



Holy Trinity

Coxheath

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING**

**Sunday 23rd April 2023
following the 11am service**

Report and Associated Information

**“Growing as Disciples of Christ to Build the
Kingdom of God”**

Annual Business Meetings

Election of Churchwardens Meeting

Agenda

1. Election of Churchwarden(s) for the Parish of Coxheath

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last APCM 24th April 2022 for approval
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (2 vacancies)
4. Election of PCC members (3 x 3-year vacancies, 1 x 2-year casual vacancy, 2 x 1-year casual vacancies)
5. Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM
6. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and parish activities
7. Presentation of Financial Statement and Accounts for year ending 31st December 2022
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023
9. Report on fabric, goods and ornaments
10. Report on the Deanery Synod
11. Chairman's Address
12. Open Discussion

HOLY TRINITY COXHEATH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
With Election of Church Wardens

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24th April 2022

Present:	There were 34 parishioners present
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	<p>Welcome and Opening Prayers Licensed lay Minister Becky Parnham (BP) welcomed everyone to the APCM and opened the meeting with a prayer.</p>
	<p>Election of Churchwardens Sandra Baker (SB) was proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England requirements and was duly elected. Sandra was thanked for her faithful service over the last 25 years. Parishioners were encouraged to prayerfully consider coming forward to assist Sandra and learn about the Churchwardens role going forward as Sandra enters her 26th and final year.</p>
APCM Item 1	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Sandra Baker and Mike Marsh</p>
Item 2	<p>Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 11th April 2021 The minutes were received and approved unanimously as an accurate record.</p>
Item 3	<p>Election of PCC Members BP gave a brief explanation of the PCC role and encouraged people to prayerfully consider whether they could become members of the PCC either today or in the future. Under previously agreed rules 3 PCC members stood down leaving 3 vacancies. There were also 2 casual vacancies on the PCC for 2-year terms. Mike Marsh was proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England requirements to take up a 3-year term of office. Jen Tobin was proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England requirements to take up a 3-year term of office. There were no further nominations.</p>
Item 4	<p>Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll Marian Simpson, our Electoral Roll Officer, reported in the Annual report that there are now 64 people on the Electoral Roll with 23 people not resident in the Parish.</p>
Item 5	<p>Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and Parish Activities BP encouraged everyone to read the Report which gives a clear insight into the work that takes place behind the scenes both in Church and across the Community. Those that have written the individual reports are always available to answer any questions about the activities.</p>
Item 6	<p>Presentation of Financial Statements and Accounts for the year ending December 2020 Treasurer, Tim Gregson (TG), reported via video link that the Accounts had been externally examined and approved by the PCC at their last meeting. TG reported that overall we are in a good financial position with a slight reduction in receipts and</p>

	<p>outgoings this year. He thanked all those that have generously supported Holy Trinity throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>TG highlighted the issue of the collapsed Church flooring which is likely to have a significant impact on our finances going forward.</p> <p>BP thanked the Coffee Morning team for their fundraising efforts this year on TG's behalf.</p> <p>The accounts were formally approved unanimously.</p>
Item 7	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022</p> <p>Clare O'Farrell is happy to continue in her role as our Independent Examiner for 2022 and was elected unanimously by the attending parishioners.</p>
Item 8	<p>Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments</p> <p>BP drew attention to the report written in the Annual Report document.</p> <p>In addition to this it was noted that the Church floor had been inspected by a surveyor and the full written report will be available to the PCC at the May meeting.</p>
Item 9	<p>Report on the Deanery Synod</p> <p>BP gave a short explanation of a Deanery and it's relevance to Holy Trinity informing the congregation that Holy Trinity has two representatives at Deanery Synod meetings. Their report is contained in the Annual Report.</p>
Item 10	<p>Chairman's address</p> <p>BP explained that as the PCC Vice-Chairman it has been her role to lead the PCC during the interregnum and hence lead the APCM.</p> <p>It has been a difficult year with the loss of David Simpson, our Churchwarden, and the retirement of Rev. Peter Callway but she has been encouraged by the number of people who have stepped forward to ensure that the work at Holy Trinity has continued smoothly.</p> <p>The Rector vacancy has been readvertised and interviews are scheduled for the end of May with appointment possible the same day.</p>
Item 11	<p>Open discussion</p> <p>There were no questions or comments made.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed with intercessional prayers led by Becky Parnham.</p>

Signed.....

Dated.....

Annual Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and Church/Benefice Activities 2021/2022

Contents

Contents.....	5
Introduction	6
Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll.....	6
Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report	6
Safeguarding	8
Ministry Team Reports	9
Worship, Bible Study and Prayer.....	11
Church in the Community.....	13
Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.....	17
Deanery Synod	19
Financial Statement and Accounts	20

Introduction

Holy Trinity Church is a friendly, welcoming church at the heart of the ecclesiastical parish of Coxheath and is part of the United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh. The Church was built in 1884 as the chapel to the Workhouse and then as the chapel to the former Linton Hospital at Coxheath. It became the Parish church for the village in 1996. The village has a population of 4,931 (Census 2021) and continues to grow.

