



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Welcome to this pack of papers in preparation for our APCM on Tuesday 14 May.

The meeting has a number of set items which we must cover, and a number of reports which we must receive, so this pack might seem quite big and formal, and some pages have lots of numbers on them! I thought it might be helpful, therefore, to offer a couple of words of explanation, and to draw your attention to some pages in particular.

In the pages which follow you will find:

- An agenda for the meeting (technically two meetings!)
- The minutes of the APCM in 2023
- The Annual Report and Accounts for 2023
- Additional reports from
 - Churchwardens
 - Youth and Children's ministry
 - Safeguarding Officer
 - Mission Committee
 - St Andrew's Committee
 - HR Committee
 - Fabric Committee
 - Deanery Synod representative

One of the important things we do at the meeting is to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the previous year. The format of this document is set by the Charity Commission, and each year we must submit it to them for publication.

As well as the formal Report and Accounts, you'll also find a number of reports (listed above) all of which tell a really encouraging story about the life of Warfield Church during the past year.

Of course, I would encourage you to read all the reports, but **if you feel a little overwhelmed, or are short of time, may I suggest that if you read nothing else, you should read pages 12 to 16 of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023, the Churchwardens' report on pages 33 and 34, and the Youth and Children's Ministry report on pages 36 to 37. As you read these, I think you will be greatly encouraged by all that has been done in and through Warfield Church during 2023** – if we step back and take a look at the year as a whole, I think there is much to give thanks for!

So – time for a cup of tea! Happy reading! I hope you will be encouraged, and I look forward to seeing you at the APCM on Tuesday 14 May.

Revd David Brown
April 2024

WARFIELD PARISH

Annual meeting of Parishioners
to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 May 2024
at St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Warfield
to lead into the 2024 Annual Parochial Church meeting

PART 1 – ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Appointment of Chair for the meeting
2. Welcome
3. Opening devotions
4. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting
5. Minutes of meeting held on 25 April 2023
6. Appointment of two Church Wardens
7. Prayer for the Church Wardens led by Chair

PART 2 – ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of meeting held on 25 April 2023
3. Elections
 - (i) Election of 1 member to serve on the Deanery Synod
 - (ii) Election of 7 members to serve on the PCC (4 x 3 yrs;
2 x 2 yr; 1 x 1yr appointments)
4. Church membership and leadership
Presentation of Electoral Roll
5. Independently examined accounts 2023
6. Appointment of independent examiner for 2024
7. Reports from Church Warden and on proceedings of the Deanery Synod and of the PCC
8. Keynote address
9. Opportunity for any questions on matters not covered by earlier items
10. Closing prayers

WARFIELD PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Warfield RG42 6EE.

Chair: Catharine Mabuza

Present: Paul Allen; Anne Andrews; Peter Baylis; Sylvia Baylis; John Belstead; Sue Belstead; Joanne Benbrook; Rupert Benbrook; Andre Boulton; Gaynor Boulton; David Bradford; Penny Brinkley-Brown; Anne Brown; David Brown; Caroline Burdon; Catriona Cappleman; Andy Colpus; Sarah Colpus; Mel Cross; Paul Crowhurst; Rosie Crowhurst; Colin Date; Juliet Date; Diane Davidson; Christopher Drage; Marion Drew; Carole Durbin; Helen Durbin; Phil Durbin; Janine Frame; Alex Fry; Andrew Gomm; Annie Harling (Clerk); Richard Harling; Kathryn Hight; Steve Hight; Ashley Hill; Abi Howe; Michelle Howell; Bridget Ingwell; Stuart Ingwell; Mary Khawaja; Janet Mauler; David Metson; Geoff Minchell; Liz Minchell; Lili Mirza; Kevin Pearcey; Nigel Pengelly; Alan Ridell; Judy Ridell; Iain Rillie; David Ritchie; Elizabeth Ritchie; Gary Rivington; Paul Scott; Yvonne Scott; Ann Stevens; Anne-Marie Street; Ingrid Watts; Jonathan Watts; Sharon Wignall; Richard Williams; Michael Wood; Rosemary Wood.

Observers: David Chislett, Morgan Pearcey, Chris Osinaike; Michelle Porter-Babbage, Penny Reimers, Rob Reimers.

Apologies: Celia Auld, Ted Auld, Gisella Brownscombe, John Brownscombe, Dave Cappleman, Chris Frame, Beth Gomm, Amanda Palethorpe, Mary Summers, Mike Summers, Wayne Wignall.

23.01 Welcome

Catharine Mabuza welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23.02 Worship

The meeting opened with worship followed by a time of dwelling in the word from Luke 24 and prayer.

23.03 Appointment of clerk

Anne Harling was appointed Clerk to the meeting.

23.04 Minutes

Proposal: The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 29 March 2022 are confirmed as a true record to be signed by the Chair. Proposed by Sharon Wignall, seconded by Ashley Hill and agreed unanimously.

23.05 Appointment of two Churchwardens

The Chair thanked Andy Colpus and Sharon Wignall for their support during the year. She paid tribute to Sharon, who was standing down as Churchwarden, thanking her for the time and commitment she had given to the role.

One nomination had been received for one of the two Churchwarden vacancies. Andy Colpus had been nominated by Sharon Wignall, seconded by Alan Ridell.

The meeting appointed Andy Colpus as Churchwarden for 2023/24.

23.06 Close

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chair:

Date:

WARFIELD PARISH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held at 8.10pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Warfield RG42 6EE.

Chair: Catharine Mabuza

Present: Paul Allen; Anne Andrews; Peter Baylis; Sylvia Baylis; John Bedstead; Sue Bedstead; Joanne Benbrook; Rupert Benbrook; Andre Boulton; Gaynor Boulton; David Bradford; Penny Brinkley-Brown; Anne Brown; Caroline Burdon; Catriona Cappleman; Andy Colpus; Sarah Colpus; Mel Cross; Paul Crowhurst; Rosie Crowhurst; Colin Date; Juliet Date; Diane Davidson; Christopher Drage; Marion Drew; Carole Durbin; Helen Durbin; Phil Durbin; Janine Frame; Alex Fry; Andrew Gomm; Annie Harling (Clerk); Richard Harling; Kathryn Hight; Steve Hight; Ashley Hill; Abi Howe; Michelle Howell; Bridget Ingwell; Stuart Ingwell; Mary Khawaja; Janet Mauler; David Metson; Geoff Minchell; Liz Minchell; Liz Mirza; Kevin Pearcey; Nigel Pengelly; Alan Ridell; Judy Ridell; Iain Rillie; David Ritchie; Elizabeth Ritchie; Gary Rivington; Paul Scott; Yvonne Scott; Ann Stevens; Anne-Marie Street; Ingrid Watts; Jonathan Watts; Sharon Wignall; Richard Williams; Michael Wood; Rosemary Wood.

Observers: David Chislett, Morgan Pearcey, Chris Osinaike; Michelle Porter-Babbage, Penny Reimers, Rob Reimers.

Apologies: Celia Auld, Ted Auld, Gisella Brownscombe; John Brownscombe; Chris Frame; Beth Gomm, Amanda Palethorpe, Mary Summers, Mike Summers, Wayne Wignall.

23.01 Minutes

Proposal: The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 29 March 2022 are confirmed as a true record to be signed by the Chair. Proposed by John Belstead, seconded by Sharon Wignall and agreed unanimously.

23.02 Keynote address

Catharine Mabuza reflected on God's faithfulness during the year. Referring to the reading from Luke 24 at the earlier Vestry meeting, she reminded everyone of Jesus's presence alongside us in the current challenges for Warfield, the Church of England and the wider nation.

23.03 Appointments to Deanery Synod

Six nominations had been received for eight vacancies on the Deanery Synod. Catharine Mabuza introduced the nominees:

Paul Allen (nominated by Steve Hight and seconded by Richard Howe); Juliet Date (nominated by Chris Drage and seconded by Judy Ridell); Beth Gomm (nominated by Alison Wilkins and seconded by Alan Ridell); Lili Mirze (nominated by Abi Howe and seconded by Geoff Minchell); Nigel Pengelly (nominated by Abi Howe and seconded by Geoff Minchell); Jonathan Watts (nominated by Paul Crowhurst and seconded by Andrew Gomm).

In the absence of any further nominees, they were duly appointed as Warfield representatives on the Deanery Synod for the three-year term of office.

