had an opportunity to share his testimony and a simple Christian message in an appropriate way as part of these lessons.

The Space, our recently re-launched lunchtime prayer and reflection space in Alsager High School continued to grow, and Sam and Claire (a Christian maths teacher) took the decision to make The Space weekly instead of fortnightly, due to its popularity and growth.

Our youth club Ablaze continued to grow in relationships, and the partnership between Christ Church, Wesley Place, and Alsager Community Church continues to provide great strength of community and enhance the unity of this group. We ran bowling and laser-quest trips, with some young people from Chat & Chill also attending these.

Chat & Chill, our after-school board game cafe, also continued to thrive, and having consulted with volunteers and young people for suggestions to improve the club, we began to introduce occasional 'specials' or themed activity afternoons to Chat & Chill, which helped distinct friendship groups to mix, and helped young people to make new friends, whilst trying new things and growing in confidence.

Summer Term

During the summer term, based on the success of the lessons Sam had already delivered, we were invited back by the RE department at Alsager School to deliver another set of lessons to Year 8 classes, this time on the theme of 'How does faith influence people's lives'. Whilst these lessons were a little more scattered and disrupted by exams, teachers strikes and rescheduled induction days, the classes Sam was able to deliver were well received, and students and staff gave very positive feedback.

The Space continued to grow this term, with 30-40 young people attending most weeks, and engaging with various aspects of faith, including an opportunity to 'Quiz A Christian' - asking their own tough questions about faith, which they enjoyed and engaged well with. We also saw a significant crossover with young people coming to The Space, but also engaging with Chat & Chill and Ablaze.

Ablaze grew rapidly in numbers this term, with many young people from around the community beginning to come along. Whilst some of these young people appreciated the club and joined in well, some of the behaviour of these young people caused issues and disruption to the group, and following a consultation with all of the young people who attended, our leaders decided to keep Ablaze easily accessible, but to continue to focus on helping young people who were keen to explore faith and grow into disciples of Jesus. We planned to continue to engage with the young people from the community through detached work over the Summer holidays, as well as through Chat & Chill and our work at Alsager School, in the hope that they would reach a point where they could return to Ablaze but respect the leaders, other young people, and aims of the club.

Summer Holidays

During the summer holidays, we undertook some detached youth work sessions, engaging with young people around the community, including some who had been coming to Ablaze, and continuing to build relationships. Some of these sessions were successful, and some less so. Our leaders found there was little pattern to when young people were out and about around Alsager, which made it difficult to identify and predict trends and to engage regularly with young people.

We also ran two community fun days in Wood Park with Wesley Place and Alsager Community Church. These fun days are always a highlight, and this year over the course of the two fundays we saw over 250 children, adults and young people engage with our activities. We were also able for the first time to offer free BBQs as part of these fun days, which were funded by a generous legacy donation from the Alsager Partnership as their work unfortunately came to an end. Their donation will also cover the cost of offering free BBQs again at summer fun days in 2024.

We also took a small group of young people and leaders from Ablaze to the Limitless Festival for a day. Limitless festival happens every Summer at the Staffordshire Showground, and sees up to 6000 young people and youth leaders gather for worship, teaching, and fun. Our young people enjoyed visiting Limitless, and we hope next year to take a group to the festival for the full week.

Autumn Term

Sam was again invited after the summer holidays to return to Alsager High School, this time to teach two sets of lessons, to both Year 8 and Year 9 classes. Sam taught Year 8 students about 'The Life of Jesus', as part of a unit of lessons on prophets & founders of religions, and a new set of Year 9 students about 'Mission & Evangelism'. These lessons were again very well received, and it's great to continue to support Alsager School in this way.

At the beginning of the new academic year, we took the decision to split The Space into two groups. Alsager School has a split lunch time, and we wanted to ensure that Year 8 students who had now moved into Year 9 could continue to engage, having enjoyed it so much last year. This proved successful, with the Year 7 and 8 weeks continuing to grow in number with new students coming along regularly, and the Year 9 weeks having a smaller group of young people, but with a real sense of community, and a depth of discussions and exploration of faith that has been a massive blessing to facilitate.

