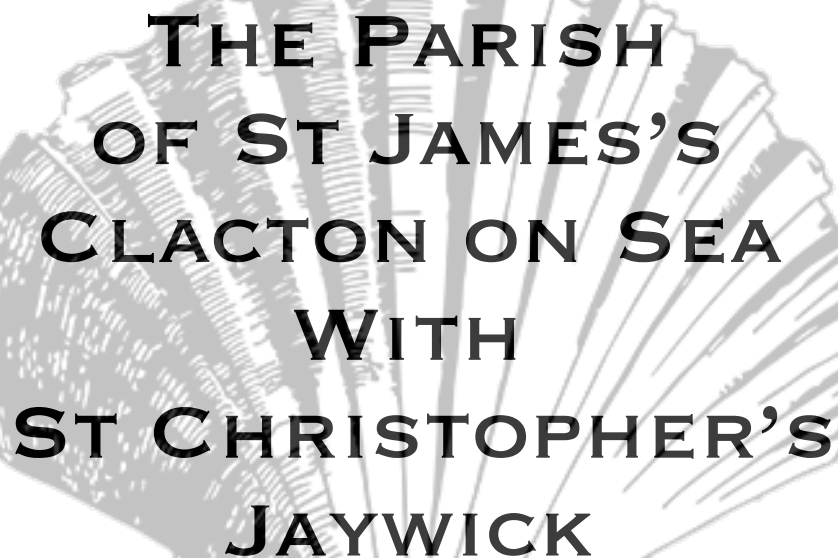


2022/2023 APCM REPORTS



THE PARISH OF ST JAMES'S CLACTON ON SEA WITH ST CHRISTOPHER'S JAYWICK



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND APCM AT ST JAMES'S, CLACTON-ON-SEA
9TH MAY 2022**

VESTRY MEETING

Election of Church Wardens

1. Re-election of Church Wardens

Jane Osborne proposed Paul Siddall to be re-elected as Church Warden, Chris Aguda seconded and all agreed.

Lesley Hughes proposed Corrine Osborn to be re-elected as Church Warden, Pam Straw seconded and all agreed.

2. Appointment of Deputy Church Warden

Fr Justin appointed Pam Straw as Deputy Church Warden.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

APCM 2021

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted from Sandra Oswick, and Charles and Jan Day.

Adoption of Minutes of 2021 Meeting and Matters Arising

Matt Siddall proposed, and Mick King seconded that the minutes of the 2021 Annual Parochial Church meeting were approved subject to the following amendment:

· Paul Siddall and Corrine Osborn were made Church Wardens, and Pam Straw was made a Deputy Church Warden.

All agreed.

Receive reports

The reports had been previously circulated were noted. No questions were asked on the reports.

Treasurer's Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Accounts

The 2021 Accounts had been previously agreed and were available to view on the notice board. Paul Siddall proposed, and Pam Straw seconded that the 2021 Annual Accounts be adopted. All agreed.

Election of one position to serve on PCC for three years

It was proposed by Matt Siddall, seconded by Chris Aguda, that Paul Rawlinson be elected to serve on the PCC for three years. Paul Rawlinson was duly elected.

Thanks went to Rose Barry-Smith for her service to the PCC.

Election of one person to serve on the Deanery Synod for 3 years

Fr Justin reported there was a vacancy to serve on the Deanery Synod for a period of three years. The position remained in vacancy.

Appointment of Independent Examiner (Auditor)

The Chair proposed that Miss E Eames be duly appointed. All agreed.

Appointment of Sidespersons

The current sidespersons had all agreed to remain in their positions.

Appointments of Safeguarding Officer and Parish Safeguarding Representative

Barbara Newton was appointed as Safeguarding Officer and Parish Safeguarding Representative.

APCM Reports 2022

Vicar's Report

I want to begin by saying a massive thank you to all our church members and volunteers, that help make such a success of the work we do here in the parish. A church, without its members, is an empty building, but nobody could say that of St James. A particular area of encouragement has been the number of volunteers coming forward from outside the body of our regular worshippers, and we have seen them involved in coffee mornings, Edward Bear and as part of our Soup Run team. Its another opportunity for us to make connections with the community we serve and another opportunity for evangelism among our neighbours.

The restructuring of our PCC and associated committees continues to bear fruit in the opportunity it has proved me to focus on new areas of mission and evangelism, and future projects within the parish. Having been here for just over 5 years, I am pleased in what we have achieved together, and immensely excited about the next 5 years and what we have planned going forward.

