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Reports from PCC Sub Groups

Children and Youth

We are so thankful that we are seeing an increasing number of children at our Sunday morning children's groups. We now regularly have 12-15 children. This is a wonderful opportunity and a sign of our growth as a church. However, it is also a challenge finding enough leaders to fulfil our safeguarding requirements and provide teaching and input that is appropriate for the range of ages. A lot of time over the last year has therefore been spent recruiting new team members, managing the rota and making sure suitable resources are available.

We are very grateful for the arrival of Zoey in September. Part of her role is to provide administrative support for the families' ministry. She has been taking increased responsibility over the rota and making sure resources are available for the team.

We are also very grateful to all those who help on the team - for their time and commitment and leadership in planning and running the sessions.

In the first week of August 2022, we again hosted just under 60 kids for four mornings of fun at our summer Holiday Club. We learned about the life of Jesus through stories and activities.



The kids built extraordinary models, sung, danced, ate, played and had a whole lot of fun. We are very thankful to all the leaders with a particular thanks to leaders who joined us from other churches in the

area. Once again, the 2022 Holiday Club was fully booked showing the impact of our growing relationships with Greystones school.

Our weekly playgroup, 'Greystones Playmates' (for kids aged 0-5 with parents) continues to flourish and is reaching capacity with a continual

increase of new families. Playmates continues to be an invaluable opportunity to build relationships with local families. It is a first point of contact for many who we are then able to invite to our other events and services (particularly the Natingle service), the Light Party and the Autumn Fair.



Our after school Christian Union group, 'Epic Explorers', for junior school aged kids at Greystones Primary school regularly sees around 15 gathering for snacks, activities, craft and bible study. The majority of the children who come go to a local church but a number do not. The group is their only Christian input and it is therefore a privilege to be able to share the love of Jesus with them.



Catherine Stevenson

Our youth group has been meeting regularly with around 8 young people in attendance. In July, we bade farewell to Sam Chubb, who was an intern at the church and helped to set up and lead the group during his time with us. The group is a significant part of his legacy, and we are grateful for his contributions.

Each session starts with games and catch-ups, followed by food together before engaging in a particular series or Bible study. Earlier this year, we completed the youth Alpha course and moved on to "The Youth Wellbeing Journey," a video series that explores six areas of wellbeing: physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial, and vocational. The series, which is filmed from the perspective of four young people, helps them discover more about God's plan for their wellbeing.

We also had a few social sessions and an opportunity to join with the youth group at All Saints Ecclesall. With the launch of "At the Table," the youth group has been helping to prepare and serve food and set up and clear away. It's been great to see the youth serving the church and getting involved so enthusiastically. Moving forward, we hope to explore other

opportunities for the youth to serve both the church and the wider community.

Alistair Stevenson

Community Engagement and Bless Greystones

Our deliberations over the past year have been centred on a number of activities including:

Light Party

On 31st October we ran a Light Party for local families as an alternative to Halloween. We ran lots of light-themed activities, provided seasonal snacks, face-painting and an obstacle course. Towards the end, we gathered in the worship area for a Scripture



Union video on Jesus as 'The Light' and Catherine gave a short message about Jesus being a light to guide us in life. The event was very well attended, with around 70 people (including kids), and many have asked if we will do it again next year, which I'm sure we will.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Maundy Thursday we had over 35 families walking around a route in Bingham Park finding Easter egg clues. The hunt ending with a prize with each family receiving 'The Real Easter Egg' which contains an illustrated account of the Easter Story.



Cuppa and Cake

This is now an established event each Friday in the hall 2-3pm. 12 volunteers take it in turns to provide drinks and delicious cakes for anyone who turns up. Sometimes there are six but sometimes over a dozen. All enjoy a good chat whilst enjoying the refreshments.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In addition to these we also coordinated an event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. This was a great afternoon of games and celebrations plus food and music. Many people were involved in pulling it all together but a special thank you should go to Angela Monks for the fabulous decorations and to Linda Lathey for coordinating all the lovely food we had.



