

St John the Evangelist, Milford

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent:

**Revd Clive Potter
The Vicarage
Milford Heath Road
Milford
Surrey GU8 5BX**

The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Milford

Parochial Church Council

Members and Advisers

Vicar:	Clive Potter	(Inducted April 2007)
Assistant Priest	Peter Hewson	(Ordained July 2012)
Assistant Priest	Barbara Steele-Perkins	
Churchwardens:	Judy Downing	(Appointed March 2019)
	Jackie Hills	(Appointed October 2020)
Secretary:	Miranda O'Brien	(Appointed March 2016)
Treasurer:	Nicholas O'Brien	(Re-appointed March 2014)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Nicholas O'Brien	(Re-elected again October 2020)
	Miranda O'Brien	(Re-elected October 2020)
	Judy Downing	(Re-elected October 2020)
Members	Carol Thomas	(Term ended March 2022)
	John Hambly	(Stood down March 2022)
	Nathalie Hinds	(Re-elected March 2021)
	Rob Andrews	(Re-elected March 2021)
	Nicki Herring	(Elected October 2020)
	Maddie Murray	(Elected October 2020)
	Frances Cousins	(Elected March 2021)
	Jonathan Hills	(Elected March 2022)
	Karon Sewell	(Elected March 2022)
	Lynne Callender	(Elected March 2022)
	David Pepe	(Elected March 2022)
	Pier Farrell	(Elected March 2022)
Bankers	National Westminster Bank PLC	
	77 High Street, Godalming	
	Surrey, GU7 1AR	
Independent Examiner	Alison Sanderson FCA	
	20 Fernhill Close	
	Woking	
	Surrey GU22 0DJ	

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operation with the incumbent, the Revd Clive Potter, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the attached Church Centre at Church Road, Milford, Surrey.

Achievements and performance

Vicar's Report

It is usual to thank many people who do so much for the running of our Church. I am extremely thankful and blessed to have a team of preachers in Peter, who's ministry we miss and we look forward to him returning to full strength after a very tough time with illness at the end of the year; Barbara, who brings a wealth of experience; Alison and David. They all give a different style of preaching but all give excellent content and love of the task. Added to this is the dedication of our Pastoral Assistants Maddie, Nicki and Alison, and our Pastoral visiting team. Those mentioned so far create a backbone of strength for our Parish. Add to this the importance of a wonderful PCC. We are blessed with an excellent Treasurer and Secretary. Our PCC meetings have a warmth and friendliness with a determined approach to the work. This for me shows real gifting and the work of the Holy Spirit.

My thanks extend all those who take on many caring duties for the Church. From cleaners to flower arrangers, tea and coffee makers to Chalice Assistants, Mothers' Union to gardening team, Church maintenance to Intercessors. All contribute to a strength of belonging and a commitment to see our Church succeed. A good example of pulling together was a huge part of Church life during 2021 when we tried hard to reach people with the use of Zoom services. In this we managed to reach people in their homes, but it was clear that Zoom also hindered our worship in Church. The decision to stop Zoom was not easy but an important step to bringing our Church back to some normality that we lost through Covid-19-19.

The practice of no use of the communion cup was tough on many. Intinction wafers prepared for the service helped but thankfully we have returned to receiving the cup.

We remain in a re-building of our Church following the pandemic. Sunday worship has suffered in attendance but the signs are we are returning to a more positive place. In the past year we have seen numbers rise and some new people join. We are in a good place, but sadly we have lost our Eagles group and struggle to regain young families. Also, we have not been able to continue the parish magazine that for a time has been on line. We seek a new editor following the retirement of Peter Hills who carried out a superb task.

Finally, I couldn't do the job I do without support and help and I thank Janet for her love, support and the quiet approach to many tasks.

In all I thank every Church member. By all pulling together we make a great team moving forward with strength to face the challenges the next year will bring.

