Holy Trinity Church, Coleman’s Hatch

APCM 2023

Reports 2022-2023

7:30pm 24th April 2023

**CHURCH WARDEN’S REPORT**

**SERVICES**

Our services this year are now fully back to normal, and the ‘one cup’ has been reinstated at the last two Communion services.

We have welcomed several outside speakers this year, including the Rev David Tidswell, Rev Trevor Harrison, Tim Jackson and the Rev Gary Cregeen, who gave us a talk on growing rural churches.

The Evensong services have taken place every month except last June when there was a choral matins service instead due to the Jubilee service for the late Queen Elizabeth, and the Carol Service this year was held at St. Mary’s.

We are pleased with the way the congregation numbers have kept steady, with an occasional boost to the numbers for the pet service and Remembrance Sunday, and we accommodated over one hundred for our Easter Service this year with five children.

**HEATING**

We were somewhat dismayed that our usual boiler maintenance people refused to service our ageing boiler this year, but we were fortunate that Paynes of Uckfield sent someone who was able to get the boiler going for us through these winter months, but we will need to have a replacement of some sort in the very near future.

Heaters were bought to give a boost to the heating for the Sunday services, but it does put a strain on the church electrics.

**CLOCK and BELLS**

These are at last in full working condition. However, although Roger and Rosalind Cowsill come down from time to time to ring a peal or two, we have not found a regular team.

When Paul is in attendance, he will chime the bells before the Sunday Service.

**CAR PARKS**

The lower car park has now been re-surfaced, but we are still waiting for the upper car parking area to have its potholes repaired.

**TRINITY HALL**

The kitchen has now been refurbished, complete with a commercial dishwasher. The cooker has not been replaced as we are not sure whether there is a need at the moment. It also needs a spot of paint to finish the job.

It is being well used, with the Scottish Dancing being the latest addition.

**GROUNDS and CHURCHYARD**

These have been inspected by grounds people, and work on the big tree and other trees and hedges in the grounds and churchyard were due to start earlier this year, but unfortunately due to illness had to be postponed. We are pleased that work has now started this week.

Also our gardener retired at the end of last year, and we have yet to find a replacement.

**CHURCH USE**

We feel that the church could be used for musical concerts and activities, and we are looking into the way our pews could be moved to make space for players.

Also we need to have better cushions for our seating. Ours are showing signs of wear!

Angela Ogle, Churchwarden, April 2023

**TREASURER - Reserves Policy**

Faced with income levels which are at best stable and costs which, as everywhere else continue to rise, we are having to eat into reserves to subsidise the continuing annual deficit.

But at the same time, the PCC as trustees see themselves as responsible for the long-term survival of Holy Trinity in the face of declining congregations across the Church of England and we thank God for encouraging us in this task by inspiring two former members of the congregation to make substantial bequests. Therefore, in addition to making use of our existing reserves to supplement the congregation’s giving, it is our intention to set part of these new funds aside in a trust, whose main object is to help the church in time of extreme need. With the income from the remainder, we shall be able to help other parishes and people in need as well as developing the church’s appeal to potential worshippers in the surrounding community and its attractiveness for revenue-earning events.

Donald Clarke, Treasurer, April 2023

**CHOIR REPORT**

We now have 18 members in the choir, and it is really great when we have a complete choir. The sound and tonal quality is steadily improving and when we have a well-rehearsed anthem and the choir are confident, we all get great satisfaction in a job well done.

In June, due to the late Queen’s Jubilee we had a Choral Matins service instead of Evensong. We sang an anthem which was specially composed for the occasion, which was quite a challenge.

It is always exciting to find a new composer whose music fits our choir, and this year our great find was Philip Stopford. We sang an anthem ‘In my Father’s House are many mansions’ in November around Remembrance and All souls, and also ‘A Christmas Blessing’ at the Carol Service, and there is another one of his in the pipeline for the Carol service this year.

Our Carol service was at St. Mary’s and the weather chose to snow in the week running up to the service. It stayed very cold and crisp throughout the whole week, which made life very difficult for members to get around, but I am very grateful to those who managed to attend. The next day, of course, the snow had completely disappeared!

It is sad that the number of funerals we are asked to attend seems to be rising slowly each year, and I would like to thank all those who attend these occasions. There was also one wedding and the closing service of the Mother’s Union.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their loyal support, and especially a big thank you to Barry without whom we would be lost! Not only does he procure music for me from the RSCM, but also downloads and prints it out if necessary, but most of all he is always very encouraging, and keeps me going!

Angela Ogle, Choir Director, April 2023

**ELECTROAL ROL**

There are 82 on the Church Electoral Roll – this is at closure 11th April 2023 and one more than at April 25th last year which was the date of our last APCM.

Of these 82 – 31 are from the Parish of Colemans Hatch, 15 from the Joint Benefice and 36 from outside these Parishes.

Karena Meyer, Electoral Roll Officer, April 18th 2023

**TRINITY TEAM**

The chosen charity of 2023 for all events organised by the Trinity Team, is the Hindleap Warren Activity Centre and our monies will be going to support outreach programmes for children and young people , who would not normally experience the joys and challenges of the countryside. Of course , the other fifty percent of our takings goes towards the improvements and upkeep of Trinity Hall.

**TRINITY CAFE**

The Trinity Cafe does seem to grow from strength to strength. Since the last APCM our team has been strengthened by the addition of Denise Holland, Karena Mayer and Issy Ball. It is always a delight to welcome new clientele and the greatest joy is when new friendships are made at the Cafe.

Our best numbers at the Cafe occur when we put up the gazebos and have the cafe outside.

**TRINITY TALKS**

They seem ever popular with the drinks and nibbles greatly appreciated.

