

**The Parish Church of All Saint's  
Theydon Garnon  
Epping**



**ANNUAL REPORT for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

***Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 27 April 2023***

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS THEYDON GARNON**



Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Bank:  
Barclays Bank  
High Street  
Epping

Independent Examiner:  
Michael J Coggins, FCA  
7 Green Trees  
Epping  
CM16 4QT

**Objectives and activities**

Theydon Garnon PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the vicar, the Rev. John Fry, in the ecclesiastical parish, in the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Churchyard of All Saints', Theydon Garnon, Epping, Essex.

**Structure, governance and management**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

During the year 2022 the following served as members of the PCC following the elections at the APCM:

Incumbent	Revd. John Fry	Vicar and Chair
Associate Priest	Revd. Carol Newnham	
Church Wardens	Mrs Hilary Mosley	Health & Safety Officer
	Mr John Chaplin	Parish Safeguarding Officer, Tree Officer and Churchyard Chair
Representatives in the Deanery Synod	Mrs Alison Mortimer	Children's Church
	Mrs Ann Clay	Deputy Church Warden, Verger and PCC Vice Chair
Elected Members	Mrs Joan Smith	
	Mr Richard Clay	Fabric Chair
	Mr Michael Chapman	
	Mrs Pamela Mulholland	Secretary
	Mrs Kate Faccini	Electoral Roll Officer
	Mr John Howard	Treasurer
	Mrs Wendy Webb	
	Mr Keith Mosley	
	Mrs Heather Lawrence	Deputy Church Warden.

David Lockett is also a Deputy Churchwarden but is not on the PCC.

## Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

### Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Membership currently consists of Churchwardens, Secretary, Vicar, Treasurer, Churchyard Chair, Fabric Chair and the Verger.

### Ad Hoc Committees

These are formed from time to time for specific purposes, details of which are included in the PCC report. During 2022 a Fund Raising Committee was established for the "Raise the Roof" Project to repair the Church Roof.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

At the revision of the Electoral Roll in March 2023, 1 name has been removed and 6 names have been added. There are now 56 names on the Roll, of whom 22 (39%) are resident in the parish and 34 (61%) live outside the parish.

We remain entitled to elect 2 representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Katherine Faccini  
Electoral Roll Officer

### PCC REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Parochial Church Council, along with the Incumbent, has the responsibility for promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of Theydon Garnon, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Parochial Church Council also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings and the Gatehouse.

#### Parochial Church Council Meetings

In 2022 we returned to meeting in person in the Gatehouse.

The PCC met five times during the year with attendance remaining very good. The main focus of the discussions were the matters included in this Annual Report and in particular the decisions on how to restore the roof, fund that project and obtain the necessary approvals. We also discussed matters relating to the registration of land and received reports from the treasurer on the financial position. We considered matters relating to our patterns of service and worship at Theydon Garnon and also how we might learn more about mission in other places. We discussed our events calendar which as well as raising vital funds for the running of the church are always an opportunity for mission and the involvement of the wider community. We discussed our responsibilities and training for Safeguarding, security and Health and Safety. My thanks to everyone on the PCC for the role that they undertake on the Committee to ensure the smooth running of the church and to Rev John for his sage chairmanship.

We are always sad to lose beloved members of our congregation, and give thanks for the life of Daphne Elliott who had served on the PCC for many years and contributed in so many ways to the life of the church.

The parish continues to work towards the shared Benefice Vision of the Theydon Parishes which is:

*To be loving, caring and welcoming congregations who nurture each other to grow in faith together, through quality worship, Bible teaching and prayer, sharing the love of God in Christ with others by example and our activities in the community and wider world.*

There are four subcommittees that report to the PCC as follows:

Events Committee: Organises social and fund-raising events to support the Church, chaired by Kay Oakes-Ash.

Festival Committee: Organises the annual fundraising event, chaired by Heather Lawrence.

Churchyard: Has oversight of matters relating to the Churchyard, chaired by John Chaplin.

