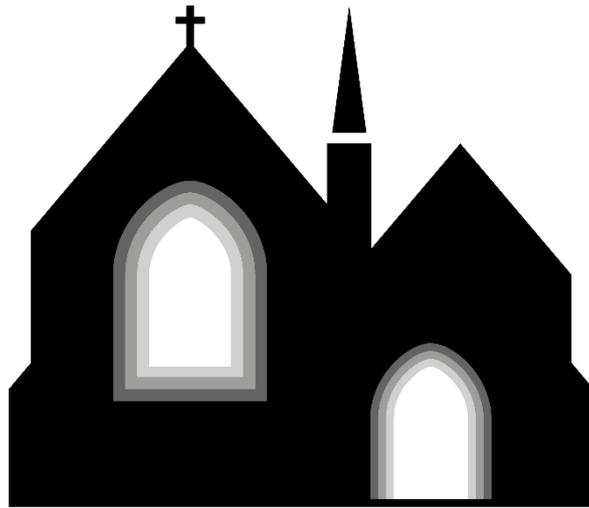


CHRIST CHURCH EATON



'A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others'

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2021

Contents

PART ONE – CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS	5
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS	5
VICAR'S REPORT ON 2021	6
REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2021	10
SAFEGUARDING REPORT	12
CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT	13
TREASURER'S REPORT	15
MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT	15
BABY&ME	17
CHAT OVER A CUPPA.....	18
PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH	18
CHARITABLE GIVING 2021.....	19
FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH	21
FABRIC REPORTS	23
NORWICH FOOD BANK.....	24
GLASSES FOR AFRICA	24
PART TWO – REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH ST ANDREW'S CHURCH .	25
GROUP COUNCIL - The Parishes' Group Council Joint St Andrew's with Christ Church.....	25
PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM ANNUAL REVIEW 2021	26
EATON PARISHES OFFICE	27
EATON MOTHERS' UNION.....	28
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE	30
YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK –	30
REPORT FROM ST ANDREW'S CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER.....	30
OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT.....	31
NORWICH SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD.....	33
NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD	34

PART ONE – CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS

**THE PARISH OF EATON, CHRIST CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

April 2021 – April 2022

Clergy	The Rev'd Dr Patrick Richmond	ex officio
Readers	Mr Alistair Bolt	ex officio
	Mr John Harrison (and Deanery Synod)	ex officio
Wardens	Mrs Vivien Humber (and Deanery Synod)	Elected 2016 (ex officio)
	Mrs Catherine Jeffries (and Deanery Synod from 8/2/2021)	Elected 2017 (ex officio)
Deanery Synod	Mr John Harrison (and PTO as Reader)	Elected 2017 (ex officio) 2020-2023
	Prof. David Scott	Elected 2017 (ex officio) 2020-2023
	Mrs Vivien Humber (also Churchwarden)	2020-2023
	Mrs Catherine Jeffries (also Churchwarden)	(after 2020 APCM-2023)
	Mr Garry Wheatley Treasurer	Elected 29/04/2019 Resigned Nov 2021
	Mr Tony Grubb Treasurer	Co-opted Dec 2021
	Mrs Susan Mitchell Secretary	Co-opted 30/04/2017, Elected 29/04/2018
	Mr Chris Mitchell	Elected 29/04/2018
	Mr Ian Parkes	Elected 29/09/2020
	Mr David Archer	Elected 29/09/2020
	Mr John Ladd	Elected 29/09/2020
	Ms Caroline Gibbs	Elected 29/09/2020
	Mr Peter Smith	Elected 29/09/2020
	Mr Richard Middleton	Elected 29/09/2020

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2021

After having to spend much of the previous year coping with COVID-19, in 2021 we had to spend the entire year coping with it. Despite the considerable challenges, I am deeply grateful that so many people have proved their love and commitment “upwards”, to God, “inwards”, to members of our church, and “outwards”, to those in the community and the world, including by notable charitable donations and activities. As with last year, I have ended up writing this report in Holy Week and hope you will forgive a series of highlights of the year, rather than a detailed report or analysis. Please do read all the following reports. I heartily echo and endorse all the thanks expressed in them to our wonderful staff, volunteers and community.

The rise of the alpha (Kent) variant meant that we began 2021 under severe restrictions and then went into a third lockdown on Epiphany, January 6th. 10am and 6pm Services were on Zoom, with Matt Wright our organist recording videoed voluntaries in church, and we used recorded hymns, mainly from St Martin in the Fields. For Candlemas, we broadcast on Zoom live from church.

On 8th March, England began a phased exit from the lockdown, following the government’s “roadmap.” As restrictions lifted, we were able to broadcast from church with a congregation present, at 1030am on Good Friday and at an 8am service in church, with Matt playing the organ on Easter Day, and then with Zoom services at 10.30am (30 minutes later to allow me to return home and prepare after the 8am in Zoom) and at 6pm.

Studies have shown that online worship can be very disappointing or frustrating for many people, but major reasons for continuing with the Zoom services were that it was not possible to have congregational singing in church and many people did not feel safe gathering again. Numbers on Zoom fell from the fifties to the thirties during the year, while numbers in church were smaller, in the twenties. Those who struggle with technology or are extroverted, thriving in social gatherings and disliking isolation, have of course had the worst experience of the lockdowns, but our use of Zoom did at least allow virtual conversation, and some have told me that they have grown in their faith through online services, which can allow more attention to the biblical text and use of images to help understanding. We thank Alistair Bolt, Ros Wright, John Ladd and others who assisted with all the technology.

When we returned to church, Richard Rivett returned to his role organising Bible readers, and I’m grateful to Jeff Arden for organising and reorganising the rota of intercessors and for all who serve on these.

After Easter we started having one weekly service in church, with fortnightly 330pm communions, with a choir of up to 10, distanced in the south aisle, alternating with

said 8am BCP communions. Thank you to those who faithfully attended both services.

Unexpectedly, the government tightened restrictions on singing again in mid-May, and we were only allowed six singers in church, but Matt and the small choir provided anthems and hymns during communion. Alistair Bolt and Matt managed to arrange a recording session with some video and with a full choir just before the new restrictions came into force and the hymns and anthems enhanced our Zoom services during the early summer. We hosted a joint deanery Ascension Day service on Zoom, including many of the clergy in our Norwich South deanery area and with Archdeacon Karen giving the sermon. We also held our Annual meetings on 24th May jointly in church and on Zoom. We celebrated Pentecost with a 330pm communion in church and had a joint morning service on Zoom with St Andrew's on 30th May, Trinity Sunday. On 18th July we marked "giving for growth" with the Rev'd Matthew Hutton preaching at our 1030am Zoom service and our 330pm communion in church on the value of regular, planned, proportionate giving to the church. Thank you to all who have sustained their giving to the church through these challenging times. It has been a huge encouragement that Mike Brookes was able to organise various repairs to the church while it was not so busy and we have not had to worry about running out of funds.

