

Christ Church Pitsmoor

Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

21 April 2024 at 11:30am in the Welcome Centre

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

Welcome & opening Prayers

1. Election of Church Wardens (2)
2. Election of Deputy Wardens (2)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies & attendance – please fill in the sheet
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Election of representatives to PCC – 1 vacancy x 3 year
5. Electoral Roll report
6. Treasurer's Report- summary attached – if you have any questions please raise them before the meeting so we have time to get the answers.
7. Appointment of examiner of accounts.
8. Other reports – summaries attached
9. Vicar's report
10. Any other business – items must be notified to Chair before the start of the meeting

Date of next PCC meeting 13 May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Welcome Centre

Closing Prayer

CHRIST CHURCH PITSMOOR
2023 Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the APCM 21 April 2024

Administrative Information

Christ Church Pitsmoor is situated at the corner of Pitsmoor Road and Nottingham Street, in the district of Pitsmoor.
 The correspondence address is 257 Pitsmoor Road, Sheffield, S3 9AQ
 The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity, number 1129500

Chair	Reverend Pip Salmon	
Lay Chair	Mrs Ruth Crowley	
Church Wardens	Mr Mike Dennett Mr Will Ross Mrs Blessing Pepple	until APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023
Deputy Warden	Mr John Hayes Mrs Christine Grainger Mrs Ruth Crowley	until APCM 2023 until APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023
Assistant priest Curates	Reverend Huw Thomas Reverend Sarah Goodman Reverend Will Gowers	from July 2023
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Sister Yvonne Hayes Mrs Joanne Chadwick	elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023
Readers	Mr Nick Edmondson Mr Chris Limb Mr Roger Walters Sister Yvonne Hayes Mr David Reid	serving on PCC serving on PCC
Reader emeritus	Mr Derwent Levick	
Elected Members	Robert Platts Bernadette Rouine Ben Treadaway Robert Newman Kate Thompson Pat Limb Dienye Pepple Jane Skinner Vanessa (Ange) Droszdowski	Re elected APCM 2022 Re elected APCM 2022 elected APCM 2022 elected APCM 2022 elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023 elected APCM 2023
Treasurer to PCC	Bernadette Rouine currently vacant	until APCM 2023
Secretary to PCC	Maureen Fischer Currently vacant	until Jan 2024
Safeguarding Officer	Mr Nick Edmonson	

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is led by Rev. Pip Salmon, priest -in-charge, the parish is in suspension pending potential pastoral reorganisation.

Under the new Diocesan structure, we are in a Mission Area with St Peter's Ellesmere (LEP), St Cuthbert's Fir Vale (in both of which Pip is Licensed as Associate Minister) and Wincobank & Brightside Parish, where Rev. Phil Warman is the Incumbent.

The PCC is made up of the licensed Clergy, two Reader representatives, the Wardens and Deputy Wardens, Deanery Synod reps and currently nine directly elected PCC places (elected as three each year on a rolling three-year cycle).

Objectives

We are a multicultural church in a multicultural (36% white, 23% Asian, 21% Black), multifaith (26% Christian, 46% Muslim, 25% none) urban community, and amongst the most deprived parishes in the country (3% most deprived). The parish population is 8783.

We are committed to sharing the love of Christ in action.

We currently offer three services on a Sunday and a midweek Communion. A guest congregation (Church of Pentecost) use the Church on Sunday afternoons for two services.

We have a well-used hall complex and aim to make it available for Church-run activities, things we do in partnership with others and lettings to local groups. These include a senior's lunch, drop in evening meals for the vulnerable, Toddler Group, Youth Club, exercise and singing groups, and outreach to the Asylum seeker community.

We encourage everyone to get involved where they can to contribute to the life of the church and our community.

We have good links with our local Church Primary School (Pye Bank) with weekly collective worship from the clergy and regular visits to the church. The Vicar is on the Local School Board.

We are registered with Eco Church (Bronze award), Welcome Churches and Inclusive Church.

Church attendance

In 2023 there were 89 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance counted during October was 64 different people from a total worshipping community of 105. This is an increase from the previous year, but still not back to pre-Covid levels. 13% are children, 37% are over 70.

