



ST GILES CHURCH
KINDNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY
IN CHRIST'S LOVE

Annual Report
and
Financial Report
2022
of St Giles Church
Exhall

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGRA	Ash Green Residents' Association
AMP	Annual Meeting of Parishioners
APCM	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
AV	Audio Visual
BCT	Bedworth Churches Together
CBS	Coventry Building Society
CFDW	Children and Families Development Worker
CWT	Churchwardens Team
DAC	Diocesan Advisory Committee
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
F&SG	Finance and Stewardship Group
GYE	Goodyers End School
LLF	Living in Love and Faith
PAT	Portable Appliance Testing
PCC	Parochial Church Council
RIP	Rest In Peace
WWL	Wheelwright Lane School

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday May 21st 2023 at 10.30 am
to be held in St Giles Main Hall

This meeting includes the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (APM) and the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM).
We begin with a time of prayer and worship.
Minutes of last year's meetings are available in this Annual Report

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (APM)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Secretary for the APM and APCM
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2022
5. Matters Arising
6. Election of Churchwardens
7. Thanks and Closing Prayer

AGENDA

Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Minutes of APCM 2022
2. Matters arising
3. Presentation of Electoral Roll
4. Elections to:
 - Parochial Church Council – up to 3 to be elected
 - Deanery Synod Representatives – up to 4 to be elected
 - Ex-officio Lay Reader Representative(s)
5. Appointment of PCC Secretary and Treasurer
6. Appointment of External Examiner (auditor)
7. Presentation of Annual Reports
(These to be distributed in the APCM Annual Report and read prior to the meeting)
 - Reports on the activities of the PCC and the parish generally
 - Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
 - Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - Financial Report
8. Matters arising from Annual Reports
9. Vicar's Remarks
10. Any other business (Chair to be notified at least 24 hours before the meeting)
11. Closing Prayer

1. VICAR'S REFLECTIONS

'As you come to him the living Stone . . . you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ'

1 Peter 2: 4

This year has been a Year of Consolidation for us at St Giles, building momentum across the various congregations who gather for worship on Sundays and at other times. It has been wonderful to welcome new faces in our midst, as well as to welcome back those returning to us after some time away. We continue to remember with great fondness those who remain very much part of the St Giles family, though now more often from the confines of their own homes.

A particular blessing this year has been in relaunching ministry in our local care homes. We now run services each month in five of our local homes. Rev. Jo has done great work in establishing a strong link with Platinum, one of our newer homes. We have been seeing the number of those who gather for worship in these settings grow. I wonder where else in our community new worship gatherings might begin to spring up?

We continue to maintain good links with our local schools through our visits for seasonal assemblies and other events, as well as through various school visits to the church throughout the year.

We've been consolidating areas of our collective and individual discipleship through home group opportunities, a Lent Course on Living Generously, a sermon series on James and Confirmation Preparation through our 11.30 am service. This led to two of our younger members, as well as one of their grandad's being confirmed in November. One of the real joys of this year has been to see some of our younger members begin to take much more of a lead in services and to express their own faith with more confidence.

Consolidation has also involved being present to, and for, the community around key events of national significance. In June it was a joy for us to host our Platinum Jubilee event and to be able to gather the community together without restrictions or special precautions. Hopefully this will remain a very happy collective memory for Exhall.

In September, in the sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we were able to offer a number of opportunities for our community to express its collective grief, as well as its deep admiration for a monarch so full of faith and so influenced by her own knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

As we moved into the colder months and a cost-of-living crisis, we took small steps to offer some 'Winter Warmer' opportunities. There's been a really positive response to the offer of hot chocolate on the way home for Ash Green school kids, with a request for prayer being made even in the first week we started running it.

We relaunched Wednesday Worship with Communion once a month. On other Wednesday mornings we're opening a wider opportunity for folk to come for Coffee, Craft and Conversation in a warm space. We hope to build new connections and relationships through these kind of activities as we launch into 2023 as Year of Cultivation.

Report by: Rev. Gail Phillip

2. MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (May 8th 2022)

This meeting was held in the Main Church Hall with 38 attendees in total.

Rev. Gail welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded us that we are meeting to thank God for our past year, to appoint our churchwardens, to appoint PCC members, to review our activities and finances for 2021 and we look forward to a year of greater “normality” as we come out of the pandemic. The meeting followed a short service of worship.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (AMP)

1. Appointment of Secretary for AMP and APCM - Rev. Gail proposed that Carol Gough be appointed to act as secretary for both meetings. This was seconded by Tina Watkins and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence – Roy and Cynthia Cogley, Yvonne Knowles, Gordon Parker, Sian Coleman, Stephen Carter, Gwyneth Carter and Henry Wagstaff.

3. Minutes of the AMP 2021 – There was one amendment to the minutes. Page 4/5 Assistant Churchwardens should read 'It was noted that Yvonne Knowles officially stood down as Deputy Churchwarden and remains on the Churchwardens' Team (CWT)'

The minutes were proposed by Rob Grayson, seconded by Denise Crampsie and were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

4. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

5. Election of Churchwardens – Two churchwardens are elected annually at the AMP. Rev. Gail informed the meeting that Denise Crampsie responded to God's call in 2018 and took on the role of churchwarden for St Giles. Sadly, after some difficult decision making, Denise is standing down and has given us good notice for which we are extremely grateful. We owe Denise enormous thanks for her service throughout the interregnum and beyond; and coming to St Giles, as a new vicar, Rev. Gail said that Denise gave her good guidance and support. We are also very pleased to report that Denise will remain as a member of the CWT.

The meeting thanked Denise for her dedication with the presentation of a gift and applause.

In response Denise said it was with sadness that she was leaving this role, but she was not disappointed as she will continue to serve as part of the team.

Two nominations for churchwardens have been received from Neva Khan and Andrew Clark. There being no other nominations Rev. Gail proposed from the Chair that both were elected as our churchwardens. This was seconded by Denise Crampsie and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Rev. Gail thanked the churchwardens and the CWT for their continuing service and support over the past year. The meeting concurred and gave thanks with applause.

The AMP was closed with prayer.