Our first service back in church with a singing congregation at 10am was on August 1st, having returned to the pattern of 8am BCP communion, 10am service in church and 6pm evening prayer on Zoom. During August, David Hares, Canon Keith James, Kate Belcher and Alistair Bolt kindly took services while I was on holiday.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and some anonymous donors we were able to make improvements to the sound and streaming systems during the year. I have tried to put video recordings of services on our Facebook page, whether they were on Zoom or in church or both. The new audio-visual equipment was installed at the end of August, and, after a few teething troubles were solved, we were able to broadcast and record services in church. There is untapped potential for using the equipment to allow those at home to speak at church and for more interaction and conversation amongst and with those on Zoom, but it is great that we have this facility which is a help to those who are housebound and is in increasing demand for funerals and weddings in church.

On 5th September we marked Climate Sunday for the first time, as COP26 took place, and on the 19th September Alistair Bolt led harvest festival while I was at a family wedding. Thanks also go to Alistair who has researched the Eco-church awards.

Based on our attention to ecological concerns we expect to receive the Bronze award in 2022.

We marked Safeguarding Sunday on October 10th and celebrated All Saints with a choral matins at the end of October. In November we were at the war memorial for Armistice Day and Colin Way presided at our 10am Remembrance Sunday service. At Christ the King we finally were able to say farewell to Shawn and Chris Tomlinson and thank Shawn in person for all she had contributed as curate. Canon Andy Bryant preached, and Vivien and her team displayed the lockdown Quilts of Kindness. Kathy Ladd cooked wonderful cakes to celebrate. We managed candlelit Advent Carols on Advent Sunday, a Memorial Service with people joining on Zoom on December 5th, and Archdeacon Karen presided and preached the following Sunday. We decided we couldn't manage a Christingle, the Omicron variant was surging, and we decided to stop refreshments once more while the High School cancelled their carol service at the last moment. We still managed the Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Communion, Christmas Day 8am, kindly taken by Kate Belcher, and the 10am, all in church, unlike last year, and Alistair Bolt kindly took Matins on Boxing Day, the feast of St Stephen. Attendance was well down on pre-pandemic years, with numbers at the 8am around 14 and in the forties at 10am, with around eleven at the evening prayer on Zoom, but this meant that we were able to distance and feel safer. As far as I know no one caught COVID-19 at church during the whole year, though in 2022 I have become aware of several from the congregation who have caught it elsewhere.

John Harrison and I have not managed to restart monthly communions at Chiswick House or Hawthorns nursing home, which have been wary of visitors. School assemblies have also not resumed, apart from one I did online at Colman Junior School.

We were delighted to have the wedding of Spencer and Jerry Cotton in July, (and Jerry was confirmed in November), the wedding of Anna Ross to Rob Gammon, with a large congregation and a large choir in the south aisle, in August, and the wedding of Rachel Dean to Jordan McBain (who had joined us and helped with online services during 2020) in November. Thank you to Ruth Thorp in our office for helping with the transition away from signing registers to signing and posting a marriage document to the Norwich Register Office. Her administrative support in the Office has been invaluable to both parishes.

Baptisms that had been delayed started to happen more frequently. We had five, baptising Mel and Bella at the 10am on the 8th August and celebrated the baptism of Vivien Humber's grandson, Bertie Limbach, on 26th September, many months after we had first thought it might take place, but we had to postpone Freddie Witczak's

baptism on the day due to illness, something we've certainly got more used to doing during the pandemic! On October 10th we baptised Megan Oakes at Noon and on October 17th we baptised Henry Barker at the 10am.

We had 24 funerals, including several members and former members of our congregation, including Vandra Ahlstrom, Iris Colin, Audrey Way, Enfys Chalmers, Mike Trendell, Margaret Cooper, Brian Hewison, Michael Price and this year Eric Burdett. We also learned of the passing of Maureen and Colin Forbes. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory. Thank you also to Sue Harris for her faithful verging of funerals in church, as well as cleaning the church and coping with several significant dust-producing repairs.

I'm grateful that Baby&Me restarted in July and Chat over a Cuppa in September. Thank you to Catherine Jeffries and Steph Brookes and their wonderful teams.

I'm very indebted to my wife, Catherine, for preparing the Zoom service sheets and publishing these on the parish website, along with the Notice sheet, all of which she did throughout the year. During the year she started using the new logo on our printed and online publications.

Thank you to Ros Wright for putting articles in local print media and to her and Catherine Richmond who helped increase our content on Facebook. 276 people follow our Facebook page and our adverts, for example, for activity packs, have reached thousands. Catherine also continued our Twitter account and kept me informed of the Bishop's tweets. I continued writing my CCE Thought emails, reducing the frequency from twice a week to once a week as we returned more to church.

Thank you so much to Garry Wheatley for his work as Treasurer. I do hope that he will recover mobility. We are grateful to Sarah Barley, our Finance Officer for standing in as Treasurer after he retired, and to Tony Grubb for taking on the role of Treasurer from December. Thank you to Catherine Jeffries who has long been reclaiming Gift Aid for us. Tony has agreed to lead the "Parish Giving Scheme", of which we will hear more at the APCM and in June.

Many thanks to Vivien Humber as she steps down as Church warden after six remarkably busy years, and to Catherine Jeffries who has been a wonderful venue manager through all the various iterations of government and church advice and is willing to continue for her final year as Warden. I'm also deeply grateful to Vivien, Jacky Sutcliffe and Anna MacDougall and others for providing wonderful pastoral gifts, support and phone calls, which have been particularly important for those not enjoying online communications.

I enjoyed the Friends of CCE annual meeting and the Quiz and Chips Night, despite us all being aware that COVID-19 was around. Thank you to all who run the Friends group, and for all the funds raised for the upkeep and improvement of Christ Church.

As usual, I am deeply grateful to Phil Rodd, vicar of St Andrew's. We continue to see a lot of each other on Zoom, but have also started to see one another in the flesh more as well! Richard Holcombe, treasurer at St Andrew's, has been a huge source of financial expertise to Sarah in the Office, and we are very grateful to him.

Thanks are also due to the Group Council, especially to John Ladd for Chairing, to Vivien Humber, for taking notes (as she does on so many committees, and also chairs the Mothers Union and the Magazine Team), and to David Scott who has served such a long time on the Group Council and stepped back into chairing it when John couldn't. Peter Smith kindly served on the Mission Support team and it would be great if we could find another person from Christ Church to be on it in 2022.

Beyond Christ Church, I continue as Rural Dean of Norwich South, I was re-elected onto General Synod and as Chair of the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod (please see the reports below) and therefore onto the Bishop's Council of Trustees, and continue as Chair of Science and Faith in Norfolk. We were involved with the visit of Dippy the Diplodocus to the Cathedral, which, despite the postponement and scaling back brought on by the pandemic, was still an enormous success (pun intended!).

Personally, I have stayed thankfully safe and well most of the time, though I have suffered chronic irritation of my hands and eyes, which has needed careful management. I also had a mole removed in November, which thankfully proved to be benign.

Once again, I express my thanks to all who have stayed faithful in these challenging times. I hope and pray that, as you read on, you too will be deeply grateful for all that has been done in 2021 and will be encouraged to think and pray about how we can all seek God's kingdom and grow in faith, service and numbers in 2022.

The Rev Dr Patrick Richmond - Vicar

REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2021

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working co-operatively with the vicar to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also

specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building, Kinchen Hall and The Cottage.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and tries to help people in the parish grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and in service to others. It maintains and develops the building and keeps it open to the public throughout the year, subject to Government restrictions and Church of England guidance.

