

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

Reports to the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Publication Date: 22nd April 2022

APCM: 24th April 2022

This report contains information about many of the groups and activities that have taken place over the year. The Accounts are published separately to this document.

Introduction

Welcome to the annual reports and accounts of St John's Ranmoor. They are a testament to the faithfulness and generosity of both God and many members of St John's. Though the past year has been challenging, we have much to give thanks for. I am very grateful to everyone who plays a part in the life of St John's and hope that these pages will inspire others to take on new roles in the life of our church.

24th April seems an appropriate date for our APCM as it is the 143rd anniversary of the Church's opening in 1879. Our meeting will take place after the morning service. I do hope you can join us as we give thanks for the past and look forward with hope and optimism to the coming year. Matthew.

Church Building

The most significant work of the year has been the inspection of the church spire. Determining the condition of the spire was identified as a priority in the 2021 QI report. The inspection was carried out in January and our surveyor reported that the spire remains structurally sound but requires major fabric repair work. To attract the necessary funding, it is likely that work on the spire (and other QI-related works) will be combined with the church's wider building improvement project.

Preliminary work on the building project continues. The PCC's building subcommittee has been working hard to draw up a "shopping list" of the project's key features and to identify possible funding. The main proposals for the project include:

- Completion of QI work
- Lavatories
- New entrance
- Heating
- Vestry Refurbishment
- New lighting
- A meeting room

Progress made since the last APCM includes: (i) a review of the church's heating system by a heating engineer who has produced initial drawings proposing a more efficient system; and (ii) a consultation of congregation members on the replacement of pews to create a more open and versatile space in the nave.

In other works, we are also undertaking a small, privately-funded project to restore the organ pipes in the chancel to their original metal finish. Work is still at the consultation stage and will be undertaken following diocesan approval. The organ will not be disrupted whilst the works are carried out.

General maintenance of the church and surrounding grounds continues. Our thanks to Steve and Jim Dugdale for their continued hard work in maintaining our beautiful building.

Deanery Synod

We have met four times in the past year, twice on Zoom and twice in person. For the record, we had a zoom meeting in March last year which introduced us to the Diocesan plan for Lay Ministry and the creation of Focal Ministers in each Church, with the role of holding together local congregations and helping lay ministry to develop.

The meeting in July was also on Zoom, when we talked about the roll-out of the “Living in Love and Faith” course across the parishes, which subsequently was run as a course at St. John’s last Autumn.

We met for the first time in-person last September, when Cathy Rhodes came to talk about the Environment and Eco-Church and in February 2022 when we enjoyed an evening of worship and fellowship over a shared meal.

The Bishop held a prayer gathering with the Hallam and Ecclesfield Deaneries in November, again on Zoom.

Sarah Beardsmore and John Green

Mission Partnership

We continue to work with the other churches in our Mission Area: St Mark’s Broomhill and St Mary’s Walkley. Matthew takes the third Sunday morning service at St Mary’s each month and is a governor of St Mary’s School. The three parishes joined together for the Living in Love and Faith course in the autumn and work closely on issues around dementia. A joint songs of praise focusing on dementia will take place at St Mary’s Walkley at 3pm on 22nd May. All are welcome.

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll membership at the 2022 APCM totalled 168. Over the past year, we have removed 3 people from the roll who have moved to a new parish and 3 people who have sadly passed away. Two names have been added to the roll. **We therefore have a total of 164 people currently on the roll.**

Once in every six years the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of new rolls is in 2025. People who would like to be on the Church Electoral roll must complete an electoral roll form. Forms should be completed and handed to a member of the Clergy, Churchwarden, the church office or to Claire Webber, our Electoral Roll Officer.

Children's Ministry

It has been great to get back to having children's ministry back and for the resumption of footsteps. We have said au revoir to Poppy who is enjoying university life.

The junior choir are now joining footsteps on the third Sunday and are attending the all age. The pop up choir has brought new families and younger siblings to the all age and from May there will be provision during the all age for the younger children to be part of the service with linked crafts and stories in the crèche area. The crèche area has been sorted and made more accessible with labelling etc.

