



Parish Reports 2022-2023

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
16 April 2023

St Mary the Virgin
Church Street
Twickenham
TW1 3NJ
www.stmarytwick.org.uk

Index of Reports

Report	Page
The Archives of St Mary's	2
Bell Ringers	2
Buildings Group	3
Charitable Giving	4
Children and Young People	4
Cleaning Team	6
Communications	6
Eco Group	7
Eco Church	7
Ecumenical Group	8
Finance Group - report contained in annual accounts	
Flower Team	8
Hampton Deanery Synod	9
Lent Groups	10
Mothers' Union	10
Music at St Mary's	11
Parochial Church Council (PCC)	11
PCC Standing Committee	12
Safeguarding	12
St Mary's Group	13
Tea @2.30	13
The Twickenham Almshouses	14
Trustees of the Twickenham Parochial Schools Trust	14
Walsingham	15
PCC Membership	16

The Archives of St Mary's

It has been exciting to be able to give more attention to the archives which were moved from the vestry before the re-ordering work in church and had waited until now to be given better storage. Help has been enormously appreciated from Francesca Jordan, Judy Britton, Rev'd Ed Hanson and Roger Hutchins. Some of the older archives remain stored in the tower safe which is secure and also remarkably stable from the temperature and humidity point of view. The six new cabinets in the north gallery, courtesy of Simon Grinter, now contain most of the 19th and 20th century documents, minute books, parish magazines, albums of photographs, objects and framed pictures.

Once the checking has been completed, the next task will be to obtain advice on appropriate treatment and storage containers for the earliest documents, especially vellum records, some of which have been folded for over 200 years. Lastly, it will become possible to put articles and information on the parish website and plan how to share information about the contents of the archives and display some of them.

Enquiries are received from all over the world, most concerning family history research, and several people have visited the archives:

- The new House Manager at the Twickenham Museum, involved in raising awareness of its resources, many of which reflect and overlap the long history of St Mary's at the heart of Twickenham's, its riverside and its working and residential community.
- A PhD student (St Mary's University), researching the 18th century Twickenham community, interested to learn about the memorials recording many generations of residents, the 1714 list of donors to the church rebuilding, the early boys' and girls' schools, etc.
- Two members of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association, looking at documents relating to the history of the old South Field and the development of the railway and housing shown on the church's tithe maps of 1846 and 1907.

New records continue to join the archives, including a circular print from David Trigg, ex councillor, and a large framed print from the Jackson-Stops basement.

Further offers of memorabilia are always very welcome, including printed or digital photographs to add to the pictorial records.

Diana Wells
Hon. Archivist

Bellringers

Over the last 12 months we have been able to ring for all Sunday services and nearly all Wednesday evenings, even during the summer months. We have been active throughout the year, welcoming visiting bands and introducing new people to ringing.

In June 2022 we rang for the Queen's Platinum anniversary, which coincided with the church's Summer Fair. Also in the spring, a joint band of ringers from St Mary's and All Hallows, Twickenham came first in the district striking competition.

Later in September, the death of the Queen was commemorated with ringing at St Mary's where we were joined with others from All Hallows and St Mary's, Richmond. We rang to remember her service but also to celebrate the announcement of Charles as King, which meant attaching muffles to the clappers for mourning and then taking them off for celebration, a few times! We are currently making plans for more celebratory ringing for King Charles III Coronation weekend.

We were asked to ring for two Christmas Carol Concerts: Off the Record and Teddington Choral Society, we also rang for our own Advent and Carol Services. A jolly band formed just before midnight to ring in the New Year, competing with fireworks outside! In February we hosted the

Middlesex Association Saturday practice, where we provided cakes and refreshments to thirsty ringers! It made the event even more sociable.

We continue to welcome new people to learn to ring and are slowly growing in numbers and regularly have six people to ring on Sunday mornings, something a lot of churches struggle to do. With our practice nights on Wednesday evenings we all aim to continue to improve our ringing skills which I hope is appreciated! And so my hopes last year of having a regular ring of five or six bells rung on Sunday mornings has been realised and I want to thank all those who make it possible, for their dedication - thank you! If you would also like to learn but never asked, please make contact, I'm very happy to 'show you the ropes'!

Liz Sephton
Tower Captain

Buildings Group

The Buildings Group reports to the PCC on the care of the church fabric and on the maintenance of the hall. We work closely with the Church Wardens and our Buildings Manager, Katie Kean. The Group met four times over the year and all the members took responsibility for individual projects to support the upkeep of the Church and the hall.