The April Talk will have been given by Barbara Richards on Beaverbrook and the War Years.

The May talk will be given by Toni Daszewski on The Knights of Malta Past and

Present on the19th May.

The June Talk by Gilly Halcrow is on The Activities of the Shetland Bus in World War Two on the 16th of June .

The July Talk will be given by David Haines on Life in the Foreign Office on the 21st of July .

**SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

The dancing in Trinity Hall will be on Friday 28 April and will be led by our caller Alex.

**THE CORONATION LUNCH**

This is to be held on the 7th of May following a Choral Matins in Holy Trinity Church. The pattern of the lunch will very much follow the Platinum Jubilee lunch held last year and will be a bring and share lunch with live music, a throne room and crown making organised for the children. Thanks to Paul Double the King and Queen have already received their invitation to our lunch and I am quite certain that the King’s helicopter will be able to land on the Rectors Field !!!

On is occasion, as many people appreciate , there is no ticket price for this event but wish to make a donation, we propose that mommies from the Coronation Lunch should be split between Camilla’s two favourite charities, The Queen’s Reading Room and The Royal Osteoporosis  Society.

**TRINITY FETE**

This will be held on Saturday the 13 May and as usual we need collectables, bottles for the bottle tombola , books, particularly children’s books, toys, plants and produce, raffle prizes, nearly new, linen, Bric-a-Brac and gifts. Once again, we will have live music.

**TRINITY JAZZ EVENING**

This will be held on 3 June with the New Orleans Echoes. Tickets are £5

We already have a list of bookings for that occasion and tickets will be available shortly.

**PROPOSED ARTS FOR SALE**

This is proposed for the Autumn and is a result of so many high-quality pictures and lamps etc being donated for the Fête, which we feel will not be sold for their true value at the Fête. More details to follow.

Sheila Van Maurik, Trinity Team, April 2023

**SAFEGUARDING**

The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

• Promoting a safer environment and culture

• Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church

• Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation

• Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons

• Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

• Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have ‘due regard’ to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have ‘due regard’ to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so.

**SAFEGUARING POLICIES**

Our Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Statement are based on the above guidance provided by the Church of England. These continue to be reviewed annually and updated copies are displayed in our churches, are available on our website and in our Induction Handbooks. All other relevant policies have also been reviewed and updated and are on our websites:

* Whistleblowing Policy
* Responding to Safeguarding Allegations Policy
* Behaviour Code for Adults Working with children
* E-Safety Policy

Both churches have also recently agreed and adopted the Serious Incident Reporting Procedures using the recommended format from the Church of England.

As from 1st January 2022, any DBS checks undertaken must be renewed every 3 years (previously this was every 5 years). We continue to review and advise PCC members/volunteers when their renewal/updated DBS is required. It would be useful to have an additional PCC member who would be willing to be an ID verifier to allow ID verification to be undertaken more frequently and swiftly after online DBS completed.

All DBS checks completed this year have been returned as clear.

We also continue to use the information systems in place to raise concerns, monitor and support vulnerable persons that have been identified in our church community. With our growing and developing youth work - Sunday Discoverers, Together@5 and Little Stars, upcoming May Camp, those working with our young people are reminded of our procedures for reporting any concerns and regular opportunities to touch base with the Safeguarding officer are organised as part of the schedule.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

Safeguarding training continues to be available virtually and online. All PCC members and volunteers should continue to access training online. Training should be renewed and updated every 3 years. Checks and reminders continue to be issued to all those that should complete this training as it is previous face to face session training is now out of date and a renewal overdue.

Both C0 and C1 can be accessed via the national church online training portal at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

* **'C0'** - This is a 'core' module that contains basic messages about safeguarding. It is designed to raise awareness across churches, and the emphasis is that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility' and can be completed by anybody. All PCC members should complete this
* **'C1'** - This is the 'foundation module' that everyone who works/volunteers with children and adults in our parishes needs to complete as well as Church wardens

The Rector, Safeguarding Officer, youth worker and Lay preacher have also completed their C2 training.

Should you have need to raise a safeguarding concern then please contact me directly or to **contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team** then please use:

Team generic email: safeguarding@chichester.anglican.org

Andrea McGlew, Safeguarding Officer, April 2023

**BELLRINGING**

There is unfortunately very little to report with regards to bellringing at Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch for 2022.

Due to a change in Roger and my circumstances and the fact that we now spend much more of our time at home in Co. Durham, full circle ringing of the bells is now only possible on a few occasions during the year.

We do still try to visit Sussex on a fairly regular basis and do endeavour to be 'south' on a Friday evening to run the occasional practice.  Unfortunately, these are mainly supported by ringers from other nearby churches and following the move of Lorna Duggleby to Buckinghamshire and Ollie Watson to Norfolk, there is now only Roger and myself available to ring, with help from Chris Westwood, although he is actually a member of the band at Hartfield.

We are committed to ringing at Allendale when we are at home and this does now mean our attendance on Sundays at Coleman's Hatch is now not at all regular but whenever possible the bells are chimed for Sunday services by Paul Double or indeed, on occasions, by Roger or myself.

As the work to improve the run of the bells without the need for regular maintenance was undertaken back in 2021,  occasional visits by groups of ringers now only require minimal safety checks.

Moving forward, should there be anyone interested in learning how to chime the bells for Sunday services in order to assist Paul, Roger and I would be happy to provide some instruction, at a mutually convenient time.

We would also be willing to undertake some tuition for ringing but as there is no longer anyone fully 'trained' locally, the only way forward would be if a group of at least 8 people were to show an interest.

Rosalind Cowsill, Bell Ringer Captain, April 2023