



St Mary's Church

St Mary's Road, Ealing, W5 5RH

Documents for Annual Meetings

10.30am on Sunday 28 April 2024

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The PCC aims to set an example of love and service to enable and encourage the people of St Mary's to do Christ's work in the community

St Mary's Church, Ealing

Sunday 28 April 2024 at 10.30am at St Mary's, Ealing

Annual Meetings

Agenda

Lay Vice-Chair Julia James will chair the meetings

The 10.30am service at St Mary's will include times of musical worship and prayer in addition to the agenda items for the meetings listed.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of Meeting 21 May 2023
 2. Matters arising from the minutes 21 May 2023
 3. Election of Churchwardens Julia James
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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Electoral Roll Wei Hei Kipling
2. Matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business'
3. Minutes of 21 May 2023
4. Matters arising from Minutes 21 May 2023
5. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023 David Morrow
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024 David Morrow
7. Election of Deanery Synod (one casual vacancy) Julia James
8. Election of Parochial Church Council Julia James
9. Annual Fabric Report Brian Everett
10. Deanery Synod Report Wei Hei Kipling
11. Safeguarding Report Steve Cripps
12. Any Other Business
13. Churchwarden's Report Ruth Wheeldon

*Wei Hei Kipling / PCC Secretary
9 March 2024*

The PCC aims to set an example of love and service to enable and encourage the peoples of St Mary's to do Christ's work in the community.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, EALING
Minutes of Annual Meetings
held on Sunday 21 May 2023 in the Church
Revd. Steve Paynter in the Chair

Note [Wording in square brackets] provides clarification or refers to matters taking place after the meeting but clarifying that item.

Present: Steve Paynter (chair), Wai Meng Chow, Alex Volossevich and 87 laity (12 not on electoral roll); Livestream available but viewers not able to participate.

The meetings took place during the 10.30am service. The minutes note when worship took place but not the full details of the worship.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners
held at 10.35am on 21 May 2023 in the Church

1. Worship

1.1. The service opened with worship and then the Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Meetings.

2. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners of 22 May 2022

Minutes of 22 May 2022 approved *nem con* and signed as an accurate account.

3. Matters arising from Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners of 22 May 2022 None

4. Election of Churchwardens

4.a. Churchwardens not standing again

4.1. Both Brian Everett and Bev Everett have decided not to stand for election as churchwarden.

4.2. Much of the work of a churchwarden happens out of sight.

- Brian Everett has been churchwarden at St Mary's for three stints totalling 10 years. We are grateful for his wisdom, prayerfulness and care; his love for the congregation and buildings.
- Bev Everett has been churchwarden for two years and we are grateful for all her care and her contribution, serving you the congregation over this time.

4.b. Candidates

4.3. Ruth Wheeldon – nominated by Beverley Everett; seconded by Wei Hei Kipling

4.c. Election

4.4. Ruth Wheeldon will do her very best to love and to serve you with God's grace and will be looking for the Holy Spirit to call a second warden. Ruth will have a lot of support.

Functions of the PCC include

“co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”

4.5. There being one candidate and two vacancies, Ruth Wheeldon was duly elected churchwarden for the coming year.

4.d. Children’s Champion and Children of St Mary’s on Sundays (COSMOS)

4.6. Marijana (Mags) Cranmer, Children’s Champion was introduced to the congregation. Her role is to keep the interests and best practice of the children at heart and to make sure that things happen. If a child is ever unhappy about something at St Mary’s, please speak to MC who will champion your cause.

4.7. MC is also the COSMOS co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating the volunteers (leaders and helpers. Thanks were expressed to the COSMOS team. Volunteering with COSMOS is important and fulfilling and a regular or *ad hoc* commitment is possible.

4.8. A child prayed for the wardens and then the wardens prayed for the children and young people.

The meeting closed with worship and the children went to their own activities in the Polygon.

Signature.....

Dated

Wei Hei Kipling / PCC Secretary 11 April 2024

**Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held at 10.45am on 21 May 2023 in the Church**

1. Electoral Roll (Jennie Paynter)

1.1. The electoral roll isn’t only about the church council and committees but is a way of saying “I belong”.

1.2. The roll stands at 212, an increase of 22 from 2022, of whom 99 are resident in the parish and the other 113 are resident outside the parish. 26 people have joined the electoral roll in the past year and four have been taken off the roll for different reasons.

1.3. JP was thanked for all her work on the electoral roll.

1.4. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con*
The APCM accepts the 2023 Report on the Electoral Roll.**

2. Matters to be raised under Any Other Business

- Heating
- Same sex blessing

3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 22 May 2022

Minutes of 22 May 2022 approved *nem con* and signed as an accurate account.

4. Matters arising from Minutes of APCM of 22 May 2022– none

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“co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church,
pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”

5. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022 (David Morrow)

Document circulated before meeting: Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022

5.1. Financial highlights of 2022 included:

- Church and Polygon lettings are recovering after Covid 19 – income was £43k in 2019 and is already £33k in 2022;
- 16 Gerrards Court was empty for half of 2021 but has been refurbished allowing more rent in 2022;
- Energy costs are higher in 2022.
- St Mary's still holds healthy free reserves of £177k.

5.2. DM was thanked for looking after the accounts; people could speak to DM privately after the meeting if they had any questions about the accounts.

5.3. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con***

The APCM accepts the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2022.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner (David Morrow)

6.1. Maria Bob has been Independent Examiner for St Mary's for a number of years.

6.2. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con***

The APCM appoints Maria Bob as Independent Examiner for 2023.

6.b. Stewardship Recorder

6.3. Jennifer Ntiamoah was introduced to the meeting. She was appointed Stewardship Recorder in June 2022. DM and JN were thanked for their work and WMC prayed for them.

6.c. Mission Support (Chris Goldsmid)

6.4. The written report on mission is included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022 with additional information in the set of documents prepared for this meeting.

6.5. St Mary's is a missionary church and supports a number of organisations including the following mission partners. Mission speakers from three organisations are invited to speak at a Sunday service each year and we support 12 main organisations. Chris Goldsmid, chair of mission support, thanked the congregation at St Mary's for our generous giving.