Clive Potter
Vicar

Churchwarden's Reports

2022 was a busy year as we tentatively returned to normal activities after Covid-19. On March 2nd Ash Wednesday was celebrated with a Holy Communion Service at All Saints Church, Witley which started off the Lent season. Barbara Steele-Perkins led a very informative Lent Course in the Church Centre on Tuesday mornings, which was enjoyed by a good number of attendees. This was followed by a soup lunch with monetary donations going to MAF.

Following the APCM in April we enjoyed a Shared Lunch for the first time in two years. The Church electrical system was fully safety checked and then we had a spring-cleaning session. Many thanks to all the volunteers who wielded feather dusters, brooms, polish etc with great enthusiasm.

Easter services began with the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, then the Good Friday "Hour at the Cross" which followed a Children's Workshop led by Penny. Easter Sunday was a joyful celebration, as this year we were able to be together in the Church once again.

Maintenance: we needed to have the security alarm repaired in the Vestry, and Paul Bellini came out to fix a leak in the roof.

Ascension Day was marked at St John's with a service and the following weekend was Pentecost and the many celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, one of which was a service held at the Cathedral. St John's celebrated with a Mothers' Union Party when everyone wore red, white and blue, a lively and colourful service in Church with a magnificent cake and champagne afterwards.

The month of June continued, celebrating with the return of the Village Fete, which was a huge success and very well attended. Then we enjoyed a lovely Barbecue at Borough Farm with enormous thanks to John and Nicki and their family. In July the Herring family again kindly hosted their annual 'Tea & Swim'.

Three weddings and eight baptisms were held in Church during the year. The Church was open for participants in the 'Ride & Stride' annual fundraiser. This month also sadly saw the death of our Queen and a time of national mourning began. The Church remained open a little longer each day with a tribute and memorial book to enable all community members to pay their respects.

On a happier note, we held a Harvest Festival service in October followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch. In November Judy and I attended a Churchwardens Training Event at Emmanuel Church in Guildford.

In December we were pleased to welcome U3A singers who entertained us with their varied routine, and a money raising 'Bring & Buy' stall was held on the same day. The following Sunday was the Toy Service and Carol Service with our thanks to the choir and our organist Sylvia. Unfortunately, 'Carols at Milford Hospital' had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The Christmas services were all much appreciated by all those attending and we say a big thank you to Clive for his hard work and dedication. We are also grateful to Peter and Barbara and our occasional preachers Alison and David.

We extend our thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to the running of St John's making us a close and happy Church Family.

**Jackie Hills
Churchwarden**

I ended my report last year hoping that in 2022 St John's would be able to finally fling open its doors and welcome everyone back after all the difficulties of the previous year and it's good to report that to a greater extent it has happened. Zoom services and meetings are now a thing of the past although where would we have been without them – our thanks as ever are due to Nick O'Brien, David Pepe and Peter Hewson for all they achieved for us using methods of communication we didn't even know existed prior to the pandemic.

Although congregation numbers are not quite as high as pre-pandemic, they are slowly increasing. The social life of the Church is returning with a regular group meeting for post service coffee and chat, and once again we were invited to a Barbecue and to a Tea and Swim – both at Borough Farm and very many thanks are due to John and Nicki Herring for the warmth of their hospitality. The Lent Course and Lent Lunches returned thanks to Barbara and the soup makers while Bring and Share lunches were enjoyed after the APCM and the Harvest Service. We were also treated twice to some most enjoyable music provided by the U3A Choir and performed in Church – on Palm Sunday and again in Advent, the latter providing a wonderful addition to our Christmas preparations. This concert took place on an extremely cold Sunday when the heating in the Church was misbehaving so our decision to provide hot drinks and refreshments went down very well! Thank you to all those who helped. Over Advent and Christmas, thanks to Pam Hewson, we enjoyed making Christmas Wreaths and taxing our brains with her Christmas Quiz – both events raising money for a glass door into the Church and the quiz in particular making some very happy prize winners.

