

## **THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, THEYDON BOIS ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2022**

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, along with the Incumbent, has the responsibility for promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of Theydon Bois, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Parochial Church Council also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building (including the Parish Centre), Churchyard and Church Hall.

### **Membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

#### **Incumbent**

Rev John Fry

#### **Associate Priest**

Rev Carol Newnham

#### **Church Wardens**

Mary Gill & Elizabeth Hannibal

#### **Deanery Synod Representatives**

Lisa Debenham, Robyn Marsh & Diana Meteyard

#### **Elected Members**

John Philip, Douglas Pleasant, Samantha Spencer, Hugh Meteyard, Andrew Crook, Kerry Ells, Tony Dawson (ALP), Rosalyn Philip (Secretary), Andrew Tunks, (Treasurer)

### **Parochial Church Council Meetings**

During the period national restrictions, PCC meetings were conducted in person. In 2022 the PCC met on 6 occasions, with an average attendance of 77%. Copies of the minutes of PCC meetings were made available to all by request to the Benefice Office.

The parish continues to work towards the shared Benefice Vision of The Theydon Parishes which is expressed in this way:-

#### **Core values: Faith, love and community.**

We seek to live these values by welcoming all, caring and teaching so that we may change lives through sharing the love of God in Christ.

Andrea Crombie was appointed to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officer, and Safeguarding continues to be a standing item at all meetings. Safeguarding contact details are displayed in the church and on the Benefice website. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Guidance. During 2022, St Mary's Theydon Bois was awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award. Tony Dawson who had served as an Authorised Local Preacher was selected to train as a Licensed Lay Minister and moved to St John's, Loughton to begin this training. On Mission Sunday, Drew Maust was a guest speaker on behalf of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Subsequently, he was supported by the PCC to be put forward for Authorisation as a Local Preacher. This process was completed in early 2023.

## **Sub committees**

**Finance Committee** considers financial matters and makes recommendations to PCC. Meets as necessary.

**Stewardship Working Group** considered the ways in which church members could be encouraged to give financially to St Mary's, and made recommendations to PCC and coordinates a yearly fundraising campaign. This group was chaired by Andrew Tunks.

**Standing Committee:** has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings. John Philip, Andrew Tunks, Rosalyn Philip as Secretary, the Vicar, Rev. Carol Newnham and the Churchwardens meet as necessary.

**Mission Committee:** Supports the work of Christian Mission at home and abroad, particularly of CMS, IPASC in D.R.Congo and Alison and Mozi Kotroci in Albania and promotes awareness of the wider mission of the Church. Chaired by Robyn Marsh.

**Events Committee:** Organises social and fund-raising events to support the Church, chaired jointly by Philip and Amanda Simmance

**Churchyard Committee:** Meets as necessary; under the leadership of John Eaton (John sadly died in February 2023, and the PCC will be appointing a new leader shortly). The PCC is grateful to the team of volunteers who meet each Thursday morning to work in the churchyard.

**Church Hall Committee:** manages the business of the Church Hall on behalf of the PCC. Ross Penman, Eleanor Isaac, Philip Crombie, Mary Gill, Andrew Tunks and Linda Hammond served during the year.

**A/V Working Group:** continues to work to develop proposals to bring to the PCC for final approval for the installation of an audio-visual system in the church. Liz Douglass, Rosalyn Philip and John Philip served during the year.

## **Employees**

The mission and ministry of St Mary's Theydon Bois is supported by Sarah Bowen (p/t Benefice Administrator), and the PCC supports 64% of her salary, although her employer is the PCC of All Saints Theydon Garnon

## **Church Services**

The regular pattern of services in the church building from April 2022 was as follows:

### Sunday

8a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

	10.30am	6pm
First Sunday	All Age Worship	Sung Communion
Second Sunday	Family Communion	Sung Evensong (BCP)
Third Sunday	Family Communion	Sung Compline
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	Sung Evensong (BCP)
Fifth Sunday	Joint Benefice Service at 10a.m, rotating between churches in the Benefice.	
6pm	A combination of Sung Evensong, Evening Prayer and Sung Compline. Evening services during January & February were held on Zoom.	

The organ was played by visiting organists on a rota arrangement.

### Wednesday

10am. Holy Communion with the Mothers' Union on the first Wednesday of the month

### Thursday

Midday. Holy Communion

Children's groups took place during the 10.30am Sunday service in the church hall. All children's ministry is provided by local volunteers led by Sarah Twitchett from the Red Balloon Family Foundation. On average 25 children attended each week.

### **Church Attendance**

As of April 2022, there were 152 people on the Church Electoral Register; average Sunday attendance was 70 unique adults and 25 children each Sunday. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping. In 2022, 15 baptisms took place, 1 wedding was celebrated and 13 funerals were held in St. Mary's.

### **Key events in 2022.**

March & April	Lent Soup lunches in aid of charities selected by the Mission Committee,
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Day services – communion resumed at the altar rail
20 <sup>th</sup> April	APCM
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Ride London Joint Service
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Plant Sale
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Gardens
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Visit of Alison Kotroci to church
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Pet Service in the churchyard at 6pm
August	Church organ cleaned and renovated
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Special service to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Mission Sunday
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Deanery Confirmation Service
November	Soup Lunches
6 <sup>th</sup> November	'Remembering those we have loved' service
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Quiz Night
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Annual service of Remembrance at the War Memorial
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Choral Evensong to celebrate St. Cecilia's Day
1 <sup>st</sup> December	All Age Service with Scratch Nativity play, facilitated by the Red Balloon Family Foundation
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre School Christmas Service
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Services with collection to support the Children's Society