23.04 Appointments to PCC

Catharine Mabuza thanked all those who had served on the PCC during the year, paying tribute to Mary Shields, Mel Cross and Geoff Minchell who were stepping down as elected representatives on the PCC and Will Lindsay who had resigned during the year. 5 nominations had been received for a maximum of 5 places, 4 of which would be for 3 years, and 1 for 2 years. She introduced the nominees:

Gaynor Boulton (nominated by Celia Auld and seconded by Stuart Ingwell);
Alex Fry (nominated by Andy Colpus and seconded by Sally Colpus);
Abi Howe (nominated by Nigel Pengelly and seconded by Geoff Minchell);
Kevin Pearcey (nominated by Alan Ridell and seconded by Steve Hight);
Gary Rivington (nominated by Sue Belstead and seconded by Judy Ridell).

In the absence of any further nominees, the following were duly appointed as elected representatives to the PCC:

- Alex Fry to the two-year vacancy -; and
- Gaynor Boulton, Abi Howe, Kevin Pearcey and Gary Rivington to the three-year vacancies.

23.05 Electoral roll

Catharine Mabuza thanked Sarah Colpus, Electoral Roll Officer, for her work during the year. The electoral roll comprised 552 names at the conclusion of the 2023 review of the roll.

23.06 Appointment of Licenced Lay Ministers to PCC

As licenced lay ministers in Warfield, David Cappleman and Mike Summers, were eligible for the PCC, but neither wished to take up their place in the next year.

23.07 Independently examined accounts 2022

Catriona Cappleman thanked everyone who had supported her as treasurer during the year and throughout her term of office. She presented the accounts for 2022, summarising the sources of Warfield's income and the principal areas of expenditure. Although overall income had risen during the year, regular giving had declined. Staffing costs represented the majority of expenditure.

She set out the financial challenges in the current year, outlining activities being undertaken to encourage giving and generate additional income. She highlighted that it was not affordable to fund the anticipated deficit from reserves and meet longer-term capital expenditure needs and gave assurance that the PCC would monitor the position closely during the year.

In response to a question, she said that the facility for giving via the contactless machines provided a useful route for donations but did not represent a significant contribution to income.

The meeting paused for prayer for the Parish finances.

Catharine Mabuza paid tribute to Catriona Cappleman for her commitment to the role of treasurer during her term of office of over 6 years.

On the recommendation of the PCC, the meeting adopted the 2022 annual report and accounts.

23.08 Appointment of independent examiner

On the recommendation of the PCC, Radford and Sargeant was appointed as independent examiner for 2022.

23.09 Wardens' report

The meeting received the Church Wardens' annual report.

23.10 Deanery and PCC reports

The meeting received the annual report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod; and the reports of the PCC subcommittees, and the Safeguarding Officer, along with reports on various aspects of church ministry. Catharine Mabuza thanked the authors.

23.11 Question and answer session

In response to a question, Catharine Mabuza confirmed that it was the intention to appoint a second Warden during the year. As provided for under Church Representation Rules, as Vicar of the Parish, she was able to appoint to vacancies between annual meetings.

No other questions were raised.

23.12 Staff and volunteers

Catharine Mabuza thanked all those who are involved in various activities across the Parish, highlighting those who had undertaken particular leadership roles, and staff members for their support.

22.12 Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.55pm.

Chair:

Date:

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF WARFIELD
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity number	1129301
Registered name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Warfield
Principal address	Church Lane Warfield Bracknell RG42 6EE
Independent Examiner	Kim Swain MA (Oxon) FCA Radford & Sergeant Limited Building 3, Watchmoor Park Camberley Surrey GU15 3YL
Bankers	HSBC 9 High Street Bracknell RG12 1DN

Council Membership

Members of the PCC (Trustees) are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC during 2023:

Vicar:	Rev Catharine Mabuza
Associate Ministers:	Rev David Brown Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage
Curate:	Rev David Chislett
Churchwardens:	Andy Colpus Sharon Wignall (until 25.4.23)

PCC 2022/3

Licensed Lay Ministers on PCC:
None

Diocesan Synod members
Amanda Palethorpe

Deanery Synod members:
Paul Allen
Juliet Date

Elected members:
Penny Brinkley-Brown
Catriona Cappleman
Mel Cross (until 25.4.23)
Chris Drage
Alex Fry
Ashley Hill
Michelle Howell
Will Lindsay (until 25.4.23)
Geoff Minchell (until 25.4.23)
David Ritchie
Mary Shields (until 25.4.23)
Kate Tyson

Co-opted members:
None

PCC Secretary: Anne Harling (until 18.7.23)
Helen Francis (from 18.7.23 until 25.11.23)

Electoral Roll Officer: Sarah Colpus

Treasurer: Catriona Cappleman (until 25.4.23)
Chris Drage (from 25.4.23)

PCC 2023/4

Licensed Lay Ministers on PCC:
None

Diocesan Synod members
Amanda Palethorpe

Deanery Synod members:
Paul Allen
Juliet Date
Beth Gomm (from 25.4.23)
Lili Mirza (from 25.4.23)
Nigel Pengelly (from 25.4.23 until 20.6.23)
Jon Watts (from 25.4.23)

Elected members:
Gaynor Boulton (from 25.4.23)
Penny Brinkley-Brown
Catriona Cappleman (until 25.11.23)
Chris Drage
Alex Fry
Ashley Hill
Abi Howe (from 25.4.23)
Michelle Howell (until 20.6.23)
Kevin Pearcey (from 25.4.23)
Gary Rivington (from 25.4.23)
David Ritchie
Kate Tyson

Co-opted members:
None

Warfield PCC Trustees Annual Report for the year 2023

Aims and Purposes

Warfield Church aims

**to share the love of Jesus with the world,
by connecting people to Jesus and each another
equipping people for their God-given calling, and
releasing people into God's mission in the world.**

Our values are: Adventurous
Generous
Accountable
Collaborative

Warfield Church dates its origins back to 1016 AD, and sits within the Church of England, with an open evangelical and charismatic tradition.

The church began when Queen Emma granted permission for a chapel to be built on the site of the present St Michael the Archangel Parish Church. It is likely to have been built to proclaim God's victory over paganism and to proclaim the name of Jesus.

The PCC has the responsibility, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, of co-operating with the minister in promoting to as many people as possible in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

Strategic Objectives

In 2013 the Warfield Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Parochial Church Council. The four strategic priorities of that plan remain, although the outworking of them now looks very different.

1. **Location:** The primary area of ministry is within Warfield, and in the Bullbrook area by permission of the Bracknell Parish and Bracknell Deanery.
2. **Reaching Everyone:** To reach people (make disciples) of every age, ability and life stage, noting that it is important to retain these people as they undergo the major transitions between these ages and stages.
3. **Planting Congregations & Community Engagement:** For some years, our practice has been to grow the church through planting congregations and engaging with local communities. Thirty years ago, Warfield was a village with a population of 2,000 and a medieval parish church. As a huge number of new houses were constructed, our goal has been to build community and church by planting congregations into these growing areas.
4. **Beyond Warfield:** Warfield Church also has a role to play working with other churches within the deanery and beyond.

Activities

The activities at Warfield Church can be described as 'church-wide' and local to congregations and aim to implement our strategic objectives by providing activities for members and non-members, of all ages and abilities, engaging with the community and supporting churches beyond our parish boundaries, in this country and across the world. The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

1. Church-wide:

a. **Occasional Offices** – There were 4 weddings during the course of the year, and 22 baptisms (10 babies, 11 children and 1 adult). There were 7 funerals in church and our clergy took 7 funerals at the crem. There were 3 burials of ashes in the graveyard.

b. **Mid-week Communion Services** – There was a communion service every Wednesday at St Andrew's until Easter. From Easter this reduced to once a month on the first Wednesday of the month.

The monthly service at the Warfield Park Community Centre on the second Tuesday of each month continued, with good attendance – in July, it was the highest attendance ever as those gathered said farewell to Chris and Richard Page who had begun the work on Warfield Park.

c. **'Together' Services** – In May all congregations met for a celebration, in the grounds of Warfield Primary School. In October, 'Celebration Sunday' (ahead of Vision Sunday in congregations) was held in St Michael's Church, with all congregations together to celebrate the year past and look forward to 2024.

In addition, on two Sundays in the summer, and on the Sunday after Christmas, there were 'Summer/Winter Gatherings', when congregations met together for pragmatic reasons, given that many people were away.

d. **Alpha** – an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in an open and friendly environment. An Alpha course was held in the Parish Rooms during the Summer Term.

e. **Courses** – in addition to the Alpha Course, we also ran The Bible Course, THE Prayer Course, the Unanswered Prayer Course, and the Romans Course, all alongside C3.

f. **Bereavement Work** – During the autumn term, we also ran the Bereavement Journey course, and the Bereavement Carol Service was well attended, and appreciated by many.

e. **Youth & Children's Work** - Warfield Church has lots of opportunities for young people and children, many of which are outreach to non-church families:

i. Little Starz is a toddler group for under 5's and their carers which meets in St Michael's on Monday mornings and in St Andrew's on Thursday mornings. Activities include play, craft, songs, prayer and a bible story. Average total attendance across both sessions was 52 adults and 83 children during 2023.

ii. All Starz is the Friday night Kids' Club with activities and the Christian message for primary school aged children. An average of 58 children and 9 junior leaders attended through 2023.

iii. Primary Schools visits- The number of primary schools with which we work reduced from 6 to 5 during 2023, as sadly Maedowbrook School closed during the year. Our Children, Youth and Families' Pastor did assemblies and lessons in schools, and groups visited both buildings.

