

**St Mary-the-Virgin Church**

**Great Brickhill**

**Annual Church Meeting**

**Tuesday 16th May 2023**

**The 2022 Church Annual Report and the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting are available on the website:-**

**<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/annual-meeting-202/>**

# **The Annual Vestry Meeting**

## **The Election of the Church Wardens**

*Julia Turner*

# The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2022,  
available in advance  
(No requirement to adopt the Minutes)
4. Elections:-
  - a). Deanery Synod Representative (one)
  - b). Members of the PCC (max 6)
  - b). Appointment of Independent Examiner 2023

# **DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE**

*Position has been vacant since 1/10/20*

*Jeremy Hopkinson serves on the  
Deanery Synod as Treasurer*

# **NOMINATIONS FOR THE PCC**

**Current members:-**

*Phillipa Cook*

*Clare Hankins-Lewis*

*Diana Williams*

*Joy Wilson*

**New nominations:-**

*Stuart Jones*

*Sophia Walmsley*

# **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

*David Beatty has fulfilled the role of Independent Examiner for the last few years. He is willing to continue in that role.*

# **ELECTORAL ROLL**

**[ No. on Roll at 19th May 2022:- 37 ]**

**Current Number on Electoral Roll**

**16th May 2023:- 36**

**(3 not resident in the parish)**

# **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Services, activities, events etc**

# **Covid-19 Restrictions**

**All restrictions were relaxed**

## **Church Opening**

**The church was open for a longer period during the days of the July heatwave with refreshments available**

# **SERVICES:**

**The new service pattern was reviewed in September. It was agreed that the pattern continue.**

**The services are publicised widely – website, Pew Sheet, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp**

# THANKS TO:

- **The Rector, Jeremy Hopkinson, the visiting clergy and all those who lead our services**
- **Jerry Breslin (Organist and Choirmaster) and Rosemary for playing the organ for us**
- **The Benefice choir**
- **Andrew & Margretta Smith and Sophia Walmsley for the music at the Family Services**

# **ATTENDANCE:**

**Average attendance for normal Sunday service = 15, much higher for special services**

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

**1 wedding, 5 baptisms, 7 funerals  
3 midweek contemporary services  
Annual Harvest, Remembrance etc  
Plus, the following:-**

# OUTDOOR BENEFICE SERVICE IN THE CHURCHYARD, SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY



# THE VILLAGE NATIVITY AT THE CRICKET CLUB

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

The snow made it very scenic, a wonderful enactment of the Nativity showing the real meaning of Christmas



# THE NATIVITY

The children were encouraged to come forward to sing the first verse of one of the carols



..... and the same at the  
**NINE LESSONS & CAROLS – CHRISTMAS EVE**



# **HIGH ASH SERVICES:**

**Services are held for:-**

**Key Stage 1 & Foundation**

**Key Stage 2 pupils**

**Leavers' service**

**Harvest**

**Christingle / Carol Service**

**Easter**

# HIGH ASH EASTER SERVICE TABLE



# High Ash – Easter Gardens and Easter Cards



# **HIGH ASH HEADTEACHER:**

**Mrs Sara Boyce left at the end of the year. Deputy Head, Mrs Kate Goodger was Acting Head from 1st January.**

**Mrs Ruth Lewin was appointed Headteacher from Easter.**

# **THE JUBILEE WEEKEND:**

**Photographic exhibition in the church**

# PHOTOGRAPHS AROUND THE VILLAGE DATING BACK TO THE 1850s



# ARTEFACTS FROM RECTORY FARM



# WATCHING DIGITALISED CINE FOOTAGE OF THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN GREAT BRICKHILL 1977



# CREAM TEAS ON JUBILEE SUNDAY



# **THE JUBILEE ANTHEM**

**The anthem was sung by the choir in the church and recorded. It was then played at the lighting of the village beacon**

# **THE PASSING OF THE QUEEN**

**The church was open for longer times in the day during the period of Royal Mourning for people to visit to pay their respects and have a quiet time of reflection and prayer**

# SINGLE TENOR BELL UNMUFFLED FOR THE QUEEN

## Midday, 9<sup>th</sup> September



# THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN ON THE EVE OF HER FUNERAL, 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER



# **CHURCH ACTIVITIES:**

**5-week Lent course led by the Rector  
based on the Psalms of Ascent**

**Starting in June a new monthly midweek Bible  
Group at The Rectory**

**“Link to Hope” shoebox appeal – sent to  
Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria**

**“Feed the Hungry” knitting**

# **CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):**

**Occasional Saturday Coffee Mornings incl one in May in aid of Christian Aid Week. No “House to House collection, online giving for Christian Aid encouraged**