At the Church, the 300-year-old south door was painstakingly restored by cutting out the decayed wood, piecing in new timber and repainting. In the Chancel, further craftsmanship was on display with the removal, repair and successful reinstatement of one of the stained-glass windows, where the metalwork had become insecure.

The Chancellor of the Diocese gave us permission to install a camera at the back of the nave, discreetly mounted on the tower screen. Once the necessary licences are in place, the system will go live to allow remote streaming of selected services, weddings, funerals, concerts and other events. We have provided the organist with a better monitor and we are now investigating how we can improve the sound system.

In the hall, some of the public areas have been redecorated and new lighting has been installed in the Windsor Room, greatly improving its appearance. We have also taken measures to improve security at the hall.

In the Memorial Garden, we are completing our plans for a new ramp to make the Garden accessible to all. Richmond Council has granted planning permission and a building regulations application is the next stage. Once this has been approved, the PCC will be able to launch a fundraising campaign.

Looking ahead, we hope the renewal of the timber tower louvres will be complete by the autumn, in time for the next Quinquennial Inspection by our appointed architect.

Like all churches, St Mary's has been hit by rising energy costs. We are pleased we took the opportunity to insulate the roofspace and we will look to see what other measures we can take, particularly in the hall, to save money and reduce our carbon footprint. We continue to work closely with the Eco Group on practical initiatives.

My thanks to all members of the Group, the Wardens and others in the congregation who have again so generously of their time and skills. We always welcome more helpers so if you would like to join us, do get in touch.

Geoff Noble
Chair, Buildings Group

Charitable Giving

At the end of 2022 £275 was given to each of the following charities selected by members of the congregation:

- Brighter Together
- Embracing Age
- Growbaby
- Intergenerational Music Making
- Kingston Samaritans
- PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust)
- Friends of Mengo Hospital U.K.
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Mission for Vision
- Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund
- Friends of Vellore U.K.

This total of £3,025 compares unfavourably with the £9,000 distributed in 2019 and would perhaps suggest that the current formula of reliance upon the summer fete, Christmas collections and those made following talks by representatives from the charities is no longer sustainable.

Since the last APCM we have hosted speakers from Christian Aid, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Intergenerational Music Making, Growbaby and the Samaritans, to all of whom the congregation responded generously. For Christian Aid a separate collection was made of £535, partly raised by offering pastries after the main service, and for Mengo Hospital £482 has been collected throughout the year. I should like to thank members of the Ecumenical Group and other supporters whose efforts have made this possible.

Sophy Fisher

Children and Young People

Our Church Vision is to seek to nurture our children and young people with a sense of God's love for them and purpose for their lives. We want them to develop their spiritual being, opening themselves to God's love, and be welcomed, loved and involved within our church community. We have been continuing with our aim to rebuild numbers of children and young families engaging with the church post-Covid, and gradually to restart activities beyond the Sunday school.

Sunday school

During school term time, Sunday School has offered the children and young people worship, Bible stories and readings, discussions and activities appropriate to their age and understanding, which they join in enthusiastically, before returning to the church to worship with the rest of the congregation as our church family. Numbers are rising slowly, with some further returnees, and it is really lovely to see new families joining the church, but we are still well below levels before Covid, hence the emphasis on growth in our Mission. The lack of leaders and smaller numbers means that all children and young people over 9 years are meeting as one group, combining what used to be our Adventurers - 8 to 11 year olds, and SMG - young people over 11 years, which is more of a challenge. We would very much like to involve them in further activities outside Sunday school and the 9.30 service, perhaps through Diocesan events.

It is a joy to work with our children and young people, they give so much to the adults who work with them and since Covid, really feel like a family. It is wonderful when we gather all 3 groups together. The children made beautiful Christmas cards which were posted to those who were less likely to be able to attend our services. Seeing 13 year olds and 3 year olds working together with glitter and glue was wonderful. Also for our parish Nativity Service, we may have had fewer sheep and no camels, and it was a challenge to find enough children and young people to fill all the

Biblical roles, but our Nativity play was both moving and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Julie Hall and her team for all the organising and rehearsing.

We are very grateful, as ever, to Julie for managing all the planning and administration for the Sunday school and leading worship for the younger two groups. She and a significant number of our volunteer Sunday school leaders and helpers have served literally for decades. One of those is Lacy Chapman, who has led our Adventurers Group for 20 years. She is stepping back from the role and we are very grateful to her for such long and valued service to our young people. Sophy Fisher has kindly agreed to take over arranging the rota and planning for this group. We are thankful for all our volunteers. The leaders put real thought and preparation into each session, and they in turn could not manage without those who turn up on the day to help. We urgently need more volunteers if we are to keep our groups running. Please think whether you could contribute in a leading or helping capacity, you don't have to be young or have any children to get involved!

