

RECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2021. In comparison to the severity of the first lockdown, with the church building completely closed, this year has been much more hopeful. It has not been uniform progress, with the repeated delay of "freedom day", but we have moved from suspension of public worship in January through to a Christmas that was normal in form, if somewhat reduced in numbers. For many the most significant step along this COVID path has been the reintroduction of public singing in church albeit with masks still in place.

2021 has therefore been a year of gradual restoration but it has highlighted how undoing restrictions is much more complicated than imposing them as we continue to bear in mind those who are most vulnerable. We have continued streaming our 10am service and our Sunday Zoom Evening Prayer remains a wholly online offering.

One thing that has remained constant through all the vagaries of lockdowns has been the generosity of the people of St Mary's. Stewardship, the regular giving to the church, has held up extremely well and we have been able to continue our practical support of HAB, through generous harvest giving. The PCC were able to hold to our commitment to charitable giving, recognising that this year has been very difficult for many charities who are supporting those who are most vulnerable. It has been good to have finally made the leap into online and subsequently contactless giving.

During this year Richard was appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen Saltash; SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash; St Mary, Botus Fleming; St Michael, Landrake and St Terninus, St Erney. His last service at St Mary's was 6 February 2022. Many thanks to Richard for his ministry here. We wish Richard, Kayleigh and Elowen every blessing in their new parish. We were delighted to learn we would get a new curate, Francesco Aresco, who will start at Petertide 2022.

Some activities were majorly disrupted this year. There will be no separate reports for **Acorns**, **Enquirers**, and **Healing Team** who were unable to meet this year at all. **Junior Church** had a brief return in October but will aim to get going again in 2022. The **Youth Group** had a much postponed reunion in September. The hoped for Christmas party had to move into 2022.

I would like to add my special thanks to our Churchwardens Nick and Gill who have worked so hard to keep St Mary's going, ensuring the safety of our church. Nothing has been straightforward this year at all!



REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A summary of a range of matters discussed by the PCC follows:

11 May 2021

The Council elected officers and appointed the following Committees: Standing, Mission, Children & Young People, Estate, Social, Green & Fair, Hall Steering, and Communications. Track and Trace is working well. Church is open for private prayer for 3 hours a day, Monday – Thursday. There is some uncertainty in the Route map out of lock down around social distancing, the Peace and congregational singing. The parish BBQ is scheduled to take place outside on 4 July. Helen reported back on the Community Consultation. The results showed there was strong support for the Lottery + Option. Helen asked PCC to consider and vote on proceeding with Option 3 (Lottery +). PCC agreed. A bequest of £2,000 had been received and Jeff also reported that he was preparing a paper on Trust & Bank Accounts.

13 July 2021

The Safeguarding Policy Review was presented by Karen and agreed by PCC. There were no incidents reported last year. PCC members will be expected to undergo online safeguarding training. Our list of people with DBS checks and the currency of those checks is being reviewed by Christine. The Covid situation has eased, the emphasis will be on personal responsibility and protecting the vulnerable. People will be asked to wear masks – not mandatory. No change to the giving of Communion and the Peace. The month of June had seen the first wedding for 20 months. Two free concerts were held on 12 June, proceeds went to Sarcoma UK. It was planned that future PCC Meetings be held live in the Blue Beetle.

20 September 2021

The Covid situation continued to ease. We had re-introduced singing, there have been no reported cases of Covid via church, and we are saying the Peace through masks; the children's corner to be re-opened; gradual withdrawal from Track & Trace; sanitiser and ventilation to be retained; Communion still in one kind. Coffee without masks seems okay. Bell Ringers are going to meet in the pub and decide what to do – probably a 6 person rota. A Review of the Health & Safety Policy had been undertaken and, with amendments, was approved by PCC. The Health & Safety Policy will now contain a list of Policies to which it is related and all Policies will be listed on the database along with their renewal dates. The Archdeacon's Visitation and the Patronal Festival took place on successive weekends. PCC heard we would be receiving a new Curate, Francesco Aresco, in June 2022. A service for the blessing of the new altar was led by Bishop Rob. The Children & Young people Committee had been conducting a thorough review of existing and potential new provision for our young people of all ages, including infants.

