



Annual Report for the 2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A digest of the work of Christ Church during the year 2023.



2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Christ Church Hillsborough and Wadsley Bridge

Aim and Purposes

Christ Church Hillsborough and Wadsley Bridge's (CCHWB) Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Doctor James Crossley, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church campus, (church building, 21 Halifax road, church hall and grounds) Halifax Road, Sheffield.

Objectives and Activities

We began 2023 in a vacancy and were blessed by the application, interview and further offer of the post of oversight minister to Rev. Dr. James Crossley (Jim).

Following Jim's licensing in July 2023 the PCC used the Diocese of Sheffield Mission Action Planning (MAP) process to discern a specific set of priorities for the coming 3-5 years. Our 2023 Mission Action Plan is as follows:

1. Growing Younger

Invest deliberately and seriously in the future by appointing a full-time, experienced Youth, Children and Families worker:

- to build on the existing schools work;
- to maintain the connections beyond Y6 by building the Sunday work and building a mid-week outreach and discipleship work;
- to nurture a sustainable work by growing, training and supporting volunteers and connecting with and supporting parents.

2. Growing Broader

Make a serious and sustained commitment to transform our community by setting up a CAP-partnership Advice Centre which:

- offers connection as well as advice by locating the service on the church campus and building a dedicated Christian team;
- loves our neighbours intentionally by seeking to make disciples through patient relationship-based witness in word and work.

3. Growing Deeper

Re-invigorating our community relationships by:

- faithfully praying for our neighbours and place;
- investing in our friendships & contacts;
- building teams to connect with people coming for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Offering 'ways in' and 'ways on' in faith through a programme of enquirers' and discipleship activities.

Ensuring the work outlasts any one individual by sharing in it together and planning for succession.

To facilitate this work, we applied for and have been granted funding for a Children's, Youth and Families Minister for three years. We have also brought the campus back under one governance where the church hall no longer operates as a separate entity. This enables us to ensure maintenance and funding is used wisely across the whole campus.

Our Quinquennial inspection was carried out in December 2023 and the report is currently outstanding.

Achievements and Performance

Reports from individuals involved in the life of CCHWB are provided at the end of this report. They give greater detail of activities that have occurred throughout the year since the previous APCM.

The following are particular highlights from the year 2023.

New Incumbent

On 17th July, we welcomed Jim and his family in a special Licencing Service performed by Bishop Pete. This service filled the building with two children and 150 adults in attendance. A very warm welcome to the Crossley family from the PCC.

Midweek services and small groups

For most of 2023 midweek meetings were constrained to Tuesday prayer meetings at Dunelm. But a course for people enquiring into Christian faith in Autumn 2023 (Hope Explored) saw three new disciples wanting to learn and grow so the Digging Deeper group was established in November 2023.

The PCC are hoping to build on these groups during 2024.

Social and fellowship activities

A small number of social events were held during 2023, including a games afternoon.

During December a group of singers gathered each Sunday evening to prepare a number of songs & carols for the Candlelight Carol Service.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Church Hall

Regular activities in the church hall have continued, although there are not as many as before the pandemic - which continues to affect the church hall finances.

Schools Engagement

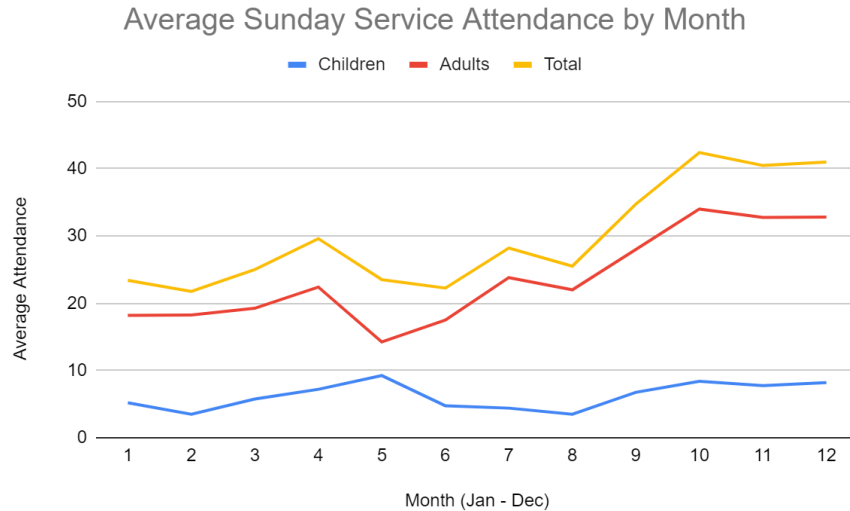
We have close links with Parson Cross CofE school on Halifax road. Members of the church continue to serve as governors and help out during school trips and events. We held a service for the school children and staff at Easter where 214 children and 110 adults were in attendance. In the latter half of the year many more services were held including, Y6 Leavers service, new school year welcome services, harvest services and multiple Christmas services/concerts. These services were a great opportunity for the students, staff and parents/carers to gather in the church building and meet Jim after he started his position with us.