Administration

There have been 6 PCC meetings held during 2023. In addition to the usual church business the repairs to the Church following the arson attack and the subsequent faculty application have taken up considerable time. We had visits from Ian Parkinsion (AATE) to lead a discussion on progress towards implementation of the Diocesan strategy and Ema Eden from the Church Army Chocolate Box Project. The MAP which was done at a whole church meeting was also looked at.

Upcoming items will be seeing through the building project, Prayers of Love & Faith, and refining the priorities from our MAP, especially relating to families work. We also want to see how we can continue to adapt and improve our buildings to make them flexible, sustainable and fit for the next generation.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 30 April 2023 in the Church**

Meeting of the Parishioners

Attendees - David Smith, Bernadette Rouine, Karen Rogers, Ruth Crowley, Kate Thomas, Robert Platts, Vera Jamna, William Ross, Jill Ross, Pat Welsh, Jane Skinner, Michael Welsh, Mike Dennett, Christine Grainger, Yvonne Hayes, Pat White, Mary Barringer, Kathryn Foreman, Joanne Chadwick, Dr Dienye Pepple, Patricia Limb, Chris Limb, Jean Campbell, Una Curtis, K Robinson, Robert Newman, Ali Salmon, John Hayes, Ange Drozdowski.

Welcome and opening prayers.

Mike Dennett had stood down as warden after 6 very demanding years which included the pandemic and the arson attack. Thanks were extended to Mike for carrying this burden. Christine Grainger and John Hayes had also stood down as deputy wardens and thanks were extended to them for their work and support.

Election of Church Wardens – 2 posts. William Ross had been proposed by Chris Limb and seconded by David Smith. He was elected unopposed. Blessing Pepple had been proposed by Chris Limb and seconded by Pat Limb. She was elected unopposed.

Election of Deputy Church Wardens – 2 posts. Ruth Crowley was proposed Chris Limb and seconded by David Smith. She was elected unopposed.

Prayers were said for Will, Blessing, and Ruth in their new posts.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies were received from Revd Huw Thomas, Blessing Pepple, Danielle Fortier, Mary Reid, David Reid, Kate Thompson, Steven Siddall, Ben Treadway

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 8th May 2022 were approved. Karen Rogers proposed, and Jill Ross seconded them. All agreed.

Matters Arising None

Election of representatives to Deanery Synod and Election of representatives to PCC

Yvonne Hayes and Joanne Chadwick were proposed, seconded, and elected unopposed as Deanery Synod representatives.

Pat Limb, Kate Thompson, and Ruth Crowley had completed their 3-year term as members of PCC. There were 3 vacancies x 3-year term and another two vacancies unfilled from previous years. Pat and Kate along with Ange Drozdowski, Dr Dienye Pepple and Jane Skinner were all proposed, seconded, and elected unopposed.

Electoral Roll Report

It was reported that there were now 89 people on the roll. During the year J Harrold had sadly died and Danielle Fortier had been added.

Treasurer's Report

The Return of Parish Finance had been circulated together with explanation notes and details of the month end balances and the budget. Pip talked through the financial reports and budget giving an explanation of the key points. We had received a grant of £10,000 towards the repair of the lift. We had been able to pay the full amount of the Common Fund at the end of 2022 however Pip said he had warned the diocese that we may have to give less in 2023. The total owed for unbilled electricity from last year was still not known but will be over £1000.

Bernadette was standing down as treasurer although she had said she was still happy to help with the banking. Pip explained that the finances were overseen by a small team so anyone who was good at numbers would be able to take on the role. Ruth Crowley thanked Pip for the work he had done over the last year in regard to the finances. Nick Edmondson was also thanked for his work in obtaining grant money.

Appointment of Independent examiner

Barbara Lomas had written to explain that she would be letting her membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants lapse as she was working down to retirement. As CCP are only required to have their accounts examined rather than audited she would still be able to do this for the 2023 accounts if the meeting required this.

Pip proposed Barbara continue as examiner for 2023 accounts. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting. She will be paid a £200 fee.

Other reports

Reports were received for wardens (fabric of the church), after 8, lunch club, Craft and Chat, Toddlers, COGS, Deanery. Youth club, Pye bank School and Welcoming refugees and people seeking asylum which included Sitting Room, International Meal, and Care for Calais.

