The Trustees' Annual Report for Holy Trinity Church Coleman’s Hatch

2022-23

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

​​**PCC Members 2022**

​​​Ex Officio

​​​Rev Julie Sear - **Chairman**​

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**Wardens**
Mr. Paul Double

Mrs Angela Ogle

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​​**Elected Members**

​​​Mr. Donald Clarke - **Hon. Treasurer and Giving Officer**

​​​Mrs. C J Payne - **Hon. Secretary**

​​​Mr. Keith Luckhoo - **Synod Rep​**

​​​Mr. Robin Meyer - **Synod Rep**

​​​Mrs. Angela Ogle – **Choir Director and Deputy Warden**

Mr and Mrs John van Maurik

Jonathan Bruce

​​Mrs Donna Dewar - **Lay Reader**

**The vision for Holy Trinity**

**Recognising the importance of our role as a Parish church in our lovely village. Holy Trinity seeks to be a welcoming and inclusive presence through which the love of Christ is shared and celebrated through worship, learning, care and service. We seek to do so by building on the past, in the present for the future.**

Holy Trinity enjoys being part of community life here in Coleman’s Hatch. As the church, we are all members of that community. As Christians, we want to worship God and seek his will for our lives. We also want to be part of God’s work in seeing others come to know the good news and love of Jesus. This document is the fruit of our ‘vision away morning’ in 2021. At its heart is a longing for our church to grow, both in spiritual maturity and in number. This will involve us deepening our sense of family community and ensuring our activities are accessible to all. At our away morning we looked at four aspects of our church life and these are now reflected in this leaflet.

Trusting in the love and grace of Christ, we can be optimistic for the future.

*Rev Julie Sear.*

2022 marked the end of a prolonged period of exceptional and hopefully unique set of circumstances experienced at Coleman's Hatch as elsewhere in the country brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although at the beginning of the year some restrictions remained, as the year progressed, life to a large extent normalised, and this was reflected in the rhythm of the life of Holy Trinity.

The church is very much part of the local community of Coleman's Hatch and beyond, and this is reflected in the active programme of community engagement described in further detail in later parts of this report.    That programme complements the heart of the Holy Trinity's mission to grow in spiritual maturity and to reflect that in the involvement of the local community in the spiritual life of the church.   Holy Trinity's mission action plan for 2022 and reviewed in January 2022 was adopted by the PCC and sets out these aims.   The plan is set out in full at the end of this report.

**Services and connecting with worshippers**

The pattern of services of alternate matins and holy communion with a sung evensong on the first Sunday of each month resumed fully.   A common feature of post Covid worship, particularly in some metropolitan areas has been the loss of regular church, attenders and consequent decline in the size of typical congregations seen at Sunday services.   It is therefore heartening that the attendance at services at Holy Trinity have not seen a post Covid decline.  Numbers typically range between the mid 20s and mid 30s with special services attracting substantial congregations.   The last such service before the writing of this report – Easter Sunday – attracted over 100 worshippers.   It was also most gratifying that a number of children also attended.   Whilst we don’t have a separate children’s church on a Sunday, our Rector does prepare material to link in with the sermons and themes. The children’s attendance provides an opportunity to encourage a sense of belonging on the part their families and consequently, a more active involvement in the life of Holy Trinity more generally.

Making the church more welcoming is a very important element in securing increased active participation in the church community.  It is noticeable that the service of tea and coffee after matins and holy communion on Sundays encourages members of the congregation to talk together and many stay to do so.   Welcoming worshippers is likewise important, and there is a dedicated core of regular attenders who, together with the churchwardens perform this task, though more volunteers are always welcome.

The entrance to the church is the first encounter new worshippers will experience, and therefore it is particularly desirable to make that experience a positive one.   The plan is to install an inner glazed door to make that experience more welcoming have not progressed as quickly as had been anticipated, owing to various procedural issues related to the way, the existing wooden doors are to be dealt with. It is however hope that these can be addressed, and this work commenced shortly.