Fabric: chaired by Richard Clay which organises routine repairs and other maintenance to the historic church building.

Fund Raising Committee: for the "Raise the roof" campaign for the major project of restoring the church roof.

We give thanks to all those that continued to support Theydon Garnon in many different ways during 2022.

Pamela Mulholland,  
PCC Secretary



## TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Financial Statements for all accounts follow.

I am able to report that the finances, although still in a relatively strong position going forward, have unfortunately shown a deterioration in 2022 when compared to last year.

Planned giving in 2022 decreased by 16% on 2021 and is now 6% lower than the last pre-Covid year in 2019.

The Parish Share contribution for 2022 increased by 3% on 2021 and is now 10% higher than the contribution for 2019.

Fortunately this year we were able to hold a May Fayre and also an event celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with both functions generating valuable income. During the second half of the year the Church launched a Raise The Roof appeal to generate funds for major work on the church roof.

Our small but loyal congregation have continued to support the church, ensuring that money keeps coming into our accounts. We are very fortunate that a large proportion of our usual income is received by standing orders and direct bank transfers which has ensured a steady flow of cash during another challenging year.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who has set up new standing orders, made bank transfers or contributed to the church funds in any way.

The **General funds** have decreased by £7541. A Gift Aid scheme claim amounting to £5519 was made and subsequently received in 2022. Similarly, fees due to the Diocese for services in 2022 of £1533 have now been paid in 2023. There have been no exceptional items of expenditure. The Parish Share to the Diocese was paid in full (£30724). Since 2017, the United Benefice has employed a Benefice Administrator and this year our share of the funding (25%) was £2065.

The **Churchyard account** has decreased by £1977. The largest item of regular expenditure is the Gatehouse insurance. There was one exceptional cost being £1800 to repaint the exterior woodwork of the Gatehouse. Income is mainly derived from fees and an annual donation from Theydon Garnon Parish Council, for which we are very grateful.

The **Fabric account** has decreased by £2090. The account continues to benefit from generous donations arising from church service fees paid out, but generously donated back to the church. During the second half of the year the Church launched a Raise The Roof appeal to generate funds towards a major refurbishment of the church roof. As a precursor to this it was necessary to engage the services of a firm of architects and also finance a bat survey which in total resulted in an expense of £13002. However, this has been substantially offset by specific donations currently amounting to £10285. This project is ongoing.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

#### Cash Funds

The aggregate total across all accounts was £37692 broken down as follows:

##### ***Bank Current Accounts (Barclays Community).***

A total of £8048 broken down as follows:

A total of £932 representing designated but unrestricted funds within the Churchyard Account.

A total of £5125 representing designated but unrestricted funds within the Fabric Account

The balance of £1991 representing unrestricted funds of £1318 within the General Account and the sum of £673 designated within that same account as 'Church Flowers Fund'

**Bank Deposit Accounts (Barclays Business Premium).**

A total of £29644 representing designated Churchyard funds of £2326, designated Fabric funds of £16489 and designated but unrestricted General funds of £10829.

**Cash**

The sum of £200 was carried forward in the Cash Book.

The above totals were calculated taking account of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 section 5.12, and after taking into consideration uncleared cheques and transfers.

Assets of the PCC are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and include: Church and Gatehouse Furnishings, items of plate for Church Services, and Mowers and other equipment for use within the Churchyard. Full details are held within the Church Property Register (the 'Terrier and Inventory').

**NOTES to accompany Receipts and Payments Accounts**

As is now established routine the financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis and in line with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. Although there is no statutory format for such accounts, the examples shown in the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP) have been adopted.