6.6. Thanks were expressed to Chris Goldsmid and the mission team who keep us mindful of God's work across the world and locally. If anyone would like to be more involved with our mission work, we are currently looking for mission secretaries for Tearfund, Christian Aid and A Rocha.

6.7. Prayers were said for Chris Goldsmid and the mission team.

7. Election of Deanery Synod (Steve Paynter)

7.a. People standing down

7.1. 2023 is the end of the three-year term for lay representatives to the Ealing Deanery Synod. Thanks were expressed to Grant White and Jean Place who have served on Deanery Synod for many years and are standing down this year. Wei Hei Kipling and Jennie Paynter are standing for re-election to the Deanery Synod.

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7.b. Candidates

- 7.2. Brian Everett – nominated by Wei Hei Kipling, seconded by Mary Wang
- 7.3. Wei Hei Kipling – nominated by Beverley Everett seconded by Ruth Wheeldon
- 7.4. Jennie Paynter – nominated by Angela Barnfather, seconded by Roger Foster-Smith

7.c. Election

- 7.5. The Diocese of London has advised that three places will be allocated to lay representatives of St Mary's parish on the deanery synod of Ealing for the term 2023 to 2026 [this is a change from the four of the previous term of deanery synod.]
- 7.6. Brian Everett, Wei Hei Kipling and Jennie Paynter are therefore elected to the Deanery Synod, and therefore *ex officio*, to the PCC for a three-year term ending in 2026.

8. Election of Parochial Church Council (Steve Paynter)

- 8.1. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) works in partnership with the vicar to lead St Mary's, so all important and significant decisions go through the PCC.
- 8.2. There are 12 elected members of the PCC of whom four stand down each year to create four vacancies each year with a term of three years.
- 8.3. Four PCC members – Cliff Gardiner, Magdalene Lagu, Ray Read and Alison Shaw – are due to step down this APCM after completion of their terms of office. Thanks were expressed for their contributions. In particular, Magdalene Lagu, who has been a member of St Mary's for some years, has been appointed to work in Nigeria for the Foreign Office but is not leaving permanently. Prayers were said for Magdalene and for her children Emily and Joseph.
- 8.4. In addition to the four vacancies for a term of three years, there are two casual vacancies – one for two years and one for one year (due to Ruth Wheeldon being elected churchwarden and so *ex officio* on the PCC).

8.b. Candidates for three-year term

- 8.5. Cliff Gardiner – nominated by Wei Hei Kipling, seconded by Brian Everett
- 8.6. Nigel Houghton - nominated by Brian Everett, seconded by Jan Saunders
- 8.7. Wayne Leighton – nominated by Jennie Paynter, seconded by Angela Barnfather
- 8.8. Wilma White – nominated by Jan Saunders, seconded by Liz Everett

8.c. Elections for three-year term

- 8.9. There are four candidates for four vacancies so Cliff Gardiner, Nigel Houghton, Wayne Leighton and Wilma White were duly elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

8.d. Candidate for two-year term

- 8.10. Anthony (Tony) Chambers was nominated from the floor.
- 8.11. Anthony (Tony) Chambers – nominated by Bev Everett, seconded by Wilma White

8.e. Elections for two-year term

- 8.12. There being one candidate for one vacancy for a two-year term, Anthony (Tony) Chambers was duly elected to the PCC for a two-year term.

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8.13. There is still one casual vacancy for a one-year term.

9. Fabric Report (Brian Everett)

Document circulated before meeting: Annual Fabric Report 2022.

9.1. In 2022, the Fabric team concentrated on those matters that needed to be completed as the Quinquennial [five yearly] inspection is taking place in 2023 and may identify issues to which St Mary's needs to attend. Thanks were expressed to all the members of the Fabric team.

9.2. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con***
The APCM receives the Annual Fabric Report 2022.

10. Deanery Synod Report (Wei Hei Kipling)

Document circulated before meeting: Deanery Synod Report

10.1. Deanery Synod meetings are open to the public, so it is possible to attend meetings without being a member.

10.2. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con***
The APCM receives the Deanery Synod Report.

11. Safeguarding Report (Steve Cripps)

Document circulated before meeting: Safeguarding Report

11.1. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. There can also be interesting discussions about the interaction of safeguarding and wellbeing.

11.2. Steve Cripps expressed thanks to:

- Jean Barclay for the DBS checks
- Wei Hei Kipling for the admin involved with the single control record
- Julia James as deputy Safeguarding Officer.

11.3. We have offered some training sessions on safeguarding recently and there is also training available online. Volunteers were encouraged to do the safeguarding training they need.

11.4. **Proposed from the Chair; carried *nem con***
The APCM receives the Safeguarding Report.

11.5. Sadly, in a fallen world, safeguarding is a matter that we need to consider. Prayers were said for everyone involved in safeguarding.

12. Any Other Business

12.a. Heating of Church

12.1. Concern was raised about the heating of the church and the temperature during the winter. For part of the year, this was due to a problem with the heating system – electronically operated valves in the system had got stuck and needed to be fixed.

12.2. The PCC will be asked to provide guidance about the heating strategy for the coming winter. We should not expect the church to be as warm as our living rooms – the size of the church makes it difficult to heat. It is a balancing act between the desire to be comfortable – a cold church is not welcoming – and the challenges of the climate crisis with the possible collapse of the biosphere (the habitable planet). To heat the church for 24 hours before a service costs about £200.

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12.3. Beardsley & Partners [architects who have worked on the Polygon] have looked around the church and provided some suggestions for works to make the heating more efficient.

12.b. Same sex blessings

12.4. The question was raised where St Mary’s stood on the subject of same-sex blessings and if there would be any teaching on the subject. The staff team have met to discuss this and have decided to start by offering an open church meeting on Wednesday 7 June to consider further, to listen to one another, to seek wisdom and to pray.