In Church

We aspire for the children and young people to be an integral part of our worship and community, and their engagement in the Eucharist is a vital part of this.

The children and young people have enthusiastically helped lead several 3rd Sunday services during the year, although with the absence of Piotr and Katherine, we are not perhaps fully back into the rhythm of this!

Our family Celebration Sunday in June, led by the Wilson family, had to be moved into the church thanks to bad weather. Thanks to all for managing the transition! We have an aim of growing the engagement of the school in our church worship. Father Jeff is hoping to involve the school this coming June in our Celebration Service, with their choir coming along to swell the sound of our worship in the Memorial Garden!

We had a fun and uplifting Christingle service in church, with the Scouts as ever attending and helping with the service and offering mulled wine and goodies in the hall afterwards. There were many families attending who do not regularly attend church and we raised a record amount for The Children's Society of over £500! More thanks go to the Scouts for continuing to provide the tea tent and barbecue equipment for our fair. This help really does enhance our ability to welcome the Twickenham community to the church and grounds with food and drink, and to help with our money raising.

On Christmas Eve we welcomed families into church for our two Crib services, with Fr Jeff providing an interactive and joyful child-friendly story of Christmas.

Sarah Wilson generously offered to reintroduce Little Fish into our 9.30 service once a month and did hold a few sessions, but unfortunately we have not had enough under-3s in church for it to work so far, but it is waiting in the wings!

A wonderful, lively Messy Church was held with many children and parents/carers welcomed after school on a Friday in mid-March. This was our first session post-Covid, and post Church reordering, with new organisers, Kirsten and Maya. We thank them, and all the volunteers they assembled, for working so hard to make it such a happy occasion. Fr Jeff introduced the theme of the Last Supper, and the children enjoying related crafts to make and take home. They also put together beautifully decorated hampers for clients of the Vineyard Foodbank, and made up the small bouquets of scented narcissi to give to mothers and mother figures the following Mothering Sunday service.

This non-profit outreach event was deemed a great success, and we look forward to our next Messy Church in July.

St Mary's School

Father Jeff and Katherine Cox have been providing weekly Collective Worship videos as well as Father Jeff celebrating Agape Meals at the Middle and Junior sites of the school where he has also offered "in person" Assemblies. One of the most significant of these was one he and the Head Teacher led jointly, the day after Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth died. More recently, by report, there was a memorable and fun occasion when he illustrated the school's theme of endurance with a story focussing on the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem!

He has also led teaching sessions in the Eucharist for the school community in the church; a service to welcome the Reception children to the St Marys family; a gathering to introduce children to the Nativity Set and the story of Christmas.

St Mary's PCC and Trustees have also recruited Governors who help ensure that the school community is supported and strengthened in its strategic vision. We are so grateful to those from the church community who offer their support to the school as Governors and as Trustees.

St Mary's School continues to hold regular services and other events in our church, now made so much easier by the reordered interior. These include the Leavers' Service, the Harvest Service, Christmas Carol Service, the Bible Service, and the Easter service. There was a wonderful school Jubilee celebration in the church for children and staff members.

St Mary's Families

St Mary's Families have kept in touch on church events and other news through their WhatsApp group. It would be good to reintroduce our monthly emailing and it would be lovely to find a coordinator for this to help with our comms.

Sarah Waller arranged family picnics; one in the Memorial Garden in the summer, and a Harvest picnic in church because of the weather (the reordered space assisting greatly with making space for picnic blankets etc). These relaxed, informal get togethers have been very popular, so are something we intend to repeat.

Thank you to all who have participated in our Children and Young People's lives at St Mary's to enrich their lives through the love of Christ - children and young people themselves, leaders and helpers and Fr Jeff.

Judy Britton

Cleaning Team

St. Mary's Scrubbers continue to clean each week but we are short of six people which means each group has to do their stint more often. If anyone would like to offer their services they would be made very welcome, male or female, young or getting on. It is also another way of getting to know other folk in the congregation and having a coffee together afterwards.

Jenny Kelly

Communications

The Communications Group's focus in the past year has been on the design of a new, more user-friendly website which launched before Christmas. Huge thanks to Emily Bainbridge who led on the website redevelopment, and to all the group for their input. Thank you also to everyone involved in the publication and circulation of the weekly notices and managing St Mary's presence on social media and *A Church Near You*. If anyone would like to help with communications, including updating content on the website, please do get in touch. Training will be provided.

Clarinda Chan

The Eco Group

For some years St Mary's has been a Fair-Trade Church and this year has worked towards the Eco Church criteria (see separate report below). The Eco Group monitors the care of the Churchyard, the Oak Lane cemetery, the Memorial Garden and the Hall courtyard, as well as the church's buildings, raising awareness of environmental issues.

