An old brick house with trees in the background

Description automatically generated Parish of St Cuthbert Croxteth Park

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council and Financial report for 2022-23

***Vicar*** Reverend Laura-Lee Leatherbarrow

***Church Wardens*** *June Simm October*

**Parish number 580**

**The church holds bank accounts with** Lloyds Bank plc, Broadway, Norris Green, Liverpool and NatWest, 509 East Prescot Road, L13 3BZ

**Legal Advisor Independent Examiner** Gordon Simm 10 Mere view Crescent L12

**Architect: Peter Williamson of Condylofthouse Architects**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PCC members** | **2020** | **Date Elected** | **Term of office** |
| Revd. Laura Leatherbarrow | **Ex officio** |  |  |
| Vacancy Churchwarden |  |  |  |
| June Simm | **Ex offcio** | April 22 | 1 |
| Pam Ambrose | **Ex officio** | 2020 | 3 |
| Rachael Kiel | **Ex officio/ Environment officer stepped down October 2022** | 2020 | 3 |
| Stephen King | **Ex Offico** | 2020 | 3 |
| Tricia Smith | **PCC SEC** | 2022 | 3 |
| Gaynor Brannigan | **Treasurer stepped down mid year** | 2019 | 3 |
| Natalie Jones (NJ) | **Lay Chair** | 2022 | 1 |
| Byrony Jones |  | 2022 | 3 |
| Elaine Walsh |  | 2022 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Natalie Christie | **Safeguarding officer stepped down feb 23** | 2020 |  |
| Elaine Wilson |  | 2020 | 3 |
| Stuart Dobie |  | 2020 | 3 |
| Nicola Cushion |  | 2020 |  |
| Kath Nelson |  | 2021 | 3 |
| Hayley Birtles |  | 2021 | 3 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deanery Synod** | **Date Appointed** | **Term of office** | **End of term** |
| Pam Ambrose | 2020 | 3 | 2023 |
| Rachael Kiel | 2020 | 3 | 2023 |
| Vacancy | 2020 | 3 |  |
| Stephen King | 2020 | 3 | 2023 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **St Cuthbert’s** | **Officers** |  |  |
| **Treasurer** | Gaynor Brannigan | **Lay Chair** | Natalie Jones |
| **Asst Treasurer/ Gift aid officer** | Kristina Stoddern | **Verger** | On request Gordon Simm |
| **Safeguarding** | Natalie Christie/ Victoria Dobie | **Cathedral Representative** |  |
| **Health & Safety** | Ged Shudall as needed | **PCC Secretary** | Tricia Smith |
| **Sunday School** | Rachael Kiel and Elaine Walsh | **Electoral Roll Officer** | Pam Ambrose |
| **Foodbank** | Gordon and June Simm |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**SIDES PEOPLE FROM MARCH TO DEC IS ONLY FOR THE 6PM SERVICE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Service** | **Team** | **SIDES PEOPLE** |
| 10AM |  | Michael Powell |
|  |  | Kristina Stoddern |
|  |  | Dave Glencross |
|  |  | Sonia Glencross |
|  |  | Joanne Tranter |
|  |  | Suzanne Li |
|  |  | Elaine Wilson |
|  |  | Clare Powell |
|  |  | Hilary Balmer |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Bryony Jones |
|  |  | Steve King |
|  |  | Irene Sweeney |
|  |  | Natalie Jones |
|  |  | James Li |
|  |  |  |
| 6pm |  | Gill Brocklehurst |
| 6pm |  | Janet Spencer |
| 6pm |  | Tricia Smith |
| 6pm |  | Shirley and Megan |