- The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 state that Receipts and Payments where the PCC acts only as an 'agent' should not be included in PCC revenue and this has again been followed. There were no Items covered by this during 2022.
- Diocesan Fees collected by the parish and forwarded to Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance, a total of £3054 from weddings, funerals, burials and memorials. Fee income shown in the financial statements was adjusted accordingly.
- Transactions through the cash book covering 'casual' payments to organists and payments of 3<sup>rd</sup> party fees to choir, bell-ringers etc, amounted to a total of £3195. Of this total, £1295 as shown in the financial statements, represents payments to Organists associated with our own services. The remaining £1900 is 3<sup>rd</sup> party payments associated with weddings and funerals and Fee income shown in the financial statements was adjusted accordingly, although the 3<sup>rd</sup> party fees may not necessarily have been received in 2022.
- Receipts totalling £5259 from the other churches in the Benefice for paying their share of the Benefice Administrator costs.

The Financial Statements were approved by the PCC at the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Rev. John Fry, PCC Chairman

John Howard, PCC Treasurer

**GENERAL (Unrestricted) Receipts & Payments Account**

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Voluntary Receipts				
Regular Giving				
Planned Giving	18,055		21,437	
Collections	785		677	
Gift Aid Tax recovered	<u>5,519</u>	24,359	<u>0</u>	22,114
Other Voluntary Receipts				
Donations - general	0		374	
Donations - specific	0		0	
Bequests	0		0	
Wall Safe	4		0	
VAT refund	0		0	
Grants Received	0	4	4,190	4,564
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Coffee Money	482		127	
Book Sales	3		5	
Gatehouse Hire	2,366		1,041	
Marquee Hire	0		0	
May Fare	1,584		0	
Hog Roast (Net Inc.)	742		0	
Church Flowers	0		0	
Plant Sale	0		505	
Harvest Supper	390		227	
Advent Stall	0		285	
Sundry Sales	<u>0</u>	5,567	<u>0</u>	2,190
Receipts from Church Activities				
Fees	2,535		7,836	
Memorial Book	<u>0</u>	2,535	<u>0</u>	7,836
Receipts from Investments				
Interest/Dividends	<u>26</u>	26	<u>14</u>	14
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>32,491</u></b>		<b><u>36,718</u></b>



**GENERAL (Unrestricted) Receipts & Payments  
Account contd.**

Payments	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Payments re regular giving and Voluntary Receipts				
Collections	0		0	
Donations (Manna)	78		0	
Transfers to Churchyard a/c	0		100	
Transfers to Fabric a/c	<u>0</u>	78	<u>0</u>	100
Payments re Activities for generating funds				
May Fair	35		0	
Harvest Supper	62		0	
Sundry Other	<u>0</u>	97	<u>0</u>	0
Church Activities				
Parish Share	30,724		29,892	
Clergy expenses	750		610	
Church Music costs	1,295		490	
Sacristry Supplies	316		181	
Oil, Electricity, Water	1,798		2,013	
Church Insurance	2,114		2,053	
Organ repairs	169		161	
Printing & Copying	91		256	
Internet costs	0		68	
Subscriptions	120		104	
Cleaning and Maintenance	415		697	
Memorial Book	0		0	
Flowers	0		48	
Coffee expenses	<u>0</u>	37,792	<u>0</u>	36,573
United Benefice payments				
UB Administrator	1805		1,720	
Payroll services/Licences	<u>260</u>	2,065	<u>335</u>	2,055
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>40,032</u></b>		<b><u>38,728</u></b>
Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments		<b>-7,541</b>		<b>-2,010</b>
Bank Balance as at 1st January		20,361		22,371
Bank Balance as at 31st December		12,820		20,361
		<b>-7,541</b>		<b>-2,010</b>

**CHURCHYARD Receipts & Payments Account -  
Designated and Unrestricted**

Receipts	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Donations - specific	0		0	
Donations - other	100		0	
Parish Council Grant	250		250	
War Graves Commission	12		12	
Fees	705		302	
Interest/dividends	<u>2</u>	1,069	<u>0</u>	564
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>1,069</u></b>		<b><u>564</u></b>

Payments	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Gatehouse Insurance	734		698	
Gatehouse maintenance	1,800		0	
Tree Surgery	0		0	
Equipment (new/repairs)	128		1,150	
Petrol & sundries	<u>384</u>	3,046	<u>172</u>	2,020
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>3,046</u></b>		<b><u>2,020</u></b>