17 November 2021

PCC heard a presentation based on two papers presented – *Online Church* and *Plan of Camera Coverage in Church*. These were comprehensive documents on the future of online church, including services, and the projected investment required to update existing equipment and data services.

In terms of Covid restrictions, our Christmas services were to be more normal this year. There was be one Crib and one Carol service. No booking system required. School Carol Service would be open only to years 5 and 6. The Roof Fund balance stands at £102,780.96. A special collection was made in support of Afghan refugees and raised £1,589.11. Our new Investment Policy was agreed by PCC. PCC agreed the Mission Committee's proposals for Mission Allocation as follows: £1,000 to USPG, Barnet Mencap, Barnet Refugee Service, North London Hospice, Limapela, Butere:5 Talents, Embrace the Middle East, Children's Society; £500 to Winter shelter/TIB, and £750 respectively to Afghan Refugees and St. Francis Tottenham Hale. PCC also agreed that our Common Fund Offer this year would be £89,440.

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg had invited us to join them for Chanukah celebrations at New North London Synagogue on Thursday 2 December. Great progress has been made on the church and churchyard project. The topographic survey has been completed of the churchyard, giving us an accurate plan of the site, including trees and graves. The point cloud survey, showing each individual stone in the North Wall, has been completed. In order to understand the history of the section of the churchyard now known as Church End Gardens, we had been undertaking archive research on burials for the time period 1774 to 1850. Further public consultation to take place when landscape and other plans have been finalised.

12 January 2022

This was an extra meeting to cover deferred items from the previous meeting. There had been a surge in Covid cases, especially in young people. Social distances were increased for Christmas services and coffee had been suspended. Decisions were being taken on a weekly basis. PCC heard that the money for the refurbishment of 28 Hendon Lane will come from the Clergy Accommodation Fund. Iain and Helen are going to do a complete costed and prioritised works inventory. In regard to Safeguarding, new guidelines have been issued - Parishes will have to renew their DBSs every three years. A new draft Lone Working Policy was presented by Philip and unanimously agreed by PCC. Further discussion of monetary allocations to various accounts was agreed in line with our new Investment Policy. PCC agreed a Resolution 'To adopt Jeff Nettleton's proposals, and PCC to review this annually'.

The Christmas services had been well attended despite Covid. They all went very well. Philip had attended a 'Grantees for National Churches Trust' meeting. He came away with lots of good ideas to help us with our Lottery bid. The Churches Trust is very keen on tourists in churches. They also gave us 50% - £2.5K – of the survey costs for the North wall. An Eco-Church questionnaire was discussed. We are working towards Bronze Level Award. An Action Plan from Philip will go to Green & Fair Committee to put into action .

There will be two Lent Groups running this year. CTIF will be reflecting on the 'I AM' sayings. There will also be an Inter-Faith group looking at 'Living in Love and Faith', specifically Gender and Sexuality.

28 February 2022

PCC considered the Accounts for 2021 and approved them for presentation to the APCM. The Budget for 2022 was agreed. The Fabric Report was approved for presentation to the APCM. Covid restrictions to be further amended - sanitiser to be maintained; a willingness to share a physical peace identified by use of a sticker; ropes to be removed from South Aisle; people decide for themselves whether to wear a mask, with due consideration to the neighbour. PCC heard from Helen that we will be making an expression of interest in making a Lottery bid by the end December. We have extensive support from local community groups and various departments and individuals at Barnet Council. A second draft of the landscape design is nearing completion and will hopefully go out for public/congregation consultation in spring.

The Holocaust Memorial event took place this year, and was very moving. A farewell event took place for Richard who is taking up a new post in Cornwall. He was given a framed picture of Mari's and a cash gift of £950. A beautiful letter was received from Sue and David Magrath, who have joined us loyally every Sunday on Zoom for Evening Prayer.

A total of £2,273.30 was raised at a Sunday collection for emergency medical supplies for the Ukraine, following a presentation by Pastor Yevgeny of the Ukrainian Church which worships at Mary at Finchley.

