

PARISH OF HERNE HILL  
REPORTS FOR  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
MEETING MAY 13TH 2024



***Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus  
to the centre of our lives  
and to the heart of our community.***

Charity Registration number: 1134045

## VICAR'S REPORT 2023

*Ben Goodyear*

Dear friends,

2023 has been a year of fruitfulness and of challenges as we've been attempting "In God's strength to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and the heart of our community".

We have very much been focused on our Mission Action Plan Goals below:

### MAP GOALS 2022/2023

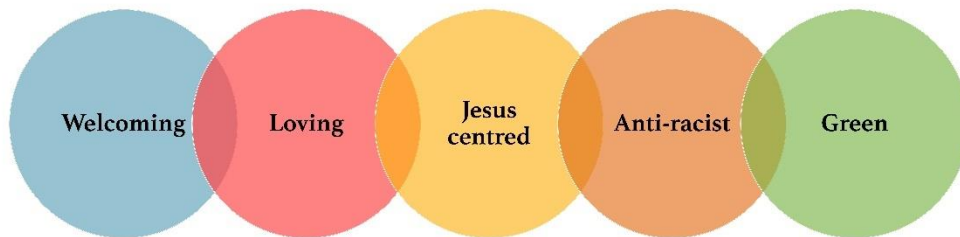
- Welcoming and loving all through Jesus centred services & ministries
- Showing & sharing the love of Jesus through pastoral & practical help, advice & support for our local community
- Caring for God's people and planet by being a Fairtrade parish & pursuing a positive environmental impact
- Striving to be anti-racist as racism is an affront to God

PARISH OF HERNE HILL

The reports in this document highlight how we've been trying to do this so I won't repeat what's in them, but I encourage you to read them, and if you have any questions about anything to speak to me or the leader of the activity. There will be an opportunity to do that at the APCM on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm at St Paul's. However, feel free to ask us any questions at any point throughout the year.

It has been a year of transition. As we have looking back, we have sensed that we have achieved most of what God had given us to do in our previous Mission Action Plan. In fact, some of those things have become part of our values so we have added being anti-racist and green to our values of being Jesus Centred, Loving and Welcoming.

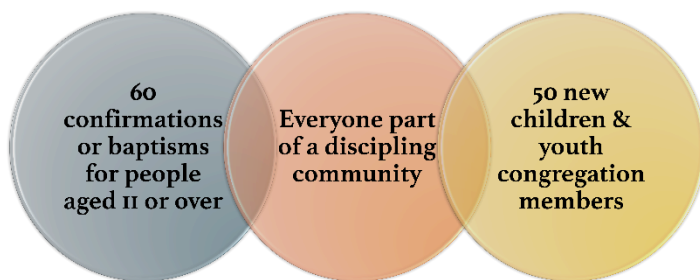
## In God's strength we strive to be



*All welcome, no exceptions, come as you are.*

In November the PCC and other ministry and small group leaders gathered to look back and look ahead to think about the missional priorities for the next 3 years. PCC has since adopted the following Mission Action Plan Goals for 2024-2026:

## MAP GOALS 2024-2026



*Jesus said: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' Matthew 28:19-20*

If there is a particular goal that you would like to make a reality, with God's help, please let us know. Please pray for these goals and for everyone who will be involved. Only God is the one who makes things grow:

*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

It has also been a year of transition for our staff team, with Alex, Bex, Sue, and Crystalla moving to other employment, and Cas, Ruby, Noël and Winnie joining the staff team too. I'm very grateful to all the staff and volunteers who play their part in enabling so much fruitful ministry to happen.

Thank you for all you have done, prayed and given in this last year. We are blessed in the parish of Herne Hill with so many people who give generously of their time, prayers and income. It is really appreciated, and it is all part of our worship to our generous God.

Lastly, I want to say we are here for you. 2024 continues to be difficult for some of us. If you need help or prayer, please ask myself or another member of the team. We have debt help through CAP and other ways to help people financially and practically. We do not want anyone to be in need.



Ben Goodyear, Vicar

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY, FOR 2023**

*Ben Goodyear*

In 2023 we were able to worship together in Sunday services every week in person as well as continuing to run our virtual services for those unable to attend. Most Sundays included services at 8am, 11.15am and 5pm weekly at St. Paul's and then 9.30am weekly and Messy Church monthly at St. Saviour's. We ran Children's Church weekly except for our monthly all age communions and during school holidays, with a new and well thought out curriculum.



11 people participated in a Lent course called Face to Face looking at reconciliation in relationships and aspects of the course which focussed on reconciliation over racial divides.

Seniors' Lunch Club was able to run again with A Hymn at Lunchtime once a month. The Bereavement Journey course was run with St. Barnabas Dulwich, and the annual service for the bereaved was well attended.

We opened St. Paul's up on Thursdays for private prayer and for Hope Café. We run our café on customer donations, so everyone can enjoy regardless of their financial situation. We are often serving more than 50 lunches every Thursday, plus drinks and homemade cakes. The café is a much-valued part of community ministry. We also launched a warm hub on Mondays and set up a Cost of Living Fund which helped 22 people affected by the cost of living.



We partnered with Citizens UK and other organisations, including other local churches and Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees, to campaign and organise for issues of justice locally and beyond. This included several church families hosting refugees from Ukraine and running several Sunflower shop events where people could donate and receive clothes, coats and bedding.

A committed team of volunteers organised a series of fundraising events for the restoration of the organ at St. Paul's. At the end of the year, £39,970 had been raised and work has begun.

Our curate Andy Blacknell was ordained deacon in June, and he continues to minister in both Brixton Prison and in the parish. He led an Alpha course held at Hope Café during the autumn term, with 10 people attending.

In October we welcomed Winnie Obese-Bempong as ordinand in the parish 3 days a week. In the summer we said farewell to Bex Griffiths and appointed 2 part time workers to lead children and family ministry (Ruby Wild), and youth ministry (Cas Moyo). We welcomed Kelly Stephenson back from maternity leave, sharing the Parish Operations Manager role with Sarah-Jane Miller. We thanked Lilly Immanuel as she stood down as churchwarden at St. Saviour's. We appointed Mark Maurice and Jonathan Wyles as churchwardens at St. Saviour's. Juanne Fuller & Geraldine Garner continued as churchwardens at St. Paul's.

We ran our Milkwood Summer Programme for two weeks in August in Milkwood Community Park, serving 51 children and young people in our locality. We also continued our weekly Milkwood Kick Football Academy. Several of the young people from Milkwood Kick have joined our youth group.