General Fund raising included a successful Jumble Sale, three profitable stalls at the Village Fete and a Christmas Tabletop Sale that took place in the Church Centre in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Our thanks as ever are due to all the unsung heroes who volunteer for the many jobs which enable the smooth running of the Church, not only during services but in between by cleaning the Church and the brass, ensuring there are welcoming flowers on display, gutter clearing and gardening – particularly thank you Andy Papworth for your summer grass-cutting. And I couldn't close without thanking Maddie Murray for her enthusiasm in getting the choir up and singing again. Having welcomed our organist Sylvia Foster back, it is good to see the ladies and gentlemen in blue taking their places in the Chancel once more – again a select few but there is always room and enough blue gowns for new members to join the choir.

We thank Alison Turner not only for all the work she does with the newsletter but also for being one of our occasional preachers along with David Pepe. We also thank Peter Hills for all his hard work over the years editing and producing the parish magazine. Finally, and most importantly, we thank Clive, Peter and Barbara for looking after our spiritual needs, guiding and supporting us throughout the year. The Church which means so much to us all exists due to their dedication and love: may St John's continue its growth – we must be encouraged by all those who have found their way to our Church through its welcoming friendliness and who have found peace within its walls through our doors being open every day.

**Judy Downing
Churchwarden**

Church Electoral Roll 2022

At the beginning of the year the total was 143 but there were 4 deaths in May, June and November. 4 members had also moved away but during the year we had 5 new members so at the end of the year the number stood at 140.

Miranda O'Brien

PCC Secretary's Report

During 2022 the Parochial Church Council has continued to meet on average once every two months so this year we totalled 7 meetings, all of which we were back holding in the Church Centre. The Standing Committee (The Vicar, the Curate, the Treasurer, the Churchwardens, and the PCC Secretary) meets two weeks before each meeting to discuss parish affairs and prepare the agenda for the full meeting. These meetings are also held in the Church Centre.

Each meeting has an agenda, which gives the opportunity for the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer to report to the committee as well as comments on various aspects of Church life such as Electoral Roll numbers, Deanery Synod, Mission, Schools, Work with Young People, Buildings and Maintenance, Fund Raising etc.

We have also had general discussions on subjects such as how the Christmas season went; how to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee; the APCM; Moving Forward (a Church that is willing to change and adapt); how can we make our Church thrive; the Church sound system; the Parish Share increase and how to deal with it, the Energy Crisis and Parish outreach. The PCC has also approved the adoption of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) as our Mission partner, especially supporting Fiona Stevenson, Wendy's daughter. We also approved giving money to DEC for the Ukrainian crisis. The PCC also approved the restarting of the Glass Doors project as a focus for the Fabric Fundraising.

The following policies were reviewed: -

- Mission
- Outward Giving
- Risk Analysis

Miranda O'Brien
PCC Secretary

Financial Review - Year ended 31st December 2022

Summary

Our Parish Share in 2022 went up by £7,922 to £65,139 as this was year 3 of our 5-year transition to the completely unaffordable new(ish) Parish Share System. This is near enough 100% of our income.

General Fund income was up as we received £1,000 from the Diocese as a final tranche of Covid-19 support, along with some generous donations and successful Fund-Raising activities. Expenditure was fairly stable except for the initial hit in the huge increase in our energy bill resulted in a final deficit of £16,191 down from a budgeted £24,858. We have covered this deficit by withdrawing £15,000 from our CBF deposit account which holds our Unrestricted Legacy Fund.

The Fabric Fund this year paid out £1,548 for some new gate posts, some roof repairs and a heating system leak. The new boiler cut-out a number of times last winter as the pressure collapsed due to this leak. A leak detection expert, paid for by insurance (less excess), localised the leak to the pipe-work to the old but very efficient radiators at the back of Church so our heating engineer was called in to bypass the old pipework.