Our liturgy and worship continues to develop in response to the needs of the community we serve. We have ended the 0800 Sunday BCP Communion service, and transferred it to a Tuesday traditional language service. Whilst this was done in response to dwindling numbers, there seems to be little appetite for this form of service and so have reverted to our usual patterns on Tuesday's for the timbering. We continue to be able to celebrate the full scope of solemnities and festivals in the churches calendar, and I am grateful to the choir and its members, and our serving team for helping make this happen. Numbers have never been wonderful for midweek solemnities and festivals, but we have some strategies that we hope might encourage more of you to attend these important events that enrich our spiritual and worshiping life here in the parish.

We saw an increase, once again, in attendance at our principle services in the Christmas and Easter period and I am particularly pleased with the number of new faces. We have also welcomed new members to our Sunday morning service, and particular praise must be given to Anna and the Sunday School, which has experienced a remarkable growth.

I continue to be committed to developing opportunities for fellowship and fun within the parish, and we have had another year of successful social and fundraising events including the harvest dance, St James's day BBQ and cream teas. We hope to continue to improve our events and further develop our calendar to make it attractive and fun for all the people we serve in our community.

One of my roles as the vicar is to represent the parish beyond its boundaries and in other organisations and institutions outside the church. We continue to have good relationships with 3 schools within the parish, and I have taken up the role of governor at Oakwood Infants to further improve that relationship. This year it was a delight to see Alton Park hold their Christmas celebration with us, and we hope that this will become a regular event alongside the school trips they have arranged with us. I have also been regularly assisting with worship at Rolph School in Thorpe during the interregnum, and have worked hard to preserve good relations with St Michael's as the only other Anglo-Catholic parish within the deanery. I continue to serve as Chaplain to the Lifeboat Station here in Clacton, and with the local Sea Cadet Unit.

Moving forward, a significant area for focus in the coming year is the plans we have for a major upgrade of our facilities. I've already had some important discussions and meeting with diocesan heritage and grant offices in relation to these works, and I hope that we can begin to see some of these plans take shape in the form of firm plans from competing architects in the coming year. The focus of these works is, and will always be, how to better serve our community and the work of God in this place. When they come to fruition I hope they will provide a firm foundation for future generations to build in the fantastic work that has been given to us at this time.

In terms of our ministry team members, it can't be left unsaid how sad it will be to see Mthr Louise move on from the parish at some point in the coming year. Her service has been invaluable in some much that we have done over the past three years and her support for me, and others, has been a gift. Thank you Mother. I hope that we might welcome other curates to the parish in the future as it is a fantastic place to train for ministry, and with the increased flexibility we have been given in our finances, perhaps we might begin to explore a children and families worker in the coming 12 months. Now our expectations have been so raised, lets work hard to see them satisfied!

Fr Justin

Pioneering Report

Training and support

- Training attended - High Leigh weekend – Growing the church younger. 'How to Pioneer Course' which ran across the year. It was helpful doing it with Sandra.
- Continued interest/showing people around in the Parish from outside parties – Rob Merchant visited, +Guli in December. Bishop Guli and Bishop Roger visited in May 2023 (pilgrimage). Naomi did her placement here, Charley (youth Diocese) visited August. Father spoke at the Nov SDF meeting with the Diocese.
- Signed off on curacy. I did enquire about extending my ministry to include year 5 and 6 of the SDF project and this request was declined by the Bishop. He said that they planned to advertise for another curate for July 2024, if possible. I am subsequently discerning my next calling.

Mission and Ministry Developments

- Confirmations/Baptisms – February 2023.
- St Christopher's - Men's Breakfast – Tony (Baptist Minister) has taken this on and reports that it is going well and growing. 10 people on average, well received.
- Sandra Crawford and Geoff organise a prayer walk monthly from St Christopher's' lay people and clergy join us from four local churches.
- Autumn Alpha - 17-18 attending (including team). Really encouraging. It helped developed the role of the 4pm attenders/leaders. Wide range of attendees. Some of the members became confirmed/baptised. This group has morphed into a Bible Study group. I have just stepped back from this ministry, Father is overseeing and supporting the leaders involved.
- Thursday mass and Community café – The congregation is increasing. Art group developing with potential for more groups to use space. It is also a meeting space and visitors come along in this slot.
- Edward Bear @ St Christopher's – going well and some of the mum's have been helping open up during holidays. We went to the zoo, which was fun.
- Frobisher – we helped with a coat appeal, doing assemblies, attended a celebratory event and pastorally supported after the Queen's death.
- Civic – Requiem mass for the Queen. Attended proclamation of the King. Chaplain to the Chair of TDC.