Excess/(Deficit) of receipts  
over payments

	<b>-1,977</b>	<b>-1,456</b>
Bank Balance as at 1st January	5,235	6,691
Bank Balance as at 31st December	3,258	5,235
	<b>-1,977</b>	<b>-1,456</b>

**CHURCH FABRIC Receipts & Payments Account - Designated and Unrestricted**

Receipts	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts				
Regular Giving				
Planned Giving	<u>100</u>	100	<u>100</u>	100
Other Voluntary Receipts				
Bequests	0		0	
Donations - General	320		0	
Donation of fees	645		869	
Donations - Ringers	126		15	
Donations - Roof Fund	10,285		0	
LPOW VAT refund	<u>0</u>	11,376	<u>0</u>	884
Receipts from Investments				
Interest/Dividends	<u>9</u>	9	<u>1</u>	1
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u><b>11,485</b></u>		<u><b>985</b></u>

Payments	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance (General)	0		0	
Maintenance (Roofing)	13,575		0	
Maintenance (New Boiler etc)	0		0	
Organ repairs	0		0	
Flag & flagpole	0		0	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u><b>13,575</b></u>		<u><b>0</b></u>

Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments		<b>-2,090</b>		<b>985</b>
Bank Balance as at 1st January		23,704		22,719
Bank Balance as at 31st December		21,614		23,704
		<b>-2,090</b>		<b>985</b>

## Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of All Saint's Church, Theydon Garnon

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on the accompanying 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. .

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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:

(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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Michael J Coggins, FCA

7 Green Trees  
Epping  
CM16 4QT

19<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod met in March on zoom to reflect on emerging from the pandemic with breakout group discussions. In September the meeting focused on the changes in how the parish share would be allocated for 2023 which gave a reduction for our deanery but increased elsewhere.

In November Bishop Guli attended the meeting and told us about her background in being brought up as a Christian in Iran and the need to leave to come to the UK. She also talked about her hopes for the future in the diocese.

Ann Clay

Deanery Synod Representative

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## SAFEGUARDING ISSUES REPORT

We have had no Safeguarding issues in the Parish during the year 2022.

Our Church has continued to adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding policy and Safeguarding is a regular agenda item at our meetings of the PCC. We endeavour to make sure that our environment is seen as a safe place for Children and Vulnerable Adults to inhabit, and to feel confident that should they, or anybody else, have any concerns or issues, they would be listened to, and the matter reported properly.

The emphasis on our awareness of Safeguarding issues has continued and members of our PCC are now required to complete three training courses to be eligible to sit as a member. Whilst this has not been fully achieved, the training is ongoing, and we have supplemented the online Diocesan training courses by delivering the same training in house for those who are not confident working on computers or who have no access.

All persons in positions requiring DBS checking have current certificates.

John Chaplin  
Parish Safeguarding Officer.

## FABRIC REPORT

Sophie Douglas, the architect, visited the church in April to assess the roof and recommended that the nave and north aisle needed retiling. She then prepared the documents required for a faculty application and tender. A bat inspection was required and completed during the summer. The PCC agreed to apply for a faculty to re-roof the nave and north aisle roofs and as of March 2023 that faculty has now been granted.

Proposals were sent to 5 builders and 4 quotes were received. The lowest tender was from Bakers of Danbury and the PCC agreed to appoint them to do the work subject to a revision of the quote, when sufficient funds are available to start the work. The requirements of the bat survey means that the work needs to be done in March/April or September /October.

Fundraising for the roof appeal was launched at the Patronal Festival and applications to trusts for support can begin now we have the faculty. There will be fund raising events throughout the year and a lot of support will be needed to achieve sufficient funds

The work on the A list from the quinquennial report of 2021 has all been completed. This included external painting of the Gatehouse and repair of the south-facing bargeboards and rear fire door.

The other item on the A list completed was cleaning down of the lead valley gutter and painting the edges with bituminous paint.