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1. Minutes of previous APCM meeting 2021 – The minutes were proposed by Tina Watkins and seconded by Beryl Owen and were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll – Beryl Owen our Electoral Roll Officer referred to her report on page 11. The electoral roll stands at 172, with 91 living in the Parish and 79 living in other parishes and two on the roll attending but who have been confirmed at another church. There are also a further three new members to be added to the electoral roll – these were received too late to be included but will be added after the meeting. Beryl reminded members to please inform her, or the parish office, of any change to personal details, especially any change of address.

Beryl asked the meeting to remember members who have passed away this year and we include Jan Leivers and Emily Good who sadly died after publication of the report. We offer prayers for all their families at this very sad time.

Thanks were given to Beryl for maintaining these important detailed records and providing the meeting with an up-to-date copy of the St. Giles Electoral Roll.

4. Proposal to APCM regarding the Term of Office of PCC Representatives of the Laity and re-election – This proposal is being put to the APCM - *“that the Annual Meeting confirms the Terms of Office for representatives of the Laity on the PCC at St Giles, Exhall, does not exceed three years; and that a period of at least one year must elapse before a person completing their term of office can be re-elected to the PCC as a representative of the laity”*

It has been the policy of St Giles to elect members for a term of three years which is followed by a fallow year before standing for re-election. At the APCM in 2021, it was agreed that members could stand for re-election without serving a fallow year due to the unusual set of circumstances presented by the pandemic. The PCC voted unanimously in March to re-adopt the above proposal, re-instating the three year term of office and fallow year, and refer it to this meeting for a final decision.

Rev. Gail proposed from the Chair that the fallow year between three year terms of office should be reinstated. This was seconded by Mandy Williams and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

5. Elections to Parochial Church Council (PCC).

a) There are five vacancies for PCC members to serve for the following three years. Nominations have been received from the following: Helen Anderson, Roy Edwards, Neil Harris, Sam Jones and Eddie Lanteri. There being no other nominations these were proposed by Rev. Gail, seconded by Carol Carrier and unanimously elected by the meeting.

Thanks were given to Joanne Evans, Kate Coyle and Nicki Gardner who are stepping down this year.

b) Ex-officio Lay Reader Representatives - John Owen was proposed by Rev. Gail, seconded by Sue Barnes and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

c) Members of the Standing Committee will be formally approved at the first PCC meeting following the APCM. Suggested members will be – Rev. Gail (Chair), Tina Watkins (Lay Chair), Rob Grayson (F&SG), Neva Khan and Andy Clark (Churchwardens), Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

6. Appointment of PCC Secretary and Treasurer – Carol Gough and Stephen Carter were nominated respectively by Rev. Gail, seconded by Muriel Ganley unanimously accepted by the meeting.

7. Appointment of External Examiner (Auditor) – Gavin Kibble is willing to examine our accounts for another year. He was proposed by Rev. Gail, seconded by Rob Grayson and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

8. Presentation of Annual Reports – these were distributed before the meeting and are contained in the body of the Annual Report.

a) Structure Governance and Management *report on pages 11 – 14*

The meeting was asked for any comments, none were made.

Rev. Gail in response gave thanks for the informative reports and to those stepping down from roles this year. A huge thank you was given to Muriel Ganley for her time and work dedicated to Safeguarding. Thanks to Stephen Carter as Hon. Treasurer for producing the financial reports and keeping check on our income and expenditure and to Carol Gough as Hon. Secretary. To Steve Watkins and Stephen Carter for their time looking after the church buildings and maintain them all. To Kathryn Unsworth and the Meadow working party and to the Green Genies for keeping the churchyard and meadow looking beautiful throughout the year. Thanks to Tina for keeping control of the Halls bookings and management. The meeting concurred showing their appreciation with applause.

b) Worship and Prayer *report on pages 15 - 20.* Thanks were given to all who submitted reports and to Chris Wilson, John Owen, Stephen Carter and Rev. Jo for leading us in worship. To the choir and bellringers and Irene Prideaux for beautiful flowers in church. To Viv Hopkins and Gwyneth Carter our Deanery Synod Representatives and to Neva Khan who was elected to stand on Diocesan Synod. It is fantastic that St Giles has a representative at Diocesan Synod level. Also, thanks to Neva for her work and representation within Bedworth Churches Together and our Deanery.

Special thanks to Viv Hopkins who is standing down as Bell Tower Captain. Viv has been ringing bells since she was 13 and is now handing over to Steve Watkins. The meeting thanked Viv with a presentation and applause.

c) Pastoral Care – Special thanks were given to the Pastoral Care Team and for those who took part in the volunteer phone network during the pandemic. Thanks to Sue Barnes and the Bereavement group which is a growing group offering much needed support, comfort and companionship. Thanks to the Care Home visiting team which is slowly gaining momentum after Covid. Rev. Jo has established connections with Platinum a new home within our Parish which includes residents with dementia.

d) Mission and Evangelism and Ecumenical - *report on pages 21 - 25*. Thanks were given again to everyone for submitting these reports. Special thanks to Tina Watkins for continuing to produce the magazine. Thanks to Penny Pallett in the Parish Office for sending the weekly newsletter and all associated important information to those who do not have internet access and to Rev. Jo for updating our Facebook pages which is very much appreciated by all who use this medium.

e) Financial Report – Rob Grayson spoke in the absence of Stephen Carter. The report was distributed prior to the meeting for all to read. Rob reported that the current financial situation of the church is much healthier than we might have anticipated. It must be stressed that this is work in progress. The Stewardship campaign held at the beginning of the year, encouraging people in their giving, leading to a significant increase. A breakdown of all figures is available on request and a copy of the full accounts is displayed on the noticeboard in church.

The large hall is a charity in its own right and its finances are reported to the Charity Commission separately.

Reserves Policy - The PCC regularly review the reserves of the church and they have determined that a general fund reserve of three months' unrestricted expenditure should be maintained. At the end of this year that figure was £23,839.

Rob Grayson proposed to the meeting that this reserves policy figure is accepted. This was seconded by Joanne Evans and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

The meeting was asked for any comments or questions. No questions were raised.

Rev. Gail thanked Stephen Carter, in his absence, for his dedication to the complex finance systems - we are immensely grateful. Thanks were also given to the F&SG for their continuing support throughout the year. It is to be noted that only the Hon. Treasurer has knowledge of our individual giving to the life and ministry of St. Giles and that we have seen some amazing answer to our prayers regarding our financial status this year.

