



ANNUAL REVIEW 2023-2024

Prepared for the Annual Meeting in May 2024



FAITH



HOPE



LOVE


I remember seeing a film called "Everything everywhere all at once." I really didn't understand it one bit, but it was an entertaining couple of hours and won all sorts of Oscars in 2023. Actors in front of the camera as well as many behind the scenes were commended for their work on the film which won the top award that year.

There are no such illustrious awards offered as a church for 2023, but this short(ish) review takes as its theme "**everyone, everywhere, everyday, in everything.**" It is that reminder that following Jesus isn't just about our Sunday gatherings, important though these are. Following Jesus is about all of our lives:

- "**everyone**", whatever age of life or stage of faith....
- "**everywhere**", whether the parish, across Shrewsbury and surrounding areas, or further afield....
- "**everyday**", Monday to Saturday and not just our Sunday best....
- "**in everything**", so that the gospel can take root in every part of our lives, our church, our community, our culture and our world....

What follows is based on the bi-monthly reports received by the PCC it seeks not to be the "total roundup of the year" but more a mid-year encouragement and a prompt for prayer. As you read and reflect we hope it opens up more of God's story at Trinity as together we continue to be "growing faith, proclaiming hope, and living the love of Jesus".

This comes with considerable gratitude, as always, for the countless people whose hard work, dedication and commitment goes to make this such an amazing place to serve. And to God be the glory!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Cansdale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Revd Phil Cansdale

This review of the year is very much a summary of some of the longer reports written by many different people involved in life at Trinity. Where reports were shortened / edited then you can find them 'as written' on our website at www.trinitychurches.org, though please note that not all the ministry areas will be on there. You will also find the 2023 statutory accounts on our website.



Gathering to worship

Over the last year we have continued to host five regular Sunday congregations, each one perhaps with a different style but gathering together under a common vision and a shared sense of family.



The **9am service** at Meole Brace offers a weekly communion with a more traditional feel. There's a lovely sense of welcome and fellowship, and we're very grateful to a significant proportion of the regular congregation who are involved in serving each other with readings, prayers, coffee, welcome, music, wardens etc. Numbers are growing very slightly, though we recognise with most churches across the UK the impact of these last years on our numbers and levels of participation, as well as some of the ongoing 'aches and pains' of life that many are living with. Preaching themes have included Isaiah 40-66, "Come Holy Spirit", a summer series on parables, and the autumn spent in the book of Nehemiah. Valerie Pitt oversees this congregation, with the support of a leadership team who have met regularly through the year.

The **11am mid-morning gathering** at Holy Trinity has a particular focus on being a worshipping community for all ages of life and stages of faith. It has a more informal feel to it, and we really enjoy the opportunities to be creative, interactive and responsive in our times together. Alongside our regular monthly all-age gatherings we've particularly appreciated two specific and shorter all-age Communion services which have been very special times of worship. Fi Iddon oversees this congregation along with a really great team.

A larger congregation brings with it many, many joys but also some challenges. We regularly need in excess of 25 people 'on a rota' each week for ministry with children and youth, tech teams, music groups, welcomers, readers, intercessors and coffee makers. In the last few months we've had a particular focus on this and it's been so very good to see new people stepping into serving. We've been reminded time and time again that this isn't about filling a rota, but rather an invitation to join in with what God is doing among us. We have good numbers of children and young people serving on our rotas (almost all our young people do so) as we strive to grow younger. Recent research suggests that serving in church is the third biggest influencing factor in raising children in faith (after Bible reading and prayer) which makes this even more pertinent.

The **630pm evening service** meet in the Trinity Centre. Phil Cansdale continues to oversee the leadership team, who demonstrate an amazing ability to multi-task and get everything ready to welcome people each week. Averaging about 35-40 people we continue to be a place where people come to worship, dig into God's word, and pray with and for each other as we are sent out into the week ahead. The evening gives a slightly more extended time for preaching which (we hope) is welcome, for example spending a couple of months at the beginning of the year reflecting around some of the big issues of love, marriage, sex and identity. We did some "Psalm surfing" again, as well as joined in with material from 24-7 Prayer and the Bible Society as we looked

at “How to hear God” and the book of Romans. We’re pleased to be a service which seems to be providing something of a ‘gift’ both for Trinity regulars as well as those who are involved in other churches in the morning but wishing to come and ‘be’ in the evening.

The **1030am gathering in Radbrook Green** meet in the Community Centre, and form the core of our church life together at Christ the King. The last twelve months has seen some shoots of new life which is really welcome, and there is a very dedicated team who manage our ‘flat pack’ church with set up, serving drinks, lead and serving in worship, welcoming etc. We note the inevitable sadnesses of recent months too with the loss of two dear members of the congregation in particular. Phil Cansdale meets regularly with the DCC and leadership team as we oversee this Sunday service, with Keith and Amal Moore playing a consistent part in Sunday life alongside many others.

Music remains an important question for the life of CTK, as for all of our congregations. We want to say a big thank you to all those involved in our **music and worship life**, with quite a large group of gifted and committed people serving across our life at Trinity. We’re indebted to those who operate sound and AV alongside the more obvious ‘up front’ musical roles, and whilst we inevitably have a few ‘gremlins’ in the system people tend to navigate this with good grace and patience (particularly with the livestream). This last year has seen increased experience of “isingworship”, an smartphone app with some very good quality music tracks which can support our sung worship with a good degree of flexibility and spontaneity.

Meanwhile, as of our May 2024 APCM, it is just under four years since we took on oversight for our neighbouring parish of **Holy Trinity Belle Vue**. They are a prayerful and welcoming congregation, and it’s been particularly special to work across churches for some particular services like Maundy Thursday meals and the New Year Service. We’ve continued to provide regular services in Nursing Homes and worked to strengthen the ties with Coleham School. Our monthly Sunday Messy Church has had a strong year, a reminder of churches working together as people from both Meole Brace and Belle Vue parishes attend this. Holy Trinity Preschool also continues to be a very special place and a vital part of the mission of HTBV to the local community. There are between 20 and 30 children worshipping on the site daily.