**Monday Morning Coffee Club during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am**

**Food Box in the church porch. The demand has increased in recent months**

# **CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):**

## **Communications:-**

**Website, Pew Sheet for every service, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp**

## **Parish Newsletter:-**

**Scaled down version with news items is printed and delivered each month to those known to be unable to receive the Newsletter online**

# **ADDITIONAL EVENTS HELD IN THE LATTER PART OF 2022**

# **OPEN GARDENS:**

**Teas were provided at the church and ice creams on sale on the afternoon of the Open Gardens organised by the Gardening Club on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.  
£462 was raised.**

# CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER



# CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER



# CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER



# THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

## RAISED £1,108



# **CAROL SINGING:**

**Carol singing around the village on two evenings. £724 was collected.**

# THE ADVENT WINDOWS

## A new window opening from 1<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December



# THE FINAL "WINDOW"



# **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

**All documents are on display in the church porch and in the Great Brickhill section of the website**

**Safeguarding:**

**Annual review of Safeguarding Policy in November. No safeguarding incidents have been reported.**

# Treasurer's Report including adoption of the Annual Report

- Accounts prepared on Receipts and Payments basis
- Deficit for the year of £1,159
- The Covid pandemic again had an impact on income (services and fundraising activities)
- A change in gas supplier at the end of the contract resulted in a very large heating bill
- Two Credit/debit card devices for receipts at services and fund raising activities

# PARISH SHARE PAYMENT TO DIOCESE

Payment due for 2022 was £21,025

Parish Share paid:- £8,000

(38% of amount due)

(Parish Share paid in 2021:- £16,000)

# **WARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC OF THE CHURCH**

**(Julia Turner)**

# **DEANERY SYNOD**

**Synod representative position – vacant**

**There is no secretary and Jeremy has been trying to find a replacement as Treasurer**

**Gavin Merrylees is retiring as Lay Chair and Revd Val Plumb is due to step down as Rural Dean**

# **DEANERY SYNOD (cont.)**

**Two Synod meetings held via Zoom  
(March & November) and an in-person  
meeting at Great Brickhill in June**

**The Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Steven,  
visited all 30 Deaneries. He spent the day  
in Mursley Deanery on 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

# **OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST**

**NEW FACILITIES & ROOF REPAIR**

**EVENTS HELD IN 2023**

# **THE NEW FACILITIES**

**Work on the rendering on the new extension and the bonded gravel path was done in June.**

**There were a significant number of snagging issues. The builder remedied some of those but is not able to complete the outstanding list of defects.**

**A third-party building contractor will start completing the work under the direction of the architect in June.**

# THE ROOF REPAIR

All the relevant permissions to replace the temporary felt covering with terne coated steel have been granted.