Financial Presentation – Slides were displayed with information for all to see. This year there has been a focused effort to increase our income and to reduce costs. This effort has borne fruit.

1. Focus on Income – Our average weekly giving increased from £7.63 to £8.73. This still falls short of the Diocesan average of approx. £12 per week. A review of the Hall Hire was made and hire charges were increased. A card machine has been made available in church so that people can donate in this way. This has also helped to increase giving.

2. Costs – We secured a reduction in our Parish Share which is one of our biggest expenses. We also agreed with the Deanery that our Parish Share will be paid at the end of the year rather than monthly. The loss of our CFDW, while regrettable, means that our salary bill is lower.

3. Where are we now? – Our planned giving mirrors that of last year, although other giving is lower. Legacy income has been used for specific and restricted items such as repairs for the church building. We replaced the photocopier for the office at a cost of £2,700. This has impacted total running costs, though these have gone down overall. We currently have a weekly shortfall of £300 in terms of income over expenditure, with Parish Share taken into account.

4. Still need to do – We need to increase our weekly giving by having more planned givers. We have a £300 shortfall which equates to 30 regular givers giving £8 weekly. We pray that more people will be encouraged to give on a regular and consistent basis.

Time for any questions – How successful has the card reader been? So far its use has been minimal. We haven't promoted the system enough. There will be a push this year at weddings and other occasional services.

Thanks were given to everyone for their generous and faithful giving. Any increases in giving, no matter how small, would make a real difference in reducing our deficit.

9. Vicar's Remarks – Rev. Gail read from Acts 9 : 36 -43.

If there had been a Great Sewing Bee in the first century Dorcas would have been a strong competitor. Her Hebrew name Tabitha means 'gazelle', denoting beauty and grace. Luke, as the writer, tells us that she was full of faith and active on behalf of her community. We have seen many other examples, reflected in our annual meeting and reports today, of people making the very most of their particular gifts, skills and personalities. We see people using their faith and time to bless and benefit a whole community. Dorcas as one of Jesus's disciples used her gifts to help create a community literally and figuratively sewn together by love - as so many do here at St Giles.

Peter is called to a grieving community. It's as though a part of their past and history has died with Dorcas. Every stitch of carefully hand sewn clothing reminds them of her – she is woven into their story and God's bigger story, as are the dear ones we remember today as members of our church family who have gone to their rest in Christ over the last year, or others less physically able to join us now for worship in person. What did Peter expect and what were the community expecting as he arrived? Perhaps simply for Peter to console them, to share their loss, to be present with them. That is so often the most valuable thing we can do and is indeed sometimes all we can do. But Peter, with all his experience of living and walking with the risen Jesus, sees the opportunity for something more, something surprising, a new door opening for this community. There are new beginnings and so he steps out, he reaches out, no doubt trembling as he gets down on his knees to pray and later takes Tabitha's revived hands in his own. He has the courage to do something he has seen Jesus do, to follow in his footsteps.

Dorcas, Tabitha, is restored to her community with fresh life. Things are not the same as they were before, but through the story of her death and rising to new life so many people come to a living and active faith in Jesus. A community affected by loss becomes a community infected with new life. We too may feel a sense of loss as we move through further seasons of change as a church. The challenge is for us to be alert, awake and alive to the signs of new life God is initiating in our midst – to rise up and reach out so that more and more people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances can find their place in a community sewn together by the love of Christ. *Amen.*

10. AOB – Carole Herriott informed the meeting that the Harbour Community Shop is open daily from Tuesday to Saturday and not from Monday to Saturday as shown in the report “Bedworth Churches Together” on page 24.

On behalf of himself, and the meeting, Steve Watkins thanked Rev. Gail for everything she has done and achieved over the past twelve months. We all look forward to the future with renewed hope.

Rev. Gail replied with thanks to everyone for attending today and hoped that it was an informative meeting. She cannot believe that she has been in her new role as our vicar here at St. Giles for almost three years.

The meeting closed with prayer and a hymn “Great is thy faithfulness”.

Report by: Carol Gough

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

3.1. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

There are 19 serving members on the PCC; 12 elected members, five ex-officio members and two co-opted members. Our Safeguarding Officer (Muriel Ganley), Honorary Treasurer (Stephen Carter) and Honorary Secretary (Carol Gough) attend meetings but have no voting rights.

This year we have held eight full PCC meetings which were all held in the small hall with members attending in person. This was a very welcome return to normality after the restrictions of the pandemic and previously holding our meetings by Zoom video -conferencing.

PCC meetings have received regular agenda item updates on Mission and Ministry along with updates and reports from the Finance and Stewardship Group (F&SG), Safeguarding, the Buildings and Maintenance Team, and the St Giles Meadow Working Party. Individual reports from all of these groups can be found within the Annual Report.

In January 2020 (that’s right 2020), the PCC began to look at the possibility of upgrading the audio-visual systems within our church and in June 2022 they were able to submit a Project Proposal Audio Visual Improvements document to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for the Care of Churches for advice and guidance. The response from the DAC was positive and they were content with the proposals, although they advised that their own expert should visit and advise on the proposed schedule of work before we could submit a faculty application to the Diocesan Chancellor for permission to carry out the work. A faculty approval is required before any repair, alteration or addition to a church building can be made. The DAC has since given approval and at the time of writing this report statutory notices are being displayed in church for the 28-day statutory period; after which the Chancellor will then deliberate and give the final decision as to whether work can commence on the upgrade.

Sadly, in October two long standing members of the PCC resigned their posts. The PCC took the decision not to fill these posts at that time as they were both due to stand down in May 2023.

Please note and consider that there will be three posts open for election as PCC members at the annual meeting in May.

Church Energy was discussed by PCC and it was agreed to raise awareness of our energy usage with all congregations. Flyers with relevant information were handed out to those attending church services along with information displayed on the projected notice slides at services.

Winter Warmers began with a movie morning in church followed by a weekly coffee, knit and natter group held in the small hall on Wednesday mornings. After school hot chocolate and snacks are provided on a Wednesday afternoon, especially to students from Ash Green school on their way home between 3pm and 3.30pm. This is providing St Giles with a wonderful opportunity to connect with a wider group of people, including young people.