Young people coming to Ablaze continued to grow in relationships, and many of the young people who come have grown in confidence and in faith, and most have made a commitment to follow Jesus, and would say that Ablaze has been a big part of their faith journey.

We also started a new monthly churches-together youth group on Sunday mornings called 'Ablaze on Sundays', which brings young people and their leaders from Alsager Community Church and Christ Church together at the Home Coffee Shop to explore faith and learn from the bible together. This has been a great success so far, with 15 young people from across the two churches coming along to the first two sessions. We hope to continue to grow this group in 2024, and that we can invite young people who attend other local churches to be a part of this too.

Closing Thoughts

Whilst 2023 has still had it's difficulties, it has been great to look back on what God has done this year. We have seen considerable growth both numerically and spiritually in the young people we've engaged with, and feel that our youth work is in a really good place, providing a strong foundation to build on over the coming years.

Collaborating with other local churches on our youth work, as well as with Alsager School, has provided a great sense of community for the young people we engage with, and we hope to continue to model a strong sense of unity in Christ to our young people, and to build on these relationships in the future, to continue to reach as many young people as possible with the good news of Jesus.

Sam Parnell, Youth Leader

Coffee & Communion Report for 2023

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:9

2023 saw C&C continuing to thrive as we welcomed congregations of 30 – 50, many drawn from our Sunday congregation but a growing number from the local community and beyond. We extended a particular welcome to residents from New Milton House and Twyford House; as we strove to encourage and support them, they blessed us with their presence and friendship. It is however a service for all ages, absolutely everyone is given a warm welcome.

As always our grateful thanks go to Daran and Martin for ministering to us and to our dedicated kitchen team, bakers, drivers and pianists, without whom the service could not operate in its present form. Special thanks go to the Whitehill Ukulele Band who entertained us and filled us with such joy at our Christmas service.

Adrienne Whitby

Admin and Church Hall Report

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Cor 15 v 58:

The office is a hive of activity, there are rarely two days the same. As well as the regular mailings to our weekly notices group (260) and the monthly families' (480) emails there are lots of other admin tasks to process.

In 2023 we interviewed and supported five ACTS 435 applications; all these applications were met in full. We were able to help in various ways including two washing machines, a fridge freezer, beds, flooring and a course of physio. If you don't know about this scheme, please do pick up a leaflet or speak to Debbie or Dave Fidal.

We continued to keep in touch with lots of our members and those who are on the fringe. If you are new or your details have changed, please let me know so we can try to keep as up to date as possible.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who help in so many different roles, also a massive thank you to Ainsley Cooper and his team of carers who do so much to help and support the work of the office team and ultimately the Church.

As ever the hall is almost fully booked with various Church and community events.

I would like to thank Nicole our cleaner who does a fantastic job keeping the Church and hall so clean and tidy, along with all the volunteers who do lots of odd jobs around the place.

Debbie Preston, Administrator

Verger's Report

11 Baptisms
0 Thanksgivings
0 Weddings
14 Funerals
47 Burials
6 Confirmations 6

Electoral Roll Report

128 (52 non resident)
3 additions
6 removed by request
4 deceased

Safeguarding Report

We have appointed Sonja Baker to the team. Sonja replaces Heather on our team and comes with loads of practical experience, currently employed as a safeguard lead in the primary school where she works. She has a great understanding of special needs from a safeguarding point of view, and she is a great addition to the team. Welcome Sonja.

The posters in church and the hall have been updated and we could do with displaying photographs of the team on a PowerPoint prior to services as previously, to ensure the congregation is aware of the update.

The diocese required all safeguarding leads to adopt a private safeguarding email. This would increase security and confidentiality and ensures that communications are private and safer. Thanks to Dave Fidell who set up our account safeguarding@christchurchalsager.uk. Emails can be accessed by Steve and he is currently notified via an email to his account of any incoming emails. So far, the system works well, but we will continue to monitor to see if anyone else needs to be included in access to the safeguarding email.