PCC heard from Julian, our School Governor Representative that the school is now back in full flow and trying to get clubs going again. Remedial work in KS1 is aiming to get children back on track. The school is also looking at overseas links through ALMA, a London Diocese link with Mozambique and Angola.

Barbara Crosbie

PCC Secretary

PASTORAL GROUP

The Pastoral Group has waxed stronger in its Goals and Objectives over the year.

Our aims have become much clearer and over the year we have provided support in terms of services and companionship to congregants on our “at needs list”

The list averages 16 . It would be nice if we can grow to be able to offer material and financial aids to the needy. Our membership averages 13 but we have lost 3 members due to relocation. New members are very welcome. We have produced a poster to advertise the group and we hope to work spiritually with the Healing Ministry. Our Spiritual development is through the Meditation Sessions presented by members at our meetings which average every eight weeks. We have also started contributing articles to the Open Door Magazine .

We remain our neighbour’s keeper.

Deji Makanjuola

SEEKING GOD

Our group, consisting of up to 13 people at a time, continued to meet on Zoom throughout the year about once every 4 to 6 weeks, except during Lent when we adjourned to allow members to attend Lent activities.

We discussed a wide range of topics, always looking to see where God is in these topics and always opening ourselves up for new attendees, because there is a new topic at each meeting.

In 2021, we discussed Covid lessons for the church, Other religions after looking at Hans Kung’s writing on that topic, the Lord’s Prayer, The services of Baptism and Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, Meritocracy, Faith and warfare, and we discussed 3 psalms and three poems based on a Christian reimagining of those psalms by Malcolm Guite.

Nigel Wildish

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FINCHLEY

CTIF - as it is more popularly known - has been a focus of Christian Unity in Finchley for more than 50 years. I have been proud to serve as our church representative for 30 years planning wide ranging and exciting events while enjoying many of the traditions of our various denominations.

It has been wonderful over the past six to nine months to start meeting together once more to enjoy favourite events celebrating the seasons in love, prayer and activity. During the pandemic we grew used to regular prayer and commemorative events via the new phenomenon of Zoom.

But sadly many of our fund raising events – including the popular Lent Lunches in 2021 and this year - had to be shelved.

Our chair, the Revd Paul Martin, has faithfully led monthly prayer meetings online and we have continued to support the growing number of homeless who have been faithfully served for the past 12 years through the Night Shelter programme.

Sadly the Good Friday Walk of Witness, enjoyed for the past 55 years in Finchley was another victim of the crisis.

Last July, many friends from different churches joined us at St. M's for our Annual Summer Refreshment Service in Remembrance of Lost Loved ones. These included our own Sally Martin, a faithful CTIF representative for many years who had died a few weeks earlier.

Thankfully, we did celebrate One World Week, supporting the poorest people in the world, in church in 2021 and 2022 with spirited performances by young people from different faiths on both occasions.

Highlight of the year for multi-faith support is our annual Holocaust Memorial Service held at the end of January with representatives from Barnet Council and friends from local Synagogues and churches. We welcomed more than 100 people of all ages in January this year and it was wonderful to enjoy a very special HMD cake.

This year, a series of Lent Studies has been held at Trinity Church on the "I Am" saying of Jesus, led by clergy and lay members from Finchley.

The Walk of Witness will be staged as usual on Good Friday (April 15th) starting at 10am and progressing through Finchley Central to Ballards Lane Methodist Church.

We miss our former CTIF leaders Sylvia Godwin of St. Philips RC, now too ill to attend, who was involved in the first open-air meeting of Finchley Christians at Victoria Park nearly 55 years ago, and the late Revd Mike Smith, who spearheaded the Winter Shelter Programme.

The current CTIF representatives from our church are: Deji Makanjuola and Lynn Radnedge.

Lynn Radnedge



MISSION COMMITTEE

The committee's members were: The Revd Philip Davison, the Revd Richard Magrath, Nick Upton, Gill Lyall, Gladys Vendy, John Bier, Deji Makanjuola, Daniel Griffith, Jacky Davey and Nigel Wildish (Chair).

The Committee continued its work, in accordance with the remit of the PCC, which includes: 'to consider and plan for all acts of mission for the parish' and 'to link with other committees to support and develop activities that build up the church community and develop fellowship within the congregation.'

