

2024 APCM: PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023-2024

PCC membership

For the year 2023 -2024, PCC officers were:

Co- Chairs: Anna Beyer and Nathan Watt till September 5th 2023 then Rev James Bailey
Treasurer: Richard Tootill
PCC Secretary: Sally Tantot
Church Wardens: Anna Beyer (stepped down September 5th 2023) & Nathan Watt

The PCC membership was Nathan Watt (Warden), Anna Beyer (Warden), Sally Tantot (Secretary), Richard Tootill (Treasurer) John Griffiths, Gareth Jones, Alice Parsons, Ann-marie Idiagbonya (CSO), Clive Mills (April 25th 2023)

All eligible to step down stood again. Stepping down from the PCC in 2024 are Ann-marie Idiagbonya and Anna Beyer.

Sally Tantot stepped down from being PCC Secretary but remains on the PCC.

The PCC would like to thank these members for their faithful, faith-filled service in the last few years.

Meetings

The PCC met on, July 3rd & 31st 2023, September 25th, 2023, November 20th, 2023, January 29th, 2024, February 5th, 2024, March 25th 2024.

Most PCC meetings have been held in person.

The PCC approved the following appointments: Worship Pastors, Administrator Full time, Site Manager 4 days.

Finances

The PCC reviewed the church's finances at all its meetings. The PCC is enormously grateful to Richard Tootill (Treasurer), the Standing Committee and to Sarah Dodd and Rother Bookkeepers for their diligent and faith-filled oversight and stewardship of ChristChurch's finances. The Treasurer's Report sets out our financial position in more detail. The 2023 accounts have now been audited and approved by the PCC, and a summary of the accounts is in the Treasurer's report.

The PCC wants to thank the congregation for their continued generosity. ChristChurch receives no funding or financial support from the Church of England and so we are wholly dependent on the congregation's faithful giving for the ministry God has called us to.

Common Fund Contributions

As part of the Church of England, CCF contributes to the diocese's cost of running CCF through Common Fund Contributions, which includes the vicar's salary, pension etc. In previous years, CCF has given up to 130% of costs. 100% of costs covers the Vicar and anything over and above is considered 'mission giving' supporting the provision of clergy in parishes that are economically unable to cover their costs. Since 2018 due to our own costs increasing especially with needing to invest into the buildings the PCC has committed to 100% of our commitment at £85,200 in 2020 and 2021 and 2022. Due to the financial uncertainties caused by Covid-19 from May 2020 to the end of 2022 the Common Fund commitment was reduced in agreement with the Diocese of London. After it was clear that CCF income had reduced from previous years, the amount we projected to pay, and did pay, was reduced from £85,200 to £57,265 (this being the cost of remunerating and housing a vicar but without the other services that the Diocese provides). This was done in consultation with the Diocese. We have committed to pay £59,270 for 2024. The Common Fund commitment is reviewed and agreed annually by the PCC.

Safeguarding

The PCC regularly reviewed safeguarding issues. The PCC is hugely appreciative of the leadership shown by Ann-marie Idiagbonya (Church Safeguarding Officer) and Kim Quicksell (DBS Checker) and Lucy Asare-Akoto (DBS Checker) in overseeing the implementation of our safeguarding policy. The PCC is committed to safeguarding children, young adults and vulnerable adults to worship and grow in Christ safely at ChristChurch. We continue to monitor and update our safeguarding protocols in line with CofE guidelines.

Key Personnel:

Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Ann-marie Idiagbonya (stepped down April 29 th , 2024)
DBS Checker:	Lucy Asare-Akoto
Children's Champion:	Katrin Sterland

All PCC, Kids & Youth Team are DBS checked and have retrained in Safeguarding.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance."

The PCC reported 1 incident this year to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Staff

2023 saw a high staff turnover and also changes to staffing structures primarily due to the financial uncertainty brought on by an interregnum.

Vicar:

Rev. James Bailey was appointed Vicar in March 2023 taking up the post September 2023.

Administrator Role:

- Lucy Asare-Akoto took up the post of Administrator starting April 2023 4 days a week moving to 35 hrs a week December 2023.

Site Manager:

- Bruno Pinto took up the post of 3 days a week Site Manager March 2023 moving to 4 days a week January 2024.

Worship Pastor:

- Natalie Letsa, Worship Pastor left August 2023. Cover for the worship team rota in the interim was organized by Lucy Asare-Akoto and worship team members Ann-marie Idiagbonya and Emily Watt.
- Erik Fauss and Audrey Tambudzai took up the Worship Pastor post as a job share in March 2024.

Youth Pastor:

- Dani Belcredi Kiersnowska left November 2023.
- Abi Hunter took up the post of part time volunteer Youth Pastor in March 2024.

Children's and Families' Pastor

Rachel Bailey was appointed to this role in Nov 23, and stepped down in Jan 24 to continue in this role in a voluntary capacity.

Operations Manager:

Sarah Dodd left March 2024.