12.c. Deputy wardens

12.5. The role of the deputy warden is to open up the building before the service and check that everything is in order and then to close the church afterwards. It would be good to have more deputy wardens so that Ruth Wheeldon as sole warden only needs to undertake warden duties one Sunday in the month.

13. Vicar’s Report (Steve Paynter)

Document circulated before meeting: Vicar’s Report

13.1. Thanks were expressed to Wei Hei Kipling for her input as PCC Secretary, noting that Paul talks about administration as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

13.2. The formal part of the meeting closed at 11.30am and the service continued with worship.

Signature.....

Dated

*Wei Hei Kipling / PCC Secretary
11 April 2024*

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ELECTORAL ROLL 2024

The revision of the electoral roll for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28 April 2024 will not be completed until after the date by which a written report needs to be prepared to be circulated with other documents. An oral report will be given at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Wei Hei Kipling

Electoral Roll Officer

April 2024

2023 FABRIC REPORT

A few days ago a small group of us were showing a visitor round St Mary's. We walked through the entrance lobby and into the main church. Our visitor stopped looked around and said "wow" I think our familiarity with our buildings and grounds leads us to take what our Father God has gifted us for granted we forget what a potent symbol our buildings and grounds are demonstrating how we **Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples.**

This was I am sure demonstrated with our Open Day and Tower Tours back in October 2023 when we welcomed many people from our local community. Thanks are due to the many people who organised the event and stewarded during the day.

The Church of England appoints, for each Parish, a Quinquennial architect who every five years carries out a survey of the buildings and grounds and provides a detailed report. Our architect is Clive England of Thomas Ford and Partners who has a long relationship with us, being involved in our 2003 remodelling and carrying out Quinquennial surveys since then. Our latest survey was carried out in May 2023 and the report received during the Autumn. It is pleasing to report that Clive concluded that "The Church remains in good condition and is very well maintained" Of course there are items of work highlighted in his report and our Fabric Team, Ruth Whealdon, Cliff Gardiner, and Charlie Hawes are working through these. We must also give grateful thanks to Tim Cheung and Chris Pye for their contributions to the Fabric Team over many years. The major issue raised by Clive relates to the poor condition of a few tombs in our grounds which raise health and safety issues. The London Borough of Ealing accept the responsibility for dealing with these and we are working closely with them to achieve the necessary remedial work as soon as possible. In the meantime, you will have noticed the warning signs and hazard tape put up in our churchyard and garden.

The major work started at the end of 2023 and completed early in 2024 was the refurbishment of the Narthex at the rear of the church to create a bright, attractive, and sound proof creche with direct access to our toilet and baby change facilities in the Polygon. This has enabled us revamp the old creche as a dedicated Prayer Room. Prayer is essential to us as individuals and as a church family and it is good to highlight this in this way. In many ways this work represents the final phase

of our 2019 Polygon refurbishment and we were ably served by Belinda our architect and SPB Builders who followed up their work on the Polygon with the design of and high-quality build in our new creche.

St Mary's owns two residential properties, 38 Airedale Road and 16 Gerrards Court. Both originally purchased to house curates and church staff. For several years they have not been needed for this purpose and have been let commercially, managed by Russell Collins. It became clear during 2022 that the Airedale Road property required significant investment to bring it up to an acceptable standard. Our long-standing tenants made clear they were not willing to see major works carried out whilst they remained in possession. After prayerful and detailed consideration of alternative courses of action and their financial implications the PCC decided that the best course of action would be to gain vacant possession, sell 38 Airedale Road as a renovation project and use the proceeds to purchase a fully refurbished house within the parish so retaining our ability to offer housing for future staff members. Detailed analysis of values and property within the parish confirmed this as a sensible way to proceed. Amicable vacant possession was achieved at the end of May 2023 and marketing commenced at the beginning of June just as the market turned. However, an acceptable offer was received at the end of the year and with the agreement of the London Diocesan Fund has been accepted. Solicitors have been instructed and as I write this report, we are expecting an imminent exchange of contracts and completion of the sale before the end of April. We thank God for this successful outcome.

The Gerrards Court property remains in good condition and let throughout 2023.

Regular servicing and maintenance of our buildings has continued throughout the year thanks to Isobel in the Church Office and the Fabric Team. Thanks, are also due to the dedicated team of gardeners led by Cliff who do so much to keep our grounds and garden in good order.

You will be aware that the Synod of the Church of England wishes all churches to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030 and a small group was set up during 2023 to help us achieve this. More, much more, to follow.

In closing I refer to my introduction, God has gifted us in our buildings and grounds a powerful symbol of his might and majesty. My prayer is that we will care for them and use them to grow in our faith, as a church family to serve our community and to bring people to a knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour

Brian Everett

Chair Fabric Team. 20.03.2024

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT – APCM MAY 2024

The Deanery Synod was able to meet three times in the past year as well as for the Archdeacon's Visitation and an Intercultural Worship Service. Each Synod meeting might include one or more business items followed by presentations on topics of interest.

An Intercultural Worship Service organised by the Deanery took place on Saturday 20 May at St Peter's Ealing with contributions from choirs / music groups, readings and prayers in a variety of different languages. It was a great celebration of our unity in diversity.

The Archdeacon's Visitation for Ealing took place on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Ealing Common at which churchwardens were sworn in. It was good to meet with churchwardens, treasurers, clergy, deanery synod reps and others from different churches in Ealing Deanery at the service and in the refreshments after the service.

In July we met at St George's Southall. The main item for the evening was applications for grants from the Ealing Deanery Mission Fund. Grants totalling £17,582 were made to 11 projects from different churches and worshipping communities. These projects included projects to provide parish publicity to new or hard to access housing; supporting health and wellbeing for the Elderly with seated exercise; a Women, Art and Wellbeing project; a Community Grocery; a singing project in local schools; extension of activities at a Ukrainian café; and a Digital Mission / Ministry co-ordinator. Being able to be a part of the funding of these varied outreach projects is often the highlight of the synod's year.

In October, there was a Deanery Road Show at St John's Mattock Lane with Bishop Lusa and members of the Willesden team.