The Committee met five times in 2021, all on Zoom. Our work covered the following:

Missions and Charities

As usual, we discussed the support we offer to missions and charities. In January, we began the exercise of asking someone to talk for about 5 minutes at the end of our 10.00 Eucharist service about each of the charities we had supported with a donation at the end of 2020. Feedback from the congregation was that this was interesting and very useful. At the end of 2021, we donated £10,000 once again (in the context of tight finances) spread amongst various charities. In addition, John Bier carried out his usual Good Gifts exercise for HAB, raising over £1500; and our Christmas collections for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice raised about £1000. Furthermore, there was a Lent Appeal for 3 charities which support young people, including those involved in gangs, for which £1400 was raised.

A Mission Questionnaire

In 2020, we decided to ask some of the congregation about their experience of their faith and St Mary's and their thoughts about the future. In 2021, we began with a discussion of the questionnaire itself, making sure it was clear and fair to all concerned. We also ensured full confidentiality. John Bier kindly agreed to be a guinea pig, and he answered a trial questionnaire before we began. Then, the Rector, Richard, Deji and Nigel set about interviewing on Zoom a total of 16 members of the congregation. The list was carefully calculated to be diverse in terms of age, gender and race. When the interviews were complete the four interviewers compiled a report which was presented to the Committee, and later to the PCC. A lot of good ideas came from it and all the participants expressed themselves pleased to have taken part.

Planning a Mission Action Plan for post-2020

Throughout the year, we were conscious that the Mission Action Plan we had in place expired at the end of 2020. We decided to await the outcome of the Questionnaire and then decided that a new Plan for 2022 to 2025 could be based around the priorities of the Diocese's Capital Vision 2021-2030 – Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, Creative Growth, Children and Young People, Mental health and wellbeing, and Racial Justice. The PCC agreed to have an Awayday for half a day in early 2022 to take the plans further.

Reopening the Church building

As the country began the process of opening up, we discussed the ways in which we could open up the church building and church services. A gradual approach was agreed, and over the year, we were able to come to church wearing masks, sing and listen to the choir and participate fully in the usual Eucharist at 8am (experimenting with 8.30am for a while) and 10am. We continued streaming for those wanting to participate in the service at the same time at home, with a recording on Youtube for those who wanted to view the service at any time later.

Online Church

As we returned to church for services in person, we realised that we needed to take stock of the value, if any, of continuing the streaming and recording of services. We dubbed this 'Online Church', reserving the expression 'Church Online' for any service which was virtual, such as a Zoom Sunday evening service. We

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Nigel Wildish

FABRIC REPORT

Overall, the church remains in a good and stable state of repair. However, on the advice of the Estate Committee, the PCC has committed itself to a major programme of roof renovation, currently focussing on works on the main roof.

Progress on the main roof works has again been impacted by Covid. Fund raising activity for the works has been limited this year. A community consultation on the church & churchyard has been carried out; the consultation findings have been included in what is now a wider Church and Churchyard project, which includes the roof works.

Surveys completed in Autumn 2021 form the preliminary stage of the Church and Churchyard project, these included a tree survey and topographic survey of the whole churchyard, a point cloud survey of the north wall and a geophysical survey of Church End Gardens. Landscape architect firm, Above Zero were appointed to produce a concept design. Paul Travis, our quinquennial inspector was appointed to do a specification for conservation work to the north wall. Initial discussions were held with London Borough of Barnet Finchley Town Centre team regarding their support for the project.

The Estate Committee continues to monitor the cracks in the walls in the north west corner of the church.

The redundant asbestos boiler flue has been removed, and the stonework was repaired following the removal.

A card reader has been purchased for contactless payments.

Permanent Christmas lights have been installed in the cypress tree in front of the church, the cost for this was covered by a council contractor.

A new permanent lighting system has been installed in the church tower.

Other church works carried out during 2021 include:

Replacement of the alarm system for the office, vestry and Sacristy. Removal of soil and debris build-up against the railings at the east end of the church – this was carried out by GoodGym

Other minor repairs have been carried out as required.

