



# Parish of St Cuthbert Croxteth Park Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council and Financial report for 2021

**Vicar** Reverend Laura-Lee Leatherbarrow

**Church Wardens** June Simm October and Janet Spencer

**Parish number 580**

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

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

<b>PCC members</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Date Elected</b>	<b>Term of office</b>
Revd. Laura Leatherbarrow	<b>Ex officio</b>		
Janet Spencer	<b>Ex officio</b>		<b>1</b>
June Simm	<b>Ex officio</b>	October 2020	6 months
Pam Ambrose	<b>Ex officio</b>	2020	3
Rachael Kiel	<b>Ex officio/ Environment officer</b>	2020	3
Stephen King	<b>Ex Officio</b>	2020	3
Tricia Smith	<b>PCC SEC</b>	2019	3
Gaynor Brannigan	<b>Treasurer</b>	2019	3
Natalie Jones (NJ)	<b>Lay Chair</b>	2019	3
Gill Brocklehurst (GB)		2019	3
Clare Phillips (CP)	<b>Resigned 2021</b>	2019	3
Karin Harvey (KH)		2019	3
Natalie Christie	<b>Safeguarding officer</b>	2020	
Elaine Wilson		2020	3
Stuart Dobie		2020	3
Nicola Cushion		2020	
Kath Nelson		2021	3
Hayley Birtles		2021	3

<b>Deanery Synod</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term of office</b>	<b>End of term</b>
Pam Ambrose	2020	3	2023
Rachael Kiel	2020	3	2023
Vacancy	2020	3	
Stephen King	2020	3	2023

<b>St Cuthbert's</b>	<b>Officers</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gaynor Brannigan	<b>Lay Chair</b>	Natalie Jones
<b>Asst Treasurer/ Gift aid officer</b>	Kristina Stoddern	<b>Verger</b>	On request Gordon Simm
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Jeanette Owens/ Natalie Christie	<b>Cathedral Representative</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Ged Shudall as needed	<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Tricia Smith

<b>Sunday School</b>	Rachael Kiel and Karen Harvey	<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Pam Ambrose
<b>Creche</b>	Suzanne Li		
<b>Spark</b>	Alison Doyle/ Natalie Christie		
<b>Foodbank</b>	Gordon and June Simm		

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

<b>Service</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>SIDES PEOPLE</b>
10AM		Michael Powell
		Kristina Stoddern
		Dave Glencross
		Sonia Glencross
		Joanne Tranter
		Suzanne Li
		Elaine Wilson
		Clare Powell
		Hilary Balmer
		Jean Wardale.
		Bryony
		Steve King
		Irene Sweeney
		Natalie Jones
		James Li
6pm		Gill Brocklehurst
6pm		Natalie Christie
6pm		Tricia Smith
6pm		Shirley and Megan
6pm		Janet Spencer

**St. Cuthbert's - Achievements in 2021 and Objectives for 2022**

	St Cuthbert's Church Croxteth Park
1	<p><b>Welcome and Belonging</b></p> <p>Achievements in 2021</p> <p>We continued to have Social media and Live Streaming until September then we went to screens in church which following successful faculty application we have managed to put up in church. 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</p> <p>All invited to partake at Communion making clear that it's open to all.</p> <p>Screens now used for a number of 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 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</p>

	<p>which again makes people feel they belong and has become a small worshipping community for the church and its an area that increases that sense of community while gently teaching about faith and Christian values.</p> <p>We began Fika (Cake church) which engaged families into looking at faith in their lives Monday to sat and looked at some of the bigger issues – Small worshipping communities new to St Cuthbert’s</p> <p>Craftivism group began which 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.</p> <p>A place2B has reopened as a place of welcome</p> <p><b>Objectives for 2022</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To Run Wellbeing days to help people’s health and wellbeing and looking at how the church supports spiritual growth</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. To Understand new normal while also understanding that Covid has 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.</li> <li>4. To achieve Disabled Friendly Award by 2023.improve the disabled toilet in church which no longer meets standard – look at grants to do work on toilets.</li> <li>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</li> <li>6. To run Aplace2B with new volunteers and chef being a place of welcome with generous hospitality</li> <li>7. To continue to encourage Toodles Families</li> </ol>
2	<p><b>Worship</b></p> <p>Achievements in 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More liturgical/seasonal material used for services allowing for a varied liturgical flavour throughout the year.</li> <li>2 Varied services with visual displays. Encouraging The regular Parade 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.</li> <li>3. Social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, whats app, plus written material ) used to promote services and events.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. Offering a morning service, Toodles, Fika and a 6pm offers a flavour for everyone to find a place to belong</li> <li>6. To introduce Toodles and fika within church</li> </ol> <p><b>Objectives for 2022</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. To provide interaction worship in the local community.</li> <li>3. To use the screen more for information for people coming into the church as well as services</li> </ol>
3	<p><b>Nurture, Discipleship and Vocation</b></p> <p>Achievements in 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lent and discipleship groups were well attended then once Pandemic hit were offered on Zoom. Online services have also been helpful.</li> <li>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</li> <li>3. Christian Mindfulness is well attended, and both Youth and young people’s Mindfulness is appreciated as well -however due to small numbers we needed to stop these in dec. Mindfulness is valuable with issues surrounding mental health issues.</li> </ol>