The welcome packs for newcomers were updated during the year and are available at the back of the church. Although the inner glazed door to the porch has not yet been installed. the noticeboard in the porch has been updated.   That and the website are also important ways which the church’s presence can be made more visible.   The noticeboard outside the church gates has deteriorated and will need to be replaced, but service details are still displayed on a separate board pending a replacement.

We are fortunate to have a good PCC secretary who also looks after the church website.  She works alongside the church administrator to make sure our communications are up to date.

The letter from the rectory gives recipients both information and food for thought and the nourishment it provides temporally and spiritually Is the most valuable resource for which the rector is to be sincerely commended.

The choir continues to give excellent service at the choral evensongs held on the first Sunday of the month, as do the individual members of the choir who sing at the regular Sunday services.   The biggest challenge in the longer term is ensuring that new members join the choir to replace those who retire from it. Our choir Director works hard to stretch the choir. This was very evident at our Advent and Christmas services.

The problems with the church clock mechanism which resulted in its being stopped during part of 2022 were resolved in the Autumn.  The church bells are not regularly team-rung for Sunday services, but they are chimed regularly and this provides an audible expression of the church’s presence in the community of Coleman’s Hatch.    Any individual with an interest in learning to chime the bells on Sunday is strongly encouraged to make the desire known to a churchwarden.

**Outreach to the local community**

Trinity cafe continues to flourish on alternate Thursday mornings.   The café provides a way in which isolated or lonely people can feel part of the community. Ministering to those in need is part of the Christian ethos and brings faith into their lives by good works, which the volunteers undertake. More help, however, is needed with the café for these good works to continue and be enhanced.

Trinity Hall was redecorated and a new kitchen fitted. This will enable the use of the hall to be expanded and the ultimate aim is to provide a events coordinator to manage the marketing and letting of the hall, consistent with the Christian faith.

2022 saw the church fete held in the church grounds, and the new feature “jazz on the lawn”, which was popular, albeit the weather was not kind with some rain on the evening.    It is anticipated that both events will take place this year (2023) alongside the Coronation celebrations.

2022 was also marked by two events which had an impact at Holy Trinity as it did throughout the country and beyond. First, her late Majesty’s platinum jubilee was celebrated by a very successful jubilee lunch in the church grounds.  This was seen as a community success, which showed the churches importance as an agent in binding the local community together.  That was sadly followed by the death of her Majesty in September, marked as elsewhere at Holy Trinity with special prayers and tailored services to enable the congregation and local community to reflect on an extraordinary 70 years.

Further outreach was planned and matured with the initial “ Trinity talks” which have been a great success this year and will be reported on further in next year’s TAR.

**Church, buildings and infrastructure**

The church community is the custodian of the Christian faith, but also of the building and infrastructure which enables worship and community outreach to take place.

The car parking area around the church is uneven, and the PCC discussed resurfacing on more than one occasion during 2022.   It is hope that It will be possible to address this issue in the current year as it has for the lower car park which has now been resurfaced with a very pleasing result. This will be reported on in more detail in next year’s TAR.

Reference has been made earlier in this report to the redecoration of Trinity, Hall and of the new kitchen facilities.  These improvements will certainly enhance the attractiveness of the Hall for weddings, receptions and other church related events, and for other suitable lettings.

A major concern in the autumn of 2022 was the hot air heating system and the non-performance of the oil-fired boiler.   Electrical blow heaters were procured and provided some level of cover over the winter period, but the need for a permanent solution was evident if as appeared, the oil-fired system was beyond recovery.

Discussion with heating engineers resulted in the most welcome solution which enabled the boiler to be fired and consequent resumption of the heating system.   The electrical heaters have been retained as a supplementary source and standby. In the longer term, it will be necessary to come to a view about how heating in the church is to be provided as the oil-fired boiler is aged and parts are no longer available should a failure occur in the existing system.

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