**St. Cuthbert’s - Achievements in 2022 and Objectives for 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | St Cuthbert’s Church Croxteth Park |
| 1 | **Welcome and Belonging** |
| Achievements in 2022  We have improved our communication to the wider community which has been used successful and has been effective for events from Holy Communion/ Quizes/ fundraising/ Activities for community, as well as Eco days. This needs further improvement though as due to the nature of the estate it is virtually impossible to reach and only magazines (not leaflets as they are thrown away) seem to hit every person. This of course is the costliest option.  Continuing to provide a good welcome at the door and spot those who are missing from our community  All invited to partake at Communion making clear that it’s open to all.  Screens now used for several things rev Laura is encouraging the young people who don’t want to go to Sunday school or who are older to help with the Laptop for Church and Alex has been particularly good at doing this regularly at the 10am  encouraging signs of Baptism /younger families Who worship at our new service for 0-6yrs old Called Toodles@4 to engagement with Church in other services and event throughout the week which again makes people feel they belong and has become a small worshiping community for the church and its an area that increases that sense of community while gently teaching about faith and Christian values.  We began Fika (Cake church) in 21 which engaged families into looking at faith in their lives but realised this was only brining in known families so a rethink took place and the hope is in 2023 to have this run out of Shino’s café if new leaders come forward to help with this  Craftivism group looks at gentle activism raising awareness through craft of climate change to living wage. It offers a new way of engaging with the church and gives people a welcoming place to come.  A place2B has reopened as a place of welcome and warm space during 2022 slowly growing each week |
| **Objectives for 2023**  1. To Run Wellbeing days to help people’s health and wellbeing and looking at how the church supports spiritual growth  2. To work towards establishing a missional community within the school e.g., Toddler Church partnership 3 Award. This was aimed before Covid and has been achieved in the church, but it would be great to take this now into the school as previously planned during Covid. Work to continue.  3. To Understand new normal while also understanding that Covid has not gone away, and so keeping people safe remains a priority. Provide what is needed and reasonable for the community as well as being aware of the environment and ensuring we care for our climate in all we do.  4. To achieve Disability Audit and to begin improvement of disabled toilet in church which no longer meets standard – look at grants to do work on toilets.  5. To run Advent Windows with a window walk around the estate as a missional venture. Once again and to run an Easter version of a Easter trail perhaps to look at Easter Windows?  6. To run Aplace2B with new volunteers and chef being a place of welcome with generous hospitality  7. To continue to encourage Toodles Families to have a celebrating baptism families picnic party with Toodles to encourage baptism families who perhaps don’t engage to come and celebrate their baptism |
| 2 | **Worship** |
| Achievements in 2022  1. More liturgical/seasonal material used for services allowing for a varied liturgical flavour throughout the year.  2 Varied services with visual displays. Encouraging The regular Parade all age services to rebegin though all uniformed have struggled to begin again due to different variants but we continue to work closely with the children in the church groups.  3. social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, what’s app, plus written material) used to promote services and events.  4. The sound system was reviewed new speaker at back of church which means if families struggling with a baby crying they can retreat to that area and still hear and be engaged in the family service.  5. Offering a morning service, Toodles, perhaps Fika and a 6pm offers a flavour for everyone to find a place to belong |
| **Objectives for 2023**  1. To encourage people to use social media for all aspects of church life as well as national ventures #Home for Christmas and Thy Kingdom Come. Ensuring those without IT can follow information via posters and news sheets.  2. To provide interaction worship in the local community.  3. To use the screen more for information for people coming into the church as well as services  4. To introduce Fika in shinos |
| 3 | **Nurture, Discipleship and Vocation** |
| **Achievements in 2022**  1. Lent and discipleship groups offered as well as Cultivate.  2. PCC members were encouraged to be disciples and spread the Gospel by being open to consider new ways of taking church to people in a non-traditional way  3. Christian Mindfulness is attended by a small regular group. Mindfulness is valuable with issues surrounding mental health issues.  4.. People encouraged to attend the Diocesan led cultivate course for people exploring what God is calling them to be/do and to look at worshiping communities this was part of our Fit for Mission course. We also continue to encourage people to attend the Directions course but there were no takers this year .  5. We ran the Wellbeing day which was really appreciated by the local community and a success  6 we ran two confirmation services which included 1 adult and 25 children. |
|  | **Objectives for 2022**   1. To provide times for reflection within the crucial times and seasons of the year and to offer lent courses 2. To run the Wellbeing journey towards end of year as well as wellbeing days looking at our whole wellbeing especially due to covid. Look to providing good Wellbeing support at A Place2B 3. To continue to offer Confirmation training. 4. Working with Scouts Rainbows once more when they are settled back into routine. 5. To encourage people to attend the Directions course looking at what your vocation may be? 6. To look at the Fit4Mission2 plans and to communicate them to parish |
| 4 | **Leadership, Service and Evangelism** |
|  | **Achievements in 2021**  1. People have been encouraged to be involved in the life of the church by taking on caring roles such as providing tea/coffee and chat after a service, welcoming visitors as Sides people adhering to the Safer Recruitment Policy as well as buddies both for phone and in person have been invaluable.  2. Our congregation continues to generously support Foodbank, Hugs in Boxes, Tearfund and Children’s Society.  3. To look at grants for Aplace2B, and ECO work as well as general running of the Church  4. To continue to outreach to community with a bigger and better In Touch magazine delivered and provided free of charge. This was last managed at Easter 2019 but due to several reasons went back to a single sheet publication However we have regular information now on Schools information app  5. Have really encouraged people who have not read before or done intercessions to have a go and have video formats as well as encouraging new people forward into roles.  6. Relooked at Eco work and ensured we were following Eco practices all cleaning materials where overhauled  . |
|  | **Objectives for 2023-**  Leadership  1.To engage PCC in Fit4mission 2 and to look at vision days/ awayday for portfolios etc later in year .  2. To encourage lay leadership across the church. For people to really explore their gifts and be encouraged and empowered to play their part in being a ‘Bigger Church to make a Bigger difference’.  3. To engage the people we meet out of church with our Faith. To share the love of God with all.  4. To encourage Lay Leader for leading services. Work with the youth of the parish continuing to build links with Emmaus School.  5. Artisan Fair, Summer fairs to continue  6 and an Easter egg hunt and trail to be offered,  7. Continue to work with continue to work with the community payback teams.  8. To offer mental health ventures – using gardens and possible allotments.  9. Revd. Laura to continue to work and be Chaplain to GP, which is a valuable support to those in the practices.  10. To run wellbeing days for those in community bringing Gods love for all as a message on those days.  11. To work on building our Eco presence working towards the next awards when its made, and to look at becoming net zero Spreading the word about Gods creation to our whole community |
| 5 | **Pastoral care** |
|  | Achievements for 2022  1. Pastoral care team to continue giving excellent care to the community and picking up referrals from Jubilee Medical Centre Physicians and church community.  2. The welcome on arrival to church is continued inside and after the service.  3. To use What’s- app to keep people informed and together as well as having a separate prayer group/ Toodles group/ and fairs and fundraising groups.  4 offer Coffee Chat and prayer after the service in church to bring people together.  5. To continue to do Hugs in boxes, and encourage life events (occasional offices) to be held in St Cuthberts  6. To offer support and a listening ear to those struggling with mental health due to pandemic or otherwise ensuring we also care for our younger generations as well as older.  7. to continue APLACE2B and to encourage people of all ages to use the resource as well as being a warm space |
|  | Objectives for 2023-24  1. To increase number of baptisms. / occasional offices  2. To engage further with Pastoral care team. And to use the garden more as outside space for those who will find gardening a good activity to talk about faith and mental health.  3. To encourage people to do the Wellbeing journey and run the course regularly.  4. Continue to offer Mindfulness to all ages  5. To explore group texting, in line with GDPR processes, to inform new members to church of special services and events within the church. Group texting facility used to communicate with baptism families and to promote services such as All Souls and wedding celebration services |