	<p>4.. People encouraged to attend the Diocesan led course for people exploring what God is calling them to be/do. This was the Directions course but there were no takers.</p> <p>5. We ran Living in love and faith (LLF) course with All saints but take up was poor. Though those who came challenged themselves with some of the questions. We also ensured that the online videos and material was available for those who found the day difficult to attend.</p> <p>6. We ran the Wellbeing journey a course that lasted 8 weeks which was well attended on Zoom. To help people look at their wellbeing which includes spiritual wellbeing – all who came gave excellent feedback so we may run it again in 12 months' time</p>
	<p><b>Objectives for 2022</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide times for reflection within the crucial times and seasons of the year and to offer lent courses</li> <li>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</li> <li>3. To offer Lent and Advent study courses as well as Pentecost.</li> <li>4. To continue to offer Confirmation training once they are recommenced post pandemic</li> <li>5. Working with Scouts Rainbows once more when they are settled back into routine.</li> <li>6. To encourage people to attend the Directions course looking at what your vocation may be?</li> <li>7. To look at the Fit4Mission2 plans and to communicate them to parish</li> </ol>
4	<p><b>Leadership, Service and Evangelism</b></p>
	<p><b>Achievements in 2021</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Our congregation continues to generously support Foodbank, Hugs in Boxes, Tearfund and Children's Society.</li> <li>3. To look at grants for Aplace2B, IT and ECO work as well as general running of the Church</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> <li>6. Obtained Gold Eco Award as well as the top award in RHS Britain in bloom.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Objectives for 2022</b></p> <p>Leadership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.To engage PCC in Fit4mission 2 and to look at vision day/ awayday for later in the year.</li> <li>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'.</li> <li>3. To engage the people we meet out of church with our Faith. To share the love of God with all.</li> <li>4. To encourage Lay Leader for leading services. Work with the youth of the parish continuing to build links with Emmaus School.</li> <li>5. Artisan Fair, Summer fairs to be recommenced and an Easter egg hunt and trail to be offered,</li> <li>6. Continue to work with continue to work with the community payback teams.</li> <li>7. To offer mental health ventures – using gardens and possible allotments.</li> <li>8. Revd. Laura to continue to work and be Chaplain to GP, which is a valuable support to those in the practices.</li> <li>9. To run wellbeing days for those in community bringing Gods love for all as a message on those days.</li> <li>10. 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</li> </ol>

5	<p><b>Pastoral care</b></p> <p>Achievements for 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pastoral care team to continue giving excellent care to the community and picking up referrals from Jubilee Medical Centre Physicians and church community.</li> <li>2. The welcome on arrival to church is continued inside and after the service.</li> <li>3. To ensure those who need them have buddys.</li> <li>4. To use Whats- app to keep people informed and together as well as having a separate prayer group/ toodles group/ and fairs and fundraising groups.</li> <li>5 offer Coffee Chat and prayer after the service in church to bring people together.</li> <li>6. To continue to do Hugs in boxes, and encourage life events (occasional offices) to be held in St Cuthberts</li> <li>7. 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.</li> </ol>
	<p>Objectives for 2022-23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase number of baptisms./ occasional offices</li> <li>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</li> <li>3. To encourage people to do the Wellbeing journey and run the course regularly.</li> <li>4. Continue to offer Mindfulness to all ages</li> <li>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</li> </ol>

### **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: there is of course a Standing Committee but the other groups have not been able to meet during 2020 and PCC members receive Safeguarding training and are now required to make an application under the Disclosure and Barring Service. They are also invited to undertake the relevant level of Safeguarding training.