Gill Lyall, Nick Upton

Church Wardens

DEANERY SYNOD

The new Synod, for the whole of Barnet, met twice in the year. Area Dean the Revd Dr Julie Gittos and Lay Chair Catherine Okrafo-Smart led us. Our representatives are Patricia Bagster, Deji Makanjuola, Nick Upton and Nigel Wildish.

At the first meeting, on 24 February on Zoom, Bishop Rob attended to speak about the Diocese's Capital Vision for 2030. The strapline is that Every Londoner should encounter the Love of Christ. Our priorities are Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, Creative Growth, Racial Justice, Safeguarding and Wellbeing, and Children and Young People.

At the second meeting, which also met on Zoom, Sam Donoghue from the Diocese introduced a session on Children and Young People, recognising that COVID 19 had damaged the interest in those valuable members of our churches in attending church and returning to their groups. At that meeting, we also welcomed two new priests for parishes neighbouring to us: the Revd Dagmar Wilkinson is now the incumbent at St John's Friern Barnet N11, and the Revd Kimberley Quak-Winslow is now the incumbent at St John's Whetstone and All Saints Friern Barnet N20.

At each of those meetings, new school governors were appointed for positions in Church of England schools, including the appointment of Nigel Wildish as a governor at St Mary's and St John's, Hendon (an all-through school).

Nigel Wildish

THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S

We finally started ringing at the tower again in October and have been practising regularly on Friday evenings from 7.30–9 p.m. to refresh our ringing capability to where it was before the pandemic. We have now begun to extend our abilities by trying out new methods with the help of ringers from St Mary's Hendon, as well as consolidating our existing repertoire.

We hosted visiting ringers from the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers, of which we are members, in January, and began ringing before our Sunday 10 a.m. services in February.

Daniel Griffith

ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Estate Committee met six times during 2021, to review the condition of our estate, to recommend and oversee improvements, and to monitor routine works, in order to maintain the good repair of the St Mary's property portfolio.

Church and churchyard

The PCC has committed itself to a major programme of roof renovation, with the focus on works on the main roof. Progress on the main roof works has been impacted by Covid, with very limited fundraising activity in 2021.

A community consultation on the church & churchyard has been carried out; the consultation findings have been included in what is now a wider Church and Churchyard project, which includes the roof works.

Surveys completed in Autumn 2021 form the preliminary stage of the Church and Churchyard project, these included a tree survey and topographic survey of the whole churchyard, a point cloud survey of the north wall and a geophysical survey of Church End Gardens. Landscape architect firm, Above Zero were appointed to produce a concept design. Paul Travis, our quinquennial inspector was appointed to do a specification for conservation work to the north wall. Initial discussions were held with London Borough of Barnet Finchley Town Centre team regarding their support for the project.

The cracks in the walls in the north west corner of the church continue to be monitored.

The redundant asbestos boiler flue has been removed, and the stonework repaired following its removal.

Permanent Christmas lights have been installed in the cypress tree in front of the church.

Minor works have been carried out during the year as required.

Halls

Hall lettings were significantly reduced in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Minor works have been carried out during the year as required.

The Estate Committee agreed to a request from Barnet Climate Action, for St Mary's to host an air quality monitor on the south wall of the hall.

Blue Beetle

Blue Beetle lettings were significantly reduced in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Minor works have been carried out during the year as required.

28 Hendon Lane

Some work has been carried out on the flashings and other minor works have been carried out during the year.

The Rectory

The Diocese have installed double glazing.

Nick Upton

GREEN AND FAIR ANNUAL REPORT

The ongoing restrictions of the pandemic did not prevent us celebrating many of our traditional activities this past year, thanks to enthusiastic supporters of all ages.

Our hard-working committee continued to raise funds and awareness even during lockdown. As a registered Fairtrade church, we are committed to promoting fairly traded goods which provide invaluable support for some of the world's poorest people.

Last spring we continued to promote Fairtrade Easter eggs and goods by phone and email and even managed two in-church stalls. In total, throughout an unpredictable year, we generated sales of more than £3,000. Thanks to all who generously supported, especially our Mardi Gras-style celebration for Fairtrade Fortnight in February.

We maintained our commitment to green issues by raising awareness for the COP26 in the autumn with weekly Saturday morning prayer sessions.