We are following roots again and the weekly activity sheets are available at the back of church each week, for anyone to use.

We are back to using the annex for the third Sunday and it's good for the children to get back to "their area" we also made the Easter garden again, which the children enjoyed.

Our hope is that the number of children in church continues to grow and we can move forward with providing a weekly group again, and to start up the messy crafts again and have a messy church all age. To achieve this could we appeal for any helpers or people who would like to run a session.

I wish to thank all the people from the church who carried on the children's work during my illness Helen, Claire, Sarah, Georgina and Sally and to Matthew and Matt for their continued support. Now I'm getting back to normal I will be looking to renew my authorisation with the diocese within the next year to enable me to carry on supporting the children in their journey

Love to all
Janet

Music

Since the last APCM, we have seen a gradual lifting of the restrictions that impacted on music-making to the extent that by the time I arrived in September 2021, the choir was able to resume fairly normal operations. That the choir was in such good heart and in such good number is testament to the amazing work done by Derek Grover as acting Director of Music and by the whole team. As people are no doubt aware, the choir of St John's is a large family, comprising various sub-groups who I will report on in detail below.

The Choristers have had a very successful year. As well as singing a service each Sunday and a Wednesday evensong once a month, they have been working towards medals in the RSCM Voice for Life. It is a good way to give structure to their training and to recognise and reward their progress. They were invited to sing the ripieno part in Sheffield Bach Choir's performance of St Matthew Passion in March, a challenge that they embraced and met with their customary skill and commitment. They have been hugely helpful in training the Junior Choir - setting an excellent example at all times and helping them to know where they are in the service and how to process and things like that. We are hugely grateful for their commitment and that of their parents.

The Junior Choir have been doing great work in their rehearsals on Monday evenings and in their two Sunday services per month. There are currently 8 members (alongside the 10 Choristers). We have introduced a badge scheme, similar to the medals that the Choristers are working towards, to help track their progress.

The Pop-up Choir has run monthly, giving an opportunity for children to turn up and sing for a morning without having to make a commitment to joining the choir. We have had a number of children attend, some of whom have come back on a regular basis. Going forward, we would expect that it might be a pathway into the choir for some, or a regular event for those who are unable to commit to the choir due to distance or other commitments.

The Choral Scholars have adjusted well to the change in schedule for them, where they now rehearse and sing along with the adults. Of our 6 Choral Scholars, 3 are in Year 13 so we will lose them at the end of this academic year but we hope they will continue to sing with us in the University holidays. It is great to see them all continue to progress and be very valuable members of our choir.

We are most grateful to Georgina Hulse (Chorister Tutor), Matthew Warbis (Organ Scholar) and Katie Collin for their work training the Choristers and Juniors on Monday evenings, to Jacky Dakin for organising their robes and their choir pay, and to Sarah Beardsmore and her team of chaperones without whom our work with our young singers would not be possible.

The Adult Choir have performed with enormous skill and a lot of flexibility, not only in having to adjust to a new Director of Music and various “new normals” along the way, but also in responding to last-minute appeals for extra singers or changes of voice parts to cover many covid-related absences. As a result, we have been able to sing a very full programme of choral music, only once having to diverge from the published music list. We are indebted to James Stone for performing the unenviable task of “fixing” the choir – ensuring that there is a quorate, balanced group week in week out.

There have been many highlights over the past year, particularly the Advent and Christmas Carol Services, Stainer’s Crucifixion on Passion Sunday and the services of Holy Week. However, the thing that stands out most is the regular high standard achieved by the choir week by week and their commitment and hard work. I am sure all the congregation will join me in thanking the choir for their contribution and also that the choir will join me in thanking the congregation for their support.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the choir for being such a delight to work with and to thank everyone at St John’s for making me feel so welcome. I would also like to thank Derek Grover, Julian Gunn, Joe Hutchinson and Matthew Warbis for their excellent playing, conducting, wisdom and support.