**Structure, Management and Governance**

St Cuthbert’s PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956.

There are no other related trusts. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are registered on the Electoral Roll and therefore eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates several subcommittees again and these where recommenced from October 22: there is of course a Standing Committee which sets the agenda and makes emergency decisions if urgent repair etc is needed PCC members receive Safeguarding training to a high standard and are now required to make an application under the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The first and most important function of the PCC is to work in conjunction with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The Church is called to be pastoral

* to look after individual people
* to be evangelistic
* to tell people the Good News and invite them to accept it;
* to be sociable and build community.
* to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice
* to be ecumenical
* to encourage good relations with other denominations.

The PCC has reviewed its policy for Safeguarding and in 2022 we now have a Safeguarding officer and a DBS officer to help with the smooth running and a subcommittee to ensure all safeguarding paperwork is completed. The PCC operates under a mature system of controls and procedures developed over many years of operation. Finance and operational issues are routinely monitored as part of regular PCC meetings.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit with a specific guidance to charities concerned with advancement of religion. An annual budget is prepared to monitor short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. Geographically there is little or no experiences of terrorist activity in any Churches and the risk rating of any problems in this subject area is exceptionally low, but as a place of worship open and welcoming to many visitor’s vigilance is always paramount.

**Reserves Policy -** No charity can operate for any length of time without reserves. There are now improved reserves, due to help by national church and hard work by all parishioners. We must also mention the support given to us by 1st Croxteth Park Scouts as well. To continue to build reserves to a working level, a minimum of two months costs and to re-build a contingency for future maintenance costs. This is the aim for 2023

**St Cuthbert's Parish and Local Area**

**The Parish**

The Parish is situated to the north east of Liverpool. The estate, of largely privately owned homes, was developed on land acquired from the estate of the Earls of Sefton and is some six miles from the centre of the city. The parish borders Croxteth Country Park. The Country Park, and the Grade 2 listed Croxteth Hall within it, is one of the major heritage centres in the North West of England.

The church was opened in 1988 and was initially part of a team with St Mary's, West Derby. St Cuthbert's became an Independent Parish in 1998. 1998 also saw the opening of the Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School.

The Parish is part of the Croxteth Ward and details of the ward can be found on the Liverpool Council website, [www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk).

**The Deanery**

West Derby Deanery consists of 14 churches (one of which is closed for worship and will be closing permanently with roads absorbed by Good shepherd and St Cuthbert’s), 12 clergy (a mixture of stipendiary, non-stipendiary and retired Incumbents and assistants). The Deanery has completed a Deanery Mission Plan as required by the Diocese of Liverpool. The Deanery Synod is keen explore ways in which the churches can develop working together that would see an increase of the relevance and impact of the churches in their communities.