Routine items of work done this year was cleaning out the gutters on the church, tuning the organ, servicing the boiler and servicing the fire extinguishers.

There has also been a new application of smart water marking all our metalwork on and in our church which is registered with the insurers.

Richard Clay,

Fabric Chairman

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## NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

### THE VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Each year in the pattern of readings that we follow Sunday, by Sunday, we encounter extracts from John's Gospel. In this more thematic rather than chronological account of Jesus' life the reader is taken on a journey beginning with the famous prologue ("In the beginning was the Word..." - which is read at every First Communion of Christmas in the Benefice Christmas) and concluding with the resurrection accounts. At the end of Chapter 20, there is a recognition that there is not enough space for John to include all that Jesus did, but those things which are written are chosen to that the reader may "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through faith you may have life in his name". In the last twelve months as our pattern of services and other activities have resumed in full and without restrictions that life has become more visible once again. There is much to be thankful for, highlights in the Benefice have included seeing all our church buildings filling up to celebrate Christmas in a variety of services, welcoming children back into St Mary's Theydon Bois to launch the Arts Society Church Trails (a project since expanded to include the other churches of the Benefice), hosting a Deanery Confirmation service, and seeing familiar faces from the farming community at our Harvest service and Pet service at St Mary's Stapleford Tawney.

Every year, I write of my thankfulness to the team of people who do so much to resource our worship, and the organizational tasks that take place behind the scenes. The church is described as the body of Christ, and as I see all that takes place, I am amazed by the wisdom, skill, time and talents contributed by so many. My sincere thanks to you all. Our team of Churchwardens carry a particular set of responsibilities and the team made up of Mary Gill, Margaret Dennis, Jo Shephard, John Chaplin, Liz Hannibal and Hilary Mosely have continued to exercise their leadership in a wise and Godly way. It is fair to say, it would have been a far harder task to minister without their counsel and friendship. Liz Hannibal has decided that for the second time, it is the right moment to pass the baton onto someone else. Liz volunteered to return as Warden two years ago, and I am grateful to her for her willingness to use her time in this way. Rev Carol Newnham has continued to serve alongside me, and it has been good to serve alongside and pray with her this year. Sarah Bowen continues as our Benefice Administrator to keep us in good order, and in particular she has been a welcoming first point of contact for those seeking ministry from the parishes in times of joy and sorrow. The Benefice continues to be committed to doing all we can to be a safe space for all, and with the work of Andrea Crombie and John Chaplin as Parish Safeguarding Officers we have continued to follow the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults, including following safer recruitment practices. All members of the parochial church councils who wished to continue serving beyond their current term of office have been asked to complete basic and foundation Safeguarding training (online or in person) and complete a Domestic Violence Awareness training module. We continue to see a significant section of the Sunday congregation being made up of children and young people at St Mary's Theydon Bois and All Saints Theydon Garnon where Sarah Twitchett (our allocated worker from Red Balloon Foundation has been leading the work) and Alison Mortimer continue respectively to lead the work. Thanks are also due to the team of volunteers who have been recruited following Safer Recruitment processes and also to Hugh and Diana Meteyard who give of their time to resource the Junior section of the choir in St Mary's TB.

When we reflect on the year that is past, it is easy to miss the signs of the Kingdom among us. Recently in our Sunday worship in the pattern of readings we encountered the story of Nicodemus, who was a religious teacher who

sought out Jesus at night time. He took a chance, leaving behind the safety of the world he knew to seek an encounter with Jesus. Being vulnerable, and at risk did not prevent him receiving a message which has echoed down the years that, life in all its fullness – eternal life which is the life of the Kingdom of God is found through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who gave his life for the sake of the world and rose again to a new quality of life which He invites the world to join him in. This message has been passed down to us through generations of followers before us, some of whom were far more at risk than the Christian community of the Theydon Parishes is. They had no place to worship or call their own, and risked their very lives in dedication to the faith, as do many living in other nations in the contemporary world. This doesn't mean that we should not recognize the challenges we face in the Theydon Parishes, including but not limited to the need for a new roof at All Saints Theydon Garnon and there being less people joining in Sunday worship (although the midweek services have seen some growth). Rather, having seen them, approach them being thankful for all that has been in Jesus Christ, and saying yes to facing with Jesus that which is to be in order that the Christian faith may continue to be lived and proclaimed in these places.