PCC members would like to record their appreciation and grateful thanks to the amazing volunteers of the St Giles community who make all of these events possible and also very successful.

We pray that 2023 will be a fruitful year of cultivation in which we can actively grow as a church. With good teamwork we can support that growth with a shared purpose.

Report by: Carol Gough

3.2. Report on changes to the Electoral Roll

At the end of 2022 the Electoral Roll is slightly down. The current roll is 171; 89 living in the parish, 80 in another parish but attending St Giles church and two who are attending but were confirmed in another church. We remember at this time the members of our church community who have died - namely Howard Turner, Jan Leivers, Emily Good, Roy Tallis and Barbara Walbyoff. They were loved and remain in our thoughts. We are pleased to have welcomed three new members who have joined the Electoral Roll.

Report by: Beryl Owen

3.3. Report on Safeguarding

St Giles Church complies with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' and this was adopted as our Parish Policy on December 10th 2018.

Our PCC has overall responsibility for safeguarding and, along with Rev. Gail and I, has a duty of care to the vulnerable people in our church and community, but it is everyone's responsibility to be vigilant.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults as per section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

As we have started to introduce more activities following the pandemic, we're grateful to all our volunteers for faithfully complying with safeguarding guidelines and requirements in terms of training etc. We would love to have an even wider volunteer base. With regard to volunteers and safeguarding training, all but a couple of courses - Basic, Foundation and Leadership - are now up to date and will not need renewing for another next three years.

There has been a lot of support during this time from people who have computers and are familiar with using them, helping those that do not have computers to complete the required safeguarding courses.

All Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and certificates that needed changing from five years to three years were completed. St Giles is now well ahead of the January 1st 2024 deadline for this requirement.

During 2022, safeguarding for children, young people and vulnerable adults has been on-going.

St Giles uses the Parish Dashboard, which allows us to update our practices to ensure we are fully up-to-date with all procedures to keep people safe. The Parish Dashboard uses the traffic light colours (red, amber and green) to determine compliance to recommended safeguarding requirements. At present I am happy to report that all our Parish Dashboard is green, which means St Giles is fully complying with the requirements expected of us.

Finally, a very big thank you to all who have and are still' in various forms, helping within the church and community. Without such selfless people we would not be able to offer the help and support we do

Report by: Muriel Ganley

3.4. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Committee members: Andy Clark, Stephen Carter, Steve Watkins

In summary:

- A full Church inventory was carried out in the Spring of 2022 by Andy Clark. Huge thanks to everyone who helped in this
- The hedge between the Lychgate and Small Hall was cut back and cut down to a height of seven feet by Central Tree Care at a cost of £360. This was paid for by the Riley Trust Fund
- A big spring clean took place of the Church and both halls on July 9th
- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was completed in Church, Main Hall, Small Hall and shed on July 27th
- Steve Watkins and Stephen Carter repaired one of the radiators on the rear wall of the Church
- The main noticeboard by the lychgate was refurbished by Andy Clark and Rob West. The sign is holding up well but does show signs of age-related wear
- A sign for the noticeboard showing the new service patterns and contact details was commissioned by Rev Gail, as was a Garden of Remembrance sign, at a cost of £96. These were paid for and installed by CWT
- The Bell Tower clock was serviced in November and the engineer reported no problems
- The Main Hall car park has been cleared of overhanging branches, weeds and nettles, which were narrowing the car park. The flood run offs have also been exposed.

Hopes for the forthcoming year:

- Churchyard trees are due to be pollarded and the hedge along Bell Drive will be cut back by the Council
- The new audio visual (AV) system gets installed and the Church can then be painted.

Highlights of the year:

- One of the highlights of the year was working with the volunteers of the Green Genies and the Friends of the Meadow. However, this did highlight the shortage of volunteers that are needed for general maintenance, especially during Spring when everything is growing and Autumn/Winter when there is a lot of clearing to do.

Report by: Andy Clark

3.5. Report of the Green Genies

Committee members: Stella Bunting, Jackie West, Robert West

After one of the hottest and driest summers on record the begonias, once again supplied by Stella Bunting, somehow managed to put on a display which rewarded all our efforts to tidy the borders and plant them out. A huge thank you to all who watered them and the roses to help keep them alive. We had a few tidy up days (weather and Covid permitting) and generally the churchyard looked good all year long for everyone who visited to enjoy. Thank you to all who helped in any way to maintain the churchyard.

Report by: Jackie and Robert West

3.6. Report of the Meadow Working Group

Group members: Stella Bunting, Hilary Cryer, Rev. Gail Phillip, Florence Rhodes, Steve Watkins, Kathryn Unsworth, Robert and Jackie West

The Meadow Working Group has worked alongside the Green Genies over the past year to look after both the meadow and churchyard. One main goal for the meadow is to increase the variety of wildflowers. At the moment, the thick grass dominates and makes it hard for other species to get established. Early in 2022 we tried sowing some yellow rattle seed in a few patches of cleared ground. This is a good plant for helping to develop a flower meadow as it prevents the grass from getting so well established. Unfortunately this didn't work as the patches were too small, so later in the autumn, after the grass had been cut, we cleared a strip across the centre of the meadow and spread seed across that much larger area. We can only hope that this might do the trick! We planted foxgloves around the edges of the area and these seem to be established. We also planted an oak sapling in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The dry summer wasn't good for our young trees but we hope that the winter will have helped them to thrive. The Meadow supports a variety of wildlife as well as being a lovely space for people to enjoy. If you would like to help us look after this precious resource, please contact the Churchwardens.

Report by: Kathryn Unsworth

3.7. Report on Hall Management

Committee members: Helen Anderson, Steve Carter, Muriel Ganley, Tina Watkins, Steve Watkins

During 2022 all of our regular users have continued with their activities in the main hall, namely Exhall Ringcraft (dog training), Pilates, T'ai Chi, Over 50s, GKR Karate, Zumba and children's dance classes. The Drama Club also met there between September 2021 and February 2022.

The small hall is used less often, but Mothers' Union and the Bereavement Drop-in Group were regulars along with Ash Green Residents' Association (AGRA). Towards the end of 2022 a Knit and Natter group started up on a Wednesday morning, again in the small hall.