Significant challenges remain. The cost of heating the building remains a huge concern at HTBV, and finances are not at all easy in a congregation of 20-30 people. With the support of the Diocese of Lichfield, with Kevin Pilsbury's careful hand as treasurer, and by the goodness of God there are signs of a way forward. The Bishop of Shrewsbury has spoken to both PCCs of Meole Brace and HTBV this last year, and it appears that these conversations will continue over the next twelve months.

The **Thursday morning service at Meole Brace** is a welcome "Oasis" to praise God, to be together, and to share Holy Communion. We meet on the third Thursday of each month, and afterwards have a really good opportunity to catch up together and support one another. Particular thanks to Shirley Stevens, Peter and Gill Madley, Nick Webb, Steve Jones and others who work alongside Valerie, Fi and Phil in supporting this congregation.

In talking of gathering to worship, we remember too our **online community**, both Sunday morning and midweek. Every week we make sure that one of our services goes out online so that those who may not be able to make it into the church building for whatever reason can still be part of Sunday worship. Numbers vary during services we have up to about twenty households joining in 'live' but some people also catch up afterwards and watch over the week meaning there are a lot more 'views' over time. It is a real privilege to share worship and include those at home for health and mobility reasons, as well as those are working, on call, on holiday or travelling. It is also a good "shop window" for those who might feel a little nervous about coming into church but FaceBook allows them a 'look in' from home.

TOP 10 SONGS USED AT THE 11AM SERVICE THIS YEAR

Jesus Strong
and Kind

Hope of the Nations

Everlasting God

In Christ alone

Blessed be your
name

You Restore my Soul

Living Hope

This I Believe
(The Creed)

Be Thou my Vision

This is Amazing
Grace





Everyone

Across our life at Trinity we continue to place a very high priority on being God's amazing family, people of all ages of life and stages of faith who can walk the journey of faith together.



Trinity Kids featured regularly on our PCC updates throughout 2023. Our work with 0-11's on Sunday mornings takes place in three groups: creche for under 3's and two Trinity Kids groups, staffed by a growing team of flexible and hard-working volunteers. Our youngest children enjoy plenty of playtime in creche together with a simple craft, Bible story and song. Meanwhile, Trinity Kids have mostly followed the Lectionary this year which has given us a rich variety of Bible stories and themes to explore through all sorts of games, activities, crafts, drama, discussion and much more. Numbers at Trinity Kids fluctuate every week, anywhere between 10 and 30 children across the groups and our favourite biscuit of the year is definitely a Bourbon!

A highlight of this year has been our new Outdoor Church on the fourth Sunday of each month, affectionately dubbed "Welly Sunday" by Phil! We are using our amazing church grounds to connect with God in a deeper way, to wonder at his amazing creation and use all our senses in praise, before finishing with Hot Chocolate and Marshmallows! Despite starting these sessions in the middle of winter, we seem to have managed to stay dry each time, and we have exciting plans to develop this ministry...there may even be a firepit!

Our **Trinity Tots** groups at Trinity Centre on Mondays and at Radbrook on Thursdays continue to thrive and regularly see new families coming through their doors, as well as several regulars. The Thursday group remains the busiest, with about forty children plus their grown-ups, while the Monday group is about half that size. Rachel Cama took over from Cerys in overseeing these groups when she begun employment as Preschool Worker in January 2024. We have small but dedicated teams of volunteers at each group, but could do with a few extras in light of the size of the groups, especially on Thursdays.

In addition to Trinity Tots, Rachel and Cerys run **Little Buds**, a monthly toddler church, which has also been growing steadily in numbers – with two consecutive weeks at 27 children, though more often around 15 or so families. They have been exploring 'stories Jesus told' through collage, storytelling, a ball pool, craft, play, bread-making, a sandpit and more! And they always finish the session with lunch together.

Messy Church meets twice per month, 9am on the first Sunday at Belle Vue, and 4.30pm on the first Thursday at Meole Brace. This is a great example of teams working together to reduce preparation, share resources and support one another. Our Messy Churches have developed into two distinct congregations: 9am largely attracts families with younger children who are up and about early on a Sunday morning, whereas 4.30pm on Thursdays attracts families from the primary school who enjoy the opportunity for after school

activities and dinner together. Across our Messy Churches we welcome around 90 people of all ages each month, and for many of these Messy Church is their main church attendance. Messy Church is dependent on large teams and we are thrilled to have such gifted teams from across both churches, and in particular a large number of young people who are using their gifts and growing as leaders through Messy Church.

Over the year, we have sung our way “All Through History”, as we have looked at the stories of Bible characters right through time and wondered about what they teach us today. We’ve made catapults and crowns, shakers and stars, played with paint and playdoh and there is always, always icing and sprinkles! Recently, we have begun “A Little Bit Messy” at The Meet Place, using some of our Messy Church resources to explore faith with a focussed small group of children on The Meole Estate.

Trinity Youth are the most fantastic bunch of young people. If you want to find them on a Sunday morning then they will almost always be serving: either specifically allocated to a rota, responding to a request for help, or seeing a need and getting on with it. They are an enormous blessing to us as a church. It’s been a particular encouragement to see some of our young people baptised and confirmed this year, and we give thanks for their faith in Jesus. On Sunday mornings both Pathfinders (11-14s) and Anon (15+) meet during the service for opportunities to dive into the Bible in an interactive and relevant manner. We are so thankful to a really dedicated team of leaders who know, love and serve the young people so very well.