In the Oak Lane cemetery this year the Trust for Conservation Volunteers carried out two successful workdays to control the ivy and brambles around the tombs and gravestones, and our funds for their work were replenished by a welcome return of the annual fund-raising Quiz in September. During lockdowns we monitored the heavy footfall on paths and grass due to the increased numbers of visitors who have enjoyed the peaceful nature reserve in the centre of Twickenham, home to owls, foxes, squirrels and birds. In February we were most grateful for help and advice from the Council's Parks officers and the award of funding from the Council's Habitats and Heritage budget to restore the central path and close the north area for a time in order to allow the grass, the bulbs and flowers to recover.

It was a shock to hear in January that Traidcraft's 40 years of business had come to an end. For many years St Mary's has been able to run the Traidcraft stall, providing a business outlet for small-scale independent farmers and producers across the world and allowing us to contribute to the development organisation, Traidcraft Exchange. Christmas and Easter sales were well supported as our shopping choices have a direct impact on farmers, craft-workers, makers and food producers in developing countries and in the UK.

We support the use of fair-trade refreshments at meetings and events, sustainable energy suppliers and rubbish disposal. As we all learn more about living with the effects of climate change such as floods, droughts, fires and crop failures, the Eco Group aims to focus on energy use, carbon emissions reduction and fair trade as they affect our church and local community.

Diana Wells

Eco Church



Eco Church is an initiative run by a Christian organisation called *A Rocha* that has been working throughout the world since 2016 to re-engage a whole generation of individuals in looking after nature as part of their faith. St Mary's was quick to sign up and get involved when it began. However the constraints of the reordering together with the huge disruption caused by Covid meant that progress was interrupted. The project was relaunched in June 2022 following a visit by the Reverend Derek Winterburn from St James Church in Hampton when he spoke to us about the Diocese of London's vision for Creation Care.

The Eco Church initiative is simply a tool that gets the whole church community thinking about the ways they care for God's Creation through five specific categories. These are: - Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyles. The overall aim of the Eco Church award scheme is to celebrate the ways that church communities have been engaging with caring for the earth as a key part of their Christian faith. By completing an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. This survey, with its supporting resources, is a way to help us 'go green' in all areas of church life.

The good news is that, in February of this year we were able to submit our application for the Bronze Eco Church Award and have just had confirmation of our success. Our next immediate goal is to work towards achieving the silver award.



Liz Webbhorn

Ecumenical Group

The past year has seen three very successful events:

The first was the 2022 Good Friday Walk of Witness, which was very well attended and culminated in a brief service at the Diamond Jubilee Gardens led by Bishop Graham Tomlin for the last time, as he left us for a new post in September, and with a bible reading by Pastor Alan Bott of the Baptist Church. It was the first time in three years that we have been able to hold this event and I think that those who came were very grateful to be able to mark this day once again in a special way and with the participation of so many local churches and Christian denominations. We look forward to this year's walk to be led by Father Alex Lane of All Saints' Church.

The second was Christian Aid Week in May, when Mervyn McCullagh came to speak, we served pastries in the hall after the service, for which donations were invited, and these together with the money collected at the door raised £535 for Christian Aid.

August witnessed the magnificent celebration of Hymns and Pimms, attended by members of St. James's Catholic Church, Twickenham Baptist Church and the United Reformed Church on the Green as well as those of our own congregation, considerably more than we had expected. They were delighted to be able to attend this occasion after a break of two years and enjoyed singing the hymns, accompanied by our organist, Adrian Mumford, and sampling refreshments afterwards. As the weather smiled upon us, we were able to continue celebrations in the Memorial Garden.

My warm thanks go to all the members of this group for their support for these events, the monthly collections we continue to make in aid of Mengo Hospital in Uganda, relying on the generosity of the congregation, and the talks by representatives of the charities to which we contribute. For details of these last please see the report on Charitable Giving.

We are delighted to have recruited a new member but would gladly welcome others.

Sophy Fisher

Flower Team

The flower team has had a busy, sociable year, decorating the church to enhance our regular worship, festivals and weddings. Many thanks for all the help.

A potter friend made some hand-thrown pots, glazed in a Bernard Leach matte cream glaze to go on the windowsills. We are able to put wire in the pots to support the flowers and so not have to use flower foam which is so environmentally polluting. The pots have successfully graced the window sills for all festivals this year and have proved versatile and successful.