To celebrate the restoration of our excellent organ we have had a series of monthly Organ Recitals. This was launched in October by Paul Hale who, as well as demonstrating the organ, gave an account of its history and the restoration work. Since then we have had recitals by Darius Battiwalla, The Organists of St John’s, John Keys, Derek Grover, Julian Gunn and Jeremiah Stephenson. These have been largely well-attended, and well-supported by the congregation. We will continue this series as it is great to be able to welcome people through the doors and showcase the organ’s versatility as a recital instrument.

Philip Collins

Director of Music

Flowers

The flower rota is coordinated by Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe. Each volunteer on the rota normally commits to providing and arranging one pedestal of flowers for two consecutive weeks by the pulpit in Church, on average once a year.

Volunteers are also invited via the church notice sheet periodically to help at the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. This usually entails providing and arranging flowers for either one of the window sills, a pedestal, the font or the church porch.

Prior to Easter we asked via the church news sheet for donations towards the purchase of lilies in memory of someone who had died and these were incorporated in our two Easter pedestal arrangements.

The theme for our harvest arrangements was 'Nature', so we asked our arrangers for an autumnal arrangement on the windowsills. We then added photographs of some of our most endangered species alongside the arrangements. People were invited at the end of the Harvest service to go and look at the arrangements featuring autumn colours, berries and seedheads alongside the photographs.

At Christmas we used red carnations, gold pine cones and stars together with holly and green foliage from members gardens to create basket shaped arrangements with medelino sticks for the pedestals, porch, chapel, font and a welcome arrangement by the doors. We decorated the window sills with holly and battery operated candles.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to enhance our worship this year by providing flower arrangements.

We are always looking for more people to help so please do contact either Sandra Green or Jackie Lowe if you are interested.

Study Groups

We have held two study groups this year. The number of people joining our groups has continued to increase.

In September and October 2021 we joined with St Mark's Broomhill and St Mary's Walkley to deliver the "Living in Love and Faith" course. The course addressed 'questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ and what it means to live in love and faith together as a Church'. The course was based around five videos, in each of which there were different inputs and breaks for discussion and reflection. A sixth session hosted by Matt Wood enabled people to reflect on the course as a whole and provide feedback on this important topic. St John's hosted the Monday afternoon course which was attended by members of all three churches.

This Lent we have welcomed members of Stephen Hill and St Columba Crosspool and Nethergreen Methodist Church, to join us for our Lent Groups. Discussions have been based on “Embracing Justice” by Isabelle Hamley - the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book. Isabelle Hamley is Theological Advisor to the House of Bishops and was formally Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The book uses ‘biblical texts, diverse voices, contemporary stories, and personal and group meditations to reveal ways in which we may grow in discipleship - and more fully reflect the justice, mercy and compassion of Christ in our lives’. We have run three groups, one on Zoom, a morning and an evening group.

Our groups are mainly led by members of the congregation but we would like to thank Matt Wood for his support, advice and help in planning and running our courses this year.

We have found that in reading, reflecting, discussing and listening together, we have learned much from each other, helping us to grow in faith and as a Christian community.

Sandra Green

Eco Church

St John’s is proud to be an A Rocha Silver Eco Church. This means we have worked to make progress in five areas: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement and our lifestyles. Examples are praying regularly for creation, supporting an environmental charity, twinning toilets, LED bulbs, Fairtrade tea and coffee and installing cycle racks. We joined in Nature Recovery Sheffield too. We hope you have been encouraged by Inspire articles to do your environment/carbon footprint, for example on the WWF website.

Below is an extract from an article in the March issue of Inspire that reports on progress with the Land Management Plan as part of our final submission for a Gold Eco Church Award. This has been the main activity this past year, not least because the Eco Church group has lost members for a variety of positive reasons. The decision has been taken to absorb this activity back into Social Justice Committee, from whence it arose. Thank you to all those who have helped during its independent existence. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to support the Eco Church Group. Urgent action is needed to address the Climate and Nature emergency, which is of our making, and sustain and renew the life of God’s beautiful earth for future generations. Please chat to John or Cathy if you would like to join us, even a small commitment can make a difference!