In addition to the link with Parson Cross, Jim began to build links with Hillsborough Primary school which is also within the Parish. We planned to welcome the staff and children to the church for their Christmas services, however, due to high winds, we held the services in the school instead. This is a great new link for us to foster.

Cleaner

In December, our cleaner Ann left her post after many years of service. She continues to volunteer in the garden. The PCC would like to record their thanks to Ann for all the work she has done over the years.

Sunday Service Attendance



The chart above demonstrates the average attendance at Sunday morning worship each month throughout the year. It shows that there has been growth since July. The PCC hopes that this will continue through 2024.

The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2023 was 42.

Festivals attendance

We had 31 people in attendance at the Easter service.

We had 41 people in attendance at the Harvest Festival, and an additional 356 staff, pupils and family from Parson Cross CofE school celebrated Harvest Festival over two services.

We had 54 people in attendance at the Remembrance Service, followed by a memorial service at the war memorial on Halifax Road.

We held two Carol Services in 2023, one aimed at families and young people (Mayhem at the Manger) where we had 115 in attendance, and one where the singing group performed along with congregational engagement (Candlelight Carols) where we had 145 people in attendance.

24 people attended a Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve, including some who had not previously attended a service in church. Christmas morning comprised an all age service, with 34 in attendance followed by a short service of Holy Communion attended by four people.

Occasional Offices

The PCC agreed a pathway for thanksgiving and baptism services in September 2023. Thereafter, we held two thanksgiving services before the end of 2023. These families have since attended our Baptism Preparation Course.

Jim has made connections with two Funeral Directors in the parish - and both attended our Annual Memorial Service in October 2023. We're grateful to Fairest Funeral Care (CoOp) for providing the refreshments at that service. However, we had no funeral referrals throughout 2023.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £34,801 of which £23,334 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £10,409 was from gift aid (this includes the 2022 unclaimed gift aid). Restricted donations of £8,050 were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's order decreased by 14% over the whole year, however, it is reassuring that since Rev. Dr. James' incumbency began giving has increased month on month and we hope to see this to continue to rise over the next year. We were blessed with a generous, anonymous, donation of £8,000, restricted to use on the buildings within the campus.

£29,767 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from CCHWB, including the contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund of £14,400, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy, as well as support and training from the Diocese. An additional £6,576 was spent from unrestricted funds to pay for the council tax on 21 Halifax Road as it is an uninhabited property. PCC is in discussions with the council and the Diocese seeking re-classification of the building with the hope of reducing this expenditure in the future.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £1,542 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £7,270. The PCC has agreed that this should be retained to ensure remedial work required from the Quinquennial inspection can be carried out.

The church hall is the responsibility of the PCC, as previously, during 2023 the finances have been kept separately. We are pleased to have received grant funding of £10,000 for use in the upkeep and running of the church hall. This has provided the hall with a total income of £26,683.61 in 2023 with total outgoings of £18,254.31. The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £8,429.30. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December totalled £14,588.55. It should be noted that a proportion of this is restricted for use in the upkeep and running of the church hall. This is detailed in the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The PCC had no reserves policy in 2023, however, a policy will be put in place during 2024.

Partnership

We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard throughout the vacancy to keep our worship going and to ensure CCHWB was able to stay open and ministry continue. In addition, thanks go to all those who continue to serve, or are new to serving as part of 'team Christ Church'.

In particular, we would like to thank Geoff and Jill Moore who both stood down during 2023 from roles they had held for a number of years. As well as Kath Leary who worked tirelessly during the vacancy to enable worship to continue.