The late Queen's Jubilee celebrations were combined with a summer fair and the church was full of red and pink flowers. The containers were decorated with gold crowns and the large arrangements in the chancel and at the back were finished with crowns of phormium leaves.

In September we had a late summer party at which Joy Lee demonstrated a window display using small bunches in pots in baskets. This idea was then adapted for Harvest Festival. The party was much enjoyed by all. Christmas was celebrated with a white and gold colour theme with lilies, roses and chrysanthemums. Another party in deepest, darkest January was a welcome distraction, with good food and company and Joy showing an arrangement using foliage of different forms and textures, an idea we hope to use in the future to reduce the air miles of imported flowers.

We have welcomed a new member and we would like some additional people to help. No skills are required as there will always be an experienced flower arranger on hand to offer advice and guidance. We work in threes, usually on a Friday morning, but this could be a Saturday and a turn comes round about every six/seven weeks. Of course, for Christmas, Easter, Harvest, the summer fair and unusual events such as the coronation we need as many helpers as possible.

Celia Goodman Amanda Boardman

Hampton Deanery Synod

The Hampton Deanery Synod, covering 15 parishes and the Activate Church, gives the PCC an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church. Our church had four representatives: Francis Drasar, Karen Kiddle, Judy Britton and Liz Webborn. One of the wonderful things about being on the Deanery Synod is that it gives one the opportunity to visit other magnificent churches in the Deanery and this year we have visited St Mary's in Hampton, St Augustine in Whitton and St James in Hampton Hill.

The first meeting of the year 2022 was held in February and the main presentation was given by Jimmy Dale, the National Youth Evangelism Officer at the Church of England. He spoke of ways in which to encourage the numbers of youth in the church which have been in serious decline in recent years. He explained that his role had arisen from the recognition that the church needed to do more with its young people and that, unless there was an advocate for young people this would fall by the wayside. Not only are the numbers of youth members in decline but also those of both paid and voluntary youth workers. He stressed how important it is for each church to examine what it is doing to attract families and youth members to their church. Jimmy suggested that 'collaborative youth ministry' might be the way forward i.e. if a neighbour church had a successful youth ministry in operation then other churches could tap into their operation. Many families had not returned to church following lockdown with other priorities taking pride of place for example sport on Sunday mornings clashes with traditional church services and it was suggested that we might 'think outside the box' and come up with ways to attract and keep a youthful population at church and, that if we are successful, to share ideas within the deanery. He stressed that the most important thing was good leadership and that it is essential to make sure that churches have adequate resources, effective links to schools and had an eye on changing trends within youth ministry.

The meeting at St Augustine's centred on safeguarding and the presentation was given by Caryn Webber, the Kensington Safeguarding adviser. Safeguarding has changed considerably in recent years. New policies and procedures are making churches safer places for all. With new procedures comes an increased amount of administration for the appointed church safeguarding officers. The Diocese has invested in a new Safeguarding Dashboard which aims to

- Make safeguarding easier for parishes
- Measure and report parish compliance-with parish data being automatically collected
- Provide parishes with everything in one place

The dashboards are based on the requirements set out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and include features that support the new Learning and Development Framework and the New Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance and will help navigate all the training people need. Safeguarding is a constantly evolving area and conversations within each church need to continue to take place to help maintain perspective and ensure that Churches are safe places for everyone and especially the more vulnerable members of their community.

It was at the last meeting of the year at the recently reordered St John's in Hampton Wick that we learnt that the Reverend Tim Garrett, vicar at Holy Trinity Twickenham and area Dean, would be stepping down from his current roles and moving to his new position as team Rector in Gloucestershire.

The last presentation of the year, about Vocations, was given by The Reverend Cannon Miles Baker, the Area Director of Ministry, Kensington. He spoke about how important it is to encourage people to find their vocation within the church. There is a need to invest in people and to draw out their vocation. There has been a reduction of 30% nationally in the church going community and with that reduction comes a considerable loss of income.

- Step up - God always calls us to step up

- Step in ~ filling the gaps
- Step through ~ the door that God has opened for us

Miles spoke about **Peter Stream** which is a year-long programme designed to identify and encourage the gifts and calling of people from under represented backgrounds into the church. The Peter Stream offers a distinctive experience that complements the church.

We heard too about the new pilot **Caleb Stream** which is a one-year pathway for ordained ministry designed specifically for mature and experienced lay readers. It overlaps the formal selection process and training, preparing candidates for ordination and local deployment after 12 months.

Nothing more powerful than the incumbent saying to someone ‘Have you ever considered being ordained?’