Milkwood Kick Football Academy

In May our WHOOSH riders cycled around the Cairngorms in Scotland raising £15,170 for Fareshare.



WHOOSH riders, May 2023

In July over 100 of us went away to High Leigh for our biannual parish weekend away with visiting speakers Amy and Toby Hole.



Parish Weekend Away, July 2023

In July we said farewell to Julia Daniel, one of our CAP (Christians Against Poverty) & Community workers, and our other CAP & Community worker, Beckee Lewis, has increased her hours to work full time and was effective in helping people out of debt, budget better, and find jobs through our CAP debt coaching, money courses and job clubs. As part of that work we delivered over 50 Christmas hampers to CAP clients and others in need locally.



Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services had lots of visitors with more than 500 people coming to those services in total.

Christingle service, Christmas Eve 2023

Our quinquennial inspection was carried out at St. Saviour's. Several works requiring immediate action were highlighted and are in progress. Our environmentally friendly lighting was installed at St. Saviour's and we did a prefeasibility study to consider other ways to decarbonise St. Saviour's.



New lighting installed at St Saviour's, April 2023

We made good progress with our Mission Action Plan (MAP).

The goals we have set can be summarised as follows:

Mission Action Plan Goals:

- Welcoming and loving all through Jesus centred services and ministries
- Showing and sharing the love of Jesus through pastoral and practical help, advice and support for our local community
- Caring for God's people and planet by being a Fairtrade parish and pursuing a positive environmental impact
- Striving to be anti-racist as racism is an affront to God

Operational Goals:

- Raise income to sustain God's mission and buildings of the parish
- Increase leadership and volunteer base

A number of working groups have been established to oversee the actions associated with these goals. The Green and Fairtrade group enabled us to get our Bronze Eco-Church Award for both St. Saviour's and St. Paul's.

As always, during the year the PCC gave its time and attention to many other issues that contribute to spiritual growth and development in the parish, including financial, buildings, staffing, social, community, worship and mission issues. These were all focused on furthering the fulfilment of our parish aim statement, "Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and to the heart of our community".

We look back on 2023 with praise to God. We have much to give Him thanks for – as we also thank the many faithful people in both churches who serve this parish and Him.



Joint Harvest service & lunch at St Saviour's, October 2023

## **DULWICH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2023**

*Trevor Tayleur*

The Dulwich Deanery Synod met twice in 2023, via Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> July and at St John's Church, Goose Green on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The meeting originally scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March was cancelled.

During the course of the year, Joy Taylor was appointed as the new chair and Laura Williams as the new Secretary (both of St John's, East Dulwich), while Rev. Anne Clarke, Assistant Priest at St John's, East Dulwich, was commissioned as the new Area Dean. The treasurer's post remains vacant.

The most significant discussion concerned a motion on behalf of St Barnabas PCC calling for clergy to be allowed (but not compelled) to perform same-sex weddings. After discussion, the motion was passed by 14 votes in favour with one abstention.

During the course of the year the Deanery Synod received reports from the Diocesan Synod, General Synod and from the parishes in the Deanery.

## **REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL 2024**

*Isobel Finn, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Introduction**

The Electoral Roll is the list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. In simple terms, if you are on the electoral roll for a parish, you are able to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the parish. It also functions as a membership list of baptised adults in the church who are over sixteen.

There are some simple criteria which allow a person to be registered on the electoral roll so do let me know if you would like to know more. One criterium is that you need to be baptised so if this is something you would like to consider, please let one of the clergy know and they would be delighted to talk this through with you.

### **The numbers**

Below are the numbers for our current electoral roll for the parish as well as how those numbers are distributed across the two parish churches. As is the nature of communities, there is always a flux of new people joining, a few moving away and the sad loss of one or two in our congregations.

For 2024, we have seen an overall increase in our numbers of six, all of whom are at St Paul's and non-resident within the parish. As London has churches in close proximity to each other, parish boundaries can be odd shapes so it is not unusual for a member of the congregation's address to fall outside of our own parish boundary. However, it is notable that more parishioners travel further afield to worship at St Paul's and this has increased over the past five years.

The results show that the combined total on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Herne Hill has now increased to 254.

146 members of the Electoral Roll are resident in the parish (two fewer than last year), and 108 are non-resident (eight more). The details for each church are as follows along with some graphs which I hope are helpful.