Rev. Lorna Faulkner was licensed and installed as the new Rector for our Benefice on 17th October 2022. She is supported by an Honorary Associate Rector with permission to officiate, a Lay Reader who is also our Children and Families Worker and a Pastoral Assistant with permission to take services.

Services are held on Sundays with live-streaming on Zoom where possible. There is a mid-week celebration of Holy Communion every Thursday and the Church offers a range of Sunday services as well as opportunities for bible study, prayer, social activities and children's groups covering a variety of ages.

Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll

There are currently 65 members on the Church Electoral Roll, 23 of whom are not resident within the parish. 3 names have been added during the year and 2 have been removed.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

Holy Trinity's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of supporting those in the Ministry Team and our Churchwarden, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of Holy Trinity Church, Heath Road, Coxheath, which is owned by the Rochester Diocese.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC relies upon the voluntary contributions of its members and the Church community to support worship, prayer, pastoral care and outreach.

Proceedings of the PCC

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 82%.

The only statutory committee of the PCC is the Standing Committee which currently consists of our Curate, our Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary and one lay member of the PCC. The Standing Committee is responsible to the PCC and makes decisions on items that need immediate attention between PCC meetings.

There has been no requirement for the Standing Committee to meet over the last 12 months.

It is the PCC's policy to support Charities throughout the year by way of Giving Sundays. On these Sundays, the loose collection is passed to the Charities together with a donation from the PCC.

The Giving Sundays for 2022/23 were:

- May 2022 – Crossroads Care Maidstone
- July 2022 – Young Lives Foundation
- Harvest Sunday 2022 – Homeless Care/Making a Difference to Maidstone
- November 2022 – Mercy Ships
- Christmas Services 2022 – Heart of Kent Hospice and Demelza House
- February 2023 – Maidstone Street Pastors.
- March 2023 – Christians Against Poverty

Charitable status: Holy Trinity PCC is a Charity.

PCC membership currently consists of the Rector Rev. Lorna Faulkner, a Churchwarden and our Lay Reader together with up to 9 lay members elected by those who are on the Church electoral roll. Additionally, there is provision for 2 Deanery Synod Representatives. Anyone on the Electoral Roll who meets the criteria under the Charities Act 2011, can stand for election to the PCC. Each elected member stands for a term of 3 years. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the PCC on an annual basis at the first meeting after the APCM.

Current PCC Membership

Name	Role	Name	Role
Rev. Lorna Faulkner	Rector/Chairperson	Tim Gregson	Treasurer
Becky Parnham	Lay Reader/Children's Worker	Helen Gregson	Secretary
Sandra Baker	Churchwarden	Marilyn Hansford	Member
Marian Simpson	Deanery Synod Rep.	Mike Marsh	Member
Sue Elliott	Deanery Synod Rep.	Jen Tobin	Member

Helen Gregson and Marilyn Hansford have completed their term of office on the PCC. The PCC would like to thank them for their service during this time.

Marian Simpson and Sue Elliott will complete their term of office as Deanery Synod Representatives at the end of June 2023. The PCC would like to thank them for representing the Parish during this time.

There are six vacancies to be filled at this year's APCM together with two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives.

The PCC vacancies are for a variety of terms with three 3 year term vacancies, one 2 Year term vacancy and two 1 year term vacancies.

The two Deanery Synod vacancies are for terms of 3 years from 1st July 2023.

Safeguarding

The Parish of Coxheath is committed to implementing the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policies and good practice guidelines.

Benefice Safeguarding Officer Report

I am delighted to report that all required Safeguarding training was successfully completed by the Church Officers in the Parish of Holy Trinity Coxheath and I will continue to remind them if and when more training is required.

Thank you to Rev. David Jones for all his hard work in renewing the many DBS checks that needed to be updated due to the change in renewal from 5 years to 3 years.

On November 20th Rev. Lorna Faulkner held a Safeguarding Sunday service at Holy Trinity which highlighted the importance of safeguarding in our congregation and community to help protect vulnerable people.

Thank you to Tim Gregson for continuing to update the safeguarding guidance and policies on the Benefice website.

If you have any Safeguarding questions or concerns, please do not hesitate contact me. My details are on the Safeguarding poster on the Church notice board.

Mags Poole

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Lead Recruiters Report

The role of Lead Recruiter is to obtain the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) for applicants at the end of the recruiting process. It is the administrative part of the Safeguarding process, a process which includes training, safe recruiting and safe procedures for all involved with the work.

Everyone responsible with Children's work or Vulnerable Adult work is required by law to have a valid DBS Certificate which now must be renewed every 3 years. In addition, members of a Parochial Church Council (PCC) responsible for overseeing work with children and adults are also required to seek the relevant DBS Certificate and training.

During 2022 and 2023 people who were covered by a DBS previously valid for 5 years are required to seek renewal. I am pleased to report that all DBS Certificates are up to date with 18 renewals being obtained in 2022 and a further 5 being applied for during 2023.