We also enjoy the use of the buildings at Whitegrove Primary and Warfield Primary each Sunday morning.

iv. Relentless is for young people of secondary school age and meets each Friday evening in term time. Relentless has a mixture of games and fun activities and finishes with a Christian message. Average attendance was 28 across the year.

vi. Youth Life Groups – Until the Summer there were two youth Life Groups and one from September onwards.

vii. Secondary Schools and College –

The Youth Pastor had increased contact with Bracknell and Wokingham College, including a joint deanery initiative to attend Freshers Fair. We continue to support the role of School Chaplain at Ranelagh and Sandhurst schools.

f. **Autumn Club** is a group for older people with a number of events through the year.

g. **Cameo** is a group that provides worship and teaching specifically to meet the needs of adults with learning disabilities and is jointly supported by Warfield Church and Easthampstead Baptist Church.

h. **CBS** - Warfield Church hosts weekly CBS groups for structured Bible Study (www.communitybiblestudy.org)

i. **Share** – Warfield Church hosts Share Bracknell in St Andrew's each Friday. Volunteers collect short-dated food on Thursday evenings, and this is redistributed on Friday afternoons to those in need or anyone who would like to collect. The work has gone from strength to strength during 2023 with around 80 households attending each week and about 40 volunteers, about 60% of whom are from Warfield Church.

j. **Communitia and C3** – There are two weekly coffee mornings – Community in Bullbrook Community centre on Tuesdays, and C3 in the Brownlow Hall on Thursdays. Both are well attended.

k. **Support to Bracknell Deanery and Oxford Diocese** - Members of Warfield Church have served on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral committee and on Diocesan Synod. Catharine Mabuza and David Brown continued in their roles as Co-Area Deans for the Bracknell Deanery

l. **Bracknell Christian Network** - Leaders from Warfield Church attend an online weekly prayer meeting for leaders of churches and Christian organisations in Bracknell. Through this they are able to share information and work in partnership with other local churches.

m. **Support to the world-wide church** - Warfield Church has a strong emphasis on developing partnerships with overseas mission partners, whom we uphold through prayer, financial giving and visits. This enables us not only to support the work directly, but also fosters a culture of generous concern for other parts of Christ's body. We have benefited from the use of technology to enable Mission Partners to preach at Warfield from thousands of miles away.

2. Local to Congregations:

Warfield Church meets in four locations on Sundays:

- i. St Andrew's, Priestwood
- ii. St Michael the Archangel, Warfield
- iii. Whitegrove School
- iv. Warfield C E Primary School - Woodhurst site

The latter three congregations each have their own leadership team and budget. These congregations engage with their local communities in different ways and support members through pastoral care and Life Groups. Further detail of some of the events during 2023 can be found below.

There are two church buildings in the parish, St Michael the Archangel and St Andrew's. The St Michael's site also includes the Parish Rooms, which contain a large meeting hall, kitchen, toilets and the church office. The church also owns a house in Warfield, currently rented to a private tenant.

Achievements and Performance

2023 Overview

Compared to recent years, and the years to come, 2023 was a fairly stable year at Warfield Church, though big changes were announced towards the end of the year. Congregations continued to discover their identity and to work on their vision for mission in their localities. Sunday attendance increased slightly through the year, most notably at St Andrew's.

At St Andrew's, the Sunday congregation began to meet once a month for an extended time of prayer after the morning service, praying for the local community and the mission of the church in the area. A sub-committee of the PCC also became more active and made excellent progress with plans to redevelop the building and make it more fit for purpose. Andy Colpus, Churchwarden, led this work, and by the end of the year there were some initial architect's drawings to consider for a redevelopment.

Children's and Youth work has also continued to grow again after the pandemic, assisted by the appointment of a new Youth Pastor, Chris Osinaike, who started work at the beginning of the year. In April we celebrated with him when he married Daisy Ridell, Youth Pastor at Binfield Church. There has been increased partnership between the churches in youth work!

Special events during the year included Rev Catharine Mabuza becoming an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and celebrations of the King's coronation, including the planting of another tree in the grounds of St Michael's, and a celebration on the Green opposite Whitegrove School. In July a large group once again attended the New Wine Summer conference, this time in Kent.

Also of note were the two evenings held entitled 'Let's Talk Menopause', to which over 130 people came in total. The evenings were led by Rosie Crowhurst, a practice nurse and member of Warfield Church West, and were hugely appreciated by church members and friends alike.

From July onwards, a group from Warfield Church North met under the heading 'Care for Creation'. Amongst other things they registered for the A Rocha Eco Church Award scheme, and by December were awarded the Bronze award.

In October we had a successful sequence of Celebration Sunday, Vision Sunday, and Giving Sunday. The last of these included a clear presentation of the finances and the forecast end of year deficit, and a clear request to church members to pray for God's provision and to prayerfully consider their giving. The results of this were hugely encouraging, and significantly improved the year end figures.

Throughout the year there had been a number of conversations across the church (including a joint meeting of PCC and Leadership Teams in January) on the subject of Living in Love and Faith and issues of human sexuality. At the end of the year, plans for a series of churchwide meetings in early 2024 were announced. These local conversations were part of the national picture in relation to the proposals brought before General Synod in February, July and November.

It was this last meeting of the General Synod, and the decision to authorise the Prayers of Love and Faith which led, very sadly, to the resignation of David Ritchie, Associate Minister since 2013. David did not feel able to stay within the Church of England, and so resigned as a Licensed Lay Worker and left ordination training.

The week before David's resignation was announced, it had also been announced that Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage would be leaving Warfield Church to become Pioneer Oversight Minister in the Godrevy Benefice in the Diocese of Truro and that Rev Canon Catharine Mabuza had been appointed as Archdeacon of Surrey in the Diocese of Guildford. In December we also said farewell to Dave and Catriona Cappleman, as they moved away from Bracknell. They had been members of the church for 39 and 36 years respectively, serving in many capacities including those of Licensed Lay Minister (Dave) and Treasurer (Catriona). We are tremendously grateful to them and for them.

All of this meant that by the time 2023 drew to a close there were major changes on the horizon for Warfield Church. Because of the impact of the departure of David Ritchie and others, Worship@7 happened for the last time in December.

However this did not stop some excellent Christmas celebrations, with attendance up across the board to be the highest since before the pandemic. Christmastastic at Woodhurst and Carols by Candlelight at St Michael's both attracted very good numbers, and at Whitegrove there was a Crib Service on Christmas Eve for the first time, as well as Carols on the Green the previous week.

For all of this and more, we are truly thankful to God, and also to the many people who give so generously of their time and money and make all of this happen. Warfield Church is truly blessed by the commitment of many people.

Staff Vacancies, Appointments and Recruitment

- Chris Osinaike joined the staff team from 3rd January 2023
- Morgan Pearcey had been a Ministry Assistant for a 'gap year' which finished in July 2023. From September he continued on the team as Business Administration Apprentice and began an apprenticeship through Straight A Training.
- Helen Durbin had provided PA services to the Vicar, but finished this work in March 2023 when she secured a different job.

Average Sunday Attendance and Electoral Roll

Warfield Church's Average Sunday Attendance figures for 2023 were as follows:

	Adults	Under 16s	2022 figures for comparison	
St Andrew's - 0830	15	2	11	0.4
Warfield Church North - St Michael's	76	16	68	11
Warfield Church East - Whitegrove	43	25	39	22
Warfield Church West - Woodhurst	95	49	85	39
Worship@7**	39	5	30	3
TOTAL	268	97	233	75.4

At the end of 2023 there were 546 people on the Electoral Roll.

The table below gives Electoral Roll and Average Sunday attendance for the last five years:

Year	2019	2020a	2020b	2021	2022	2023
Electoral roll (as at APCM)	476	N/A	503	503	538	542
Average Sunday Attendance – adult	317	277	194	200	218	249
Average Sunday Attendance – child	125	111	4	41	74	95

Risk Management

The PCC regularly reviews any major risks encountered by the church and takes appropriate action to manage and minimise those risks in accordance with best practice.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs 2023

In 2023, income increased compared with 2022, positively impacted by an increase in service offerings, legacy donations and the value of investments. Expenditure has remained relatively stable compared with 2022 although falling slightly. This has led to a surplus carried forward into 2024 of £21,901 (2022: deficit of £40,975).