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
- 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 2021 we now have a Safeguarding officer and a DBS officer to help with the smooth running. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2022

## **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 2022

### **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. 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 2019 to monitor and control the budgets for St Cuthbert's and the Diocese was also supporting us in changing over in 2020 to a 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 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

2015	April 2016	April 2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
139	152	152	140	106 (New Roll)	106	116

## St Cuthbert's Mission and Vision for 2022

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 of the groups as a whole. Groups only began to trickle back in September. Remembrance which was poorly attended however the inspiration is these services can be revitalised now that we have screens and hopefully once again will grow when Covid has less of a hold. It is hoped that from January the groups will make an effort to come back. Numbers overall have dropped by aprox half our pre-covid numbers and some of the people are still afraid to attend. Some 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. Its also true that sadly covid is still very much with us with variants still spreading the disease. 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. New ventures such as Fika Church and Toodles@4 have 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, Fika at 5 for 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, and finally 6pm Holy communion (shorter) no hymns.

We have also seen an increase in baptisms now that the church can continue once more with them since June and we have seen more families remaining with St Cuthbert's family thanks to having them meet more with Rev Laura and encouragement to join all age and Toodles@4 which is wonderful. 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. We have Baptisms due to covid both on a Saturday and Sunday have found that they work well offering a more intimate space for questions and learning about God and this has led to more people staying with the Church through Covid and hopefully beyond. Baptism prep has been delivered regularly by Janet and this offers a chance for questions answers and encouragement of all who come through the doors for this life event. I must thank Janet for all that she has done to help me keep the baptisms on track and giving up her time as co-ordinator, she is a fabulous asset to the church.

In March 2021 we were delighted to be awarded the Gold Eco Church award via ARoche, which is amazing and both Rachel and Arran helped to achieve this. I must also thank both Tommy and Phil who did a lot of back breaking work in the Garden and we now have allotments beds in place for people 'to give it a go' On top of this in October we were informed that we had achieved an Outstanding (the highest grade you can have ) due to the changes we had made in the garden which is progressive, we received the grade outstanding in RHS Britain in Bloom and again its big thanks to all the team for the hard work and dedication.

Several discipleship groups/courses and The Wellbeing course were led by Revd. Laura from March onwards and they have been held online, these included 'The Wellbeing course was a look at wellbeing from several aspects from financial health to Sand how we can care for our own Mental health and wellbeing this was offered on top of the usual courses during end of lent, and Advent courses.

Toodles@4 is the new toddler church group which includes a what's-app group this is used by the families to discuss the bible story from the week before This has really engaged the families and helped them to meet new families (know what people look like) and means each week real engagement is happening with those families even though we have been in the depths of a Pandemic.

Fika Church (Coffee and Cake) is a new venture to be hopefully a worshipping community offering a fresh way of looking at God, and some of the bigger questions that we may not have time to drill down on. Its light and flexible and is a very different type of Church where big questions are allowed and encouraged. This is just in infancy and so we have approx. 9 people (4 families ) and children that attend Fika. We will evaluate in 2022

During the year Revd. Laura held lots of things online and on Zoom to encourage people and to help improved social resilience during the pandemic and we had a variety of Quizzes, children's Quizzes, Games and Just Coffee and Chat as well as Coffee Chat and Prayer after the Churches main service at 10am and 6pm. We had a Harvest Ho Down led by Bill and Tricia which was enjoyed by all who came as rules were more relaxed. Natalie also ran a quiz which was enjoyed and the screens made it more interactive. We have also had large free community days with food which have been successful for engaging with people about St Cuthbert's.

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

One of our Families made wooden easter eggs and then we painted them and used them to make a trail- which when all the clues were obtained stated Happy Easter Jesus Is Alive Alleluia! Sadly,



we did suffer vandalism of the signs, trees and grounds. But undaunted we made a further 20 eggs and re hung them higher up the trees. 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 '16-21 year olds and there has been an increase in crime reports on the estate as a whole. The church held a Mp /police and community event (sadly the police didn't come) which was appreciated by those who wanted to know what was happening with the shops and surrounding area.

Over Autumn we held a community bulb planting day with names taken, these will be displayed once they have finished being given in at end of 2021.