The older youth had been meeting monthly on a Sunday evening, but have recently experimented with a shorter weekly meeting. The younger youth meet weekly for an hour on a Tuesday night (Phil and Fi’s favourite time of the week!). It’s been a joy to welcome some young people whose families are not regular members of our congregations, and this has reminded us of the need to keep thinking about a group for teenagers who might want to come and explore faith. We’ve had some really fun socials: Pizza nights, bowling, cake decorating challenges, Pimp my Gingerbread House and an evening of chocolate themed games and activities. Trinity Youth are great, and combine huge fun with enormous care for one another and, above all, a deep faith in Jesus.



Our work with **local schools** continues to be a priority, especially at Meole Brace Church of England Primary. A group meet to pray for schools every Wednesday morning, followed by Wednesday mid-morning “Open the Book” worship led by Cerys, Arnie Wray and Judith Clarkson. This is such a great way to share bible stories and we continue to be amazed by the end of term quizzes when every question is answered correctly. Our lunch time big question/little question club brings with some great discussions as the children grapple with all sorts of questions that certainly keep us on our toes! During the year the school received an “outstanding” SIAMS report focusing on the Christian vision and distinctiveness in the school.

Prayer space this year looked at the topic of Perseverance, and June saw us take early forty year 4 pupils to Cleobury Mortimer for our annual CPAS School Ventures experience where a good time was had being detectives solving the mystery of the empty tomb as well as climbing, playing games, campfire singing and spending time with friends. As always the school came over to church for harvest and Easter as well as the much loved Christmas performances. The pupil chaplains were involved in these services as well as weekly things round school. Different classes have also come as part of their curriculum, notably the reception to think about baptism. It was a privilege to host yr 6 classes as we provided space and activities to help them talk about feelings of grief following local tragedies. And the school also joined about 250 others from the local area in Bayston Hill for the interactive LIFE exhibition looking at the life and times of Jesus.



Everywhere

We have a phrase we often use, that “every contact leaves a trace.” It is that reminder that wherever we go - and wherever we are - we can make a difference.



2023 was a year of true recovery for **The Trinity Centre**, with bookings back to pre-covid levels, and higher than we have seen since 2019. There has been a real air of rejuvenation as we welcome so many people, both previous users and new users to our community building here.

To support this growth in our Centre's use we have expanded our team of Welcome Assistants significantly, and this team has truly gelled under Shannon's wonderfully structured and focused training schedule. We are so proud to have such a variety of people from all stages of life, who regularly express how much they love being here. This is so clear to see as our team go about their work, and we see the quality of interactions with our visitors as well as the wonderful feedback we receive. It is also such a blessing to see the wonderful balance that we are achieving between the needs of our Church and the external bookings we welcome to our building, with almost equal use in terms of hours booked by each group. And such great balance provides us with so many wonderful opportunities for every contact to leave a trace.

The Trinity Centre - 2023 at a glance

Trinity Youth got through **8kg** of Marshmallows and **25 cans** of squirty cream!

1

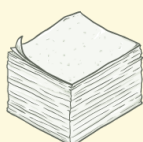


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The Trinity Centre and Church were booked for a total of **7970 hrs.** 44% of this was church and staff use while 56% were commercial bookings.

6,829.5 hours were worked by admin staff and welcome assistants

3



4

The Church office used **110 reams** of paper in 2023 compared to **216** in 2022 which is great progress for our EcoChurch Efforts!

Phil booked rooms for **463 hours** - not including the many times over the year he failed to book a room and hoped for the best...

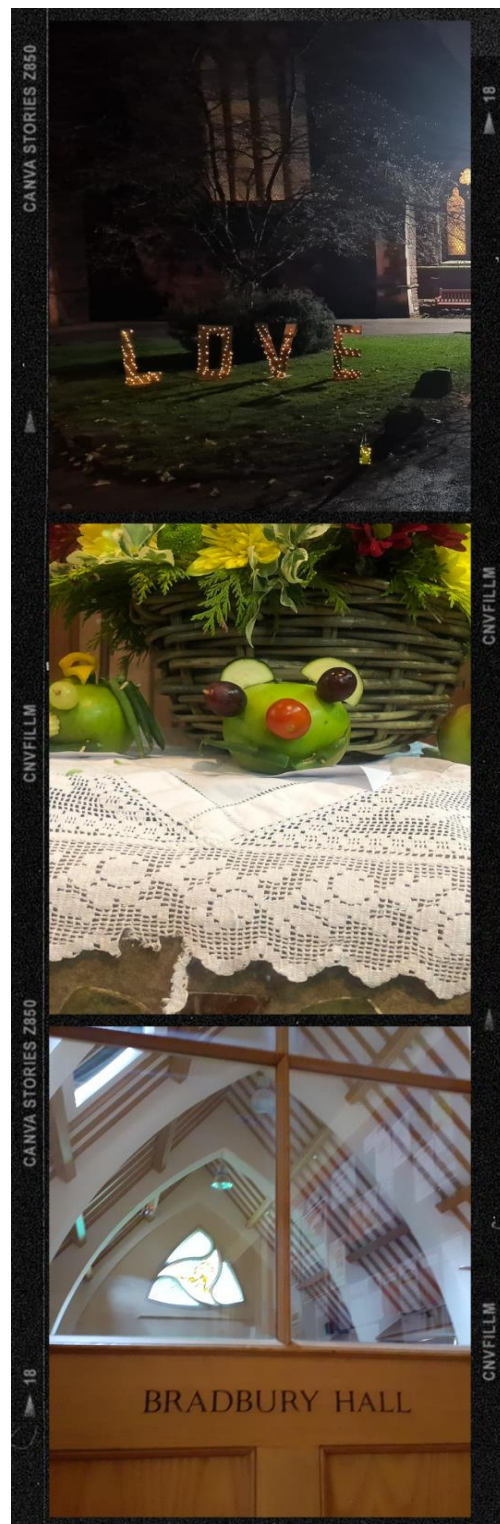
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At **Café Connect** a warm welcome, a listening ear and a prayerful presence remain very much on the menu alongside the food and drink choices. Manager Dave Aberley, and shift-leader Bradley Themans work alongside a really great team of volunteers. In today's financial climate there remain very significant challenges to running a coffee shop with fuel and staff costs making it very difficult to break even, so the PCC continue to support the day-to-day running of the Café whilst we try to find a firmer footing in the future. Equally if not more pressing is the need for volunteers on the team, as the real value of the café – hospitality, mission, and prayer – can never happen as well when the existing staff are run off their feet with serving and washing up. This remains an urgent priority, and the need for 'fresh vision' as we consider how best Cafe Connect can continue to bless the local community. Please pray, and consider getting involved.