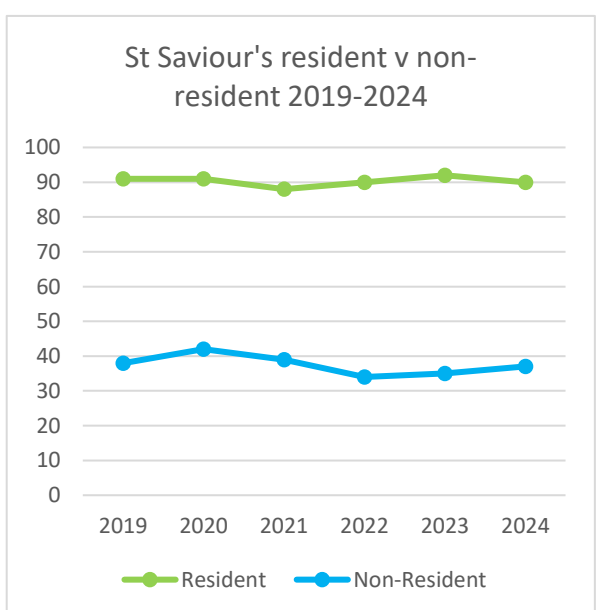
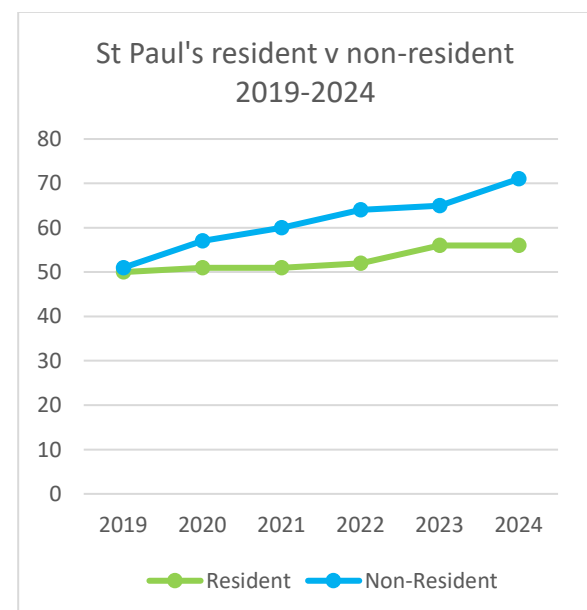
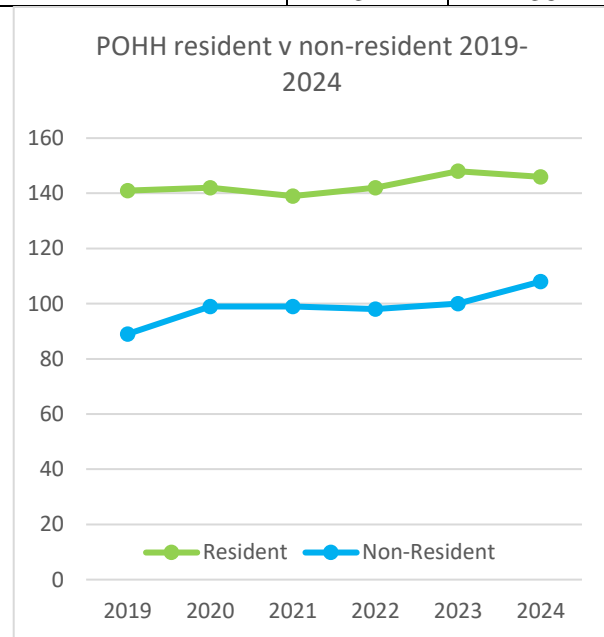
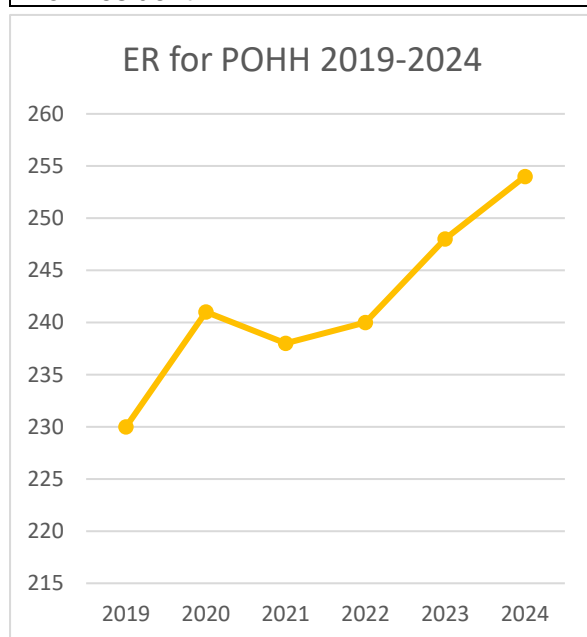
Every six years, a parish has to reset and ask all its congregation to register again. This is due to happen next year in 2025.

2024	2024	2023
<b>Parish of Herne Hill electoral roll total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>248</b>
Resident in Parish	146	148
Non Resident	108	100

Distributed across the two Parish churches as below

<b>St Paul's electoral roll</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>121</b>
Resident in Parish	56	56
Non-resident	71	65

<b>St Saviour's electoral roll</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>127</b>
Resident in Parish	90	92
Non-resident	37	35



## **ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH FABRIC REPORT**

*Jonathan Wyles – Church Warden*

*Mark Maurice - Church Warden*

The key decisions this year have been in respect of the heating and the decorating.

The church has been using temporary electric air blowers for the second winter in a row, which has also revealed some weaknesses in the electrics at the church and has needed some new external cabling to create a secure power circuit for the air blowers. Final decisions are being made by the Buildings and Fabrics Committee and PCC in respect of a permanent heating system (particularly exploring the use of heat pump technology), but it is acknowledged that this may have implications on other parts of the building (e.g. whether a new insulated roof would be required) and discussions are ongoing in this respect which has meant the timetable for replacement is as of yet unclear.

Redecorating is due to start in the next few months once faculty has been obtained. Colours have been chosen and sample patches have been tested on the pillars and stage where the paint will be stripped back to the original wood.

Automatic lighting has been installed in the toilets, and a new fire alarm system is due to be installed once requirements have been ascertained.

Many thanks to all on the Buildings and Fabrics Committee for all their hard work and attention to detail when testing different alternatives for the heating and decorating. In particular, thanks go to Sarah-Jane for all her work in obtaining quotes, dealing with the architects and the Diocese in respect of the heating, decorating, fire safety and all other elements of the St Saviours building.

St Saviours' Church Wardens Jonathan and Mark would like to thank the many volunteers who work so hard and with such commitment to make St Saviour's a special welcoming place of worship. That includes the chairs, refreshments, welcoming, gardening, cleaning, flower arranging and so on and to Kelly and Sarah-Jane for ensuring that everything ticks along smoothly on the operations front. We could not do this without you. A huge thanks.

## **ST PAUL'S CHURCH FABRIC REPORT**

*Geraldine Garner - Church Warden*

The Buildings and Fabrics Committee have had a busy year. The main projects at St Paul's this year were:

### **The Boundary Wall**

This is an ongoing project. We are very thankful to Andy Bradshaw who has agreed to still oversee this project.

### **The Hall**

We repaired the roof of the hall but are not doing any major alterations until the boundary wall has been dealt with.

### **The Organ**

The organ was taken away for renovation and it is hoped that the organ will be reinstalled in the church by Easter 2024. Thank you to Leigh and his team for their continued fundraising for the organ work.

St Paul's Church Wardens, Geraldine and Juanne, would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers who carry out so many tasks and work so hard for St Paul's. Thank you to those who have been volunteering for many years and also to those who are new, you are all very much appreciated. Whether you keep the flower beds, lawns and shrubs looking lovely outside the church, or clean the brass, make refreshments on Sundays, arrange flowers, or do odd jobs that crop up or anything else, we thank you. We would also like to thank the assistant wardens and sidespeople for their help at services throughout the year. Everyone's dedication and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT - ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

*Lucy Williams, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

I meet at least once a term with Ben, Gill, Jennie Brindley (the St Saviour's PSO) and Bex (before she left), and now Ruby and Cas, to discuss any safeguarding concerns and to review our safeguarding procedures, in the light of any new guidance from the Diocese. We also meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss and deal with any issues as and when they arise. We have again been very blessed with lots of new volunteers at St Paul's children's church and I have assisted those volunteers with their online DBS checks and completing their paperwork with them.

We currently have a small number of volunteers across St Paul's who have not yet completed all their paperwork, and still have several volunteers, both old and new, who have yet to complete their on-line safeguarding training. This is very simple to do, and I encourage anyone who I have already contacted about training to please complete this as soon as possible.