‘The main outstanding task in our progress towards a Gold Eco Church Award is a plan to make use of land around church buildings to encourage wildlife. Churchyards, particularly ancient ones are natural wildlife sanctuaries. Whilst many of these are burial grounds they do share some characteristics with our own church grounds in Ranmoor. The main one is the lack of human traffic, behind fences and gates, so animals and birds can roam safely. However, without food sources and suitable habitats, there isn’t much to attract them.

A plan to achieve this is with the PCC and will be published when it's complete. It covers not only the Church grounds but also the Parish Centre and Vicarage Gardens. The overall aims are:

- In the Church grounds: 'to enhance the potential of the planted areas to attract and sustain wildlife as a refuge in an urban area'
- At the Parish Centre/Vicarage: 'to create a wildlife-friendly garden, with a limited amount of formal planting and less need for maintenance'

The Plan also records what progress we've made so far including installing bee/bug hotels, swift boxes, planting native trees and starting to create a wildflower area in front of church. The work is motivated by the General and Diocesan Synod's goal of reaching net-zero carbon by 2030 and the Eco Church action checklist goals which include:

- encouraging native wildlife
- areas for native wildflowers
- native tree and hedge planting
- wildlife surveys
- stocking feeding stations
- a mowing regime for grassland
- joining schemes to promote conservation.

We have been helped to draw-up these plans by Dr. Nicky Rivers from the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Jon Hall, the National Environmental Officer for Phoenix Futures. You may have noticed residents from Phoenix House gardening at the Parish Centre in recent weeks and it's good to see the links with Phoenix strengthened as a result of this project. One feature of all the advice we've had is the lack of a source of water so we are hoping Phoenix will help us create a wildlife pond in a secured area in the Parish Centre garden.'

John Green and Cathy Rhodes

Ranmoor Ringers

It has been another difficult year for us all – not only ringers.

This year has been a little easier but still with its challenges. Ringing has opened up and we regularly ring on the 10 bells when we have enough people.

We have consolidated to relearning what we could already achieve due to a long break and we have made good progress.

I have been very fortunate/blessed to have had fantastic support from our ringers when I had to take a break to support my wife Janet following her unplanned hospital stay just before Christmas.

We continue to built as a team with lots of rearranged wedding ringing and will move forward to a position that we achieved pre Covid.

Thanks to the ringers who have supported the continued ringing, when allowed, and have also supported me. Richard

Report of the Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has met 11 times during 2021-2022: four meetings on Zoom and seven in person since September 2021.

There have been some changes to the membership of the group during the past year. Jean Couldrey stepped down in September after serving for 10 years. Jean had played an important role in supporting members of the Wednesday lunch group. and we thank her for her significant contribution.

Current members of the Pastoral Care Group are: Janet Atkinson (chair), Liz Dwyer, Rosemary Farkas, Mary Grover, Trudie Kelly, Barbara Wozencroft and Alison Wragg. We have recently welcomed Gillian Stanley and Mandy Stockley as new members. Rev Matthew Rhodes and Rev Matt Wood continue to attend meetings and play a key role in guiding our work and offering support to individual members of the congregation as needed.

Roles and responsibilities

Mary Grover and Liz Dwyer continue to act on requests for short term support including offering meals to families or individuals

Barbara Wozencroft responds to requests for transport to church services

Trudie Kelly and Jean Couldrey contacted every member of the Wednesday lunch club by phone each week throughout the pandemic providing support and keeping members in touch with St Johns. Trudie also send cards to members of the congregation who are hospitalised or unwell for periods of time.

Rosemary Farkas continues to provide professional guidance and insight on issues relating to pastoral care

Gillian Stanley and Mandy Stockley are both responding to requests for visiting

In all our work careful attention is given to data protection, safeguarding and confidentiality.

Areas of pastoral care covered since April 2021

The informal support provided by all members of the congregation continued throughout the pandemic and thanks are again due from a pastoral care perspective to all those who set up and managed the technology to make Zoom communication possible. Peter Chatterton's weekly Zoom quiz was of particular value.

Special thanks to Mary Grover who set up and managed the jigsaw library from her garage providing another important Covid service. The library closed in September 2021 and the jigsaws were donated to the St Luke's Hospice shops.