Rev John Fry

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

2020, 2021 were very quiet years &, to some extent, so was 2022. Trying to get "back to normal" we participated in quite a few special Church services, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Internment of Ashes, but not as many as pre-Covid.

Charlie and myself were unable to be sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation in April at St. John's in Epping, so in June we were sworn in at St. Mary's Church in Sheering, Archdeacon Vanessa's local church.

There have been a couple of occasions when members of the congregation have been taken ill, both on "my watch," & I should like to personally thank Phil Jackson, Pam Mulholland, Belinda Lockett and Sarah Featherstone for their quick reactions in securing the medical help we needed.

Here at All Saints we have a caring Church Family plus a wonderful Ancient building steeped in tradition, one of which is music. We have a small choir but could do with 1 or 2 new members. We're very friendly, don't bite and if you are really good at singing that would be a good bonus. All you really need is enthusiasm. Maybe this is something to think about?

The General Synod decided that not only Clergy, Churchwardens & Parish Safeguarding Officers had to renew their 3 yearly training, including all Parochial Church Council members. In late summer Charlie & I renewed our training with some extra modules too, and now hopefully we've completed everything. As this covers the whole Diocese some of the training is on-going into 2023.

Our thanks also to Pam Mulholland for organising our Advent stalls and to Olive Freshwater for helping her. They were extremely well attended. Unfortunately, as we were all busy, we decided to close the Gatehouse curtains which resulted in persons unknown deciding to see what was in there. Luckily nothing was taken and our Thanks to Richard Clay for mending the door so swiftly.

Charlie and I would like to Thank You all for your support in our offices as Churchwardens.

Hilary Mosley & John (Charlie) Chaplin.

Church Wardens.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

We are very lucky at Theydon Garnon that all person's doing repairs etc., have got common sense, so No "big dramas" that thankfully couldn't be fixed.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February during Storm Eunice, a small Oak sapling, in the top right hand of the churchyard next to the “Seagroats” family grave, blew over. There was no damage but part of it fell over Mrs. Collins’ drive but was quickly cut up & removed.

In March, we had our annual Fire Extinguisher Service, needing a replacement to the right hand of the main church door, plus a stand for the one near the Robing room steps as the hanging bracket on the wall was loose. Being a Grade I listed building the engineer would have been personally liable if anything went wrong if he tried to drill new holes.

April saw the Diocesan Architect surveying the roof to see what exactly needed replacing & the start of our “Raise the Roof” campaign. Our only drama was on the Carol service evening when melting snow overflowing from the guttering leaked into the organ chamber flooding the floor. Thanks to Charlie and Richard’s quick thinking in acquiring many cloths and buckets, neither the electrics nor the organ were harmed! This will be resolved when the roof is renewed. We shall hear more in the Fabric Report from Richard.

Hilary Mosley,

Health and Safety Officer

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### **CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP**

Throughout the year the churchyard working group has continued to maintain all areas of the churchyard to a good standard. There have been three interments of ashes but no burials during the year 2022.

The wildflower area was again set aside and there was a better show of flowers due to a more showery Spring. The wildflower area was cut back in late summer and the seeds left to propagate on the ground as usual.

Unfortunately, a family well connected to the church, rather over zealously pruned the shrubs and bushes to the North side of the entrance gates leaving the area looking bare and savaged. It was decided that the best option was to remove what had been decimated and replant with new shrubs and bushes. We are indebted to Bob Clay for taking on much of the work and funding the supply of the new plants. I am very appreciative of my new honorary church yard helper for all his contribution.