Please remember that everyone who volunteers in a role where they require safeguarding training (children's church, drivers, PCC members etc) is required to refresh their training at least every 3 years. If you think that you need to refresh your training, please let me know and I will send you the link and instructions. The courses are on-line and can be done in your own time. They really help to put safeguarding in the front of our minds.

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT - ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH**

*Jennie Brindley, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

As PSO at St Saviour's, I have tried to ensure that nearly all DBS checks renew in September at the beginning of the academic year. Where new volunteers have come forward, I've been able to process their DBS checks right away. After COVID, some Children's Church volunteers who had helped for a long time felt it was an appropriate time to step down. Consequently there are significantly fewer volunteers available with DBS checks. One or two have kindly agreed to renewing their DBS check just in case needed.

I fully endorse Lucy's report above and especially the requirement for volunteers to complete the online safeguarding training, which is clear and easy to complete. This is important in order to be 'eyes and ears' as we should be.

I have also met with Sarah-Jane to complete some work on the Parish Risk Assessments, putting them onto a consistent format to be reviewed annually, naming a leader with responsibility, and storing all risk assessments for the current year in a dedicated electronic folder. Thanks to all leaders who have promptly reviewed and returned their Risk Assessments. Please continue to ensure you regularly share and update Risk Assessments and always have a copy available at your activity.

## **CAP & COMMUNITY REPORT FOR 2023**

*Beckee Lewis, CAP & Community Worker*

### CAP Services

Over the past 12 months, the demand for debt help has continued to increase. Beckee Lewis and Jon Taylor have been receiving six new clients on average every month.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Beacon CAP Partnership celebrated a significant milestone of helping 100 clients become debt-free! The celebration was held at Hope Café, and both old and current clients were in attendance to mark the occasion.

During the past year, Beckee has helped seven clients become debt-free through debt relief orders. Additionally, over ten clients have been able to manage their debt through repayment plans.



In September 2023, Beckee replaced Julia Daniel as the Job Club Manager and became a full-time member of staff in the Parish. She has also facilitated a successful Money Coaching course and Job Club at the Blenheim Gardens Estate, which was made possible by a generous donation of £3k.



Job Club on Blenheim Gardens Estate, October 2023

Throughout 2023, four Job Clubs and four money coaching courses have been delivered, with over 60 participants attending. Many of them have secured paid work or volunteered in different roles. Plans for 2024 are to host 3 Job Clubs and 3+ Money Coaching sessions.

### Community

St. Paul's Playgroup, run by Beckee during term time on Tuesday mornings, is attended by around 20-25 children and their carers. The playgroup has a Christian theme, with children's worship songs playing throughout the session, and will soon be introducing a Bible story time. In December, the playgroup hosted a special Christmas party attended by 30 children. The Nativity involving the children was well received, and each child received a Nativity storybook as a gift. Ruby Wild, the Parish Children and Families worker, attends each session and makes connections with the parents and carers who attend.



Playgroup Nativity, December 2023

Hope Café

Hope Café is a thriving ministry, serving over 100 people most weeks, and making an average of 40-60 lunches. Many of the guests come from the other ministries offered, such as Playgroup, CAP services, Senior’s lunch, and Milkwood KICK. The cafe is led by Rachel Goodyear and volunteers from our congregations. Hope Café has hosted an Alpha course and recently started a Bible Study group.



**FINANCE REPORT FOR 2023**

*Peter Calderbank, Parish Treasurer*

The accounts for the Parish have been reviewed by our independent examiner, Stewardship. The signed accounts are available separately for review. However, the results are summarised below:

<u>£'000</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Community Engagement Fund</u>	<u>Buildings &amp; Capital Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<b><u>2023 Total</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Total</u></b>
Income	361.7	7.4	0.0	51.9	<b>421.0</b>	388.4
Expenditure	<u>(351.9)</u>	<u>(53.3)</u>	<u>(55.0)</u>	<u>(85.7)</u>	<b><u>(545.8)</u></b>	<b><u>(439.3)</u></b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>(45.9)</b>	<b>(55.0)</b>	<b>(33.8)</b>	<b>(124.8)</b>	<b>(50.9)</b>
Funds c/f	8.1	256.1	25.0	252.7	<b>541.9</b>	666.8

The income for the year totalled £421.0k which was up compared with 2022 by £32.5k. Of the income for 2023, giving accounted for £232.7k including tax recovery of £42.3k. During the year we received grant income of £25.4k. Rental and lettings’ income was £119.8k which was better than in 2022. Rental income for 8 Ruskin Walk and the St. Saviour’s flat totalled £65.8k in the year. Lettings generated income of £54.0k and was made up as follows: St. Saviour’s (£16.9k), St. Paul’s church (£5.1k) and St. Paul’s Hall (£32.0k). The income figures

also included £13.7k of payments and donations made towards the Parish Weekend Away which took place in July 2023.

The Parish's contribution to the Parish Support Fund was £138.0k for the year compared with £135.0k in the previous year. Employment costs of £121.4k included the pay of the office team during the year (Sarah-Jane, Sharon and Kelly), our Children's and Youth Workers (Bex, then Cas and Ruby) and the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team (Beckee and Julia). The CAP work and other community projects are being funded from the Community Engagement Fund. This includes Hope Cafe, although the costs of running the cafe continue to be covered by donations received, except when the proceeds are earmarked for other causes. In 2023, for example, we raised £1,337 in Lent from cafe proceeds to support people affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Our missionary and charitable giving for the year totalled £27.5k. This included missionary support of £19.8k based on 10% of general giving. We also used the Churchwardens' Hardship Relief Fund to support individuals in need, along with the Cost of Living Fund which was established in 2022 to support those affected by the cost of living crisis.

During the year £130.6k was spent on the buildings across the Parish which was higher than the prior year's spend of £84.4k. This included the new lighting installed at St. Saviour's which cost £28.5k. Ministry, fellowship and worship costs were £170.9k which was higher than the 2022 figure of £119.4k. However, this included spend of £54.3k towards the refurbishment of the organ at St. Paul's with the work starting towards the end of the year. This work was funded from the very successful fundraising campaign and the designated fund established in 2022.

The net result for the year was a total deficit of £124.8k, with the General Fund showing a £9.8k surplus. Looking forward to 2024, we continue to encourage people to consider using the Parish Giving Scheme for their individual giving. If anyone would like to know more about this, then please speak to me. The budget for 2024 shows an expected surplus in general funds of £9.3k and initial performance in the year has been in line with this.

Thank you for your giving and support in 2023.