The February meeting at St Mellitus' Hanwell focused on Godly Play.

Wei Hei Kipling

Your other Deanery Synod representatives have been Brian Everett & Jennie Paynter (to Dec 2023).

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

St Mary's has again complied with our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In accordance with the recommendation of the Diocese of London, the PCC has adopted the PCC Safeguarding Policy Statement with Marijana Cranmer as Children's Champion and Steve Cripps as Church Safeguarding Officer. Julia James is Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

Jean Barclay is currently still responsible for processing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. By complying with best practice, the risks of unsuitable people being involved with

children are minimised. The hiring agreement for organisations using our buildings includes a requirement for those organisations that work with children to produce their own Child Protection Policy prior to the booking being accepted.

We have an ongoing legal requirement to ensure that anyone working with children and vulnerable adults at St Mary's has a current DBS check and has completed the required level of training as outlined by the Diocese.

In the past year, we have been concentrating on the following actions:

- Enabling volunteers to undertake the necessary level of safeguarding training by;
 - identifying those volunteers who because of their area of volunteering with the very elderly and vulnerable or because of their leadership position (e.g. PCC members), need to undertake safeguarding training;
 - providing in-person training for both those who do not want to do the training online and those who would prefer the opportunity to discuss the training with others (Steve Cripps offered two courses of Basic training which were attended by 12 people and two courses at Foundation level and were attended in total by 15 people);
 - encouraging others to make use of the online training resources (of whom another 13 have completed the training)
- starting to consider the safer recruitment of volunteers – this will be considered in the coming year as part of a wider discussion on how to encourage and enable members of the congregation to volunteer in different aspects of church life. We are particularly grateful to Nigel Houghton who has agreed to be the St Mary's Lead Recruiter which will help with strategic direction around the safer recruitment agenda.

There has been some discussion and concern about 1-1 interactions, particularly the giving of lifts to children and vulnerable adults. There is nothing to stop an individual offering a lift to someone in their own name. However, if the 1-1 situation is with someone they don't know, there is the risk of an allegation. People should be encouraged to do a quick risk assessment to decide the level of risk as part of their decision-making process. (The safeguarding checks required is the reason why the church has not been co-ordinating the giving of lifts to individuals in the past year.)

Thank you

Steve Cripps

Parish Safeguarding Officer

April 2024

WORSHIP LEADING and PREACHING and ADULT LEARNING GROUP

Members – Steve Paynter [until Jan. 2024] Wai Meng Chow, Alex Volossevich, Angela Barnfather, Jonny Baker

The group have met throughout the year planning and evaluating worship services and midweek events, celebrating what has been good and reflecting on what could have been done differently. We always welcome feedback from the congregation and thank those who have done so.

This year we have had sermon series on Acts, Church as Community, Growing up in Christ, Creation Tide, Biblical values for a confusing world, and our Whole Church Communion have focussed on Psalms.

We have had speakers from Interserve [Christine Morris], SAT 7 and Christians against Poverty. There was a special service to mark the Coronation, and a Bereavement service in the Autumn.

In the Autumn we decided to repeat the Alpha course which we also had in the Spring. As a result one person was baptised, and two people who were new to our community made a commitment to serve St. Mary's in different ways.

The numbers attending evening services dropped significantly throughout the year, so in the Autumn the decision was made to stop the 6pm service on the third and fifth Sundays of the month when it is Evening Prayer. We continue to run Taize/Celtic services on the first Sunday, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth.

With the departure of Steve Paynter in January 2024 and the preparation for the vacancy, there is an opportunity to welcome visiting preachers to St. Mary's, as we begin to think about who we are as a church, and what the characteristics of our new spiritual leader may be. We have welcomed Jane Morris and Archdeacon Catherine, and look forward to other visitors later in the year.

“Now to him, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church, and in Jesus Christ, to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen”.

Angela Barnfather

March 2024

ALEX VOLOSSEVICH – MINISTRY REPORT April 2023- April 2024

Here is a structured review of the last year, which has proved to be the busiest so far.

1. St Marys

This is an overview of my work, excluding all the informal pastoral contact over coffee and lunch with members of the congregation on a 1:1 basis.

- a. **Alpha.** Following the success of last year's Alpha course, the WL&AL group decided to run it again. The well-received Alpha Film was run in the spring of 2023 and again in the autumn. Good numbers attended and several Alpha attendees who were not previously regular members of St Marys have started coming to Sunday Services.
- b. **Lent Courses.** I helped to provide the offering for this year's Lent Courses and attended and helped in leading one of them.
- c. **Bereavement Support Group.** I lead this support group which runs every 6-8 weeks and provides a safe space for those dealing with grief and loss. I took part in leading the annual *Bereavement and Loss Service* at St Marys on 19 Nov]
- d. **Funerals.** I have taken 4 funerals in the last year: two were people I knew, two were 'outsiders', including the well-known local politician Glen Barnham, who lived in the parish and whose funeral was attended by several dignitaries and MPs. I have found all funerals to be great opportunities for the gospel: to show people the care and love of Christ and to speak about it openly in order to give them hope in the face of death.
- e. **Weddings.** I was involved in wedding preparation with once couple who then decided to postpone their wedding and also with Mark & Sarah Smithers [see item 1h. below].
- f. **Special Services.** I was privileged to lead Christmas Midnight communion at which we had 64 in the congregation of whom I recognised only a handful: the other 60 or so were visitors, though many regularly come for Christmas, so this is a good opportunity for outreach.
- g. **Pastoral visits.** I have visited a few parishioners, some regularly, bringing contact with St Marys as well as Holy Communion.
- h. **Special Circumstances.** Mark Smithers reached out to St Marys in the final stages of cancer. I made contact on 3 January and went in for an accelerated discipleship and pastoral programme. This led to Mark's baptism within a few weeks, followed by his wedding by Special Licence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Mark died 13 days after he was married. I took his funeral within 8 weeks of first meeting him. He was a remarkable example of how to reach out with the faith one has and not to regret the things one does not have or is unable to do. His Christian witness strengthened the faith of all who came into contact with him in person and via the video links as his wedding and funeral were live streamed round the world to family and friends.
- i. **Standard.** The above are in addition to the usual round of formal leading and preaching at Sunday services, prayer meetings, PCC and other committee meetings.