Rev. David Jones

Lead Recruiter

Ministry Team Reports

Rectors Report

This time last year, I wrote a short report as Curate and asked you all to be praying for me as I tried to discern where God was calling me next. Well you must have all prayed really hard (or not hard enough!) Either way, the Lord had a surprise for us all!

The most important thing for me as I write this year is to say thank you to you all. We made it through the time of interregnum together and are beginning to discern the way ahead together – just how it should be: God’s people working together.

As we worked towards the end of both my curacy and the interregnum we enjoyed the joyful Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which were soon to be contrasted with the time of National Mourning as we marked the passing of this extraordinary woman who was the longest reigning Monarch in history. Next month we will mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Some profound moments of history shared in this past 12 months.

After my licensing in October, the first large event on the calendar was Remembrance Sunday. We welcomed a large gathering of folk from around the community and the full return of the uniformed groups felt like we were finally marking the ‘end’ of the pandemic in many ways.

As we all know, though, Covid has not disappeared and, together with seasonal flu, was on the rampage at the end of 2022. However, being mindful of this, we still managed to hold a variety of Christmas services, all of which were well-attended and appreciated by our wider community as well as those regular members of the church.

It has been really encouraging to see Jen and the wonderful Brew and a Bite volunteers grab with both hands the opportunity to get our church doors open and welcome members of the community in to enjoy a warm space and a hot drink – and most importantly, connection and conversation. My thanks to them all.

We have recently introduced a new All-age service on the 4th Sunday of the month. We hope to provide an opportunity for families and those who are not familiar with church to come and join us in a relaxed and accessible environment to discover more about God’s love for them. Early signs are positive and we look forward to see how this new time of worship develops.

Not all is shiny, I know – the yellow warning sign by the south store floor is becoming part of the furniture and the Diocese seems not to be in a hurry to grant us permission to get started on the repair works, but we hope that as Spring approaches we will be able to move things along and see our church building put back together again!

God isn’t put off by a hole in the floor, though – thank goodness! And we continue to see his hand at work among us, encouraging those of us who have been here a while and bringing new faces into our fellowship too.

I and the family know we are blessed to be here and I am looking forward to leading us through the next few months and years as we listen for God’s plan, seek his presence, discover his purpose and work together to continue to build his Kingdom in this community and in the wider Benefice.

Rev. Lorna Faulkner

Rector

Hon. Associate Rectors Report

During 2022 the covid restrictions were gradually removed and much of the year was free of any restrictions other than personal preferences. This resulted in much of the pre 2021 work returning – weddings and baptisms resumed with a back log of weddings making 2022 a busy year. In addition, the interregnum which had started in October 2021 came to an end a year later with the appointment of Rev. Lorna Faulkner as the new Rector for the Benefice. The service pattern of two Sunday services at 9.30am and one at 11am across the Benefice, which had been introduced at the start of the interregnum has continued. The ministry staff of the Benefice has been reduced to 2 people now and my ministry, which for the past 10 years has been by Permission of the Bishop (PTO) overseen every three years by the Area Dean, has come up for review. Canterbury Diocese renewed my permission in January 2023 for another three years and I await Rochester doing the same in due course.

My ministry in the Benefice is also by permission of the incumbent and that has continued with leading services on three Sunday's a month and alternate weekly mid-week services. In addition I have conducted 5 marriages, 5 baptisms and 19 funerals for the Benefice.

My work as Governor at Coxheath School finished in the summer when my term of office came to an end. So ended a long association with the school commencing in 1974 with my children and then nearly 20 years as a governor.

The potential move of the EOC (Emergency Operation Control) of the South East Coast Ambulance NHS Service (at present based in Coxheath) to Gillingham being planned for later this year will also end that connection as their Chaplain. Again, it has been 23 years since I was appointed and I will be sad to lose the link with the largest employer in the village.

Covid reduced my work as a chaplaincy volunteer visitor with the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals Trust but I still cover as duty Chaplain on a Friday night from 5pm to 8am the next morning at Maidstone Hospital.

At a personal level 2022 has been a sad year with Ann going into residential in February and dying in June, but I have been 'lifted' by the support of so many. In December I transferred Ann's ashes to Hunton churchyard where in due time I hope to join her. On the positive side my health has been good, with the odd part of me still under 'guarantee' and being well cared for by the NHS.

The future? Who knows. As long as the Bishop gives me permission and the incumbent allows me to continue I hope to offer ministry as long as God calls me.

Rev. David Jones

Honorary Associate Rector

Licensed Lay Minister Report

2022 has been a year of continued growth both personally and spiritually as I have enjoyed following God's calling on my life – even if it's been a bit scary at times!

I have enjoyed leading and preaching at services, though the time taking in preparation has not diminished noticeably but I am gaining confidence in hearing what I think God wants me to say, and I hope my delivery is improving, I certainly feel that I am looking up from my notes more anyway!

