

PCC Report for the APCM on Tuesday 24th May

This is a momentous year in the life of Christ Church as it celebrates its sesquicentennial or 150th anniversary, sharing it with our Queen's own Platinum Jubilee. The PCC would like to thank Dave Johnston for his ministry among us and are delighted he is to share this celebration year with us at Christ Church.

The PCC has met six times since the covid related postponement of the APCM in October 2021. We began to meet in person from November and those unable to attend, because of covid, were able to zoom in. Heather Yaxley is standing down as churchwarden, and Lesley Majekodunmi, who was elected to the PCC last October, has had to stand down as well. Amanda Coyle has served her three years on the PCC so must also stand down. Our thanks to all of them for their faithful ministry in overseeing the business side of church management. The PCC would also like to thank Margaret Peerless for her invaluable and effective ministry as PCC secretary since 2017. Although handing this role over at the APCM last October she is still the secretary to the Fabric and Finance Committee.

Services and activities have gradually begun again in person, and the 09:00 Holy Communion service continues to be streamed. To avoid using the common cup in communion, wafers are tintured with wine so the congregation can receive communion in both kinds.

The Ministry among Older People has resumed with the Friendship Café taking the place of the Dementia café. Numbers have virtually returned to and even exceeded pre-covid levels. Community Lunch once a month continues to be a very helpful setting for fellowship, mainly amongst older people.

With two generous legacies to Christ Church and the sale of the house in Walden Road in the autumn, a small group have been looking into purchasing a smaller property that is well maintained. An offer has been accepted for a three bedroomed town house in Invicta Close, Chislehurst, though the vendors have yet to find a new house to buy. This has been the case for several months, but as we are cash buyers and as yet have no Ministry Team Leader to accommodate we have been in a good position. However, we continue to look, but the market is currently very slow.

The PCC was sorry to receive the resignation of Dan Greenwood as the Premises Manager, and we wish him, Danielle and Mark every blessing as they look for a new home, and as Dan seeks to grow his IT support business. We thank Dan for many years of faithful, practical, servant ministry among us at Christ Church.

There is still the intention to employ a Ministry Team Leader in place of Lydia Chancellor, and hopefully that can happen later this year. However, as life slowly returns to some sort of normality after the pandemic, we are seeing many regular families, and a good number of new ones, returning to worship, especially at 10.45 on Sundays. We are grateful for the team of volunteers who run Kids Church, ABC on Mondays and the Friday Youth Club. An additional activity aimed at new mothers and babies has begun and is meeting an important need as many new Mums have struggled during lockdown.

In this 150th year of Christ Church there are a number of special services and events taking place to gather the congregation, and wider community, together to celebrate and give thanks. We praise God for His faithfulness to us in so many ways.

Angela Scott, Secretary