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S REPORT**

*Ruby Wild, Children & Families Team Leader*

*Cas Moyo, Youth Team Leader*

*Susan Wright*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

### Children's Church

Both churches have enjoyed using the Energize curriculum, a diverse and innovative resource developed by Urban Saints to facilitate the development and empowerment of children and young people in their Christian faith, with the aim of building their understanding of biblical truth and growing upon their personal connection with God. The Primary school and Secondary school groups convene weekly at both St Saviours Church and St Paul's Church 3 times a month.

Throughout the year, the curriculum featured a range of series, such as 'Who is God?', 'Christian Foundations' (an introduction to the basic principles of Christian living), the Life of Jesus, and the Christmas story.

The St Saviours Church Primary school group consists of 6-17 children, while the Secondary school group has between 2-6 young people. At St Paul's Church, the Primary school group consists of between 2-9 children, with the Secondary school group having between 3-8 young people.

Cas Moyo and Ruby Wild work alongside the coordinators Zac Bredemear, Christoph Lehman & Hannah Logan-Moll (St Saviour's), and Helen Brooks & Kirsten Tedder (St Paul's), continuing to collaborate closely, organising curriculums and special services, and addressing any issues that may arise. The committed volunteer teams ensure the young people in the parish are growing in faith and understanding, whilst developing relationship and community.

#### Admission to Communion

There were no candidates for admission to communion this year. If you have a child who is in year 3 or above and who would like to be admitted to communion before they are confirmed please speak to one of the clergy.

#### Baptisms

We held seven baptisms this year. They were a lovely mix of children who have been part of our worshipping community for some time and children who have become part of our community through baptism. We would love to talk to anyone who is interested in baptism, at any age, either using the font, or by full immersion in a baptism pool. Please speak to a member of the clergy team.



#### Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly church service in St Saviour's Church at 3pm on the last Sunday of the month, specifically tailored to Primary school-aged children and their families within the community. Each month, there are up to six engaging (and very messy) craft tables, indoor and outdoor games (weather-permitting), Christian sing-along songs, a brief interactive talk based on a bible story or theme, concluding with some snacks and juice. Attendance fluctuates between 16 - 35 individuals per month. The leadership team, consisting of Joanna Alexandra, Ruby Wild and Susan Wright, meet monthly to plan and strategize for each event and collaborate with an amazing volunteer team who deliver the different aspects of the event. The aim this year is to create marketing strategies to engage

local families and grow the Messy church congregation, via Whatsapp, Churchsuite and emails to ensure that families are kept informed and inspired, and to empower families who attend regularly to take ownership and lead on initiatives and delivery of the monthly gatherings. Our overarching objective is to develop a self sufficient, outward facing community built upon our values as a Church and reaching families in our parish who don't otherwise engage.



Messy Church story and prayer time

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Youth Faith Collective (YFC) - Empowering Young Minds in Faith (formerly JGL (Just General Life) Youth)

In the vibrant heart of St. Paul's Church, Herne Hill, our Youth Faith Collective (YFC) continues to flourish, guiding young minds through the enriching journey of faith and community. Formerly known as JGL (Just General Life) Youth, our youth group underwent a transformation in February 2024, embracing the name YFC as a beacon of our commitment to nurturing young souls in the faithful way of life.

Throughout the last full term, we have consistently had between 12 to 14 youths attending YFC every week, with a similar attendance for the YFC+ program catering to young people aged 14 years and above. Our focus has been on exploring relationships, particularly our relationship with Jesus and with each other as a community. YFC+ has delved deeper into the foundational relationship with God, with a heightened emphasis on contemporary issues important to young people today, including the environment, peace and war, identity, inequality, and more.

**Fostering Faith Through Relationships:** At YFC, we commenced the year by delving into the intricate tapestry of relationships, both within and beyond the familial realm. By exploring the dynamic facets of human connection in today's world, we underscored the profound significance of forging a personal relationship with God.

**Steadfast Growth and Engagement:** Our commitment to fostering a vibrant community of faith remains unwavering, reflected in our steady attendance numbers throughout the year. With an average weekly attendance of 15 individuals, our gatherings serve as a sanctuary for spirited discussions, heartfelt connections, and spiritual growth. While we experienced the absence of some familiar faces from the Milkwood Kick programme, our numbers remain robust, with gatherings often swelling to 25 or more during special events or dinners at our church locations.



*Expanding Horizons: Youth Adventures:* In 2023, our parish youth ventured beyond local borders, seeking new experiences to deepen their faith and connections. Trips like Luminosity, a dynamic Christian camp, and our parish weekend at High Leigh offered moments of worship, reflection, and community.

*Journeys of Growth:* At Luminosity, our youth joined thousands in spirited worship, creating lasting memories and renewing their faith. Meanwhile, our parish weekend at High Leigh provided a serene backdrop for fellowship and spiritual contemplation.

*Looking Ahead:* These experiences taught us the value of exploring beyond our community. As we nurture well-rounded young individuals, we'll continue seeking opportunities for growth and discovery, both locally and beyond.

*Welcoming New Horizons:* As we eagerly anticipate the dawn of a new academic year, we stand poised to welcome fresh souls into the embrace of our YFC family. With the imminent arrival of new Year 6 students, we eagerly await the opportunity to extend our warmth and guidance to these budding members of our community.

*YFC+: Nurturing Souls Beyond the Fold:* In a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and outreach, we proudly launched YFC+ on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Designed as a monthly youth group catering specifically to those who may not engage with the church as frequently or are burdened with academic commitments, YFC+ offers a nurturing space for socialisation, communal meals, and intellectually stimulating discussions. The resounding positivity echoed by families of attendees underscores the profound impact of this initiative, with commendations shared across our parish online platforms.

As we journey forward, guided by faith and fortified by community, YFC remains steadfast in its mission to illuminate the path of faith for the youth of Herne Hill and beyond. Together, through God's strength we will continue to nurture the flames of faith, igniting hearts and minds with the timeless wisdom of our shared journey in Christ.

### Confirmations

This year five of our young people have taken part in our Exploring Confirmation group. The group gives them an opportunity to think about and grow in their faith, and consider if they are ready to take the step of affirming their faith in Jesus Christ through confirmation. Two of them were confirmed at Southwark Cathedral on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. More confirmations are planned for Easter.

## **SCHOOL MINISTRIES**

### St Saviour's School

Ben, Susan, Cas and Ruby have been actively involved in aspects of St Saviour's School. They participate in a weekly collective worship, were involved in a prayer day and have been part of their school services.

In the coming year, the team is eager to increase involvement, continuing to invite children to join Messy Church, Christmas and Easter services and deepening their faith in a fun and accessible way.