We would also like to thank Trish Atkins who took on the role of churchwarden in 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At CCHWB the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met ten times during the year, including an APCM in May with a reasonable level of attendance. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of sub-groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include: Treasury Team, Campus maintenance group (CMG), Ministry team, Communications and Records Team, Community room committee, HR Subgroup. These subgroups are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

Administrative Information

CCHWB is situated in the Wadsley Bridge area of the Deanery of Hallam, part of the Diocese of Sheffield within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 218 Fox Hill Road, Sheffield, S6 1HJ, alternatively email addresses vicar.christchurchwb@gmail.com or secchristchurchwb@gmail.com can be used to contact the vicar or parish secretary.

The PCC is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until 1st January 2024 are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Doctor James Crossley (Chairman)
- Warden: Geoff Moore (until 14th May 2023) (vice chair)
- Warden: Kath Leary (until 14th May 2023)
- Warden: Trish Atkins (from 14th May 2023, previously an elected member 2022)
- Deanery Synod Representative: Harriet Prebble (from 14th May 2023, previously an elected member 2022), Parish Secretary.
- Deanery Synod Representative: David Windle (from 14th May 2023, previously an elected member 2021)

Elected members:

- David Leary (until July 2023)
- Sian Hoyland (until 14th May 2023)
- Ruth Mason (elected 2021)
- Michelle Bragg (elected for 2 years in 2023)
- Penny Chisnall (elected 2023)
- Andrew Hoyland (elected 2023)
- Geoff Moore (elected for 2 years in 2023)
- Jill Moore (elected 2023)

Vicar's Report

Sonia, Ted, Maise and I began at Christ Church with a bulging Licensing Service in July 2024. Thank you all for your welcome and a growing sense of partnership. Thank God for so many early encouragements.

Highlights from 2023 are:

- the rapid growth of our Sunday gatherings and the privilege of welcoming over 20 people to our fellowship – several of whom are keen to share their gifts in serving the parish;
- three adults and one young person coming to a personal life-changing faith in Jesus;
- clear consensus over our Mission Action Plan – Growing Younger, Growing Broader, Growing Deeper;
- God's provision of £150K in grant funding towards appointing a Children's, Youth and Families Minister. The advert is out <https://christchurchwb.org.uk/jobs-and-voluntary-roles/>;
- the cherished partnership with Parson Cross Primary, and the positive new partnership with Hillsborough Primary;
- a PCC that has had the maturity to discuss differences of belief and ethics with grace and agree a church position;
- the hard work of several people to bring our church governance up to date (Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Employment policies, Risk Assessments etc.);
- Digging Deeper – which I hope will be the first of many midweek groups in the life of the church;
- Christmas services that blessed many in the parish – especially the 'Candlelight Carol Service' and 'Mayhem at the Manger';

I imagine ministry will always be a mixture of challenges and encouragements, but I'm confident that we are where God wants us to be and grateful to him for calling us here.

Jim Crossley

Churchwarden

First, a huge acknowledgement of everything achieved by Kath and Geoff as churchwardens and Hazel as deputy warden carrying the work load post Covid and during the Vacancy. Total respect for all you held together throughout these times. I would personally like to thank everyone for their help and support for me as a complete novice including Diane, Harriet and David. He became and is my ever present 'encyclopaedia' as Kath is often my 'right hand' so to speak. As the only church warden this year I am very grateful to everyone in the church for their support and encouragement not forgetting my husband Stephen too!

I want to say how wonderful it is to be part of a PCC who listen to sometimes opposite views with grace and acceptance that we can hold different views. We have certainly had some courageous conversations. Sadly so many like myself have been hit by long illnesses but thankfully people have stepped up and come together to simply get things done. Thank you.

It was a privilege to be part of Rev Jim's licensing in July. My first big challenge was getting everything up to date and ready for the Archdeacon's Visitation on 3rd October which thankfully went well. The overdue Quinquennial Inspection took place on 7th December. Many thanks to Harriet and Jim in filing and sorting paperwork.

There have been challenges too especially with the heating not working properly and having to use fan heaters in church. This is a 2023 report but I feel it is important to say that until the QI Report is received (outstanding due to illness) decisions cannot be made alongside recommendations from the 5 year Electrical Inspection from this January. Due to the coldness in church a much overdue new inventory has also been delayed and the decision taken to do this in the warmer weather.

I would like to finish by highlighting all the wonderful seasonal services especially the new Parish Memorial Service and Carols by Candlelight, giving thanks to Sonia for leading the glorious new

singing group. These services reached and blessed so many people.

Trish Atkins

Deputy Churchwarden

I have resigned as deputy church warden after 14 years service, a position which I have really enjoyed. I have met some lovely people in church who I can count as friends, I've enjoyed the courses and activities we have had also. This does not mean I will retire altogether. I will be more than willing to step in to help if I can. I just can't guarantee I would be able to work to a rota at the moment.