A further update from the diocese requires that all volunteers who have a DBS check, will need to be reviewed every 3 years. While this has not changed, those who have access to the update service will be required to go through the process from the beginning ie complete email application and produce three forms of identification. This is because some churches have marked the update as seen and in fact the check is blemished. In these circumstances, the procedure for blemished records is then bypassed and the diocese is overlooked when deciding what role someone with a blemished record can play. The change to the procedure may affect several people in our parish who are members of the update service, but by adopting the new method we are in line with the diocese requirements.

An opportunity to remind all volunteers who are helping in roles that require a DBS, as soon as they become regular, ie on a rota and not just trying out, they need to apply for a DBS and complete the online training. The volunteer agreement will also need to be signed and the helper provided with the church of England policies, procedures and a copy of the parish best practice handbook which they sign to say they have read and agree to follow. Training is completed online and when finished Deb will need to be informed in order to keep our records in addition to the Church of England training dashboard.

We have been supported by the diocese safeguarding team on a number of occasions this year and have been grateful for their advice. We have also worked with other churches on safeguarding matters relevant to churches together projects. Steve initiated a joint meeting with the community church and the Methodist church and met with their respective safeguarding leads. We all found this useful. We agreed in principle on how we might handle issues that arise at joint events and with information sharing about those who might attend events at different churches. We also agreed to meet up once a quarter to discuss anything relevant to safeguarding among churches together.

If anyone has any suggestions about how safeguarding at Christchurch might be improved, please speak with one of the team who will be glad to listen.

Steve Bloor

Big Breakfast at Church - BB@C

Big Breakfast is now 9 years old and is regularly serving around 50 breakfasts, with numbers rising recently to 60 plus some weeks. We have a lovely cross section of our community who come to Big Breakfast, ranging from young Mums with pre school children to groups of individuals who appreciate the companionship. We regularly see new people coming along, which is encouraging.

There is a wonderful atmosphere in the hall whilst people are enjoying their breakfast and it is a privilege and blessing to serve our local community. We are also able to come alongside people to chat or simply listen as we continue to build relationships. There is a great sense of joy and

fellowship and reward amongst our regular and loyal team of helpers. Recently we have been able to welcome some new members to our team.

Despite the increase in the cost of living, we have been able to keep cost of the breakfast to £3 per adult for the 'Full English', which is great value for good food. All are welcome to come and try Breakfast or offer help on the team.

With thanks to all who come to Big Breakfast and of course, heartfelt thanks to the wonderful team of helpers.

Karen Holland

Bell Ringers' Report

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Jubilate Deo Psalm c. BCP

Ringling has continued through the year. We need four to be quorate but often have more. When there are not enough we normally ring the service bell, unless on holiday.

We have had two bands of visiting ringers and Alsager has hosted ringling by members of the South Cheshire Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of which we are a constituent part.

In September we managed to resume practices on a Monday on a week by week basis. This has proved to be fruitful as the extent of the ringling methods has been considerably augmented.

The positive and supportive comments we receive on a Sunday are greatly appreciated.

Chris Lovatt, Tower Captain

Community Payback Report

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25: 35 - 36

We provided numerous teas and coffees during the year to the community workers who come to work in the church yard on Saturday and Sunday during the year. In addition, we provided 3 cooked lunches, one of which was a full Christmas Dinner.

Thanks to all the helpers who are willing to volunteer. Without it, the meals and drinks would not happen. Please pray for greater frequency of the meals in 2024. We are looking to do roughly one every 2 months.

Lastly, the workers received great feedback from visitors to the church yard who commented on their work ethic and tidiness of the graves.

Mark Edwards

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Report

2023 was a momentous year for IcFEM Mission in Kenya, for which IcFEM Dreamland Mission in the UK is a major advocate, prayer encourager and supporter. In October a group of 10 from here and from St. Matthias' Church, Hanford visited Kimilili. We had a very intense two weeks in which we immersed ourselves in the Mission's life out in the community, in the school (DEC) and the

hospital (DMH). We were pleased that a good hall-full of Christ Church and other interested folk gathered in January this year to hear us report back. Five of us had visited in 2019 and the transformation that had taken place since then left us reeling and hugely impressed! We reported back on:

In the community we visited several Local Transformation Units (LTUs) and saw the impact of:

- The Bees Project (set up with funds raised at the 2022 Big Give event): families can buy locally made hives and benefit from the income generated. 5 hives can turn a family's fortunes round,
- The Trees For Life Project: local farmers buy, plant and nurture trees as part of a Carbon Sequestration scheme supported by the Christian organisation Climate Stewards who have recently accredited IcfEM's scheme. This will enable more funds to flow to the Mission.
- DEC's dormitory block (whose existing foundations were being cleared of scrub in 2019) was up and running; as the school expands, more boarding accommodation will be completed to accommodate the extra numbers. DEC is always looking for new sponsors for needy children. See the website.