Funds

- The General Fund decreased by £1,132 from £22,212 to £21,021
- The Unrestricted Legacy Fund dropped from £30,000 to £15,000
- The Fabric Fund increased by £4,183 from £8,022 to £12,211
- The Discretionary Fund increased by £925 to £2,389
- The Flower Fund went up by £89 from £612 to £701
- The Restricted Bequest Fund dropped by £23,827 from £202,413 to £178,586 as share prices fell over the year.

Income

Significant changes were:

- Giving to the General Fund (both with and without Gift Aid) increased by £2,107 (7%). Regular giving to the Fabric Fund decreased by £80 (-2%). A total of £2,027 (6%).
- Other Gift Aid giving to the General Fund, including variable weekly Gift Aid donations, decreased by £637 (-34%) due to pandemic effects. The Fabric Fund other giving was down by £1,650 (-100%) as no special projects to support this year.
- Unrestricted collections were up £1,819 (164%) as cash started to come back. Collections for outward giving (mainly the Children's Society Boxes) were up £128 (14%) giving a total increase of £1,947 (95%)
- One-off donations to the General Fund at £5,592, were £1,167 (-17%) down on last year even though we had part of a legacy passed on to us.
- The Discretionary Fund received a donation of £1,000.
- General Fund Gift Aid tax recovery was up £1,230 (14%) but the Fabric Fund refund decreased by £428 (-28%) leading to a net increase of £802 (8%)
- We received no direct legacies this year.
- Fund raising events did well this year with £1,369 taken at the Jumble Sale and £1,070 at the Village Fete. Porch Produce and Sunday Coffee did well raising £367 more than last year while two concerts given by the U3A choir held at St John's raised £601. A Wreath Making Workshop and a Christmas Bring & Buy together raised £590 while a Christmas Quiz held at the beginning of the year raised £300 for the Glass entrance doors project.
- Money from the Lent Lunches and the Barbecue were given to Mission Aviation Fellowship, our new overseas Christian charity. There was no Quiz Night this year but £137 of Gift Aid refund from last year's quiz is being passed on to the Samson Centre.
- Wedding & Funeral fees this year were up on last year by £1,118 (+93%) as weddings in Church once again started to happen.
- Church Centre income increased by £1,029 (109%) as once again we got income from U3A classes in spring and autumn but this is still well down on pre-pandemic levels.
- Sundry Income included £1,000 from the diocese as a final chunk of Covid-19 Support. We also received £1,000 from the National Church in energy crisis support but only 1/3 has been accrued to this year as most of big bills will hit us next year. NatWest Bank compensated us by £250 for an excessively onerous and stressful requirement to update our "Business Profile" which was tough to do because we are not really a business and the process handled this badly.
- Interest payments re-appeared, up from £33 to £232 and dividends were also up by £175 (+3%)

As a result of the above changes our General Fund income at £67,340 was down by £3,718 (-5%). The total for all funds decreased by £5,077 to £75,844 (-7%).

Expenditure

Fund Raising costs at £214 were £23 (-10%) down on last year.

Gifts for Outward Giving causes have been maintained at just under 10% of all income (excluding the incoming grants) at £6,344, up £579 (10%) on last year. Money has been given to 4 of our regular charities (The Warehouse Christian Trust, Chandler School, The Children's Society, The Samson Centre) while Chiks has closed due to the Pandemic so we moved our overseas Charity giving to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

With the Pandemic over we moved to year 3 of the phased removal of all our subsidies from the Parish Share so our share increased by £,7,922 (14%) to £65,129. Our full unsubsidised share under the new scheme in 2025 is estimated at £85,000 or 125% of our current income.

The honorarium payments for our organist are counted as Salary and Wages. With organ playing all year now the Pandemic is over, these increased by £400 to £1,320.

The clergy travelling expenses were up by £385 (56%) but other items were down causing the total of clergy expenses to increase by £94 from £2,714 to £2,808 (+3%)

Our insurance costs went up by 6% (£2,783 vs £2,631)

As normal services resumed Sacristy cost went up by £212 (111%) to £403

We stopped Zooming music so licensing costs dropped out of Organ/Music leaving only a service to the organ so down by £220 (-48%) to £242.