Family Fun Day and Autumn Fair

This is our annual fundraiser and is held in November. Various stalls, refreshments and activities were on offer and the well-attended event raised over £880 for the local S6 Foodbank. On the day we were joined by Greystones WI and the Bingham Park Community Group who had their own stalls.



Barn Dance

In the Autumn we held a Barn Dance, kindly organised by Mike and Christine Carney, which was a great deal of fun for every age group. There are hopes that this might be repeated so watch out for this after the summer holidays.



Baby Basics

Greystones WI also held an event at St Gabriel's to collect items for Baby Basics.

Howard Vaughan

Environment and Social Justice

The ESJ Group met six times on zoom during 2022-2023. The group comprises Jo Chamberlain, Joyce Crowther, Linda Chambers, Stuart Ibbotson and during the year we welcomed Peter Bayliss onto the group and were grateful for additional input from Howard Vaughan.

We marked Christian Aid Week May 2022 by delivering some envelopes locally, making available devotional booklets, a zoom quiz evening and input into a Sunday service.

We had a Fairtrade stall at the Autumn Fair and during Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 though plans for the latter were somewhat thwarted by snow! Environment Sunday June 2022 was celebrated with outdoor worship in Bingham Park and Jo provided feedback from the November COP 27.

The major focus of the meetings since the last APCM has been to explore becoming an Eco Church by completing the Eco Church Survey produced by Christian organisation A Rocha. There are five sections: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement, Lifestyle. We were officially awarded Bronze in early autumn and a certificate displayed in the foyer. We continue the process of moving from Bronze to Silver (and then Gold) which is much more challenging. At each stage we try to identify several things in the survey which are fairly easily accomplished to move us forward.

We need to identify new members to join the group and Linda plans to step down as facilitator from summer 2023.

Linda Chambers

Buildings, Fabric and Finance

Work done on the buildings:

The boiler-house door and the Hall fire door have been replaced with metal doors. A fixed wiring test was completed (done every 5 years) and the necessary remedial work carried out. SSE have upgraded (at no cost to us) the two non-smart electricity meters so that now all our electricity meters are smart meters. LED lights have been installed on the Creche stairs and as strip lights in the hall. Some new rechargeable batteries have been put into the emergency lighting system.

Our Wyvern organ has been serviced and repaired by a specialist.

Outside

Railings have been installed around the Memorial Garden and the sign lifted to above the railings. In the autumn we hired a skip to clear out a lot of unwanted items and to allow for the grounds to be tidied up. The heavy snowfall in March caused some tree damage which was dealt with by a tree surgeon.

Main items of discussion:

To help in our thoughts about how the Hall can be used to benefit both our local community and our church we carried out a survey to gather opinions. The clear majority of respondents wanted the hall to generate

income for the church whilst also being kept in a good state and made available for church functions. This was taken on board when setting the hall rents and when forming a bookings policy.

The main lights in both the Worship area and the Hall have become difficult to replace when a bulb blows because of the implementation of our Working at Heights policy. After much discussion and research we have concluded that a high level platform can be hired and a certified installer is needed to erect the tower when working at heights above 3m because of the requirements of Working at Heights regulations.

Due to the increased level of Hall use we are finding that much repair work is needed. So, with a quinquennial review coming up soon, we put together a list of jobs that require attention. With this has come an increase in funds in the maintenance budget. Over 12 months from Easter 2022 to Easter 2023 the Hall has hosted 73 parties.

Howard Vaughan

Pastoral, Prayer and Wholeness Ministry

Our purpose is:

to pray for the church and wider Greystones community,

to identify the pastoral needs of the congregation and

to ensure that effective systems exist to meet those needs in the broadest sense.

This sub-group comprises Jacqui Bailey, Christine Carney, Linda Chambers, Steve Dewey, Anne Hands, and Kim Ibbotson; a number of us are also members of the Wholeness group and the Intercessions team and/or have been able to join the Tuesday morning prayer meetings on Zoom. During the course of the year, we have discussed baptism follow-up, prayer and pastoral support in the Growth groups, pastoral and wholeness ministry training, focal ministry, and worship and disability.