### Jessop School

Facilitated by Gill Tayleur, Ruby Wild and Cas Moyo, Year 5 students visited St Paul's church for a tailored Christingle workshop and sharing of the Christmas story, which allowed for relationship to be reignited with the school. Year 3 students then came for a church tour in March as part of their studies into church history. Communication between Ruby and Nadine Jenoure (a teacher at Jessop) has continued with the aim of curating and scheduling similar trips over the coming year.

## Herne Hill School

Herne Hill School held their Harvest and Christmas assemblies at St Paul's Church.

### **MILKWOOD KICK 2023**

*Gavin Kamara and Ben Goodyear*

Milkwood Kick runs every Saturday (term time) from 10-11:30am in the Milkwood Community Park. Attendance ranges from 5-15 young people between the ages of 8 and 16.

Each session includes a warm-up, drills and games, a discussion centred on the "value of the week," and a football match. It has been good to see the children's character and behaviour develop as well as their football skills.

In 2023, Milkwood Kick proudly participated in the annual London church tournaments, with one of our teams advancing to the finals but losing on penalties. We have recently entered an Under 14s league made up of other kick academies.

We are always on the lookout for more coaches and players so please get in touch with Gavin Kamara if you are interested.



### **SUMMER MINISTRIES**

#### Milkwood Summer Programme

We were delighted that despite Bex's departure at the start of the summer we were still able to run the Milkwood Summer programme for 8 days this summer from the 21<sup>st</sup> August. We are so grateful to Pipelore Segun-Oludimu who stepped in as our coordinator and ran the programme with efficiency and enthusiasm, with the help of a team of volunteers and clergy support.

This year we were joined by Kick and Heart in Art, which were very popular. But unfortunately XLP could not provide their gaming bus this year, which was a disappointment to our returning participants.

Across the two weeks 51 children attended at least once. On average there were 19 children each day. They were a mixture of MSP or Kick regulars, church kids and some new faces. Milkwood summer programme continues to be appreciated by the children and young people who attend, and by their parents. It is only possible because of the support of church members who generously give their time. So, thank you!

### **MUSIC 2023**

*Ben Goodyear*

We are thankful to Ben Hughes for leading the youth band at the 0930 and for Dave Mudie for leading musical worship at other times along with myself.

We are grateful to Crystalla Serghious for leading the Choir at the 1115 until she stepped down as Choir Director at St Paul's in late 2024. We have recently appointed Noël Tredinnick as our Interim Music Leader and are looking forward to seeing him bring his vast musical experience and leadership to the 1115 and the Five. We have a variety of musicians and singers across the parish providing both choral and worship band led styles of musical worship. We are grateful to everyone who serves in this area. Do let us know if you want to join the team or have any hymn or song suggestions.

## **SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB**

*Julia Kirby-Jones*

Seniors' Lunch club has continued every third Wednesday of the month, throughout the year, in the Welcome Area at St Paul's. We have 40 guests on our register and serve those who attend a hearty two-course meal followed by tea or coffee. As guests arrive, they are welcomed by volunteers and are shown to tables that are attractively decorated with fresh flower decorations. Volunteers then serve each table and sit to chat with the guests over their meal. For some this is the only occasion they get out to meet other people. While the volunteers wash up and clear away, our guests are invited into the church for a short service, 'A Hymn at Lunch time' led by Rev. Gill Tayleur, which is always well-attended and appreciated.

The December meal is a clear favourite as a full Christmas dinner is served. On this occasion, St Saviours' School reception class entertained the guests with some beautiful singing and well-rehearsed actions. As the guests left everyone received a hand-made gift that the volunteers had produced with any extras being distributed to the housebound or hospitalised.

The Seniors' Lunch Club would not be possible without the assistance of a fantastic team of volunteers who provide transport, lay the tables, arrange flowers, prep the vegetables, wash up and clear away. Each month they also make the desserts, from a given recipe, and these always get glowing praise from our guests. My thanks to each and every one who helps in any way to make the Lunch Club the success that it clearly is. New volunteers are always welcome so please have a word with Gill or me if this is something you would be interested in doing, or if you know someone who would benefit from being added to the guest waiting list.



## **ST SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL 2023**

*Mary Ollard, Chair of Governors*

During the early part of 2023 the school continued to have the support of Andrew Rojas as Consulting Headteacher, while the Governing Board made plans for the longer-term leadership of the school. In September, with support from the Diocese, we entered a three-way partnership (with St Jude's CofE Primary School and St George's CofE Primary School) under the title the South London Saints Partnership. Mr Rojas is the Partnership Headteacher and has responsibility for strategic leadership and resourcing.

To provide strong and consistent day-to-day leadership, each school in the Partnership has a full-time Head of School - at St Saviour's, this is Amy Couch. She has quickly established constructive relationships with children, staff and families, and is making great progress in implementing the new school development plan. Governors receive regular reports and make frequent visits to school.

The Partnership collaboration is proving to be fruitful, providing opportunities for effective use of resources and the sharing of best practice. Staff are able to share expertise, to support one another and to identify common interests and opportunities.

In common with schools across London, St Saviour's continues to face challenges from falling pupil numbers, increasing levels of pupil need, and consequent strain on resourcing. The dedication of staff and the support of the whole community (PSFA, churches, governors and other volunteers) are greatly appreciated.

## **PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2023**

*Gill Tayleur*

In 2023, our first and second MAP goals were:

- Welcoming and loving all through Jesus centred services & ministries
- Showing & sharing the love of Jesus through pastoral & practical help, advice & support for our local community

Under the broad heading of "Pastoral Care", contributions to meeting these goals were made in the following areas:

### Bereavement Support

In October, Rev Liz from St Barnabas and I ran The Bereavement Journey course (for the 4th time), along with 3 others from our parish. Using the new course materials, we provided a safe place and support for 8 people in their grief. The course is 7 in-person sessions of films and discussion groups which guides bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps. Once again feedback was very positive. I've also met with other individuals who've been recently bereaved, and a few who have made contact from our bereavement support page on our website.

Our annual service for the bereaved, In Grateful Memory, held during the evening of Remembrance Sunday, had very positive feedback with good attendance (41 people). Resources for people who've been bereaved, and for others supporting them, are displayed and available in both church buildings. The bereavement support team didn't have an official meeting in 2023, but one is planned for early 2024 and we continue to consider and take action on the 12 areas of being a Bereavement Friendly Church (see the Loss and Hope website).