Income

In 2023, Warfield Church's total income was £496,627 compared with £466,783 in 2022, a good increase. Unrestricted income from regular and one-off gifts decreased by just over £5,500 to £336,526 (2022: £342,053), on which £80,753 gift aid was claimed (2022: £80,192). Some generous one-off gifts were received.

The significant increase in total income is due to a number of factors. The largest contributors were legacies received of £21,602 and a significant increase in service offerings which totalled £11,816.

The increase in income could not have been predicted and will not necessarily be repeated in future years. The impact of the reduction in regular giving was made known to the congregations at various points during the year culminating in a Giving Sunday in October 2023, that resulted in some one-off gifts and pledges for the coming year.

Expenditure

Total expenditure was £508,184 compared to £515,563 in 2022. Expenditure was lower on mission giving, parish share and a depreciation charge of £11,071 but staff costs and utility bills increased.

The net gain on investments was £33,758 and included an increase in the value of the Portia Grove house of £10,000 and an increase in the value of our investments of £23,758 from our shares in the CCLA CBF investment fund.

The result is a surplus of £21,901 for 2023.

Reserves

Our reserves amount to £251,236 made up of £211,563 the value of the investment fund as at 31/12/2023, and £39,673 the unrestricted cash at bank.

Reserves Policy

The PCC seeks to retain at least two months' average expenditure in reserves. This currently amounts to around £85,000. Net unrestricted funds (excluding tangible fixed assets) at 31 December 2023 amounted to £234,004 (2022: £217,520).

Significant expenditure is expected to be required on our two church buildings as a result of the Quinquennial inspections. About £39,500 has been budgeted for this, to be spent over the next year and, therefore, there are sufficient reserves to cover this and regular expenditure.

Other creditors

Warfield PCC holds money in its main account for Cameo Christian Fellowship (£112 as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022). This is recorded on the balance sheet within Other creditors.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointing PCC members, who are the trustees of the charity, is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Warfield, the membership of the PCC consists of the clergy licensed to the parish, churchwardens, local lay ministers who wish to be members and who are appointed at the APCM, and members elected by those members of our congregations who are on the electoral roll. Members of the diocesan and deanery synod on the electoral roll are ex officio members of the PCC. PCC members are given information about their responsibilities as trustees.

Throughout 2023 the PCC sought to operate within the understanding drawn up and agreed in May 2019, that alongside its statutory purposes it *“oversees the life of the church to ensure we are focused on how to become a more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world. We aim to prayerfully seek God’s will, work well together, reflect our values and take action for the future.”*

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met 8 times during 2023.

Warfield PCC does a lot of its work through sub-committees. The Standing Committee carries on any business required between meetings. The HR committee looks after all matters relating to paid staff employed by the PCC. The finance committee keeps an eye on all financial matters and prepares the budget and accounts each year. The fabric committee works hard to keep our buildings in good order and to follow appropriate processes for permission for works to be carried out. The mission committee is responsible for the budget allocated to mission partners and organisations outside the parish. There is also a staff remuneration committee and a committee was set up in 2022 to look at how best to use the St Andrew’s building.

Statement of Responsibilities of Members of the PCC

The trustees (members of the PCC) are responsible for preparing the PCC's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of Members of the PCC:

Rev Canon Catharine Mabuza, Vicar

Date: 13 February 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Warfield Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 13 to 24.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Charities Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Charities Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kim Swain MA (Oxon) FCA

Radford & Sergeant Limited
Building 3
Watchmoor Park
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 3YL

24 April 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

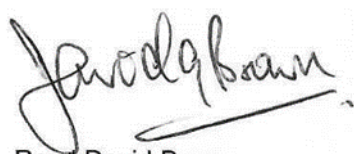
For the year ending 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
	Note				
INCOME					
Voluntary income	2(a)	448,273	3,424	451,697	432,883
Income from investments	2(b)	14,535	-	14,535	14,806
Church activities	2(c)	26,496	-	26,496	19,094
Other income	2(d)	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>492,903</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>496,327</u>	<u>466,783</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Church activities	3	<u>503,747</u>	<u>4,437</u>	<u>508,184</u>	<u>515,563</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>503,747</u>	<u>4,437</u>	<u>508,184</u>	<u>515,563</u>
NET (LOSS)/SURPLUS BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS					
		(10,844)	(1,013)	(11,857)	(48,780)
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		<u>33,758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,758</u>	<u>7,805</u>
NET (LOSS)/SURPLUS AND MOVEMENT IN FUNDS					
		22,914	(1,013)	21,901	(40,975)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>740,128</u>	<u>32,708</u>	<u>772,836</u>	<u>813,811</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>763,042</u>	<u>31,695</u>	<u>794,737</u>	<u>772,836</u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible	7	530,847		525,669	
Investments	8	<u>211,563</u>		<u>187,805</u>	
		742,410		713,474	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments	9	25,537		15,764	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>39,672</u>		<u>57,489</u>	
		65,209		73,253	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	10	(<u>12,882</u>)		(<u>13,891</u>)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>52,327</u>		<u>59,362</u>	
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>794,737</u>		<u>772,836</u>	
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted		763,042		740,128	
Restricted	11	<u>31,695</u>		<u>32,708</u>	
		<u>794,737</u>		<u>772,836</u>	

Approved by the PCC on 23 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd David Brown
PCC Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Warfield Parochial Church Council ("The PCC") is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

1.2 Income recognition

Open plate collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised when received and the associated recoverable income tax is recognised when the income is recognised. All other donations and receipts for church activities are recognised when received.

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

1.3 Expenditure recognition

Parish share is recorded when payable – any rebate is recorded when received. All other expenditure, including mission giving, is recorded when paid.

1.4 ASSETS

1.4.1 Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

1.4.2 Moveable church furnishings

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory that can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000, such assets are not included in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life.

All expenditure incurred on consecrated or beneficed buildings or on the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off as expenditure in the year.

1.4.3 Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are stated at cost.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalized cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

- Freehold Land: Nil
- Improvements to freehold land: 10 years
- Fixtures & Fittings: 10 years
- Equipment: 10 years and 4 years

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

1.4.4 Investments

Investment in freehold residential property is valued by the PCC at a market value informally estimated by local estate agents.

Investments in CBF shares are stated at market value as notified by the fund.

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains at the balance sheet date are accounted for by stating at market value.

Both realised and unrealised gains are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.4.5 Stock

No account has been taken of any stocks of books, magazines or other materials held at the balance sheet date and all expenditure is written off as incurred.

1.4.6 Pensions

The PCC operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.5 FUNDS

1.5.1 Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project.

1.5.2 Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2. INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	307,796	1,700	309,496	312,425
Tax recoverable	80,403	350	80,753	80,192
Other	26,656	374	27,030	29,628
Legacies	21,602	-	21,602	-
Collections: (open plate)	11,816	-	11,816	6,552
Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>4,086</u>
	<u>448,273</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>451,697</u>	<u>432,883</u>
2(b) Income from investments				
Rent received	14,400	-	14,400	14,400
Bank interest	<u>135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>406</u>
	<u>14,535</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,535</u>	<u>14,806</u>
2(c) Income from church activities				
Fees for occasional services	11,014	-	11,014	8,763
Under 30s	11,258	-	11,258	8,032
Church and Parish Room lettings	130	-	130	50
Parish-wide events	2,483	-	2,483	1,458
Other	<u>1,611</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>791</u>
	<u>26,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,496</u>	<u>19,094</u>
2(d) Other income				
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,599</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

3. EXPENDITURE

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
	Notes				
Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving	4	47,622	-	47,622	49,517
Diocesan parish share		169,400	-	169,400	181,797
Staff employment costs	5	158,483	-	158,483	136,472
St Michael's/St Andrew's/Parish Rooms utilities		27,374	-	27,374	20,304
Congregational costs		14,017	-	14,017	18,437
Training		892	-	892	2,806
Clergy expenses		3,210	-	3,210	6,360
Hardship Fund		-	1,498	1,498	1,848
Messy Lunch		-	365	365	870
Autumn Club		217	432	649	445
Under 30s		11,120	-	11,120	8,496
Parish-wide events		10,946	-	10,946	7,312
Occasional service fees paid to Diocese		6,402	-	6,402	5,494
Independent examiner's fees		3,000	-	3,000	2,880
CCLI licences		2,535	-	2,535	4,119
Office and administration		14,401	-	14,401	26,640
Property maintenance		15,596	1,000	16,596	16,152
Insurance		8,603	-	8,603	8,299
Depreciation		<u>9,929</u>	<u>1,142</u>	<u>11,071</u>	<u>17,315</u>
		<u>503,747</u>	<u>4,437</u>	<u>508,184</u>	<u>515,563</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

4. MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING

Grants are given to various individuals working for churches or Christian charities, for their personal support, or to the church or charity itself, for its work and charitable activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Milan & Shusma Adhikari Nepal	6,883	-	6,883	6,000
Clemisons (YWAM)	6,300	-	6,300	6,300
Deanery Schools Chaplain	5,500	-	5,500	6,000
Krasif Aid	5,415	-	5,415	5,600
Domingo's	4,100	-	4,100	-
2 The Nations	4,000	-	4,000	7,000
St Peter's Life Line Kenya	3,615	-	4,205	4,205
Hands On Houses (India)	2,800	-	2,800	2,800
Joel & Fiona Kelling (CMS)	2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Tazmin Foster, YWAM	1,600	-	1,600	1,300
Laurence & Jane Knoop, OM	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Debs Fenton (Metro Church)	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Compassion	1,083	-	1,083	972
Aanandit Charity Centre	900	-	900	1,440
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	315	-	315	500
St Peter's Life Line child sponsorship	211	-	211	-
Rabiah Aalam (CMS)	-	-	-	2,500
	<u>47,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,622</u>	<u>49,517</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

5. STAFF

Employment costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Wages and salaries	140,534	-	140,534	120,617
Employer's NI	7,884	-	7,884	6,805
Pension contributions	8,771	-	8,771	7,177
Expense claims	<u>1,294</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,294</u>	<u>1,873</u>
	<u>158,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,483</u>	<u>136,472</u>

Numbers of employees

The average monthly number of employees (including temporary staff) during the year was:

	2023	2022
Administration	0.65	0.60
Operations/Management	0.95	1.00
Youth and Children	2.00	1.30
Minister (directly employed)	1.00	1.00
Apprentice	<u>0.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>5.00</u>	<u>3.90</u>

6. MEMBERS OF THE PCC

2 employees were members of the PCC and received remuneration as employees until April 2022; thereafter 1 employee.

No member of the PCC (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits during the year in respect of their membership of the PCC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and Buildings £	Investment Property £	Fixtures, Fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2023	31,390	485,000	271,979	788,369
Additions	-	10,000	6,249	16,249
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,100)</u>	<u>(2,100)</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>31,390</u>	<u>495,000</u>	<u>276,128</u>	<u>802,518</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	15,025	-	247,675	262,700
Charge for the year	2,505	-	8,566	11,071
Written back on disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,100)</u>	<u>(2,100)</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>17,530</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254,141</u>	<u>271,671</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>13,860</u>	<u>495,000</u>	<u>21,987</u>	<u>530,847</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>16,365</u>	<u>485,000</u>	<u>24,304</u>	<u>525,669</u>

Investment Property

2 Portia Grove, Warfield

Market value

At 31 December 2023	£495,000
At 31 December 2022	£485,000
At 31 December 2021	£465,000

Market value is determined by the PCC with informal assistance from local estate agents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

8. Investments

CBF Investment Fund Accumulation Shares

	Number	Cost £	Valuation £
At 1 January 2023	3,542.95	199,112	187,805
Unrealised profit on valuation			<u>23,758</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,542.95</u>	<u>199,112</u>	<u>211,563</u>

9. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax recoverable	22,854	12,612
Debtors	1,688	1,688
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>995</u>	<u>1,464</u>
	<u>25,537</u>	<u>15,764</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	10,507	12,327
Other creditors	<u>2,375</u>	<u>1,564</u>
	<u>12,882</u>	<u>13,891</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

11. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes as listed below:

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
St Andrew's	743	-	743	-
St Andrew's Development	14,374	-	55	14,319
Hardship fund	12,508	2,050	1,498	13,060
Churchyard	-	1,000	1,000	-
St Michaels's organ AV	298	-	119	179
Furniss legacy	700	-	100	600
St Andrew's lectern	875	-	125	750
Autumn Club	58	374	432	-
Messy lunch	<u>3,152</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>2,787</u>
	<u>32,708</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>4,437</u>	<u>31,695</u>

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	528,988	1,859	530,847
Investments	211,563	-	211,563
Current assets	35,373	29,836	65,209
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(12,932)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(12,932)</u>
	<u>762,992</u>	<u>31,695</u>	<u>794,687</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

13. Financial commitments

The PCC has passed a budget for 2024 with a deficit of £9,000. This is a significant improvement from the 2023 budget due to a reduced Parish Share cost agreed with the Diocese which reflects a reduction in ministerial staff and there are also additional staff cost reductions. We have predicted a reduction in regular annual giving compared with 2023 and there is significant uncertainty about the level of giving through 2024. There will be a giving initiative during the second half of the year and applications will be made for grants to support church building projects.

The budget includes a commitment to give £42,550 to mission organisations and £6,000 towards the Bracknell deanery school chaplain's post. At the date that these accounts were approved £37,000 of the money to mission organisations has been committed and the recipients informed. The PCC has agreed to spend £39,500 on capital and one-off projects over the next year and has pledged to give a further £6,000 in 2025 towards the Bracknell deanery school chaplain's post.

Churchwardens' Report APCM 2024

As we reflect back on 2023 we give thanks for all that God has accomplished during the last year. It has been a joy to see how God worked through each of our congregations – the three 10.30am congregations; the 8.30am service at St Andrew's; Worship@7; and the congregation that meets every month at Warfield Park.

An overview of the last year has already been provided by Catharine in her report and so we will not repeat what has already been covered. However, activities, whether 'church-wide' or local to a congregation, would not occur without the army of people working hard to make the work of the church possible. We would like to thank you for all that you do – seen and unseen.

And thank you too for the way you have given financially, and especially to those who responded to the Giving Day in the Autumn, either by increasing your regular giving or by giving a one-off gift. Your commitment in your giving has been absolutely central to everything we have wanted and tried to do. All the things we wish to do are dependant on us having the resources to do them, and this means not only people's willingness to give of their time and join in, but money as well, so thank you.

In the past year, we recognise the faithful service of those who have moved away or sadly passed away; and we have celebrated as God has brought new people to worship and serve with us. In particular we praise God for those folk who have entered into a relationship with Jesus for the first time this last year and for those whose lives have been renewed.

Warfield Church is a large church, and running it is not a small task. Although it is always a risk to single individual people out for special mention, we feel it is important to record our thanks to Dave and Catriona Cappleman who moved to Hereford in December. Over their thirty plus years at Warfield, they both made a massive contribution to the church in so many ways, including Dave serving as a Licensed Lay Minister and Catriona as Treasurer. We wish them God's blessing in their new home.

We are very thankful for Alan, and Ali who have continued to work tirelessly in the office during the year, completing a wide range of tasks. In September Morgan ended his Ministry Assistant year and started a one year Business Administration Apprenticeship – it is also wonderful to have his assistance in the office. Without the contribution of all three of them, the work of the church would not be possible. In March 2023, Helen Durbin moved on to a new job, and we are very grateful for all the hard work and support that she provided to Catharine as her PA over the last four years.

We also thank our PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives who together act as Trustees for the church. They are the overseers of what we do, ensuring that we comply with both Charity law and the requirements of the Church of England. They are, with other non-PCC members, members of the Finance Committee, Human Resources Committee, Fabric Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Mission Committee and St Andrew's Committee. Each makes themselves available for these different areas of the church's ministry. We hope you enjoy reading each of their reports outlining the important work they have done in 2023.

Special thanks also go to the members of our Ministerial Team during last year: Catharine Mabuza, Michelle Porter-Babbage, David Brown, David Ritchie, and David Chislett, to our Children, Youth and

Families' Pastor, Beth Gomm, and to our Youth Pastor, Chris Osinaike who joined the Staff Team in January 2023. We are very grateful for their leadership, teaching, pastoral care, and hard work during the last year.

The end of the year was a sad time for us as a church, as in November it was announced that Catharine had been appointed as Archdeacon of Surrey in the Diocese of Guildford, and that Michelle had been appointed as the Pioneer Oversight Minister in the Godrevy Benefice in the Diocese of Truro. At the start of December, David Ritchie resigned following the decision at the General Synod to authorise the Prayers of Love and Faith. The start of 2024 saw us say goodbye to all three of them, and we pray that God will bless them in their new ministries.

Please pray for David Brown in his role of Senior Minister, who as a result has returned to working full time, and for David Chislett, Beth, Chris and the Staff Team, and for those who lead and help in all our congregations and activities.