With this in mind, we are looking together at the Fit4mission work for 2023 and the hope is we will be one parish from January 24.

**Emmaus School**

Our work with the school continues and our relationship with school remains strong; Mr Williams and his staff are very positive and supportive of the Church. Meetings and collective worships have been done in school and online. We look forward to being in School properly again next year

**PCC Membership**

One third of the ordinary membership stand down from the PCC each year. Election of new members is by secret vote when nominees exceed vacancies. PCC members receive induction information including trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment, management, and child protection procedures. All members are required to make an application under the Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) and to complete safeguarding training.

**Fabric and Maintenance**

Our Quinquennial was lost by the Architect during 2020 due to computer and staffing problems so and was repeated at the beginning of 2021 we are sadly still awaiting the report at the end of 2022 and Maggie Mullen informed us that she would be stepping back due to ill health which meant we needed a new Architect. The PCC nominated Peter Williamson of Condylofthouse Architects.

From the verbal report given on day, we have removed the ivy from the gutters, we do need to ensure PAT testing is completed by beginning of 2022 as well as check of main circuit board as requirement by Ecclesiastical insurance. We are a well-structured and young church with good maintenance plans which are ongoing generally completed by the generosity of several volunteers.

**Risk Assessments**

All organisations are subject to risk which could prevent them from operating effectively. St Cuthbert's Church as a charity is no different. To identify their major risks, the PCC undertook a programme of assessments. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church. Action in the main areas of risk has been taken as follows.

**Financial Risk**

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC. A finance group was set up in 2022 to monitor and control the budgets for St Cuthbert’s The Treasurer stepped back from PCC but was happy to be invited and report back each month using the new software that has made the accounts much simpler and we now have had this for the last two years. Under the Charities Act 2006 churches with a gross income or total expenditure of under £500,000 do not need a full audit instead they may choose to have an Independent Examination. The PCC have taken advantage of this rule and have appointed Gordon Simm 10 Mere view Crescent Croxteth to take an audit of finances.

**Health and Safety**

A review is annually undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this field. The PCC has been appraised of the risks and the necessary compliance requirements and these have been complied with. Specifically, procedures for recording accidents have been put in place and all Wardens and Sides-people have been trained in fire safety. These procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and formally reported to the PCC. Ged Shudall who works as a health and safety officer as his paid employment has said that he will be a consultant as and when we need assistance.

**Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection**

Policies for children and vulnerable adults have been approved and Coordinators appointed. Natalie Christie is the Safeguarding lead but will be stepping down and Victoria Dobie will be the new Safeguarding lead with Natalie Jones as DBS verifier. We take this extremely seriously and ensure all our leaders that need DBS are renewed and that all parishioners are encouraged to complete Training C0 with PCC completing C2 and all children’s leads are to be C3 with the Safeguarding lead and of course Clergy.

**Fire Procedure-**

A review of equipment and escape routes is undertaken on an annual basis by a firm of external consultants. An internal assessment is carried out by representatives of the PCC who are appropriately qualified.

**Electoral Roll**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| April 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| 152 | 140 | 106 (New Roll) | 106 | 116 | 119 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**St Cuthbert’s Mission and Vision for 2022-23**

Rev Laura had been involved with several ventures across the parish and has lead services at Emmaus School as well as here at Church and our uniformed organisations were taking part in the Bi-monthly in our newer ‘All Age service with communion’ which included Parade services led by groups with help from Rev Laura, this was growing pre covid however this sadly stalled due to closures around Covid- not just for the church, but for the groups. Groups only began to trickle however these are slowly beginning to improve though we are not anywhere near where we had grown to, pre- covid. The inspiration is these services can be revitalised now that we have screens.

Sadly, some people we have lost as people have begun to like having their weekends back and as children’s groups and football has now opened on a Sunday morning at Rhys Jones centre next door. So, for now we praise God for the people who are beginning to attend once more, and we will continue to try and bring new people into the life of the Church.

There are signs of this with new families beginning to attend from Toodles who continue on after their baptism date which is fantastic, and the hope is New ventures such as Fika Church can begin and hopefully engage new people in our church family.

Toodles@4 has been successful in blending church and community life for families and there is a flavour of Church suitable for all as we offer 10am Holy communion with Sunday school. 4pm Toodles@4 for younger families,

I hope that Fika will help those on the edges and some within the church wishing to deepen their faith or talk about those questions that cause us to doubt our faith, Being run at Shino’s will hopefully help those who don’t want the institutional church, but to be part of the kingdom of God

Finally,

6pm Holy communion (shorter) no hymns which also does evening prayer has grown in numbers and regularly has children as well as adults attending.