A Hymn at Lunchtime, the 20 min service focusing on a different hymn each month, was held in the church after Seniors' Lunch Club. Nearly all the lunch club guests attend, whether or not they are otherwise church goers, and it's very well received. I've added in more prayer time into the service and I'm paying more attention to giving direct opportunities to encourage/challenge faith. There has been some visiting of the sick and dying, and taking the funeral of a lunch club member.

Home groups – The 4 home groups in the parish continued to meet regularly, giving encouragement, support and challenge to their participants. An additional new group started in the summer, although attendance has been low. At the beginning of 2024, 2 more new groups started, on Tuesday afternoons and on Thursday lunchtimes. A Lent course “Face to Face” focused on reconciliation in relationships.

Ben, Susan and I look through the entire list of names on ChurchSuite (over 400) termly to see who might have slipped out of contact, and then get in touch.

Of course the most important thing to say about pastoral care in the parish is that it continues to be provided by lots of people in all congregations who are caring for others, especially those who aren't able to come to church or get out much, by keeping in touch regularly, visiting, delivering shopping and so on. And the staff team cares for young and old and community contacts in all our roles. Thanks be to God for the wonderful love he has for us, that we can share with one another!

## **UKRAINE GUEST WELCOME**

*Susan Wright*

This year has been a time of transition for our programme. All the guests who were hosted by members of the Parish have now successfully moved on. Some have found independent living arrangements, others have chosen to return home and one person has found a new home with another member of the Parish. We continue to stay in-touch with guests and hosts where that is wanted.

With these changes the demand on our Ukraine Support Fund has dwindled. In the Autumn we largely wound down the fund, though we have kept a small reserve. With the permission of the givers, we gifted some of the money to the refugee support project at St Barnabas Church Dulwich, where it will continue to support the needs of local guests.

As this programme draws to a close, we are thankful for all those who have shown the love of Jesus in our Parish by supporting Ukrainian guests and making them welcome. We invite you to continue to pray for them and of course for God to bring a just peace to the people of Ukraine.

## **SUNFLOWER SHOP**

*Susan Wright*

As part of our response to the Ukraine crisis Lucy Williams began the Sunflower shop in 2023. The ‘shop’ opened seasonally to offer quality pre-loved clothes and household goods to Ukrainian refugees. We quickly decided to open the shop to all comers. We opened the Sunflower Shop at St Saviour’s church for three mornings in June this year to offer the huge amount of clothes and household items so kindly donated. Nearly everything went - probably 10 estate carloads or more.

Since we began offering the Sunflower Shop a new local non-profit called **Get Rid of It and Donate** has sprung-up to support refugees all year round. We are now partnering with them and encourage members of the Parish to donate good quality pre-loved clothes through them.

## **COST OF LIVING FUND**

*Susan Wright*

Over the past year our Cost of Living Fund has continued to provide vital help to people who worship or live in our parish or the parish St Philip and St James, and to our CAP clients. We provide financial support for food and domestic fuel costs. We are not actively fundraising for the Fund at the moment. We have enough money to continue to support those who need us.

We would like to continue to support members of the Parish in these difficult times. If you, or someone you know would like help from the Fund, please contact a member of the clergy or Beckee Lewis, who will be happy to help you. Or if you need help for other reasons, we also have the Parish Hardship Fund. Please speak to a member of clergy.

## **LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF) NEXT STEPS 2023**

*Ben Goodyear*

The LLF next steps team has met multiple times in the last 12 months.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the PCC agreed the LLF next steps team recommendations:

1. To state on our website and elsewhere “All welcome, no exceptions, to come as you are.”
2. To further engage all our congregations with these issues, some members of the LLF team have written explaining their journey of understanding and how they have got to their current position and these have been shared in paper form. The hope is that this will open up conversation more widely across the parish and enable everyone’s voices and viewpoints to be heard.
3. To state on our website and elsewhere that there are members of the clergy team who are willing to do same sex blessings.
4. For the LLF next steps team to change its name to the Welcome and Inclusion team and to expand its remit to thinking about welcome and inclusion more broadly.

I have spoken about my position on Same Sex Blessings and this can be watched, alongside reading views from different perspectives, on the LLF part of our website:

<https://hernehillparish.org.uk/living-in-love-and-faith-llf/>

## **RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY GROUP REPORT – 2023**

*Ben Goodyear*

The Racial Justice and Equality team has met termly to encourage the parish to be anti-racist. As a parish we have been addressing ignorance and fear, microaggressions, and white fragility through theology, sermons, songs, and one to one conversations. This included marking Racial Justice Sunday and Black History Month. We have tried to make sure that each Sunday there is a diversity of people up front in our services. We have had international celebration lunches to celebrate the rich diversity within our parish.

During Lent in 2023 we ran the Face to Face Course, looking at reconciliation with a focus on race. In Lent (2024) we have been reading Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith by Selina Stone and discussing at our Lent group.

We have invited people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds to be part of teams and groups. We have participated in events and groups outside the parish that promote racial justice and

equality e.g. The Cathedral Black History Month service and workshops or the Woolwich Area Racial Justice Group.

If you would like to join the Racial Justice and Equality team please speak to Ben Goodyear.

## **GREEN AND FAIRTRADE GROUP REPORT - 2023**

*Trevor Tayleur*

(Go far, go fair, go green)

One of our MAP Goals as a parish is to care for God's people and planet by being a Fairtrade parish and pursuing a positive environmental impact. The Green and Fairtrade Group has continued to encourage the parish to meet this MAP Goal.

Significant events during the year have included:

- The Big One, four days of action from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April throughout Westminster and at the Houses of Parliament, including the No Faith in Fossil Fuels service at St John's Waterloo on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April and a pilgrimage to Parliament Square via Shell House.
- Arranging energy audits of both churches via Parish Buying
- Carrying out a nature count at St Saviour's as part of The Great Big Green Week
- Obtaining PCC approval for a parish buying policy to promote ethical purchasing by the Parish
- Holding Climate Sunday services at the 9.30 and 11.15 services on 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Holding Fairtrade stalls, mainly at St Paul's
- Submitting a Recognition of Climate Emergency declaration to the PCC for adoption at its January 2024 meeting.
- Encouraging participation in the Climate Justice march on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 during COP 28, and the Fairtrade breakfast at Christ Church, East Dulwich on the same date.



