

Report for 2023 APCM

PCC and Standing and Finance Committee.

The PCC met six times each year, chaired in turn by Phil Cansdale and Fi Iddon. Each time we met we received an update of various aspects of ministry and mission, looked at particular issues relevant to our shared life together, oversaw particular finance, buildings and personnel matters, and prayed for our ministry and mission across Belle Vue parish. Looking back over the minutes we have looked in particular at:

- our **lettings policy**, and a proposal to the APCM to be able to consider bookings within particular guidelines to be agreed
- our **Sunday worship life and midweek opportunities** to meet together, with a particular emphasis on encouraging Messy Church as a new monthly venture
- **particular 'seasons' in the church's year** like Christmas and Easter, and how to be welcoming people from across the local community to our services and events as well as 'taking the story to the streets' in terms of residential homes, pre-school, local organisations. However sadly this year there were no 'live donkeys' to be found!
- **our use of the building of Holy Trinity Belle Vue**, both where to meet during the winter months as well as how better to use the space that we have. The PCC remain responsible for the fabric and upkeep of the church, and this remains an important consideration.
- **The financial challenges** facing the church, with rising fuel costs, very significant issues at paying the Common Fund, and income being low.

At our November 2022 Bishop Sarah (Bishop of Shrewsbury) and Paul Thomas (Archdeacon of Salop) also visited us. They led a conversation including looking at "what has been good and of God in your past", "what has been not good and of God in your past", "what do you consider your priorities at the moment", "what are the core values of your church", "what do you long for in the future" and "what do you fear most." Bishop Sarah encouraged us to listen to God and to take note of what emerges and move with it both for now and the future.

Meanwhile the Standing and Finance Committee (SFC) also met five times a year, a smaller group made up of the wardens, clergy and treasurer to carry some of the more pressing matters of governance and oversight on behalf of the PCC. The PCC received a written report of each of our meetings which helps with communication.

Shrewsbury and Wrekin Deanery Synod

Alongside the PCC the work of Deanery Synod continued within the newly enlarged "Shrewsbury and Wrekin" deanery which we are now part of. Phil Cansdale finished as Area Dean in summer 2022, with Fi Iddon being appointed one of two Assistant Area Deans in the autumn. Synod meeting agendas have included 'fresh expressions of church' and the 'Shaping for Mission' strategic review. We currently have two synod reps as members of the PCC, and Phil and Cath Cole have been faithful and committed members of the synod during the last three years of their service.