IT and Web services also had reduced Zooming costs so were down £202 (-20%) to £790

Printing costs were down £264 (-53%) to £181 (fewer ink cartridges bought).

No major repairs this year meant that maintenance was £294 down on £412 last year.

We had to pay for printing costs for the APCM so this has been put under Governance.

Utilities costs (gas, electricity, and water) were £1,731 (+132%) up on last year as we were hit by a massive increase in our Energy Basket prices which were worse than most.

With Church Centre open and in use, the costs increased by £477 (150%) to £795.

Total Church Running Expenses were up by £1,592 (+22%) from £6,982 to £8,574

Sundry Expenses as shown in the details page was mostly a new laptop for the Vicar.

Overall, because of the Parish Share increase our General Fund expenditure went up by 15% (£11,035) from £72,495 to £83,531.

Assets

Under the current Charities Act we must show Restricted Fund share investments at their true value, but we are normally only able to spend the income arising and not the capital value of the shares. This money has come from a couple of restricted bequests, so the Fund is now referred to as the (Restricted) Bequest Fund. This year the value went down by £23,827 to £178,586 as the stock market dipped this year wiping out last year's gain.

Forecast

The PCC agreed that, rather than default on our Parish Share half-way through the year, we should leave our payments at the same level as 2022. Otherwise, in the next phase of the transition to the zero-subsidy current Parish Share system we would have had to pay another £8,237 to bring the Parish Share up to £73,376 or 120% of our projected income. Even so the budget shows an expected deficit of £27,145 so we will have to empty the remainder of the Unrestricted Legacy Fund during the year to keep us solvent.

This expected deficit is about £3,000 on last year's budget mainly because of the huge increase in our energy bill which does not seem to benefit from much, if any, government support

The next Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2023, and no other major Fabric Fund expenditure is planned for 2023 so the Fabric Fund value at the end of 2022 of £12,205 puts us in a reasonable position provided the Quinquennial does not throw up any really big issue.

**Nicholas O'Brien
Hon. Treasurer**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Clive Potter (Chairman and Incumbent)

Associated Reports

Life as the Honorary Curate of St John's

There were two parts to my time as your Honorary Curate last year, the recovery from our enforced changes to overcome the pandemic, and my time while I was not with you but in The Royal Surrey.

As we slowly got back to normal, I think we all realised what we had missed in terms of our collective worship and those we had missed seeing during our time together. So, it was good to see so many returning all be it, still cautious about the ever-lurking virus. Although we are now in 2023, the final element of our collective worship has returned, sharing the Peace. So, we are back to where we were and some kind of perceived normality. Yet, are we? There are still a few of our members who we have not seen back in Church and this is especially true for our younger congregation. Take heart. We are not alone in this experience. Slowly, the majority of our activities are coming back to life, even the Jumble Sale!

However, we must remember that Christ's Holy Spirit is still all around us and that we are called to be His disciples. This element of our Faith remains strong. So, as we continue to move on let us not forget that it is through knowing the Love of Christ that we grow and practise our discipleship.

May God be with us all.

Peter Hewson

Occasional Preaching

There are currently two occasional preachers:

- Alison Turner;
- David Pepe;

Generally, each preaches once per quarter at the Sunday 10:00 service and tries to bring a different viewpoint from the clergy.

The occasional preachers usually speak for around 8-10 minutes and incorporate aspects of The Gospel and/or Readings together in connection with topical issues where appropriate.

Feedback on the sermons is welcomed.

**David Pepe
Alison Turner**

Pastoral Team

Alison Turner recently stood down from coordinating the Pastoral visiting team. I would like someone else to take on this roll. Until then I am overseeing.