Liz Webborn

Lent Groups

The 2023 Lent course was inspired by the life of St Francis of Assisi, in particular the thought that if God is intrinsic to all life, how that changes our relationship with everyone and everything. Over the five weeks of the course the groups considered:

- St Francis and creation, reflecting on our place in the natural world, our response to it and our responsibility for it;
- Conversion of life, how St Francis’ experience of Christ changed the direction of His life and how and where we have met with Christ and the turning points in our life of faith;
- Values and lifestyle, reflecting on the Gospel values St Francis lived by and exploring our choice of lifestyle and how we are resourced for decision making;
- Creating community, looking at our relationship with God and with each other;
- Rebuild my church, considering our understanding of church, how we are called to be disciples and what we understand by the words of the Lord’s Prayer ‘thy kingdom come’.

Sessions were held in church and opened with an introduction from Father Jeff, followed by discussion in four small groups of around six or seven people, some time for tea and cake and a chance to get to know each other better. The evening concluded with the saying of Compline or night prayer. Feedback suggests that the material for discussion was found to be inspiring as well as challenging and allowed participants to explore their faith more deeply.

Charlotte West

Mothers’ Union



The International Charity that now is the Mothers' Union did not stop its work during the Covid Pandemic, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. We have got over 4 million members worldwide and the glorious global Wave of Prayer in July 2023 is happening! Over 3 days in July, all our members, all over the world in different time zones, beginning at 12.00 noon their time, will be praying for areas of the entire world that are in need. Joining in this effort spreading round the planet feels extraordinary ...

In the meantime, our local Branch has already this year had a talk about Lent from Jeff when he took any questions. We served pancakes to all comers on Shrove Tuesday. Amongst forthcoming meetings, we look forward to visiting Ham House and Marble Hill House locally and making and serving food at St Mary’s Coronation celebratory lunch in May.

We look forward, with the hope of Mary Sumner our founder and with the hope of St. Mary, our Patron Saint, to whatever is to come!

Barbara Williams
Branch Leader

Music at St. Mary's

After the tiresomeness of Covid, it is so good that church life has been near normal over the last year with the choir taking its valued and customary role in leading the musical component of worship. The choir aims to provide music that contributes to and enhances the liturgy by performing anthems during the communion from the gallery and leading the congregation in both hymns and service music, now once again robed and in the chancel, feeling better connected with the service.

Rehearsals are held in the vestry on Sunday mornings, ready to start singing by 8.55 a.m. I am enormously indebted to those members of the choir who regularly sing on Sundays and rehearse on a weekly basis; and to several guest singers who are able to augment the regular choir for special events. ***But we are always in need of new singers.*** Attendance every week is not required: you will be welcome even if you can make only occasional services with the rehearsal on Sunday. Please do give this serious thought and help to ensure that the choir can continue to take a leading role on Sundays.

I am especially grateful to Chris Britton who takes rehearsals, conducts the choir on Sundays and hosted the Summer Party last year!

Organ Scholar Patrick Tate, only just 15 years old, has been with us since September last year and is both highly personable and making splendid progress, invariably playing the service setting, one hymn a week and an organ voluntary once a month. I am hoping he will be playing full services for this time next year.

Concerts

With wonderfully warmed acoustics after the reordering, the church has never been more popular for concerts with such groups as Richmond Concert Society and the Richmond Light Orchestra as regulars. In 2022 our own Sunday Evening Concert Series was terrifically successful including regular appearances from the Marble Hill Singers, a stupendous piano recital from Hamish Dustagheer and the popular 'Hymns and Pimms' welcoming congregations from other local churches. A full series of monthly concerts are arranged for 2023 to include two piano recitals, choral music and a concert from Christopher Herrick: please do come and support them.

Adrian Mumford
Director of Music

PCC

Since the last APCM in April 2022, the PCC has met five times. As well as discussing regular business items including policies, finance, and the use and maintenance of our buildings, the PCC welcomed updates and reports from Vision Groups, and extends its thanks to all those who contribute to the many aspects of St Mary's Church's vibrant life and work. At the January meeting, the PCC had an in-depth small-group discussion on St Mary's Mission, specifically how we can encourage deeper relationships between each other and with God. The discussions identified several areas which we will aim to take forward in the coming year. To support our Mission and especially children's ministry, the PCC, in partnership with the School Trustees, has agreed to a 3-year budget for an Assistant Priest/School Chaplain.

Sophy Fisher as safeguarding officer kept the PCC informed of steps we can take as a church to ensure the protection of our children and adults at risk and to ensure that we comply with all canonical requirements in relation to safeguarding (in particular section 5 of the Safeguarding and

Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk).