A campaign was launched in February to work towards establishing St. M's as a fully-registered Eco Church, stepping up our commitment to Fairtrade products and to creating a friendly habitat for plants and wildlife in our church grounds.

We staged our annual Summer Refreshment Celebration last July with all home-grown flowers while honouring the many loved ones we had lost during the pandemic. Some had been founder members of our Green and Fair Committee.

One World Week – bringing together people of faiths in supporting the ethics of Fairtrade and green living – was celebrated in October in time for United Nations Day. Friends from local synagogues, Barnet Council and numerous churches joined us. There were spirited contributions from the Rickett family and a moving video from the Youth Choir of Finchley Reform Synagogue, plus socially distanced Fairtrade cakes and refreshments.

We planted our annual snowdrops in remembrance of all the child victims of the Holocaust and they bloomed just in time for our HMD Commemoration in January. This was attended by more than 100 people of mixed faiths and community groups.

New members are always welcome. Our next Green and Fair Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, at 11.30 in the committee room. Meetings are always swift and aim to finish by 12.15. Hope to see you there.

Lynn Radnedge



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Once Covid restrictions were relaxed a little we where able to hold the Parish Summer Barbecue, in the Rectory garden.

Covid also affected our remaining celebrations. Lunch was which was served after the Patronal Festival in September and Harvest Festival in October was served ready plated to avoid parishioners gathering around buffet tables and our traditional mulled wine following the Carol Service was served in the fresh air of the churchyard. Fortunately the weather was kind to us on that occasion.

Thank you for all the help given to the Social Committee by the congregation throughout the year.

It is planned that our first celebration for 2022, will be the Easter Sunday morning breakfast, which follows the 6.00 am service.

Patricia Bagster

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

In 2021, the St Mary's Church walking group resumed its walks, following a long break whilst Covid restrictions were in place. It met for two Sunday afternoon walks.

In October there was a circular walk, starting and ending at St Mary's church. We walked out to Totteridge via Mill Hill, and returned along the Dollis Brook.

In November we started a project to walk the Capital Ring, a 78 mile circular London route. For our first section, we started in Finchley and walked to Finsbury Park, via Highgate and along the route of the dismantled railway from Finsbury to Highgate.

Sunday walks take place after the 10am service, and are usually about five miles in length, the all day Saturday walks are a few miles longer.

Dates are being planned for walks in 2022 - if you are interested in taking part, please contact Nick Upton or the Rector for further details.

STEWARDSHIP

Regular planned giving, otherwise known as Stewardship, is the principal source of income for our church. Regular giving, which was augmented by several generous additional donations, amounted to around £105,300 of which some £40,000 was given by the traditional stewardship method and in one off donations and £65,200 through the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

The importance of gift-aiding contributions is also clear – It was possible to claim an additional £22,700 as a tax refund from the HMRC, in respect of contributions direct to St Mary's church funds and via the PGS. In addition almost £600 tax was claimed from HMRC on loose plate collections made in the tax year ended April 2021.

If you are a regular donor, I encourage you to consider giving your donations via the Parish Giving Scheme. If you use this method your contributions are collected from your bank account by direct debit. If you are interested, please contact me for details. At the end of 2021 fifty four Stewardship members belonged to the Parish Giving Scheme.

It is also possible to reclaim tax on gift aided donations to our special collections, which in 2021, included our Christmas Charities, Good Gifts, Lent giving and events in aid of the Roof Appeal.

One off donations may now be made online via the St. Mary's website or by contactless debit or credit card at our main services.

THANK YOU to all of you who contribute so generously to St Mary-at-Finchley through traditional Stewardship or the Parish Giving Scheme.

Patricia Bagster

ONLINE STUDY GROUPS

This year **Bible Study** has been online as has the **Book Group**. Both of these groups have benefitted from the ability of people to join in from far away. The Book Group started with a Lenten reading of Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment and has continued reading a variety of different novels.

SAFEGUARDING

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents this year.

The importance of safeguarding at St Mary-at-Finchley continues to be recognised by the PCC and the Children and Young People (CYP) committee. Safeguarding is a standing item on the agendas of both the PCC and the CYP committee.