Hazel Ward

Deputy Churchwarden

Having originally decided that due to other commitments I would not be standing as Churchwarden, I did eventually agree to support Trish and Hazel and become Deputy Churchwarden.

I have in this role continued to support the Mission and Ministry Group in the organisation and delivery of services during the past year, and I have been honoured to set up and assist with Holy Communion at Sunday Services

Unfortunately now due to the ongoing other commitments in my life, I am definitely standing down as Deputy Churchwarden and the Mission and Ministry group.

I do hope to continue with Sunday Club and Children's Work, and to support the Hospitality group until it is up and running again and I am able to leave that in the capable hands of someone else.

Sadly due to my circumstances I don't see anywhere near as much of you all as I would like but please know I send you all much love hugs and prayers.

Kath Leary

Ministry Team

Since I arrived in July, David Windle, Kath Leary, Trish Atkins and Hazel Ward have met with me twice a month to help me plan Sundays and special services. I am so grateful for their knowledge of Christ Church's traditions, their wisdom on what will or won't work, and the sense of 'team' that they have created.

During 2023 we:

- re-introduced a Sunday Club every other week;
- moved to termly Sermon Series – reserving the lectionary readings for the liturgical seasons. You can find these on the website at <https://christchurchhwb.org.uk/upcoming-events/>;
- consolidated a music collection that works well for congregational singing and agreed a mixed approach to our music – action song, modern chorus & hymn;
- left the Parish Memorial and Remembrance Services essentially unchanged;
- introduced a Candlelight Carol service at Christmas which brought 150 people into church;

We're very grateful to God for growing our Sunday attendance very rapidly.

It is our hope and prayer that the worshipping life of Christ Church will grow to become more and more encouraging for the church, inviting for the parish, and pleasing to God.

Jim

Sunday Club

It became apparent over summer '23 that child friendly provision would be good for our under 11s during the Sunday services. Kath Leary took the lead, supported by myself and Ann Windle who all got our DBS done and safeguarding training completed (thanks to Ruth Mason). The idea was to provide "Sunday Club" every other Sunday so the grown ups could enjoy a more reflective and peaceful time together before sharing Communion and the other weeks would be "all age" and have a more "informal family" feel.

THANK GOD FOR:

- Extra help from Beth and Brooke.
- Provision of a safe and positive experience for our kids every other Sunday despite work/diary/illness pressures on our three leaders.
- Occasional teenagers coming along and being keen to help out with the youngsters!
- New children beginning to join us.
- Sufficient guidance on what and how to teach something true and Jesus centred each session to a wide age range!

CHANGES SINCE WE LAUNCHED:

- Ann has not been able to help out.
- Karen Kittle has joined the team.
- Beth awaits DBS and Brooke will leave once D of E is signed off.
- Regular team meetings have begun (Kath, Karen and myself) to plan rota and session content.

CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS AND PRAY FOR:

- More DBS compliant volunteers to help share the load (and the fun!)
- Developing ways of giving the regular children a sense of ownership of the group.
- Deepening relationships between the leaders and children who don't come regularly or are not yet comfortable to be away from parents.
- Some provision/rethinking on the All age weeks for those who are struggling to engage constructively during the service.

Sonia Crossley – Co-Leader

Parson Cross Church of England School

Parson Cross Church of England Primary School continues to be a beacon of love and light in the local community. The school's core Christian values are integral to its ethos.

Children have attended Christ Church for Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and Reception services. Visits have also taken place to the Cathedral.

This year saw a successful Ofsted inspection in which the school was rated Good. It was noted that:

'Everyone is working together to ensure that the education on offer for the pupils in your care is of the highest quality. Pupils at your school are 'valued and inspired to flourish both academically and personally', and you are increasingly successful in 'discovering the little spark of genius in everyone'.

The school is in the process of joining the Joseph Montgomery Academy Trust.

Dr Sharon Taberrer - Chair of Governors

Singing Director

Perceiving a desire to sing and a lack of confidence about singing across the church family, I offered to start a singing group. With Christmas as a natural focus for joyful vocal celebration, some 15-20 folk of mixed ability practiced six times through Nov/Dec '23 and sang 8 songs of mixed genres for our Carols by Candlelight service which attracted a large number of visitors and seemed well received.

The sense of fellowship and joy the group experienced propelled good momentum for a repeat at Easter. Although the Easter celebration was less well attended, it certainly felt like an appropriate celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The group has at least 3 members from outside the church who take part and seem to love joining in! We plan to run again for Christmas!