This years tree inspection has identified another large horse chestnut tree which is completely dead. This is on the West boundary of the church yard and borders the horse field. It is the last of a set of four trees, the others also having died and were felled last year. The work to fell this tree will be undertaken over the coming months on the grounds of safety for both visitors and animals in the adjoining field. A small self-seeded tree in the North West corner of the church yard came down partially across the drive to Garnish Hall in the early months of the year. No damage was caused and a friendly local neighbour volunteered to cut it up in exchange for the log and leaving the site clear. A win win for all concerned. The tree was not part of our numbered inspected trees.

The new hedge on the South boundary continues to establish itself and any gaps will be filled with additional replacement plants. Fortunately the unsightly piles of earth and spoil from the work on the Old Rectory are slowly diminishing and we are anticipating that the fencing will also be replaced at some stage. This should result in a much better outlook in the future.

The only costs incurred during 2022 relate to the Gatehouse Insurance, petrol and maintenance costs for machinery. £50 was added to our account from the sale of a number of old and unused mowers which were cluttering the container.

Any new volunteers should contact me on (tel.01992 813942) and will be warmly welcomed. My thanks are extended to those who help me throughout the year with the maintenance of our churchyard which is such a beautiful and tranquil place.

John Chaplin,

Leader Churchyard Working Group

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## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Since September we have been meeting in our normal way on the second and third Sunday of the month. Membership has dropped slightly due to the fact that some of the children are older now and have other commitments. Despite this, the older children are always ready to help out if needed and do attend from time to time.

We had the usual busy and fun time leading up to Christmas. We were able to decorate a tree for the St John's Christmas Tree Festival which kept us busy and provided a lot of creative fun! We also made Christingles and took part in our Christingle service. After the service we ran a cake stall in support of the Children's Society. This was well received by all and a happy occasion.

We had a Christmas party for the children and adults which was enjoyed by all. On Mothering Sunday we held another cake sale which raised more money for the Children's Society. The children also enjoyed making the Easter Garden using things we found in the churchyard.

I use the Roots magazine to help plan the sessions and these sessions include a lot of discussion, drama, creativity and games. We especially enjoy being able to go outside and enjoy the beautiful churchyard. Hopefully these cater for the wide age range of children we have. We usually come into the church for the blessing if we have been successful in finishing our activities.

Alison Mortimer,

Children's Church

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## TREE REPORT

This report has been prepared as an update on tree work carried out during the year 2022. Our last professional tree inspection report was conducted in December 1996 by Tim Moya and an update report has been prepared each year since that date. The numbering of the trees remains constant.

T7, T8, T9 & T10. The fire damage to these trees, following the accidental destruction of the flower shed, is still the subject of regular inspections. These trees have failed to produce the expected new growth and further pruning work is ongoing.

G3. The traditional assorted hedge plants, which replaced the screen of conifers, are now establishing themselves in their new location. The tops have been removed to promote growth at a lower level and we anticipate the hedge developing well over this year.

T14. This tree is the last of a set of horse chestnuts trees on the west boundary and is completely dead. It will potentially fall into the horse field behind the church yard if not felled. T15, T16 and T17 have already been removed and the work to remove T14 will be undertaken over the next months.

A small unrecorded tree in the North West corner of the church yard fell during high winds in the early part of the year. This was cut up and removed by a local resident who I have thanked for his involvement.

During the winter months continued regular maintenance on the trees has taken place, dead wooding and removing hung up dead growth. A standard canopy height of 2.5 meters is maintained throughout the churchyard and light shaping of the crowns is undertaken where necessary. Significant base growth is also removed to limit multi stemming. Visual inspections have not detected any significant changes which would warrant any other remedial action.

John Chaplin, Leader of Churchyard Working Group

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## **CHOIR AND ORGAN REPORT**

The choir sings regularly at services except the family service on the first Sunday of the month. We have a practice before Evensong, when this was held, on 3rd Sundays with the help of Jeremy Oakes-Ash.

The choir was joined by some additional singers for our carol service and for some of the weddings during the year. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the choir to sing regularly at services or to join us just for the Carol service or weddings.