Although several groups are classed as outreach and do not pay a hire charge, these organisations kindly give a donation each year towards the use of the hall.

Ad-hoc bookings are starting to become more frequent now that Covid restrictions have been lifted.

Report by: Tina Watkins

3.8. Report of the Finance and Stewardship Group (F&SG)

Committee members: Helen Anderson, Stephen Carter, Denise Crampsie, Sam Jones, Rev. Jo Parker, Rev. Gail Phillip

The purpose of the F&SG is to assist the PCC and the incumbent in the responsible management and stewardship of the church's financial resources.

The F&SG held regular quarterly meetings in 2022. The main focus was to continue to closely monitor income and expenditure and make recommendations to the PCC as to how best to optimise our finances. Our ongoing structural deficit continues to be a significant concern and means continued vigilance is needed in 2023 and beyond. We continue to look to God for guidance and to trust in His abundant grace and goodness.

Many thanks are due to Rob Grayson for his sterling work in chairing this committee over the years. We wish him every blessing in the future.

Report by: Helen Anderson

4. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

4.1. Report of the Ministry Leadership Team

Rev. Gail and Rev. Jo continued to liaise with members of the Ministry Leadership Team regularly throughout the year. The Ministry Leadership Team continues to provide vital and strategic input into the consolidation of the new service pattern.

Report by: Rev. Jo Parker

4.2. Report on Children and Families Work

The regular 11.30 am All Age Worship service continues to grow steadily around a dedicated, multi-generational, core. The decision was made after Easter to stop Happy Hearts and Minds and replace it with an 11.30am service on the fourth Sunday. From September, a Confirmation course was offered through the 11.30 service and a 'soft start' was introduced, that is starting with refreshments. It was a real joy to deliver the course and see two of our young people (and one not so young) be confirmed by Bishop John in November, at St Peter's Mancetter. The 'soft start' is popular and continues.

In 2022 there were two Super Sunday School events. The Big Meet in July and The All Hallows Eve Party in October. These events, combining the efforts of All Saints (Bedworth), St Giles (Exhall) and St James (Bulkington), provided great fun for our church families and proved vital for re-establishing links in the post-COVID period. They will continue in 2023.

In October we started a new initiative to give away free hot chocolate, on Wednesdays, to Ash Green students. A dedicated team of helpers regularly gave away about 70 hot drinks and quite a few biscuits. We are getting to know the students, who are a delight. At Christmas we gave them a small Christmas card with a blessing for their pockets which was well received. This outreach activity will continue into 2023, please pray for seeds of the kingdom to take root as we serve these lovely young people.

The two Christingle services held on Christmas Eve were very well attended and much appreciated by many families.

Report by: Rev. Jo Parker

4.3. Choir report

During the last 12 months it has been lovely to see more people return to worshipping together in church. The choir has sung at the 9.30am and 5pm services and supported special seasonal worship during Holy Week, Easter and Christmas. We very rarely sing at weddings these days but have actually sung at a funeral during the past year! The organists also played for school carol services.

We continue to enjoy spending time together outside church and had a lovely day out in the autumn visiting David Austen Roses and the RAF Museum at Cosford. Our Christmas meal was also very enjoyable and we took part in the Christmas tree festival as well as running a tombola stall at the Christmas bazaar.

We are always keen to welcome new members of any age. We have a new bass in Sam Jones who hadn't previously sung a harmony part but has found learning a new skill really rewarding. You don't have to be able to read music or suffer an audition so come along on a Friday and see us. We have coffee just before 8pm so you could come and ask questions then.

Report by: Henry Wagstaff and Kathryn Unsworth

4.4. Worship Team report

It's fair to say that the Worship Team hasn't progressed as far as we would have liked to. This is a great shame because our hopes and dreams would just see things happen overnight. How foolish of us! We have to rely only on God. Sometimes we do actually think his watch has stopped! Although this being the case, we have ever drawn closer together as a group/family of God's people.

Having the joy of Rev. Jo join us at St Giles and showing a strong interest in the Worship Team amongst other things has been great. It's certainly opened our eyes a little wider as to the direction we need to be focusing. Having Rev. Jo join us on a Wednesday night in church for rehearsal has been wonderful. It really shows the connection between the leadership team and us.

During the last quarter of 2022 some of the team attended a worship leadership event in Luton. This was brilliant as it was nice to be away from leading others, and to be in an environment where we didn't know anyone else and the opportunity to be just a member of the congregation being lead. This was hugely encouraging in many ways and set us up for great potential.

We are always looking to support the growth of the 11.30am service, developing individual and corporate worship, with the intent of the growth of head count in church through all services.

Not only are we looking to grow as a church in congregational numbers but also in Worship Team members. This has been heavy on our hearts since the passing of some of the most amazing people that ever were created, also seeing some members just simply come and go. We are always looking for new members to join us and our door is always open, so please come and talk to us for more information.

St Giles will soon be going through a huge audio and visual refurbishment. This will be such a joy to see as it's been a long time in planning. Along with this, it has become more obvious that the AV Technician that we could have done with some time ago is ever more needed now. This is to take the stress and strain away from the brilliant group of people that have been doing a bit extra, on top of their normal duties within Church, to make the AV stuff work so far. We would like to say thank you to all for the much needed support provided.

Please, if you would like to be involved or feel lead to support the Worship Band, do not hesitate to contact the team.

Report by: Roy Edwards and James Harden

4.5. Bellringers report

2022 has seen the return of bell ringing at St. Giles after restrictions around Covid were lifted. We have also welcomed one new member and introduced another to the art of campanology.

During 2022 we were asked to ring for five weddings and two funerals to help celebrate both unions and lives well lived.

We are a small band, and we have found it increasingly difficult to bring in ringers from other towers to help out when some of our members are unavailable to ring for services around life events. Please pray that this situation can be resolved during 2023.

If you are interested in learning to ring, please get in touch – we would love to welcome new members!

Report by: Steve Watkins

4.6. School Ministry report

Engagement with our local schools picked up during 2022, once covid restrictions were lifted, starting with Easter assemblies in Goodyers End (GYE), Wheelwright Lane (WWL) and Exhall Cedars schools. In May we worked with the Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust to provide 'Bun Day' assemblies in Wheelwright Lane, Goodyers End and Exhall Juniors; special thanks to Roy Edwards for leading the singing with his guitar. Bun Day is now well established in Exhall and we look forward to this becoming an annual event.