In April, Sharon Wignall stood down as churchwarden and we are very grateful for all she contributed to the role. For the remainder of 2023, Andy Colpus was the only churchwarden. In December though, Phil Durbin was invited (and accepted) to become the other warden, commencing in January 2024.

Thank you to everyone for all your service in the last year – we truly appreciate all you do. Please continue to serve and encourage others to serve in the year ahead. A big challenge and joy for us as Christians is to assist and provide for each other and our communities here at Warfield, across Bracknell and beyond. As wardens we would like to encourage everyone to listen to God and to be working out what each of our parts should be in Warfield's ministry going forward. We are on a mission, "To share the love of Jesus with the world, by connecting people to Jesus and each other, equipping people for their God-given calling, and releasing people into God's mission in the world."

Andy Colpus & Phil Durbin
Churchwardens

Electoral Roll Report

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll as at 10 April 2023 was 552.

Since then, 17 people have been added to the roll and 39 people removed.

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll as at 29 April 2024 is 530.

Sarah Colpus

Electoral Roll Officer

Date: 29 April 2024

Youth and Children's Ministry Report

'We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born' Psalm 78:4-6

We have had another year when we have seen the faithfulness of God throughout our Children and Youth Work. I have loved being able to continue to build relationships with the children and families that are part of our community and I hope that we continue to see God at work throughout the coming year.

Little Starz

We have continued to be able to run our two Little Starz groups on Monday and Thursday mornings throughout 2023. Our groups have continued to grow in number so that we are now seeing an average of 65 families each week which is roughly 120 children and adults. But most importantly, we have started to build a community with the parents, grandparents and childminders where people feel safe and encouraged as they journey through these early years. We were able to run an Easter and Christmas fun day for our toddler families with over 150 adults and children attending as well as summer Little Starz groups over August. There is a real need during school holidays to be able to offer low cost activities for the whole family and this is something we hope to continue in 2024.

All Starz

After Chris Osinaike joined as Youth Pastor and began to run Relentless, I have taken more of a lead running All Starz on a Friday night. The make up of All Starz is over 90% non church families and has become a God given opportunity to share the Gospel with children who might not otherwise hear the Good News. This has meant we have had to adapt All Starz to become more of an outreach ministry to be able to better support and encourage the children in their faith journey. On average we see 55 children and 16 junior leaders each Friday, with numbers rising to 70 during the summer term. We have also been encouraged to see our year 6's continue to stay involved with our Friday night ministries as they transition from All Starz to Relentless and get involved with our Year 5-6 socials.

Schools

Over the past year, I have been able to continue to build on the relationships between Warfield Church and our local Primary Schools which are Meadowbrook School, Whitegrove, Holly Spring, Meadowvale, Warfield C of E and Kennel Lane. I do weekly assemblies with Holly Spring School and assemblies every half term with the other schools. At Christmas, we ran 28 different Christmas events with our schools which saw around 2000 students and 500 parents attending these events! At Easter, we have 18 lessons, 2 Easter experiences and 4 Easter services booked in with schools wanting to hear about the importance of Easter. This is such an exciting opportunity when so many other schools are not wanting to have a relationship with Churches and I can't wait to see what else God has in store for our schools over the next year!

Sundays

We have been blessed with an incredible team of volunteers to give up their time each and every week to share their love of Jesus with the children. Each week we have around 90 children attending our children's across the 3 congregations and it has been a joy to see them engaging and growing in their relationship with God as we have looked at the values of Warfield Church and then the life of Jesus. We are currently able to offer children's and youth work regularly at two of our congregations, with All Starz Together launching in 2024 and based at St Michael's.

We are still struggling to get enough volunteers for leading and helping with the children's work and so if you have a passion for children's ministry and would like to serve, please get in contact with your congregational leader or Beth Gomm at beth.gomm@warfield.org.uk.

Youth

In January, we were excited to be able to welcome Chris Osinaike to the team as our Youth Pastor. He has taken on the running of Relentless, which has become a joint outreach alongside All Saints Binfield. One of the big changes made in Relentless has been to offer two streams with the young people can choose between. Surf which is helping our young people to start to make connections to the Christian faith and Dive which is looking at the Christian faith in more depth. This has allowed our young people to choose for themselves and gives them more independence and autonomy.

Chris has also helped to lead our Wednesday night group for Year 10+ students which has been a great encouragement to those who attend. It's so important for our older youth to have a space that is their own where they can engage with their faith at a deeper level.

Coming year

As we look ahead, it is clear to see that God has so much more in store for our children, young people and families. Some of the hopes we have for this coming year and that are already being put in place are:

- Starting a parishwide children's and youth ministry to run once a month to give our children and young people a space to worship, pray and learn about the Bible (All Starz Together and Dive launched March 2024).
- Helping all our children, young people and families to take the next step in their faith journey wherever they are and support them as they continue to grow and flourish.

We are so grateful for all our incredible volunteers who make everything possible and for the Church's prayers and support in this vital ministry. If you are passionate about our children and young people growing in their faith and would like to volunteer at any of our ministries, please do get in touch at beth.gomm@warfield.org.uk

Beth Gomm
Children, Youth and Families Pastor

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an area of care that is designed to do everything possible to protect the young and the vulnerable from harm whether that be harm of an emotional, sexual, physical, financial or spiritual nature. To this end Warfield Church follows the guidelines and recommendations set out by the Diocese of Oxford and Church of England. Ever-changing requirements and documentation in this area means that up-to-date information is best sought on the Diocesan website, or the Church of England and Government websites.

Vulnerable adults are those who are vulnerable due to their physical or mental status (eg elderly people or those with learning difficulties) or due to their current circumstances (eg those seriously ill in hospital or recently bereaved).

Disclosure and Barring Service (Dbs)

'Disclosure' is the disclosure of any previous criminal history.

'Barring' is a list of those people who are barred from working with children or vulnerable adults. It is illegal to allow someone on this list to work with these groups.

The DBS helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. The DBS is responsible for:

- processing requests for criminal records checks
- deciding whether it is appropriate for a person to be placed on or removed from a barred list
- placing on or removing people from the DBS children's barred list for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Umbrella Organisation

Our DBS applications must be processed through an 'umbrella' organisation. Our checks are done by Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) to whom we pay an administration charge for each application.

We have processed 26 applications between February 2023 and April 2024. This includes both new applications and updates which must be done every three years.

Role of PCC

Each year the PCC are asked to approve the Safeguarding policy and an annual action plan.

Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda.

They are held responsible if DBS checks are asked for inappropriately.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Part of the remit of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

- to ensure that helpers working with children/vulnerable adults hold an appropriate DBS certificate and that records are kept accurately.
- to oversee the DBS application process by making sure that applications are made only after eligibility guidelines have been assessed.
- To ensure that C of E safer volunteer recruitment guidance is in place for all activities involving children or vulnerable adults.

- to raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities by training and the issuing of the good practice guides (compiled by the Church of England) to all helpers
- to give team leaders additional information as required
- to report annually to the PCC and the APCM.
- to update the parish dashboard
- to draw up an annual action plan for PCC approval and ensure it is carried out.

This is a voluntary role and more time could be spent on improving our safeguarding practice if the PSO did not have to spend so much time chasing people who do not respond when asked to action their DBS application or book on training courses. All those who are involved in activities which require a DBS and/or safeguarding training are strongly urged to respond promptly to the PSO.

Marion Drew is the Parish Safeguarding Officer and can also provide safeguarding training.

Marion Drew, Sez Vicary, Helen Durbin and Alan Ridell are authorised to complete the online DBS application process by verifying applicants' documentation.

The PCC has appointed Pip Holbrough as Deputy PSO to provide cover if Marion is unavailable.

Safeguarding Leads

Each congregation has two safeguarding leads (one male, one female) as it was felt that some members might feel more able to raise concerns with some-one they know rather than the PSO. Their remit is to raise awareness of their role and pass on any concerns to the PSO. Pip Holbrough and Gary Rivington are the leads for WCE. Marion Drew is one of the leads for WCW but due to changes in the congregations a new male lead is needed for WCW and two new leads for WCN.

Changes during the year

New requirements for safer recruitment of volunteers have been introduced by the Church of England and the process for helpers with activities for both children and young people and adults is now in place.

The PSO and the leadership team are working on a process for volunteer leaders of all our activities. This has been somewhat delayed by the loss of most of our ministers.

New Warfield branding on all documents.

The diocese has given all parishes access to a safeguarding dashboard which will enable us to monitor our compliance with safeguarding requirements and provides a report which enables us to produce our annual action plan more easily. The PSO tries to keep this up to date. We have been promoted to Level 3 (of 3) and are now working to meet the actions required at this level.