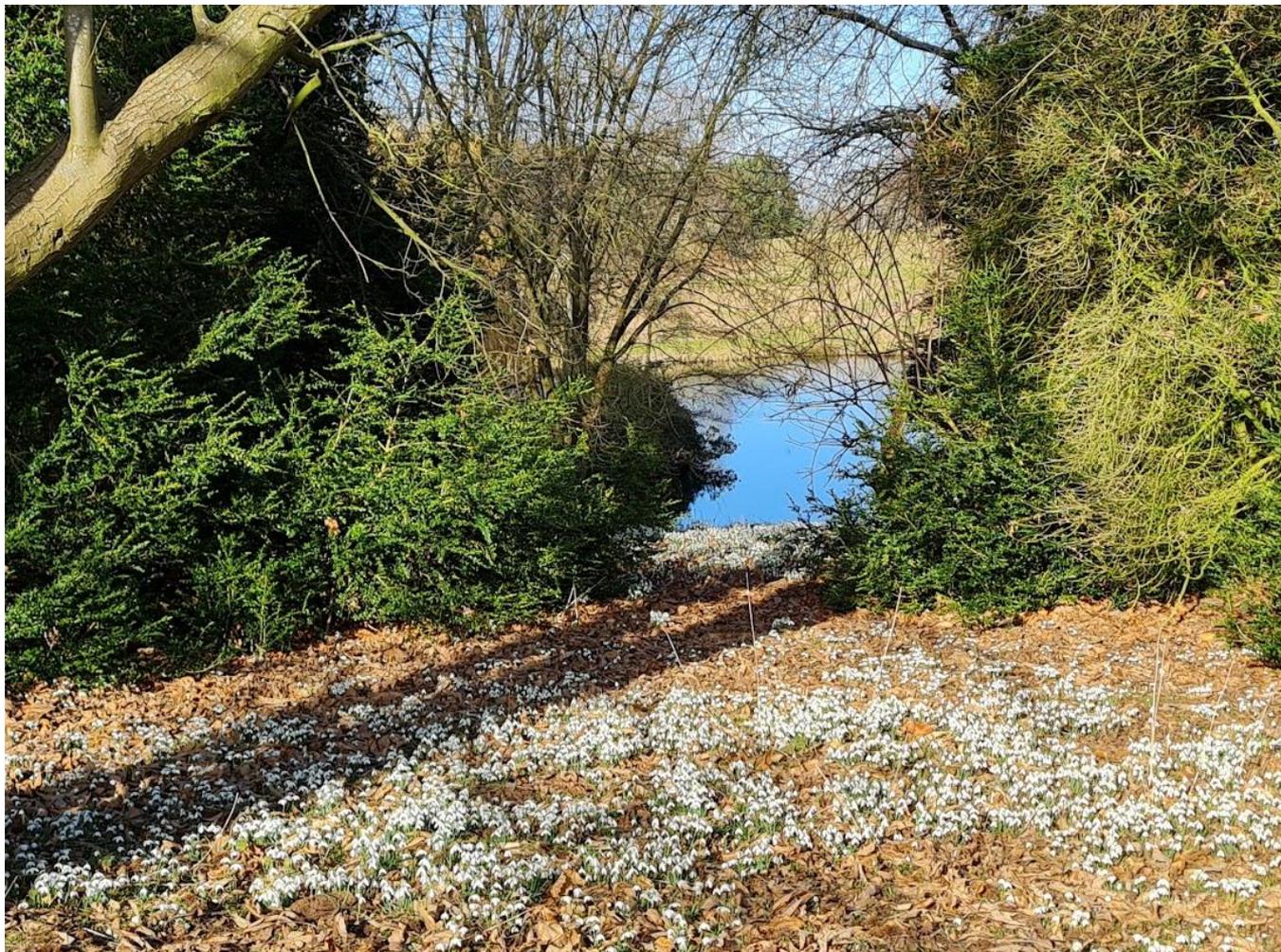
The cost of the work incl fees and VAT is £127k. The work will start as soon as funding is in place. We have secured funding of £82k. Multiple grant applications have been made.

Buckets have to be put out whenever the rain comes in. The work needs to be done urgently due to the state of the ceiling panels and walls.

# **EVENTS HELD IN 2023**

**Snowdrop Walks  
Drinks & Canapes  
Coffee Morning and Talk  
Easter  
Plant Fayre  
The Coronation**

**THE SNOWDROP WALKS, SUNDAYS 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**With thanks to Sir David and Lady Sally Duncombe**  
**for allowing us access to their grounds.**



The queue for tea was very long!



..... but the tea was worth waiting for!



## A great atmosphere in the church



# **The Snowdrop Walks**

**After the disappointment of the last three years we were blessed with good weather and a large number of visitors on both days. On the first Sunday, an incredible £1762.40 was raised, which included a very generous donation of £150 from Drop-In, followed by £1248, giving a total for the two weeks an amazing £3000.40.**

