

# St Christopher's Church

## Saffron Lane, Leicester

### Report on 2022



Presented at the

## Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## Our Mission

### St Christopher's Church - Mission Statement

We, the people of St Christopher's, believe that Jesus Christ has called us to share our faith by carrying out God's mission to serve our neighbouring community, by word and deed.



To fulfil our mission we will need:

- To be effective Christians who are open, welcoming, caring and committed to working and praying together as members of the body of Christ;
- To identify, affirm and bring to fruition the gifts of each member to encourage all in service and witness.

This service should spring from corporate worship and growth in our personal relationships with God.

### St Christopher's Church - Mission Action Plan

We believe that God wants us to reach out with His love to:

- children and young people
- parents, carers and families
- staff of the Academy
- older and isolated people

by **being** a reliable community who can be trusted;

by **welcoming** people, treating them with love and respect;

by **encouraging** growth and enabling change in people's lives;

by **befriending** people and providing a safe place for all;

by **sharing** our love for Jesus and putting him first in our lives.



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## 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meetings

to be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Opening Prayer

**Numbers present**

**Apologies**

## Agenda for the Parishioners' Meeting

1. Minutes of the Parishioner's meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022
2. Matters Arising
3. Confirmation of Rob Pike as churchwarden.

## Agenda for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022
2. Matters Arising
3. Electoral Roll Report - Rita Early

4. Secretary's Report - Rita Early
5. Vicar's Remarks - Mr Chris Collins
6. Churchwarden's Report - Rob Pike
7. Safeguarding Officer's Report - Neil Tansley
8. Treasurer's Report - Mike Early
9. Reports of activities  
(for full list see contents page)

**Time of prayer for these activities**

#### **Appointments and Elections**

10. Appointment of Examiner for 2023/24
11. Election of Deanery Synod Rep
12. Date of next APM (2024) - Suggested date Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, (note Mothering Sunday is 10<sup>th</sup> March and Easter is 31<sup>st</sup> March).

#### **Closing Prayers**

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## **Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

Chris opened in prayer.

#### **For both meetings**

**Present:** Chris Collins (Chair) and Charles Ndigirwa

**Electoral members:** Roger Burdett, Mike Early, Chantal Griffin, Robert Griffin, Linda Halaczkiwicz, Robert Pike, Neil Tansley, Jenny Mann, Pauline Ndigirwa, Elaine Smith, Jayne Tansley and Rita Early (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Manny Griffin and Steve Joyce.

### **Parishioner's Meeting**

1. **The Minutes of the Parishioners' Meeting** held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were accepted and signed by the chair.

**Matters Arising** - It was noted that Mark Edwards had resigned from being churchwarden in the autumn.

2. **Election of Churchwarden:** Rob Pike was unanimously elected.
3. **Change to the constitution:** Under our present constitution this would be the last year that Rob would be eligible to be churchwarden without a one year break. However, if we would like Rob to continue as churchwarden next year and not have a break we have to make a change to our constitution at this meeting.

**All were in favour that Rob can continue as churchwarden without a break until he wishes to retire from the post.** Rob was thanked for the hard work he does.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were accepted and signed by the chair.

2. **Matters Arising-** Minute 11 the date of this year's meeting had been changed.

3. **Electoral Roll Report** - Rita Early

The electoral roll had been updated in March.

There are now 29 on the roll; four new members had been added (Linda Halaczkiwicz, Sarah and Simon Jordan and Karen Cullimore) and six had been deleted; Pat Burdett and Joan Seller had died, Hazel Hampton had moved away and Mark Edwards and Dawn Hopkins no longer attended the church. Charles Ndigirwa had been ordained deacon and so was no longer eligible.

4. **Vicar's Remarks** - Mr Chris Collins

'Covid had gone, but not gone!' This was reflected in our current sermon series of 'Church in a post Covid World.'

This year there has been a legacy of leaving, with many in the church suffering from bereavements.

There are some things the world likes and are drawn towards Christianity, but other things the world does not like. For some there is a paradox of being a child of God, but also a soldier of God.

Chris handed out a paper summarising the scattered and gathered church, which has been a focus of our 'Imagine Church' agenda. In the coming year he thought there needed to be some tweaking in what we do. Chris hoped that more of the church members would be in small groups of either triplets or quads for prayer and support. He thought it would be great if we could get more men into some of these groups.

A discussion about men and women's ministry followed and how the idea of men's ministry had evolved after a visit from Paul Gask. Although there was a place for separate ministry many thought that most groups should be mixed.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the PCC needed to have a conversation about the future of this.

5. **Secretary's Report** - Rita Early

Rita thanked the four PCC members who had to stand down today, after serving for three years.

6. **Churchwarden's Report** - Rob Pike

Rob had lost Mark as fellow churchwarden during the year. Mark had potential and it was sad that he had left the church for personal reasons. At churchwarden meetings he had always been the youngest.

A grand spring-clean was needed, especially to the vestry which had been used as a store during Covid.

7. **Safeguarding Officer's Report** - Neil Tansley

Neil had taken over this role recently from Rob, who had been very good at handing over. Rob had done the last DBS before the change.

8. **Treasurer's Report** - Mike Early

Our auditor is an ex-inspector of taxes, so she is very thorough! She also inspects the Secretary's



Report to make sure the PCC Accounts tally with the narrative of the PCC's activity.

The money coming in 2021 has gone down this year as we had a £2,000 donation last year, but this figure is more realistic of what money is regularly coming in.

**Diocesan Seed Funding grant** of £300. For the last 3½ years we have been affiliated to an Intercultural worshipping community and have been offered funds to support this work.

**Mission allocation** had been reduced to £1,000, which is half of what it was in 2020, because of the reduction in income.