Safeguarding Issues

Any issues which arise are, as always, been dealt with in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Marion Drew

Parish Safeguarding Officer 13/4/24

Mission Committee Report

Sue Belstead (Acting Chair) Gary Rivington (Treasurer from September) Ashley Hill (Minute taker)
Penny Brinkley-Brown, Diane Davidson (Author of Mission Prayer Diary).

Warfield Church encourages the growth of the Kingdom of God throughout the world, supporting mission outside the parish by means of partnerships with 11 mission partners at the start of 2023 reducing to 9 by the end of the year. The giving to mission partners for 2023 was decided by the mission committee. Additional donations were made from the discretionary fund.

The mission committee is a sub-committee of the PCC. Catriona Cappleman resigned from the committee as she moved away in October 2023. We thanked her for her contribution over many years. Rob Reimers, Abi Howe and Gary Rivington all came on to the committee in May, Rob being the new chair and Gary taking over from Catriona as treasurer. In December both Rob and Abi resigned. We thank them for their contribution. Diane Davidson took over writing the Mission Prayer diary and then came on to the committee. Sue Belstead who resigned as chair at the APCM took over the role again in January 2024.

The budget allocation for 2023 was £41,840. This represents 10% of the unrestricted church income; a proportion of which is kept in the discretionary fund. Additional funds were raised by Warfield Church East towards the sponsoring of the children at St Peters Lifeline. During the year the church received a legacy of which 10% was allocated to mission.

There was agreement by the PCC that a portion of money could be held over until the following year as a buffer against any possible fall in church income which could then result in reducing giving to mission partners.

The Clemison family have changed their relationship with their supporting churches. Warfield Church is now their official sending church.

These are the mission partners.

Warfield Church North

St Michael's	Milan and Shusma Adhikari (Nepal)
	Peter and Becky Clemison (YWAM-Philippines)
	Joel and Fiona Kelling (Jordan with CMS)
	Tazmin and Daniel Breen (YWAM Perth Australia) resigned April 2023
	Sponsorship of child through Aanandit Charity Nepal

Warfield Church West

Woodhurst	Compassion (child sponsorship)
	Hands on Houses India - Don and Margie Cook
	Ron and Joanna Domingo and Kalayaan Ministries

(2 The Nations-Philippines)
Lawrence and Jane Knoop (OM) resigned September 2023

Warfield Church East

Whitegrove Krasif Aid (Bulgaria) to support Yuri and Plamy Valkovi
 St Peters Life-Line (Kenya) Sponsorship of 5 children
 Debs Fenton (Metro World Child, New York)

The discretionary fund was allocated as follows.

£500 Kalayaan building project
£568 Nepal Trip (distributed by the Capplemans)
£300 Domingos (travel costs)
£118 Shoe Box appeal for Operation Christmas Child
£300 St Peters Lifeline (cost of living crisis)
£300 Cleminsons (cost of living crisis)
£300 Adhikaris (cost of living crisis)
£300 Domingos (cost of living crisis)
£300 Krasif Aid (cost of living crisis)
£315 Krasif Aid (hardship fund)
£315 Compassion Christmas Appeal
£315 CAP
£315 St Peter's Lifeline Christmas Appeal

In April 2023 Tazmin and Daniel Breen completed their time with YWAM and resigned.

Dave and Catriona Cappleman and Diane Davidson visited Milan and Shusma Adhikari in April. They were able to take a gift from Warfield Church.

Ron and Joanna Domingo visited for a long weekend in June so were able to take part in both a morning service and worship at 7. Milan and Shusma visited in July. Both Becky and Peter Clemison were in Warfield for short visits with Peter coming to Worship at 7. Debs Fenton was home over the Christmas period. Jane Knoop visited twice, preaching on the second occasion.. Joel Kelling spoke by video-link. It has been excellent to have direct contact with mission partners.

There was a Mission Sunday in November, prior to the collection of money for Christmas gifts to partners. A church wide leaflet was updated.

Before Christmas this year, as last year, a collection was made so that we were able to send a Christmas gift to each of our partners, which was hugely appreciated.

We continue to be encouraged by the partners interest in Warfield Church and their prayer for us. We pray for partners in morning prayer. The prayer diary is distributed to the church community.

Congregations are encouraged to maintain contact by means of video clips and prayer for their own partners. There is also a post each week on Facebook to help with this.

As Acting chair of the mission committee, I would like to thank all those that I work with and make this committee happen. We work together to promote the work of the Kingdom of our Lord by supporting people in whatever way possible.

Sue Belstead
Acting Chair of Mission Committee

St Andrew's Committee Report

The members of the St Andrew's Committee during 2023 were Andy Colpus (Chair), Paul Cross, Juliet Date, Simon Drew, Alex Fry, Lili Mirza, Amanda Palethorpe, and Michelle Porter-Babbage.

During the year the committee reviewed the current usage of the building, its limitations, and began to think about how these could be addressed to allow the building to be used for a greater number and range of activities, both by the church and the local community.

To further consider how the building could be adapted to meet the needs of the church and community better, the committee recommended to the PCC that a feasibility study be completed. At the end of the year, Mark Goodwill Hodgson, who is a nominated architect for over a hundred churches, was commissioned to conduct the feasibility study. He is also the architect for the reordering of Holy Trinity, Sunningdale. The study included a structural engineer, quantity surveyor and a heating services engineer, leading to the production of detailed sketch design together with estimates for the likely costs for each part of the project.

The committee has also begun to consider how organisations such as the Cinnamon Network could provide support to the committee in determining how we as a church further develop the community work around St Andrew's.

Through the year a monthly prayer meeting has been held at St Andrew's, on the first Sunday of the month from 9.30am to 10am, to consider prayerfully the future functions of the building and to pray for the current users of the building, including Share Bracknell and Pilgrim Heart, together with praying for the local Priestwood community and schools.

Andy Colpus
Chair of St Andrew's Committee

HR Committee

We agreed with Catharine last year that due to personal commitments from our committee members we would be a “reactive” committee rather than a proactive committee, that is if anything was needed, we would deliver on it, but nobody had the capacity to meet up regularly as a committee or develop current HR policies.

However, each person has been there when needed and has given 100% to their roles. Lisa Rodgers continues to bring her knowledge and experience as a HR director to the role. She is always on hand when I need to get her advice and action things so thank you Lisa. A big thank you also to Abi Marchant who remains in the team. We refer to Abi our “our consultant”. Again Abi is always there if I need to call on her skills and guidance. Mel Cross has now left Warfield Church and I’d like to thank her for her for providing administrative support and providing the staff team in the church office with visits when she was able. For the coming year Phil Durbin, Church Warden has asked to join the team which we welcome.

We recruited a new Youth Pastor in January 2023 and welcomed Chris to the team. Chris has settled in well and is now in his second year with Warfield Church. A big thank you to Beth, Chris’s line manager, who continues in her role as Children, Youth and Family Pastor for Warfield Church, who with Chris, is delivering some great events for our young people.

Morgan also finished his year of voluntary work for Warfield Church (thank you Morgan) and has since taken on an apprenticeship role within Warfield Church as of September 2023 and remains a key member of the office team.

A big thank you to Alan Riddell and Ali Wilkins for their continuing dedication and for enduring such heavy workloads at times. In September 2023 Alan reduced his working hours and Ali increased hers.

Also, it goes without saying, a thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to support these people and invest in the running of Warfield Church.

Sharon Wignall
Chair of HR Committee

Fabric Committee Report

Membership

The Committee has changed some members over this last year. Andy Colpus stepped down from the Committee in Feb 24, after valuable service, when Phil Durbin (PD) was appointed as second Churchwarden and replaced him on Fabric Committee. PD has past experience of Fabric and his energy and initiative is most welcome. Kevin Pearcey (KP) joined in June 23, bringing valuable technical expertise. The other continuing members are Ted Auld (EA) (vast experience), Alan Ridell (AR) (indispensable for his commitment beyond the requirements of his Operations post), John Marshall (JM) (particular focus on the logbook this year) and myself (RE).

St Michael's Quinquennial Report: issues arising

This report (Sep 22) continues to drive much of our work. PCC was alerted to the financial implications of this in the Fabric report of May 2023, and Fabric Committee invited Jon Suttle (stonemason) and a Leadwork contractor to visit (March) and quote for work. Further progress on these matters has ceased until the PCC is able to free up funds which can be used in association with possible grants. Leadwork quotation was **£10,067 + VAT + Scaffolding**. Masonry quotation: urgent items **£6,040**. Within 2 years: **£7,340**. Within 5 years: **£16,800**. **Grand total: £40,247**. Other items not yet priced include ferramenta ironwork, shingles, and resetting drainpipes.