The PCC met ten times in 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic seven of the meetings were held by Zoom video conferencing and business agreed by correspondence. The average PCC attendance at meetings throughout the year was 12 out of 15 members (80%).

We are grateful to Vivien Humber and Catherine Jeffries for continuing in their role as Church Wardens in 2021. We much appreciate and thank Garry Wheatley for his work as Treasurer for a year and are grateful to Sarah Barley, our Finance Officer as acting Treasurer for a time and to Tony Grubb for taking on the role of Treasurer from December.

We welcomed Mike Brookes' return to the PCC at the APCM and thank Bridget Archer and Chris Mitchell who stood down. At the end of 2021 we thank Tony Grubb who has returned to the PCC and Peter Smith who is standing down. We thank all other PCC members as they continue to serve.

There were 148 parishioners on the Electoral Roll declared at the APCM in May. The Electoral Roll will be revised for the next APCM in 2022. We thank Sarah Scott who stood down this year as Electoral Roll Officer and are grateful to David Archer for taking on the role.

The parish share has once again been paid in full, and early, to assist the diocesan finances. A budget has been prepared and the accounts for 2021 will have been approved by end of April. The Church Terrier and Inventories will be inspected and presented at the APCM and reports from PCC committees and other groups are in this Parish Review.

The Treasurer and Sarah Barley have submitted regular and detailed updates on the accounts to 2021 meetings. With sound management a small deficit in the accounts was anticipated at the end of the year due to the scale of the planned works. The assets of Kinchen Hall and The Cottage are a consistent source of revenue and additional repair and upgrading work has been carried out on these properties. We are as always grateful for the regular giving of our parishioners, together with the generous donations received, in order to meet our running costs. We are grateful to

Mike Brookes as Fabric Officer for overseeing the buildings maintenance, with assistance from Chris Mitchell. The cost of repairs to the church boiler room, replacing a defective beam and removal of asbestos, has been met by donations to The Friends.

Through the continuing pandemic the PCC has reviewed and discussed the provision of services with a mix of church and Zoom services. We are grateful to Patrick R for still conducting many Sunday services and PCC meetings on Zoom and are appreciative of the assistance from Catherine R in preparing the service sheets and publishing these on the parish website along with the Notice sheet. We thank Alistair Bolt, Ros Wright, John Ladd and others assisting with the technology involved. The PCC have approved additional spending on improvements to the sound and streaming systems during the year.

Issues relating to the parish employees were as usual considered and decisions made on salary increases and contracts, including fees for weddings and funerals.

Our Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies were kept under review with thanks to Caroline Gibbs as the Safeguarding Officer and to Ian Parkes for conducting safety checks.

Minutes and reports were regularly received from the Kinchen Hall Committee, the Donations Committee, Eaton Parishes' Group Council, the Magazine Team, the Worship Committee, the Youth and Children's Committee, Norwich South Deanery Synod and the Diocesan Synod.

Lastly, but importantly, the PCC has found time to discuss and agree a new logo, versions of which were put out to the congregation, reflecting the church's role as a welcoming place of worship and its mission in the parish. Work on developing the accompanying strapline will continue in 2022, utilising the responses given in the questionnaires sent out with the Christmas Cards to see how our church is viewed in the wider community. Our thanks go to Vivien Humber for her work on this.

Sue Mitchell - PCC Secretary

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults complies with the current requirements by the Diocese of Norwich. David Hughes at St Andrew's completes the DBS checks and securely keeps records for both parishes. All volunteers who are working with children or with groups where there might be vulnerable adults should undertake a training session every three years. C0 and C1 training is available online and should be undertaken every three years by anyone helping with such groups.

Those in a position of responsibility should undertake training up to and including level C2. PCC members should also undertake training at levels C0 and C1.

The Diocese runs virtual C2 courses, although there is great pressure on places. The Parish Safeguarding handbook and information about courses can be found on the Norwich Diocesan website/Safeguarding. Although in this last year groups have not met very much in person, many groups have been able to meet virtually, and safeguarding remains an important issue to keep in mind even in unusual circumstances.

Thank you to all those who have co-operated with form completions and training sessions this year. Please remember that safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility.

There are first aid kits located in the kitchen cupboard above the sink unit and in the choir vestry.

Caroline Gibbs - Safeguarding Officer for Christ Church

CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT

This report from your churchwardens covers a second unusual – perhaps unprecedented – year for our church, the wider Anglican Communion, and the world. Although COVID-19 restrictions have meant that many activities have been cancelled or suspended there has been plenty to do, perhaps even more than in more normal times.

As churchwardens we are the Bishop's Officers, having "two masters ... the people and the Bishop," which means we have a duty to represent the laity and to co-operate with our vicar, Patrick. The role is extremely varied but generally involves "management, maintenance and mission", carried out in accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure of 2001.

We are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to the church and its buildings and must keep an up-to date inventory of valuables, which is updated annually for the APCM.

Our most recent quinquennial review was carried out in 2018 by our architect, David Lemon, setting out a programme of work for the next five years and we have been diligently pursuing this in accordance with the timetable set for us. Furthermore, the church is not the only building for which we have responsibility; some repairs and renewals are usually needed at Kinchen Hall and its adjacent Cottage. This year has been no exception.

In carrying out the programme of maintenance and repair we continue to have a deep debt of gratitude to our excellent Fabric Officer, Mike Brookes, working with his deputies, Chris Mitchell and Ian Parkes, during a time of continuing logistical problems beyond our control.

We have four excellent Deputy Wardens - Ruth Vaughan, David Scott, John Harrison and Jeff Arden - who provide us with invaluable support. We are also grateful to our sides people and to Alistair MacDougall as the leader and co-ordinator of the team and rota, operating in these strange times.

With COVID -19 came a new role for Catherine: that of Venue Manager. More changes to government guidance followed the first lockdown, with Catherine carrying out yet more risk assessments with every change in the regulations. We also had to work out how many people we could safely have in church for services, what was required by way of masking, sanitising, singing and refreshments and keeping records for Test and Trace.

Our thanks to Kathy Ladd for her continuous supply of masks for the church and to all those who helped with the locking and unlocking of the church, including Simon Back, Matt Wright, Mike Brooks, Ruth Vaughan, Tanya Page and Jeff Arden.

Our thanks also to Richard Rivett as organiser of the team keeping the outside of the church in good order and to the continuing diligence of Sue Harris as cleaner and vergier for funerals.

Our thanks go to the many people who make our church an effective witness for our faith, often quietly, behind the scenes.

We will carry out a revised terrier and inventory before the APCM in Spring 2022.

We are sorry to have to record the deaths of some long-standing, and much missed, members of the congregation, including Iris Colin, Michael Price, Audrey Way, Mike Trendell and Margaret Cooper.

Having completed my term of office as churchwarden (six consecutive years is the maximum allowed under church rules) I will be standing down at the APCM but Catherine will thankfully continue in post, providing much-needed continuity. It has been a pleasure to serve the church in this way and as churchwardens we are very appreciative of the wonderful support from the congregation.