**Olive Sullivan's legacy** of £15,519.55 was received in March. The PCC had decided that this money should not be used to prop up the church's accounts, but be spent on specific projects. The first of these was to fund the upgrade of the Sound System. This was thought to be appropriate as Olive had a hearing problem.

**9. Reports of activities** Chris asked people to only comment if there was additional information from what they had written in their report.

- **School's Ministry** - a recorded assembly had been compiled for Marriott School.
- **Craft Café** was planning to re-start in May'
- **Men's ministry - football**, between 7 and 10 men came to the regular Wednesday night sessions. This was making relationships and hopefully these would develop into '*triplets*'.
- **Music**- it was good to be back and to have the support of Charles and Keisha. Jayne and Neil would be away for several Sundays in the near future. Could everyone learn an instrument?
- **Book Club** - we'd welcome some men! Jayne, as a new member found it a really relaxing time.
- **Door to Door Ministry** - this had not happened over the winter, but was now re-starting and new people would be very welcome to join. If people were interested they could get an e-mail of when it would take place. It would be good to know when this was happening as even if people were not taking part in the visiting they could pray.
- **TCP** -this had re-started in March. Ideas for a new name would be welcome.
- **Little Angels** - Rita thanked Charles for joining the team and for Chris for standing in when Charles was busy and also Mike for his role in looking after her sister, without his help Rita would not have been able to re-start Little Angels.
- **Kasheneye Water Project** - it was good that this was still ongoing.
- **Scouts** the groups were still a bit fragile, although the youngest ones had all come back. They were a nice mixed bunch with real potential.

Karen had agreed to be the treasurer, but there was still a need for a secretary for 4 meetings (about 8 hours) a year. The group had a very low expenditure, with the subscription to Scouts the main expense.

People could volunteer for the occasional meeting without a DBS check - Karen had come along to organise the cake activity shown on the picture in the report. Pauline offered to do a session on sign language. Charles agreed to come to talk about 'What is church?'.

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## Appointments and Elections

**10. Appointment of Examiner**-Rosemary Hall had already agreed to examine the accounts for 2022. Rita would write to thank her.

**11. Election of PCC** There were four vacancies as Beverley Carr, Ann Kilbourne, Jayne Tansley and Rita Early's three year term of office had come to an end.

Linda Halaczkiwicz, Jenny Mann, Manny Griffin and Steve Joyce had offered to fill these vacancies and as there were no other nominations no election was needed. All were in agreement on them joining the PCC and they were thanked for their willingness.

Rita would remain as secretary, but would not be an elected PCC member.

12. **Date of next APM** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Chris thanked everyone who had attended the meeting.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Signed.....

Date.....



## Secretary's Report on 2022

St Christopher's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with **the incumbent, Mr Chris Collins** in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Christopher's Church has been located within The Tudor Grange Samworth Academy since September 2007. St Christopher's serves both the local community and the children and staff of the Academy.

**Mr Charles Ndigirwa** was ordained priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Church Attendance** - 21 adults this is the same as last year, but the number of children has increased by one up to 5 children.

**Standing Committee:** this is the only committee required by law. It has the power

to transact the business of the PCC, between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

**Members** - Chris Collins, Rob Pike, Rita Early and Steve Joyce. It met 6 times, mainly to plan for the next PCC meeting and to review the action points and what matters arising should be discussed. All meetings were by Zoom.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**Safeguarding Officer** - Neil Tansley

**DBS checks** - Neil Tansley is also responsible for keeping these up to date.

**Health and safety** - Paul Robinson)

**Disability** - Roger Burdett.

## Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC has met 6 times

**17<sup>th</sup> January** (By Zoom)

We finished our book study on Imagine Church and decided to revisit it every 6 months.

Our church **web site** needs updating - the start of an ongoing process.

Current **worship arrangements** were reviewed, but with the current high Covid cases, no changes were made.

**21<sup>st</sup> March**

The **Financial Accounts** were approved

**Olive Sullivan's legacy**, of £15,519.55<sup>1</sup>, had been received. It was decided that this should be used for specific projects and not to prop up the general fund. Suggestions were put forward and two have been approved; the updating of the web site and improvement to the Sound Systems.

**Shaped by God Together Part 1**

We discussed:

- Our church's strengths
- What we could offer to a Minster Community
- Where we currently work meaningfully in partnership with others
- What areas we would identify where help is most needed
- How we would describe our church's mission.

**9<sup>th</sup> May**

**Shaped by God Together Part 2**

We discussed:

- How to make the most of existing partnerships and discern what new ones might help us in our mission
- Our missional values and how they are central to our activities and how they might fit into a Minster Community
- The gifts we could bring to a Minster Community and how we could be strengthened by the membership of one.

**Copier** - this is now 8 years old and the maintenance contract was to go up to £360 a year. For the limited use the copier gets it was decided to end the contract, but to keep on using it while it still functioned and then buy a cheaper black and white only copier.

**20<sup>th</sup> June**

**A Hardship Fund** of £500 would be created from Olive's legacy.



Charles and his family with his ordination cake

**Sound System** -this would cost £2,204 and would be paid from Olive's legacy.

The following were discussed:

- New arrangements for our **Food Bank**
- **Charles' Ordination** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July
- Plans for an Autumn **Alpha course**
- Plans for a '**Spring Clean**'.

**26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Revisiting 'Imagine Church' The next Step**

We have now instigated:

- This Time Tomorrow - interviews within the main service
- Prayer and Praise

Three suggestions from the Way Forward Section:

- Have front line testimonies from our work or families or just encouraging stories.
- Possibly use one of the recommended books for a book study.
- Include a regular question in our group time which applies the teaching to the week ahead.

Plans to start a **Warm Bank** initiative.

Concerns over the **lack of re-cycling** taking place by the Academy and how we could increase our own re-cycling.