Thanks also to Trudie Kelly and Pat Thompson who send cards on the first two anniversaries of weddings and christenings that have taken place at St John's. Thanks also to Margaret Evans for the years in which she faithfully sent out the anniversary of christening cards.

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Delivery of Teas

Between August 2020 and June 2021 23 volunteers delivered afternoon teas every four weeks to 29 older people including all the members of the Wednesday lunch club. The continuing success of this initiative was due to Matt's organisational skills and people's willingness to volunteer as drivers

and deliver teas. This initiative was much appreciated by those receiving the tea and enjoying conversation on the doorstep. A significant milestone was reached in April 2021 when Covid restrictions eased and thanks to Janet Anker and Susan Hepworth we were able to prepare the food for tea deliveries from the Parish Centre.

As part of our Mission Partnership activities Wendy Weekes / Bant and Helen Cotterill facilitated a very informative dementia awareness session to further understanding about dementia and how to support individuals and families. We are now linked with the Dementia Action Alliance through our Mission Partnership.

Thanks and Looking Ahead

We have faced different challenges in supporting each other at St John's during 2021/22 but continue to be thankful for the 36 people in our church community who continue to offer their time and skill; enabling us to care for each other both informally and through more organised activities.

We should also like to record again our particular thanks to Claire Webber who continues to play such a significant role in relation to pastoral care by listening, supporting people, providing practical help and referring requests on to the pastoral care group. She has been of particular help with safeguarding and Data Protection Issues.

If you are interested in finding out more about our pastoral care activities or feel you might like to contribute in some way, please speak to Janet Atkinson or contact Claire who will pass on your details to a member of the pastoral care group.

We are particularly looking for people who would volunteer to drive someone to a service on one Sunday each month.

When people volunteer we ask for a commitment of only twelve months as it is important that people are able to step down when ready; thankfully others are always found enabling us to continue providing care and support.

Janet Atkinson on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group. March 2022

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Group meets every three or four months. Members are involved in different aspects of the way we are called to respond to the vulnerable in our own society and beyond. We try to support each other's activities and to link the work of different groups. Though some aspects of our work have had to be suspended during the pandemic, some have expanded, most notably our involvement with the Burngreave Foodbank.

Christian Aid.- In 2022 we will again be inviting the congregation to share their talents and for walkers to seek sponsorship for Christian Aid. In addition, we will be delivering donation envelopes which recipients will be asked to return to the Parish Office. Malcolm and Janet Anker would like to thank everyone for their help in the last year. Our congregation has been hugely supportive of Christian Aid. (see separate CA report)

Baby Basics - Baby Basics continues to be well supported at St. John's. Susan Hepworth coordinates our efforts.

Burngreave Foodbank. This last twelve months has seen an unprecedented rise in donations from our parish to Burngreave Foodbank . This is in response to an unprecedented rise in need. Our fortnightly donations to the foodbank have provided roughly 15000 meals over the last year, that is over 6tons of food. The foodbank hugely appreciates the support we at St John's give them. Our fortnightly collections continue and we encourage people to bring collections to the Church to any services they attend.

St John's Eco Church Group now meets independently of the Social Justice Group (see separate report)

REACH youth group have continued to focus on their social justice agenda despite the difficulties presented by not being able to meet together.

Part of the responsibility is the social justice group is to make recommendations on our annual tithe. Here are the charities we supported this year and the amount that were given:

A. 10% Subscriptions to organisations which support the life of the church	
· Yorkshire Association of Change Ring	£ 120.00
· A Rocha	£ 290.00
B. 30% Social Justice Overseas	
· Water Aid	£ 307.40
· Friends of the Earth	£ 307.40
· UNHCR uk	£ 307.40
· Medicins sans Frontiers	£ 307.40
C. 30% Social Justice in UK	
· Church Action on Poverty	£ 410.00
· Women's Aid	£ 410.00
· MIND	£ 410.00
D. 30% Social Justice in Sheffield	
· Phoenix Association	£ 307.50
· Sheffield Family Holiday fund	£ 307.50
· Sanctuary	£ 307.50
· Roundabout	£ 307.50
	£ 4,099.60

Conclusion- The variety of activities to support greater social justice in this world and the number of people involved in these activities demonstrate how closely linked these concerns are to our Christian faith at St John's.