Vicars report

A written report from Pip had been circulated. He highlighted the fire and how frustrating it is that it is taking so long to get the repairs done. He said that Jo Edwards from the Diocese was being extremely helpful. It is hoped that the roof repair may be done over the summer. Many took part in the 5 marks of mission which had inspired and encouraged the shape of other types of worship. The PCC had voted to join the Inclusive Church. Sarah was moving on. Thanks were extended to her for the work she had done around the Pastoral team in particular. Will Gowers will be coming to join CCP at the beginning of July and we will be welcoming him and his family. They will be living at St Cuthberts vicarage. He will be ordained on 2nd July. Pip concluded by emphasising that we have much to be encouraged by and to look forward to. He said it had been his most challenging year in his 25year ministry, but he sensed we were recovering well and emphasized how much we have to be thankful for.

A.O.B None

The meeting closed with prayer.

Electoral Roll Report

There are now 92 people on the roll. This year there have been three additions and no removals.

Treasurer's report

The RPF is attached along with the examiners certificate. Our 2024 budget is also attached.

Things to note are:

We were unable to secure any grant money to help with cleaning and administrator costs

The substantial hike in utility costs

We received a one-off grant from the central church to off-set utility costs. This will not be repeated.

We have received some insurance money for loss of income and fire damaged contents.

In the light of the above, we have had to reduce our Common Fund pledge to the diocese. The amount we have been contributing over the last few years has only been achievable because of the grant funding we received which is getting much more difficult to source. The new amount is not out of proportion to other parishes with our make-up, in fact it is probably still quite generous.

We have a small team who help keep an eye on our finances, but we really do need someone to step up as the Treasurer They will get lots of help and support.

Return of Parish Finance

January To December 2023

Parish ref:

Parish :
Pitsmoor: Christ Church

If this form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included.

Pitsmoor: Christ Church

Deanery:
ECCLESFIELD

Diocese:
Sheffield

INCOMING RESOURCES

	UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Voluntary income/receipts		
01 Regular giving	32030	-
03 Collections at services	1446	-
04 All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)	180	574
06 Gift Aid recovered	6717	-
07 Legacies received (capital value)	-	500
08 Grants (include recurring and one-off)	16761	-
TOTAL Voluntary income	57134	1074
Activities for generating funds		
09 Gross income from fundraising activities	-	-
Income from investments		
10 Dividends, interest, income from property etc	21	-
Church activities		
11 Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	1715	-
12 Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall)	15280	-
Other incoming resources		
13 Other incoming resources / receipts not already listed	4800	4854
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (from Financial Statements)		
A	Unrestricted	78949
B	Restricted	5928
C	TOTAL	84877
Planned givers and legacies		
14 Number of regular givers	48	
16 Number of new legacies received	0	

RESOURCES EXPENDED

	UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Costs of generating income		
17 Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)	-	-
Church activities		
18 Mission giving and donations	650	175
19 Diocesan parish share contribution	36000	-
20 Salaries, wages and honoraria	5002	-
21 Clergy and staff expenses	1934	107
Church expenses		
22 Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	-	-
23 Church running expenses	14051	821
24 Church utility bills	14989	-
25 Costs of trading	3803	117
Major capital expenditure		
27 Major repairs to the church building	-	-
28 Major repairs to the church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	-	-
29 New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or any other PCC property	-	-
SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses	76430	1220
99 Other outgoing resources / payments	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (from Financial Statements)		
D	Unrestricted	76430
E	Restricted	1220
F	TOTAL	77650
Cash and investment balances		
31 Cash and deposit balance as at 31st December	10466	8314
32 Investments as at 31st December	-	-
Account basis: On which basis are your accounts prepared? (indicate ONE)		

30 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ACCRUALS

Your diocese can supply notes to explain what each section is. These are consistent with the guidance provided in PCC accountability, 2013.

Date **22 Jan 2024**
 Name **Maureen Fischer**
 Position **administrator**
 Contact (Phone or E-mail) **office@pitsmoor.church**

Looking back across 2023, were there any exceptional circumstances that may have led to unusual figures?

Please provide details in the box.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Christ Church Pitsmoor

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no (if any)

1129500

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Barbara J Lomas

Date:

1 March 2024

Name:

Barbara J Lomas

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

BA (Hons), FCA

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Address:

The Mistal, Stone Bar Mews, Moor Lane

Birdwell,

Barnsley S70 5FE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems. (E.g. accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity, any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and any material consistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.)