'Hugs in Boxes', continued and this year we were able to help 48 families in need and support a further 20 families in our community who had had a difficult year. There 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 and food was also delivered to 15 families in need across the estate and supported by food bank over the year. Over 2 tonnes of food were donated so thank you all!

We also had 24 families involved in Advent Windows with a trail available and a special face book page which gave a reflection to each window based on a Carol.

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 2022 we will focus on Rebuilding and Wellbeing

### **Our church and church grounds**

As in 2020 we did not have a contingency fund. This was felt when covid hit and funds need to be raised for the day to day running and ministry of the church and we need to keep focused on Giving in Grace and Stewardship the Deanery kindly gave us a 20% discount during July- Dec 2020. We also encouraged all to use the Parish Giving Scheme which allows a monthly regular direct debit to be given.

We were concerned that 2021 we would again struggle to achieve our Parish share, however we were supported by the national church with some funding which reduced our Parish share so we are very grateful, as this has allowed us the time and chance to build our funds from fundraising /grants/ and parish giving.

Grants have helped us from our local councillors and Together Liverpool grant meant that we were able to put on several free days with food for our community which we wish to continue in 2022

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 and Eco Church**

During 2021 we were awarded our Gold Eco Award and we have continued to grow and work on this venture moving a great deal to online but also ensuring we have continued to complete the AROche Survey and getting a base line for 360 Carbon. During 2021we 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 Cop26 as well as Wave of hope with the children of the church. we have been encouraged by the RHS award.

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 2021, a low mowing schedule, put up birdboxes, left an area as a wildlife area, and had a family of hedgehogs move in! They were promptly made a few more houses and we are delighted to keep working on this venture and improving year on year.

Below are the guidelines we are asked the congregation to work to in 2021/22.

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](http://www.prayandfastforclimatechange.org.uk)
4. Become part of the Eco Group.

Lobby MPs and send Green hearts as reminder for COP26 Vision 22 - 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 build a greenhouse (long way off at present) using the eco bricks that we continue make. 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 2021**

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 2021 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 we will 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.

Our prayer for the year going forward in 2022 especially as we may face a difficult decision in 2022 in regards to Fit for mission 2 and becoming one parish as a deanery.

*'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

### **Sunday School St Cuthbert's AGM 2022 – Sunday School Report September 21 to December 2021**

The 10 am Sunday school started up again after covid 19 and the previous lock down and restrictions. The rota consists of the following volunteers; Rachael Kiel, Elaine Walsh, Suzy Li, Tricia Smith, Bryony Jones and Tracey Simmons. We have a larger number of children attending Sunday school weekly, on average between 8 and 16.

The 10 am Sunday school continues 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.

We require more volunteers to join the Sunday school team.

At 10 am Sunday school we expect on average 4 to 8 children, but this does vary week to week, with a maximum of 16. 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. This is varied and has a variety of options for different age ranges that allows us to be flexible with our wide age range within our groups.

We have been keeping a weekly attendance register and all children that attend. This information is then stored in the locked safe in the vestry.

We have done some great crafts over the last few months and have engaged the children with writing their own prayers and also things like making blessings bags to give out to friends and family. We also use the roots activity sheets to help the children to understand the gospel relating to that week.

We have also focused on the environment and some of the children have their own allotment area.

Previously there had been an issue with the safety of the access ramp but happily this has now been addressed.

Ethos of Sunday school is welcome to every child and to be given 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 of our church family.

### **Churchwardens report –**

#### **Warden's Report April 2022**

Although written by June this has been done in consultation with Janet.

I am beginning with thanks rather than ending with them. We would like to thank those faithful members of our church family who have helped us to keep going through these bizarre Covid times - we could not have managed without you.

Also, an amazing thank you to Janet as our outgoing warden. She has been outstanding and it is wonderful to know that her many talents will still be in evidence at St. Cuthbert's. I am

particularly grateful to her as she had to carry much of the load alone as I battled several bouts of Covid.

A few words about issues connected with the building and the grounds. There is no doubt we earned our gold Eco award! We are now the proud owners of screens in the church and we are gradually getting used to them. It is 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. We are lucky to have gained the permanent loan of tables from Emmaus School which are so much more manageable than the large tables we have, and we are awaiting delivery of a trolley which will make them easier to move around. We are also grateful to the head of Holy Name for letting us have a water boiler when ours bit the dust.

Janet and I have worked several afternoons to try and make the church building look more loved - we are getting there slowly!