Sonia Crossley

Treasurer

To quote from John Newton's famous hymn: *"The Lord has promised good to me..."*

We stepped out in faith in 2023 with a deficit budget, received a monstrous donation (£8,000) and the usual generous regular offerings from church members resulting in a positive balance at the year end, we welcomed a new family to the vicarage who brought new impetus to our church life and we received pledges and the promise of grants sufficient to justify moving to appoint a stipendiary leader for youth and children's work – who can deny that God's hand is upon Christ Church for good?

All the financial facts and figures for 2023 are now available for viewing in the annual accounts which are displayed on the notice board in the church porch. I am happy to answer any queries which you may have and am open for any comments which you may wish to make. There will, as usual of course, be time for public comments and questions at the Annual Church Meeting on 12th of May. Much of our thanks to God should be for the way in which He continues to move the members of the church to give so sacrificially – we are still His "hands and feet" in this parish.

This is my last report as treasurer – it has been a privilege to serve in this capacity for several years and I would like to thank everyone for their help, understanding and forbearance along the way. I would also like to welcome Stuart Robinson, our new treasurer, who has agreed to pick up the baton and who, I am sure, will guide us financially into the future with God's blessing.

Geoff Moore

Campus Maintenance Group (CMG)

This team was formed in 2023 to look after the continued maintenance and development of the church campus, comprising the church, church hall and 21 Halifax Road. We are in the process of developing an Annual Maintenance Plan so that the whole of the campus is cared for with more structured planning.

We are still awaiting the arrival of the Quinquennial Report, (which has been delayed due to the architect's illness) a thorough inspection of our church premises which is

required to take place every five years. This will no doubt involve some staged expenditure, which, in consultation with the Treasury Team and the PCC, and depending on what the report says, could involve some definite spending over the next five years. Sensors have been placed in church to monitor the temperature and moisture with an effort to see where we need to work to keep the inside of the church dry and warm.

We are also in consultation with one of the Diocesan Buildings Officers with a view to getting the best out of our buildings. We are also considering the future of 21 Halifax Road, with a view to reducing our council tax liability which is currently causing a great drain on our funds. Steve Atkins, our CMG member with responsibility of the church hall, monitors the hall use (we have lost 3 major users since COVID), and carefully considers what repairs and works we can afford. We are very grateful to Steve for his continued work on this. There is going to be a lot of work required by this group in the coming year and any volunteers to assist would be greatly appreciated.

David Windle – Chair CMG

Bereavement Work

Since the last APCM I have continued to keep in touch with all the bereaved on our list, every three to four months, by telephone. People seem to enjoy having a chat to catch up. Some have visited certain services as a result of my call. Any help or advice required can be offered by phone. I have a fortnightly contact with one lady who was struggling.

New names have not been handed on to me, so I guess the local funeral directors may not be passing funerals to Jim but are using their own celebrants to take funerals.

Jill Moore

Hospitality

Before anything else, can I please say a big thank you to the sterling volunteers who stand behind the hatch Sunday by Sunday preparing and serving our refreshments after the service. Particular mention should be made of Siân, Ruth, Penny, Glenys and Pam. Thanks also to Andy and the older girls of Sunday Club who sometimes step up at short notice. If anyone would like to join the happy band of refreshment providers on Sunday mornings, you would be made most welcome. Also, having undertaken the required training, David is fully Food Hygiene Certified until March 2027. David would also be more than happy to teach you the intricacies of the coffee machines. Please see any of us for further information.

Due to other pressures, we have not done as much as in previous years to provide hospitality at events throughout the year. We started as we meant to go on with a "Bring and Share" tea to welcome our new vicarage family of Jim, Sonia, Masie and. Ted. We did however have a Harvest Supper of pie and peas, and Trafalgar Chippy threw in a quantity of chips too. We had a mix of meat and vegetarian pies and meat and veggie gravy was also provided, whilst Kath presided at a very good quiz.

We provided mince pies and mulled wine at the well attended Carol Services and we are thankful to W Simpsons & Sons, who provided orders of service and cakes following the Remembrance Sunday Service, and Fairests/Co-op Funeralcare, who provided refreshments following the annual Memorial Service. Thanks are also due to Richard and Cheryl Hattersley who provided a meal for the newcomers evening, and then stayed with us for one of our annual pudding and quiz nights.

