

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GRANBOROUGH

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023

Clergy's Report

By Rev Petra Elsmore

This Annual Report covers the calendar year of 2022.

Each year when I collect and read the reports from various members of our congregation, when I look back through the diary and read through the past Pew News and through the minutes of the last year PCC meetings, in preparation for our Annual Meeting, it amazes me how much happens through the year, how many different activities take place, how much to be thankful for.

The year started still with many affected by Covid and we have for the first few weeks of the year streamed services from this church via zoom, however as time went on, everything seemed to return slowly back to normal. At times we still feel the impact of the pandemic, the attendance numbers took time to recover near to those before Covid but we carry on faithfully and have much to be proud of, much to reflect on and explore new possibilities.

We recognize that as part of our outreach, a regular contact with the village community is important. We have seen a successful re-launch of coffee mornings in March and soon the 3 Cs became very popular and appreciated by the village community. Art and craft family sessions at April, with the Easter Egg Hunt, and at Christmas have also seen a very good attendance. We have already run two more of these sessions this year. We have also had a café church in September and agreed to run Café church on 5th Sundays whenever possible.

Several special services took place through 2022, some of them jointly with North Marston congregation.

In April we held Good Friday Meditative Service for which North Marston congregation joined us.

We then joined Rogation Sunday Family Service at Dancers' Farm in North Marston. In July we had a joint service on 5th Sunday held at Rookery Farm and followed by a picnic.

We should also remember the special services we held as part of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June and then sadly the services following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The services were fitting occasion to remember the long and faithful reign and service of our late Queen.

At the end of September, we have celebrated Harvest and after 3 years were finally able to hold Harvest Supper followed by the produce auction.

In November we joined North Marston for Service of Light and Thanksgiving to remember those who died.

Our Christmas services were fully enjoyed, with excellent Christingle Service lead by Peter Evans, Lovely Nativity Service, Carols by Candlelight Service and well attended Christmas Day Service. Again, it was for the first time since Covid, that we were able to celebrate Christmas with no restrictions.

Together with North Marston, we have enjoyed Lent Course using the book Embracing Justice by Isabelle Hamley and Advent Course sharing our favourite Christmas Carols both run jointly with North Marston.

In July, much effort was put into our Church Fete, which was hosted by the Ellertons. It was well supported event and raised great £1111.13.

Pastoral care is an integral part of our church life. Visiting among friends, looking out and seeing the needs of others, something that happens within this community regularly but should never be taken for granted. We are thankful to the Eyes and Ears group for their contribution.

These occasional offices took place during 2022

Funeral Services

Burial of June Swain in February, following the service which took place in North Marston church.

Funeral service of Pam Ginger in March, followed by burial.

Burial of ashes of Sheila Beckett in March.

Funeral Service of George Barrett in March (held in Aylesbury Vale Crematorium), and burial of his ashes in our churchyard in November.

Wedding Services

The Wedding of Thomas Ellerton and Jennifer Coward in September.

There were no baptism services in 2022.

One of the things that dominated our church life this year is the Church Tower Restoration Project on which Peter Evans prepared a separate report. However let me say, that this project has taken many years in preparation before we have seen the start of the work this February. Already before I have joined you 4 and half years ago, Jenny Dean and the fundraising committee have laid the foundation and started to raise the initial funds, and we are very grateful for all the work they put into this. Then everything went on hold during the pandemic. We have started again at the end of 2021 and through the last year. Lots of work went into publicity, grant applications, meeting with our architect, keeping up with the financial side of things, checking the progress of the repairs. Let me therefore thank Jenny Dean and her fundraising team for getting us started on this. Nick and Debbie Thompson for their contribution in producing our leaflet, and Debbie for the financial oversight as our treasurer. Peter Evans for overseeing the grants application and lots of the administrative oversight, Robert Kemp and Alison Rosser for keeping in touch with the architect and Robert for reading carefully through contracts and lots of paperwork that comes our way. All of it includes hours of work and commitment. We are all very grateful for your contribution.

At the end of the year we have launched our new website, that we use jointly with North Marston Church and the Wesley Centre. I hope that you log on to it from time to time. I do my best to keep it updated, weekly. You can find sermons there, information on all our activities, Pew News, please, do check it out.

I would like to finish with some thanks.

I am grateful to those who participate in services, those who read, write prayers, lead us in singing, help out with the PA system and provide us with refreshment, those who set up the church every week and tidy afterwards and keep us warm in the winter months. Lots of work goes into enabling us to gather and worship regularly and enjoy our fellowship, so thank you for all that you do in the service to God and our church.

Thank you to those who lead our family services and preach, we enjoy the lay ministry of Peter Evans, Robert Kemp, Richard Webster, and also of David Bayly and Mark Payne from North Marston.

I am very grateful to Janet Bayly for her ministry, her support as a colleague and for all that she does within this parish through her pastoral work. She has faithfully served this community for many years and it's been privilege for me to work alongside her.

Many thanks to all those who serve on the PCC, for their time as they prayerfully oversee the running of this church and take on the responsibilities that serving the PCC involves.

A big thank you to Alison and Robert as the churchwardens, for all their hard work and their commitment to our church.

And finally thank you to all of you for participating, helping out when needed and making this church community a place where we can through worship, Christian fellowship and service grow in faith, and come closer to God.

Churchwarden's Report

By Alison Rosser

This last year has been very eventful and productive. We saw our target reached for the tower restoration and give many thanks for this. Peter has spent many hours on fundraising, approaching trusts and charities and raising village awareness. Robert has also attended numerous meetings with architects, contractors, stone masons and other parties involved.

We are thankful to have ministry and leadership from Petra and Janet and we will continue to pray and support them. Lay led worship is also well received and we welcome those people who participate.

Our church yard is well kept not only by contractors but people who clear and weed the surrounding areas.

The Clock is valued by the village and has to be maintained in the tower.

Our photo board is a welcome sight on entering the church, showing that we are a live thriving church. Pastoral care and visits are part of our village engagement.

The monthly pew news is collated, edited, printed and delivered to every house in the village.

A collection point for the food bank is always available, this is faithfully delivered to the depot where it is needed by many.

Our church is cleaned and brass polished by a group of volunteers. Flowers are arranged by a small group of people during the year.

We have a church that remains open in the day so people can feel free to visit. A list of key holders ensure that this is possible.

In the cold weather our church is heated, these fires need lighting early in the morning before the services. Coal is ordered to ensure ample supplies are held.

The church is prepared by people every Sunday, ensuring the many tasks are completed before worship. Communion elements are set in place.

Intercessors and readers take part every week. Our music group enhances our worship and we value this.

At the end of our church service, we enjoy refreshments, time to have fellowship together.

Having mentioned all these tasks and activities, we want to thank everybody who volunteers to fulfil these jobs, thus maintaining the structure and framework of our church fellowship and building.

Our PCC meet regularly together, we value every member.

We pray for our church, that we will move forward and reach out to our village in the love of God.

Church Tower Restoration Project

By Peter Evans

As most of you will know, we achieved our funding target in early 2023 and work started on restoring the church tower a few weeks ago on the 6th of March.

We have been really blessed in how the whole project has come together. God's hand has been on the process since the beginning, and it is great to see the work progressing. The journey to get here has been quite a long one. Fundraising started in earnest in 2019, with some activity going on well before then. Then, towards the end of 2021, the PCC decided to engage a professional fundraising consultant. Although we would do all the leg work, they would craft the applications and point us in the right direction. This proved to be a good decision, and grant awards started to appear throughout last year.

Finally, in October 2022, we started to engage with the wider village, through presentations, leaflets and personal contacts. And over the last 6 months, personal donations have poured in to the fund to help us reach our target. It is no understatement to say that I have been blown away by people's generosity. God has touched people's hearts and moved them to give, not just in money, but also in time and effort. God has really done this. He has put the money in our bank account, and thank you to all of you who have responded to His call and given so generously.

Are we home and dry yet? Well, probably not. The first stage of work on the tower has shown that the stonework is in worse condition than expected. We are likely to be looking at some structural repairs, as well as adding some facing stone where the degradation is worst. Most likely, we can expect to see the cost go up, but as yet, we have no idea by how much. But I'm sure that as we move into this next phase, God will be with us as we rebuild.

Senior Crew Report

By Robert Kemp

Reading my last Crew report to this meeting a year ago I see it references the previous year and covid restrictions and even in the 2022 report it mentions being constrained on a number of occasions by covid again. It all seems a distant memory now. Our usual format of fun, food and a bit of teaching continued to our group of about fifteen. We are affiliated to the Urban Saints national organisation who sort out our insurance and keep us up to speed with safeguarding and DBS issues but from whom we also buy teaching material. We do very vaguely follow a curriculum but skip or adapt bits of it to suit.