The Pastoral visiting team provide a very important part of support for our Church. I consider Pastoral care as a hall mark of Christian living. It comes close to the great commandment 'to love one another'. I am very thankful to our team who exercise a care to the whole Church community. We are always open for new members.

Clive Potter

Deanery Synod

The Deanery synod met twice in 2022 and St John's was represented at both meetings. It has been agreed that in future there will only be two meetings a year – prior to the pandemic there had been three. Revd Simon Taylor (Busbridge) is the current Area Dean and discussions this year have focussed on the Parish Needs Process.

Judy Downing

Building and Maintenance

2022 was a relatively uneventful year with regards to Church maintenance. The storms in February caused some minor damage to the roof and we lost a few tiles but repairs were quickly carried out and we had no water damage to the interior. In July it was discovered that a blocked hopper head was allowing water to leak through a masonry joint causing internal damp. Again, this was remedied and the wall has since dried out. The new boiler has performed well only to be let down by a leak in some older pipework. After an expensive investigation, the leak was bypassed and all has since been well. We are now planning for the Quinquennial inspection due in August 2023.

Jonathan Hills

Monthly House Group

Monthly House Group

This year we were happily able to begin meeting in person again after concerns of the Covid-19 infections.

One of our regular members had moved away but we have welcomed two new friends into the group, which is lovely.

We remain a small group, meeting roughly once a month to read and discuss various Bible passages. Most recently we covered parts of John's Gospel and some of Isaiah.

Jackie Hills

Tuesdays at Hawthorn Cottage

The group did not meet in 2022 because of continuing concerns about the Pandemic. It is planned to re-start in 2023 by looking at the Prophet Elijah.

Nicholas O'Brien

Chandler School

The Chandler, similar to all schools, has had another challenging year. While some level of normality has returned, the back log of teaching has been difficult to get through. The 2022 year 6, who moved on to senior schools in September, did very well in their Sats Exams where they gained higher grades overall than the National Average. Well done to them and their teachers for getting them there. The Head Teacher, the Leadership Team and all of the staff should be applauded for their efforts and perseverance.

This effort was rewarded in the recent Ofsted inspection which confirmed the grading of The Chandler as "Good".

As Governors we started to meet face-to-face again in September. Likewise, school visits and assemblies have got back to normal. I have to say that I am pleased to be in front of the children rather than being alone in Church in front of the camera!

Let us hope that in 2023 we may be able to invite the children into Church once more.

Peter Hewson

Safeguarding

2022 was another quiet year from a Safeguarding perspective. There were no Safeguarding issues that I am aware of. We have been trying the on-line Safeguarding courses available from The Church of England and as of now, most of the PCC Members have completed the modules that are required of them.

I have deliberately delayed seeking new DBS checks for those that might need them as we are not undertaking any activities that might require them. I hope and imagine that this will change through 2023.

I have undertaken Risk Assessments for some of our services and functions as the need arises.

Peter Hewson

Gardens Report

The Church gardeners have met several times during the year to tidy and prune the gardens round the Church, including the Garden of Remembrance. Thank you to everyone for their help and willingness to get their hands dirty. Also, thank you to Andy Papworth for his regular efforts with the lawn mower.

Pam Hewson

The Children's Society

Thank you to the 38 people who returned their boxes for the Children's Society for 2022. The amount raised totalled £647.31.

When I took over from Tricia as Box coordinator her last count of boxes stood at 45, this has reduced yearly due to several circumstances. The box count for 2023 will reduce further as 6 box holders no longer require them, unless of course we can recruit new box holders. One of the reasons is that people are saying that it is not convenient as cash is not readily available.

The Children's Society can be supported by other means as it is one of St John's charities and the Outward Giving programme. Alternative method of donating will also be gratefully received. This could be by cheque made out to St John's Milford PCC with Children's Society written on the back, or cash sealed in a white envelope with Children's Society written on it plus your name. Donations can also be made by Bank Transfer to our NatWest St John's Milford PCC Account No 00752770 Sort Code 60-09-04 with payment reference Children's Society.