David Windle

Sound and Vision

Many thanks to Ted Crossley for stepping in to operate the laptop on alternate Sunday mornings to give me a break, and to Ruth, who, when leading a service, can happily produce her own Powerpoint presentations. Thanks also to Andy Hoyland when the Crossleys are away and I am required "up front".

I enjoy producing the Powerpoint screens and choosing some of the music to support Jim in his leadership of our church family.

On Sunday mornings you just have to be ambidextrous, operating the sliders for the volume and occasionally inserting CDs with the right hand, and pressing the next screen key at the right time with the left. Actually, Sunday mornings are fairly simple and anyone wanting to help would be greatly appreciated and can be shown what to do in about 15 minutes. Anyone wishing to dip their toe in the water would be very welcome. Just let me know.

David Windle

Health and Safety

As our church's Health and Safety Officer, it is my role to ensure that our church has an up-to-date Health and Safety policy and that there are no dangers or hazards which would cause injury to anyone on church property. I am currently being aided by PCC Secretary Harriet, and we are thoroughly reviewing our policy, which we hope will be completed in the next couple of months. If an accident occurs, a responsible person completes an accident report which is securely stored in the parish office. This is reported on at the following month's Parochial Church Council. We currently require trained and certified first aiders, so if this is you, please let me or Jim know.

During the year 2023 there were a few minor accidents involving the need for a plaster which has been applied and form completed. Wonderfully, no serious accidents were reported during the year.

David Windle

Electoral Roll

Several people have been added to the roll this year following the new members' welcome evenings.

As usual the annual revision was publicised in Church for several weeks for any qualified person to be added to the roll. To qualify for addition to the roll, a person should be a worshipping member of Christ Church, over 16 years of age and baptised. Once the roll is closed, only the people on the roll can vote at the APCM and only those who have been on the roll for six months or more can be elected to the Church Council. Once the APCM is over, the roll can be reopened and eligible people can be added once the relevant form completed.

At the current time (April 2024) the roll stands as follows:

Total on new roll – 59

Resident in parish – 40

Non-resident – 19

David Windle

Safeguarding Report

'The Parish of Christ Church Hillsborough & Wadsley Bridge is committed to high standards in the safeguarding and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults'.

The above statement is displayed on our website and this annual Safeguarding report sets out a broad overview of the actions that have been undertaken in the last year to fulfil this commitment.

Ruth Mason took on the role as 'Parish Safeguarding Officer' in August 2023. The focus this year has been to ensure that policies and procedures for safeguarding are in place, so that the church complies with all legal requirements as well as those from the Church of England. DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks have been undertaken for all PCC members and all those who are working with children and vulnerable adults. Most of these people have also undertaken the Church of England safeguarding training for the particular roles they have and we are very grateful to all who have engaged with these vital safeguarding requirements.

The church has also adopted a digital tool called 'Parish Dashboards' which the Diocese will be making a mandatory requirement later this year. It includes 3 'levels' which are:

1. Safer Foundations,
2. Safer Activities,
3. Safer Practices.

We are currently working through level 2 and our next focus is to ensure that we have role descriptions for all roles which come under the safeguarding remit and that there are risk assessments in place for all church activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

As we look towards the next year, we are in a much better position with regard to safeguarding, indeed we have been able to restart our Sunday club because of this. During the next year, we hope to raise the profile of safeguarding with the wider church to ensure that we have a healthy church culture in which people feel confident to share concerns and where all people feel safe in every respect.

Ruth Mason
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Digging Deeper

'Digging Deeper' is a group of people who want to dig deeper into the Bible as the name suggests. It began with a few people doing the course 'Hope Explored' to explore Christianity and led to the members of that group coming to faith in Jesus, which was wonderful.

Following that course, we have completed another course called 'Discipleship Explored', which has helped us grow in our faith. In a typical meeting we read the Bible together, watch and discuss a video of a short talk and pray for each other whilst also enjoying some refreshments. If you'd like to join us, please see Jim or myself.

Ruth Mason

Dunelm Prayer Group

The Dunelm group continues to meet most Tuesday mornings at the Dunelm cafe on Kilner Way retail park opposite the Church. We meet at 10 am (ish) and pray for about 15 minutes from 10:45am. We usually pray for the concerns that are on our hearts as well as any issues in the world. The rest of the time is spent socialising, chatting and enjoying the refreshments on offer in Dunelm. You are more than welcome to join us if you're free on a Tuesday morning. Please see Ruth or David Windle for more details.

Ruth Mason