We continued to support the Ukrainian appeal and at the meetings explored amongst other things: Doubt, failure, success, guilt, stealing, love, interdependence and patience.

We also visited the futility of the gunpowder plot but, always trying to see the best in any situation, managed to console ourselves with a bonfire, sparklers, hot dogs, marshmallows and hot chocolate. Liz wasn't available to attend that evening but the mother who very kindly helped looked askance at my assurances that allowing the guys to light their own sparklers from a four metre high roaring bonfire was in line with our risk assessment. We looked at remembrance through the lens of some very good material from the holocaust memorial trust where we challenged ourselves with the question "what would we have done?"

At Christmas the amazing Liz again hosted our end of term party which she organised as a murder mystery. This was a great success, tinged with a little sadness as it was pretty well the last time we saw our senior group Casey, Emma, Thomas and Amy who now have A levels and work. With Billy and Grace moving on earlier we are now a bit short

on numbers. The seniors were a really useful group adding so much to our dynamic. Despite being a bit short at the younger end we have a good core of year eight to tens presided over by own captain sensible, Kerensa whose younger brother Lowen, being landed with the role of the murderer at the party carried it off with such conviction.

We are having a bit of a relaunch next week with some new advertising and a pizza party. We're now going to open our input to year five upwards and bring our start time forward by half an hour to seven O'clock. As any parents who have to pick up will tell you, we do have a bit of a habit of over running which might be a bit of a late finish for the younger ones. Obviously, we won't be chucking anybody out in a hurry and there's always biscuits and chat to be had.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

By Barbara Guiver

Unfortunately, we have lost one member on the Electoral Roll this year. We have however gained three new members, so the Roll now stands at 60.

Music Group Report

By Barbara Guiver

The Music Group was formed in 2007 following a Vision Meeting of the PCC. It was discussed how 'it would be good to harness more people into worship using their musical talents'.

The present Music Group do their best to support the church by getting together on a Sunday morning before the service begins to go through the hymns. In this way we aim to give a lead to the singing. We have grown in confidence and until recently were often required unexpectedly to sing unaccompanied when the CDs suddenly stopped. Technology and those who understand it have sorted this problem out.

I'm pleased to say we have almost doubled in number since last year. We now have 12 in the group. During the past year we have sung at funerals and weddings and it was a privilege to sing two beautiful anthems under the leadership of Charlie Calver at the wedding of Jennifer Coward and Thomas Ellerton in September. We are now looking forward to Nicola and Michael's wedding in June.

It's always a joy to lead the singing session at Cafe Zest as it is to sing in the Community Choir in Quainton. In contrast Choral Evensong, also in Quainton, is becoming a regular date for some of us.

If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us. Singing is good for our general well being. It's a social activity and you are guaranteed to make friends and have fun.

Safeguarding Report

We are grateful for Nikki Day to continue as our Safeguarding Officer. She ensures that all our church officers have up to date DBS Checks. She has also agreed to oversee our Data Protection Policy. At present, both Safeguarding Policy and Data Protection Notice are up to date.

Treasurers Report on the Finances for the calendar year 1 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022

GRANBOROUGH PCC - TREASURERS REPORT 2022

As can be seen from the Profit and Loss account, our income increased in 2022 by around £32,000. Some of this is due to the growth of our Tower Fund, however, I can report that the income in the general fund has increased by around £8,000; partly from an increase in our giving through PGS in the sum of around £4,000. Also we had a higher income from weddings and funerals. The balance in our general account is just under 25% higher than it was at the end of 2021.

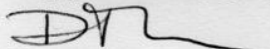
I believe that we are in such a healthy position because of the uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme. If any of our congregation would like to switch to this method of worshipful giving, please speak to me and I will arrange it. I confirm that both our Parish Share has been paid in full as has our contribution to Schorne Team.

With regard to the Tower Fund, this has continued to grow steadily. We received funds in the sum of just over £23,000 from our first successful grant applications. Further funds were raised from the return of the Summer Fete (£1,474.66), donations (£1,272.30) and other fundraising (£677.50).