The Children's Society is our Charity and very much worthy of our support. It specifically helps children in this country in many areas, the projects involve work with young Runaways, deprived or isolated Communities, Schools, Young Offenders and Children and Young people in the Public Care System.

St John's has supported the Children's Society for many years and long may it continue to do so.

If anyone feels they would like to support the Children's Society financially or by becoming the Box coordinator please speak to Nick or Clive

Frances Cousins

Mothers' Union

In 2022 we managed an almost full programme of meetings with a real variety of themes from learning more about one of our outward giving charities, MAF, to preparing for Advent, celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a splendid tea and exhibition of memorabilia, a talk on Fire Safety in the home and fun meetings playing Holy Beetle. Just before Christmas we were warmly welcomed by Suzy Vincent to a bring and share Christmas tea in her delightful cottage to admire her incredible collection of Christmas decorations crib sets and toys and learned a great deal about the vintage dolls made by missionary societies in different parts of the world to raise funds.

We have been very pleased to create a link with a mother and her three children who are currently in a women's refuge in Waverley. We keep in touch with Happiness and her children and occasionally send them cards, art and craft materials, books etc. to let them know we are thinking about them and praying for them. Penny was delighted to meet them at the Diocesan Summer party held in Wanborough Village Hall.

Following a successful Toy Tombola at the Village Fete we were able to send a donation of £150 to the Summer of Hope Campaign focussing on Literacy and Numeracy teaching in rural parts of the world.

The committee usually attend the twice-yearly Members Meetings and keep up to date with all that is going on both in the Diocese and worldwide. In 2022 the branch had 21 members.

Penny Clark

Flower Rota

First of all, a big thank you to all the Flower Team for their help and support this year.

We are very sad that Clare has decided, after more than twenty years, to stand down as our leader. We owe Clare a huge thank you for all those years that she has been responsible for our Church flowers. Her flair and creativity have been inspirational. She was always ready and willing to help and encourage her team in their efforts and we are so grateful to her. We hope she will continue to be our mentor.

With economy in mind, we have invested in some lovely silk flowers to use during the winter months when fresh flowers are expensive. Fresh flowers will continue to be used in the summer and autumn months. Also, we will continue to decorate the Church at Easter with our Easter Lily donation scheme.

Pam Hewson

The Eagles Group

The Eagles Group was suspended throughout 2022.

Penny Clark

Monday Club (Formerly Toddler Service)

Monday Club was suspended throughout 2022.

Jackie Hills

Bells Report

As always, we are grateful to our regular team of bell ringers, Evie Chapman, Christine Bridson, Tricia Boynton, Doris Luxford, Miranda O'Brien, and Frances Cousins. It is always good to hear the bells calling us to worship as we approach the Church on a Sunday and we also ring the bells at weddings when requested.

Although we have 6 bell ringers on the list with an age range from 19 to 90, they are all people who do other jobs as well which sometimes means their duties clash. Also, there can be health issues which prevent a bell ringer from carrying out their rota duty. To avoid this situation, it would be really great to have more Church members join the team, men or ladies are equally welcome. It is not difficult; you just have to be able to count to eight and it is really good exercise for the backs of the arms. Please speak to me if you are interested in giving it a try.

Tricia Boynton

Church Centre

Unfortunately, bookings for the Centre have decreased due to the pandemic. U3A remains our biggest user, but some classes are still being viewed on Zoom, and some have ceased altogether. Other occasions when the Centre is in use are gatherings after baptisms, meetings of the Samaritans, and Milford Hospital League of Friends.

My thanks to the Churchwardens for organising general maintenance, Debbie for her cleaning, and the Post Office for keeping the key.

Liz Burrows
Booking Secretary

Mission at St. John's

We are still lacking a mission coordinator or group leader. Mission is a very important part of Church life and I would like to develop further our Mission team. Our Parish is good with financial support each year to mission causes, and this is excellent. Also, it is very good that we have a Mission link with Fiona Stevenson and MAF. Fiona has become a member of our Church and regularly updates us with a newsletter, informing us of prayer topics within her work.