2. Willesden Area

I provide cover for churches in the Willesden Area of the Diocese of London who are missing a minister by reason of illness, holiday, vacancy, or in one case inability to attend due to extreme family circumstance. I have led/presided and/or preached at the following churches:

- a. **St Michaels, Stonebridge Park.**
- b. **St Marks, Kensal Rise** [all Holy Week and Easter & Ascension Day, another Sunday, Ash Weds 2024]. This was due to a vacancy.
- c. **St Thomas Hanwell.** This was due to a vacancy.

- d. **Church of the Ascension, Wembley.**
- e. **Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway.** *[I preside at a midweek eucharist here on average once or twice a month on a rota basis to allow the parish priest a day off]*
- f. **St Mary's Northolt.**
- g. **All Saints, Ealing Common.**

3. London Diocese

- a. **All Souls, Langham Place.** *[At the request of the ministry team there I visit a family to minister Holy Communion as the man is in the latter stages of dementia]*
- b. **St Olaves, Hart Street.** *[I lead regular midweek eucharists about once or twice a month and take part in occasional services, eg: Pepys Memorial service]*
- c. **March of Witness (Good Friday 2024) Acton.** I helped to set up this event in 1977 and for 40 years helped to lead it. In the absence of a March of Witness in Ealing this year, I again helped to lead the one in Acton, carrying the old processional cross down Acton High Street once again.

4. Other

- a. **Russian Orthodox Church.** Liaison Visit at the request of the deacon.
- b. **Ukraine Prayer Group.** Acted as translator when regular person was unavailable.
- c. **Elgin Resource Centre, Shepherds Bush.** Helped lead a service.

5. Railway Mission

- a. I am now at the end of my third year as Chairman of a national Christian charity, the Railway Mission. This provides chaplaincy services throughout every part of England, Scotland and Wales and deals with some 400 deaths on the railways of Britain, year in year out. It has been a very eventful year including meetings with the leadership of National Rail, taking part in the national rail Covid Memorial Service and Christmas Services in England, as well as overseeing setting up new national structures.

Alex Volossevich

April 2024

COSMOS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The needs of the children and youths that attend St Mary's are served as outlined below.

Children's Church

Age-appropriate spaces, resources and carers are provided for Children and Youths at St Mary's during the 10.30am Sunday Morning service.

For under 2-year-olds there is a crèche area staffed by Jan Saunders. Parents of very young children are encouraged to stay, play, talk and if desired listen to the church service which can be heard through speakers in this soundproofed area.

Older children are welcome and encouraged to attend one of our four Cosmos groups structured as outlined below:

Bubbles (preschool and nursery children) – lead by Rob Shilston

Climbers (Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3) – lead by Fiona Gilkes

Explorers (Year 4, 5 and 6) – lead by Angela Hailstone

Pathfinders (Year 7+) – lead by Marijana Cranmer

Sadly, we have had to cease running our Scramblers group due to a shortage of staff, it served the Reception to year 1 aged children. It is hoped that we will be able to get that back and running once we get some new volunteers in place.

Each one of these groups is led by a DBS checked individual and a DBS checked helper and most have now undertaken the required Safeguarding courses.

COSMOS aims to provide a warm, nurturing, fun and sociable environment that encourages faith building, mission and worship at the appropriate level to each group.

The children are encouraged to participate in the main church worship regularly and especially during Whole Church Communion services partaking in readings and significant services such as the Crib, nativity and carol services.

The children are encouraged to use their gifts to help others and to glorify God and frequently do so within our church environment such as by providing offerings of food for our local Food Bank during our Harvest Festival, and thinking of ways to perform acts to help others during key church seasons such as Christmas and Lent.

In November 2023 the children participated in special sessions dedicated to remembering all military personnel past and present around Remembrance Sunday. They were lucky enough to be able to hear about personal stories that families from our congregation shared with them and were able to see and touch real war medals from both World Wars. In remembering those who fought for our freedoms in wars we consider Jesus's message of peace and using his example to consider how fighting with the tools we have been blessed with can win battles against evil and injustice in a peaceful way too.

In January 2024 the COSMOS children participated in the farewell service and leaving party of Steve Paynter, our vicar of 25 years, and his family. They sang, helped with preparations such as decorating the Polygon, delivered speeches and presented gifts to the Paynters. Their contribution really made the day special and all ages across COSMOS came together to make the day special.

COSMOS Groups

This Cosmos year has progressed well in general. Regarding primary school children up to the age of eleven each group welcomed a steady number of children although since the pandemic we

have noticed that regular attendance is definitely lower across all groups. Relationships between the younger church members seems to be on the whole good though and they value the time and connection with each other.

The Youth (11+age children) members have been steadily increasing this year. Weekly numbers are quite low still with an average of four youth attending but it has been encouraging to see different people attending each week so overall engagement of youth has been higher and growing.

The fortnightly Youth Club which runs during term time, has maintained a good number of attendees that range from eleven to fourteen years of age. In general, we find that we get a steady eight to ten members attending. Most of the Youth Club attendees are from our church family but a few are not and some that attend don't go to a church which from an outreach point of view we are happy about.

The Youth Club is run out of the Polygon by 3 adults that are generally the same each time, table tennis, pool, games, music, space for general play and music as well as food are provided.

An exciting development over the last few months has been the formation of the West London Youth Leaders group it consists of youth leaders from a number of local churches and meets every six weeks. It has increased support across youth workers in the area, sharing ideas and resources and in November 2023 we even managed a cross church fireworks and fun event which about 80 youth aged children attended, 10 of them from our church.

We are hoping to be able to run another cross church event at the end of the summer term which we think will be a BBQ.

The other development to come out of these collaborative youth leader meetings is a monthly youth worship night which is run out of St Paul's church Northfields every second Saturday of the month. Different churches take it in turns to lead the worship which features a youth focused band and sermon. It is not something the children of St Mary's have engaged with much yet but hopefully they will at some point.