Ministry on the Meole Estate is going really well. We are blessed to have Ian Williams, Rachel Cama and Susan Page as part of the team at the Meet Place who help in Bacon Buddies and the warm spaces . For the warm spaces we start with seated exercises in partnership with Elevate, then we have the thought of the day then lunch followed by prize bingo where everyone is a winner. For many of our group this has become their weekly church, they look forward to fellowship and hearing God's word in addition to a lovely lunch and activities.

We were blessed as well to partner with Didi Dance for our weekly kids club, where kids enjoy practicing different dances from Charlotte the dance teacher. We have also partnered with the Hive who came to the Meet Place and presented 6 sessions so far where the kids wrote their own songs then recorded it. Once a month we are doing a little bit Messy on the estate and the kids absolutely loves it. The highlight of the year for many was the Barmouth Trip where many families from the estate enjoyed a lovely day at the beach at the beach with fish and chips.



We continue to prioritise ministry in **Radbroke Green** as well. Our monthly prayers at Cafe Connect for the local area are becoming a very important part in the life of the community and it is a joy to see other individuals and small groups join us every now and then. Shirley Stevens, Olwen Abbott and others are particularly involved in some of our community work in Radbrook Nursing Home and Radbrook House. And on Christmas eve we had a wonderful day at the cafe with Christmas carols, we were so full that we were standing room only outside the cafe. There was such a strong feeling of God's presence and strong sense of community.

Elsewhere across the local area it's a privilege to take communion services each month to the several **care homes** throughout our parish and that of Holy Trinity Belle Vue. Regular services are held at Lime Trees, Oxbow Manor, The Ferns, Maesbrook, Radbrook House, Radbrook Nursing Home, Briarfields and Sabrina (the latter two being in the parish of Belle Vue). At Lime Trees and Oxbow Manor these are held in lounges where residents also gather together on Sunday to watch our live-streamed service on a big screen. It's a deep joy to walk alongside people at this stage of life, some of whom have walked with Jesus for many, many years...and others for whom faith is awakened or reawakened as they join our acts of worship. God is at work in these places.

Trinity Table continued throughout the year too, meeting each month on the second Tuesday for a lunch gathering. Numbers ranged between 45-60, and it was especially good to be welcoming people to the 12pm services for Easter, harvest and Christmas which take place before the lunch on these occasions.

“Everywhere” also means that we are to be a blessing further afield, supporting **mission partners and projects** across the UK and across the world. As a church we are committed to giving at least ten percent away to mission, and so the Mission, Relief, and Development Committee (MRDC) meet together several times a year to administer the giving. This year we have had the opportunity to continue supporting our mission partners (M&H, The Fletchers, Neville Willerton / Church Army, and ReSource). We have also been able to support partner projects like Bible Society, Open Doors, Street Pastors, The Ark, Shrewsbury Youth for Christ, Christian Aid, Food Hub and Food Bank. Aswell as administering funds, MRDC have also organised two evenings of prayer, praying for the world in the light of the turmoil and conflicts around the globe, lifting up a hurting world to God.



Everyday

"One Lord, One Faith, One Hour?"

What might it look like to be more like Jesus every day? And how might we be equipping each other to do that more?



One of the greatest gifts we can offer is to resource and encourage one another in **prayer**. There were two periods of focus on prayer during 2023. In Lent we were encouraged to bring our brokenness to God who takes what is broken and makes new things – this included a quiet evening in March. We also held a week of prayer at the beginning of Advent, with a room available for prayer all through the week. Rather than use the ‘24/7’ model (with individual sign-ups for hours of the day and night) we provided resources for individual prayer as well as gathered times of prayer both in-person and on Zoom. This mix of gathered and personal prayer felt encouraging and we plan to repeat it in 2024.

Meanwhile a good number of **small groups** continued to meet. “Worship, word, welcome and witness” would sum up those things that help us grow in faith, that are built into the heart of all our small groups at Trinity Churches. Leaders meetings, finding resources, supporting new groups has been an important part of those overseeing this area of our life at Trinity, and increasing our oversight and finding new resources remains a noteworthy challenge as we look ahead as part of our vision and values.

It was a privilege to be part of the **Alpha Course** last October, and to walk alongside people who are asking those big questions about life and faith. Some of those who attended have gone on to join small groups or taken part in the Just10 course earlier this year, continuing to explore what it is to know and live for Jesus. At the same time as Alpha we also ran ‘The Romans Course’ which people greatly enjoyed and found challenging, as they looked at ‘a letter that makes sense of life’. It has been great to see small groups agreeing to come along to these courses as a group and growing in discipleship. The resources and materials have been excellent but, for most, the highlight of these Wednesday evenings is often the group discussions, where we get to talk, listen, learn, and, very often, laugh together.