At DMH we saw:

- The new Radiology Department. The new American-funded CT scanner was due to arrive while we were there, but was held up owing to transport issues. It arrived the day after we left.
- The new Newborn Baby Unit, where we saw the hospital's first ever triplets, born only a few weeks before we arrived. Mother and babies are all doing well. The unit has already saved over 50 babies' lives. Before it was built, babies who needed urgent post-natal care had to travel 3 hours to Eldoret Hospital. Many didn't survive the journey.
- The growing new two-storey Theatre Block under construction. It will house two state-of-the-art operating theatres with ancillary recovery rooms and associated facilities. The existing theatre is heavily used and shows its age (about 20 years). The new block will take the pressure off, enabling emergency operations to be undertaken safely for e.g. C-sections and road traffic accidents. Too often the small, less well-equipped eye theatre has been used. The next step will be a fully equipped A&E department. Watch this space!

The 2023 Big Give campaign raised over £17,000 for further development at DEC: the installation of water harvesting to ensure a more reliable water supply, and the installation of improved lighting in the boarding accommodation so that students can continue to work after nightfall, around 1900 hrs.

FYI IcfEM-Mission's Director Solomon Nabie and his wife Ruth will be here from Thursday 23rd May to Wednesday 29th, and there will be several opportunities to meet them face to face. Details soon.

Christ Church has supported IcfEM for many years as part of its 'Far Out' ministry, for which we are most grateful. Learn much more about the work on the IcfEM Dreamland Mission website; there you will find many stories reflecting the Mission's work. Do go and have a look! It's very inspiring.

Martin Oram

Oakhanger Project Report 2023

Commit your way to the Lord and He will bring it to pass. Psalm 37.5

Over the recent summer program we have been engaged in intensive activity with a wide range of groups including St. Marys Church Nantwich (45 members). We ran two days with Everybody Active with 34 participants in June and 27 in August).

Our links continue with CLASP and a number of their members have gained kayak qualifications over the summer. We have also provided activity days with Cheshire Young Carers; Scouts and Cubs; Walk-Talk-Action; Buddies and Siblings groups; Capernwray Bible School (including supporting an activity day with 300 members of Lancashire Police Families); A4A (Activities for All) 6 sessions during August with a total footfall of 109 plus staff

Rhos-on-Sea camping and activity weekend from 11th to 13th June - 19 people camped and enjoyed activities and fellowship. Anglesey Weekend 11th to 13th August 2023 - 24 Oakhanger Project members camped at Tyn Rhos Campsite, Trearddur Bay with other members staying nearby and joining the team as day visitors. Sea kayaking was limited due to weather conditions but some members managed a short paddle in the sheltered bay at Trearddur.

Our volunteer team, led by Jonny, has grown in numbers and in experience and they have provided a versatile range of accessible and inclusive activities for children and adults. See the attached Statistics for a full breakdown. Discussions are well-advanced with the Methodist Church to appoint Jonny as part time Activity Coordinator from March 2024. This will expand opportunities to reach out to community groups with accessible activities for young people as well as current work with families.

We continue to support both the Oakhanger Church and Oakhanger Community group with Project members helping to maintain the community garden and also support worship and social activities in and around Oakhanger. A special shared celebration was held for the Coronation of King Charles 3 on 8th May 2023.

Prayerful prior planning is essential to a safe and successful operation and we are grateful for the support and commitment from all involved to enable the provision of a safe and enjoyable program that supported participants to experience a sense of adventure and to learn new practical, personal and social skills. We are thankful to the various groups, including Christ Church members, for their enthusiasm and support, to Oakhanger volunteers for their commitment and to God for His continued provision.

Graham Bushill

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) Report

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8.