Jacqui Bailey

Worship and Services

We hold two main services every Sunday morning, one at 10am and the other at 11:30am. The latter is a more subdued, liturgical service with choral music. We are still making arrangements for individuals who are considered

vulnerable due to COVID-19. One of the highlights of the year was the adult baptism of Katie Dudley at the 11:30am service in June. Katie had recently become a Christian at St. Gabriel's.

For those in our congregation who are unable to attend in person or access online services, we provide a weekly hard copy of the service. Liz Dewey has been faithfully delivering these nearly every weekend. We also publish the service on our website for those who can access it. Our Zoom community is still going strong, with members often breaking out into smaller groups for fellowship and support after the services.

Throughout the year, our Sunday services explored a range of themes, including a series on Colossians, the Five Marks of Mission, and the book of Deuteronomy. We are deeply grateful to Mary Lillistone, Jo Chamberlain, and Louis Rose for their regular musical contributions. In addition, Rachael Williams and Martha Dewey provide excellent support for our visuals, while Steve Dewey and Mike Carney coordinate the sound for our services with great skill and dedication.

In December, we launched a new Sunday evening gathering called "At the Table," which is led by our ordinand Rachel. It's a place where God is found in friendship, service, and celebration, inspired by Jesus' words in Revelation 3:20: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

At the Table is a warm and welcoming place for people of all ages to share stories, life, and faith over a hot meal. It's a place where everyone and all-ages can find family, whether they've been a Christian for 50 years or are not sure they believe in God

Alistair Stevenson



ADDITIONAL REPORTS

From the Vicar

2022 was another year of tremendous growth and inspiration for us. I remain grateful for the many exciting and inspiring ways that we see God working in our community.

Our Sunday services regularly welcome new faces, and some of whom join our church family and commit to serving the church. Despite budgeting for a significant deficit at the start of the year, we were able to end with a surplus by the end of it. We thank God for His goodness to us!

Prayer remains a central aspect of our worship and personal lives.

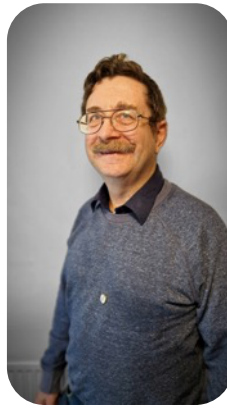
We are also grateful for the incredible generosity of those who have given their financial support, time, and energy to our church. So many members of our congregation serve and minister in various capacities, and we are grateful for each one of them. While I cannot name everyone, I would like to acknowledge several individuals who have made a significant contribution to our church:

- Our wardens, Howard and Martin, who work tirelessly behind the scenes and offer me pastoral support during our weekly meetings.
- Our safeguarding officer, Jacqui Bailey, for her diligence in ensuring that we are the safest church we can be.
- Our ordinand, Rachel Crossley, who joined us in September and has already blessed us with her preaching, Sunday service leadership, and leadership of At The Table.
- Zoey Steele, our new Ministry Administrator, who joined us in September and offers administrative support to our church's mission and ministry. We are grateful for all those who contribute to our church's flourishing.

Focal Ministers

On 27th November we authorised and commissioned 3 focal ministers.

Having been authorised by the Diocese, Peter, Linda and Catherine will assume more



focussed roles and responsibility whilst continuing to serve in the church.

Focal Ministry acknowledges and honours the calling of Christians to contribute to the Mission and Ministry of their church under God. Focal Ministry is a new form of authorized lay ministry that aims to provide local focus and a regular presence for existing and new congregations. Our Focal Ministers work as part of the Ministry Leadership Team here at St Gabriel's.

According to Bishop Sophie Jelley, "Focal Ministry is a key component of the diocesan strategy to empower local leadership in churches and equip worshipping communities to make disciples and seek to transform our society and God's world."

Growth Groups

We launched new Growth Groups in the spring, with five new groups starting, one on each evening from Monday to Thursday, and a daytime group on Fridays.

Growth Groups are small communities based on our vision triangle - UP, IN, and OUT. They aim to grow in various ways but prioritize these three key areas:

- Our relationship with and love for God
- Our relationship with and love for one another
- Our relationship and love for the world.

We encourage everyone who wants to be part of the church family to join a Growth Group.