Christchurch Pitsmoor General/Salary Fund Budget

Income		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD total	YTD %spend
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024						
Bank Gift-ai	101	25694	25036	21609	20594	21000					0	0
Env Gift-aid	110	2275	1513	1682	1731	1800					0	0
Other plann	201	10628	11755	9169	9702	9000					0	0
Cash	301	867	837	2314	1444	1500					0	0
Gift Aid recd	601	8723	7055	8509	6715	7000					0	0
Gift Day			0	0	0	0					0	0
Donations	550	227	34	71	179	200					0	0
Grant - Salaries/Cleaning				8726	0	0					0	0
Grant - Other					16760	0					0	0
Lettings	1240	2872	3228	10457	15279	15000					0	0
Fees	1101	3047	2106	2332	1715	2000					0	0
Interest					20	100					0	0
Total		54333	51564	64869	74139	57600		0	0	0	0	0

Expenditure		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD total	YTD %spend
Common Fu	1910	35000	35000	35000	36000	20000					0	0
Salaries - Ac	2050	3725	6114	4645	4636	5000					0	0
Cleaning co	2060			2135	5426	6750					0	0
Staff Exp 1 & 2001 & 2150		735	1042	941	1561	1700					0	0
Giving	1850	618	600	600	650	650					0	0
Insurance	2301	2968	2970	3032	3544	3800					0	0
Utilities		5145	2729	5782	16218	12000					0	0
Office costs 310&2360, 2601		1564	1835	1372	1566	2000					0	0
Cleaning	2331	588	668	1301	972	1500					0	0
Maintenance & running		4780	4350	3913	6342	5000					0	0
Total		55123	55308	58721	76915	58400		0	0	0	0	0

	Balance Sheet fund totals			
	end	end	end	end
	2020	2021	2022	2023
General	4449	4308	961	7139
Salary	5120	1706	6180	3326
Fabric	1946	1025	1615	7133
Child & Youth	864	498	1283	769
Feasability	5259	4733	1274	0
N.Lights	164	164	164	164
Seedbed (Thurs Meals)	73	73	73	248
Flowers				
	<u>17875</u>	<u>12507</u>	<u>11550</u>	<u>18779</u>

2024				
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
0	0	0	0	0

Wardens report for 2024 APCM

Fabric

During the past year we have continued to work to repair the church after the fire. This has been a frustrating period waiting for the go ahead to carry out the necessary works on the roof and church interior, negotiating with the insurers, and contractors the DAC and applying for Faculties to carry out work. A faculty being the church's form of planning permission, hence the notices on the notice board and Church door, all of this work having been undertaken by Pip. The work on the roof has now been completed but there is still much work to do in church. Hopefully once we have the faculty to hand this work can progress. During the year the annual clean of the gutters was undertaken by Mike Dennett and Chris Limb. In December myself and a volunteer undertook to clear the ground by the tower to enable people to lay flowers for loved ones where their ashes were interred. There is still plenty of work to do to keep the area looking well-kept. Much of the work in and around the church such as tidying up and minor maintenance is the responsibility of all of us and not just the Church wardens and clergy.

General

During the year we started a small group for hall users and other interested parties which Nick Edmondson has co-ordinated. The aim of the group is to communicate problems and to exchange information on developments and problems encountered by ourselves and hall users. Also, during the year, the Church wardens conference for new church wardens was attended, together with a Church Warden maintenance day. I came away with ideas such as the use of solar panels, and heat pumps which could reduce our carbon footprint, however, the fact the church is a listed building and space needed for heat pumps makes it almost impossible to further these ideas. During the past year the church has been well used and served the community well, being a venue for meetings, the diocesan synod, concerts, use by the Pentecostal Church, Weddings, funerals, not forgetting the many different hall users.

Will Ross

COG'S report for 2024 APCM

Hi everyone, yet once again we have had a lot of fun in Cog's over the past year. We have learnt new songs with signs and taught them to the congregation. We have looked at the different names that Jesus is called and his wonderful love for us and others and how we can shine for Jesus in our lives. I and the other leaders and helpers have also learnt from the children too we have welcomed a new family to CoGs, and we are all looking forward to another year of fun getting to know more about Jesus.