The head of Wheelwright Lane School, Mrs Brown retired in July. St. Giles was represented at her retirement party and a card from us all was presented.

In October we led harvest assemblies at GYE and WWL. November and December were especially busy. WWL Reception class came to visit church to learn about Baptism, which included the 'baptising' of the class doll. Exhall Cedars came to church to learn about Remembrance - we are very grateful to Maureen Ashmore for sharing her wartime story with the children. At our Annual Act of Remembrance we welcomed representatives from Exhall Juniors and Ash Green School, who laid wreaths alongside those made by the children from Exhall Cedars and in December we were absolutely delighted to host carol and nativity services for each of our primary schools in church. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these special Christmas memories for school children in our parish.

Report by: Rev. Jo Parker

4.7. Report on Home Groups

Monday Evening Home Group Report

We generally meet at Pat Richardson's home in Coventry Road, but we have also been hosted by Stephen and Gwyneth Carter and Yvonne Knowles. We are very grateful to everyone who has opened their homes to us so that we can share fellowship and grow in our knowledge of the Christian faith.

We changed from meeting on a Monday evening as this frequently clashed with the PCC meetings. We now also meet on a Tuesday. During 2022 we have followed two different schemes entitled *Embracing Justice* and *Climate Justice*. They have been challenging and thought provoking and we have enjoyed getting together.

We will always welcome anyone who would like to attend. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Report by: Chris Wilson.

Tuesday Evening Compline and Home Group Report

The start of the year was disrupted by the Covid but we tried to meet for Compline on a weekly basis and the Home Group on alternate weeks.

During Lent and Advent the two home groups met in church and discussed *Living Generously* and *Making All Things New*. Among the other topics discussed in the Home Group was *Embracing Justice* which proved to be very enlightening.

This year, as the church moves towards 'Cultivation-building up the Body of Christ' here at St Giles, our prayer is that God's Spirit will work within and through us that this may come to pass.

Report by: John Owen

4.8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery and Coventry Diocesan Synods

Deanery Synod Members: Gwyneth Carter, Viv Hopkins, Rev. Jo Parker, Rev. Gail Phillip, Neva Khan, Stephen Carter

Three meetings were held during 2022, in February at All Saints Bedworth, in May at Holy Trinity Attleborough and in November at St Giles.

February Meeting

All Saints' Church (Bedworth) has been designated a Mission Hub Church, making it a resource for the Deanery. Rev. Sally Buddle of Coventry Diocese spoke about Hub churches and how different ways of worship can be encouraged.

The Area Dean reported that the Deanery Mission and Ministry Plan was presented to the Diocese. The Diocese is collecting plans from Coventry Deaneries and will give feedback in due course.

May Meeting

We spent some time in prayer conversations with different members of Synod - sharing encouragements and challenges. On-going discussion suggested ways in which the Mission Hub church could offer support in the area of prayer.

The Deanery Treasurers will be meeting to discuss the parish share for next year. In 2021 every parish was asked for 7% less over 2020 as a special concession, so there will be an expectation of a significant increase in parish shares.

November Meeting

A report on General Synod was given by Rev. Kate Massey from Stockingford who reported that matters discussed included: War in Ukraine, Qualifications for PCC membership, Age verification for websites, Clergy Conduct measure. The meeting also discussed the Cost of Living Crisis sharing what parishes have set up to help. The meeting closed with a communion service.
Report by: Gwyneth Carter and Vivien Hopkins

Coventry Diocesan Synod

Three meetings were held during 2022, in March, June and November. Key points of the meetings were as follows:

March 19th Meeting at The Manor Hotel (Meriden):

- Bishop Christopher introduced the new President of Mothers' Union, Karen Morris
- Whole Diocese Strategy – Archdeacon Barry Dugmore introduced his report and drew attention to where the Growth Strategy dovetails with schools
- Living in Love and Faith (LLF) - Edmund Newey, Co-Advocate with Rev. Gail Phillip for LLF in the diocese, presented on LLF project, its background, and the current process of engagement in our Diocese.

June 21st Meeting at Harris Church of England Academy (Rugby):

- Key points from Diocesan Board of Education annual report and financial statements showed a clean audit despite new staff and systems
- Update provided on Diocesan mission and growth strategy
- Shared information about 'Alive 2023' event

November 19th Meeting at Harris Church of England Academy (Rugby):

- Latest developments of 'Our shared Vision' framework shared
- Introduction of Diocesan Synod 'Code of Conduct' discussed
- Cost of living work being done at National and Diocesan levels presented.

Report by: Neva Khan

4.9. Prayer Chain Report

The prayer chain consists of a group of 14 people who undertake to pray for people of the church, community and beyond who have special prayer requests, some of which are urgent and others are long term. At present we have about 45 names on our list. Requests are usually communicated via e-mail and are treated with the utmost confidentiality. We rejoice that God always hears and answers our prayers, although not always in the ways we hope for.

It is a privilege to be a part of this ministry and if you feel led to join us please get in touch.

Report by: Christine Wilson

5. PASTORAL CARE

5.1. Pastoral Care Team Report

Pastoral Care is an important part of our ministry at St Giles, and I know that many members of the church are involved in Pastoral Care on both formal and informal basis and we give thanks for everyone involved.

Our aim is to ensure that we maintain contact with and support members of the church and community in as many ways as possible. During the pandemic some of our activities were curtailed and much of the support was by telephone. During 2022 we have been broadening our scope again and visiting members in their own homes and making visits to Care Homes when this has been possible. Hopefully during 2023 we will be able to continue expanding this work.

All members of the team have received the required Safeguarding training.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit, or if you felt you would like to join us in this ministry, please contact me on 02476645161.

Report by: Vivian Hopkins

5.2. Report on the Bereavement Drop-in

We are delighted to report another very successful year in the bereavement drop-in group held every two weeks on a Thursday in the small hall from 2pm to 4pm. The group has been so successful, forging friendships with each other, enabling outings and meals out of outside our Thursday gatherings, which is wonderful.