Funeral ministry continues to be daunting – not in the preparation or delivery - but in the responsibility that comes from holding a family's grief and ensuring that they feel that they have said their farewells in the way they wanted.

I am getting my head around the many acronyms used in schools and hope that I am serving the community of Hunton well in my role as Bishop's governor at the school. I hope that I am making a difference to the children and the staff through my attendance at the meetings.

Looking forward to 2023 my licence is due for renewal, so Lorna and I have been reviewing my working agreement and making changes where necessary to better reflect my role as Licensed Lay Minister in the benefice.

The role of LLM will continue to see me leading and preaching as well as exercising my funeral ministry, but there is also a focus on serving our communities through my role as Bishop's governor at Hunton Primary school and facilitating the community group meetings in Coxheath.

Becky Parham

Licensed Lay Minister

Pastoral Assistant Report

For the past year my focus has mainly been on the leadership of the Benefice Pastoral Support Team. We have started to contact folks around all the villages in our Benefice, offering visits and prayer support.

During the Interregnum I was given permission by our Acting Archdeacon to take Services of the Word. I have continued, now with the authorisation of our incumbent, Lorna, and have taken services in all five of our churches, something that I have very much enjoyed.

I regularly help with Seekers after school club at Holy Trinity and have stepped in on occasions at Little Angels at West Farleigh and Kingsquad at East Farleigh School in the last year. Once a month I am on the rota as a Maidstone Street Pastor, going into town on Friday or Saturday evening and looking out for vulnerable people, a practical way of working out my Christian faith. Do ask me if you'd like to find out more about the Pastoral Support Team or Street Pastoring. Volunteers for both these groups are always welcome.

Sue Elliott

Pastoral Assistant

Worship, Bible Study and Prayer

The Church is now fully open and functional following the COVID-19 closures of previous years. We are open for Sunday services and any additional services required throughout the year including the main Church festivals of Christmas and Easter. A new All Age Worship service on the 4th Sunday of the month commenced in March 2023.

We held 4 Funerals, 1 Wedding and 4 Baptisms in the period January – December 2023

Thursday Communion

Thursday Communion takes place weekly at 10am and includes the Mothers Union Corporate Holy Communion on the first Thursday of the month.

Bible Study Groups

Bible Study has continued with the option of small home groups, meeting in Church or zoom. Groups have looked at the Holy Spirit and followed the Travelling Light Advent Course. Lent was a time of prayer and reflection with sessions being held at home or in Church.

Benefice Prayer Chain

The prayer chain comprises of a small group of people who respond to prayer requests. The requests cover a wide variety of needs and situations. People can ask for prayers for themselves, for others or for a specific situation. We welcome prayer requests but with prayers for other people permission must first be given. All prayer requests are kept confidential within the group. The prayers for a person or situation usually continue for one month but in some cases, where there is an ongoing need that is extended. Prayer requests are circulated by email to members of the group so that there can be an immediate response.

Marian Simpson

Prayer Chain Co-Ordinator

Benefice Ladies Prayer Group

We continue to meet every Saturday morning between 10 -11am. We are now 12 in number and usually 8-9 make most weeks.

Our fellowship and time together is greatly valued by us all. After opening prayer we share our own prayer updates and requests, have a short Bible reading, a song, and then spend time in prayer together. All completely confidential to group.

'What a privilege to carry ...take it to the Lord in prayer!'

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Dawn Burnell

Prayer Group Lead

Men's Prayer Group

The group has met regularly throughout 2022/23 with just the normal summer break in August.

We are a small group of 6 people, with one other person joining us earlier in 2023.

It is a testament to the technology that two men can join us most weeks via Zoom, one in North Kent the other in Cambridge. They both say how much they value the fellowship and prayer support of the group.

As before, the group meets Tuesdays 9 am to 10 am in the home environment with Barry, Mike and Steve alternating as hosts and often followed by a visit to Coxheath Café for refreshment!

Our mornings begin with some topical discussion, news /prayer updates for the group before looking at a bible passage and talking about that. The hour finishes with a time of open prayer.

New men are always welcome, with no obligation or pressure to contribute or pray. If preferred, just coming along to listen is fine.

Over the year, God has blessed our fellowship group as we look to share this time, with many others. All prayer items are confidential to the group.

Please contact us for the latest venue and date.

All are welcome.

Mike Marsh

Contacts: Mike 07595 428639 or Steve 07904 212245

Church in the Community

Benefice Children and Families Work

2022 has been a year where we have continued to figure out what the new normal is for the Children and Families Work across the Benefice.

It has been good to get back to regular meetings for most of the pre-Covid activities and to build in some new ones started during the pandemic.

We have established a regular bi-monthly pattern for Muddy Church that alternates with Messy Church so that every month families have the opportunity to explore what they think about God through fun, friendship and food.

The families that attend Tiny Tots Toybox are really appreciating the warm welcoming atmosphere that we provide for them and are very vocal in encouraging others to attend when people ask about activities for little ones on social media.