We have also seen an increase in baptisms now that the church can continue once more with them and we have seen more families remaining with St Cuthbert’s family thanks to having them meet more with Rev Laura and attending with encouragement to join all age and Toodles@4 which is wonderful as they get to meet families and journey together through the school start until they are old enough at 6 to attend Sunday school.

The baptisms are coordinated by Janet Spencer and I wish to thank her as she does a great deal in the background to help these run smoothly. she is a fabulous asset to the church.

Although we had achieved the Eco award some of our practices had slipped and so a small eco group was made and we have overhauled both the tea and coffee area as well as all the cleaning products and we now use ‘Give a crap’ toilet paper which is not only green and zero waster but is ethical too and pours 50% of its profits back into ethical work in the Amazon. When giving flowers to people stepping down we also use Arena Flowers which is the only Ethical Florist and again as well as planting trees they pour some of their profits into domestic violence and also ethical start ups in other countries.

I must also thank both Tommy and Phil who did a lot of work in the garden and the small allotments continue

During the year Revd. Laura held lots of things days from community days which were offered free including wellbeing day, bulb planting day, garden day with big wildlife count, pancake Tuesday easter trail etc but we also had a variety of Quizzes, children’s Quizzes, Games Jubilee days and celebrations and ensured we did a mix of both fundraising and non-profit days for the community to engage with people and bring them a taste of St Cuthberts in a gentle way all of which offered food at them.

Rev’d Laura continued Mindfulness for Adults over Zoom and this has been well attended and many people have appreciated having this in place.

The Trail of wooden easter eggs which when all the clues where obtained Christ is Risen was run again and enjoyed by families Sadly, we did suffer vandalism of the signs, trees and grounds. But undaunted further eggs were made and re hung. Over 180 families took part most of which were not regular attenders. There has been a rise in Crime on the estate which ‘appears to be a small number of ‘12-21-year-olds and there has been an increase in crime reports of Drug dealing on the estate. The church held a Mp /police and community event which was appreciated by those who wanted to know what was happening with the shops and surrounding area.

Anthony Lavelle has recommenced his surgeries on the first Tuesday of the month 6-7pm.

We held two fantastic confirmation days and ‘Hugs in Boxes’, continued and this year we were able to help 48 families in here has been a fantastic effort by all to keep Foodbank throughout the year and many also did the ‘Advent 4Advent’ challenge collecting extra food and goodies during November which ensured the local foodbank was well stocked. The carol singing and advent windows where repeated which included a special face book reflection to each window based on a Carol. For each day.

Rev Laura wishes to thank Several people who continued to ensure the carol singing/bake off/ hugs in boxes/ carol services and Christingle where continued while she was off having her hip replaced. It was fantastic to know St Cuthberts was in safe hands with the leadership team in place.

Revd Laura and the congregation have worked hard to engage with the Rhys Jones Centre, the school, the local GPs, the nursery opposite and have used creative ways to bring the community in as well as the community going out and we have continued to engage and support our local community sharing the Good news and being Christs Hands and feet in our communities. We have been recognised by the national church as having a good ministry for those struggling with mental health and 2023 we will focus on Rebuilding and Wellbeing

**Our church and church grounds**

Grants have helped us from our deanery and Together Liverpool grant meant that we were able to put on several free days with food for our community involving food which we wish to continue in 2023

The Pay Back team have met when possible and continue to use our facilities as part of our commitment to be the heart of the community.

Phil and Tommy have done a Stirling Job keeping the gardens maintained and have worked on some of the things we need to put in place as we care more for our environment.

**Environment Eco Church**

During 2021 we were awarded our Gold Eco Award and we have continued to grow and work on this ensuring we have continued to complete the ARoche Survey and getting a base line for 360 Carbon. During 2022 we have offset our Carbon and have been classed as D for our building and A for our Activities on our Energy reports   
Rachael Kiel has worked to ensure we all do our absolute best for God’s Creation and ensuring good stewardship as we prepare for the future. Also working with a team of youth who are also Environmental Officers for St Cuthbert’s.

Our website is updated with links and useful information regarding Eco Church and how we can get involved. we have continued to hold Creation Sunday and Climate Sunday and engaged in prayer ships that went to Cop27 as well as Wave of hope with the children of the church.

Rachael Kiel took the sermon spot on a few Sundays to explain all things Eco church about what we do, what we can do and how we can improve and work towards the gold award.

We continued to support and work with the payback team looking at environmental issues and we began changing the way we cared for and used the gardens.