I would be thankful for anyone to consider becoming involved in our Mission work and become part of a team. Please let me know if this interests you.

Clive Potter

The Choir

Traditionally, the choir meets and sings at the 10:00 service on the first Sunday of each month. Mrs Sylvia Foster plays the organ and conducts a choir practice for 30 minutes prior to the service.

The choir sings the hymns (sometimes in harmony) the St Thomas Mass, and an anthem and hymn during Communion.

The choir also sings at the annual Carol Service, and occasionally at special feast days and other events such as weddings and funerals.

As we emerged from lockdown and dispensed with virtual services, many members of the existing choir had decided to retire from choir duties for a diverse range of reasons.

Madeline Murray successfully recruited/coerced some new enthusiastic members, including co-opting Judy Downing back into the choir (when feasible) in addition to her Churchwarden duties.

We now have potentially eight choir members, however, some of the new recruits are available only if not otherwise engaged on other singing duties.

There is some discussion as to whether the choir could meet to sing on the first Sunday if our organist is unavailable and CDs are used.

**David Pepe
Madeline Murray**

Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be very well used and hirers have increased to 15 a week, with children's parties on most Saturdays and Sundays. Still ongoing maintenance problems with leaking roof.

Madeline Murray

Wedding Co-Ordinator

We have been delighted to see three couples take their marriage vows in St Johns Church this year. One in May, one in July and one in August.

At the moment, we only have one wedding booked for this year.

Pam Hewson

Website and Facebook

St John's website is at www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk, hosted by ChurchEdit. I maintain this site as Webmaster. I also advertise seasonal services on our pages in the central C of E website www.aChurchnearyou.co.uk (<https://www.aChurchnearyou.com/Church/8197/>) and promote events on the St John's Facebook page (@stjohnsmilford), widening our reach by sharing some events with the 'We are Milford' and 'Godalming and Villages' groups.

The website continues to bring us contacts with people in the village who might not otherwise have been in touch. Use of the site this year peaked in September 2022, now reaching 72,000 page impressions (excluding search engines), three times the level in 2019 (pre-Covid-19).

I also set up a stjohnsmilford Mailchimp account during Covid-19, to make it easy to distribute email information to the whole electoral roll (plus a few extra sign ups). This has been used to distribute the electronic version of the 3 Churches Newsletter through 2022.

Alison Turner

Three Churches Magazine

2021 saw the continuation of the 3 Churches Magazine online as this allowed for more content and production in colour. The magazine grew from about 30 to almost 50 pages at times covering a wide range of topics. Readers were entertained with items from each of the Churches, amusing signage, quizzes, news from outside organisations, Cathedral News, Children's pages and much more. The year concluded with a bumper 55-page Christmas edition.

Peter Hills (Editor 2019 – 2022)

The Friends Co-ordinator.

There are currently 30 people on the Friends of St John's list, one of whom joined this year following a family bereavement. Eight people give regular donations whilst the remainder made one off donations initially.

Three newsletters have been sent to the friends this year by email or post: before Easter, in July and before Christmas. Clive writes a personal message to everyone and then news of building works, repairs and projects are included. Photos are also put in to make it more interesting. Information about services and special events are also in the newsletter with a message of thanks and a promise of a warm welcome should any friends decide to join us in person.

Penny Clark

Data Protection

St John's Data Privacy Notice has been looked at and remains fit for purpose although it should perhaps refer to me as Data Protection Officer as the first point of contact. The Data Privacy Notice should be reviewed by the PCC on a regular basis.

To my knowledge, no data privacy issues have been experienced or raised to the date of this report.

The Church of England website reports that, as GDPR legislation has recently changed, it is currently reviewing its guidelines but no new guidelines have yet been published.

**Dr David Latimer
Data Protection Officer**