Church Life

From January 2022 onwards the church was in a 'vacancy' period following the resignation of the previous incumbent, and was led by the Churchwardens, focussing on maintaining the core community activities during this time. On 5th September 2023 the Rev James Bailey was instituted and inducted as the Vicar of Christ Church Fulham.

Average Sunday morning attendance in 2023 was 82 adults and children (85 in 2022).

Video recordings of the sermons continue to be made available online for the benefit of those who do not attend in person and they are watched by a significant number of people each week. Several 'Community Groups' meet regularly online or in person. An Alpha Course was run over seven weeks in early 2024.

The children's ministry continued to operate during Sunday services, led by a volunteer team until the appointment of Rachel Bailey as Children's and Families' Pastor in November 2023. Once a month the youth were involved in leading the children's groups, with supervision from the Youth Pastor and youth team.

The youth continued to meet on Friday nights, where church youth are able to invite their friends and we see on average 20 youth, alongside Sunday mornings where we see five to ten youth. A particular highlight for three young people, who attended together with three youth leaders, was 'Satellites', a five day Christian youth event at Bath and West showground. The Youth Pastor resigned in November 2023 and a replacement was recruited in February 2024 (serving part-time on a voluntary basis).

The leadership ensured that pastoral care continued to be available during the vacancy. This was achieved through leaders of the Community Groups keeping in contact with members of their groups; through a 'Connect Team', set up to aim to maintain contact with people who have not been in church for a while, and organise practical support for those who need it; and through a 'Pastoral Team', set up to offer prayer and pastoral support to those with physical or mental health needs. All of these groups were formed of, and led by, lay members of the congregation.

Freedom Prayer sessions were held on most Wednesday mornings through 2023, and also online. Freedom Prayer is currently being reviewed with the prayer team, with the intention of reintroducing it in September.

A Carol Service was held on 10th December attended by about 146 people including invited local residents, and on 17th December 135 people including local visitors attended a Family Carol Service.

Approximately 100 people, 80 of them new to Christ Church, came to a 'Create for Christmas' wreath making evening on 7th December, and we believe that this generated interest in our Carol services and Christmas events in the following weeks.

On Palm Sunday 2024, around 500 people mainly from the locality attended an Easter Fair in the vicarage garden, and we are praying for fruit from the many connections made.

Christ Church Fulham has a restricted Hardship Fund for assisting members of the congregation in financial difficulties. During 2023 several grants were made from this fund totalling £1885.

Regular maintenance of the church buildings continued, including lightning protection service and upgrade, emergency lighting servicing and maintenance, fire alarm and fire extinguisher servicing and legionella checks.

The Robin Montessori nursery business continued to operate on site and the 'Sports Hall' was rented to various music and dance groups for children.

Mission Giving and Gift Day

- **Mission Giving** – CCF supported 6 mission partners around the world including India, Ireland, South Africa, Central Asia and Sri Lanka. In total CCF gave £17,224 in monthly finance support to mission partners and one-off gifts.
- A Happy Gift Day was held in November 2023 raising a total of £ 20,808.
- A grant of £5,000 was received from the Church Revitalisation Trust, most of which has been used to instal new large screens in the sanctuary.

The church family

Even with all the changes, there has been much to celebrate this year in the life of Christchurch and there has been growth and blessing and a continued revitalized church family. The whole church family stepped up as a community whether it was to lead, preach, be on a team or to look after each other. This has been a year of 'they will know you by your love for one another' for CCF and that is not nothing. CCF wishes to express deep thanks to The Wardens, Nathan Watt and Anna Beyer and the Standing Committee in particular for their faith filled service during this vacancy. Thanks too to Patricia Taylor who preached regularly and conducted Communion. The PCC thanks, too, all members of our church family for your prayers, and stepping up into leading or volunteering and for continuing to fix your eyes on Jesus and trusting God to lead us through this period. Sadly, we have said goodbye to some dear friends during the year, but we have also had the pleasure of welcoming others to our family, and we are delighted with the arrival of our new Vicar James Bailey and his family and all that they bring to the life of CCF.

Sally Tantot
PCC Secretary

April 2024

2024 APCM FABRIC REPORT 2023/2024

The church and hall buildings have required some attention to maintain in good order over the period including:

- Quinquennial with minimal recommendations made
- Side garden upgrade including Tree surgeon removal of diseased memorial garden tree
- Annual legionella, asbestos, lightening conductor reviews
- Church hall boiler and radiator powerflush
- Fire safety upgrades- emergency lighting and fire extinguishers replacement
- Various plumbing fixes to 55 Clancarty Rd.
- New screens in the Sanctuary

The church hall window repairs and brickwork treatment works were financed by a loan for approximately £95,000 from the London Diocese in 2021 repayable over 5 years.

Income generation between from the Sports Hall has been £31,655 and The Robin Montessori has been £68,898 between January 2023-March 2024.

The Site Manager and Operations Manager have been fully involved in ensuring these things happen as well as carrying out minor items, for which we are most grateful.

Nathan Watt
Church Warden

April 2024