Other highlights of 2022 include:

- During the month of August, we had a fully booked Holiday Club in the church, which was a great success.

- Our Bless Greystones initiatives continued throughout the year, including a Light Party and community outreach on Bless Greystones Sunday.
- In the week leading up to Christmas, we organized four carols on the street events, with Alistair and others leading the singing of carols with members of St Gabriel's and their neighbours. We also had two packed carol singing sessions at the Greystones pub.
- On Christmas Eve, we had a special 'Natingle' service that was also streamed on Zoom, providing an opportunity for people to celebrate the birth of Christ together.

Above all, we give all the glory and praise to God for His grace and goodness, knowing that it is only through His power and work that we are able to minister and see fruit.

Alistair Stevenson

Mission Partnership with All Saints Ecclesall

Throughout 2022, our Mission Partnership with All Saints continued to flourish and expand. We were especially grateful for the deepening relationships that we established with new ministers at All Saints, including their curate and associate Vicar.

In addition, we celebrated several wonderful initiatives that we were able to undertake together, including a Joint Ash Wednesday service, an outdoor Ascension Day service to mark the start of Thy Kingdom Come, and an Advent Sunday service that began at All Saints and included a prayer walk through both parishes before concluding at St Gabriel's.

We give thanks and glory to God for His abundant grace and blessings, as it is only through His power and guidance that we are able to engage in fruitful partnerships and meaningful ministry.

Ministry of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

We pray to God for healing, for dealing with fear, grief, life-changing situations, worries, concerns about work or school and when we simply need extra strength and blessing.

Each Sunday, members of the Wholeness group are able to pray with you at 11am between the two services; we sit at the front of church on the right-hand side. Alternatively, you can complete a prayer-request slip and put it in the box at the back of church, speak to us after church or contact Jacqui Bailey on 0114 2664678. This is complemented by a Breakout room after the Zoom service. This gives opportunity for fellowship and support (including prayer when appropriate) for people who for various reasons are not comfortable/not able to come to services in the church building.

In July we re-introduced our regular Healing and Wholeness services. These take place at 11.30am on the second Sunday of those months with five Sundays, so approximately once a quarter. Within the service there is a time of peaceful reflection and the opportunity to receive God's blessing through anointing with oil.

We were pleased to have Louise Castle, the Bishop's Adviser in Healing and Wholeness, come to our service in October and stay afterwards to meet the team and to talk to us about Healing and Wholeness in the Diocese. Some members of the group have taken the opportunity to attend Healing and Wholeness services at St Mark's, Broomhill and to access a training day in Rotherham on Wellbeing, Healing and Wholeness, and we look forward to similar opportunities this coming year.

Our current team comprises: Jacqui Bailey, John Gough, Anne Hands, Kim Ibbotson, Ian Lee, Paula and Peter Smithers and Sarah Waller

Jacqui Bailey

Giving to Mission

As a church, we remain committed to giving around 10% of our income to charities and missionaries, and we are grateful for the generous one-off donations we have received towards our Bless Greystones initiative. Furthermore, last year we continued to be "net" givers to the diocese through our Common Fund contribution, supporting mission and ministry in some of the most deprived communities in our country.

In 2022, we gave away approximately 15% of our income to mission and ministry outside of Greystones (including our net contribution to the Diocese) and we are thankful for the generosity of our members in supporting others, both locally and globally. Specifically, we supported David and Helen Smithers through Serving In Mission (SIM), The Mangles through People International, Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS), and the Snowdrop Project.

In 2022 the PCC formed a new sub-group to advise the PCC on it's giving and our on-going support for our mission partners.

In the Autumn we welcomed back Tom and Gemma Withers after their eight-month STEP (Short-Term Experience Placement) to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda with CMS Ireland. Both worked alongside the hospital's Physio Department, but had many other ministry opportunities within the Kiwoko community. Alongside our prayer, we were able to financially support Tom and Gemma through our mission giving as a church alongside many individual donations from members of the congregation.

Additionally, we engaged with Christian Aid week in May, raising awareness through our Sunday services and hosting a quiz night to raise money towards their impactful work across the world.