The Archdeacon's visitation, which also looked at our safeguarding practices, went smoothly. Grateful thanks go to everyone who gave their time and effort to make sure that, amongst other things, the church's noticeboards displayed the most up to date information, ensuring we had copies of the correct policies available to view and that our DBS documentation was in order.

The Diocese of London continues to improve the safeguarding support it provides to parishes. This year they have launched a regular (and useful) newsletter for and, very recently, a dashboard for parishes to keep them up to date with what (and when) they should be doing in terms of policies and procedures and access to a website offering ongoing, online training.

The next safeguarding action at St Mary's will be to carry out the annual Safeguarding Action Plan, Safeguarding checklist and to review the church's Safeguarding policy.

Karen Malyali

MUSIC REPORT 2021

During 2021 the music at St Mary's carried on. This was in fact remarkable, given the number of ways in which Covid19 threw googlies at us through the year. We had a time when only one singer could sing as cantor for the whole service (a great roster of adults and children volunteered), only 6 singers (so a very small choir, each person really responsible for holding their line) and then managed a full choir for both Easter (adults) and Christmas (adults and Youth Choir). The level of commitment and flexibility of all the choir folk was just brilliant. Thank you to all those both singing and helping to organise (Penny, Margaret, Clare, Ann).

Socially distanced singing brings some challenges. You can't hear the person next to you as well as if they're right up close, so you have to really know where you're going musically (up, down, same note, how long it lasts etc) and clarify the text. We've all learned to use the social distance to our advantage, and our rehearsals in church work well now that Alison has the microphone /sound system to help her project her speaking voice to the back of the nave.

During 2021 Youth choir said goodbye to Elliot Trevelyan and welcomed Neil, Angelina, Chloe, Chris and Danny. Adiva is taking time out but expects to return in 2022. The membership has grown to 14 and we're delighted to have such a committed and talented group of young singers. In the summer term of 2021 Alison trialled weekly online zoom one-to-one sessions. These were really successful and have continued so each member of YC gets more individual tuition.

Adult membership was stable during 2021. We missed Julie who was caring for her elderly father. Margaret was able to return during the summer term. We wore masks and kept our distance, and didn't have any Covid outbreaks centred on the choir, which is actually amazing.

Our Organ Scholar, Emanuel Bor, became much more confident during 2021 with his organ playing and also took on a second organ scholarship at the Chapel Royal. He is an extremely busy person!

Drew Sellis (former Organ Scholar) gave a recital in Liverpool Cathedral as part of a prize he won from the Royal College of Organists. Bravo, Drew!

In the summer of 2021 we started to learn Margaret Poston's Mass. This is a lovely, cheerful setting of the eucharistic mass (Kyrie, Gloria, gospel Acclamations, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei) using both English and Latin text. The Youth Choir gave the first performance in July, then the adult choir took it on and taught it to the congregation during September. Margaret lavished lots of time on beautiful typesetting for this as well as writing it so appealingly and playing it fabulously each time on the piano. It's a great addition to our repertoire. Thank you, Margaret!

In October the adult choir did a special evensong featuring the music of Ivor Richards who was the organist and choirmaster at St Mary-at-Finchley 1921-1947. It marked the centenary of his appointment to St Mary's. Unfortunately Alison caught covid so Tim Hooper conducted the service. This was an example of amazing team-work. I am so grateful to Tim for rescuing this service and for his stalwart support of our music at St Mary's.

Also in October, the Youth Choir hosted the RSCM London Young Voices festival which was attended by young singers from across London and further afield. This was a joyous event, all the more appreciated for being the first chance to sing together with other choirs for a long time!

Our concert series resumed in October with Damon Ying's very fine organ recital. We congratulate Damon on gaining his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO) qualification during 2021. Bravo! Then in November we were treated to an hour of music for mandolin and guitar played by Stewart McGowan and Jamie McCrae. This was an enchanting concert. We're most grateful to our concert performers who give

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In December the choir contributed some choral Christmas cheer to the NHS thank you concert. Our Christmas carol service was lovely, and we only needed to do one service this year in contrast to 2020 when we had 2 almost identical services, the first with youth choir and some adults, the second with all the adult choir. Our focus for many weeks in the run-up to Christmas was to learn the new piece in 6 parts written specially for St Mary-at-Finchley by composer Lesley-Jane Rogers, whose music we performed in 2019. We also included more familiar items eg Rutter's Star Carol.