Joanne and the CoGs Team

Deanery Synod report for 2024 APCM

Over the last 12mths Yvonne and Joanne have been to the deanery Synod meetings where we have met with other synod reps from the Hallam and Ecclesfield deanery. As well as general synod items, each meeting had a particular focus. In March we met at Christ Church Pitsmoor where Revd. Sally Myers came to speak about Focal ministry. In July we met in Christ Church Vicarage and had a bring and share social over the summer. In September we met at St. Paul's Wordsworth Avenue where John Hibberd came and shared about the importance of Evangelism. He also gave different methods of how to approach public witness. Also, at this meeting we heard from Anna, one of the general synod reps about the debate which happened in November regarding the prayers of Love and Faith. It has been a great time where we have shared and worshiped together with other churches and finding out about their churches. Joanne & Yvonne

Lunch club report for 2024 APCM

Most Thursdays there is a Lunch Club. Last year an average of 27 people came on 37 out of the possible 52 weeks of last year and contributed £3 to the cost of meals. Those coming on the Pitsmoor and Shiregreen Community Transport minibus we use contribute £2.50 which gets them there and back. For several who attend, this is their only regular outing. Lunch Club is led by volunteers and supported by Christ Church, Sheffield Council and Voluntary Action Sheffield, for which we are all grateful.

We like to run special activities and invite others from members families when appropriate to link the generations. Lunch Club had a special event on 1 June 2023 to mark the Coronation of King Charles, with a long table down the centre of the main Church building, in the style of the street parties of the previous coronation, with various simple games for all the family.

Christmas always provides a similar opportunity, and we had children from the Church school, Pye Bank, who came out to sing Christmas songs. Everybody enjoyed themselves and we will continue to look for opportunities to invite families and friends of all ages.



People who come, like it because of the friendly, welcoming people they find. Ages range from 45 to 95. 26 female, 11 male. 20 have a disability. 28 W/British, 6 Caribbean, 3 Irish.

Looking back on this year 15 new people have been referred to the Lunch Club, including;

- 4 from one local home care support agency,
- 3 from Voluntary Action Sheffield,
- 2 from family or friends,
- 2 from one local Care Home supporting people with long term mental health issues, and
- 1 from Adult Social Care
- 1 from a Social Worker within a Mental Health team,
- 1 from SOAR's Social Prescribing Unit, and
- 1 from an OT in Mental Health.

9 of these came at least once, and 8 became regular attenders.

The steady trickle of new people helps to keep the Lunch Club fresh, and it helps to know that you are not the only new person in the room.

The rise in the cost of living is reflected mostly in an increase in the amount we expect members to contribute to the transport costs.

Food shopping for the Club has become more challenging, but thanks to strenuous efforts of the volunteers, the Club continues to manage its finances well.

Nick Edmondson

Pye Bank School report for 2024 APCM

Over the past year Pip has continue his role as a governor of the school. He has also contributed to assemblies, known as 'collective worship'. Since Will arrived in June both Pip and Will take collective worship with groups of children on a Tuesday morning and afternoon. A whole variety of topics has been covered, often linking the school values to scripture. It has been a pleasure to welcome the school into the building over Easter and Christmas to reflect on what these holy times of year means for the church. Will has also been involved in a Christmas combined collective worship where parents were invited to attend. Will shared the value of the Christmas message of hope as well as hearing from children who were Muslim about what the gift of hope means for them.

Revd Pip Salmon & Revd Will Gowers

Stay and Play report for 2024 APCM

Stay and Play happens on a Wednesday 10am until 11:30am. The aim of the group is to provide provision for 0-4year olds and their responsible adult to socialise with others in a safe space. We ensure the building is warm, we provide a variety of different toys and crafts and provide the children and adults refreshments. After the COVID 19 lockdowns, the church restarted the toddler group, however this was cut short due to an arson attack of the building. This meant the established community lost a place they could regularly meet as well as toys, fabrics and books ruined by the fire. In September 2023, Revd Will Gowers and his wife Lucy, were tasked with restarting the toddler group with the resources which were unharmed and start looking at future resources they will need to maintain it. It was greatly received within the community for the group to be running again.