Vivien Humber and Catherine Jeffries - Church Wardens

TREASURER'S REPORT

2021 has certainly been a year to remember. For me it has been a disappointment in that my return to the post of Treasurer had to be terminated so suddenly by mobility problems.

At this stage we are still awaiting the final Accounts and, particularly, to see how the Parish has fared in the second year of the Covid pandemic. It was difficult to know how to budget for the new year as we had no experience of life in a pandemic other than that which had just passed. I suggested that we could take the results for 2020 as a yardstick against which we could measure a worsening or improving situation

The monthly accounts have been encouraging and, as 2021 drew to a close, we were able to pay the Diocesan Share two months early. Beyond the figures and the finance something more has happened in the year. Not only has the contribution in terms of time and effort been continued but leadership and ingenuity have been the notable ingredients which have made 2021 such an outstanding year. In the constrained circumstances the finances were particularly vulnerable to stress, and I pay tribute to the exceptional donations which were made in the year.

We are not "out of the wood" yet but the examples and achievements of so many people have made it a year to be remembered with great pride. In the new year there will be several changes among the office holders and those who spend so much time supporting the structures of the Parish. I marvel that we have such a store of talent and devotion.

A year ago, I looked forward to normal (pre-pandemic) working for the office, but that has been slow to be allowed so our appreciation for the efforts of Ruth Thorp our administrator and Sarah Barley with the accountancy can only increase.

Garry Wheatley - PCC Treasurer

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

After a Christmas without live music, we spent the first few months of 2021 in Lockdown 3.0. Services continued on Zoom, and I recorded voluntaries in church. In work terms we went down to one person in the office each day and my day was Monday so after a full day, I would generally spend an hour or so in church in the evening (often in near-freezing conditions) recording for the following Sunday. Later, with time on my hands, I was able to record from different angles in church and edit my productions, adding title pages and relevant information. I tried to select short, approachable music to conclude the virtual services, but occasionally a longer work

or sets of variations were enlivened by a variety of views, occasionally 'pedal-cam' or close-ups of my hands!

For Candlemas, we broadcast live from church and followed it with a choir social on Zoom, again on a very cold day. In fact, the following week there was snow and sub-zero temperatures, and I was stuck at home for a good 10 days (there's quite a hill coming out of Poringland) – this was the most challenging part of the pandemic for me personally. However, spring soon arrived and after a relatively quiet February & March, the restrictions were relaxed and we were able to broadcast from church, with a congregation present, on Good Friday and I provided organ voluntaries at the 8am (eek!) service on Easter Day. Following this, we started fortnightly afternoon communions with a choir of up to 10, distanced in the south aisle. However, the rules changed (again) in mid-May and we were only allowed 6 singers, but we still managed to sing easy, short anthems and hymns during communion. We managed to fit in a final recording session (audio and visual this time) with a full choir just before the new restrictions came into force and the hymns and anthems enhanced the Zoom services during the early summer.

During this time, congregations were not allowed to sing, so when it came to weddings and funerals, we had to be quite inventive in terms of music and hymns. I think I can add DJ to my CV along with video producer and some services used recordings of hymns (some home-produced ones as well as those produced by St Martin's Voices) in addition to the usual occasional requests for songs and orchestral music where it's not possible to find or make arrangements for the organ. It was a privilege to be involved in these services, especially when only close family were allowed to be in attendance, but we did reach many others further afield thanks to the ubiquitous Zoom.

Our first service back in church with a singing congregation was on August 1st and although we were still careful, the choir sang from the south aisle for instance and we didn't serve refreshments, it was a joyous occasion. Once the new audio-visual equipment was installed, we were able to broadcast the Sunday services on Zoom and there's always the chance to watch the good (and not so good) bits back later! From this we managed to tweak little things such as raggedy processions and I've been able to offer constructive criticism to the choir, but I generally don't make a habit of watching much back and I think we all now tend to forget that the cameras are there.

It was a great pleasure to play and for the choir to sing at Anna and Robert's wedding in mid-August. The Ross family in their various forms have been and continue to be an important part of the musical life of Christ Church and it has been

a huge pleasure seeing Anna's development from a shy chorister to radiant bride. I've accompanied and prepared a lot of vocal and string exams with them over the years, enjoyed many lunches together and become good friends so it was a joy to be invited to their wedding reception. One word – Wombles...

Services continued throughout the autumn, with Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance and Christ the King before we reached the usual round of Advent & Christmas specials. We continued with extended Saturday morning rehearsals, roughly every 2-3 weeks, which seemed to be appreciated by the choir, giving more time for in-depth work but also a chance to socialise and drink coffee together. The sessions have been more productive and there is a freshness lacking on a Friday evening – I possibly even have a better response to my 'jokes'. We're still finding our feet after the pandemic but hope to continue with Saturday gatherings and the occasional Friday as we move into 2022.

Covid has been ever-present, but the choir has generally remained in good health and voice throughout the year. The rules have changed so many times and I'm so pleased that we've managed to maintain the music and a choir at Christ Church during what was probably the most challenging year in its long history. I'm so proud and thankful to work with a group of musicians (and to have the support of Patrick, the congregation and so many others) who through sheer determination, friendship and humour have sailed through stormy waters, ready to face the challenges of 2022 and beyond. Deo gratias!

Matt Wright - Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church

BABY&ME

The Baby&Me group, having had to close in March 2020, restarted in early July 2021. We conducted a Risk Assessment and brought in extra cleaning routines. We swapped the rugs for plastic wipeable tiles and removed all soft toys. All our previous babies had now become toddlers, so we had to start again with new babies.

It is fair to say we got off to a slow start as it seems mums and carers have become nervous about going out. We have a few regulars on our books but for various reasons (often colds and coughs and of course Covid itself) we don't have more than two or three at a time.

We will persevere for the time being as we believe that there is a need for a local group for new parents, to meet others in the same situation, especially if they are

served a free breakfast. We keep investigating new ways to attract more parents/carers so please spread the word.

Special thanks to our organiser Leisa Devlin. The team was sorry to lose Rebecca Calcutt-Saunders who moved to Attleborough in July. She is missed.

Catherine Jeffries (on behalf of the team of Alison Green, Carrie Phoenix, Dee Scott and Ruth Vaughan)

CHAT OVER A CUPPA

Due to Covid we did not open until Monday 6th September and have been open every Monday since. The numbers attending have ranged from 6 to 23. Volunteers work hard to see that everyone has plenty of tea and someone to chat with.

Stephanie Brookes

PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

It has long been the church's tradition to take gifts to those in the community who are frail or housebound, unwell, or lonely and to residents of local care homes and hostels at major church festivals.

As in 2020, pastoral and community care work continued in an expanded form to meet greater levels of need as the pandemic continued into 2021.

The most significant pastoral care project was probably the "lockdown" Quilt of Kindness, set up in Spring 2020 and unexpectedly running throughout 2021. The main inspiration was the Changi quilt, made by women interned in Singapore during World War 2. They took what little they had to make a work of art, using it as a way of alleviating boredom and anxiety during their confinement.