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who contributed so much to the success of last years' Christian Aid Week Appeal. We thought you might be interested in the breakdown of the final figures and total.

Card payments	£835
Just Giving	£1,400
Bank account	£240
Envelopes	£1007.40
Breakfast	£137.70
Plants	£334
Bottle hats	£29
SB Breakfast Plants, Books	£428
Janet's walk	£65
Cash from quiz sheets	£ 5
Pauline's walk	£ 205
Gift Aid through SJR	£280
Breakfast expenses	-£182.42

Total 4783.68

Gift Aid slips 243

Total 5026.68

We would like to give special thanks to Pauline for her very valuable work with all the finance, and Claire for the administration.

We are looking forward to being able to make a very significant contribution towards Christian Aid Week this May for the drought condition in Zimbabwe.

Janet and Malcolm Anker

REACH – Youth Social Justice Committee

In last year's report, I outlined what we had been doing to stay in touch with our young people during the worst of the Covid restrictions and our plans for the future as things begin to return to something resembling normality.

With the mixed economy of church engagement amongst the young people - some attending All-age services, some in the choir, others not attending church services at all - and the difficulties of setting

up safe online communications, we have continued to communicate in the old fashioned way, by post with chocolate accompanying each communication.

A highlight of the year's work has been the successful opening of the Ranmoor Rex, our community cinema run (with adult supervision) entirely by our young people. It is hoped that, over time, this will become a regular feature of our missional outreach and that a regular meeting of our young folk will gather to manage the cinema screenings.

Young people continue to be involved in children's provision at All-age services and it has been a joy to see choristers and juniors getting involved in some of the activities during those services, not least the reenactment of the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen in 1953!

A small group went to the Breathe Deep youth event at the Cathedral in late April.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to discuss with our friends at St Mark's and St Mary's how best we might work together and pool our resources with a view to having a more coordinated approach to youth work which links in with children's and families work going on in each of our churches. One joint venture on the near horizon is Big Questions, a discipleship course of four sessions leading to the option to become confirmed in mid-May.

Revd Matt Wood

Safeguarding

As members of the Church of England we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children and young people and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and from neglect.

The PCC appointed me as independent Parish Safeguarding Officer. I have attended many training courses on safeguarding and ensure that the PCC are up-to date with all aspects of keeping our church safe.

St John's is very pro-active, ensuring that DBS Certificates are in place for any people working with children and vulnerable adults. Risk Assessments take place for every piece of activity we may conduct, and First Aid Courses are ran to ensure we have emergency training to help anybody who falls ill or has an accident. This year due to the pandemic we have ensured that the use of media, images and consents are all up to date for parents. We have also increased awareness about church being a safe place for all. We have introduced registration forms for adults and children joining any of our groups.

Importantly I ensure that people who work with children and vulnerable adults in our parish are trained and aware of what to do to keep our church a safe place.

Claire Webber

Social Events

The Committee has held two meetings in person, with a focus on the schedule of events in 2022 aimed both at increasing the social cohesion of the existing church family and reaching out into the community within Ranmoor Parish and the wider diocese.

There is an extensive programme including an illustrated talk about the Peak District on Friday 29th April, for which tickets are selling fast, a very varied and exciting programme of events during Christian Aid Week (15th-21st May), the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration and the Bishop's Garden Party (18th June).

Our considerations also include plans for social interactions between choir and congregation, a programme of film screenings, a potential coach trip, celebration of Alison's ordination and even extend to early thoughts about the Christmas period. Our meetings have been well attended and very helpful in shaping and refining plans for the various events. It is striking how many members of our St John's family are "just getting on with it...", and as usual the unsung hero approach is making sure that we have a rich variety of things to look forward to during the remainder of the year.