**Parish Contribution** - the diocese was asking parishes to increase their giving by 10% for 2023, this would mean that our contribution should go up from £17,000 to £18,700, which was unsustainable with our present level of giving.

However, for 2022 we decided to give a one off tithe on Olive's legacy of £1,550.

**16<sup>th</sup> November** By Zoom

<sup>1</sup> An additional £61.01 was received at a later date.



**Finance** -Mike submitted a current financial statement and a budget for 2023.

We have committed ourselves to a **Parish Contribution** of £17,000.

It was agreed to look at our Finances in a greater depth, as our current finances were unsustainable: if our main giving is just £14,280 and our **Parish Contribution was £17,000**, our reserves would run out in about 3-4 years.

It was agreed that our **Mission Allocations** would be the same as last year (£1,000) and that the missions for 2023 would also remain the same.

**Olive's jewellery** - gold items had been sold for £30 and the remainder would be offered to church members.

By the end of the year all **restrictions to our worship** had been lifted other than the administrator still using hand sanitiser before Communion and still using individual cups for the wine and the bread on plates.

**National Church Fuel Grant** - The diocese was giving a grant of just over £1,000 for every church in the diocese to help with increasing energy costs.

**Safeguarding** - this is an agenda item on all PCC agendas and Neil has been busy to make us as compliant as possible. (See his report for more details.) All PCC members were asked to complete three Safeguarding training modules.

**Events** - one of the functions of the PCC is to plan for upcoming events and then to assess how they went.

- **Lent/Easter Study - Saints Alive** an eight week course which continued after Easter. Generally well attended. Many found the 'chunk reading', ie reading large sections of the bible, a new experience and helpful.
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March **Tearfund Lunch** - 16 came, focus on Rwanda.
- 14<sup>th</sup> June **Praise and Prayer**
- 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June - **church spring clean**



'Bring and eat' lunch, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

- 27<sup>th</sup> June **Treasure Hunt** around Aylestone - the Scouts joined in with this event. An excellent event thanks to Rob Pike's organisation. Local churches were invited, but none came.
- End of August and into October **Book Study - 'Healing the Divide'** - very worthwhile study, but disappointing attendance. (Mainly as older members of the congregation have their holidays in term time.)
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October Harvest **'Bring and Share'** lunch - the first since October 2019. A number of 'Bring and eat' lunches had taken place during the year.



Harvest 'Bring and Share' Lunch

- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October Angels and Heroes - a quieter night than usual as it was very wet.
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November - **Quiz and Fish and Chip evening**, with a short evangelistic talk from Chris - a well-attended evening including many non-church people. An excellent event organised by Neil and Rob.
- Three Advent **Meditations** - for the first time a short **Bible Study** preceded the Meditations. Not as well attended as usual. (Perhaps the World Cup affected these evenings?)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Carol singing at **Stonesby Lodge**, first visit since 2019.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - **Carol Service** - the first since 2019 - very good to have this event again!
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - **Carol Singing** outside Iceland.

## Safeguarding Report by Neil Tansley

It has been a really busy year for ensuring the church is as compliant as possible with diocesan guidelines. Most churches experienced a lag in activity in this area during Covid and we were no exception. At the beginning of September 2022 we were only 38% compliant with diocesan requirements. At the time of writing we are now 65% compliant. Between those two dates I am pleased to report that all PCC members (and one or two others have undertaken safeguarding training and all DBS checks have been brought up to date). Thanks to all for giving up your time to achieve this. Policies for recruitment and reporting safe guarding concerns have been updated and adopted. All our activities involving children (Little Angels, Craft Café, Explorers), are now compliant, although some safeguarding training still requires completion.

Outstanding tasks: As safeguarding officer I have started training for the Safeguarding Officers role and that of DBS administrator. These may well be completed by the time of the APCM. I also need to seek some clarification about risk assessments for some of our church activities.

Please remember that good safeguarding practice is the responsibility of us all, and should you have any worries or concerns in this area please report them immediately (even if you're not certain) to myself or the diocesan safeguarding leads. How to go about this is laid out with contact details on the safeguarding noticeboard in church.

## Churchwarden's Report on condition of buildings

by Rob Pike

For 2022 it was good to get back to normal church worship throughout the year. Some of the practices implemented in the Pandemic were still in place at the start of the year such as spacing chairs apart and ensuring the room was well ventilated. The wearing of masks and sanitising on entry were also carried out by many. However, as the year progressed with infection rates falling and normality all around us becoming the norm again these practices were withdrawn. For those who still needed it there were individual seats and sanitisers available. It was in the Communion service where the Pandemic has had the most effect with the use of sharing one cup no longer being used. Individual cups for everyone continues for the foreseeable future although it is hoped that one day we can return to sharing one cup. The use of sanitisers and masks by the administrators continued although these should come to an end sometime next year.

Ironically the infection rates among church attendees actually increased during 2022 but for many it was not much more than a bad cold. This in turn did have an effect on attendance at times. However, over the year the average adult attendance for Sundays remained at 21 adults and the number of children increased from 4 to 5.

One of the main issues affecting our worship is our sound system and arrangements are in hand to look at getting this replaced. The church website is also being looked at to be revised. Both of these were hoped to be done in 2022 but will now be done in 2023.

All valuable items are accounted for and stored securely in the vestry safe. The rewriting of the inventory is on hold as is the tidy up of the vestry. This will need to be carried out ideally in the next few months together with a good spring clean.

Finally I would like to thank all those who help in whatever way to support what goes on in the church on Sunday. This can be by helping put out the equipment for Little Angels, putting the welcome sign out and distributing the bibles. Little jobs which people do which are not on a rota but are often carried out and are greatly appreciated.