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, the PCC expresses its gratitude to Jeff for his dedication and ministry, and for his tireless work in bringing the congregation back together after the disruption of the pandemic. We are especially grateful to Jeff for taking on a much-increased workload over the last two and a half years, ensuring that ministry at St Mary's School continued while being the sole priest at the Parish.

Clarinda Chan
PCC Secretary

PCC Standing Committee

The Standing Committee consists of the Parish Priest, Wardens, PCC Secretary, Treasurer, a representative nominated by each Warden and a representative elected by the PCC. The Committee met five times during the year to conduct the business of the PCC between PCC meetings.

In November 2022, we welcomed the Area Dean, Rev'd Tim Garrett, who represented the Archdeacon at the Triennial Archdeacon's Parochial Visitation. The purpose of the visitation was to check that the parish is complying with the requirements of various Church of England and Diocesan Measures. The Area Dean met with Jeff and the Churchwardens and the visit included the inspection of all parochial registers, records, inventory, log books, PCC Minutes, contracts and policies; review of progress on quinquennial works; inspection of the buildings, curtilage, security and storage of valuables; and a discussion of the PCC's Mission Action Plan. We are pleased that the Parish received a glowing report from Rev'd Garrett: "It was encouraging to see St Mary's still moving forward despite all the negative effects of the pandemic. I feel confident that under Jeff's leadership, ably supported by two excellent wardens and a great administration and PCC team, that the church will see growth and development..." Sincere thanks to all those who helped with the preparation of the visitation.

The Committee would also like to thank Cath Nortje and Katie Kean for their efficient running of the Parish Office and being great ambassadors for St Mary's.

Clarinda Chan
PCC Secretary

Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of us all to protect the children and vulnerable adults in our congregation. To ensure that we are fully aware of the risks they may run, all those working with children and young people and the members of the PCC, whose role it is to see that the church is managed efficiently, are asked to complete the first two stages of the diocesan (or an equivalent) safeguarding training programme and obtain the certificates they should receive at the end, sending them to me electronically (sophiajfisher@aol.com). For anyone who would prefer to follow the second, Foundations, course in person rather than on-line, Caryn Weber, our diocesan advisor, will be delivering this in a two-hour session at 10 am on 26th May in St. Mark's Church Teddington, which they are welcome to attend, provided that they give me advance notice to pass on to the organiser.

My thanks to Liz Webborn and Francis Drasar who are stepping down as our Adults At Risk Champions, and to our two Children's Champions, Judy Britton and Julie Hall, for their support.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact one of our team or Jeff.

Sophy Fisher
Safeguarding Officer

St Mary's Group

We had a most interesting guided tour in April last year of Syon House, home of the Northumberland family but previously the site of a monastery, followed in May by our AGM and an evening of poems. Members excelled by producing some most amusing poems and passages of prose for our enjoyment. In June, during the heat wave, we visited the Walled Garden at Sunbury, where the roses were in full bloom and we were able to view the tapestry of Sunbury displayed next to the café before relaxing over cups of tea. We ended the year's programme with a summer party held at Sophy's house.

For the first event of our new programme Betty Miller gave us a full account of the restoration work carried out at Marble Hill House in preparation for the visit we intend to make there this April. In October we played Monopoly, in November Professor Adam Lazowski of the University of Westminster told us about the support given to the Ukraine by our local Prosperity restaurant, which has become a hub for humanitarian aid, and in December we held a Christmas party with an alternative version of the Twelve Days of Christmas, a quiz on royalty and games of Beetle as well as food and drink contributed by members.

We began 2023 with a visit to the Mary Wallace Theatre to watch an excellent production of Agatha Christie's play "The Hollow" and in February Judy Britton described the duties of the role of church warden as well as the extra responsibilities occasioned by the pandemic.

We look forward to a Lent talk by Jeff, for which we will join members of the Mothers' Union.

Throughout the year we have continued to serve refreshments after the 9.30 service on the first Sunday of each month and I am most grateful to all those without whose help this would not have been possible. Visitors are welcome to our meetings; do come and join us.

Sophy Fisher



Tea @2.30 - a social group for everyone

This group was set up as a response to hearing of 'post-Covid blues' and started last June. We meet on the **first** and **third** Wednesdays of every month at 2.30pm. If you want companionship, a chatter and lots of laughter do join us for a fun afternoon. Hot drinks are provided and sometimes there's cake! We usually meet up in the church or vestry but we have used the garden and had an outing to the Stables Café at Orleans House. We may plan more 'outings' and even a touch of croquet on the lawn - who knows?

Do come along and bring a friend. All are welcome from the wider community, not just St Mary's.