Two quilts were completed, involving 45 people (some from outside the county) and the project meant that participants were also able to meet on Zoom to share companionship. It culminated in an exhibition in Christ Church on 19 and 20 November. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Sheriff of Norwich, as well as the Lady Dannatt, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, to view the Quilts and to answer their questions. We were pleased that many of the quilt makers were also able to come to see the finished work and to meet with others over refreshments in the south aisle after a long period when face-to-face interaction had been almost non-existent. We hope that the Quilts can be loaned for exhibition in 2022; the textile Quilt was shown in Bungay in autumn 2021.

The men's fellowship group, also set up on Zoom in 2020, continued to meet regularly for fellowship.

The giving of gifts at major church festivals were expanded to include people not normally on the list. The telephone buddying system, again set up in 2020, continued in 2021 and some people continued to need assistance with food shopping or the collection of medicines.

At Easter, Harvest and Christmas an expanded care pack was offered. As well as the usual plant and greetings card other items were added which we hoped the housebound might find helpful.

At Harvest, produce (similar to items requested by the FoodBank) was taken to local hostels (Leeway, YMCA My Place and Archway, to which St Martin's Housing Trust has been added) and a range of presents for adults and children was donated at Christmas.

Pastoral and community care is only possible because of the contribution of many in the church family. 2021 has been challenging but it is a challenge which we hope has been met.

Particular thanks are due to Pastoral Care Team members, Anna MacDougall and Jacky Sutcliffe, all those on the telephone buddying list and those who helped prepare gifts and distribute them. I am also grateful to the team at St Andrew's with whom we work so happily over the Harvest and Christmas distribution of gifts to the local hostels.

Vivien Humber - for The Pastoral Care Team

CHARITABLE GIVING 2021

Charity of the Month

Covid 19 has had its effect on this. Although cash donations were resumed with services in church again in August, people have perhaps got into the habit of giving individually, either online or by post. Patrick's weekly email sometimes highlights the Charity of the Month and very helpfully includes the online link which also appears in the notice sheet each week. There is no easy way of knowing how many of our congregation choose to donate in this way. We continue to feature a Charity of the Month in the magazine and a display at the back of church. We hope that this encourages people to focus on particular causes and to be generous to those in need.

The Donations Committee met twice in 2021 to discuss which monthly charities to recommend to the PCC. We were very glad to welcome a new member, Peter Smith, who brings new energy and a fresh point of view to our meetings. Our aim continues to be to balance local, national and international concerns and to support mainly Christian charities. Christ Church has traditionally supported five or six priority charities every year, indicated by an asterisk in the list below which shows the amounts sent from cash collections when there was one:

January	Barnabas Fund	£121.66
February	Magdalene Group*	**
March	Bishop's Lent Project (supporting churches and communities across the world during the pandemic)	**
April	Church Army*	**
May	Christian Aid (in the absence of door-to-door collections in Christian Aid Week)	**
June	Hebron House	**
July & Sea Sunday	Mission to Seafarers	**
August	Bible Society*	£110
September & Harvest Festival	WaterAid	£60
October	Tearfund*	£100
November	Scripture Union*	£60
December	Christian Aid Christmas Appeal	£120
Christmas Collections	Barnabas Fund and Church Homeless Trust	£121.66
*Priority charities which receive a donation every year		
** No collections in church due to the pandemic. Some may have given directly		

Other charitable giving from Christ Church usually includes donations at the **Lent Lunches**, organised jointly with St Andrew's, but unfortunately these could not take place in 2021 because of Covid restrictions. It is to be hoped they can go ahead uninterrupted in 2022.

Each year £700 from church funds go to our **CMS Mission Partners** Dick and Caroline Seed in Cape Town. The May coffee morning, organised jointly with St Andrew's, had to be postponed until July 2021 when £1,070 was raised. The Autumn Fayre in mid-November raised £1,040, these funds being shared between our mission partners and Global Mission through Local Leaders.

Every year our **Harvest Festival gifts** of food are boxed up and distributed among the hostels Archway, Leeway, YMCA/My Place and St Martin's Housing Trust. At **Christmas** we donate toys, toiletries and other suitable presents for the people living in these hostels. Many thanks to Vivien Humber for co-ordinating the collection and distribution of these gifts.

In September Christ Church was open for the annual sponsored Bike Ride in aid of the **Norfolk Churches Trust**. Ruth Vaughan valiantly took to the road and raised over £600 from sponsors.

Serving hot drinks after the 10am service was resumed for a time in the autumn. Donations made for this go to **WaterAid and Toilet Twinning**, two worthy charities which unfortunately received much less than usual from this source in 2021.

There is a collection point again at the back of church for unwanted spectacles which are recycled to fund **eye care in developing countries** (Jacky Sutcliffe). The collecting of stamps for **Leprosy Mission** is also back (Vivien Humber). The **Food Bank** collection is also at the back of church again, though we are reminded that it is also possible to donate online at www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk or www.bankuet.co.uk/norwich

The Donations Committee would be glad to welcome new members. We have two meetings a year at most, and members take turns to write for the parish magazine about the Charity of the Month. Do let us know if you might be interested.

Caroline Gibbs - Donations Committee

Committee members: Caroline Gibbs, John Harrison, Peter Smith

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

For the past four years the Friends of Christ Church, Eaton have now been raising money for projects related to the fabric of the church building; these are subject to the approval of the PCC. Money is paid into a separate Friends fund (and may not be used for general running costs). The funds help towards meeting the cost of preserving the fabric of the church, necessary repairs and the replacement of major items.

As a result of COVID-19 the Friends' Management Team were not able to hold their first meeting until March, when we met to decide the 2021 programme. The Management Team met five times during the year.

The PCC approved our proposal that the 2021 projects should be repairs to the boiler room (£4,800) and the chancel windows (£2,022).

Fundraising for the 2021 projects

Plant Sale: this took place around the church on 10th July. It was a fun/community event after a long period of COVID lockdown so the key element was to support community-building. We agreed it was most important to start to offer the local community socialising as lockdown was (at that time) being gradually lifted. The Plant Sale raised £734.89.

2nd Annual Meeting and social event: took place on Wednesday, 8th September at 443 Unthank Road. This was an enjoyable evening and went well, although numbers were lower than for the first Annual Meeting in 2019 because of concerns about COVID restrictions. David Taylor, one of our Patrons, opened the meeting.

Quiz and Chips Night: held on 9th October at St Andrew's church hall, Eaton. This event has always been very successful. The 2021 Quiz Night was no exception. Proceeds came to £591.00.

2022 Project: members of the Management Committee met in October and agreed that we would recommend that the 2022 fundraising project would be a permeable, hard-standing, path to facilitate mobility access (wheelchairs etc) to the Memorial Garden. This has been approved by the PCC.

We are very grateful to all our Friends for continuing to support us in the vital work of maintaining this much loved and valued building. A very considerable sum of the total raised for 2021 came from donations (£1,800) and collections, in particular from the funerals of Iris Colin and Betty Trendell, longstanding Friends who will be greatly missed. We are grateful to their families for supporting the Friends so generously.

Membership of the Friends remained steady throughout the year.

Management Team members, 2021

David Scott (Chair)	Roger Glenwright	Vivien Humber (Secretary)
Catherine Jeffries	Paul Lancaster	Carrie Phoenix
Sarah Scott	Rosalind Wright	

David Scott - Chair of the Management Team, Friends of Christ Church, Eaton

FABRIC REPORTS

Church

There have been two major projects this year.