We continue to believe that supporting mission work outside the church is essential for spreading the gospel and extending the love of Christ beyond our local community. It allows us to support those who are reaching people who may not have access to the message of salvation and provide them with physical, emotional, and spiritual support. By supporting mission work, we can help provide resources, training, and education to people in need, as well as supporting missionaries who have dedicated their lives to serving in areas that may be difficult to access or dangerous. It also reminds us that we are part of a global community of believers, and that we have a responsibility to care for and support each other. Ultimately, supporting mission work outside the church is an expression of our faith and our desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

Alistair Stevenson

Deanery Synod

The Ecclesall Deanery Synod comprises clergy and lay representatives from all the churches in the Deanery. These meetings are also open to any church members in the Deanery who wish to attend. The Synods provide

an opportunity to share news from around the Deanery and receive updates from the Diocesan and General Synod meetings.

The June 2022 Synod met at All Saints, Ecclesall, facilitated by Rev Mark Brown, the Area Dean. The Rev Chris Stebbing, Assistant Archdeacon - Transition Enabler introduced himself and gave an overview of his role to assist parishes in moving forward in ministry and mission. Michaela Suckling explained her role as a Parish Nurse based at St Matthew's, Carver Street and working in the community and Moor Market. Ann Brown, the longstanding Deanery Secretary stepped down.

There was a joint Deanery Gathering for the Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deaneries at the Cathedral in November. Bishop Pete spoke on Psalm 91 and two people from St. Augustine's and Totley All Saints shared stories of new ventures in their churches. There was discussion and feedback about the challenges and opportunities facing our churches, Deaneries and Diocese. The gathering closed with worship and the invitation for anointing with oil.

Later in November there was a further opportunity to gather at All Saints for a more intimate time of worship and sharing news led by Mark Brown. In between meetings Mark Brown emailed notes and updates for Clergy and Synod Reps.

Linda Chambers (and Helen Brown) Deanery Synod Reps

Welcome Team and Hospitality

The St Gabriel's welcomers, also known as sidespeople, are an integral part of our church's hospitality. They try to ensure that both visitors and regular worshippers feel welcome, at ease and included. The sidespeople continue to offer a helping hand during and after the service and have an important role to play. It's a real joy to have the opportunity to greet both familiar faces and newcomers on a Sunday morning and you are warmly encouraged to join the team.

Please speak to Jacqui Bailey on 0114 2664678 if you would like to become a sidesperson, or if you would find it helpful to know more about the role.

Jacqui Bailey

Cleaning: Thanks to those who continue to clean the church.

Flowers: Thank you to the members of the church who provide the flowers for the front of church, and also those who arrange them.

Refreshments: Many thanks to those who provide refreshments between the services, they are much appreciated. Fair trade products are used where possible.

If anyone would like further information regarding these please speak to Diane Dyson.

Safeguarding

'The concept of safeguarding, and the promotion of a safeguarding culture, is wider and more pro-active than just responding to the actual abuse of one person by another.'

The Church of England Safeguarding e-manual

We take seriously our commitment to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; we re-stated this commitment at our PCC meeting in April 2023. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) works closely with the Wardens who oversee health and safety. Policies, parish statements and risk assessments are reviewed on a two-year schedule with the exception of the safeguarding policy, the health and safety policy and the building risk assessments which continue to be reviewed annually. DBS disclosures have been processed as required and safeguarding training accessed via Zoom. Safeguarding continues to be an agenda item at every PCC meeting and Diocesan safeguarding newsletters are widely circulated. Following up a recommendation in the latter, safeguarding awareness posters have been purchased and placed around the building; the ones aimed specifically at children being at child-height. We have been working on a disability policy which has links with safeguarding and expect to be adopting and implementing the policy in the near future. Two people have recently undertaken Safeguarding Leadership training and our PSO has completed Modern Slavery and Safeguarding training.

Thanks are expressed to the Safeguarding Leadership Group, comprising Jacqui Bailey, Linda Chambers, Kim Ibbotson and Catherine Stevenson, for their help with the development and review of policies and procedures.

St Gabriel's is committed to high standards in the safeguarding and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Jacqui Bailey who can be contacted by emailing safeguarding@saintgs.co.uk