I am not sure we would have so many friends joining us if it wasn't for Beryl Owen's fabulous rock cakes or John Owen's very lighthearted quiz at every meeting. There are 19 of us at most meetings but there is always plenty of room for more to join us and they would be made to feel very welcome and comfortable amongst friends.

So to conclude, I am pleased that S. Giles is able to support and promote this well needed group as part of our church outreach programme.

Report by: Sue Barnes

5.3. Residential Care Home Report

We started 2022 with a monthly communion service in Bede Village on Tuesdays and a worship service in Platinum Nursing Home on Wednesdays. From May we added a monthly service in Fairfield and from November Richmond Lodge.

We are very happy to report that we ended the year with a well-established pattern of monthly worship in four care homes. Sue Barnes continues to regularly support at Platinum. We thank God for the way He is using us to bless elderly folk in our parish through this ministry. Going forward we would like to explore growing our ministry in this area by establishing a small team of people to support at each of the monthly services. Please do pray about whether you could be one of those people.

Report by: Rev. Jo Parker

5.4. Hospice Support Group report

Covid prevented the Hospice Support Group hosting the monthly coffee mornings that raised funds for Mary Ann Evans Hospice. The Hospice Support Group resumed coffee mornings in October 2022. Hospice coffee mornings are taking place every second month on the third Saturday. All are welcome to support this very important cause.

Report by: Vivien Hopkins

6. MISSION AND EVANGELISM

6.1. Report of the Mothers' Union

Committee: Vivien Hopkins, Yvonne Knowles, Mandy Williams, Cynthia Cogley

We have 24 members and one indoor member. Meetings were held every month with speakers including Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind; Councillor John McNicolas Lord Mayor of Coventry; Denise Badland work with the TABS School in Africa and Karen Morris our elected Diocesan President.

A craft evening produced bookmarks to give out on Mothering Sunday, and later in the year a hedgehog made from old books!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with Afternoon Tea, and we invited the Church Bereavement Group to join us. Our annual meal was enjoyed at The Cottage, Fillongley and in August we joined members from Nuneaton Deanery for a fish and chips supper at Holy Trinity Attleborough.

Members from the Deanery joined us at Exhall for the Lady Day Service, and we supported two Deanery Services held at St Peter's Mancetter in May and at St Mary's Atherstone in October.

Prayer is very important to us and Members receive a Prayer Diary each year when we are encouraged to pray for our Members in 82 countries around the world. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, January to November, at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. All are welcome.

Report by: Cynthia Cogley

6.2. Community Partnership Team (CPT) report

2022 was a busy year for the CPT, with members organising the following events:

June 5th: Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (RIP)

Despite rain requiring the venue to change to the Main Church Hall, great fun was had by all who participated! Attendance far exceeded our expectations, with 142 people from the community coming together to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Support was outstanding from all who volunteered; the very generous in-kind donations of food and drink from Tesco Extra at CBS Arena and Morrisons in Binley; and the many yummy donations of cakes.

As part of our celebrations, St Giles coordinated the signing and sending of the Platinum Jubilee card to the Palace and were blessed to receive a response on behalf of our late Queen Elizabeth II from her lady-in-waiting, which can be found in the small hall. We did not realise at the time that our beloved Queen would pass away a few months later.

October 1st & 2nd: Harvest Supper and Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am Sunday Harvest Services

Collectively, the Harvest Supper and Sunday services raised over £450 for World Vision's Hunger Crisis Appeal! Everyone's combined support enabled a Harvest Supper of a yummy ploughman's dinner, community fun (eco-bingo, quiz, raffle, craic) and solidarity with our world's poorest children and their families. A huge thank you to Exhall Mothers' Union members and all who baked/contributed apple pies; Tesco Extra CBS Arena, Morrisons Binley and Morrisons Holbrooks for their in-kind donations of food and drink; as well as all who volunteered and so generously supported our Harvest Supper. Finally, a special thanks to John Orchard from World Vision for his inspiring contribution to our Sunday services.

October 30th: 'Super Sunday School' All Hallows' Eve Party

The Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust provides support to the *Super Sunday School* initiative, which is a collaborative initiative that brings together the parishes of Bedworth, Bulkington and Exhall through Christian-based events for children and their families. For the All Hallows' Eve Party, the Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust provided sausages for the hot dogs and bread rolls for people with special food requirements. Additional in-kind donations were received from Morrisons Binley (pumpkins for hall decorations and for a much enjoyed game of 3 cone pumpkin bowling); Tesco Extra CBS (ketchup and tubs/packets of chocolates and sweets for prizes and goody bag fillers) and Morrisons Holbrook (finger rolls for hot dogs). Through this collective support, we were able to create a safe warm space, that brought together over 150 people from the three parishes. Together, they enjoyed games, crafts, food, and had a lot of fun!

November 19th: Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Hosts around the country raised an amazing total of £190,000 for people living in poverty. A fantastic, fun night! Our support to S. Giles Tearfund Big Quiz Night contributed £500 to this sum. Wow!

November 26th: Christmas Bazaar - Once again, a huge thank you to all the staff of Morrisons Holbrooks and Tesco Extra CBS Arena for their in-kind donations of foodstuff. Also, a very special thank you to all the local businesses and community individuals for the donations to the various stalls and prizes, the wonderful bazaar committee, all our fabulous volunteers and our truly supportive community. Your outstanding support continued to help St Giles Church create safe, fun, warm spaces for new friendships to develop and old friends re-engage, whilst raising £2,257 for the general running of St Giles Church.

December 10th: Christmas Tree Festival

Another successful Christmas Tree Festival! Creatively constructed/decorated Christmas trees were exhibited throughout the Churchyard, delighting the many visitors to the festival.

Contributions of Christmas trees included Wheelwright Lane School, the police, the Exhall Multicultural Group, Mothers' Union, Leivers Dance Club, AGRA and of course, our annual CWT bereavement tree! It was heartwarming seeing teams of adults and children working together to erect their Christmas trees, despite the cold. A massive thank you to everyone who supported this festival.

December 10th: Coffee Afternoon Supporting the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women Campaign

Through this important event, St Giles joined with others locally, nationally and globally to raise awareness of, and called for an end to gender-based violence in all forms; in the home and at work places in all societies; and the 2022 Campaign was a special call for an end to femicide. In so doing, St Giles raised an impressive £199.65 for Coventry Haven Women's Aid (a partner of Mothers' Union), despite a lower than usual turnout. Huge thank you to all who supported this very important cause.