The first was work to the boiler room. This involved the removal of an asbestos ceiling, replacing a steel beam and demolition of low-level brick walls. This has resulted in additional storage space and ensures our vicar does not suddenly fall through the vestry floor!

The second project was to repair the four lancet windows to the chancel.

Two had significant bulges, which, if left, would have required total reglazing.

By laying flat and including additional horizontal saddle bars, full strength has been achieved whilst conserving the original lead work.

Both of these projects have benefited from the splendid fund-raising efforts of The Friends of Christ Church.

Leaking roofs remain a problem. The bell turret area has been resolved and decoration restored. The north aisle still has damp walls but is hopefully now drying out to allow redecoration in the spring.

Kinchen Hall

The pebble dashing replacement to the south elevation has been commenced but will not now be completed till the spring.

There have been no other significant fabric issues. The relationship with the Beehive Nursery remains very good and they continue to provide a much-needed community facility.

Colman Road Cottage

The tenant left in December. There is considerable work required to remove damp around the chimney stack and lounge walls. The agent anticipates a relet early in 2022. [This has now happened]

Generally

A big thank you to Patrick Furniss for his involvement with the hall committee over many years. His place has now been taken by Ian Parkes. I am most grateful to have the continued help from Chris Mitchell with his sound advice and willing support.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

NORWICH FOOD BANK

Our church collections for Foodbank stopped in March 2020 and started again in October 2021. With reduced numbers attending church services, we decided to go from a weekly collection to a monthly collection. Donations are now collected in church on the first Sunday of the month and taken to the warehouse on Monday. We donate around 3-5 bags a month.

Rachel Taylor continues to represent Christ Church by assisting regularly at the Foodbank delivery centre in St Peter Mancroft's Chantry.

The Foodbank is grateful for all our donations, in kind, in time and effort, and for the financial donations made online. They greatly appreciate our support and prayer for their work.

Anna MacDougall & Jacky Sutcliffe

GLASSES FOR AFRICA

Pre-Covid I was taking old glasses (complete or broken) to Specsavers for recycling for Vision Aid Overseas, which they support both in providing glasses and also having set up a training centre in Zambia.

Sadly, due to the pandemic, these collections had to be stopped for the time being.

Jacky Sutcliffe

PART TWO – REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH ST ANDREW’S CHURCH

GROUP COUNCIL - The Parishes' Group Council Joint St Andrew's with Christ Church

***Mission Statement:** The Group Ministry of St Andrew and Christ Church seeks to Collaborate, Co-operate and Communicate in the Eaton Community*

The Diocese established a Group Ministry for the Parishes of St Andrew's and Christ Church in 2007 when the old parish of Eaton was divided into two. Its Group Council is the vehicle by which they 'consult together on any matter of common concern". It has no decision-making power and acts in a consultative and advisory role to the two PCCs. In 2010 the then Bishop of Norwich said that the Group Ministry should, firstly, facilitate what the people involved wanted to do to benefit and develop church mission in Eaton and, secondly, serve the future development of both churches.

Ongoing activities within the Group Ministry include:

- communications such as the parishes' magazine, Christmas and Easter cards
- supporting Mission Partners, through prayer and fund-raising events
- joint children and youth activities including the Easter Workshop and Summer Holiday Club
- events such as the Garden Party/Summer Fair & Garden Service, Remembrance Day and Lent Lunches
- the Parishes' Office
- Groups, including the Mothers Union and the Julian Group.

These subjects feature regularly on the agenda of Group Council quarterly meetings and the minutes of its meetings are circulated to both PCCs for report and/or response.

Despite the unavoidable cancellation of a number of planned activities the two parishes continued to communicate with their congregations and the wider communities in 2021, albeit sometimes in different ways. We have also discovered innovative ways of delivering many of the Group Ministry's objectives.

The Mission Partners have been supported through prayer and the annual fundraising Coffee Morning (delayed from Spring to the Summer due to COVID restrictions) and the Autumn Fayre, held on 13 November. We continued to communicate with a growing number of children through free Activity Packs in

Easter and July and were then able to reinstate face-to-face interaction with children through Activity Workshops and the Summer Holiday Club.

In 2020 the joint parishes' Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial on 11 November with a very encouraging attendance, including a number of local schoolchildren; we are grateful to David Scott for continuing to organise these Services and for the clergy from the two parishes who lead them.

More detailed reports on joint activities e.g Mission Support, children and youth work, the Office and the magazine, can be found in other reports.

We were pleased to welcome Lucy Stone, (St Andrew's Children and Families Worker) to join the Council this year.

Thanks to all members - whether continuing, retired or new to the Group - for their enthusiasm and support. Vivien Humber continues to provide support as Group Secretary.

John Ladd - Chair, Group Council 2021

PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

The parishes magazine is an important part of the Eaton churches communications package, providing an accessible Christian message to a broadly-based readership. Its aim is to offer subscribers articles on subjects of interest ranging from church to local community matters, as well as information on the goods and services offered by advertisers.

The Team supports the magazine editors and the advertising secretary by reviewing contents, production, circulation and revenues at the two meetings which are held each year. The Vicars are ex officio members.

I would like to thank all members of the team for their enthusiasm and commitment in 2021.

Despite many changes in government guidance since the first lockdown in March 2021 the magazine has continued to be printed and distributed; sometimes copies were left for collection rather than posted through front doors, but we carefully complied with government and Diocesan advice on this. We also posted an on-line magazine on the websites of both churches so it was accessible to those who experienced problems collecting their usual copy and this has worked well.

We are grateful to all those who contribute articles, with particular thanks to our regular columnists.

A special tribute must be paid to Sarah Scott, one of the editorial team, who sadly stood down this year. She was an excellent editor and is already greatly missed.

The magazine could not function without its advertising secretary so thanks also to Christine Mortimer, who works so ably with the advertisers and printers. We are also most grateful for the sterling work of those unsung heroes, the magazine distributors and the Office staff, who have worked seamlessly with them. Thanks also to the printers, BD&H, who maintained their excellent service, uninterrupted.

Finally, the magazine continues to generate a surplus which is used to support the work of the two churches. We are grateful to Richard Holcombe for his work on the magazine accounts during the year.

Vivien Humber - Magazine Team Chairman

EATON PARISHES OFFICE

Our hopes for a better 2021 than 2020 were soon dashed, with the introduction of the third national lockdown on 6 January, lasting until 29 March. Sarah, who had started as Finance Assistant during the first lockdown in 2020, had already had a challenging time adapting to a new job, working in the office on her own, whilst I worked from home. This continued for most of 2021, although after August, I was able to return to the office two days a week. However, for Covid reasons, we both worked alone in the office, on different days. We did work on two days a week at the same time, with me at home, enabling zoom contact when required. This made things somewhat easier for Sarah, as I could leave things out for her, and she for me. But still, we never got to normal office working in 2021.

I am very grateful that Sarah was able to do some printing during my absence from the office, in particular continuing with the St Andrew's weekly service sheet into the summer, which was invaluable for keeping in touch with people without the advantage of technology, enabling them to receive regular spiritual input. Having an external covered porch at St Andrew's was an advantage for enabling non-contact collections.