There is always a need for more helpers and Leaders for our Cosmos groups and we would welcome anyone who can commit their time, no matter how infrequently, to our volunteer pool for Cosmos.

The COSMOS staff are committed, inspiring and compassionate. It is a privilege to work with them and to see how their influence, time, love and faith moves from them to the children and the rest of the team. The children of St Mary's are lucky to be able to grow up in this community of reliable, trusting and grace filled people and we all know that this will benefit them in their lives going forward.

Marijana (Mags)Cranmer

Children's Champion and COSMOS Co-ordinator

March 2024

GRACE REPORT

We had a wonderful celebration in November for our 30th anniversary. I don't think any of us could quite believe Grace had been going that long. It's been a rollercoaster ride. You've probably seen some photos on the Grace noticeboard which give you a flavour of some of the Grace services over the years. If you click on or type in this link you can see a slideshow of services over the thirty years - http://www.freshworship.org/archive/slideshows/2023/2023-11-30_grace-history-slideshow.pdf . Lynda Castle ordered an amazing cake. We left half of it for St Mary's on the Sunday morning to say thank you to you guys for having us as part of St Mary's. Hopefully some of you at least had a piece.

We have had an ethos or set of values since 2005 that has really been helpful. But with the 30th we took that moment to pause and reflect on who we are now as a community. As a result, we have reworked our values/ethos which builds on the previous one. Lent has been a season where we have been reflecting on it over a series of meals. The short version is community, creativity, participation and engagement. But do have a look here - <http://www.freshworship.org/about/ethos.html> . While St Mary's is pondering who she is that's our way of answering the question for the Grace congregation.

As ever we have run monthly Grace services on a Saturday night followed by a cafe. That has included meeting outdoors, labyrinths, and a new approach to contemplative prayer called ambient prayer. These are all on the Grace website in the archive section so it's very easy to follow along with what we do. See <http://www.freshworship.org/archive.html> . We have also led occasional services for others such as Beyond in Brighton.

The website has had quite an overhaul. Steve Collins has done a great job of updating the archives in particular. It's an amazing resource now.

You are all welcome to come along to Grace. It's one of St Mary's congregations. We meet the second Saturday of the month 8pm. Check the website for what's happening - <http://www.freshworship.org/>

Jonny Baker, Sue Donnelly and Mike Rose

March 2024

FREE FAMILY DINNER

In 2023, a couple of members of St Mary's together with two friends set up a monthly Free Family Dinner to reach out to families who are struggling financially to provide a dinner and some social interaction and also to make connections.

We have been operating for a year now with a regular group of people, and every month we get some new people.

An average turnout is anywhere between 27 and 30 people some families and single parents. We have both uk based people and people who seem to be displaced by various things going on around the world.

We run the last Friday of every month and don't see that changing in the near future It continues to just be the four of us of which two people have taken the Food Preparation and Hygiene Level 2 and food is prepared on site.

We recently updated our risk assessment with the help of Bryan, and added in a few new things.

With the blessing of the church, we would like to continue. We have been lucky enough not to have had any issues so far and don't foresee that we will have any in the future. We recently started advertising on Northfield friends and various members of the congregation who work in different fields have given our details and we have been able to help people out.

We took the decision early on to only serve halal meat and vegetarian, and this has been well received. We serve a balance of hot meals with fruit and veg followed by a dessert which we vary each month.

Jo Samols (with Kate Blacker, Sue Cyriax and Sarah Gardiner)

April 2024

SOUTH EALING COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD ("SECFC")

We have now been running the community food cupboard for two years. As a reminder, the aim was to reduce food waste, reduce carbon emissions resulting from food sent to landfill, redistribute surplus food for free to anyone who wanted to share and hopefully help members of the community who might be struggling to put good food on the table.

DHL are still collecting and delivering for us from the Felix Project.

We still receive some foodstuffs from Morrisons although it has reduced quite considerably as donations are fewer.

Gails were supplying us with excess bread and cakes but stopped temporarily as they tried to make different sensible disposals of them. That apparently has not been very successful and we are again receiving from them.

There have been two important developments. Firstly Pan, from the Paperback coffee shop, had a contact at the Heathrow International Food Market who told him that anything left over by 3.00 a.m. had to be disposed of – as waste. Wayne contacted his contact, Rana, who said he could arrange a pallet for us. He also offered to have his driver drop this off for us – an extraordinarily kind act. We now have an increased range of extremely fresh, quite exotic fruit and vegetables – some of which I had never even seen before. It all seems to go. As before, if anything is left over,

some goes to the soup kitchen, some to the Salvation Army. Secondly, we had an assessment by video with Felix Project on 18th March, which was fine. At the end, having seen our freezer and refrigerators, they asked if we would like to receive any frozen foodstuffs, and they will now supply these to us as they become available from time to time. We would expect these all to go on the same day but we can keep them cold in the freezer.

We have noticed an increase in numbers coming to the cupboard. We ask how many members there are in the household and we think we are helping/supplying food to somewhere in the region of 250-300 people.

We still receive regular donations from Pan at "Paperback", and he has a notice displayed in his coffee shop saying that £1 from the sale of every book goes to the Felix Project. He is a good supporter of what we do.

We have a nice group of volunteers, approximately two thirds are from the community outside of St Mary's, something we had always hoped for.

Wayne has been approached by several churches asking if we could assist them in setting up their own food cupboards. Interestingly, when Catherine, the Archdeacon, came to preach, she asked me the same thing. Wayne and I will try to arrange a talk and some example paperwork before the summer.

I was shopping in Sainsbury recently and noticed a poster saying that they now distribute well over 80% of their excess food to a variety of charities for distribution, which is good news and very encouraging that finally, people are pulling together to make use of this food instead of sending it to landfill.

We receive a number of verbal and written thankyou's. I have included a few quotes from the written ones at the end of this note.

Thankyou to the PCC for allowing the continued use of the Old Vestry.