# St Christopher's Church

## LEICESTER

### Statement of Accounts

2022

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#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

|                     | General<br>Fund    | Maintenance<br>Fund | Mission<br>Fund | Little<br>Angels | Building/<br>Equipment<br>Fund | Total<br>end<br>2022 |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
|                     | includes<br>legacy |                     |                 |                  |                                |                      |
| <b>Assets</b>       | £                  | £                   | £               | £                | £                              | £                    |
| Current account     | 9,811.17           | 500.00              | 0.00            | 383.69           | 434.00                         | 11,128.86            |
| Board of<br>Finance | 20,367.87          | 1,519.73            | 0.00            | 8,761.24         | 6,699.77                       | 37,348.61            |
| Cash in hand        | 43.88              | 0.00                | 0.00            | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 43.88                |
| Total               | 30,222.92          | 2,019.73            | 0.00            | 9,144.93         | 7,133.77                       | 48,521.35            |
| <b>Debtors</b>      |                    |                     |                 |                  |                                |                      |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                    |                     |                 |                  |                                |                      |

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS 2022**

|                                                |                | <b>2022</b>     |                | <b>2021</b>     |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                                                |                | £               |                | £               |
| <b>Offertories etc</b>                         |                |                 |                |                 |
| Sunday Services                                | 545.47         |                 | 227.54         |                 |
| Occasional Services                            | 250.00         |                 | 100.00         |                 |
| Offertories at Marriages, Funerals etc         |                |                 |                |                 |
| Fees for Marriages, Banns, Funerals etc        | 316.00         |                 | 0.00           |                 |
| Free Will Offering Envelopes etc               | 0.00           |                 | 0.00           |                 |
| Covenants and Gift Aid                         | 15085.00       |                 | 13965.00       |                 |
| Other Tax efficient giving                     | 240.00         |                 | 240.00         |                 |
| Income Tax recovered on Covenants and Gift Aid | <u>3586.30</u> | 20022.77        | <u>3839.36</u> | 18371.90        |
| <br><b>Donations - for general use</b>         |                |                 |                |                 |
| <br>Other Donations                            |                |                 |                |                 |
|                                                | <u>0.00</u>    | 0.00            | <u>0.00</u>    | 0.00            |
| <br>Use of premises                            | 0.00           |                 | 0.00           |                 |
| Scouts                                         |                |                 |                |                 |
|                                                | <u>0.00</u>    | 0.00            | <u>0.00</u>    | 0.00            |
| <br>Insurance claims                           |                |                 |                |                 |
| Legacy                                         | 15519.55       |                 |                |                 |
| Other sundry receipts                          | <u>103.01</u>  | 15622.56        | <u>314.07</u>  | 314.07          |
| <br><b>Interest from</b>                       |                |                 |                |                 |
| deposit with Central Board of Finance          | <u>264.42</u>  | <u>264.42</u>   | <u>11.25</u>   | <u>11.25</u>    |
|                                                |                | 35909.75        |                | 18697.22        |
| <br><b>"Restricted" items</b>                  |                |                 |                |                 |
| <br>Clergy/Organist fees                       | 47.00          |                 | 0.00           |                 |
| Fees for diocese                               | 224.00         |                 | 199.00         |                 |
| Diocesan grant 'Follow the Star'               |                |                 |                |                 |
| Diocesan Seed Funding grant (IWC)              |                |                 | 300.00         |                 |
| Diocesan grant for increase in energy costs    | 1087.00        |                 |                |                 |
| Other                                          | <u>0.00</u>    | <u>1358.00</u>  | <u>0.00</u>    | <u>499.00</u>   |
| <br><b>Total Receipts</b> into General Fund    |                | <u>37267.75</u> |                | <u>19196.22</u> |

M Y Early (Hon Treasurer)  
R A Pike (Churchwarden)

March 2023  
Miss R C Hall OBE (Hon Examiner)

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS 2022**

|                                                           |          | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Costs of raising funds</b>                             |          |           |           |
| applying for grants                                       |          |           |           |
| stewardship envelopes                                     |          | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                              |          |           |           |
| PCC Mission Allocations                                   | 1000.00  | 1000.00   | 1000.00   |
| Ministry costs                                            |          |           |           |
| parish contribution                                       | 18550.00 |           | 17000.00  |
| wages/honoraria                                           |          | 18550.00  | 17000.00  |
| Staff costs                                               |          |           |           |
| allowances                                                | 366.64   |           | 60.00     |
| travel                                                    | 545.01   |           | 135.25    |
| phone                                                     | 301.06   | 1212.71   | 120.00    |
| Church running expenses                                   |          |           |           |
| office, insurance                                         | 475.36   |           | 481.48    |
| Gifts                                                     | 63.00    |           |           |
| publicity, hospitality                                    | 110.20   | 648.56    | 481.48    |
| Church maintenance                                        |          |           |           |
| repairs & renewals                                        | 0.00     | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Upkeep of services                                        |          |           |           |
| craft materials                                           |          |           |           |
| other items                                               | 304.77   | 304.77    | 405.24    |
| Utilities                                                 |          |           |           |
| cleaning, gas, electricity                                | 1989.96  | 1989.96   | 1989.96   |
| Training & Education                                      |          |           |           |
| Craft Cafe                                                | 125.17   |           | 89.85     |
| Evangelism                                                | 121.57   | 246.74    | 117.69    |
| <b>Other payments - From General Fund</b>                 |          |           |           |
| Investments, deposits                                     |          |           |           |
| Sundries                                                  | 338.33   |           | 51.65     |
| Wireless microphones                                      | 2204.40  | 2542.73   | 51.65     |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                                   |          |           |           |
| PCC expenses                                              |          |           |           |
| <b>Major Capital expenditure</b>                          |          |           |           |
| Repairs                                                   |          |           |           |
| Redecoration                                              |          |           |           |
| <b>Total of above</b>                                     |          | 26495.47  | 21451.12  |
| <b>Other 'Restricted' payments - through General Fund</b> |          |           |           |
| Miscellaneous                                             |          | 0.00      |           |
| Fees to Diocese                                           | 1104.50  | 1104.50   | 0.00      |
| <b>Transfers</b>                                          |          | -         | 0.00      |
| <b>Total Payments from General Fund</b>                   |          | 27599.97  | 21451.12  |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>                   |          | 9667.78   | -2254.90  |
| Held in current & deposit accounts 1st Januar             |          | 20555.14  | 22809.89  |
| Held in current & deposit accounts 31st Dece              |          | 30222.92  | 20554.99  |



## ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH 2022

|                                                             |                      |        | 2022                 |                      | 2021    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
|                                                             |                      |        | £                    |                      | £       |
| <b>Missionary and Charitable payments from General Fund</b> |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| CrossLinks                                                  |                      | 100.00 |                      | 100.00               |         |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)              |                      | 150.00 |                      | 150.00               |         |
| Evangelical Alliance                                        |                      | 80.00  |                      | 80.00                |         |
| Tearfund                                                    |                      | 150.00 |                      | 150.00               |         |
| Arab World Ministries                                       |                      | 200.00 |                      | 200.00               |         |
| Christian Vision for Men                                    |                      | 100.00 |                      | 100.00               |         |
| Open Hands                                                  |                      | 120.00 |                      | 120.00               |         |
| Scouts                                                      |                      | 100.00 | 1000.00              | 100.00               | 1000.00 |
| <b>Missionary and Charitable giving (restricted)</b>        |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| CrossLinks                                                  |                      | 60.00  |                      | 0.00                 |         |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)              |                      | 65.00  |                      | 30.05                |         |
| Tearfund                                                    |                      | 215.18 |                      | 130.65               |         |
| Arab World Ministries                                       |                      | 112.00 |                      | 0.00                 |         |
| Christian Vision for Men                                    |                      | 40.00  |                      | 38.46                |         |
| Open Hands                                                  |                      | 124.42 |                      | 134.03               |         |
| Scouts                                                      |                      | 63.20  | 679.80               | 5.00                 | 338.19  |
| Children's Society: outside the PCC's account.              |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| <b>Little Angels</b>                                        |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| Receipts                                                    | Weekly donations [R] | 572.31 |                      | 106.76               |         |
|                                                             | Interest [R]         | 113.74 | 686.05               | 4.50                 | 111.26  |
| Payments                                                    | Consumables          | 460.66 | 460.66               | 149.70               | 149.70  |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |        | 225.39               |                      | -38.44  |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |        | 8919.53              |                      | 8957.97 |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |        | 9144.92              |                      | 8919.53 |
|                                                             |                      |        | Restricted: £8761.24 | Restricted: £8647.50 |         |
|                                                             |                      |        | Designated: £383.69  | Designated: £272.04  |         |
| <b>Building/Equipment (restricted)</b>                      |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| Receipts                                                    | Donations            | 0.00   |                      | 0.00                 |         |
|                                                             | Other (Interest)     | 86.98  | 86.98                | 3.44                 | 3.44    |
| Payments                                                    |                      | 0.00   | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00    |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |        | 86.98                |                      | 3.44    |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |        | 7046.79              |                      | 7043.35 |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |        | 7133.77              |                      | 7046.79 |
| <b>Maintenance (Designated)</b>                             |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
| Receipts                                                    | Transfers            | 0.00   |                      | 0.00                 |         |
|                                                             | Other (Interest)     | 19.73  | 19.73                | 0.00                 | 0.00    |
| Payments                                                    |                      | 0.00   | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00    |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |        | 19.73                |                      | 0.00    |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |        |                      |                      |         |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |        | 2000.00              |                      | 2000.00 |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |        | 2019.73              |                      | 2000.00 |

## Reports of Church Activities

### Schools' Ministry by Chris Collins

Schools' ministry began to open up again in 2022. Chris and Charles were both involved in semi-regular assemblies for TGSA primary children, and have also got into a regular pattern of reading Bible stories once per term with Early Years pupils (this began Dec 2021 - I think!). Furthermore, a visit to St Christopher's is now a regular fixture for children in Reception. Furthermore, having re-started in 2021, Chris or Charles deliver talks at termly Whole School assemblies.

Secondary age assemblies hosted and delivered by Chris or Charles for TGSA students did not restart however. *(Though they now have in 2023.)*

Two or three times per year Chris and Charles host a chat, snacks and prayer session for Christian staff at TGSA, and these always seem to be appreciated. Neil, as chair of governors at TGSA, has also been involved. Moreover, bags of treats (cakes, chocolates) were delivered to all 3 parish schools in 2022 (TGSA, Marriott Primary and Holy Cross Primary). For the former two of these schools, prayer request forms were also included with the treats, and some prayer requests were filled out by staff members.

Marriott Primary had a longer ban on visitors than TGSA, and as a result we did only one in-person assembly there. However, at least one pre-recorded one from Chris was sent to them in 2022.

### Craft Café by Chris Collins

Having re-started post-pandemic in December 2021, Craft Cafe has returned as a regular activity in 2022. However, there have been a number of changes post-pandemic. Firstly, the decision to move from the Library to our own building was taken - primarily because of the 'red tape' associated with hiring the library, but this new arrangement also saves money. That said, our own building is not so well suited to Craft Cafe activity, but nevertheless we manage okay. Also different is the frequency: it now happens once every 6-7 weeks(ish), rather than monthly. The new addition of Neil to the team as a caterer has been great, expanding our capacity.

As to the actual format of Craft Café, that has remained much the same. It is a community group for non-church members, involving craft activities or challenges based around a Bible theme, opportunity for chat, a talk based on the same theme and food at the end. Some of our core families have returned post-pandemic, and we've had some new people join too. Numbers vary, but we tend to see around the 20-25 person mark (team members not included).