Peter Wozencroft

Chair of the Committee

Inspire Magazine

The "Inspire" magazine is still flourishing under the editorship of Philip Walshaw. It continues to be posted out or hand delivered, with the help of Janet and Malcolm Anker, Chris Cooper and Alan and Pauline Heath. Additionally, it is e-mailed to everyone on the Church's database. Copies are available inside Church and the Parish Centre and are also left in the Church porch for anyone to pick up. Although some advertisers have not renewed this year, we have gained a new one. We still aim to break even financially, although this is proving more difficult with the printing costs increasing this year by approximately 10% and subscriptions slightly down on last year.

With no price increase for many years, the magazine represents good value at £1 per issue and it's an important part of our mission to reach out to the community. Articles for inclusion in the magazine are always welcomed from anyone. Many thanks to those who do submit articles, particularly John Green and Roy Stanley, who do so on a regular basis.

Philip Walshaw

Weddings

St John's is a wonderful church where on average we have 16+ weddings taking place each year. Around half the couples that are married here attend regularly to come on our electoral roll. Many have another qualifying connection to be married such as – they have lived in the parish; their parents or grandparents were married here and so on.

Despite the start of 2021 still being in the middle of the covid pandemic people were still being married with reduced numbers of guests in attendance.

We held 14 marriage ceremonies and 1 blessing in the year. We also hosted 2 weddings for Fulwood Church whilst their restoration has been taking place. There are a few couples that decided to move their weddings to 2022 who were due to be married 2020-22.

We hope and pray for all couples being married in St John's this year and wish them all very well in their lives together.

Tech Team

Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, we have discontinued Zoom and now only stream services on Facebook Live. We appreciate that many in the congregation found Zoom to be a personal, virtual space which allowed them to worship in familiar company. Unfortunately, streaming on both platforms badly affected audio and video quality, and we took the decision to limit streaming to Facebook Live as it offers greater versatility and the potential to reach a wider audience throughout the UK and across the world.

Dom Dakin, who was instrumental in building our streaming system, has since left the team to start his first year at university. With Dom's departure we have lost significant technical knowledge, although the system itself still appears to be running well, with only relatively minor repairs required to keep everything operational. Dom has also kindly offered to provide remote assistance where required, which is much appreciated.

Although we have lost one valuable member of the team, we have also gained two more. We have been joined by Dylan, who helpfully covers many of our Evensong services (even during a snowstorm!), and Hari, who has been helping us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

The tech team is blessed with some very capable and committed volunteers, but we are always on the lookout for more. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in getting involved, please let me know. My thanks as ever go to Mark Allcock, Dylan Scott, Will Stone and Hari for their time and efforts in maintaining this important part of St John's outreach. Mark Gregory

Sides People

Re-reading last year's report has highlighted how much has changed, now that we are almost back to normal. Sanitising, Track & Trace, one-way systems, socially distanced pew stations and 'silent' hymns have all thankfully gone but masks, communion in-one-kind and no collection are still with us, as is Facebook Live and our amazing Tech Team, now managed by Mark Gregory.

All of this means that we can still manage with a team of three sides persons on most Sunday mornings and a duty frequency of about once per month. However we are short of Duty Wardens as key holders but 'promotions' would mean we would need a few more in the sides person team. If you feel able to volunteer - please let me know.

After many years of volunteering, we would like to thank John Atkinson who has retired from the Rota this year.

Thank you to all those on the teams - both Sides persons and the Tech Team, especially from me, for sorting out the date clashes when I send out the new rota!

John Green

Wardens and Duty Wardens

Pauline Heath*
 Mark Gregory***
 John Green
 Carl Webber**
 Anthea Priestley
 Andy Clark**
 Peter Wozencroft

Sides-persons

Janet Anker	Mark Allcock ***
Norma Chatterton	Peter Chatterton
Malcolm Anker	Janet Atkinson
John Biggin*	David Booker
Helen Clark*	Pam Cooper*
Nigel Edmonds	Sandra Green
Rosie Gregory*	Susan Hepworth
John Hepworth	Trudie Kelly
Peter Lowe	Jackie Lowe
Peter Marrison*	Will Stone***
Morag Shaw*	
Mandy Stockley	Veronica Sullivan
Wendy Weeks *	Pat Thompson
Claire Webber **	
Barbara Wozencroft	
Dylan Scott***	

* Evensong ** All Age *** Tech Team

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.