Little Angels has a small group of families that attend on a regular basis and they too appreciate the welcome they receive. In 2023 we will be looking at how we can share information about the group to attract more families.

I have become a regular visitor at Hunton primary school since Peter's retirement, working with Lorna to deliver bi-weekly collective worship assemblies, and enabling the classes to visit St Mary's to further their understanding of the Christian faith.

I am hopeful that the links forged with East Farleigh Primary school will continue under the new Headteacher who started in January 2023. It was lovely to be a part of the Christingle service in December where the school said farewell to Mr Rivers who had been leading the school for the past 4 years. It has been interesting to see how the relationship with the school has strengthened after Covid. Sue and I feel like we are part of the furniture there now even though we are only in school for a brief time each week for Kingsquad.

The team involved with the children's work has reduced over the year as individuals have had time to reflect on God's calling on their lives, but we have started meeting on a regular basis as a whole team for prayer and encouragement. This means we can share and discuss the vision for children's work across the benefice and talk about what is or isn't working as well as taking the opportunity for whole team training.

The team proved how great they are when they suddenly had to cover my absence with only 10 days' notice to prepare and put things in place at the end of the year when I needed surgery. I am incredibly grateful for all they did and how well they pulled everything together – especially for the Seekers Nativity performance which was amazing.

Moving into 2023 there has been an increase in the hours I am paid for, and flexibility built into my contract to allow me to better exercise this Ministry.

I am looking forward to seeing how the team and I can continue to share the gospel message with the families in our local communities.

My thanks to everyone who supports the work with families across the Benefice; those who pray for the team and activities on a regular basis are the cornerstone of all we are able to achieve. Those who help by cutting out or baking cakes or by offering to help at one off activities are essential in

helping events run smoothly. And a huge, big thank you to those who give their time on a regular basis – groups really couldn't run without you!

Becky Parnham

Children and Families Worker

[Benefice Pastoral Support Team \(PST\)](#)

The PST meets monthly for worship followed by discussion. There are seven members and this year all have completed an update of the Diocesan Caring Concerns Course.

When appropriate we have visited or sent 'Thinking of You' cards to those members of our congregations who are sick, bereaved or in difficulty. We continue to be present at Baptisms within the Benefice, when possible, and to send Baptism Anniversary and Wedding Anniversary cards.

This year we have undertaken Prayer Walks around our villages, praying for all houses and residents. Sometimes, where walking is difficult we have done this virtually. This is in preparation for delivering cards to houses offering friendly visits and/or prayers and calling back to make contact a few days later. This is as an outreach to folk in need who may not be familiar with church. The team now have ID cards as a reassurance to people for whom we are strangers. We are starting in small areas and will increase where our team has capacity depending upon uptake. If you would like to join the Team or find out more about us please contact us via the Benefice website Pastoral Support Team page under the Groups tab.

Grateful thanks go to Anne Whybrow, who stepped down in 2022, for her work in the PST over many years.

Sue Elliott

Pastoral Assistant and Ministry Team Member

[Brew and Bite \(Warm Space initiative\)](#)

Our first warm space (known as Brew and a Bite) took place on 23rd December 2022. This has continued on a regular basis from January 2023, with the church building being open from 8-5pm every Tuesday and 11-1pm every Thursday.

The sessions offer a place for people to come and have drinks, food and company. The food which has been available range from cereals and porridge, to soup, toast and pancakes. We have been able to fund the heating and provisions for this initiative through grants from both the Diocese and MBC.

The sessions have been well attended, with 30-40 people dropping in every Tuesday and 10-15 on a Thursday. The 3-5pm slot on Tuesday has seen new families become familiar with the church building as well as the members of the community who help run the space. Seekers has gained 3 new children as a direct result of the warm space initiative.

We have also had new faces join us during these opening times and these people have taken part in other church initiatives, such as the Beacon Men film night as a direct result of attending the warm space.

The initial plan was to run Brew and a Bite until the end of March (as per the warm space initiative), but there seems to be appetite to continue beyond this point.

Jen Tobin

Beacon Men

On the evening of Tuesday the 8th of February, as the country started to take tentative steps back to normality, we were able to hold our AGM by way of a physical meeting at The Bull Inn in Linton. The previous year's Zoom AGM had been reasonably successful but there is no substitute for meeting up in person. If truth be told it was a fairly disappointing turn out with only six attendees which was the same number as the meeting we had held back in November. It is possible that some people may still be a little reluctant to mix at indoor venues which could explain the low numbers. We received a large number of apologies and still have a healthy number of members. During the meeting a variety of great ideas were put forward for future events. We decided that due to the low attendance we would save the quiz that Mike Marsh had prepared for a later date. Nonetheless, once the formalities were completed those present had a good time.