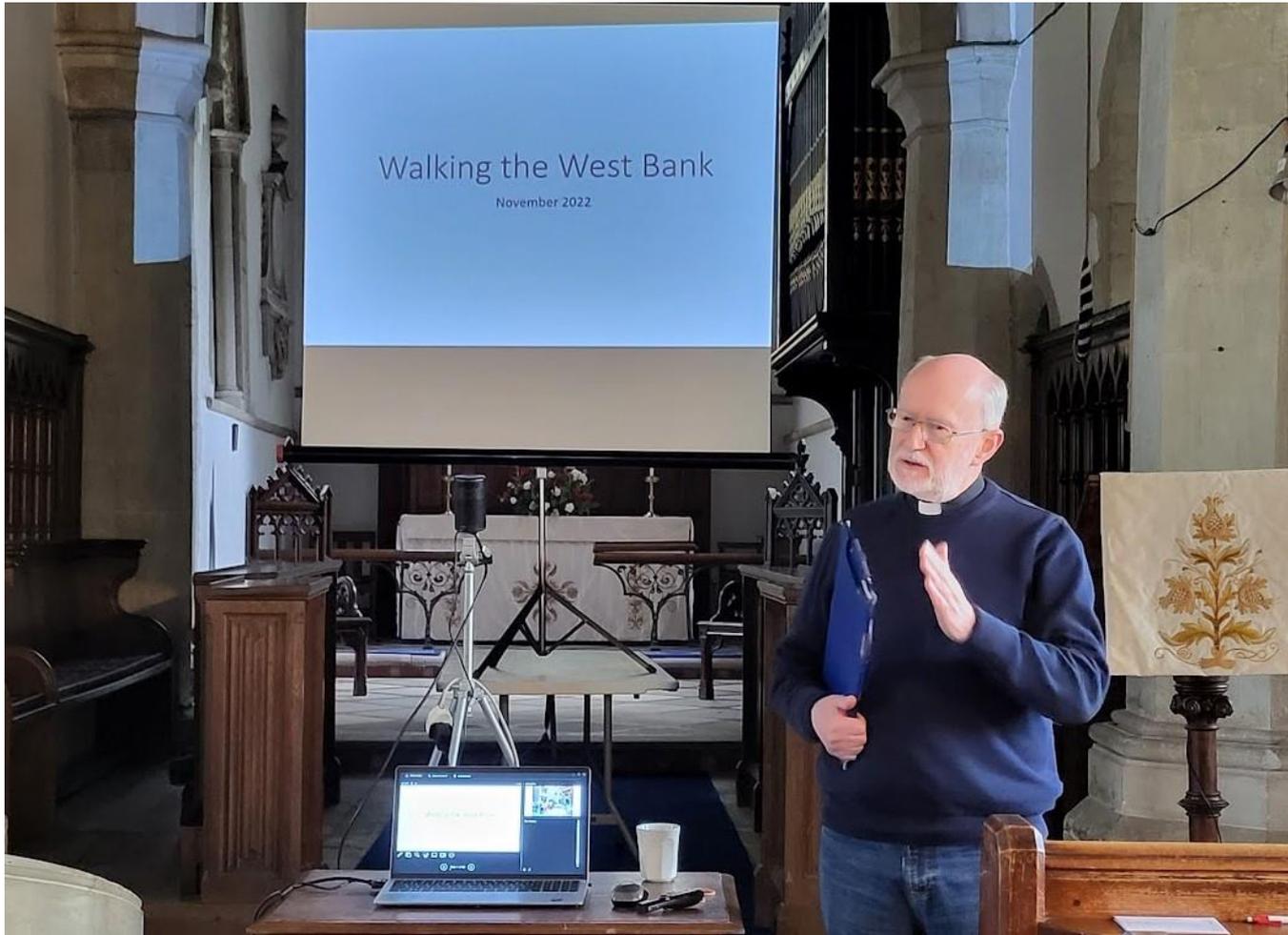
**Thank you to those who helped with the teas and provided the delicious cakes.**

# **Revd John Waller .....**

**Arrived in the Benefice in February 2003.  
To celebrate his 20 years here, drinks and  
canapes were provided after the Family Service  
on Sunday 19th February**

**On 13th May he went on a trip to Israel**

# On 13<sup>th</sup> May the Rector showed photos he had taken on his trip to Israel in November 2022



**..... a walking trek over rough terrain  
amongst the Palestinian people**



# EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE



The church was decorated beautifully for the Easter service. Jerry Breslin and the choir led the singing and concluded the service with a wonderful anthem.

Then came the Easter Egg hunt for the young children in the churchyard in glorious sunshine.

## Renewal of the Baptismal vows at the font



# The choir singing the anthem “In Christ Alone”



# **THE PLANT FAYRE**

**After a three-year break due to Covid, it was wonderful to be able to hold the event again at our normal venue. There were fewer nurserymen but, together with the village plant stall, there were plenty of plants to buy. An amazing £2472 was raised. 315 people came through “the door” and the event was clearly enjoyed by all those who attended.**

**Thank you to the Cricket Club and to all those who helped with the event.**

# The Plant Fayre, back at its usual location at the cricket field



..... and inside the Parish Hall



# The Church Plant Stall



The weather was superb, warm enough to enjoy the refreshments outside



**The children enjoyed the occasion – I wonder why!**



# THE CORONATION



**A special Benefice service of Holy Communion  
was held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

# **Bell Ringing for the Coronation**

**David Middleton, out Tower Captain organised a team of ringers for the afternoon of the Coronation to “ring in the new King” and for a quarter peal to be rung the following day.**

**David had been training some new bell ringers and arranged for filming of some of our ringers to be filmed for BBC South Today on Thursday 2nd May.**

**The team of ringers who “rang in the new King”  
on the day of the Coronation, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**



# THE RECTOR

# Bible Verses:

## Colossians 3: 15, 17 (NIV)

**15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**THANK YOU TO .....**

**Everyone who helps with various tasks  
around the church and churchyard  
but we are always looking  
for more people to help!**

# **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**The meeting will conclude with Compline,  
a short service of evening prayer**