I thank all our musicians and singers most sincerely for a truly creative and musically satisfying year. We welcome new members to the choir, so if you're interested please contact me via my new email address: alisonsmartfisher@gmail.com

Alison Fisher



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Church of England Primary School is linked to both Finchley parishes of St Mary's and St Paul's. The School is a diverse and inclusive, two-form entry school with a nursery, situated in Finchley Central. The school has a strong Christian ethos, underpinned by the specific Christian values of Compassion, Endurance, Reverence, Hope, Service and Thankfulness.

The school bases its vision on Luke 2:52: 'Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and all people'. The school's motto is *Learning together in God's love*.

MANAGEMENT

The Headmaster, Mr Stefan Roos, continues to be responsible for the management of the school together with his senior leadership team. In September the school started a partnership working with Holy Trinity school in East Finchley providing leadership support. There are lots of benefits to partnership working between schools, including continuing professional development for staff, developing the curriculum, sharing resources and financial benefits.

At the end of 2021, the school had an OFSTED inspection, the first one since the Outstanding rating of 2011. OFSTED inspections have changed, with more demanding requirements. The school staff and children performed fantastically and were graded as Good. Overall attendance is good and academic outcomes, when last measured, continue to be above Barnet and National averages.

SCHOOL UNDER COVID 19

The school year was again very different, with a closure at the start of the year due to Covid. The staff continued to adapt the teaching to cover the pupils of key workers who were on site and with the majority of children learning from home. This year the number of children on site increased with more parents deemed key workers. Staff again had to prepare both online and physical lessons. Not an easy proposition but the wonderful teachers delivered, and they richly deserve all the thanks they have received.

The school reopened in March, with children taught in bubbles. The key activities were to ensure the children were comfortable coming back and any identified as having fallen behind, had focused catch up sessions. The omicron virus at the end of the year again put pressure on the school with staff absences the main challenge. In addition, wellbeing of not just the children but also all the teachers and staff remained an important focus area during the year. The school dealt with the challenge presented by Covid 19 magnificently.

Although the summer fair was not held, the Christmas Fair organised by the PTA, was very well attended and raised funds to support the school.

LINKS WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Church continues to maintain strong links with the school, and members of our congregation are parents, governors and teachers at the school. The clergy of St Mary and St Paul's regularly visit the school or record video session to lead collective worship. The PCC supported the year 6 trip which is one of main highlight of a child's time at the school and received a wonderful thank you letter, printed below.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's welcomed back the school pupils this year. We hosted the Year 6 leavers performance in the main hall and they thoroughly enjoyed using the stage. The school carol service was a splendid occasion in the Church.

Julian Trevelyan

St. Mary's CE
Primary School
Dollis Park
London
N3 1BT

Dear Father Philip,

I am writing to you to thank you. I, as one of the children lucky enough to go on PGL, am grateful for your support that enabled the residential to go on, and so, am representing my class, along with Mya, whose letter I'm sure you'll receive, in writing this.

PGL was enjoyed greatly by everyone who went, and dragon-boat racing, and survival being my favourite activities. Many children used PGL-branded items as their memento, because of the great time they had. Many of my classmates - including me - did things they never thought they'd do.

Crazy and funny memories were created, (like when the toilet flooded and my roommates and I had to mop out) ones that we'll never forget.

To think that some of the best moments of our lives took place ~~or~~ because of your support. So I'll finish with what I started with; thank you!

Much obliged,

St. Mary's CE primary
School.
Dollis park
London
N3 1BT

Dear Father Philip,

I am writing to you because I would like to thank you for supporting our Ye PGL trip. It was so fun so I am very thankful. Me and my friend Amelia are both writing letters to thank you.

PGL was the best. I stayed in a room with my friends and did great things. My personal favourite has to be Dragon Boating as we nearly capsized. All in all it was great fun and I loved it. Thank You!

From Mya L.