This 'divided' working had its challenges and it can't have been easy for Sarah to get established in her role whilst continuing to work by herself. By the end of 2021, she had still not worked alongside anyone in the office, sadly. Whilst zoom calls helped, it was nevertheless difficult. Notwithstanding these additional challenges, Sarah has done a marvellous job in making the role her own. Systems which had previously been begun, or put in place, have been updated and adjusted to fit her way of working. She and I have worked collaboratively to increase our efficiency in the

often-complex world of church administration and finance. Progress has been made!

One major administrative challenge of 2021 was the substantial change in how wedding administration takes place. This change was long planned, and nothing to do with the pandemic, but it was unfortunate timing to make such a substantial change when we were still taking weddings under restrictions, with some couples having to postpone their wedding more than once. The new system means that The Church no longer provides marriage certificates at the ceremony, as had been the case since 1837. Instead, a 'marriage document' is prepared in advance by me, signed by both parties and the officiating clergy at the ceremony, and then sent off the Norwich Registration Office. The couple's marriage is then added to a digital marriage register, and they can apply for a marriage certificate, which they receive in due course. There was quite a bit of training to do, including attending online 'webinars', and as with all new systems, there were some teething problems. However, it all seems to be running smoothly now, especially as the General Registration Office (the central registration service) listened to feedback and have tweaked the processes slightly, which was helpful.

A further change in the office is that in the autumn, Phil, Patrick and the PCCs kindly agreed to my request to reduce my working days from 5 to 4, enabling me to have Fridays off. Sarah kindly holds the fort on Fridays, so that the Christ Church 'basket post' system still works! I am very grateful for this change, as it now enables me to spend time off with my vicar husband, who has Fridays off. I still work the same number of hours, just spread over Monday - Thursday instead.

In last year's review, I reported that "The main thing missing from office life in 2020 was - office life!" This continued for 2021, and we finished the year with normal office life still not having yet resumed. I sincerely hope that in my report of 2022, I will be able to report very differently!

I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and help with working around the challenges presented to the office team during the pandemic. I very much look forward to a time when we can say 'normal service is resumed'!

Ruth Thorp - Parishes Administrator

EATON MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union Norwich is a part of a worldwide fellowship. Through programmes, campaigning, community outreach and prayer Mothers' Union promotes stable marriage and family life. It works through local volunteer members to create lasting

change for families and their communities. Members are driven by their faith but work with people of all faiths and none.

Its programme includes:

- **Away From It All (A.F.I.A) holidays:** a MU project to provide holidays for disadvantage children in the UK.
- **Angel Tree:** a MU project connected with a local prison, enabling children of prisoners to receive Christmas gifts from their absent parent.
- **Cathedral Prayers:** on 1st Thursday of every month MU Norwich meets in the Jesus Chapel at Norwich Cathedral for Midday Prayers, each time hosted by a different MU group.
- **Loving for Life:** an interactive and encouraging relationship workshop, facilitated by trained MU members to help couples build a loving marriage (email mulovingforlife@gmail.com for more information).
- **Refugee Resettlement:** members from our Branch have been involved in refugee resettlement, including bed making for their arrival.

Branch news: in the 2021 MU Report I reported that the Eaton Branch Committee hoped to devise a programme of meetings and speakers for at least part of 2021 but added that this would depend entirely on the situation concerning COVID-19.

Sadly, it proved impossible to run a programme because of the pandemic, which continued long after we had all expected it to end. However, we were able to meet, safely, in a member's garden during the summer to share fellowship and to discuss what would be possible in lockdown times. A welcome suggestion was that we should hold an Advent Reflection and so we were delighted that Revd. Colin Way was able to lead us in this at Christ Church in December, suitably masked and distanced. A further Reflection is now planned for Lent 2022.

Our thanks to our clergy, who take the Holy Communion Service at 10am on the third Thursday of the month.

Branch vision for the future:

- to continue to work for all that Mother's Union represents supporting families and marriage.
- to provide inspiration for members in the year ahead.

Meanwhile we continue to maintain contact with Branch members and to disseminate useful information and news through emails and letters.

Vivien Humber - Branch Leader

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

There were five meetings throughout the year, all held via Zoom. Most of the joint work carried out between the two churches was coordinated and carried out by Lucy Stone, St Andrew's Children and Families Worker, and the excellent team of people she has drawn together from both churches. (Her report follows immediately after this one.) Our thanks to Vivien Humber who continued to serve as the committee's secretary, and to Kathy Ladd (CCE) and all those who worked with her on the creative forms of outreach that have continued throughout the time of the pandemic (again, see Lucy's report below for the details.)

Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond

Joint Chairs

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK –

REPORT FROM ST ANDREW'S CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Jointly SAE with CCE

2021 was an exciting year for joint children's work. We saw the activity packs become ever more popular, but we were also able to create new events and see the return of the Holiday Club.

Activity Packs: We continued to deliver packs all through 2021 and plan too into 2022 as well. We had packs at Easter, Summer, Autumn Half Term and Christmas. All very popular and we have to give a huge thank you to all the team who helped create, put together and deliver these packs. They have been such a blessing to the community and we have had so much positive feedback.

Workshops: On the back of the success of the packs we decided to create some craft workshops for those who enjoy the packs but would like to do something more. The first in person one of these was at the beginning of the summer holidays, we then had one in the Autumn half term and at Christmas – each time getting bigger and better. The Christmas one even had a waiting list! These workshops have lots of crafts, always some food, games and in the warmer months we went outside too. At Christmas time we joyfully welcomed the adults back at the end to sing some carols together. These workshops have been such a success and we now have a program of them planned throughout the year and a dedicated team to make them happen.

Holiday Club: We were able to put on our summer holiday club this year. The theme was Superheroes. We had lots of young people there and the week was enjoyed by all.

Easter: At Easter we did an online craft workshop where we worked through some of the crafts that were in their packs together.

It has been a joy to work alongside Christ Church for all these things and I am excited for what 2022 brings.

Lucy Stone – Children and Families Worker at St Andrew’s

OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT

1. Our Church Mission Society (CMS) Mission Partners - The Revd. Dr. Dick and Doctor Caroline Seed

They have been based at George Whitefield College (GWC) in Cape Town, South Africa since August 2018. They work with the Overseas Council Australia’s (OCA) Mile Deep Programme to run lecturer training courses in Anglican Universities and Colleges across Africa. Dick is an ordained clergyman in the Church of England and has a PhD in Theological Education. Caroline is a trained teacher with a PhD in Theology. The ministry they run is called Theological Education Development Services (TEDS).

Although they are still based at George Whitefield College in Cape Town most of their courses for the Lecturers’ Certificate were conducted online because of Covid 19 restrictions throughout Africa and the rest of the world. They had to prepare and give their online courses from their small flat in Cape Town.

They started the year with a successful week-long training course online for Phase 1 of their Certificate for the Centre of Pastoral Studies (CEPS) in Santiago, Chile. Then they ran Phase 1 online for GWC in February for a smaller group of lecturers. This was also successful.

Early this year their colleague, Nancy Njagi in Kenya, has been running the online demonstration teaching video sessions for the Tanzania group who had Phase 1 of the course in October 2020. The Tanzania group completed their full certificate course in April and will now go on to learn how to be trainers of trainers.