These words express the fundamental ethos of CSW.

For those of you who don't know, CSW is a human rights organisation working in Parliament and at the U N, challenging those regimes which persecute their religious minorities.

It is more than 13 years ago that I felt God calling me to get involved with CSW. My work involves lots of visits to churches in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire. Over the last twelve months I have done presentations at 19 churches, one youth group and one men's breakfast to encourage

congregations to do all that they can to support those who suffer for their religious beliefs. Our greatest concern is for Christians, since they are numerically the most persecuted group in the world today. However, our mission goes much wider than that. For instance, we have recently brought to light the suffering of Mubarak Bala, the President of the Nigerian Humanist Society who is currently serving a 24-year prison sentence for alleged blasphemy.

God calls us to stand alongside such people and this is something I am glad and privileged to do. If you want further details of the work done by CSW please visit the website, www.csw.org.uk.

Keith Davies, Regional Ambassador, CSW.

Wycliffe Bible Translators Report

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” Rev 7.9a

The vision of Wycliffe Bible Translators is for a world where everyone has the opportunity to know Jesus through being able to read the Bible in their own tongue, yet sadly one in five people are still waiting for the Bible to be translated into their own language. This gets to the heart of the work of Wycliffe which, together with its partner organisations, is actively focused on translating the Bible into languages that currently have no written form, a work that we at Christ Church have supported for many years.

Thankfully, the pace of Bible translation is increasing, and last year newly translated Bibles were launched at a rate of about one a month; that's twelve complete Bible translations during 2023 covering a population about the size of England (55 million). In addition, 53 New Testaments were also completed in 2023 – a record number for a single year! 2023 was also a key year because for the first time in history, the number of languages with work in progress (3,742) exceeded the number of languages without work in progress (3,652). Praise God indeed!

During 2023, Wycliffe Bible Translators UK were beginning to relink with partner churches following the disruptions caused by Covid, and here at Christ Church it was lovely to hear Paul Moores talk to us when he visited the church in January. Hopefully such visits will become a regular occurrence. Meantime please do pray for the work of Wycliffe and if you would like to know more about the work that it does please feel free to ask us.

Sarah or Dave Fidal

Minutes from Christ Church Alsager Annual General Meeting 2023

Reporting on Year Ending 31 December 2022

Held Sunday 30th April 2023 at 1pm in Church Hall

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

1. Welcome and prayer by Daran (vicar)
2. Apologies for absence from Debbie Preston, Richard Hewitt, Ceri Hewitt and Heather Kemball
3. Approval of minutes of APM 8th May 2022 with no amendments. Proposed Aly Ward, seconded Colin Follet. Duly approved.
4. Election of two churchwardens. Daran thanked the current wardens Jane Askew and Dave Fidal. Dave has come to the end of his six year term, Daran thanked him for all the areas in

which he is involved and a round of applause was given in appreciation. Daran presented Dave with a book as a thank you. Richard Hewitt is nominated as a replacement. Jane Askew to continue, proposed Aly Ward, seconded Jen Follett. Richard Hewitt proposed Joelle Warren, seconded Andrew Warren, both duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Approval of minutes of the APCM 8th May 2022 with no amendments.
2. Matters arising from the minutes. None.
3. Notification of any other business. None.
4. Electoral roll officers report. Currently 134 on the roll. There are 18 additions, 12 removed by request, 6 moved away, 3 deceased.
5. Annual reports

Churchwardens Report. No questions or comments.

Fabric Report - It was questioned whether secondary glazing could be considered for the church windows. Geoff Chatterley said he would speak to the architect about the cost.

Deanery Synod Report. Given verbally by Shirley Jones

Congleton Deanery Synod held regular meetings in February and June. The June meeting was held at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Alsager. The main item on the agenda was the election of a new Lay Chairman. Bill Ball had held this office for several years and due to new rules regarding length of terms for Lay Chairman was required to retire. The members paid tribute to Bill's work over his time as Lay Chairman and thanked him for his contribution and leadership. The Deanery Synod elected Mrs Kath Cliffe as the new Lay Chairman. The June meeting was held at St Bertoline Church, Barthomley. We were pleased to welcome our new Rural Dean, Revd Ian Enticott. The Deanery Synod members thanked Revd Canon Rob McLaren for his work as Acting Rural Dean. The September meeting was shared with Nantwich Deanery and was organised and led by Chester Diocese. The focus of the meeting was the Everyday Faith initiative. We look forward to working with our new Rural Dean in 2023.