Outreach/Community

- Three successful community days 20/40 in attendance. Gathering from lots of different connections, including locals. Re-wilding the church grounds with the Clacton Community Transition Group. One volunteer is still cutting the grass for us. £2K grant received to this project.
- Soup Kitchen – We received a grant for the soup kitchen (£1200) and 30 families received £15 worth of groceries for four weeks. We also received £1000 of duvets and sheets etc. for families in need which we have distributed via our different connections.
- Supported Clacton Cost of Living Crisis event and made up 100 packed lunches for them and hosted two winter warmers events with CVST. Received tree grants - £1K for heating and £500 to trollies.
- Jennifer, Sandra and I supported two of the community Christmas events with music and carols. I have had a number of very positive encounters around Jaywick which has led to prayer and blessings. Blessed some business, the pub, houses.
- Fireworks event – supporting with hot choc/glow sticks. Homes for Heroes and Angling event. Jubilee and Coronation events in Jaywick, Community Sports day and Open day.
- All Souls open house was well attended and received.

Buildings

- Sam has taken on the admin of the buildings, which has been going very well. We lost SAFSA, CBT/Tony Mack and the AI Anon this year, but gained an AA meditation group, Vijay/Arts Theatre, hoping to gain Citizen's Advice and the NHS. Maybe Gambler's anonymous?
- Piano removed.
- Grounds re-wilded. Dudley is doing a great job looking after the building and grounds.

Mthr Louise Oliver

Finance Report:

1. Balance Sheet.
2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
3. Detailed income and expenditure of our Funds.
4. Agency collections.

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £73,994.97 and are detailed in the financial statements. The Church Hall provided a gross income of £22,154.64, an increase of £3,100.73 compared to 2021.

£116,946.89 was the total ordinary and essential expenditure used to provide the Christian Ministry from St James's and St Christopher's church, including the contribution to the diocesan Parish Share of £30,107.88.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £42,951.92.

The following factors should be considered:

- A. the obvious and significant impact of the cost of gas and electricity which increased by £9,150.05;
- B. overall receipts on the general fund were £457.95 less;
- C. the Repairs and Maintenance cost of £26,067.55;
- D. the Honorarium has increased by £3,703.41.

Adding bank and shareholding valuation of the Diggins Trust (£7,031.07) the total fund value is £217,925.02 as of the 31 December 2022, a reduction of £43,401.72.

Notes to the Accounts

1. *1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, using the Receipts and Payments basis.*
2. *The Endowment Fund, a legacy received and titled Diggins Trust, has to be retained and cannot be spent for 50 years.*
3. *Fixed and tangible assets are outlined in the church inventory.*

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll currently numbers 104. We have had some new joiners and some individuals have been removed as they are no longer with us. The numbers of those resident outside the parish is approximately equal with those who live within the bounds.

Choir/Music

I feel that the choir has had a very successful year. Since the last Report, we held a Harvest Evensong in October 2022, a Carol Service the following December and earlier this month a further Choral Evensong service took place. In all these services, the choir has been augmented by about a dozen local singers – which not only enhances the worship but also helps to raise the profile of music at our church.

The numbers in the choir are steadily growing, and within the last year two members of our congregation have made a commitment to sing with the choir on a regular basis. A talented local tenor/baritone also sings with us when he can, and I hope that in time he may be able to join us more often.

In September last year, the Youth Choir was launched, with the support of Sarah Rawlinson and Catrina Grimsey, and we currently have five members. The children took part in the Carol Service – singing with the adults during three of the choir carols as well as performing 'Frosty the Snowman' on their own at the end of the service. An invitation was extended for them to sing with the choir on Sunday mornings, and they have joined us for our Mass service since half term. This appears to be working very well, especially as the children are able to join in with Children's Church for the middle part of the service. The girls are currently learning more about singing with a choir by following the initial white book in the 'Voice for Life' series produced by the RSCM. Upon completion of this they will receive a surplice and medal with a white band and be offered Scholarships. I am hoping that a local teacher and musician will join our team to help with the Youth Choir in the future. It is wonderful to see how numbers at Children's Church have grown so much, and I hope that children from there will join our Youth Choir in the future.

I have undertaken a significant amount of tidying and organisation of choir music over the last few months, introducing a spreadsheet to record the storage of our Psalms and numbering our folders so that Psalms are easily retrievable in the future. I am currently trying a new administration system for the music we use during Mass services to simplify and streamline things as much as possible and hopefully reduce the amount of time it takes to organise all the various pieces of paper!