## APCM minutes 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. 7.35pm St Paul's Church

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Herne Hill to be held at St Paul's Church on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30pm

### 7.30pm The meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

#### **Present:**

Geraldine Garner, Rachel Goodyear, Sarah Baldwin, Peter Calderbank, Caroline Wilkinson, Jenny Ringo, Alison Makower, Andrew Makower, Wendy Firman, Andrew Firman, Jemima Firman, Gill Tayleur, Trevor Tayleur, Ben Hughes, Julia Kirby-Jones, Jonathan Wyles, Lilly Immanuel, Derek Gibson, Stephen Barton Susan Wallace, Simon Brindley, Bex Griffiths, Juaane Fuller, Andy Blackwell, Bryan Lovell

Apologies: Adrian Parkhouse, Beckee Lewis, Susan Wright, Adjoa Andoh-Cunnell

**Chair:** Ben Goodyear (vicar),

**Minutes:** Sarah-Jane Miller

**1. Opening prayer – Ben Goodyear**

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 APCM Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens**

Approved

Ben thanked church wardens, Lilly Immanuel, Jonathan Wyles, Geraldine Garner and Juaane Fuller for all their support and their servant hearts.

#### **3. Nomination and election of Churchwardens**

Our new Churchwardens were announced as  
St Saviour's: Jonathan Wyles, Mark Maurice  
St Paul's Geraldine Garner and Juaane Fuller

#### **4. Prayer for Churchwardens**

Simon prayed for the Churchwardens

APCM

#### **1. Apologies:**

Adrian Parkhouse, Beckee Lewis, Susan Wright, Adjoa Andoh-Cunnell

#### **2. Vicar's opening remarks**

Ben Goodyear presented the Parish vision, MAP goals which are scheduled to be reviewed in November 2023 and showed a highlights video of activities from the last year.

Ben thanked everyone for their involvement in the parish, for their time, and their generous giving. Ben gave thanks for the opportunity to go on sabbatical.



Geraldine gave thanks to Ben for all he does, and thanked the many people who give up their time to serve the church in various ways.

### **3. Approval of previous APCM Minutes**

APCM minutes approved.

### **4. Elections to the Parochial Church Council & Deanery Synod**

Ben gave thanks to Julia Kirby-Jones who is standing down after 10 years on the PCC.

PCC members stand for a 3 year term.

3 people are standing for re-election: Adjoa Andoh-Cunnell, Simon Brindley and Trevor Tayleur.

All three were nominated and re-elected as PCC members.

### **5. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Lisa Derby of Stewardship was appointed as independent examiner.

### **6. Annual Reports – ask if anyone has questions about any of the reports**

- Vicar's Report and Report on proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for 2022
  - Questions were asked about Sunday attendance figures, which are the same as the previous year, Ben responded that during the pandemic some people moved out of London, some people died, some people took up new Sunday activities like sport, some people just got out of the habit of coming to church and some just come to church less. This is not unique to Parish of Herne Hill, as most churches have been impacted by the pandemic. Particularly there are now less families and children in church than pre-pandemic. In London the birth rate is declining, and the number of children is declining. We have lots of opportunities in God's strength we will be able to bring more people to God and our congregation.
  - It was noted that the Parish is supporting a lot of great activities and ministries with limited congregation. A request was made for clear communication on what we are doing and why we are doing it.
  - A discussion was had about how we welcome people at our churches, Ben explained that the Living in Love and Faith team is going to become the Welcome and Inclusion team to more broadly look at welcome and inclusion across all parish activities.
- **MAP reports**
  - Bex gave a presentation about **children and youth work**. A survey from 2022 found that 95% of young people would say that they do not have a faith, and we want to reach those children and young people as well as the 5% who say that they do have faith. Young people are transitioning from our summer programme to becoming weekly attenders. Bex thanked all the volunteers who have been involved in all youth and children's ministries.

Bex said that she recognised the drop in numbers on Sundays and work will be done to change the curriculum.

- **CAP** video presentation was shown in Beckee's absence.  
Thanks to Beckee and Jules and all those involved in the CAP ministry.
  
- **Hope Café** presentation by Rachel  
Rachel shared the story of a person who came in to Hope Cafe offering to volunteer, and now they attend the Five service at St Paul's  
Thanks to Rachel and Hope Café team.  
It was noted that having Hope café as a hub where people can come in to church was celebrated as a great idea.
  
- Andy gave a presentation on **Prison Ministry** and showed a video of a former prisoner who found God in prison, We helped to find him housing, and a job, and a church once he was released.  
In prison people are desperate for God, forgiveness, and life change- Andy goes into Brixton prison 3 days a week. 40 or 50 people from various churches go into prison to serve in prison ministries.  
People in prison now ask for prayer and encounter God.  
Thanks was given to Andy.  
Thanks was given to Caroline who goes into Brixton prison with Fine Cell Work and asked us to pray for prisoners struggling with drug addiction.
  
- Operational report including financial presentation from our treasurer.  
Peter gave a **financial presentation**.  
Peter gave thanks to Sarah-Jane for her work on finances and thanks to Kelly who is currently on Maternity leave.  
Thanks to Alison, Anne and Derek and everyone involved in behind the scenes finance activities.  
Peter reported an increase in giving in 2022 and a huge thank you to those who give to the parish.  
A reminder was given for givers to fill in a gift aid form if they are able.  
The parish giving scheme is the preferred way for the parish to receive financial gifts.

Questions were asked about the difference between restricted fund and designated funds.

Designated funds – decided by PCC – e.g. community engagement fund – properties fund.

A restricted fund is money specified by the giver – legally must be spent by that. E.g., organ fund or Cost of living fund.

PCC made a big decision recently to change the way that they managed designated funds on advice from the diocese a review was conducted on designated funds.

A big thank you was given to Peter for all his work.

- Any other reports
  - Geraldine gave an update on the progress of the repair of the boundary wall.

- A question was raised as to why the APCM was parish wide rather than at both separate churches Ben G responded that as we are one parish our teams are parish wide, rather than church specific, and that volunteers will be thanked at all services this Sunday.

**7. AOB**

none

**8. date of next meeting**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at St Paul's

**9. Closing prayer was led by Trevor**

## **AGENDA FOR APCM 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Herne Hill to be held at St Paul's Church on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7.30pm**

### **7.30 p.m. The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens**

- 1. Opening Prayer & Sung worship**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 APCM Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens**
- 3. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens**
- 4. Prayer for Churchwardens**

### **7.40 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Vicar's opening remarks**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the previous APCM**
- 4. Elections to the Parochial Church Council & Deanery Synod**
- 5. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 6. Annual Reports – ask if anyone has questions about any of the reports**
  - Vicar's Report & Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally for 2023**
  - MAP reports**
  - Operational reports including a financial presentation from our treasurer**
  - Any other reports**
- 7. Any Other Business**

***Please let the chair know beforehand if you have any AOB items***

- 8. Date of the next meeting**
- 9. Closing Prayer**