Martin Standen 29.03.2024

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Quotes:

1. Grange School: I am the deputy manager, safeguarding co-ordinator and assistant SENCO for Grange Pre-School. I have been working closely with Wayne. He helps me with food donations for my private use and also in providing food donations for the majority of families who access my service at the pre-school. The families ... come from deprived backgrounds and cannot always afford food.
2. From Dave (someone ill and unable to work): The SECFC enabled me to get a quantity of food to sustain me during the times when I was missing meals and only eating once or twice during the day, even in winter. I believe [it] is a vital community service.
3. Thankyou so much, very much appreciated.
4. "Kindness is the language the deaf can hear an the blind can see." – Mark Twain.

5. Thankyou from the bottom of my heart.
6. Because my income is low I really appreciate the food that has been provided.
7. The food cupboard at St Mary's Church has been wonderful. The people are so welcoming and friendly. It has raised our community spirit in times when living can be so stressful.
8. Thankyou for your dedication and hard work during this time of financial crisis.
9. The SECFC is a wonderful place which helps stop food waste. The people there are friendly and helpful to the community.
10. Just a short note to say how grateful I am for your SEFC, which has really helped me. It is run very expertly and runs smoothly.

And so on and so on. It is really encouraging to see the reaction from the community. Martin

BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

Babies and Toddlers Group meets on Tuesday mornings during school terms. There are regularly 30 adults and accompanying children.

B&T takes over the entire Polygon with a buggy park in the entrance hall; toddler toys in the large lounge; a toy kitchen, books and jigsaws in the small lounge; messy activities (play-dough and painting; a supervised activity which might be a craft table or making bread or biscuits) in the area in front of the kitchen; baby toys in one pyramid room; singing in the other; and refreshments being served from the kitchen.

Some low-key Christian input is provided. A short service suitable for the toddlers at the end of each term has had good numbers to celebrate Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays. In addition, a bible or Christian story is offered after the singing activity most weeks.

Typically there are four specific responsibilities each week: kitchen; supervised activity; doorkeeper; and registration. Many thanks must go to the regular team of volunteers: the leaders Jan Saunders, Liz Everett (Jan and Liz design and co-ordinate the supervised activities) and Wei Hei Kipling (who leads the singing with Gilbert Rabbit); Mary-Jean Bartlett, Jean Barclay, Sue Clarke, Brian Everett, Hazel Neaverson and Mary and Rui Wang. We are very grateful to Isla Bicknell for setting up the toys.

We asked the carers their views on the group and a selection is given below:

The kids are very happy. There is enough room and plenty of sunlight (when it's sunny). We like the different cooking that takes place. We like the playdough and the colours. The kids' favourite area is the construction and Lego.

Fantastic – such varied activities and friendly people.

We come to the playgroup every week and love the friendly volunteers and all the toys and activities! It's so well organised and we've made some lovely friends.

Safe stimulating environment. A good range of play equipment to develop small motor skills, creative play and develop social skills.

Great for both my one year old and my four year old.

A very friendly and welcoming playgroup with plenty of space and a variety of different play zones.

We absolutely love it – it's my two year old's favourite playgroup, she jumps excitedly when we get to the door.

Please thank God for those who do attend and for the commitment shown by the volunteers. Pray for God's vision for this ministry, for His calling of the parents, carers and children to attend B&T and for the number of volunteers to be available.

Liz Everett, Wei Hei Kipling and Jan Saunders

April 2024

POLYGONIAN FRIENDS

Polygonian Friends meets on Wednesday lunchtimes to provide opportunities for people of all ages to socialise over refreshments.

We provide sandwiches, soup, tea, coffee, biscuits & cake and there is an activity of armchair keep-fit. On alternate weeks, we offer a quiz and there are occasional talks on different subjects, e.g. the police, the fire brigade, The Tower of London.

As with any group we would not be able to function without a wonderful group of volunteers & I would like to thank the following people: Sarah & Wayne for the wonderful selection of sandwiches; Cathy Pye, Mags Cranmer, Angela Hailstone, Anne Mills and Ash for the tasty soup; Hazel Neaverson, Mary-Jean Bartlett, Pat Lewis and Mary McQueen; and Paul Smith who has chipped in with his quizzes.

Membership is currently 28-40 with members of all abilities; numbers are increasing gradually.

In closing, I would like to say we look forward to hopefully increasing the membership in the coming year by taking Polygonian Friends into the wider community & would like to thank you for your continued support.

Wayne Leighton

March 2024

MISSION AT ST MARY'S

St. Mary's is a "Missionary Church," showing real concern for the well-being of our local community, and the wider world through prayer, giving, and involvement. A report of our mission activities is set out at pages 3 to 5 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023. We are extremely grateful to those who have co-ordinated our mission activities over the past year.

Current members of the Mission Support Committee are:

- Chris Goldsmid Chair, CMS (2024 mission month June)
- Tim Cheung Church Army (2024 mission month February)
- Mary-Jean Bartlett Interserve (2024 mission month March)
- Eirwen Dorkins SAT-7 (2024 mission month July)
- Roger Foster-Smith Prison Fellowship (2024 mission month November)

In addition, the following take responsibility for specific contacts or organisations but are not members of the Mission Support Committee

- Steve Merrill – Christians against Poverty (CAP)(2024 mission month January)

It would be good to have contacts at St Mary's for the following organisations:

- A Rocha (2024 mission month September)
- Bible Society (2024 mission month October)
- Christian Aid (2024 mission month May)
- TEARfund (2024 mission month April)

Christine Goldsmid

April 2024

SOUP KITCHEN REPORT

St Marys participation in Ealing Soup Kitchen continues to be successful insofar as we are blessed with a supply of enthusiastic volunteers who make our weekend service special for those in need of a hot tasty meal and a place of refuge on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Our chefs John Carter and Ash and many assistants never seem to run out of ideas as to how to prepare food donations mainly from the charity City Harvest and our own Food Cupboard and our volunteers are always willing to lend a sympathetic ear to the problems of our guests.