We do hope to continue with allotment areas and the youth to care for the youth beds and We have had in place during 2022, a low mowing schedule, left an area as a wildlife area, and had a family of hedgehogs

Below are the guidelines we are asked the congregation to work to in 2022/23.

1. Each day of Lent pray for one thing in creation that you care about e.g., the birds in your garden, or even your favourite food. Thank God for it.
2. Set aside time each week to go for a walk (or look out of your window if you are not able at present) and actively appreciate God’s creation, remembering how we are wholly dependent on it for our survival. This is also valuable for your mental health and wellbeing.
3. Come to the Eco days and litter picks and of course pray for us as we work to maintain our Gold award and to keep improving to protect God’s environment. look up www.prayandfastforclimatechange.org.uk
4. Become part of the Eco Group.

Lobby MPs and send Green hearts as reminder for COP27 the plan is to work towards the net zero award which is the next stage of our journey with Eco Church and to involve more of the congregation, especially those who do not have access to the internet to look at the hints and tips available. To continue the raised beds and to continue to look at what we can do to raise awareness of climate issues especially with our MPs and councillors. To continue the craftivism group and to embed the environment and climate awareness into all we do- To do a fresh Heart bombing of the estate to raise awareness by the Craftivism team

**Our challenges in 22/23**

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed a strain on our wonderful Church Wardens, and vicar, all of whom, with the PCC have continued to work hard to ensure mission and Gods love to our community is first and foremost, but we also need to continue to make great strides with our finance and this has been achieved through hard work, giving, fundraising and grants. The church has always struggled financially and at the end of 2022 We are delighted to have a surplus, (not including reserve funds) for the first time in many, many years. We are very grateful for the help we received from the National church which gave us the help we needed to make our parish share each month via a deduction this then gave us the hope we needed to begin see light at the end of the financial tunnel. ~

The Parish Share remains at the fore of our needs for the coming year and this year we have no help from the National church so once again our finances become a concern and we must continue to be careful stewards regarding bills while ensuring that we continue to have climate challenge in our minds and continue to support green ventures. We will also ensure that we continue to keep Mission at the heart of all we do.

Fit for Mission is challenging and sadly one church has already stepped back but Cultivate was well attended by members of St Cuthberts and at least two people have offered to help with portfolios. This work continues to be fed back weekly.

Our prayer for the year going forward in 2023 especially as we face Fit for mission 2 becoming one parish towards the end of the year and continue to look at our finances is .

*‘Loving Lord, you are our hope and our strength – You are our ever-present help in this difficult world and Lord we know that You hold the future in the palm of Your hands, and we trust You. We thank You that You are always there to provide for our needs and to protect us from the storms of life…and we pray that no matter what the future holds – You will remain there beside us. We know that no matter how difficult life becomes Your grace is sufficient for all our needs. Help us to rely on You no matter what problems and difficulties arise – for our hope and future is in You.’*

**Reports for the Church**

**Churchwardens report –**

**Warden’s Report 2022**

I would like to start with some thanks. Despite Archdeacon Mike saying it is possible to manage with only one churchwarden, I beg to differ!!! I could not have managed in 2022 without the amazing help and support from three people in particular, especially during the time Laura was away. Gordon, Janet and Natalie were like angels. With Gordon’s industry we had cover for almost all of the services during Laura’s absence and I am so grateful to the clergy who stepped up to help us. Grateful thanks also to chef Gordon for his wonderful creations for APlace2Be and the amazing Christmas lunch. With the help of Natalie and Janet we managed to keep all our special services going as well as Hugs in a Box. Thank you once again to those who contributed to that.

A few words about issues connected with the building and the grounds. There is no doubt we earned our gold Eco award, but we must remember to keep those high standards maintained, especially with the products we use in the kitchen. It was wonderful to see all the work that has been done in the gardens and to see the bulbs which were planted on our community day beginning to provide even more beauty to the surroundings. The trolley for the tables we acquired from Emmaus makes life much easier for us to manage them. We are grateful to Emmaus for allowing us to use the school hall for our wonderful confirmation service. We have also managed to start up our Year’s Mind board now.

Janet and I still get together from time to time to keep the church building looking loved although sometimes it feels like one step forward and two steps back!!

There are of course always problems with buildings. A major problem has been the leak in the community room which led to a healthy crop of mould mushrooms. We have the hot water over there switched off and I believe as I write that we are waiting for a part so that the problem can be solved. We may have to consider the future of that building at some point. The lights in church have been an issue for as long as I can remember. I understand there are replacement lights for the LED lights in church. We need to get them to us and chat up a friendly electrician as well as sorting out lights in the toilets. So far, the boiler has been behaving but there will be decisions to be made about that at some point in the future.

We are due our quinquennial inspection some time soon and I have no doubt that the architect will find other things we need to address!