Since restarting the group has been in contact with 42 children aged between 0-4 with a regular attendance of 14. Some of the regular attendees are residents from Abbeyfield Mother and Baby unit, which is a social care residential provision where 'parents are referred to the centre complete a 12-week residential parenting assessment either directed by the courts or by the local authority'.¹ Over the years there have been several different people who have accessed the group from Abbeyfield.

Revd Will Gowers

Sitting Room and International Meal report for 2024 APCM

Our Thursday evening meals happen twice a month, International Meal on the first week of the month and Sitting Room on the third.

Nawzad cooks a wonderful meal for International Meal which is attended by all sorts of different people. Vulnerably housed folk, Asylum seekers, friends of ASSIST and others too. The team of helpers has been expanding and we have also sometimes had a musical offering to entertain us before eating. It was a special evening the time a group of women housed locally cooked for us all to enjoy their traditional cuisine.

Sitting Room is a simpler meal, usually jacket potato and fillings. The numbers are smaller but there is a core of regulars who really value it.

Craft and Chat report for 2024 APCM

We meet on Fridays 1.00 to 3.30 pm in the Welcome Centre and our activities are free. We currently have a core group of 8 people, with others joining us occasionally. We do a variety of crafting and last Autumn we made reusable placemats for our Lunch Club. We provide a free lunch and aim to grow creative skills and confidence in people to craft, chat and build positive relationships. New members are always very welcome.

Yvonne Hayes

After 8 Women's Group report for 2024 APCM

We had some new members join us last year and a group of 25 on WhatsApp and 2 not on WhatsApp. During the months April to the end of October we met weekly in Church, but in the winter months we now tend to meet monthly but touched base with each other by phone and our WhatsApp Group. Our usual pattern for our meetings within a month is 1 social, 1 worship, 1 guest speaker and 1 a gathering where we read a scripture together and reflect on it, we also keep a weekly prayer book where answered prayers are also recorded. Last year we began to have an occasional Communion Service together and Revd Sara Goodman came to Celebrate with us last October.

In the summer Ali put on a lovely barbecue for us. Ember dog joined us too, it didn't rain, and we had a lovely evening, and thank you Ali for feeding us and helping us have fun.



In September we had our annual Friday to Monday Retreat at St Oswald's, Sleights, and because it was our 20th After 8 Anniversary of the group starting, some of our members husbands joined us, so we were 26 in total. Our focus for the retreat was to look at how we study God's word, how and why we pray, and what action do we or might we do as individuals to express something of God's love for His world and others. As with our meetings we always aim to have fun as doing something that reflects our faith on our Retreats. Sadly, St Oswalds which has been our Spiritual home for the last 15 years, was has now been sold, so we are off

to a big holiday let house in Scarborough this year ...and we are excited because there is a hot tub 😊

Fourteen of us enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch in December at the Wilson Carlile Centre. After 8 do Church refreshments once a month and members made last year's batch of Christmas puddings, which made £85 for the Food bank and £30 for Church funds. We give thanks to God for His many blessings to us and for the friendships we share. New members are always very welcome to join us.

Yvonne Hayes and Jane Skinner

Vicar's report for 2024 APCM

From a staffing point of view there have been significant changes this year. Rev Sara Goodman, having completed her curacy training, has moved on to work in the Wadsley team. We miss her and particularly value all she did with Pastoral Care and supporting CoGs.

Rev. Will Gowers and his family joined us in the summer as a full-time paid Curate. They are settling in well and Will is learning quickly. We will value all that he has to bring. His arrival has meant that the Toddler Group has been able to restart which is really encouraging, and we have been able to offer more input to the school too.

It is great to have a colleague around all the time to share the load and support and encourage each other.

Maureen Fischer retired at the end of the year. As well as office Admin she did the PCC secretary role which will need to be filled. We are hoping to appoint a new admin person and are working out exactly what strengths we need in a revised job spec.

The buildings have taken up a lot of time and it has all felt frustratingly slow. Phase 1 commenced in the Autumn and we are watertight but the plaster work has dragged on rather. The second phase is due to start in the summer of 2024 we will be grateful to get it done and we will finally be able to start making longer term plans. It has felt a bit like treading water for the last eighteen months.

Having said that there is much to be grateful for with lots of great stuff happening and a real sense that the Covid years are behind us. Onwards and upwards!

Pip Salmon