It was an early start on Saturday the 2nd of April, when the Beacon Men joined All Saints Men's Group for a breakfast meeting at Muggleton's in town. The guest speaker was Rory Steyn a former Lieutenant Colonel in the South African Police and head of the security detail which was responsible for the safety of Nelson Mandela after he became President. It was a fascinating and heart-warming story of acceptance, forgiveness, and a complete change of mindset for Rory who had been brought up, and served most of his police career, during the days of Apartheid. He grew to like, admire, and feel an intense loyalty to a man he had previously considered a terrorist. After the breakfast, a number of Beacon Men took advantage of the brilliant sunshine and went for a riverside walk from Lock Meadow to East Farleigh and back.

On Saturday the 14th of May, six Beacon Men travelled to the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne near Folkestone. We had a terrific day in the most glorious weather. It was so fine we could stand on the cliff top and clearly see the French coast. The 'Scramble Experience' was a hit with everyone which included being able to climb into a hurricane simulator to take on the Luftwaffe. This venue is highly recommended and if you are a veteran you'll get discount. Many thanks to Barry Doyle who made our day much easier by volunteering to drive.

Warm and sunny weather greeted us all on waking on Saturday the 18th of June. This was an answer to prayer as it was the morning of a Beacon Men's Medway River boat trip. Twelve Beacon Men and one lady (made an honorary man for the morning) met to board the Medway Belle and the Lady Gillian, two self-drive motorboats for a leisurely chug up to Allington Lock and a coffee at the Malta Inn and return. What else is there to say? I've used this line before but it's worth repeating. As Ratty said to Mole: "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Three regular Beacon Men plus two new recruits got together on the evening of Monday the 11th of July. We met at Lock Meadow at 6.30 to go bowling. After a great game which Mike Marsh somehow managed to win convincingly, we went on to the Thai Orchid restaurant for a delicious and very reasonably priced meal. All in all, a really pleasant evening.

On the evening of Saturday the 24th of September six Beacon Men gathered at Matt Edwards' house in Yalding for what was intended to be an astronomical stargazing evening, with Matt kindly providing a barbecue. The early part of the evening was overcast so I didn't take my telescope just some binoculars. Matt provided a superb spread from the barbie and James Small prepared a delicious baked Alaska for dessert. As blokes are, with all that food and beer, thoughts of astronomy went out the window until someone noticed that the clouds had cleared and it had turned into a really clear night at which point I regretted not bringing the telescope. We went outside to brilliant views of Cassiopeia and Ursa Major, also known as the Plough. As we admired the beauty of the

night sky, we were treated to the sight of two meteors or shooting stars streaking across the sky. A really enjoyable evening both gastronomically and astronomically.

On Friday the 14th of October there was a Movie Night and fish and chip supper in church which was attended by 10 Beacon Men. The film shown was 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen and James Nesbitt about a group of people on a pilgrimage in Spain. It's a good film with a message. I can say this because I have seen it although I was unable to attend on the night due to Covid.

On the evening of Monday the 7th of November sixteen men and two ladies attended the Beacon Men's annual curry night in church. Once again we received a fascinating illustrated talk from aviation historian, Guy Bartlett, this time on the Battle of Britain. It was a really enjoyable evening and special thanks go to James Small for cooking and serving a fantastic meal.

Steve Poole

Beacon Men Chairman

[Mothers' Union \(Coxheath Area Branch\)](#)

We currently have 9 members but will be enrolling 2 new members on Mothering Sunday.

We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at a members house. The meeting starts with worship, a bible reading and prayers. We then share news and activities from the wider Mothers' Union followed by a topical theme, involving a quiz, game or sharing time, this is followed by a bring and share tea.

We meet together on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10am for Corporate Holy Communion at Holy Trinity followed by coffee and fellowship in Coxheath cafe.

We host Soup on Sunday bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month and members of the congregation have now joined our members in producing some delicious soups to serve after the church service on those Sundays. Donations from this event go towards supporting local, national and global projects.

This last year we have been more involved with community projects such as, poppy making for Remembrance Day and The Community Tea Boxes. Likewise Coxheath Connect ladies are now helping with our 'Bag of Love ' project by making bags for us. These bags are then filled with treats and prayers and given to parents/carers of reception children on the child's first day at school.

Details of all the projects we have supported are displayed on our noticeboard at the back of Holy Trinity Church.

Margaret Poole

Branch Contact

[Coffee Morning](#)

Coffee mornings continue to take place in the Scout Hut on 2nd Saturday of each month.

They are providing outreach to the community and fundraising for the church. Many people come along to not only buy cakes, cards and articles from the bring and buy stall, but to enjoy a chat with friends and to meet new people.

The Parish Council Chairman, Clive Parker, is nearly always there for people to ask questions about the Parish Council and what is going on in the village.

The September coffee morning took place outside on the grass at Holy Trinity Church and coincided with the Ride and Stride for Kent Churches. This proved to be a great success and is going to take place again this year.

The nearly new sale in November proved popular and provided some increased funds for the church. The Christmas raffle was once again well supported in donations and buyers of raffle tickets.

At the December meeting presentations were made Rev David Jones, Jean Bartholomew and Anne Whybrow who were stepping down from the organising.