The Committee did however pursue the issue of potential cracking in the shaft of the heavy stone **Gable Cross** on the Chancel roof (raised in the report), which could have brought down the cross with major safety implications. We consulted both the Diocese and Jon Suttle, and investigated means of access other than expensive scaffolding (cherry pickers). However, improved quality photos taken from the tower (RE and JM), examined by the mason, showed the cross to be safe in the medium term (Feb 2024). Further examination will be made when it is possible to undertake more general repair works requiring scaffolding.

Fabric Committee enthusiastically supports the work of the **Grants Committee**, currently being established by Chris Drage, which aims to identify external funding to supplement the PCC's own resources. We believe grant funds are vital to important maintenance work being done, and that failing to pursue this route would be poor use of Warfield Church's own resources.

Projection systems in St Michael's

In last year's annual report, the Fabric Committee committed to establishing a working party to report on ways of improving the projected images in St Michael's. AR succeeded in negotiating a 12-month temporary Faculty for experimentation with different systems in church and has stayed in contact with the Archdeacon over progress. Over the last year there has been experimentation with TV screens, new locations for projector screens, and new powerful short-throw projectors. **A report from the Fabric Committee to PCC**, sent March 2024, recommended that the criteria of good performance and cost-effectiveness were best met by purchase and installation of two new short-throw projectors, for which a Faculty (and a PCC minute) is required.

Smartwater

AR led two Fabric Committee working parties in re-treating roof leadwork with Smartwater to deter theft and fulfil Ecclesiastical insurance requirements. Essentially the treatment barcodes the leadwork as belonging to St Michael's, should there be any attempt to steal and sell it.

Choir panels

The last annual report to PCC mentioned the necessity of selling the 1950s oak panels, originally used on the former choir stalls in St Michael's. There had been no intent to re-use them at St Michael's after demolition of the organ loft, where they had been relocated for some years. EA managed the process by which they were brought back on site from good-will storage by neighbours, temporarily retained in the Youth Cabin, then collected and purchased by a 3rd party company for use in other churches.

Archdeacon inspection

This inspection (14 June) went well. In preparation, JM started retrospectively completing logbooks for work carried out at St Michael's over the last decade. This was a recommendation of the Quinquennial report as well as needed for the Archdeacon inspection. That work of completing past logbooks continues.

Portia Grove

Maintenance issues at Portia Grove required the attention of Fabric Committee in 2023: see previous annual report. This aspect of work has ceased while PCC considers the future of the property. Meanwhile, Andy Colpus successfully negotiated with the tenant a proposed kitchen refurbishment (needed to sustain the value of the property) by the tenant's own company at reduced cost to Warfield Church, against the guarantee that there would be no change to the tenancy agreement for 12 months.

St Andrew's

Andy Colpus has kept the Committee apprised of the work of the group which has focused on the development and future of St Andrew's, and the quotes that have been received from feasibility Studies.

Other maintenance issues

AR has been active in following up a range of maintenance issues with the support of the Committee.

1. **Underfloor heating.** Losses of water in the system were greatly reduced after work was carried out last year on rising pipes in the base of the tower, but we are advised *that the red pressure vessel in the tower needs replacing*. This should be done in the summer months when the heating is not being used, with some less skilled work being carried out in-house. Other remedial work on the Parish Room and office heating system will also be carried out at this time.
2. **Lamp posts at St Andrew's.** A complaint was received that poor lighting outside St Andrew's was a safety issue in the winter months. The two church lamp posts outside the door have not

worked for some time. AR investigated the problem and discovered that their electrics and bulbs were severely compromised. A professional was engaged to make a cost-effective repair using new LED bulbs and reflectors.

3. **Tree survey, St Katherine's lane.** A professional tree survey was commissioned on the seven trees bordering the new graveyard. The PCC was commended for carrying out its public safety responsibilities in commissioning this survey. Various necessary works were identified, both for public safety and for encouraging wildlife. AR has himself carried out work removing excess soil from around trunks; professionals have been invited to tender for other works (including clearing crowns of deadwood and testing for decay).
4. **New graveyard boundary.** Over-enthusiastic volunteer work has removed much of the graveyard boundary along St Katherine's Lane. Advice from Sarah Venner (consultant) is that acorns from the mature oak trees on site should be raised into saplings and planted between the existing trees to ensure a natural succession and provision of trees for future generations.
5. **Churchyard fence.** The fence between the churchyard and 'Templars' has been damaged. Owners of 'Templars' have erected a temporary fence to keep their dogs on their own site. The boundary is almost certainly the responsibility of the PCC, but PD is investigating via the Land Registry.
6. **Dead tree in Churchyard.** AR removed a dead elm tree in a dangerous condition (March 2024), after receiving clearance from both the PCC and Diocese.

Communion rail

JM drew attention to the fact that the communion rail from St Katherine's Chapel is missing, possibly not seen since the reorganisation of the church interior. Enquiries have been unavailing. This is perhaps also the place to note that the old communion table is still being used as a server in the nave, despite instructions from the Archdeacon that that should cease.

Robert Entwistle, Chair of Fabric, April 2024.

Bracknell Deanery Synod Report

The Bracknell Deanery Synod is a meeting of lay and clergy representatives from the eight Church of England parishes in our local area. The eight parishes are Ascot, Binfield, Bracknell, Easthampstead, Sunningdale, Sunninghill with South Ascot, Warfield and Winkfield with Cranbourne and Chavey Down.

The Deanery Synod acts as a link between the local parishes, the Diocese of Oxford and the General Synod of the Church of England. The purpose of the synod is to foster a sense of community and interdependence amongst the eight parishes so that we can help each other to promote the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the church. The Synod also provides a forum for the parishes to discuss and address common issues and problems that we face.

The Synod is chaired by the Area Dean who represents the clergy assisted by a lay chair. Our current Area Dean is Revd David Brown, who shared the role with Revd Catharine Mabuza until she left in February. Caroline Kallipetis stood down as Lay Chair in February after many years of service and has been replaced by Lee Townsend.

A new Deanery Synod was elected in Spring 2023 to serve for a period of three years from 2023 to 2026. The Synod meets three times a year with an additional annual study day or conference. Each meeting starts with a time of reading scripture together before moving on to the main business. At our first meeting in July, Rhodri Bowen, the Diocesan Parish Development Adviser, encouraged us to reflect on where we detected God was already working in the Deanery and then imagine what we would like to be celebrating in 2026 at the end of the three-year term of office. In small groups we were asked to draw up a list of priorities for the Deanery. At our second meeting in November, we looked again at these priorities and agreed to focus on two of them:

- 1) Youth, children and work with schools
- 2) Growing congregations

To help us engage with the first priority, Kathryn Aboud, a Discipleship Enabler and Youth Ministry specialist was invited to the March meeting. She talked about her ministry with children and young people. Her presentation included different activities that churches could use to engage with parents and carers of pre-school children; with children of primary school age; with young people at secondary school; and concluded with some ideas on how to keep the 18 – 30 age group involved in church life. At about the same time as our March meeting, Bishop Steven Croft wrote to every PCC in the diocese to ask that every deanery and church gives priority to working with children and young people. Over half a million children and young people live in the diocese of Oxford. Post-Covid and lockdown, the Church has been slower to re-engage with this group than it has with the general population. Consequently, this will be the theme of our annual conference which will be held at the end of April. We will be joining with Bishop Olivia and churches from the Maidenhead and Windsor Deaneries as we seek to reimagine and explore new ways of engaging with children, families and young people. Within the Church of England, Bishop Olivia has been a champion for the environment and combatting climate change. She was a speaker at the Reading Area Care for Creation conference in Wokingham in June. Revd Sam Mortimer was asked to be the Bracknell Deanery Environmental Lead and set up a Deanery Environmental Group. This group has met once at the start of this year and is looking at ways in which the churches can become better stewards of creation. A number of churches, including Warfield, have enrolled on the Arocha Eco Church scheme.

Another important aspect of the Deanery Synod's work is finance. The Parish Share is the money that each Deanery collects from the individual parishes and passes on to the Diocese of Oxford. The contributions help to pay for our clergy and the upkeep of clergy houses. The exact amount that each parish is asked to pay depends on factors such as the size of its congregation and the number of clergy employed. Warfield Church's contribution has been the largest in the Deanery reflecting the size of our church membership, but following the departure of both Catharine Mabuza and Michelle Porter-Babbage, it has been agreed that our parish share will be reduced for this year.

Warfield Church is currently under-represented on the Deanery Synod so we are looking for one or two people to fill the vacancies. If you feel that God may be calling you to this role and would like to know more, please speak to one of our lay representatives: Paul Allen, Juliet Date, Beth Gomm, Lili Mirza, Amanda Palethorpe and Jon Watts.

Juliet Date