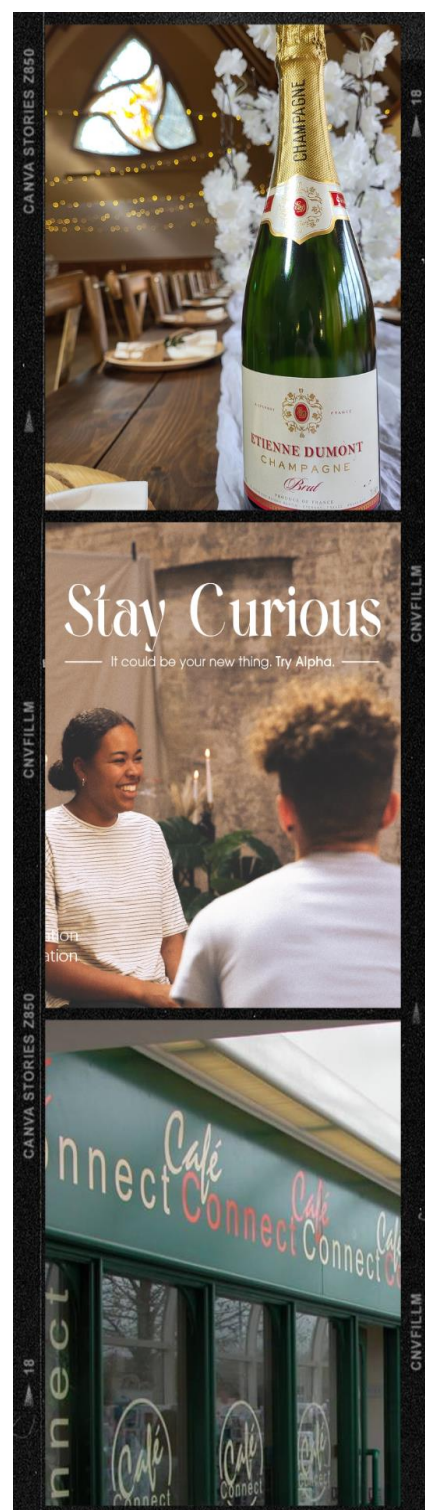
Meanwhile there were other opportunities for people to meet centrally for midweek discipleship. **Trinity Women** enjoyed a couple of great events from going out for curry to having a lovely Brunch. **Trinity Men’s** events (eg the Curry Nights) also showed the importance of meeting together.

Apple Day and **Revs** both took place during the year as well. Apple Day is now in it’s 11th year now, and is run in partnership with the Windfall Project. Every year we think “this will be the year people don’t come” but each year it just get’s buisier! The best thing about it is all the people who help: from 8 to 80 it is a beautiful thing to see the church family sharing God’s love with their community. Make sure you are involved this year!

Talking of everyday faith, we remain excited and energised by opportunities to work with local families with **occasional offices**, ie preparing for baptisms, or celebrating a marriage, or organising a funeral. We've developed a good suite of resources over the last few years with parents and godparents, now taking place on ZOOM which has encouraged higher levels of participation for those who aren't local. We're quite concerned about a significant drop in the number of weddings, reflecting the cost pressures as well as wider trends in society, and are doing some work jointly with the Trinity Centre in what will be an 'affordable' wedding package for couples locally.

We maintain good connections with all the local funeral directors, and over the last twelve months have taken a large number of funerals, whether large or small each one uniquely precious. We continue to hold two "services of remembering" each year where we invite the families for whom we have taken a funeral, though take up the challenge of how these might become a more effective part of our mission and pastoral care at Trinity.

We're encouraged to have been able to **welcome some new people** over the last year, and need to continue to work on how best to integrate those who are "new or still feeling new". We had two welcome events over the year, but would want to continue to recognise the significant concerns of being a church with a 'big front door but a large back door.' Whilst we rightly focus on depth and growth and not just numbers, those connecting up with life at Trinity is at best static if you include those who worship with us online. For the sake of this church – and churches across the UK – we long to see growth in numbers as well as depth. The Diocese of Lichfield new vision is to see the number of worshippers double by 2030. This feels a big challenge, though at the same time means that every single person who currently is part of Trinity would need to see one friend or family member come to faith and be involved in church life. Does that make it feel more possible? Join with us and many others in praying for this.





In everything...

Romans 12 reminds us to “Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.”



FAITH



HOPE



LOVE

An important part of this in recent years is the core **eco-church** commitment that living out the gospel includes safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth. In December 2019, Trinity Churches achieved a Bronze “Eco-Church” award, recognising the fact that we had made a good start by raising awareness and managing our buildings more sustainability. At around the same time, an Eco-church group was set up to encourage prayer, discussion, and action on environmental issues within Trinity Churches. Perhaps inevitably, the pandemic disrupted these efforts and progress has been very slow. However an evening service last October focused on caring for God’s creation, and we plan to do something, perhaps on a larger scale, with other congregations this coming Autumn. We have begun looking at ways to heat our buildings more efficiently including, in the longer term, possible ground source heating from the Glebe Field. And a new group is being set up for all who are interested in environmental issues and who want, as Christians, to make a difference. To be included in this group, please see Rob Surl.

At Trinity Churches we also take **safeguarding** very seriously. It is discussed as an agenda item at every PCC meeting, and our policy is renewed annually, being available to read on the church website and in the church office. Everyone involved in work with vulnerable adults and children are required to have an up to date DBS check and undertake relevant training. As is all of the ministry team. This year saw a change in Parish safeguarding Officers. We said goodbye to Andrew Pritchard who has faithfully served in this role for many years. We are very grateful for his time and wisdom in this role. In his place we welcomed James Boak. We are incredibly grateful for the skills, knowledge and wisdom he brings to this role.