A Place2Be is up and running again and we have user groups back in the building. There have been successful fairs and community days. Toodles is one of our huge successes. All we need now, as I said last year, are some of our friends to return from pre Covid days and would encourage you to encourage them to return to us. We miss them!

I have probably missed out loads of things so for that I apologise.

God Bless You All June

**Sunday school Report –**

Sunday School annual report

January 2022- February 2023

Elaine Walsh

The 10am Sunday school has continued to run in line with the morning service over the last 12 months.

The volunteer Sunday school leaders remain the same and are as follows:

Rachael Kiel, Elaine Walsh, Suzy Li, Tricia Smith, Bryony Jones and Tracey Simmons.

The average age of children who attend Sunday school is 7-8 years old.

We continue to run with 2 volunteers each week. Rachael Kiel and Elaine Walsh (Leads) and Suzy Li and Tricia as regular assistants and Bryony and Tracey helping out when needed. Sunday school runs during term time only.

It may be beneficial to have more volunteers to join the Sunday school team, as this would allow current volunteers to help with other tasks in church and also attend communion.

At 10am Sunday school we expect on average 6 - 10 children, but this does vary week to week. On one record breaking week we actually had 26 children! This was due to a confirmation meeting being held immediately after the service, it was busy but we managed!

Not all school age children in the congregation choose to attend Sunday school. We continue to provide ministry to our school aged church members using the Roots material via our on-line subscription. Roots is an invaluable tool that allows us to link what happens in the mail sermon to what we do in Sunday school but in a child-friendly easy to understand way.

A register is taken each week with details of the children’s name and age. The register is stored in the safe in the vestry.

We’ve really focused on ‘making something’ each week in Sunday school over the last year. The children seem to really enjoy the craft part of the teaching and it is great when the message sinks in through different means.

The community room where the children gather for Sunday school is getting rather tired. Leaks from the boiler have caused damp and fungus to grow in the storage room in the corner. Although the children don’t go near that room it would certainly benefit from a rip out and damp proofing as all the storage is now unusable and the craft equipment covered in damp spores.

Although not essential, an electric water heater similar to what we have in the ladies toilet in the main church would be beneficial in the community room toilet. This would allow everyone who used that building to wash their hands with warm water and would mean a boiler wouldn’t necessarily be required.

The Ethos of our Sunday school is to give all children a warm welcome and the opportunity to know God in a safe and secure environment. A place where every child feels valued, respected and

included.

Our vision for the future of Sunday school is to continue to grow and invest in the next generation and to have some fun along the way.

**Safeguarding Coordinator (Children & Vulnerable Adults)**

Safeguarding is of vital importance. As a church we need to be welcoming, but also a safe place. The PCC is responsible for ensuring and promoting the best possible safeguarding culture and expects that everyone will work within the church Safeguarding Policy. In particular, the church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to any member of the congregation immediately raise this with members of the Clergy or the Safeguarding Coordinator. The PCC being responsible, to ensure that all activities involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults, are managed and supervised by appropriately trained and recruited volunteers.

Utilising Liverpool Diocese 10 Steps Safer Recruitment Policy, new members of the congregation, before they are eligible to volunteer and work with children, young adults, and vulnerable adults, must have attended regularly at Services/and church activities for six months.

All volunteers are required to attend an interview with the Safeguarding Officer or Revd. Laura and complete a DBS application and undergo the appropriate Safeguarding training.

We have adhered to and implemented the new Safeguarding rules and policies advised.

It applies to all and offers a great foundation for good safeguarding practice.

As a PCC we have complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy discipline measures 2016 (Duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.) The policy will be read out to the whole of the community at the APCM.

**Objectives for 2022/23**

To review Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to ensure that they fulfill Diocesan policy and guidelines.

To ensure that the10 Steps for Safer Recruitment for new volunteers are in place and adhered to.

To review volunteer role descriptions, vacancy adverts, and interview criteria.

To invite safeguarding team to the church to speak at Sunday services about safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within the context of the church.

To review and implement all new policies within Promoting a Safer Church.

**St Cuthberts Brownies**

Report ; Victoria Dobie  
Brownie Leader.

Brownies report 2022

2022 the girls took part in many challenges and activities .

The girls took part in a filming for a book launch and reading Natalie Reeves Billing’s new book “where is my smile “ which was about emotions for children’s mental health which they thoroughly enjoyed Natalie has a column in the Liverpool Echo and we got a mention about our unit and what we do and about her visit to our unit We attended our county jubilee activity day at Scarisbrick and had our own mini celebration for the Queens Jubilee in brownies The girls made cards to send to the Queen for her Jubilee which we were very lucky to get a reply and thank you to the girls for their cards , the girls were overjoyed receiving this .