December 24th: Christmas Eve Christingle Services

A generous in-kind donation of 200 oranges from Tesco Extra Bedworth and Morrisons Holbrooks enabled our reliable and committed team of volunteers to make up the contents of Christingle bags (orange, candle, toothpicks, red strip of sticky tape, raisins and dolly mixture sweets). These Christingle bags were an essential part of the Christingle services which met the Christmas worship needs of our Parish families at this very important time for Christians.

It's been an amazing year. A massive thank you to all who have supported the above events. Your support is truly appreciated. The success of our community events is because of you! We are always looking for proactive volunteers, so if you'd like to put your gifts to benefit our community and have lots of fun doing so, please contact any member of the group. Thank you.

Report by: Neva Khan

6.3. Parish Communications (Parish magazine, Weekly News Sheet, Website, Facebook)
Parish Magazine

We continue to print and distribute over 250 copies of our Parish Magazine. During 2022 more people started collecting their copies in church, but some are still posted to those unable to attend services. In addition, a good number are delivered by our faithful band of deliverers – many thanks to you all. The cost remains at 50p per copy – a bargain and an excellent means of outreach!

As ever, articles from our regular contributors are very much appreciated. One-off items are most welcome too!

We receive some income towards production costs from advertisers and would love to welcome more. If you know of any small local firms who would appreciate their business being highlighted, please encourage them to contact me! Prices range from £100 to £400 per year, depending on the size of the advert.

Report by: Tina Watkins

Weekly News Sheet, Website, Facebook

Our weekly e-newsletter, website and facebook page continue to be central communications. Our e-newsletter continues to have a high opening rate, averaging 78% in 2022. We are making much greater use of the church website, which is updated at least once a week, although it does need more work. This is a time/skills/finance issue. Rev. Jo updates facebook which provides a great source of news among families with young children. For church family who don't have access to email, information is regularly posted out including our Parish Magazine and *Live your Faith* prayer, praise and worship sheets. Regular feedback reassures us that these are very much appreciated.

Report by: Penny Pallett

6.4. Report of the Drama Club

To our delight and despite challenges around Covid disrupting rehearsals, we were able to stage a variety show *Don't Stop us Now* in February 2022. Covid had the last word though, with eleven cast/audience members being struck down with the virus in March! The show was very well received and as a bonus we were able to donate £800 to St Giles church from our profits.

In July some of our members got together to rehearse a sketch *The Lost Sheep* which was performed at the 11.30am service. Unfortunately, the baptism that was meant to take place was cancelled and we ended up with a congregation of about six. Many thanks to those who took the trouble to come along and support us!

In September 2022 we started rehearsals for our 2023 pantomime *Simple Simon*. This time we have had excellent attendance at rehearsals, with only one person affected by Covid. Long may it continue and here's to a great show!

Report by: Tina Watkins

6.5. Report of the Exhall Over 50's Club:

Group committee: President Marion Biddle; Chairperson Tricia Munro; Secretary Alan Biddle; Treasurer Iris Freeman ; Membership Secretary Joyce Downs; other committee members - Mary Brown, Sue Cooper-Williams, Pat Howard, Julie Jones and Phyllis Watts

The club has had another successful and interesting year in which our membership has reached 83. We have an average weekly attendance of between 55 and 60.

We have continued our weekly activities, such as, quizzes, bingo, speakers and entertainers. Our trips over the last year included our favourite visits to the Birmingham Hippodrome pantomime. Following this we visited the Thriplow daffodils festival, the National Memorial Arboretum, Evesham Country Park and Broadway.

All trips were well supported by members and their guests. We are currently planning more outings starting with Springfield in April for some retail therapy and to enjoy the lovely tulip gardens.

The subsidised Christmas lunch, attended by 75 members, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have also enjoyed several monthly pub lunches.

I have had a tremendous amount of positive feedback indicating the importance of the over 50's club for both individuals and for the local community. The friendships and support for each other has been invaluable.

We welcome all new members. If you would like to join us, please come along and give us a try or contact me on 02476644507. I will be pleased to hear from you or to meet you.

Report by: Tricia Munro, Over 50's Chairperson

7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

7.1. Report on Bedworth Churches Together (BCT)

BCT continued to meet on a monthly basis as ministers across the Bedworth area. These get-togethers are a valuable source of mutual support and prayer. On Good Friday we held an open-air service for our local community in Bedworth Town Centre. At Christmas we again held an outreach in Bedworth Town Centre which included worship, hot chocolate and our very own Advent Spinner Quiz! It was very cold! Roy Edwards lost all feeling in his fingers as he played his guitar.

BCT continues to support *The Harbour Centre* based in the former 99p Shop in Bedworth. This fantastic initiative, spearheaded by Life Church, which includes a community shop, cafe and hub centre to connect people to a whole variety of support networks, is thriving. The community shop offers the opportunity for those in need to access a wide range of both fresh and preserved food and other donated items for a minimal membership fee, providing a greater sense of choice, dignity and empowerment. Throughout the year members of St Giles have generously donated tea, coffee and other food and non-food items to the Harbour Centre.

Through BCT and Life Church, St Giles has also been generous in donating medical supplies and sleeping bags to Ukraine.

Report by: Rev. Jo Parker

7.2. Report of the Ash Green Association (AGRA)

AGRA had a quieter year in 2022. The landscape of our area has certainly changed with the addition of many new homes. We are working with the authorities to have eight Tree Preservation Orders in and around Poppies Parlour.

By the end of 2022, there was still no confirmation from Coventry City Council about a *No Right Turn* from Winding House Lane into Wheelwright Lane and also concerning the removal of the railway tracks alongside Prologis Park.

The *Bloom In Ash Green* Project purchased two Kazan flowering trees and Warwickshire County Council are to confirm the designated sites. Discussions are also ongoing re the planting around the War Memorial site.

This year St Giles Church invited AGRA to lay a poppy wreath at the memorial service in November. As usual schools, groups and residents came to show their respect.

AGRA also took part in the church's Christmas tree festival.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in May 2023 when we hope to welcome many of our present and new Ash Green Residents - ashgreenra@gmail.com

Report by: Isobel Jaques and Kate Coyle