Please pray for people to be genuinely open to the gospel, and for relationships to develop.

### Investigators by Sarah Collins

The investigators group has continued to meet during 2022. We have been excited to welcome new children and new leaders. Our leaders over 2022 have been Louise, Elaine, Pauline and Sarah. Elaine stepped down as Investigators leader at the end of 2022. We thank her for all her hard work and will greatly miss her enthusiasm and crazy activities. We are pleased to have Pauline join our team of leaders and grateful for the gifts and experience she brings to the team.

We have welcomed some new children during the year. Our group can be between 3 and 10 children so our leaders are good at adapting to fit the group. We continue to offer sessions with Bible teaching, games, craft and creative prayer. We have been using material from Energize looking at Christian Character and helping the children to learn what it means to live like Jesus. We are encouraged by the way the children engage and as leaders feel we learn so much from the sessions ourselves. We have also been encouraged by the children's desire to be involved in all age worship and look forward to building on this in 2023.

## Men's Ministries by Charles Ndigirwa

### Football

Our regular 7-8pm Wednesday night football group which is planned as an outreach event, we play football together but also want to take the opportunity to get to know people and share the gospel. The group has been going reasonably well with a small group who consistently attend both from the church and from the community. However, we are still very low in numbers. Always before and after the game we pray. Even though some of the people who come are not Christians, they still participate in prayer. We feel this is important as it demonstrates what we believe.

The reason we feel comfortable to do this is that before anyone joins, we explain to them that this is what we do. But more significantly is that we feel this might give us opportunity to share our faith and people might ask why we do it. Also, we feel it is important to always ask God's protection and His presence even on the football field.

Since we are still low in numbers, we would like to encourage you to tell others who you know who might be interested to join us.

Please pray that as we go along, we can make this a mission field instead of just being football.

Please contact Charles on Mobile: 07459737473 or Email: cndigirwa@gmail.com

## Women's Ministries by Sarah Collins and Rita Early

The women's ministry has two branches. There is a group who meet in the evening and a group who meet in the daytime.

The **evening group** meet at Linda's house and we thank her for always hosting us so warmly. The group is a place to share with each other, pray with each other and encourage each other with God's word. There is a small, but faithful contingent, who commit to this group and support each other.

They also have a WhatsApp group where people can share news, prayer requests and words of encouragement.

The **daytime group** restarted in June, after Covid and we have met just three times. Previously we had met at Margaret Tonkin's house and Sarah had led the studies. So with Margaret having moved and Sarah now working longer hours we have a new venue. We usually meet on a Tuesday morning at 9.30 or 10am.

On Chris' recommendation we have started studying Judges using a guide by Tim Keller. We found the studies on Othniel and Ehud quite difficult, which is probably good for us!\_but we did rather better on Deborah. We have found the notes at the back of the study guide very helpful when we have floundered!

At present there are only 3 regular members, so do come and join us!

## Music Report by Neil and Jayne Tansley

It has a pleasure to help lead you in worship this year. Again, it has been good to have Charles drumming with us to keep us in check on speed! We have introduced some new worship songs this year and will continue to post videos of any further new songs on The St Christophers general WhatsApp group prior to their introduction. The more people who can join in first time round the easier it is for us! We are aware that when we are away there is no live music, so if anyone feels like taking up guitar or piano lessons...

Outside of church we held another successful carol singing session in front of Iceland on Saffron Lane. Thanks to everyone who braved the cold. We also restarted carols at Stonesby Lodge following a long break due to Covid. It is always a joy to do and we really appreciated the support of our fellow singers.

## **Stonesby Lodge Group by Sarah Collins**

We have a faithful group who attend our church and all live at Stonesby Lodge. Over 2022 the group felt it would be good to have an opportunity to study the Bible in a small group, also to have time to sing the songs we enjoy and pray with each other. Pauline and Sarah offered to help lead the group. Initially we met at Stonesby Lodge but then agreed to meet at church. We have all enjoyed meeting together on a monthly basis. The group were also able to attend the Carol Service with Pauline acting as Chauffeur.

## **St Christopher's Book Club by Jenny Mann**

After the Covid hiatus of last year, the Book Club has met regularly on the first Friday of the month during 2022.

Member numbers have fluctuated, but recently we have seen an increase in members which is encouraging. We are all female - it would certainly be nice to have some males join us as this would inevitably bring a refreshing perspective.

As usual we have read a range of books, some more comfortable to read and some challenging in content. We very seldom all agree on the style or interest of a book, but it is good to hear each other's views.

As always, we stray off-topic into other areas! But nevertheless, people seem to enjoy coming and chatting.

## **Food Poverty Response by Charles Ndigirwa**

The increase of prices of food, gas, electricity, fuel etc has affected everyone especially those who were already financially struggling.

We have seen the increase in demand for food parcels which is not a surprise at all.

Normally we receive referrals from school (both secondary and primary). Once referrals have been received, I contact the individual concerned and arranges a date and time for when these parcels can be collected. Chris or Neil/Jayne join Charles during the collection of the parcels. If the person is practically unable to come to collect the parcels then these are delivered, this used to be a rare occurrence but is becoming more regular.

I still have a sense that being seen to collect food parcels at School is a difficult thing to do for many people due to the stigma associated with it. Consequently, more people are not willing to come forward and get the support they need.

All our parcels that we give out to people are still collected from Open Hands.

For some people who are not aware, we (St Christopher's members) bring unperishable food item/s to church and put it in our collection bin. Once we have collected enough, we take the whole collection to Open Hands. In return, whenever we want some food parcels we will go and collect for about 10 families or more and distribute it until it is almost finished and go back to collect more. Therefore, as a church we always have some food parcels to give away to people in need.