Refer to table below for allocation of funds:

Restoration	£6,239.02	Deposit A/C CBF	£5,393.28
Bell Fund	£541.00	Cheque A/C TSB	£9,239.97
Friends of Granborough	£0.00	Tower A/C TSB	£74,069.32
Churchyard	£0.00	Petty Cash	£6.95
General	£7,860.18		
Tower Fund	£74,069.32		
	£88709.52		£88709.52

Matthew Goss has taken on the role of Independent Examiner this year and has signed off the accounts and is satisfied that the accounts fairly represent the financial position of the Parish of Granborough. He has confirmed that he will be happy to examine our 2023 accounts.



DEBORAH THOMPSON
Treasurer - 31 December 2022

Granborough Parochial Church Council - St John the Baptist
BALANCE SHEET / BANK RECONCILIATION / ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET			BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31 DECEMBER 2021 (Lloyds TSB Current Account)		
1st January 2022			General Account		
Central Board of Finance/CCLA	£ 5,323.27		Open Balance Cash Book	£ 7,668.56	Closing balance bank statement £ 13,567.86
TSB - General Account	£ 7,668.56		Plus receipts	£ 46,605.32	Less cheques not presented £ 135.00
TSB - Tower Fund Account	£ 47,644.86		Less payments	£ 45,033.91	1430 ODBoF £ 233.00
Petty cash	£ 6.95		Balance c/f	£ 9,239.97	1457 Crisis £ 455.00
Balance b/fwd	£ 60,686.14				1458 Morgan Fire Protection £ 205.53
Profit / (Loss) for 2022	£ 28,023.38				1459 Salvation Army £ 455.00
Retained Income 31 Dec 2022	£ 88,709.52		Tower Fundraising Account		
			Opening Balance	£ 47,644.86	1460 A Adams £ 1,950.00
			Plus receipts	£ 26,424.46	1461 E Moll £ 28.92
			Less payments	£ -	1462 P Evans £ 164.49
			Balance c/f	£ 74,069.32	1463 Helen & Douglas House £ 167.88
					1464 Christian Aid £ 167.88
					1465 K G Smith & Sons £ 365.19
31st December 2022			Balance as per cash book	£ 74,069.32	Bank balance as per cash book £ 9,239.97
Central Board of Finance/CCLA	£ 5,393.28				
TSB General A/c	£ 9,239.97				
TSB Tower Fund	£ 74,069.32				
Petty cash	£ 6.95				
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS			CHURCHYARD		
Friends of Granborough			Balance b/f		£ -
Income			Income		£ -
Gift Aid	£ -		Tax Refund		£ -
Restoration	£ 6,239.02		Less payments		£ -
Tower Fund	£ 74,069.32		Boxes	£ 700.00	£ 1,950.00
Bell fund	£ 541.00		Tax refund	£ -	£ -
Churchyard	£ -		Less Payments	£ -	Shortfall trf to general fund £ 1,950.00
General	£ 7,860.18		Organ Cost	£ 162.00	Closing Balance £ -
			Insurance	£ 1,364.79	
			Maint of & new extinguishers	£ 76.03	Restoration
			Quinquennial Report 2019	£ 375.00	Balance b/f
			Maint/Test Lighting Pro System		Income
			Tower Inspection & Report		Interest received
			Shortfall trf to general fund	£ 1,277.82	Closing Balance £ 6,239.02
Petty cash reconciliation					
Opening balance	£ 49.45		Balance b/f		£ 47,644.86
Plus cash introduced (Receipts)	£ -		Income		
Plus cash introduced (Payments))	£ -				
Less cash spent (Payments)	£ 42.50		Bell fund income		£ 23,000.00
Closing Balance	£ 6.95		Balance b/f	£ 541.00	Summer Fete £ 1,109.66
			Income		Harvest Supper £ 365.00
			Donation	£ -	Donations £ 1,272.30
			Closing balance	£ 541.00	Fundraising £ 677.50
					Closing Balance £ 74,069.32

St John the Baptist Church, Granborough

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St John the Baptist Church,
Granborough, Parochial Church Council**

I report on the year ending 31st December 2022, as set out below.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Introductory comments. The accounts and supporting documentation supplied are maintained in a tidy and orderly fashion by the appointed Treasurer and with extensive supporting documentation and annotations which are clear and transparent. These cover both the general account and the separate bank account established for the purpose of financing repairs to the tower which has been credited with the proceeds of fundraising activities, donations and grants. The deposits attributed to this account are incorporated in the statements for the PCC.

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements
a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed MTC Name MATTHEW GOSS

Date 22nd April 2023