Finally, I think it's important to say how much I am enjoying being part of the community at St James church and I am looking forward to doing more in the year ahead. I am very grateful for the support of Fr. Justin and Paul Siddall, as well as all the original members of the choir who are always open to new ideas and have welcomed our new members.

Gilli Dulieu

Flower Guild

Another year has gone by at an alarming rate. We have managed to maintain four arrangements in the church throughout the year (except Advent and Lent of course) and extra arrangements at festivals.

Sadly lots of the flower guild members have been unable to do as much as they would like due to ill health or other commitments.

Two of our members help by doing smaller arrangements at home and bringing them into church. This means that there are just a few of us that keep the rota running.

My thanks to all members of the guild. Special thanks must go to Sandra Oswick who I couldn't manage without. She looks after the rota and very often fills in when members are unable to do their allocated placement. Sandra also waters and looks after the flowers during the week. Thank you Sandra! Also thanks go to Jan and Chas Day, our treasurers. They look after our funds. Thank you both!

Before Covid arrived on the scene we were preparing for a flower festival. Sadly this has had to be postponed again. We'll get there eventually!

We had memorial stars at Christmas and flowers at Easter to remember loved ones. The donations for these have helped to pay for the flowers in church. We try to fund the flowers without asking the PCC for money. We are happy to arrange flowers in memory just have a word with one of us.

If you would like to arrange flowers in church please have a word with Sandra or myself. You don't have to do a pedestal arrangement to start with just something small. We are not experts, we help each other and learn as we go along. We arrange flowers to beautify the church for God. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Chris Aguda

These are the current members of the guild.

Chris Aguda (Chair), Jan (&Chas) Day (treasurers), Sandra Oswick (rota), Carol Farrow, Pam Straw, Heidi Wiggam, Marjorie Appleyard, Sue Faulkner, Ellie Eames, Rita Cole and Kyri Whiston.

Foodbank

On one Friday afternoon recently at the Clacton foodbank, a young mum came in with a voucher, accompanied by a very young child. After receiving her bags of food, she was moved to tears, grateful to the people who donated the food, and relief that she could now feed herself and her child. This has been the reaction of many of our clients this past year.

People on low incomes and with families have found it increasingly hard to manage their budgets with all the rising costs, leaving very little left for food. Clacton foodbank has had a 61% increase in food parcels given out in the last year, feeding 3,004 people, many of whom are children.

All donations, whether of food or financial, are gratefully received, to enable the foodbank to continue to help people in times of need. Thank you to all of you who have been able to make donations in these difficult times.

We all hope that foodbanks will soon not be necessary but, sadly, the Trussell Trust, which oversees the foodbanks nationally, tells us that currently the need is increasing country-wide. Please continue to help if you can. A list of items needed is on the blue board in the Church. Thank you.

Sandra Oswick

Servers

For most of the last year, due to the widespread effects of illness, which affected many of the Servers at different times, the Serving Team has struggled to find enough people to be able to fulfil all the required roles (indeed on a couple of occasions we had to work with only half the number we need). This had the surprising advantage sometimes of enabling those “on duty” to try different roles and make their Serving more interesting and meaningful.

In the last few weeks it is pleasing to report that the situation has changed and we have been fortunate enough that we have been joined by other parishioners as trainees and this will enable some of the team to take the occasional Sunday off! We have also been very fortunate with the team being extended on Sundays by having genuine “boat boys” to assist the Thurifer. We look forward to them developing and being able to take on other roles in years to come.

A big “thank you” to all who Serve for your time and dedication.

Although we have welcomed some new Servers, we never have enough, and are always pleased to have more to join us. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please contact Father Justin or me. Full training will be given.

Anthony Le Cras

Safeguarding

I am pleased to report there have been no reports of safeguarding issues this year. Any concerns have been discussed and monitored, but have not proved to require further action at this time.

I have now completed my safeguarding training for the time being. Training of members of the ministry team and leaders of relevant parish activities has taken place, but is not yet complete as the new Brigade team has only just been set up. Similarly the current round of DBS checks is nearly complete.

I would like to remind the parish family that if they become aware of any abuse or potential abuse to any child or vulnerable adult in our church community, they should report it either to me directly

or through Fr Justin, Mother Louise or the church wardens. If we need you to write a report, there is a pro forma available to help you. Thank you.

Barbara Newton (Safeguarding Officer)

Tuesday Coffee Morning

The number of people dropping in to our weekly coffee morning is growing, and it's been good to see new friendships developing over the past year. Shirley Bolton recently started a craft group during the session, which has proved very popular. In December we held a special Christmas coffee morning with decorations and cakes for sale, which raised nearly £300, and our usual Tuesday stall has raised over £1,000 this year. Thanks to all who help us in any way on Tuesdays, we receive many lovely comments from our visitors saying how friendly and welcoming everyone is to them.