Treasurers Report. No questions or comments. Daran thanked Dave White and Beverly Steel for their continued work, a round of applause was given in appreciation.

Report on the proceedings of the PCC. It was noted that Andrea Chatterley had been omitted from the list of PCC members in the report.

Daran invited questions or comments on any of the reports submitted. Sam Parnell and Jen Follett were asked what we could pray for in their roles as youth and children's workers. Sam replied: more opportunities in the high school and the RE department; those attending chat and chill on Fridays discovering more about faith and wisdom in the organising and running of Ablaze which is running in conjunction with other churches in the village. Jen replied: for the families that attend Tea on Tuesday (which has been awarded a council grant of just over £3000) and messy church; continued growth for KFG and her consideration of an Easter holiday club for 2024.

Rachel White thanked Christchurch for the use of the hall as one of the venues for the monthly litter pick run through Rotary and Alsager Partnership.

As Daran approaches his sabbatical he asked for our prayers that he and Aly would have good health; that they would have a heightened awareness of God speaking; and to be given the words to encourage for those they come in contact with. Aly said she echoed what Daran said and that

she was excited to have the time to think about nothing but hearing the Lord and being refreshed in his presence.

6. Election of three Deanery Synod representatives. Shirley Jones was proposed by Mark Holland seconded Stephanie Fearn. Debbie Preston was proposed by Sam Parnell seconded Heather Kemball, Aly Ward proposed by Mark Holland seconded Steve Bloor . All in favour, duly elected.
7. Election of Five Parochial Church Council Members. Five members are needed and five have been nominated. All for 3 year terms except where stated.

Dave Fidal - proposed Betty Lowe seconded Beverly Steel

Geoff Chatterley - proposed Jane Askew seconded Colin Follett, one year term

Alison Thomas - proposed Jane Askew seconded Julie Newman

Phil Follett-Laing - proposed Sam Parnell seconded Heather Kemball

Jessica Follet-Laing proposed Sam Parnell seconded Alan Kemball

8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner. Proposed by Joelle Warren that Derek Nyland continue, seconded Geoff Chatterley, majority in favour, duly elected

9. Any Other Business

Sam Parnell and Joelle Warren were thanked and prayed for as they came to the end of the time on PCC

10. Andrew Warren closed with prayer asking for blessing surrounding what we need and what we do and for those elected and for Daran.

Parochial Church Council Meeting (PCC)

Present. Steve Roberts, Shirley Jones, Beverley Steel, Geoff Chatterley, Dave Fidal, Rachel White Alison Thomas, Aly Ward, Jane Askew, Andrea Chatterley. Jess Follet- Laing, Phil Follett-Laing, Gill Bowers, Julie Newman (secretary), Daran Ward (chair)

Election of:

Vice Chair: Jane Askew, proposed Daran Ward, seconded Geoff Chatterley

Secretary: Julie Newman, proposed Daran Ward seconded Jane Askew

Treasurers: Beverly Steel and Dave White, proposed, Daran Ward seconded Andrea Chatterley

Electoral Roll Officer: Debbie Preston proposed Daran Ward seconded Andrea Chatterley

All in favour for each of the above appointments.

The standing committee to comprise vicar, churchwardens, treasurers, Geoff Chatterley for fabric and the secretary, proposed Daran Ward seconded Gill Bowers, all in favour.

The next PCC meetings have been planned for the following dates: 12th June 2023, 10th July 2023, 18th September 2023, 23rd October 2023 , 27th November 2023. Geoff and Steve gave their apologies for the next meeting.

Beverly reported that she saw the need for an energy working group to look at the matter of fuel bills, as bills are higher than anticipated. There was a brief discussion followed by the agreement that Beverly Steel, Dave Fidal, Debbie Preston, Dave White and Geoff Chatterley would form the working group.

Julie Newman, PCC Secretary