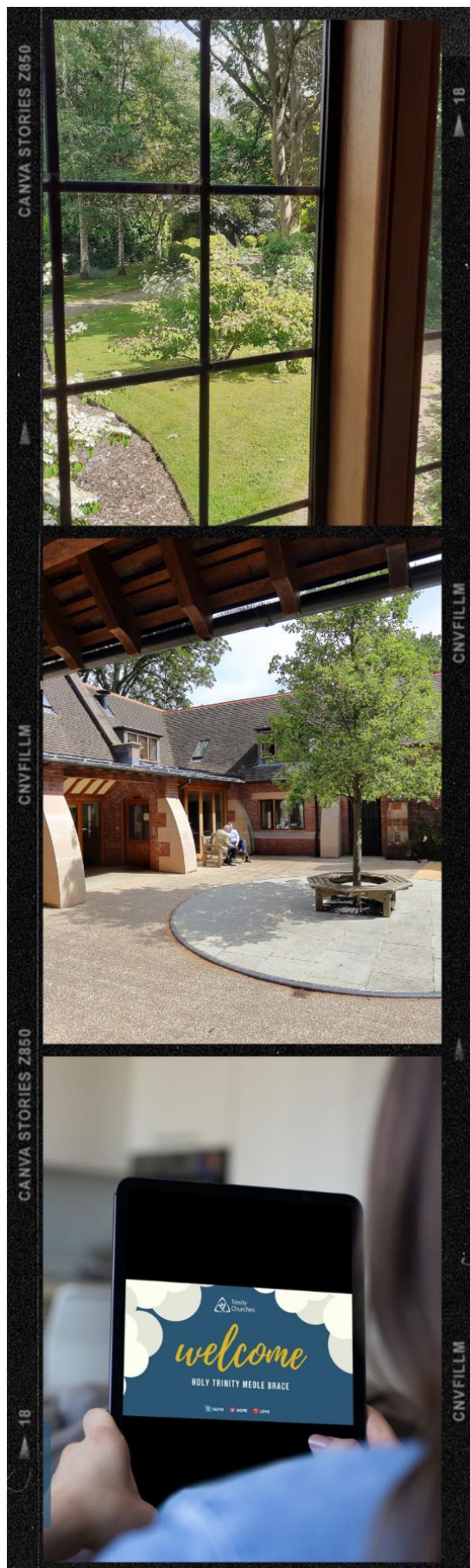
We’ve also sought to live out our faith in really practical ways across the local community. One of our biggest recent initiatives has been **Blessed to be a Blessing**, and our ambitious decision to give 25% of any new or increased giving towards a specific “cost of living” fund. The Cost of Living fund continues to be overseen by PCC trustees, with recent donations including partnership with local schools, and those seeking more sustainable accommodation. We report at each PCC meeting trends in applications and referrals.

Closer to home – and using our gifts in the most beautiful of ways - it was another busy year for the **Flower and Brass Team**. One or two long serving “Flower Fairies” left us, but we were delighted to welcome several new members and are now back to twenty. We have made a few changes. We have been trying biodegradable oasis which so far seems to be fine, we have saved a considerable amount of money by buying flowers from supermarkets, though for weddings we still get them from Fleurtations as supermarkets don’t

have bunches of all white flowers – in fact there actually have been many fewer weddings anyway. We have also changed our Harvest Festival arrangements, getting members to make up arrangements in baskets at home before bringing them to church which keeps us out of the way of preparations for Apple Day. The Brass Team is now down to two members following the very sad death of Marjorie Pound who is much missed by us all.

For our **bells team** it has felt like back to normal after the pandemic! We completed 2023 ringing on ten occasions over Christmas and New Year and recently in 2023/4 we increased this to 12 plus a Quarter Peal attempt. 21 of our regular band were involved plus two visitors and a visiting QP band. We have received lots of compliments and no complaints from the community. Praise the Lord! Not even finding woodworm in the ringing chamber could stop us!

We were ready to start teaching beginners and advertised this in the run-up to the Coronation with no takers. However, in the summer we had several learners, most of whom have continued. Two are ringing closer to home at Wrockwardine and two have joined our band. We also recruited a long-term lapsed ringer in 2023 who has become one of our most regular Sunday ringers. We rang as much as possible for the Coronation and have rung for about a dozen weddings in 2023. In October we had a mini outing to ring at Westbury, Chirbury and Worthen followed by a pub meal together. Our priority remains to ring for Sunday worship and have reached the tenth anniversary of when we first did this in January 2014. Since then we have never missed except when Covid forced us out of the ringing chamber.



Appendix A. Buildings, Finances and Money

The Blessings of a building (a view from the Church Wardens)

We have much to be thankful for! It has been wonderful to welcome so many people into the church and Trinity Centre in the past year. We have seen an increase in bookings for the centre and are very grateful to Helen and Shannon in the office, our welcome assistants, Kelly our vergers, and Kevin our operations manager for all they do to ensure everything runs smoothly. We still feel very keenly the loss of Mike Hinton who, as our maintenance manager, was always available to mend or fix anything (or if he couldn't, he always knew someone who could!)

Having had our Quinquennial Inspection last September, our 5-year maintenance programme continues. In the past year, this has included:

- Refurbishing the external church doors
- Repairs to the parquet flooring in the church
- Treatment of woodworm and other repairs in the church tower
- Provision of a new trapdoor for emergency access to the tower
- Maintenance of the Bradbury Hall, including sanding and re-sealing the floor, re-painting, and lighting improvements
- Re-making the paths in the churchyard and memorial garden.
- Ongoing replacement and re-pointing of stonework
- Maintenance at the church-owned property in Wilderley Crescent, in preparation for the new tenant.

We are also planning provision of a pedestrian gate into the Glebe Field, near to the Trinity Centre. And we are also considering options for replacing the church gas boiler, which is unreliable and inefficient, hopefully before winter 2024/25.

As custodians of our beautiful church and Trinity Centre buildings, it is both a privilege and a responsibility to maintain and repair them so they can be enjoyed by many generations to come.

The Glebe Field

The Glebe field featured on our PCC paperwork on a number of occasions through the year, supported by the work of the Glebe Group. As conversations progressed we recognised that some of the plans would involve significant

finance which we do not presently have. The vision for the field remains as a “community amenity, sustainably managed, and where people can enjoy and engage with God’s creation.” In no way tying the hands of future PCCs, for the time being we will not deliver large-scale landscaping, but instead support short-term and lower cost programmes of tree planting, hedge maintenance and mowing to care for the field and its future uses. We aim to put pedestrian gates into the field to enable people to access and enjoy the field. There will also be a separate working group to examine the options for sustainable energy generation from the field.