This service is not limited to anyone, so in case you are struggling to make ends meet, please confidentially come and speak to Charles or Chris.

## Evangelistic Activities

### Door to Door Ministry

This ministry has been gradually growing. We have visited lots of houses and were able to offer prayers to some of these people. The team has been fantastic, and we were delighted to see Jayne and Di joining us. From our visits, occasionally we have seen people that we have visited able to join us for Craft Café. A handful of people we are still connected with even though we met about 3-4 years ago. Some of these people we have been able to go out for walks or have lunch together.

We also have had a number of positive experiences where some people want to be visited again and actually some good relationships have been established from these conversations.

We have continued to do these visits until the really cold weather when we took a break and have been focusing on prayer walking occasionally. Also, we have struggled sometime to visit as many houses as possible because of it getting dark early in the afternoon, which prevents us going out late and meet people, or it has been too cold to go out and expect people to stand at the door letting cold air in, while gas bill or electricity has gone up dramatically as we all know. We plan to start door to door ministry again as soon as the weather improves.

This door to door still feels like a slow banner ministry, but we believe God is faithful and with time, doors will be opened for his Kingdom to enter those homes.

I also still believe that every member of St Christopher's can be part of this mission, even if you do not physically come out to do it, as prayer cover is vital. Please pray for protection and God's guidance to lead the team to the right houses where God has already started his work and that people will happily open their doors to hear what we feel God through us wants to share with them. Please walk with us in prayer for this ministry.

### Alpha

We had a wonderful time running the Alpha Course which ran from September to December. 3 people started Alpha and two finished all 10 weeks. One of these people has gone on to the Hope Explored course in January.

The Alpha Course is a course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christians faith through a series of talks and discussions and runs for 10 to 12 weeks.

Neil and Jayne were the main leaders for the Alpha Course. Charles and Chris were mainly hosting.

We had a lovely time with the participants and are looking for ways to continue to support them on their faith journey.

Thank you all for praying and supporting these courses.





## 51st Leicester (St Christopher's) Scout Group by Rog Burdett



As some church members may be perhaps aware we have not reinstated a younger cub section post-pandemic, choosing to run one good section well rather than two poorly. Even here poor leadership availability through work has had some effect,

although this is now improved somewhat.

Numbers remain relatively low at 7-9 but not less than we have seen in a single section at times in recent years. We are a little anxious about not meeting the minimum numbers looked for by Scout Association policy but have historically been viewed favourably related to our commitment to function in a type of area less inhabited by scout groups.



Camping at John's Lee Wood

All that aside we have provided what we consider a very good programme for a good bunch of scouts but have been perplexed at times about some scouts seeming reluctant to participate in adventurous activities, even where there is no cost, a post lockdown phenomenon? The majority did camp for two nights at Field Head in August but varied lesser numbers took part in a 'wrong side' of Dovedale hike, a circumnavigation by bike of Rutland Water, a local 'incident hike' and a pool kayaking session.



All our activities look to enhancing the young peoples' life skills and to encourage them to look beyond themselves, specific activities this year have included fitness, cooking, home skills, first aid, fire safety, teamwork and disability awareness.

We do feel that we need to take opportunities to increase awareness in the community of our presence and ask that church members might take their part in that please, as well as praying

for the effectiveness of spiritual things communicated to the young people through ambience, deed and word.

Our thanks for your support.





Chantal and Roger on a Scouts cycle ride around Rutland Water

## Tea, Chat and Pray by Rita Early

After a break of two years, because of Covid, we re-started again on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

We now meet only bi-monthly, so have had just 5 meetings during the year. These have all been the second Sunday of the month, except in July when this fell within the summer holidays, so we met a week early.

Another change is that we no longer rotate around different houses, but meet at Mike and Rita's house. Although the pattern of an hour of eating and chatting and then an hour of pray is unchanged the emphasis of the prayer has changed, as we no longer pray for our own church matters.

The pattern of pray varies from month to month, but we tend to start with World events which this year has often been on the war in Ukraine, but also on events highlighted by Tearfund such as floods, famine and the impact of climate change on the poorest countries of the world. We also pray for the Mission of the month. There is always an update from our two *'home grown'* missionaries and we tend to finish with UK issues and some diocesan news.

Our numbers have ranged from a total of 5 to 8, so we have plenty of room for more!



## Little Angels by Rita Early

We've had a busy year! With our numbers now back to pre-Covid levels, averaging around 15-20 children each session and almost as many adults. Our lowest total (children and adults) numbers for a session was just 14 and our highest 45. That makes a lot of washing up, especially as we are still giving refreshments out on individual plates, to reduce the risk of Covid infection. We are still limiting the use of some of our equipment, like the ball pool, as it is too difficult to disinfect, but we plan to reinstate these in the New Year.

We closed Little Angels twice in February; once for Brian Heggs' funeral and once when I caught Covid. Fortunately this was over the half-term, so it only affected one meeting.

As usual a number of older children left in the summer, but these were replaced by an unusually large number of younger babies. It has been a joy to watch them develop from crawling to toddling - the excitement is wonderful when a child starts walking for the first time!

### The Team

Charles and Sarah are very loyal members of the team. Thanks also to Chris and Mike who have stepped in on occasions. Thanks go to members of the congregation who stop to put out equipment after the service on a Sunday and Chris and Charles for putting out the heavy equipment for Friday, taking over from the Explorer Scouts, who stopped meeting on a Thursday evening last Christmas.

Some of our clients are pleased to hear that the club is supported by more than the two people they see on club mornings!



*Father Christmas*

As usual we have marked Easter, Harvest and Christmas; which we celebrated by our Christingle Service and also by a party - our Father Christmas was again one of our dads. We also had a special celebration for the Queen's Jubilee.