Julie Hall & Julia



The Twickenham Almshouses

The legacy of Twickenham grocer William Candler (1826 - 1907) resulted in the building of the almshouses in Amyand Park Road in the year 1936. These dwellings were managed by the Twickenham United Charities until 2008, after which the Richmond Charities took over responsibility for their management.

Being somewhat better financially endowed, the Richmond Charities have been able to gradually improve the properties, initially ensuring that each home had its own dedicated bathroom. Many other improvements have been made over the years. The current planned undertaking is the installation of photovoltaic panels (solar panels) on the roofs of the almshouses, taking into consideration aesthetic values.

As you know, these photovoltaic panels convert light energy from the sun into electricity. This will result in lower electricity bills for the residents and also reduce our 'carbon footprint' - a win, win result! The more sunlight, the more electricity will be generated and hence lower electricity bills. In order to maximise the amount of light falling on the panels, the Leylandii trees, which cast shade on the panels, are having to be taken down. Also, to maximise electricity generation, panels are going to be installed on a car-port roof. I'm sure that the Scheme Managers, who ensure the day to day welfare of the residents, will be able to answer any of the questions that residents may have.

I feel very honoured to be a trustee of the Richmond Charities, and assure you that we take the welfare of our almshouse residents very seriously. If you or your friends wish to know more about our almshouses, we will be having a stall at the Richmond May Fair on Richmond Green on Saturday 13th May from 10am until 5pm. Also we are holding an Open Day at Hickey's Almshouses on Sheen Road on Saturday, 8th July from noon until 4pm. You can get there taking by the 33 bus to Castlenau, alight at St Mary's Grove bus stop and walk.

Dr Alex Hall
Trustee, appointed by the Vicar

Trustees of the Twickenham Parochial Schools Trust



The Trustees are responsible for the management of a Trust settled in 1861 for the purpose of providing permanent school accommodation for children in Twickenham.

Much has changed since 1861, in particular, the introduction of free school education for all children. The role of the Trust has therefore developed into being one of financial, spiritual and moral support, for example, paying the salary of a Chaplain and funding help with the mental health support of children at St. Mary's Church of England Primary School.

The Trustees have continued to discuss the Requests for Financial Support made by the Head Teacher. The children have continued to be able to enjoy the fruits of one large Grant made last year which has allowed all the children at the School to gather in one space, all at the same time - a huge success ...

Finally, the Trustees should pay tribute to the Rev'd Jeff Hopkin Williams and Dr Katherine Cox for continuing to write and deliver a series of charming filmed Services of Collective Worship for the children of St Mary's School. Sadly, Katherine has moved away for the time being, but Collective Worship will continue. The children do not forget what they absorb through it - ask them! - People never forget their good teachers...

Barbara Williams

Walsingham - Annual Parish Pilgrimage from St Mary's Twickenham



A pilgrimage is planned for this year. The booking deposit has been paid and WALSINGHAM IS WAITING FOR US ...

Do join us from 29th September to 1st October inclusive this year! Going on a pilgrimage is not the same as just going away for a weekend. Jeff will be there to lead our group in its first visit to the Holy House and round the Stations of the Cross in the beautiful gardens on the Saturday and in our own Service of Communion on the Sunday morning. In addition, we shall join all the other groups for the principal pilgrimage Services.

You will be in a beautiful, interesting and historic village full of quirky charm but also mystery. There are many places of worship there serving the various traditions of the Christian Church. You will stay in a comfortable room. The food is generous and there is always someone to talk to. Nothing is compulsory however, not even conversation because you will be there in that lovely place to pray for others and to be open to whatever and Whomsoever you may find there.

Walsingham is a special place. Do join us on our visit.

Barbara Williams

PCC Membership 2022-23

Members are elected for 3 years and can seek re-election for another 3 years, after which they must stand down for at least a year.

PCC Members	Elected/re-elected
John Albasiny	Elected 2021
Annie Atlay	Elected 2021
Clarinda Chan	Elected 2020
Rosemary Fulljames	Elected 2020
Deon Lombard	Elected 2022
Geoff Noble	Re-elected 2022
Shiela Preece	Elected 2021, resigned Nov 2022
Elizabeth Sledge	Re-elected 2022
Stephen Tetley	Elected 2021
Mark Wilson	Re-elected 2020
Deanery Synod	Elected for 3 years from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2023
Judy Britton	Elected 2022, for one year
Francis Drasar	Re-elected 2020
Karen Kiddle	Re-elected 2020
Elizabeth Webborn	Elected 2020
Co-opted Members	Co-opted for a year at a time
Adrian Mumford	Director of Music
Sophy Fisher	Safeguarding Officer
Church Wardens	Elected for a year at a time
Margaret Mence	First elected 2022
Barbara Williams	First elected 2018