Finance: Looking back at 2023

In 2023 the PCC had a surplus of £11k (2022 a surplus of £7k), with our income being £413k and expenditure £402k. Given some significant pressures and the general financial climate at the moment, we are so grateful to God for the generosity of so many towards ministry and mission here. See the table below for the summary.

In terms of our income:

- The “Blessed to be a Blessing” stewardship campaign was generously supported by many, with an increase in giving of £19k and £14k being added to the Cost of Living Fund
- Increased bookings in the Trinity Centre improved its income by 10% to £77k.

Looking at our expenditure:

- The largest increase in expenditure was in premises costs with utility costs doubling from last year and increased repairs and maintenance, mainly for the church building. Included in the £50,000 was a designated £19,000, made up of £8,000 for masonry repairs and an additional £11,000 to top-up the sinking fund to the £38,000 needed to replace the church boiler.
- The saving in salaries came from not yet having a youth minister in post whilst the PCC go through the process of making a suitable appointment.
- The costs of the Trinity Centre increased to support the additional booking plus repairs and maintenance including a new boiler.
- Café Connect continued to need cashflow support to remain open.

Facts and Figures for 2023



Year End Finances

2023 year end has seen a surplus of **£11k** which is broadly similar position that we achieved in 2022, against a forecasted surplus of £2.5k in 2023.



Gift Aid and Reserves

Gift aid has also seen an encouraging increase from £46k in 2022 to **£48k** in 2023! Meanwhile our 'unrestricted reserves' are over **£175k** which is a strong position to be in.



Blessed to be a Blessing

Our Blessed to be a Blessing project has received overwhelming support with **£64k** of giving by the end of the project (31.12.23) Which is above our estimated figure of £62k!



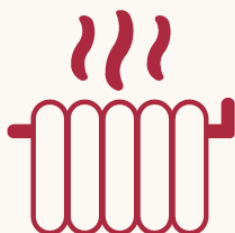
Cost of Living Fund

Over the length of the project we raised **£19k** with £8k of support provided to individuals in need and projects to alleviate need within 2023



Mission Giving

We gave away over **£26k** to support projects and partners in God's work locally and further afield, plus the remaining **£14k** from the Pat Wedge bursary.



Sinking Fund

We have increased our sinking fund by £19k to a new total of **£46k**, earmarked particularly towards replacing the Church Boiler and repairs to the masonry of the church that are scheduled to go ahead during 2024/25.

Finance: Looking forward in 2024

Income is forecast to stay level with 2023 with the exception of the Trinity Centre where bookings are predicted to continue to increase. Looking at other costs and budget assumptions:

- Utility costs will rise but we now have renewed contracts in place so they are controllable.
- Salary costs will grow with the cost of living, and staff increases will be due to the pre-school worker appointment in January 2023 and the hope that a new youth minister will begin in the autumn.
- The diocese are looking for small increase in the parish share, which we will pay in full along with a contribution to support HTBV.
- Admin costs will increase, mainly for additional IT/website costs.
- Any ongoing Café Connect support will now come from its part of the Living Stones fund (approval has been sort from the Charities Commission as this is a slightly different application of the fund).

Taken as whole this should leave a small surplus for the year.

	2024 Forecast	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Trinity Churches			
INCOME			
Member Giving	246	246	207
Tax Reclaim	52	48	57
Grant Income	5	8	5
Wedding and Funeral Fees (net)	12	14	10
Trinity Centre and Hospitality	89	77	70
Other Income	20	20	24
Total Income	424	413	373
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	27	21	22
Children and Young People	6	3	3
Evangelism and Special Events	3	4	2
Common Fund /Parish Share	97	93	103
Ministry Expenses	7	6	5
Premises	46	50	17
Total Salaries (excluding Trinity Ctr)	107	92	112
Tithe	30	26	26
Trinity Centre Expenses	91	97	62
Support For Café Connect	0	10	3
Total Expenditure	414	402	356
Surplus/(Deficit)	10	11	17

Note: the table is a useful summary of the actual income and expenditure for 2022 compared to a forecast for 2023. These figures are for our everyday activities and do not include restricted income and expenditure, such as disbursements from the Pat Wedge legacy and gains and losses on investments. Full examined statutory financial accounts can be found online at www.trinitychurches.org/apcm or from the Church Office

Appendix B. Life and leadership at Trinity Churches

At the end of this report we want to pay tribute to the many people whose hard work and dedication sustain our ongoing life at Trinity.

The **Church Office** are very much the “beating heart” of our working life together, offering a warm and professional welcome even though at times it is a pressurised and busy place to work. Kevin Pilsbury as Operations Manager, Shannon Commins as Office Administrator, Helen Hinton as Events Manager, and Jenny Jones as Finance Assistant all play a special role in bringing their gifts, energy and enthusiasm to supporting the many different areas of our life and ministry at Trinity.

We record here, with great sadness, the death of Mike Hinton, our Maintenance Manager, towards the end of 2023. Mike was such a huge blessing to our community here as he took the lead in maintaining the fabric of our buildings, but more than that Mike was always there when you needed him, from cleaning the centre, to setting up the baptismal and making sure the water wasn't too chilly, right the way through to making the most wonderful fruit and cream deserts for our celebrations here at the Centre. Mike was “Trinity Churches through and through” and we feel his loss so very keenly.