David has been providing the milk, biscuits, tea, coffee etc for as long as I can remember and possibly since it first started. He has also been unlocking and locking up the Scout Hut.

Jean and Anne have baked scones, sausage rolls and cakes etc. for a long time and their support in this way will be greatly missed. A big THANK YOU goes to all three for their continued support over the years.

We must not forget the ladies in the kitchen who have been providing us with hot cups of coffee, tea etc.

We have been lucky to have people from the congregation come forward to help with the unlocking and setting up the tables and chairs. Also members have been busy baking for this event to which I am so pleased as I could not have continued on my own.

Long may these Coffee Morning continue and provide fellowship with each other.

Sandra Baker

Coffee Morning Team Co-Ordinator

Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Fabric Committee consists of both PCC members and members of the congregation. It follows the Terms of Reference set out by the PCC and provides update reports at the bimonthly PCC meetings. No decisions are taken without PCC approval.

The fabric committee undertakes regular checks of the building both internally and externally so that any issues can be reported to the PCC as soon as possible.

Chancel Floor

Our architect has written a specification and drawn up plans for a replacement floor together with details for a new drainage system, which incorporates new drainage pipes and soakaways that should help prevent further problems. Together with a faculty application these have all be sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee who give us the necessary permission to proceed with the work.

Once approval has been given we will be able to go to tender and then look at ways of raising the necessary funds.

Nave Floor

The nave floor is suffering from wet rot and although not in need of urgent repair the supporting beams will need replacing in 3 – 5 years' time. There is some remedial work required in the short term which will be undertaken by the fabric committee.

Masonry Stone Northwest Door

The stone has now been removed. Replacement will be dependent on cost and whether this is covered by our insurance.

General Maintenance

Smart Water has been applied to the Church roof lead, and blocked airbricks to the South Store have been exposed.

We are currently trialling new LED bulbs in some of the Church light fittings to try and improve lighting and reduce our carbon footprint as well as reducing the risk of climbing ladders with the use of longer lasting bulbs.

Helen Gregson

Fabric Committee Lead

Churchwarden

This has been a better year for me despite a bout of covid which knocked me for six, thank goodness I had had all my jabs!!

I am very grateful for all the Fabric Committee have done especially setting up a rota for different people to check different things and then report back. We now have this hole in the recess and are waiting to see when we can go ahead to fix it. There will be more information in the Fabric Committee Report.

My thanks go to everyone on the various rotas who work so effectively behind the scenes to keep the church bright, clean and tidy; take on duties in the services and welcome into the church all those who come through its doors.

The Terrier, Inventory and Logbook will be presented at the PCC meeting due to be held on Monday March 20th.

Many blessings to you all.

Sandra Baker

Churchwarden

Deanery Synod

There have been 3 Deanery Synod meetings since the last APCM. After each meeting a report is given to PCC members. The meetings are informative and give an overview of parishes within the Malling Deanery as well as issues associated with the Deanery and Diocese. There was an additional meeting during the year when all the Deanery Synod representatives from Malling Deanery had the opportunity to meet with the new Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev Jonathan Gibbs, who spoke of his mission entitled 'Change, Serve and Growth'

Meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2022 at Jabez Barn, Offham

Revd Wil North chaired the meeting and Revd David Green gave an introduction to Offham parish. Revd Chris Winter gave a talk entitled 'Welcome to my World.' He is the Curate at Burham and Wouldham and a self-supporting minister. He explained his fulfilling working life as an IT consultant working with teams in London and India and how he manages that role alongside being a curate. He will eventually give up his IT role and go into full time ministry. Revd David Green gave a presentation about his recent Sabbatical which was looking at church and attendance over the last two years of the pandemic. His research covered the whole of the UK finding out how clergy provided church during the pandemic and the future of online worship.

Pastoral Reorganisation – Wil North confirmed that there is a newly formed parish of Barming with Teston.

Meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at St Peter and St Paul Church, Teston

Dawn Page welcomed everyone to Teston and spoke about Teston's history in the involvement and abolition of the slave trade. The Venerable Sharon Copestake – Archdeacon of Tonbridge had been invited to talk on 'What does an Archdeacon do and how does she fit into the structure?' She outlined how her role is both pastoral and legal. She is part of the Bishop's leadership team working with Area Deans and has over 100 churches and over 110 clergy in her Archdeaconry.

Pastoral Reorganisation – Kent Downs and Malling Team now officially exist and they are advertising for a Team Rector.

Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 at St Margaret's Church, Addington

Brenda Humphrey outlined the history of Addington village and the church. There has been a place of worship on the church site from before the first Crusade. Relatively recently a church extension programme led to the creating of a church room with toilet and refreshment facilities. Revd Jane Winter was introduced and she gave an overview of her role in Lay Training. She works for the diocese but is currently based at St Benedict's. Lay training programmes are all created by Rochester Diocese and all modules are delivered in-house.