There are of course always problems with buildings - the heating played up for a while until Mr Glencross sorted out the timer for us. The defib machine outside has gone offline but thanks to Amanda things are in place to have that sorted. We have a weird leak over in the community room which we have been told is going to be a nightmare to fix so at the moment it is buckets and puppy pads! A building is always a constant issue to be dealt with.

Janet and I are delighted however to see green shoots emerging - appropriate since it is springtime. We are able to meet together although we still encourage the use of masks. A Place2Be is up and running again and we have user groups back in the building. There have been successful fairs and community days. All we need now 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 and Janet

### **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.

Safeguarding Advisor Catriona Richardson is our link in the Diocese.

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 the 10 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 Catriona 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 the policies within Promoting a Safer Church.

### **St Cuthberts Brownies**

For the first term we were still holding our meetings on zoom , I delivered activity packs so that the girls had everything they needed for each week, we did some mindfulness with Laura , hand massage, made crafts , played games and made lemonade scones which the girls loved doing as they got to bake with their mums.

The girls also made green hearts to hang near the shops and by school and also took part in the wave of hope with Revd Laura .

It was hard work on zoom but the girls enjoyed it and it was a way of running our brownie meetings while we were unable to meet due to covid.

The girls also attended the welcome back service in church in September and enjoyed having a picnic afterwards as this was the first time for a lot of the girls of meeting face to face and being inside the church.

The girls worked towards badges still while on zoom.

We eventually got to go back to holding meetings face to face back in the church which the girls loved being back together with their friends and working together.

The girls also took part in my son David's Baptism and enjoyed the farm afterwards.

We attended church parades including Remembrance Sunday.

We went the theatre to see Disney's Beauty and the Beast which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

For our Christmas end of term the girls went bowling and enjoyed a meal afterwards.

This term the girls worked on their writers badge and had author Natalie Reeves Billings visit them to do story telling activities and questions and answers for the girls , the girls loved listening to Natalie and hearing about her work as an author. At the end Natalie presented the girls with their badges and a lot of the girls had brought 1 of her books along which she signed for them.

The girls also completed their hostess badge by holding a Mother's Day cream tea and being their mums hostess for the night.

We have a lot planned for the girls for the year ahead with challenges and activities for the girls to complete and enjoy .

Victoria Dobie

Brownie Leader.

### **1st Croxteth Park Scouts**

After almost 2 years absence it was great to restart Scouts at the back end of 2021.

Given the enforced closure we found ourselves almost starting from scratch given that a significant number of children were either too old to re-join, i.e. had gone past Scout age, or had decided to move on to other things.

Not to be deterred, we have set about rebuilding and I'm pleased to report that our numbers are on the increase and we are averaging 14 children in Beavers, 12 in Cubs and 12 in Scouts. We

are taking our time to get back to normal but I'm confident we can strengthen the group in the coming months. We also had a number of leaders who decided to move on to other things but we have retained a strong and dedicated group of adult volunteers who continue to put in a lot of their own time and effort into activity planning and providing the children with the best experience they can. It is also worth noting our young leader and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers are at the highest since the group was formed in 2010. To me this a great sign for the future and bodes well for the growth and sustainability of our group.

In terms of activities we are taking small steps but already we have seen Santa re-emerge on the estate and at Tescos this Christmas and whilst we couldn't get around individual streets, it was both heart-warming and encouraging to see our local community on the park and the wider Croxteth, West Derby and Deysbrook communities supporting us over the 8 days we were out.

We've also had two firsts since restarting – one was our first trip out with the wider Scouting community to the Crocky Trail where a great time was had by all and the second was getting back to parade service where we had an encouraging attendance. Both may seem small things but as I said from almost a standard start I see both as very positive.

Looking forward for the rest of 2022, we will continue to grow our Thursday night activities – and hopefully our numbers – as well as planning our first camp in two and half years for the end of September where we will be going to Waddicar Scout Camp near Garstang. Camp is always a highlight of our calendar so we are hoping it will extra special in September and hopefully the final piece in bringing the group back to how we were before.

As always, we are indebted to the church and PCC in particular for their ongoing support.

**DAVID GLENCROSS**  
**GROUP SCOUT LEADER**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> CROXTETH PARK (ST CUTHBERTS) SCOUT GROUP.**

**Next Apcm St Cuthbert's APCM for the year of 2022 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**