We are grateful for the help of Jeremy Oakes-Ash who plays for most of our services with the support of Jean Kibblewhite who kindly fills in when Jeremy is away or in most months on the 2nd Sunday.

The organ was tuned as usual in the Spring with no major issues

Ann Clay

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## **GATEHOUSE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Gatehouse is often used internally by Children's Church, for after service refreshments, for meetings of the PCC and of the Events Committee. It was used externally by the Art Group on a Friday morning and is often hired for private use following a funeral or private function. The Brownies use the gatehouse on a Monday evening for regular meetings and sometimes by their leaders for a training day on a Saturday or a Brownies sleepover during a weekend. A Pilates group has a regular booking for classes which are run at the church (either in the Gatehouse or Church yard in summer) on a Tuesday morning for an hour.

The Events Committee held a May Fayre on Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 with various stalls and Jean sold many plants, Ann bric a brac, Kay books and refreshments which were organised by Pam were served by the team in the marquee and visitors could sit and enjoy the churchyard atmosphere. It was a lovely afternoon for people to visit the church and helped to raise money for church funds. A quiz night was not held in 2022 due to Covid restrictions but we will be holding one in February 2023.

The Events Committee also organised an evening for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and a two course meal was provided in the Gatehouse. This included a Hog Roast with all the trimmings and desserts made by Pam and her volunteers. Richard and Charlie finished the evening by a small firework display which was enjoyed by all.

The Events Committee organised a Harvest Supper in October 2022 when a two course cold supper was provided. Jeremy provided music and song sheets for a sing-along. In order to encourage younger families to come, it was held at an earlier time and a harvest drawing competition was included which made a very enjoyable evening for both younger children and parents who attended.

The Carol Service held in December 2022 was well attended and refreshments of mulled wine (organised by Michael) and mince pies were served afterwards in the gatehouse which is enjoyed by all to celebrate Christmas.

Kay Oakes-Ash,

Gatehouse and Events Committee

## BELL RINGER'S REPORT

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We have regular practices on Wednesday evenings with the support of some members from other local towers. We have continued to ring before some morning services and were asked to ring at most of the 2022 weddings (with the help of ringers from other towers). The bells were rung for the platinum jubilee and tolled at the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

If you would like to give ringing a try please come along on a practice night at 7.30 or contact Richard or Ann Clay for more information.

Ann Clay

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## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures varied according to the Service, being approximately as shown below:-

8:00 am	Holy Communion	(1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)	6-8
9:15 am	Family Service	(1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)	30-40 (45 on parade Sundays)
9:15 am	Parish Communion	(2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> + 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)	30-35
6:00 pm	Sung Evensong	(3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)	10-12
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Weekly on Tuesdays	5-8
Children's Church		(2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays)	6-11

## SERVICE TIMES

The pattern of services is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
	9.15 am	Family Service
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month	9.15 am	Parish Communion (and Children's Church)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month	9.15 am	Parish Communion (and Children's Church)
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month	9.15 am	Parish Communion
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month	9:15 am	Parish Communion, joint with the benefice
Every Tuesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion

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## FROM THE REGISTERS 2021

We welcomed into the Church through Baptism:

6th February	Isabella Rose East
17th July	Isaac Jadon Lowe
13th November	Chloe Daisy Johnson

We celebrated the Confirmation of:

6th February	Joan Mary Smith Alexia Joannou
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We celebrated the marriages during 2022 at Theydon Garnon of:

24 <sup>th</sup> March	Charlotte Watts and William Degen
14th May	Chloe Galloway and Nicholas Scantlebury
1st June	Julian Richardson and Katherine Smith
25th June	Jordan Walker and Alex Barnard
17th July	Paul Lowe and Victoria Morgan

We committed to God's merciful keeping those who have died:

26th March	Elizabeth Dellow aged 90
21st September	Patricia Steele aged 87
4th October	Caroline Eborn aged 78
26th November	Stephen Jones aged 62