Deanery Notice – Area Dean Revd Wil North will shortly be on sabbatical with his study focusing on Supervision of Curates and Ordinands in Rochester Diocese. Revd David Green as Assistant Area Dean will be covering his absence.

Marian Simpson

Deanery Synod Representative

Financial Statement and Accounts

Reserve Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to hold reserves of £12,500 of unrestricted money together with £600 ringfenced money for Children's work contributions. These are equivalent to 6 months of running expenses. There will also be £10,000 restricted money held in reserve for repairs and future works.

Bank

National Westminster Bank, 197 Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9LF.

Financial Summary of the year 2022 January – December.

2022 has been an interesting year for the finances at Holy Trinity with our overall income up by £5,460 which includes two Grants from Rochester totalling £2,257, but our expenditure has also increased by £8,547 mainly due to Surveyor fees relating to the collapsed floor by the altar and higher gas and electricity costs.

We exited 2022 with a deficit of £1,646 and we know that there are challenging times ahead based on the requirement to repair the collapsed floor.

Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)

The total amount of donations received, without conditions, from our trustees (the PCC) for 2022 was £6,692.

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
2021	COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS				
2,302.20	Collections at Services	5,087.03	-	5,087.03	
2,478.50	Charitable Giving Sunday Collections/Donations	-	2,182.50	2,182.50	
12,689.00	Gift Aid Donations	10,683.00	-	10,683.00	
4,139.25	Income tax recovered	4,439.48	-	4,439.48	
431.50	Non Tax Efficient Planned Giving, Gift Days & Sundry Donations	-	-	-	22,392.01
	FEES FOR WEDDINGS/FUNERALS				
379.00	DBF Fees	-	768.00	768.00	
315.00	PCC Fees	799.60	-	799.60	1,567.60
	EVENTS AND FUND RAISING				
1,036.10	Fundraising events (Coffee Mornings + Fete)	2,991.33	-	2,991.33	2,991.33
	YOUTH AND CHILDRENS WORK				
2,601.86	Income from other Parishes and donations	-	3,278.83	3,278.83	3,278.83
	GRANTS AND LEGACIES				
-	Rochester Energy Support Grant	1,657.00	-	1,657.00	
-	Rochester Warm Space Grant	600.00	-	600.00	2,257.00
	OTHER INCOME				
500.00	Refund from Scottish Power	-	-	-	
207.59	Refund from Scottish Power	-	-	-	0.00
27,080.00					Current Account TOTAL RECEIPTS
					32,486.77
	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS				
0.36	Business Reserve Account	8.00	-	8.00	
20.00	Church Repair Fund	66.05	-	66.05	74.05
27,100.36					TOTAL RECEIPTS
					32,560.82

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2022

2021	PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
1,191.28	UTILITIES	2,519.86	-	2,519.86	2,519.86
	RUNNING EXPENSES (INSURANCE, UPKEEP OF SERVICES)				
1,771.46	Insurance	1,842.96	-	1,842.96	
1,614.64	Boiler, Piano Tuner, Wafers, Envelopes, CCLI etc.	2,340.39	-	2,340.39	4,183.35
	MAJOR WORKS/REPAIRS				
-	Major Repairs	5,160.24	-	5,160.24	5,160.24
	OTHER PARISH COSTS				
10.00	Deanery Synod annual donation	-	10.00	10.00	
-	Sequestration Fees to Benefice Account	-	739.60	739.60	
-	Jubilee Event	136.35	-	136.35	885.95
	COST OF FUNDRAISING				
-	Fete & Hall hire	283.55	-	283.55	283.55
	ROCHESTER DIOCESE/COXHEATH BENEFICE				
1,500.00	United Benefice account	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	
547.00	Rochester Diocese DBF Fees	-	-	-	
-	Clergy Funeral Expenses	-	-	-	
60.00	Readers in the Parish Fee	30.00	-	30.00	
12,925.00	Diocesan Pledge/Offer	-	13,266.00	13,266.00	14,796.00
	YOUTH & CHILDRENS WORK				
3,662.33	Salary, Materials, Hall Hire, Safeguarding	-	4,196.24	4,196.24	4,196.24
	MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING				
2,378.50	Nominated Giving Sundays, Christmas etc.	-	2,182.50	2,182.50	2,182.50
25,660.21					TOTAL PAYMENTS
					34,207.69

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2022

SUMMARY

Receipts 2022	32,560.82
Payments 2022	34,207.69
Deficit of Payments over Receipts for 2022	-1,646.87
Surplus balance for 2021 b/f	38,293.18
Surplus balance for 2022	<u>36,646.31</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
Current Bank Account	18,100.67	342.68	659.66	19,103.01
Church Repair Fund	13,854.28			13,854.28
Business Reserve Account	3,689.02			3,689.02
				<u>36,646.31</u>

Independent Financial Examiner

Clare O'Farrell, Hylands, 91 Heath Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4EH

The financial statement and accounts were approved at the PCC meeting held on 20th March 2023.

Church: Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath

Address: Heath Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4PN

Correspondence Address: The Rectory, 144 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent.