



**REPORTS FOR ST AIDAN'S  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
MEETING**

**28 May 2023**

*Our aim is to be a worshipping, serving, sacrificing community,  
following the example of Jesus Christ*



## INDEX OF REPORTS

Items	Page
Introduction	4
PCC membership 2022/23	7
Agendas	8
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2022	9
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 2022	10
Elections of Officers to the PCC/church roles	12
<b>Statutory Reports:</b>	
Allerton Deanery Report	13
Church Wardens' report	15
Electoral Roll Report	16
PCC Secretary's Report	17
(Statement of Financial Activities 2022 – please see separate document)	
<b>Other Reports of Ministries, Groups and Activities</b>	
Bankside Primary School	22
FoodShare	23
HELP	25
Ministry among Middle Eastern friends/New Christian Nurture Group	27
Music Director's Report	29
Safeguarding Report	30
Serving Team	31
Sunday School Report	32
ZINAFE Report	34

## Introduction

***My dear friends and people of God at St Aidan's,***

Today may be APCM Sunday, but today, above all, is Pentecost Day. And this we celebrate. We celebrate the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and God's revelation of his divine Word and Will. And let us note...

... on Pentecost day, God spoke outside the walls of temple religiosity and outside the halls of political power. God spoke in the streets. The divine voice became manifest in all languages and in all peoples. On Pentecost day and in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit God spoke in the common tongue of the everyday and the everywhere through everyday and everywhere people.

And on that day these everyday and everywhere people, friends and followers of the crucified and risen Jesus, went forward and preached, and Jews from all over the world, gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Weeks and the giving of the law, heard the disciples speak in their own languages, and many came to believe that Jesus was and is God's chosen Messiah.

And, my friends and people of God, ... Pentecost did not just happen once, a long, long time ago.

What do I mean? There are, in Luke's Acts of the Apostles, 'multiple Pentecosts'; multiple times, when the Spirit is poured out, amazing things happen, and people come to faith. Think about when Philip baptises the Ethiopian Eunuch, think about Paul's conversion, think about Peter's "conversion" to a more universal understanding of the Way in his encounter with Cornelius, think of the many stories from the book of Acts we have read during Eastertide.

Each of these stories represents a repetition and extension of the power of the Holy Spirit that starts at Pentecost but continues throughout the history of the early church through to the present day.

Our God is a God of many tongues. A God of many peoples. A God who does not have an official language. Our God is a God who speaks through all and is present in all, who not only welcomes all languages but also actively becomes incarnate through them.

And a people and congregation of many languages and accents we are at St Aidan's, set in a parish and neighbourhood and community of even more languages and accents, called to love and serve and challenge and change, and be changed from glory into glory.

And we try to love and serve and challenge and change, and be changed, by listening carefully to the gospel — the good news — of Pentecost.

For on the day God moved in fiery inspiration, God gave the divine voice to all the languages, to the marginalised, to the street. So we do well to participate in Pentecost with this in mind, listening for the voice of God among the silenced, the powerless, the ignored, the hungry, the stranger, the forgotten, the oppressed, the nobodies.

And we try that through our various ministries, through the passions we share, through the services we offer, through the mission we follow, telling Good News, being Good News - the Good News of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ in our parish and beyond.

Worship, occasional offices and pastoral care, young people's work and school links, FoodShare, FoodCycle, WarmSpace and Holiday lunch clubs, language classes and work with asylum seekers, offering an affordable community space for regular and one off bookings and celebrations, we constantly reach out and stretch ourselves to love and to serve, and often do so sacrificially, costly for ourselves.

And my thanks to all of you who are part of this, part of this loving and serving, of this offering and reaching out, this stretching and being stretched...

...by joining our worship, and by contributing to its weekly and daily round in music, serving and leading, preparing the weekly sheet and the flowers, setting up and stewarding, offering refreshments and leading prayers, reading and preaching...

...by giving financially to the work of the church. And please continue doings so, and continue to do so regularly...

...by volunteering for our various ministries and services as mentioned above, you are all amazing and without you so much we do would just not be possible...

...by serving on the PCC or as an officer, by filling the roles of administrator, caretaker and project worker, by doing so many of the unseen and often overlooked little things which need to happen for things to tick over, to grow and flourish...

...by being proactive in asking the question 'what can I do' 'how can I help' and following through...

... giving thanks for all of you and praying for strength for all of us as we continue to love and serve, to offer and reach out, to change and being changed.

Pentecost is also about presence.

In a disorienting time, after Jesus had left, the Spirit came. And somehow, his friends knew that Jesus was with them in a different sort of way. New, yes. But also familiar. In the wind and fire they somehow found strength and presence. They could sense the connection between themselves and God, and they could also see that the fire rested on every one of them.

The very presence of that other person brought the presence of God so near that they could hear it in a word of comfort, feel it in a handshake, see it in a kind look.

And what to do about our presence as a Church in worship and service is a question we, like every church community, have to ask of ourselves again and again.

How do we continue our presence strongly in our parish and local community?

How do we witness to God's presence in word and deed?

What do we need to develop in our building(s) to serve God's presence best?

How do we have to change and where do we have to stay constant in an ever changing world?

How do we need to grow in grace and numbers to continue to be that presence and develop further?

With our building needing work both to keep going and best to serve its purpose (the roof, the heating system, a servery, storage space, upgrading of lighting and sound, new chairs etc) we need to formulate our way into the future, and we need to do so together.

So, watch this space! And when the opportunity comes, get involved!

For, my friends, people of God, people of Pentecost, God wants, God needs to act today: in us and through us and with us, in union with Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

On Pentecost, God spoke. And the people in the streets understood. Pray that you and I, too, open our ears and eyes and hearts today.

***With all my thanks, and all my love and prayers: Mother Andi***

## **PCC membership 2022/23**

Chair: The Revd Canon Andi Hofbauer, vicar

Lay Chair: Gill Gibbons (2023)

PCC secretary: Cynthia Wilson (2024)

PCC Treasurer: John England (2025)

GS: Joyce Hill (2026)

DS: Carolynne Pepper (2023)

DS: Sarah Rutty (2023)

Jay Adlnia (2024)

TK Chinembiri (2024)

Roland Dee (2023)

Tony Esfandani (2024)

Mahnaz Rajabi (2023)

Ex officio: The Revd Dr Sally Osborn, assistant curate

*(20xx) indicates the year the elected person's term of office finishes*

**St. Aidan's Church, Leeds**

***Annual Vestry Meeting***

*Sunday 28 May 2022*

*AGENDA*

- 1 Prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 8 May 2022
- 4 Election of Church Wardens and Deputy Church Wardens

***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

*Sunday 28 May 2023*

*AGENDA*

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 8 May 2022
- 3 Annual Reports
- 4 Acceptance of Reports
- 5 Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities 2022
- 6 Election of Independent Examiner
- 7 Elections to the Parochial Church Council: four (4) members for a three-year membership; three (3) members for a two-year membership. We can also co-opt two (2) members for a one-year membership.
- 8 Elections to Deanery Synod: four (4) representatives
- 9 Looking ahead/Closing Notices



**St. Aidan's Church, Leeds**

***Annual Vestry Meeting***

*Sunday 8 May 2022*

*MINUTES*

Numbers present: 16

1. Mother Andi welcomed everybody and started the meeting with prayers.
2. **Apologies:** Tony Esfandani, Jay Adlnia, Mahnaz Rajabi, Dr Roland Dee, Fr Paul Hunt, Reza Ghorbani, Caroline Ugbo, Marion Blinkhorn, Barrie Pepper, Ros Lehany

3. **Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting on Sunday 25 April 2021**

**Proposal:** To accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Gill Gibbons; Seconded: Joyce Hill. Agreed unanimously.

4. **Election of Church Wardens and Deputy Church Wardens**

There are no nominations for the office of Church Warden this year.

There are two nominations for the office of Deputy Warden:

**Pat Dennis. Proposed: Ros Lehany; Seconded: Andy Jones**

**Reza Tavakoli. Proposed: Caroline Ugbo; Seconded: Marion Blinkhorn**

**Both were elected unanimously.**

Mother Andi congratulated them on their election and thanked them both for their work and support during the last year.

## ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

*Sunday 8 May 2022*

### **MINUTES**

1 **Apologies:** Tony Esfandani, Jay Adlnia, Mahnaz Rajabi, Dr Roland Dee, Fr Paul Hunt, Reza Ghorbani, Caroline Ugbo, Marion Blinkhorn, Barrie Pepper, Ros Lehany

### **2 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 25 April 2021**

**Proposal:** To accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Carolynne Pepper; Seconded: Sarah Ruddy. Agreed unanimously

### **3 Annual Reports**

A package of Annual Reports and a separate Statement of Financial Activities and Treasurer's report have been available in hard copy before the meeting and circulated by email with the weekly Catch-up.

The following correction is made on page 7, PCC membership: Joyce Hill's term of office ends not in 2025, but in 2026.

### **4 Acceptance of Reports**

After a short introduction and discussion, the reports were accepted by the meeting.

**Proposal:** To accept the circulated reports with the above correction.

Proposed: Clare Newton; Seconded: Cynthia Wilson

Agreed unanimously

Thanks was expressed towards those who have worked on the APCM package. It was noted that it is remarkable that the work of mission and ministry has continued to the level within all the challenges of the last year.

### **5 Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities 2021**

The accounts for 2021 were submitted to the West Yorkshire Community Accounting Services (WYCAS) for Independent Examination and were passed as being in full accordance with the requirements laid down by the Charity Commission.

The Treasurer's report is required to cover three areas: one that we are financially viable, which we are due to our sizable reserves, for which steps need to be taken to maintain this; two that our fundraising practices are ethical, which they are; three that monies raised are used for public benefit according to our charitable purposes, which they are.

John England, Treasurer, spoke to the Statement of Financial Activities and his report and highlighted the following:

The PCC generated incoming resources of £93,281; total expenditure amounted to £99,280 resulting in an overall deficit of £5,907. The unrestricted reserves of the PCC declined by £6,033 which largely equates to the cost of the roof survey, which the PCC agreed to fund from the reserves.

2021 was the first year we designated funds as 'restricted funds', in particular for the FoodShare.

The setting and tracking of the budget for 2021 has been successful. A budget has been set for 2022 and budget holders have been designated for various areas.

The Parish Share last year was paid in full. The income from IntoUniversity & telecom mast are the main contributors towards meeting the Share.

The loan which had been on the balance sheet for years has been written off the balance sheet.

Thanks was expressed to WYCAS for the efficiency in pulling together the accounts and the transparency of the reporting and independent examination.

The Treasurer thanked Caroline Ugbo, Pat Case, TK Chinembiri and Ros Lehany for their assistance and opened the floor for any comments and questions.

Thanks was expressed to John for the clarity of his report and the presented accounts and for all the hard work he has been putting in throughout the year.

## **6 Election of Independent Examiner**

**Proposal:** To appoint WYCAS as Independent Examiners for the 2022 accounts.  
Proposed: Joyce Hill; Seconded: John England  
Agreed Unanimously

**7 Elections to the Parochial Church Council: four (three years) members, one member (one year) and two co-options**

Mother Andi thanked John England, Anahita Mousavi, Deborah Blackman and Farshid Tajvar who are finishing their terms of office at the 2022 APCM. She also thanked Margaret Stoute who has tendered her resignation with immediate effect.

We have received the following nomination for membership of the Parochial Church Council:

**John England. Proposed: Amir Mirazie; Seconded: Vanessa Lyn. Elected unanimously.**

**8 Elections to Deanery Synod: two vacancies for a one-year membership**

The two vacancies on Deanery Synod remain unfilled.

Mother Andi thanked Carolynne Pepper and Sarah Rutty for their work and continuing representation of the church at Deanery Synod.

Joyce Hill remains on the Parochial Church Council by virtue of being elected to General Synod. Her term of office runs until 2026.

**9 Looking ahead/Closing Notices**

A thank you was extended to all PCC members, Pat Case, Maureen Hall and Caroline Ugbo, to FoodShare volunteers, to servers, to Dr Dee and the choir members, to Farsi and Kurdish interpreters, to Pat Saunders for her generous and cheerful support for our website, to clergy colleagues and lay leaders and preachers, to Irma Heyliger for her work with the young people, and to all for their faithfulness. Thanks was expressed to Mother Andi from the floor.

**The Grace** was said.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

**A short PCC meeting was held to elect officers:** The members present elect Gill Gibbons as Lay Chair, John England as Treasurer, Cynthia Wilson as PCC Secretary, and within the church: Ros Lehany as Electoral Roll officer, Barrie Pepper as Information Officer, and Caroline Ugbo as Minute taker.

## Statutory Reports

### Report to St Aidan's APCM – Deanery Synod Sarah Ruddy and Carolynne Pepper

Since the last Deanery synod report for St Aidan's APCM, there have been some significant events within annual synodical calendar.

In May the meeting focused on sustainability and issues raised after the COP26 conference, with presentations from parish groups across the city. Key points included:

- Statistics on emissions – 600 places of worship in Diocese – information available on fuel usage from 2/3 of the buildings
- Emissions – these will depend on size and usage of buildings and they need to be monitored
- Six step programme – DAC recommend (1) formation of a team to look at sustainability which will include building expertise, financial acumen, church warden, stakeholders etc. (2) Use of Diocesan tool kit (3) heating check list (4) energy audit (5) use of Diocesan energy advisers Chris Yates and Andy Moore (6) understanding of all the options available for sustainability
- Diocesan Environmental policy – Explanation of the easing of faculty jurisdiction rules – there will be more scope in lists A & B. Policy is broken into topics (1) building churchyards and heating (2) lighting (3) renewable generation (4) sustainable design (5) transport to church
- Questions: Why does this topic matter? What does DAC mean by? How can PCC act on this? Where can information be obtained?

**The Deanery Service was hosted by St Aidan's, on June 21<sup>st</sup> which also included a pre-service display on the theme of 'Seeing Asylum'**

A key change within local synodical arrangements, which had been discussed with members in the previous year – as reported in the Deanery Synod report to St Aidan's APCM, 2022, was the re-organisation of the area parishes into 3 new deaneries.

A farewell service for the final meeting of the Allerton Deanery was held on Tuesday 15th November at St Edmunds Church, Roundhay as a celebration of the work and business of the deanery over the years, including prayers and pudding

Bishop Arun Arora, attended synod after his appointment to the see of Kirkstall in July 2022, and sent his first letter to synod following this service

**Extract from letter to all Leeds Deaneries from Bishop Arun – November 2022**  
**New Deaneries, Area Deans & New Deaneries Service**

*Our 3 New deaneries came into being on the 1st of November 2022. I am grateful to Area Deans and Assistant Area Deans both past and present for their work on behalf of parishes in their roles, in transition of the old deaneries into the new and for preparing for the service on **30th November at St Matt's Burley**. Our meeting that night will start at 7pm with the election of lay deanery chairs as members of the laity meet together and time for clergy to gather together with me ahead of the service at 7.30pm. Please do make every effort to attend.*

*As part of the service we will be commissioning our new Area and Assistant Area Deans for the new deaneries as well as having an opportunity to thank those who are stepping down. They are:*

**Deanery North West Leeds**

*Area Dean: Joanna Seaborne*

*Assistant Area Dean Dave Young*

**Deanery of East Leeds**

*Area Dean: Anne Russell*

*Assistant Area Dean: Andi Hofbauer*

**Deanery of South Leeds**

*Area Dean: Phil Harris*

*Assistant Area Dean: Sarah Hancox*

His letter also focussed on other areas that he wanted members of synod to consider and pray for:

**Cost of Living Crisis** – which also anticipated the warm space initiative, which St Aidan's has been participating in by offering a warm place for lunch on Tuesdays

**Opportunities for Service With Mother's Union**

**Refugees in West Yorkshire**

**Next meeting Leeds Area Forum on April 27 2023**

## **Report on the Fabric, Goods And Ornaments of the Church**

### **Overview**

The long term security and stewardship of all our Fabric, Goods and Ornaments is an important ongoing task for the Church. The Church of England oversees this by requiring each Church to produce Fabric, Goods and Ornaments report annually and also by requiring the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Diocese, to undertake an inspection once every 5 years. The Churchwardens are mandated to provide documented evidence of all properties and assets together with key service registers, logs, various statistics, insurance certificates, to demonstrate that the Church is being run efficiently and effectively.

### **The Church Property Register**

The 'Terrier and Inventory' of all Church property encompassing all buildings, fixtures/ fittings is available and updating ongoing.

### **The Church Log Book**

The 'Log & Record' of all alterations, additions, removals and faculties for Church and Hall is available and updating ongoing.

### **Ornaments**

The Ornaments remain in good condition.

### **The Church/Hall Maintenance/Repairs and Defects**

The following defects and repairs/maintenance were carried out during the year. The Community hall and kitchen lighting has been upgraded with the installation more efficient LED lighting. Estimates have also been obtained to upgrade the church lighting in this financial year.

Minor plumbing maintenance and repairs have taken place in the Hall toilet facilities.

The Church and Community Hall Boilers have been regularly serviced, but continue to cause occasional concern.

The Sacristy boiler was replaced in May 2022.

## **Church & Hall Roof Fabric**

Further investigations and repairs, which are set out under the recommendation of the 2021 report . A further survey attending to the Community Hall Roof and the nave roof void was undertaken in February 2023. The PCC are awaiting the second report to set out a plan to attend to the repair needs, and in particular how to raise funds to meet the necessary costs.

Cleaning of the church and community hall gutters was also undertaken during this period.

**Fire Alarm Testing:** Regular testing is carried out and everything is up to date.

**PAT Testing:** The annual PAT Testing (Portable Appliance Testing) of electrical equipment was also undertaken. All items not passing the test have been removed.

**Lightning Conductor:** The test was undertaken during the year and no issues were found.

**Fire Precautions:** All fire extinguisher tests were undertaken during the year.

## **Quinquennial Inspection Update & Inspecting Architect**

Replacement flooring of the community hall office as recommended in the 2018 inspection has been undertaken. A review for suggested timescales and priority is being undertaken.

After the retirement of our current Inspecting Architect, the PCC is in the process of appointing a new Inspecting Architect to undertake the next Quinquennial Inspection within the next 12 months.

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Electoral Roll Report

As of the APCM 2022 141 members were registered on the electoral roll at St Aidan's. Since then 7 members have been removed from the roll (2 are deceased and 5 have moved) and 7 names have been added. The current roll stands at **141** members.

***Ros Lehany, Electoral Roll Officer***



## **Parish Secretary Report**

The upkeep and running of our church continue to be a challenge. We have been gradually returning to normal post COVID. There is still lots to be done. We have continued to upload links to various recordings and resources to our website. We started using zoom during the shutdown and have continued to use it successfully for worship, bible classes, meetings, and coffee mornings.

### **Business by Correspondence**

The updated Church Representation Rules allow for the PCC to discuss and vote on business by emails correspondence. The PCC have continued to use this alongside zoom and face to face meetings. The proposals and results can be viewed as part of the PCC minutes.

### **FoodShare and Publicity**

The FoodShare continues to serve food parcels on Saturday mornings.

The number of FoodShare visitors has been steady at 65-80 contacts reaching 300-350 people and their family units per week. There has been a profile change in the demographic of our FoodShare visitors: less Eastern Europeans, more British White, including several young families, Middle Eastern and North African, also more people from Muslim background. There is also an increase of visitors from LS9, particularly in the Gipton area.

During the summer holidays we provided lunch provision for children and young people from families struggling. The Summer Holiday Lunch club reached around 350 children and 70 parents over the course of three weeks. Thank you to all the volunteers, but in particular to Pat Case for organising and driving it.

St Aidan's is a part of IFAN, the **Independent Food Aid Network**. IFAN has prepared a letter to the Prime Minister with regards to food poverty, cost of living crisis and a call politically to address the underlying issues rather than to rely on churches, charities, organisations and people of good will to help those in need.

Mother Andi and Kaneez Khan spoke on the local Asian Radio station Fever FM with DJ Dr Mo Sattar on the Cost-of-Living crisis and the ways in which St Aidan's supports members of the local community through the FoodShare and the Warm Space and other activities.

St Aidan's was featured on BBC Look North, there was some footage taken in our church, which focused on the work of the FoodShare. Pat Case shared a few words about the work we are doing, and the crisis which is being faced by so many families and individuals. The program was filming a feature about Tina Leslie, MBE. Tina is founder of the charity Freedom4Girls, working on tackling period poverty at home and abroad. It looked at her work and at the food, fuel, hygiene and period poverty experienced by so many people in Leeds. She requested to film one of her 'stops' at St Aidan's, where the Home & Social Affairs Correspondent Emma Glasbey of BBC Look North took the opportunity to put the focus on our work.

We welcomed our new Area Bishop, Bishop Arun Arora, to our FoodShare, his visit coincided with that of a journalist from the Yorkshire Evening Post.

A regular COVID vaccination clinic led by nurses from The Community Health Team was held alongside the FoodShare.

Morrisons Supermarket donated some vouchers and a trolley dash, and we were invited to collect money outside the Harehills Lane Morrisons.

The LCC Gypsy and Travellers outreach team leader Helen Binns has been bringing food donations, and Mother Andi and her have been working on closer cooperation supporting particularly Roma families who access the help provided by LCC as well as our own FoodShare.

The Community of St Andrew has pledged a donation of £1k each year to our FoodShare over a period of three years.

We have received an additional freezer free of charge through Fareshare. We now have one small fridge, one large freezer and one large American fridge-freezer at the back of the church for the storage of fresh and frozen items for the FoodShare.

A grant application to LCC Area Committee in November 2022, to pay for a FoodShare project worker, was successful. The grant will not be released until October 2023. FoodShare money is restricted and is healthy. The money must be spent by various deadlines and reports to be made to the grant giving bodies.

### **Warm Space Scheme**

A weekly warm space was offered in the Church Hall on Tuesdays between 12:30 and 2:30pm beginning 1 November 2022. The Church Hall was opened to members of the neighborhood to spend a couple of hours in a heated space. Tea, coffee, biscuits and a simple soup and roll lunch were provided. Children, young people and families were particularly welcomed to the Warm Space during half term week in February and we ran an additional session on Friday 17 February between 12:30pm and 2:30pm.

### **Bible and Study Groups**

St Aidan's was joined again by our friends from the Parish of Bardsey with East Keswick for studies and reflection on zoom.

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness was the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023. The booklet offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme.

The Advent Course was the Archbishop of York's Advent Book Sleepers Wake. Getting serious about Climate Change, by Nicholas Holtham.

Follow the star-12 Days of Reflection for Christmas and the New Year. A Christmas campaign by the Church of England that features daily reflections that took you on a

journey that gave you fresh encouragement and hope. It was also an encouragement for people to attend Advent and Christmas events at their local church.

### **Sunday Mass/Post COVID**

We had the re-introduction of the Common Cup at Holy Communion on our Dedication Festival on 9 October. The partaking in receiving the Chalice is entirely voluntary and left to people's personal choice and circumstances. There are continuing mitigations around Covid and other respiratory infections.

The choir and congregation are singing hymns again. The choir sings a communion anthem each Sunday. There is still no procession. If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir, you are most welcome.

We have been running refreshments regularly after the Sunday Mass. Always looking for volunteers to help. Please talk to Ros Lehany or Sarah Ruddy.

St Aidan's opened its doors to welcome The Leeds West Indian Carnival as they returned to the streets on Bank Holiday Monday, 29 August 2022.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda of every PCC meeting, documents and procedures are regularly reviewed. The PCC members have completed all required Safeguarding trainings.

### **Special Services and Events**

The re-organisation of the deaneries in Leeds took effect from 1 November 2022. St Aidan's is in the East Leeds deanery. Mother Andi is the Assistant Area Dean of the Deanery of East Leeds. This year's Deanery Service took place at St Aidan's on Tuesday 21 June 2022. We welcomed other churches in our deanery to worship with us. The service fell during Refugee Week, 'Seeing Asylum' was the theme of the service. Several of our congregation were involved in leading and speaking at the service.

St Aidan's hosted the 'Seeing Asylum' Exhibition which was created by Leeds Beckett University and the Leeds Church Institute, from 21-26 June 2022. There was a chance to view the exhibition as well as attend a lecture, workshop and buffet supper before the deanery service. The exhibition was open for public viewing.

During Refugee week, the poet theologian of the Leeds Church Institute, Hannah Stone, visited St Aidan's. She has written a blog and poem about her visit and about our work.

St Aidan's hosted the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamaican independence on Sunday 7 August.

A Said Requiem Mass for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held on Wednesday 14 September 2022.

In July 2022, welcomed Archdeacon Paul Ayers for his Visitation, which takes place every five years. Thank you to everybody who helped in the preparations and during the visit. A huge thank you to those who prepared all the documents and sorted out various issues and were at the meeting with Mother Andi. It was felt that the visit was overwhelmingly positive. There are some things to be sorted out, but he understood 'where we are at' and how we live the Gospel life. He called us 'a beacon'. There is much to be pleased about, much to give thanks for, and much to continue to pray for.

St Aidan's hosted An Intergenerational Event with guest speaker, live performances and food. The event title was 'How does culture distract from/influence worship?' The event was organized by Irma Heyliger and our young people. It was held on 17 September 2022.

### **Fund raising and Donations.**

The PCC have contracted a fundraising, research and development consultancy firm, 'Beware of the Bull' for the production of a vision prospectus for St Aidan's Church, including a funding strategy, schedule and list of potential funders.

A donation of £200 was received to create a 'Vicar's Discretionary Emergency Fund' to help with bus tickets; put some funds on gas/electricity cards; buy phone cards; pay for interpreting jobs etc.

Barrie Pepper raised £150 through an online book auction for the food share.

We received a grant from the Household Support Fund £4,500 to be spent on food, toiletries and helping people with fuel costs.

We have received sponsorship from Co-op which has brought us good publicity and over £2k in monetary donations.

A donation of £2,000 was received from our partner parish at Bardsey with East Keswick £1,000 to be spent on our annual Fare Share subscription and £1,000 to be spent at our discretion.

We have had received two unexpected items of income: £1k legacy from the estate of Hilda Weare; and £2.5k from the Church Commissioners Energy Grant.

St Aidan's was invited to make an application to the Asda Community Foundation, for the improvement of community facilities. This grant is sought to develop the functionality and letting potential of the church hall. This project is to facilitate more opportunities for hiring spaces for smaller community events, as well as the possibility of having multiple and parallel events being held in the hall, whilst retaining the space and facilities of the large hall for the community events that currently create a good income stream for St Aidan's. We have progressed to stage 3 of the application process and a likely to hear by June 2023.

We had a successful bid to the Diocesan Financial Giving scheme for a fixed credit card machine. This is to be used for one off and Sunday donations, and to be used to pay for hall bookings.

This year's parish share for 2022 has been paid in full. The Parish Share for 2023 will bring a steep increase of 10%.

### **Church and Community Hall Fabric**

Maintenance and repairs will continue to be a financial battle for the church and the hall.

The electrical work in Community Hall has been completed.

The sacristy boiler has been installed and is working.

The bulbs and light fittings in the Hall have been changed and updated.

The Hall has been painted by Roy Huggins in memory of his Mum.

There are some urgent works that need to be prioritised:

- IntoUniversity Windows, they are an important partner
- Kitchen floor needs renewing as part of the LCC Health Inspection report
- Lighting in church to reduce electricity costs
- A Water ingress in Community Hall in the southeast corner
- Provision of Wifi in the church

### **Miscellaneous**

Mother Sally attended the Diocese of Leeds Clergy Conference held in September.

Pat Case was nominated for the LCC Compassionate City 'Unsung Heroes' Award 2022.

We continue to meet for weekly Coffee Morning on Tuesday on Zoom.

Between November 2022 and Easter 2023, we welcomed an Ordinand in Training, Dr Karen Flood, to complete her first year placement with us at St Aidan's.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to all our volunteers. There is always room for more.

***Cynthia Wilson, May 2023***

**(Statement of Financial Activities 2022 – please see separate document)**

## **Non-statutory reports of Ministries, Groups and Activities**

### **APCM Report from Bankside Primary School – working with St Aidan’s 2022-23**

Bankside Primary School has continued to maintain strong links with our ‘parish’ church of St Aidan’s. Whilst we have not yet fully returned to whole school assemblies in the hall and so have not had opportunities for visits from Mother Andi to support with this work, we have kept in touch via zoom, email, text and even good old-fashioned telephone!

Our major link with church continues to be supporting the work of the parish FoodShare. Maurice Thomas, our wonderful Site Supervisor, does weekly food collections and liaises closely with Pat Case to ensure that he is in the right place, at the right time (a key Bankside Golden Rule) with the school minibus to make this happen. We have also continued to have collections at school to donate directly – including our ‘virtual’ harvest festival, which generated several – very real - crates of food and toiletries to bring to church ready for FoodShare, as well as a donation of over £200.

Mother Andi continues to host trips to church from our children, this year sharing the life of the parish and continuing ministry of St Aidan with children from reception and year 1. I am delighted that we continue to share and celebrate the work of St Aidan under her warm guidance, both that of the church and the patron saint after whom it is named - and whose mission, all those many centuries ago, continues to resonate here in the heart of Harehills; both in church and at school.

On a personal note, this will be my last school report, as I retire, after 20 years at Bankside, this summer. My replacement, Vicky Broughton, starts in September; she has already spent time in school and is gaining a good picture of life in Harehills. Vicky is moving from Newham, in London, and I know that we will give her a very warm parochial welcome at the start of her new professional life in Leeds!

***Sarah Rutty***  
***Headteacher, Bankside Primary School***  
***Shepherds Lane***  
***May 2023***

## **FoodShare/WarmSpace & Holiday Lunch club**

### **FoodShare and WarmSpace: the Ordinand's perspective.**

FoodShare and WarmSpace are two of the ways in which St Aidan's serves the local and extended community. When starting my placement, I was keen to join in with these to be part of local mission and to help serve the church practically.

#### **WarmSpace**

Warm space took place from October 2022 in the church hall each Tuesday from 12.30-2.30pm, until the end of March 2023. Extra days were held during school holidays which were well attended by families. I really enjoyed joining and being part of the team hosting this on several occasions during my placement. It was a great way to meet and serve different members of the community. We had café style seating, games, warm drinks, soup, bread and stimulating company to entice people in from the cold.

I had a variety of experiences during my Tuesdays; some weeks were busier than others, but there were always opportunities to serve, share God's love and learn from others. Some weeks families would stay to have a drink or some food after their language class and then others would join us various points during the two hours. During these times, I enjoyed serving drinks and food and helping individuals practically by filling in NHS forms and researching numbers for local plumbers. Some of the food share team would come and join us later in the session for some lunch and chat. I have very fond memories of these times, including Irma's love of tomato soup and toast and Brother Mikael's juggling skills.

I came to these sessions expecting to serve God and others in a very practical way. This did happen but I was also blessed through the conversations I had with others. It was a privilege to get to know the St Aidan's church family and to see their love for others and heart for mission.

#### **FoodShare**

This takes place every Saturday morning and is held in the main church. I soon learned that what you see taking place on a Saturday is only the tip of the iceberg; with the volunteer team working behind the scenes throughout the week to ensure that the donations are collected and stored appropriately, with the right items brought out for distribution each week. Items such as meats, tinned items, fruit, and vegetables are available each week whereas toiletries or cooking oil are distributed once a month. During Christmas toys were available for children and at Easter there were Easter eggs for families to enjoy.

Each week the food share operation is run with precision and works like a well-oiled machine, serving over 100 families each week (I will let John England or Mother Andi fill you in with the exact numbers). I arrived early one Saturday to help set up and the queue for the food share was already forming outside the church. People enter via the south door, are checked in and then they queue to receive their food items from the west end of the church.

It was impressive to see how well the food share volunteers work as a team. Everyone works really hard; both physically and in making those coming to collect food feel welcome, loved and respected. It was lovely to see how many people collecting food were known to volunteers; this created a friendly and invitational atmosphere in the church.

During my placement there was a request for shopping bags required for the food share. I put a request on the WhatsApp group of our local Church of England primary school (where our girls attend) and had a fantastic response to this; so many people knew about the work of St Aidan's and wanted to help. I became known as the "bag lady" in the playground, as was often seen carrying out many bags to my car.

I think that both the FoodShare and WarmSpace give people an opportunity to engage with and come into St Aidan's. These mission events are also fantastic opportunities for us to show God's love to others in a practical way. I was so impressed with the number of people volunteering at both and with the efficient way that they were run. Well done everyone!

***"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" - John 13:35, NRSV.***

***Karen Flood, placement ordinand***



## HELP - Chair's Report

***We offer a safe, welcoming, supportive and caring environment where people can feel valued as they learn English.***

Our charity, **Harehills English Language Project (H.E.L.P)** began in 2006 following a meeting of St Aidan's congregation, and in response to the number of asylum seekers and refugees seeking our help. We became a registered charity in 2010 and work on a split site between St Aidan's and Trinity United Church. Our board of trustees includes representatives from St Aidan's and Trinity United and the Methodist Circuit. Through our English (ESOL) project H.E.L.P provides education, social and cultural activities to improve the well-being and confidence of learners and to support inter-cultural harmony. We offer a safe, welcoming, supportive, and caring environment where learners, who often feel marginalised because of their experiences and journeys so far, can feel valued as they learn English. Our learners come from many different countries, and more recently from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

From the outset, our charity has offered free classes and free crèche places to those who come to us for help, and we are indebted to our highly qualified tutors who give their services free and to our volunteer administrative staff. Additionally, we have five paid staff: project leader Nick, crèche manager Almaz, crèche deputy Hidat, crèche assistant Rebecca and IT consultant Naghmeh. After a rather bumpy time through the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are now able to hold face-to-face classes and a creche which allows our parents to attend classes knowing that their children are being safely cared for. We also continue to support some learners with on-line classes.

Because of the state of the economy, grants have been harder to access. but this has applied to all third sector charities. After much hard work by our fundraising group, we have fortunately been able to cover all salaries, with extra hours needed for our project leader, and all expenses including room hire, volunteer expenses, educational materials, website domain costs and Zoom licence. We continue to face significant challenges in attracting funds from grant providers and other fund -raising options are being explored with increasing donations via standing orders offering a positive long-term proposition. In what has been another challenging year, our special thanks go to all those who so willingly give their time and talents to the project: for the tremendous support of our project leader who has worked tirelessly to deliver our aims and objectives, to our crèche manager and her deputy and crèche assistant, to our IT consultant and to all our volunteers including our volunteer tutors, our management committee, and to our trustees and fundraising group. Finally, thanks go to St Aidan's and Trinity United Churches for allowing us to hire rooms at subsidised rents.

Over the 16 years of our project, we have worked with many learners, and it has been a great joy to see the positive changes in their lives. From being quiet and withdrawn, many are now living successfully and independently within their local community. As our project grows and develops, we continue to assess how we might best serve those who come to us week by week for much needed free English classes, free childcare and for pastoral

support. At the beginning of our seventeenth year of teaching English, we look forward with hope and quiet confidence to the continuation of face-to-face teaching and continued online tutoring.