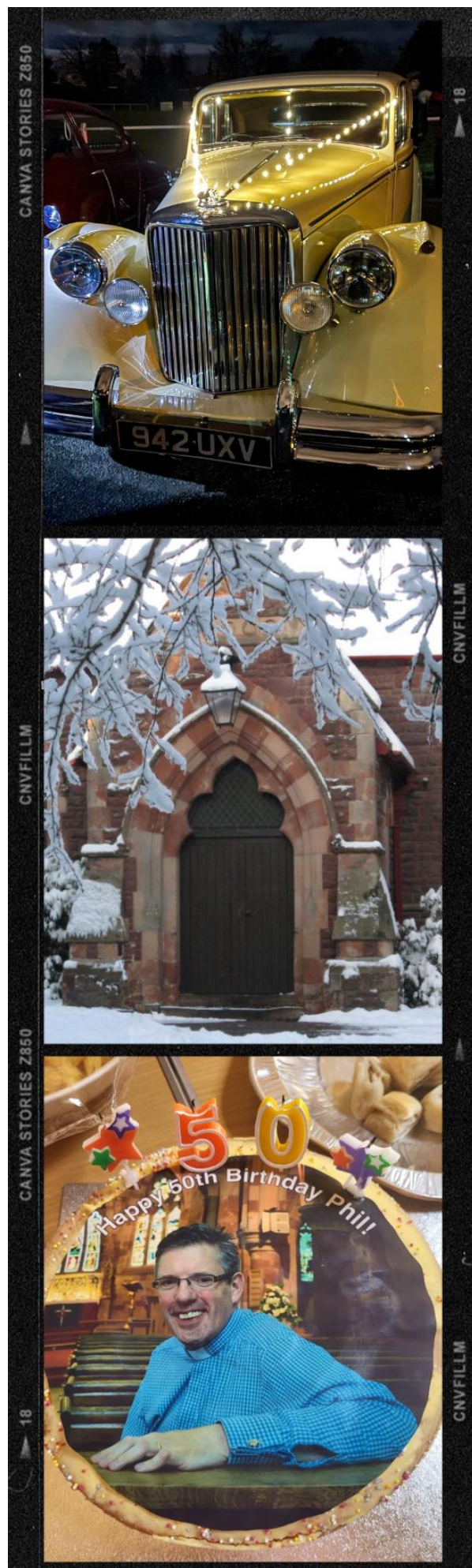
The **Ministry Leadership Team** continued to meet regularly for prayer and worship together, as well as a weekly diary-check-in, monthly planning meeting and one or two other annual occasions to go deeper together. Keith and Amal Moore are the “Community Pioneer Ministers”, with a particular focus currently on the Meole Estate and on supporting ministry and mission in Radbrook. Cerys Hughes is “Children and Families Minister”, heading up our work with 0s-11s and families, working alongside Rachel Cama who has more recently started as pre-school worker. Fi Iddon, Valerie Pitt, Charles Ruxton and Phil Cansdale worked as clergy alongside them, with Fi also being Chaplain at University Centre Shrewsbury and Charles overseeing various diocesan responsibilities for spirituality. Kevin Pilsbury is also part of the Ministry Leadership Team.

As we reported last year, Craig Silcock stepped back from his role as ‘youth minister’, and for the last twelve months the current team of youth leaders have been supported by Fi, Cerys, Phil and others. We will be reporting back at this year's APCM about next steps in recruiting for this important role. The PCC are also exploring recruiting someone to equip and enable our music and worship life.

Talking staff team we'd want to pay tribute to our longstanding verger Shirley Stevens who stood back as verger in September. She has fulfilled this role with quiet, calm efficiency for 15 years, and we're glad she'll be continuing with her reader role. Meanwhile Tim Creyke continues in role as gardener, with particular thanks to Andy Digby for working alongside him so effectively. Kelly Ashton-Pallatina is our newly appointed verger, being one of many people who play an invaluable role in helping our buildings and 'space' be welcoming to all. We are also immensely grateful to Louise Magowan who supports us as 'team chaplain'.

We recognise too the substantial input of **authorised ministers**, readers, retired clergy etc who are an integral part of our life. Our readers are Gareth Evans, Shirley Stevens, Peter Madley, Steve Jones, Judith Drury, with Olwen Abbott and Carol Booles also being commissioned in outreach and pastoral care roles. Regular leaders and preachers through the year also included Nick Webb, Alex Aldous, Keith Moore, Amal Moore, Dave Latcham, Kevin Roberts, Neville Willerton, Sarah Rozenthuler, Alex Cama, Alistair Magowan, Robert Parsons, Adrian Black and Annali Hindle. These and others are an invaluable resource in equipping the whole people of God at Trinity and supporting many aspects of our life together. Thankyou.

The **PCC** met six times each year, chaired in turn by Phil Cansdale and Paul Bell (Lay Vice-Chair). 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

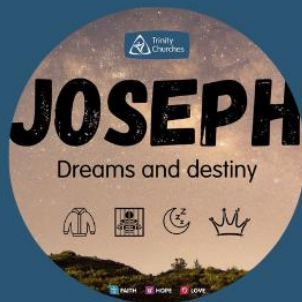


across Trinity. The **Standing and Finance Committee** (SFC) also met six times a year, a smaller group to carry some of the more pressing matters of governance and oversight on behalf of the PCC.

The PCC also appoints **leadership teams** who oversee individual congregations, as well as the “Trinity Centre Management Committee”, “Mission Relief and Development Committee”, “Café Connect Management Committee” and “Stewardship group”. Our thanks to Andrew Prichard (more recently Martin Withington), Bob Tweddle, Megan Arnold and Rob Surl who, in turn, chair each of these.

Alongside the PCC the work of **Deanery Synod** continued within the newly enlarged “Shrewsbury and Wrekin” deanery. They meet three times a year, and at a local level Rob Surl is Lay Chair, Fi Iddon is Assistant Area Dean, and we currently have eight elected PCC members. At its best, the Deanery Synod is a place where local clergy and laity can meet to support and encourage one another, and to share information, ideas, and best practice. Synod can also facilitate communication between the Diocese and the huge number and variety of local churches within it, giving them a voice when decisions are made.

As representatives from a large, well-resourced church, it can be eye-opening to learn of the challenges facing smaller rural churches and the pressures on the people who serve in them. We need to learn humbly from each other, pray for each other, and find the best ways to share both ideas and resources, including with PCCs. And, in these difficult times, it is good for us to work together and show the unity that Jesus prayed for.



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