We went to do some indoor wall climbing and laser gaming which they had lots of fun at Our brownies were lucky enough to be asked to be involved in the welcoming and passing of the commonwealth games baton by being involved in the guard of honour for it which was a great opportunity for the girls , it was a very hot day but a memorable day for the girls to say they took part in As we had nearly all new brownies start after Covid we had our promise ceremony with 12 making their promise on the night We arranged a family blackpool trip to the water park and through the lights on the way home The girls went to Ninja Warrior which they thoroughly enjoyed taking up all the challenges and assault courses We attended church parades including Remembrance Sunday which the girls wrote and read beautiful prayers We have lots planned for the year ahead and hope to take the girls on their first brownie pack holiday

**St Cuthbert’s Rainbows**

**251st Liverpool (St. Cuthbert’s) Rainbows: Annual Report 2022**

2022 has been our first full year of face-to-face Guiding following our return in October 2021. We have continued with our new Girlguiding programme which has the same 6 themes running through all age groups.

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This year, we have worked on 4 themes – Be Well (purple), Have Adventures (green), Express Myself (pink) and Know Myself (blue). Rainbows have completed 4 different Interest badges at home – Drawing, Family Tree, Healthy Mind or Fruit & Vegetables and Nature or Agility. During meetings, we have completed many Unit Activities as well as challenges for the Skills Builders badges within our chosen themes. Highlights have included creating lucky lanterns for Chinese New Year, making passports to take our teddy bears through the Rainbow ‘airport’, celebrating Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee with a red, white and blue party and of course, lots of fun songs and games! As part of our new programme, girls now receive Anniversary badges for each full year in Girlguiding and we have awarded 1 year badges to 9 Rainbows. We have also had our first opportunity to present the new Rainbow Top Awards with 9 girls gaining their Bronze as well as the 4 Rainbows gaining their Silver being well on their way to Gold, the highest award you can earn as a Rainbow.

At the end of 2022, we had 16 Rainbows with 11 on our waiting list. A recent change from GGUK is the Rainbow starting age as girls can now join us when they are 4 years old. Over the year, 19 new Rainbows have made their Promise and we have said goodbye to 8 Rainbows at their ‘Pot of Gold’ night. This is when they reach ‘the end of their Rainbow’ at 7 years old and move on to Brownies. Normally, girls would start our Brownies here at St. Cuthbert’s straight away but they also have a long waiting list so some chose not to continue their Guiding journey whilst others transferred to alternative Brownies units with spaces. In February 2022, our annual fee payable to Girlguiding UK was £38 per leader or Rainbow with a total bill of £532.00. Our weekly ‘subs’ remains at £2.00.

When our wonderful Caterpillar (Maureen) retired in October 2021 after over 35 years of service, we were on the hunt for new adult volunteers. We were lucky to find 4 brilliant new leaders – Emma (Beatle), Isabelle (Sky), Jessica (Bumblebee) and Jeanette (Honeybee and Maureen’s daughter!) It has also been lovely to welcome back 2 of our Rainbows as Young Leaders, Amber and Melody, named by the Rainbows as Ladybird and Dragonfly respectively! However, due to new work commitments, Isabelle, Jessica and Jeanette all had to leave us recently. We miss them very much but are so grateful for their time and for helping us re-establish our unit following the pandemic. We couldn’t have done it without them.

2022 has been an exciting year for us, enjoying being back in our home at St. Cuthbert’s and earning lots of new badges. Our Rainbows are just wonderful, always full of fun and smiles. Their families show great commitment and support, through regular attendance, helping at home and of course, sewing all those badges on uniforms!

*Kirsty Cartwright, ‘Butterfly!’*

**1st Croxteth Park Scouts report is due**

**DAVID GLENCROSS**

**GROUP SCOUT LEADER**

**1ST CROXTETH PARK (ST CUTHBERTS) SCOUT GROUP.**

**APLACE2B report**

**APLACE2B 2022**

APLACE2B continues on a Thursday, providing food, company and support for everyone who attends. We encourage the 5 ways to wellbeing by offering activities such as a quiz or bingo to keep everyone’s minds active. The group is growing in numbers and age range. There are volunteers from church who provide the food and support each week. We are outreaching into our community with this group as some of the attendees are non-church goers.

**Fundraising group – report**

**Fundraising report 2022**

St Cuthbert’s continues to raise money to support the church and it’s work within the Croxteth park community. During this year we  have held both a Spring and Christmas artisan fair which were both well supported and attended by both church members and people from the estate. We have also raised money via social events such as quizzes. We try to balance fundraising for the church with also providing social events and outreach into the community, such as the pancake day event, carol singing and the hugs in boxes.

**Should the one parish not happen by January 2024 APCM will be set for April 2024.**