GWC have given the Seeds a part-time facilitator who is trained in education to assist them with online teaching for the certificate course. To help with this OCA has provided new computer equipment for the team. GWC have also agreed to a curriculum for a postgraduate diploma in teaching and learning for higher

theological education to be run from the College. This will be the first of its kind on the African Continent.

The Seeds sent us a video bringing us up to date with their work which was shown in both St Andrew's and Christ Church at the morning service on Sunday, 11th July.

They should be able to take their home leave in March to May 2022 now that our borders have opened up and they have both received their Covid vaccinations. We hope they will be able to visit both of our Churches during this time.

2. Our Support for Global Mission through local leaders (Also through CMS)

In the autumn I arranged for CMS Oxford to send me, in future, the emails we have been expecting to receive three to four times a year which include updates from local leaders. CMS said they had been sending them to our Parishes' Office but for some reason they were not getting through. To date I have received no emails so I will investigate this further.

Fortunately, I am still receiving, from CMS, every two months, copies of their Prayerlines and, four times a year, The Call which is now in A4 book form and incorporates the Prayerlines when The Call is produced. The Prayerlines include prayers for "local partners" which is another term for "local leaders". I put a supply of both these publications, when they are available, at the back of both Churches so that Church members can pick up a copy to use in their prayers.

3. Mission Focus Team Meetings (previously Mission Support Group Meetings)

These monthly meetings resumed on Zoom for three months starting in March. We were very grateful to the Revd. Dr. James Cook, Curate of St. Andrew's, for joining the Team in March and for booking the Zoom Meetings and dealing with the technical side of them for us. Then these Meetings switched to being in the garden or house of different Team members for the rest of the year.

From July we were pleased to welcome Peter Smith from Christ Church to our Team, bringing our regular Team membership to nine.

This year we were able to have our deferred Spring Coffee Morning as a Summer Coffee Morning in St Andrew's Church Hall on Saturday, 31st July. This raised the wonderful sum of £1,070.00. We also held our Autumn Fayre on Saturday, 13th November when we raised £1,040.00. The total raised from these two events was £2,110.00. Last year's events raised a total of £2,000.00.

Jane Carey - Leader, Mission Support Group

NORWICH SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod allows the clergy and lay representatives in our part of the city to discuss together issues affecting the life and mission of our churches. It acts as an intermediary between parochial church councils and the Diocesan Synod.

We met three times in 2021, each time on Zoom, with Sandra Isaacs chairing the house of laity. There is currently no secretary, but Vivien Humber kindly took minutes.

In February we learned that the Diocese were reconsidering the proposed reordering and development of St Mary's, Earlham. We noted that online services and meetings of various forms were in use, but people missed communion and online meetings could be exhausting. We discussed the new, national vision, that the CofE should be Christ Centred and Jesus Shaped, "simpler, humbler and bolder", comprising "missionary disciples", seeking to be "younger and more diverse", and a "mixed ecology" of traditional and fresh expressions of church. We discussed financial pressures nationally and in the diocese, and noted diocesan plans to increase the paid ministry in Earlham to reflect its deprivation and large population. We noted Living in Love and Faith, LLF, a national process aimed at increasing understanding of the difficult and divisive issues concerning sexuality and gender in the church, and the Eco-church movement.

In June we welcomed new members, discussed the delays in reducing pandemic restrictions, especially on singing, and had presentations on racial injustice. We voted unanimously to call on all our church councils to consider how they could oppose racism and promote diversity. Responding to Diocesan Synod, we then looked at the clergy wellbeing covenant, calling on everyone to commit to the wellbeing of clergy as carers. A "big conversation" in church communities would increase understanding of clergy workload and pressures, while the covenant commitment would encourage and reassure clergy as they care for others that people value and care for them. We voted unanimously to adopt the covenant and called on PCCs and parishes to discuss and adopt the covenant and report on progress at their next annual meeting.

In November we discussed the "new normal", with restrictions starting to relax and many but not all worshippers returning to church. There was an update on Diocesan Synod from James Cook, leading into a discussion on Eco-churches and the environment and the drafting of a motion encouraging the Diocese to offer a lead on and help with green finance and technology. We reviewed progress with PCCs adopting the Clergy wellbeing covenant, noted items from General Synod, including LLF, and welcomed the Rev Matthew Hutton's initiative for clergy to be involved in

Public Health Funerals (previously known as Pauper's funerals) where the deceased had a known Christian faith.

Patrick Richmond - Rural Dean and Chair of House of Clergy of Deanery Synod

NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Diocesan Synod consists of the bishops, archdeacons and elected laity and clergy of the diocese. The diocese is governed by the diocesan bishop acting with the advice and consent of representatives of the clergy and laity of the diocese. We met three times in 2021, twice by Zoom and once in the Cathedral.

In March, Synod overwhelmingly adopted the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing, described in the Deanery Synod report above, and called on all PCCs to adopt the covenant and the whole diocese to join in the "big conversation" discussing it. There was a presentation on the review of governance in the diocese. This combined the Bishop's Council with the Diocesan Board of Finance Executive to produce a new "Bishop's council of Trustees" and clarified the role of various committees and ensured that the diocese was fully compliant with relevant regulations. After discussion, Synod overwhelmingly supported the new structures. An update on the Diocesan Environmental policy was also agreed. A review of the diocese's property and of the costs of making it net Zero Carbon by 2030 is in process. Synod next discussed and agreed, with none against, the Bishop's vision and priorities for the diocese for 2021-2026 so that we are "transformed by Christ" to be "prayerful, pastoral and prophetic", and to commission strategies to bring these to fruition. There were also updates on the diocesan church planting and revitalisation programme, on the reviews of clergy deployment and diocesan staff, both aiming to save money, on the finances of the diocese with reduced income in the pandemic, and on elections to General Synod. Bishop Graham thanked Bill Husselby, outgoing chair of the board of finance, and welcomed Mark Jeffries as his successor.

In June, Mark Jeffries commented on various aspects of diocesan finances before Synod received and adopted the Reports and accounts for 2020. Rosemary Pearce, acting as Diocesan Secretary in lieu of Richard Butler, and Susan Bunting, director of finance, explained how the finances and budget looked for 2022, as the diocese tried to recover from the challenges of the pandemic, and particularly from reductions in parish share income. Synod then discussed the report on promoting racial justice, inclusion and diversity, *From Lament to Action*, with presentations by one of its authors, Sonia Barron, and from Diocesan Missioner Tim Yau, an ordinand

going to Sprowston, Mr Blessing Chishanu, and Karlene Kerr, Bishop's Advisor about UK minority ethnic affairs.

In November, Synod celebrated the Eucharist together in the cathedral. I was re-elected chair of the house of clergy and we welcomed new members of the Bishop's Council of Trustees and the members of General Synod. We unanimously approved a formal scheme for the Diocesan Board of Education and discussed how to support the diocesan vision and priorities, especially being "prayerful". A draft budget for 2022 was introduced, explained and approved, with a planned deficit and the goal of a balanced budget in 2023. Synod then debated and overwhelmingly approved a motion from the Rev Dr Steven Sivyer for the diocese to divest from oil and gas.

Patrick Richmond - Chair of the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod and on General Synod