Aside from St Marys weekend duties the soup kitchen provides an ever-widening selection of services and entertainments at the Friday Hub (11-3.30 on Fridays) and the Monday evening kitchen.

Showers, clothes, haircuts, chiropody, advice, counselling, English lessons, computer classes, sing alongs and other entertainments are all be available for our regular guests.

St Marys volunteers should be rightly proud of our involvement in an ever expanding operation to help the disadvantaged in our community.

Angela Hailstone

April 2024

COMMS GROUP

The Comms Group was formed in the summer of 2023 to review and develop communications from St Mary's.

In 2023, St Mary's used a number of ways of enabling communication and social interaction:

- A St Mary's YouTube channel enables St Mary's content, in particular the main service each week, to be broadcast on the internet
- Remote meetings, particularly organisational meetings, can be facilitated using zoom video conferencing
- St Mary's has a website which is kept up to date with information about the church, its staff and services at www.stmarysealing.org.uk.
- A notice sheet is prepared every one or two weeks and made available on the website and, from September 2023, sent to everyone on the email distribution list.
- A letter to the congregation is written every so often and sent to everyone on the email distribution list with paper copies made available at church.
- Information about the church and its services has also been displayed on noticeboards around the church as appropriate.

The Comms group has been working on a number of projects in the past six months or so.

1. Development of a new website, working with web developer Mark Wardell;
2. As part of the website development, initiating a review of the St Mary's "branding" across both digital and other media, working with Stuart Smith of The Smithy Creative;
3. Trialling the ChurchSuite digital platform – an online collection of tools and databases designed to support all the aspects of running a church – the trial including the setting up of arrangements for those members of the congregation who prefer a more paper-based interaction;
4. Setting up an electronic electoral roll form in readiness for the preparation of a new electoral roll in 2025 (when everyone comes off the roll and has to reapply to join a new electoral roll)

Naomi Clarke, Brian Everett, Wei Hei Kipling and Isobel Peaty

April 2024

CARBON NET ZERO GROUP

At its meeting of 7 November 2022, the PCC recognised that the global community is in a climate emergency and that it is a vital part of the mission of the church to respond by reducing the Carbon emissions of the Parish of St. Mary's, Ealing, to NET ZERO by 2030, and to this end the PCC resolved to develop a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan, including a Heat Decarbonisation Plan, using the guidelines and advice included within the Net Zero Carbon Routemap approved by General Synod on 18 June 2022.

The Carbon Net Zero Group was set up in summer 2023 to develop a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. The plan seeks to set out a road map of how we, as a church community, might be able to reduce our reliance on gas energy down to net zero, by December 2030. The main challenges we face are identifying cost effective solutions to heating the people in church on a Sunday by an alternative green energy source. It is not clear at the outset how this will be done. Decisions along the way will depend on costs, practical viability of available technology and whether any new technologies can be installed on our site and work efficiently for our needs. We have a journey to make but one we travel with God and the resources of the wider Church of England. All the churches and organisations in our society need to make this journey and so let us travel hopefully together.

The PCC as a whole and the CNZ group in particular are aware of the temperatures in the church which we have been experiencing this winter and have been working to improve the heating situation at St Mary's. As part of this, we have been investigating switching on the boilers for longer periods of time (and seeing how much gas this uses) so that we can at least make informed decisions about when the boilers need to be switched on to improve the temperature in the church on Sundays. When we switched on the boilers for 24 hours to heat the church for Sunday, the cost of the gas at December 2023 prices was around £317.

One of our challenges is that St Mary's is fortunate to have a lovely facility in the Polygon where currently all our midweek activities take place whereas many other churches have to use their worship space for some of their midweek activities. However, this does mean that churches using part of the worship space midweek have an advantage when heating the church for Sunday whereas the worship space for St Mary's does not have the advantage of residual heat from midweek activities. Before lockdown, the worship space at St Mary's was used midweek for teaching and concerts by London College of Music and Media but they are no longer renting the space as they do not seem to be offering so much in the way of classical music.

Lucy Buttigieg, Paul Buttigieg, Warren Margolin, Wei Hei Kipling,

April 2024

- also Steve Paynter to Dec 2023

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

As we approach the end of my first year as churchwarden, I want firstly to express my thankfulness to God for his faithfulness and grace to St. Mary's and also to me personally this year. I certainly did not imagine in May 2023, what this year would hold, with Steve and Jenny moving to Wanborough, Wiltshire and us at St. Mary's beginning a vacancy and seeking to find a new incumbent. Challenges, there have been plenty, but also rewards. One of the great pleasures of being a churchwarden is that you really get to know all that is happening in the church, and I have been and continue to be impressed by the great love and service which is so faithfully provided by you all.

I have quickly learnt that St. Mary's is known beyond Ealing and Willesden, and it struck me that so much of what St. Mary's family are about, week by week is being the hands and feet of Christ – the calling we all share to follow Him and this is what is shown and known about us. The Food Cupboard, Polygonian Friends, Family Dinner and Babies and Toddlers continue reaching out to those beyond our family.

I want to thank Isobel Peaty in the office, she graciously deals with all requests, does so many hidden admin tasks and keeps our Polygon hired out and available for our use. Particularly, I want to thank David Morrow as our outgoing treasurer for his three years of service in this role. It is vital job which he has carried out both efficiently and prayerfully.

We are greatly blessed with Alex, Wai Meng and Angela for continuing to lead our worship in the absence of an incumbent. I also want to thank Wei Hei our PCC secretary for all her prayerful wisdom and efficient handling of admin matters. Thanks also to each member of the PCC, who have stepped up and taken on new roles or added to those they already have during the vacancy. It is thanks to each one of you that St. Mary's continues reaching out and worshipping together.

Finally, thank you to each of you in our church family, without you our church would only be a beautiful building, with you it is an expression of the servant king.

Therefore, let each of us continue this year, prayerfully seeking God, worship Him and consider together His calling on our lives, so that we might find a new vicar ready to join with us, in the exciting next step in our journey; Pressing on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us (Philippians 3:14, New Living Translation).

Ruth Wheeldon

Churchwarden

April 2024