Corinne Osborn

Edward Bear

Edward Bear continues to go from strength to strength and remains an important place where we can meet with families from our community, and direct those who come to use for baptisms and fellowship. St Christopher's Edward Bear hosted a successful trip to Colchester Zoo, utilising grant monies Mthr Louise managed to secure.

We hosted a Christmas Special, which proved very popular, and we had a special visiting Santa. We hope to continue to offer this service free to our local community. A special thanks should be given to our volunteers, Sue and Vivian, who help prepare refreshments and keep us going with tea and coffee! We have been fortunate to welcome two new volunteers in Amie, from our Church family, and Kelly, in addition to others who help us open through the year at times when Mthr Louise and I are away.

Anna Hutcherson

TEECH (Moldova)

Eileen from URC and I continue to support the charity by sending gift bags to Moldova and Ukraine. We concentrate on bags for the older children as this seems to be the greatest need. Rob from the charity comes and collects everything we have twice a year and takes it personally to the places it's needed the most. In the past year we have sent sixty gift bags in the summer and sixty at Christmastime, thirty for older girls and thirty for older boys each time. We are very grateful to members of the congregations who donate items and money for us to buy what we need to fill the bags, it is much appreciated, thank you.

We also send out anything else that would be of help. Many people knit and crochet blankets, hats, scarves and other warm items which we box and send.

Please look at the noticeboard and folder in St James church which shows photos and details of the visits Rob makes. The charity website, TEECH.org gives lots of information and I would recommend you take a look.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Chris Aguda

Bible Study Group

This group continues to meet as a house group every two weeks. In the past year we have looked at the Psalms, Joel and Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In April we started exploring the Beatitudes in Matthew's gospel, trying to look at the context in which all these verses were written and the message at the heart of them. As ever, this has led to some very lively discussions as we share our thoughts and learn from each other.

Yvonne Danaher and Corinne Osborn.

Church Hall

We were pleased to welcome Sam Barlow onto the team this year to help take over some of the responsibilities for hall hire. We are grateful to Pam Straw who has so ably undertaken this work for a number of years and look forward to the opportunity having Sam's help will give.

We continue to have a number of regular hall hirers, including Little Jimmy's Nursery, and have developed some new relationships this year. We have welcomed the Police Cadets to a regular slot, and we have seen usage of the hall increased for Parish Work with the addition of the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade and the Sunday Afternoon Bible Study.

We have begun to hire the Bouncy Castle owned by the Parish and this has generated some interest in relation to children's parties, and we have seen a slight uptick in the numbers of baptism families staying on to celebrate using our facilities.

A significant part of what our spaces do and mean is found in the number of 'community slots' we have been able to share with non-profit making charities and groups to help them undertake their work. As part of our stewardship and charitable giving we offer our spaces without the expectation of rent to those groups and organisations that meet a vital need for our community and would otherwise not be able to operate.

We have made some investment into our facilities with the addition of a television for courses and notices, and the replacement of our old fire doors with new glass doors which help bring more natural light into the space and are generally much more attractive... and can open!

In the year ahead we hope to improve our facilities further, with the addition of new seating and table trolleys to make our use of this facility convenient for all.

Fr Justin

Sunday School

We have continued to follow the 'diddy disciples' programme in our Sunday School with great success, and have developed a Sunday routine that seems to work for families and offer an enriching environment to develop the faith of our youngest members.

Our numbers have increased significantly in more recent months, welcoming between 20-30 young people regularly alongside their parents/carers. This is an exciting development and hope it indicates a trend that will see it going from strength to strength in the coming year.

We have made some investment into the resources we use, and have secured some additional funding from the PCC to invest in furnitures and equipment to continue to improve this vital part of the churches ministry.

As ever, we are in need of help where it can be offered. If anyone would like to get involved in this growing and vital ministry, please could they let me or the ministry team know; we would love to have you onboard!

Anna Hutcherson

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union have continued to meet regular on the last Friday of every month and new members are always welcome. We have successful raised over £500 toward our charities in the last year, and have hosted some fantastic speakers. We have been focused on taking a fresh look at what we do and the sort of speakers we hear from, preferring to tackle some of the more serious issued that significantly impact on family life in contemporary society. This years programme looks equally exciting, and we have heard from a local charity working with the environment, and two excellent speakers form Alcoholic Anonymous already this year. We also held a successful outing for tea with members, and a wonderful craft event making wreaths in preparation for Christmas.

Fr Justin