***Revd Diana Zanker, Chair of Trustees***

***15 March 2023***

## **Ministry among our Middle Eastern friends/ New Christian Nurture Group**

For the first half of 2022 our ministry among our Middle Eastern friends returned much to its pre-Covid pattern with a regular Formation class being run on Sundays after the Parish Mass. This was led by a group of volunteers, among them Mother Sally, Br Benedict, Br David, Margaret Halsey, Fr Paul, Andy Jones, Caroline Ugbo and myself, ably assisted by Mary Harrison supporting the admin and updating the attendance list.

In August, we run a baptism preparation class with several sisters and brother being baptised at our Patronal Festival Mass for St Aidan's Day on 28 August 2022.

In August 2022, we said farewell and God bless to Brother Benedict, SSF who returned to the friary at Alnmouth. We all miss him very much, but especially the members of this group where Brother Ben had such a committed and loving ministry which has been life-changing for so many. We welcome among us Brother Micael, SSF who joined us in Leeds and at St Aidan's and is now involved in various ways in our ministry at St Aidan's, including the group.

The teaching at the Formation class continues to be based on the Sunday Gospel and sermon, though also touches on the seasons as we wind our way through the church's year. There are always lively discussions and Q&A sessions stretching the hearts and minds of the teachers as much as of all the participants.

During September 2022, we took a month's break of running the Formation class and have subsequently struggled to return the class to its weekly pattern. Part of the issue has been the availability of interpreters or teachers. We can look back at running the class once or twice a month on average and a dedicated baptism preparation class for an Advent 2022 baptism for the last few months of 2022.

2023 promises a return to a more regular pattern, but more about that in next year's report.

The dedicated WhatsApp group continues to thrive with presently 52 members. Members receive the weekly sheet and other information together with a short thought on the Sunday gospel on a weekly basis. Members also share information, prayers and Christian images and memes among each other and offer each other support and friendship on this platform.

Over the last year, we have continued to support a number of our sisters and brother in their journey with the Home Office, written support letters, spoken to solicitors, attended court. We are very happy to report that a number have received their papers and have found homes and work, or are attending college and courses in Leeds or further afield in the UK. We continue to pray for some in our midst who have been waiting a long time, or who have been forced to submit new claims.

During the year, a number of members of this group have continued to help at our FoodShare on a weekly basis, and have volunteered in other ways to support the mission and ministry of our church.

We would like to highlight and thank in particular Tony Esfandani, Maryam Sajadimehr, Sharhzad Arminian and Javad Adlnia who have given freely of their time to interpret face to face classes, have acted as interpreters in interviews and provide translations for the WhatsApp circulations.

Thank you to all who have supported this work over the last year. We pray that our Lord may continue to prosper our ministry and mission and grow his church within and among us.

***Mother Andi Hofbauer***

## **The Music Director's Report, 2022-2023**

### **Choir**

From its very beginning the St. Aidan's Choir was intended to uphold the long-standing Anglican choral tradition, a tradition which continues to this day. The current choir comprises a core of faithful and dedicated members committed to discharging its musical and liturgical role efficiently and effectively discharged at weekly Sunday Mass and other services. In addition, we are very fortunate that both Mo. Andi and Fr. Paul regularly augment the choir's ranks as time and the discharge of their clerical duties allow: for this, the choir is most grateful. Although fortnightly Friday evening rehearsals remain suspended, the choir continues to explore new and unfamiliar repertoire. Membership growth remains a concern, and expressions of interest in becoming a member of the choir are always welcome. Such persons are encouraged to contact me, or speak to a member of the choir or clergy. In this regard it would be advantageous for persons so interested to possess some degree of music literacy skills.

### **Organ**

The J. J. Binns organ – built and installed in 1896 – is one of the glories of St. Aidan's Church, and it continues to effectively fulfil its liturgical role despite its age and existing condition. Biannual organ maintenance visits by the organ tuners have been rigorously observed to ensure that the instrument is functioning to the best of its capacity. Given the instrument's age, this is most fortunate. In my previous reports I have highlighted various issues requiring urgent attention – renewal of the organ action and its re-leathering, recovering of worn keys, water leaks in the organ chamber, overhaul, cleaning of the pipes, restoring decommissioned pipes to their working condition, etc – and trust that, within the church's current refurbishment plans, the organ will receive the attention that it not only deserves, but also desperately requires. Such an undertaking cannot be delayed inevitably. Regular expressions of interest to visit St. Aidan's to play this magnificent instrument have been received over the years from the organists' associations of Leeds, York and elsewhere. It is a measure of the esteem in which this instrument is held by organ aficionados throughout the country. The instrument retains its II\* Certificate Status with the National Pipe Organ Register (status accorded 1996; renewed 2015) and, along with the organ in St. Bartholomew's Church, Armley, is one of only two such instruments so rated by NPOR in this part of Yorkshire.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Philip Wilby and Mr. Sean Montgomery who have regularly covered for me in my absence over the past few years.

***Roland Dee***

***Organist & Choirmaster, St. Aidan's Church, Leeds.***

## **Safeguarding Report**

St Aidan's Church have continued to ensure that we uphold our responsibilities to promote a safe church for those who worship at St Aidan's. We have maintained "Our Promoting a Safe Church" information notices of our Safeguarding contacts both within our building and on our website.

St Aidan's is working towards completing a Level 1 Safeguarding Action Plan – Safer Foundations. This has been reviewed and updated by the PCC annually and, following diocesan advice, will now be reviewed every six months (November and May).

'Safeguarding' is a standing item of the PCC meeting agenda. The addition of the Safeguarding Parish Dash Board has also been a welcome tool to track our Safeguarding Action Plan, training and implementation progress.

Training is being undertaken by those in Key Roles and the Safeguarding Officers are encouraging and supporting those people who still need to complete their Basic Awareness and Foundation Pathway trainings.

There have been no Safeguarding concerns reported by those who are vulnerable during the year.

***Pat Case and Ros Lehany served as Safeguarding officers.***

## **Serving Team Report**

Mahnaz Rajabi, Marion Blinkhorn, and myself Andy Jones, continue to form the serving team.

It is our duty to assist the clergy by helping to prepare the Church building before our Sunday Mass; by performing various liturgical duties during the Mass and by restoring the sanctuary area and sacristy afterwards.