Each term we try to grow something and we have had real success with our hyacinths, but despite the hot summer only a few really large sunflowers were grown. Parents were keen to photograph their successes with their child included for scale!

It has been interesting to meet people from far and wide reflecting the greater diversity of Leicester; we currently have people from many countries in Europe, also from Africa, and Chile and a lovely lady from Russia - a real positive ambassador for her country. We have also had a greater mix of religions with both Hindus and Muslims, who are quite prepared to come into a Christian Church and join us when we celebrate our festivals.

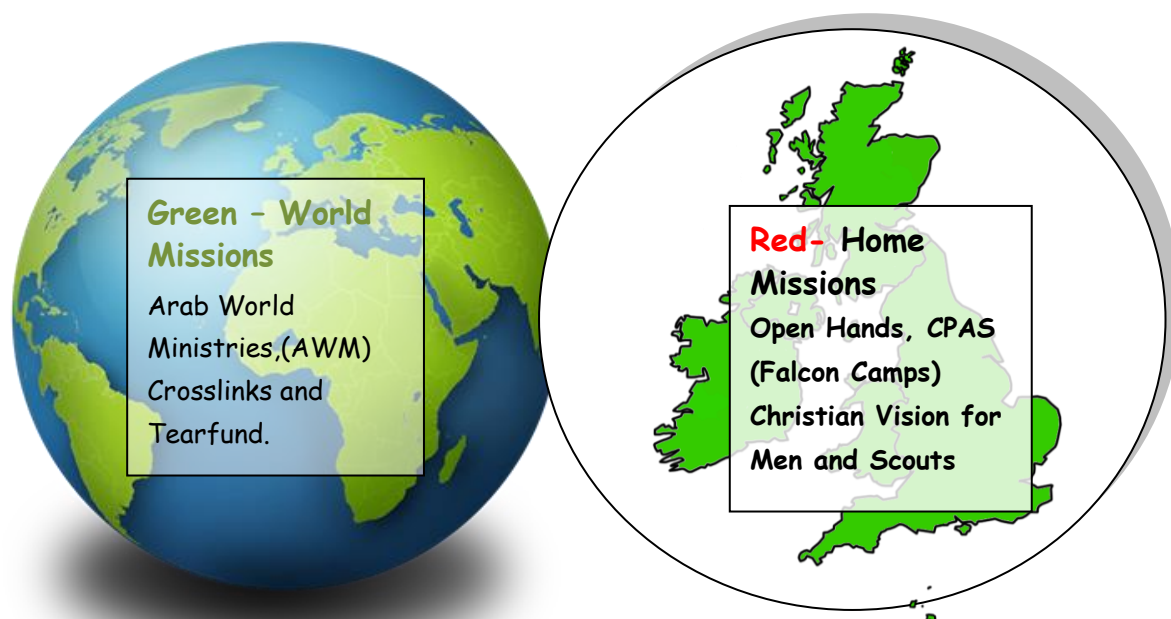


*Party time*



## Mission Report by Rita Early

Our Mission support is balanced between our support of Home and World missions



We support a mission each month, which is explained in the monthly news sheet and on the mission noticeboard. Contributions are collected in the Pringles Tin.

The PCC also gives a contribution to the missions.

|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January AWM</b><br>Persecution of Christians in Afghanistan.                                                             | <b>February CPAS</b><br>Plans for Holidays to go ahead this summer, post Covid and for training for new volunteers                                   | <b>March Tearfund</b><br>Our annual hunger lunch focused on Rwanda and reconciliation after the genocide of 1994.                                             |
| <b>April AWM</b><br>This year Ramadan roughly coincided with the month of April. What is the Christian response to Ramadan? | <b>May Crosslinks</b><br>Moldova is a small country which is fearful that it will be the next country after Ukraine to be targeted by Russia.        | <b>June Scouts</b><br>The group was planning an adventurous programme for the summer with the 10-13 year olds; the one section to have survived the pandemic. |
| <b>July Open Hands</b><br>The month's appeal is for 'Pamper Treats' to show love to people in need.                         | <b>August CPAS Falcons</b><br>The first time since 2019 that a full holiday programme could go ahead.                                                | <b>September Tearfund</b><br>Floods in Pakistan have affected 15% of the population.                                                                          |
| <b>October Open Hands</b><br>The economic situation means that there is an increased demand for their support.              | <b>November CVM</b><br><b>Paul Gask and Christian Vision for Men</b><br>After a difficult two years, because of the pandemic, 'all system go' again. | <b>December Tearfund</b><br>After COP27, how will Climate change affect the poorest countries if targets are not met?                                         |

Two people, who grew up in our church, are now working in sensitive areas. We regularly pray for them at our monthly TCP meetings.



There have been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod in the past year in March, July and November. Unfortunately due to other commitments I have only been able to attend one which was the November one. However, I provide details on what was on the agenda for the other two meetings. Due to Covid19 restrictions the March meeting was on zoom whereas the other two meetings were back to meeting in person. A social meeting was arranged in September but again I was unable to attend that night. There have been numerous emails throughout the year publicising events which may be of interest and information what is happening in the Diocese which have been useful.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

At this meeting discussion was around Accessible Church Training with a presentation from a Diocesan Disability Advisor. The aim was being to make the Church accessible for all people. Recognising that Disability can be found in many different ways and not always visible.. This was followed by an update on the Wyggestons Hospice.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

At this meeting we had a presentation from the Bishop's Social Policy Advisor on Social Responsibility. This was followed by a presentation on financial giving by a Generous Giving Advisor from the Diocese.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

This meeting was all about Vocations with several members of the Diocese Vocations Ministry team there to talk about taking up a vocation in ministry within the Diocese. This was followed by a parish update for St Luke's Stocking Farm and Christ the King at Beaumont Leys.