Since the lifting of government covid restrictions and as more has become known about the means by which the coronavirus can spread, we are pleased to assist with the gradual restoration of our 'pre-covid' ceremonies. The Gospel procession and the return to the sharing of the common cup are particularly welcome, as are the necessary covid infection mitigations that continue to keep us all safer.

Serving at the altar is an integral part of our tradition here at St. Aidan's. It is also, we hope, a help to our clergy and other leaders, and also to the whole congregation as we gather together to 'worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'.

Our Parish Mass requires five altar servers to assist at each celebration. With just the three of us we have to omit various liturgical practices most of the time, for example carrying the Processional Cross.

Serving at the altar is not an onerous task. It is a privilege and a real joy to worship when so close to the altar and the Blessed Sacrament.

We continue to pray earnestly that all members of our congregation will consider if serving is something they might be willing to offer. If you would like to have an informal and friendly chat about serving then please speak to Marion or myself after Sunday Mass.

***Andy Jones, May 2023***

## **Sunday School Report**

Although constraints have been lifted following the coronavirus, its impact is still felt. Sunday school still has not properly resumed for fellowship on a regular basis in church. However, regular meetings with young people continues for prayer, planning activities choir practice and social activities.

Meetings are usually held at the young people's homes sometimes, during bible discussions or prayers, parents would on occasions participate and often listen to songs as they practice for worship in church.

### **Activities**

The young people have made a number of appearances in various communities representing the church.

- They received a certificate from a major event held by local councillors recognising contribution to communities by individuals, groups, organisations and churches hence, they received an award on behalf of St Aidan's Church.
- During school holidays they met in the church hall learning to knit and was taught by a church member alongside with the support of a parent.
- In addition our young people volunteered at the school holiday lunch club for families in need of support organised by the church.
- They also resented worship songs on Palm Sunday and Easter Day, and also on Mothering Sunday.

Social activities: thus far, we have been swimming and gone to the movies together

### **Congratulations** to the youths who hosted a successful intergenerational event entitled **(How Does Culture Distract /Influence Worship on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

It was a very enjoyable evening, every one enjoyed themselves. The Young people worked very hard meeting every Friday taking minutes of their meeting designing posters and practicing their songs etc. The event raised approximately £700.00 for the work of the church. Feed back was very good with most requesting a repeat of the event.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, Mother Andi for introducing the topic, special guest speaker Dwayne Hutchinson, the amazing Poet, Annett Morris, and church members involved in the organisation and preparing of the food, the hall and tidying up.

### **Plans for the future**

- To recruit additional support of Sunday Schools teachers
- It is still a challenging task to keep young people interested in attending church. Perhaps strategies must be looked at how to encourage young people back into the church sharing in the fellowship of worship and the diversity and age group of the church.
- Our young people will continue to sing at the local churches and community events under the name of **ST AIDAN'S YOUTH CHOIR**



*Finally, Thanking Mother Andi for her prayers and support towards the young people,  
thanking Winston for his continued support as the Sunday school administrator  
Thanking Pat Case for her continued support towards the Sunday school and all members  
of the church who embrace the young people show their support towards them.*

***Irma Heyliger, May 2023***

## **ZINAFE Leeds Branch**

The Zimbabwe National Anglican Fellowship (UK), ZINAFE is part of the Anglican Communion and the Church of England. There are 12 Branches in the UK and Leeds Branch is one of the 12. The Leeds Branch are grateful to St Aidan's Vicar and PCC for allowing the fellowship to use facilities at St Aidan's church in Leeds for their worshipping since the Branch inception in 2016.

The ZINAFE Leeds Branch has seen a steady growth in membership and currently have 30 members. We (ZINAFE Leeds) do our services once every month in our vernacular languages (Shona & Ndebele) and we are so grateful to Brother Benedict for Presiding on these services. Unfortunately, during the year 2022, Br Benedict moved to Northumberland and plans are underway for Fr Ericsson Mapfumo to preside over our Shona/Ndebele Services. A big thank you to Br Benedict for his unwavering Pastoral Guidance/Support and wish him all the best in his re-assignment.

The year 2023 is seeing the birth of hosting of ZINAFE National events on regional basis. We have three regions, namely, The Northern Region, The Midlands Region and the Southern Region. ZINAFE Leeds is part of the Northern Region and the Pentecost (27/05/2023) is going to be hosted at St Aidan's Church, Leeds. A big thank you to Mother Andi for allowing Pentecost National event to be hosted at St Aidan's. The current Zinafe Leeds Chairperson is Mr Phillip Chinyenze and new members are most welcome to join. The Chairperson email address is [munyaradzi.c@zinafe.org.uk](mailto:munyaradzi.c@zinafe.org.uk)

Members of the Church of England (Anglicans) trace their Christian roots back to the early Church. The basis of the faith of the Church of England is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (the Bible) and the teachings of the early Church Fathers. The Church of England is part of the Anglican Communion, a worldwide family of churches with more than 70 million adherents in 38 Provinces spreading across 161 countries. Although these churches are autonomous, they are also uniquely unified through their history, their theology, their worship and their relationship to the ancient See of Canterbury, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### **Zinafe Mission Statement**

Our **mission** is to be at the heart of the Zimbabwe Anglican Fellowship in Diaspora radiating God's Love.

- Being radically inclusive, welcoming people regardless of their age, background, economic circumstances, cultural background or physical ability
- Encouraging our fellowship members to participate in all aspects of their local Anglican Parishes and branches.
- Preaching, teaching and living the Word of God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in both holistic and contextual way.
- Create and maintain cultural awareness of traditional Zimbabwean Anglican Church styles of worship and music and to participate in relevant ZINAFE activities.
- Committed to reach every soul of our Zimbabwean Anglican brother or sister and bring them to Christ.

### **Zinafe Vision Statement**

Our **vision** is to be Christ centred Fellowship where people have the freedom to find hope and to be transformed. We are a diverse community in a complex world, and we seek to be Christ-like, celebrating the light of Love and bringing Light into darkness.

***And Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”  
(Mathew 9:37)***

***TK Chinembiri, May 2023***