

The Parish of Bracknell: Holy Trinity with Mosaic
Called together to make Christ known

Annual Report for 2023



May 2024

Notes from Revd Robin Sharples

2023 was a lively year in our parish. There have been new faces in our churches and the beginnings of new activities, including some very positive changes in our work with children both at Holy Trinity and Mosaic. It has been a year of growth and the encouragement of so many people from the parish has been greatly appreciated – thank you to everyone.

During the year relationships have been (re)established with Crown Wood, Harmans Water and Holly Spring schools where I lead regular assemblies. Holly Spring school also came to Holy Trinity for a Christmas service.

We continue our relationship with Ranelagh school. Holy Trinity plays host to school services at Christmas and Ash Wednesday and I am regularly invited to lead Holy Communion at the school. I also sit on the steering committee for the Ranelagh Chaplaincy.

There are several home communion visits which take place approximately monthly. I take Communion regularly to Bickerton House and lead a monthly prayer service at Clement House.

The Christmas tree festival in Holy Trinity church was especially well supported, our youth group decorated a spectacular large tree and there were many other trees around the church. The effect of the lights, especially at the 8.00am service, was quite lovely. Thank you to those who sponsored the event. We raised a significant contribution for Thames Hospice through this event. Carol singing at Waitrose was very successful – again raising a significant sum, this time for Refuge.

It has been good to re-establish the Common Cup and the Peace to Holy Trinity services. There has been a particular warmth to the Communion Services at Mosaic and Fabio's Mass in E has enhanced the experience of All-Age Communion at Holy Trinity..

Looking forward we are...

- welcoming Beth Quainton as Curate following her ordination on June 29th;
- actively seeking recognition as EcoChurch at both Holy Trinity and Mosaic.;
- arranging a fundraising event for Mission Aviation Fellowship at The Parks

Several other highlights are identified in this report

I am particularly grateful for the support of the PCC, Mosaic Leadership and especially the Churchwardens throughout what has been an exciting year.

Holy Trinity

2023 had many high points for the congregations at Holy Trinity, including watching the Coronation and having lunch together in May, and some wonderful services particularly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

We continue to have three services each week, two on Sunday and one on Thursday morning, these include both Communion and lay-led services. New service booklets have been produced for our 9.30am services for different seasons of the church year. The 10.00am Thursday Holy Communion now includes hymns and occasionally includes slides. In addition to Sunday services there were extras in Holy Week and at Christmas; Christingle (supporting the Children's Society), Memorial Service at the beginning of November and the civic Remembrance Sunday service.

The flooding of the boiler room at the beginning of April posed a significant challenge. There was no heating from then until the beginning of December. We learnt how to wrap up well!

A team now organises children's activities once a month at the 9.30am service; some children also participate in readings and leading prayers in our services.

Baptisms take place regularly at Holy Trinity, with occasional weddings and funerals. These opportunities help people celebrate important life events and entrust relatives to God's keeping.

- Baptisms - 6: at which 10 adults and children were baptised
- Weddings - 2
- Funerals - 2

In addition, there was one renewal of marriage vows, and one interment of ashes.

Since Harvest 2023 we have provided a collection point for the Bracknell Food Bank and have maintained regular opportunities to support the local clothes bank.

We are very grateful to all who support Holy Trinity services; musicians and singers, readers, intercessors, servers, activity leaders, and welcomers, and are grateful to all the clergy, including Bishop Olivia, who led Communion services in Robin's absence, and the worship leaders from Mosaic, and Beth Quainton, who helped with our lay-led services. Thank you also to the refreshment team and flower team,

Angela Evans and Russell Goodburn: Churchwardens

Fabric

The Churchwardens have continued to maintain the parish inventory, terrier and logbook. In 2023 no items were added to or removed from the inventory. Details of repairs were recorded in the logbook.

During the year we have received some new linen, an altar cloth donated by a member of the congregation, and purificators which have been made for us by a generous volunteer. Vestments, frontals, altar cloths and communion linen remain in reasonably good condition.

Thanks to our Sacristans, Shirley Taylor & Lydia Pugh for their diligent work in this area.

Consistent efforts have gone into caring for the buildings at Holy Trinity and Langley Hall. Maintenance Mornings continue, we are grateful to the people that attend to work in the grounds of the church and hall. Finally, thanks to the Holy Dusters and volunteers who clean, polish & wax furnishings and tend to our brassware; your contribution is greatly appreciated.

During 2023 Maintenance Mornings were overseen by Malcolm Taylor. Grateful thanks to Malcolm for all he has done. On his standing down at the end of the year, we welcomed Alan Batup as our new Maintenance Coordinator.

Summary of Building works - January 2023 to March 2024

Holy Trinity Church.

- Following flooding in the boiler room, drains were investigated and remedial works carried out including relining drains.
- A Sump Pump was installed in the boiler room to deal with any future water ingress into the boiler room.

- The boiler was repaired and heating restored
- All testing and servicing have been carried out; font-lid winch, PAT testing, boiler service, heating, lighting conductor, fire extinguishers and exit signs, Langley Hall security alarm, all have passed. New fire extinguishers and stands have been purchased.
- Finchampstead Roofing carried out the annual clearing of the valleys, gutters, hoppers, rain water pipes and replaced some slates on the North Nave.
- Quote has been obtained for the slipped and broken tiles on the Lychgate. Works to be carried out in 2024.
- Water ingress into the vestry causing damp on internal wall investigated. Quote for repairs to roof above flat roof of vestry obtained and works to be carried out in 2024
- The next Quinquennial Inspection is booked for 03/07/24.

Langley Hall

- Redecoration of the remaining toilets the Meeting Room and hallway has been completed by volunteers.

The buildings committee continues to monitor all maintenance issues and maintain a priorities checklist which is regularly updated.

Russell Goodburn: Churchwarden

Safeguarding Report 2023

The Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person, and adult within our congregations.

Our safeguarding policies are based on those required by the Church of England, and the procedures we follow the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Our Parish Safeguarding Policy was reviewed by the PCC in September 2023, and is available on our parish website, in Holy Trinity, Langley Hall and at Mosaic. We follow safer recruitment guidance, and are working on role descriptions for volunteers which specify lines of responsibility, training required and whether a DBS is necessary for the role.

DBS checks are required for everyone in positions of leadership and people working with children and may be required for those working with adults considered vulnerable. DBS checks must be renewed every three years. During 2023 seventeen volunteer DBS checks were carried out.

Those in leadership positions, office holders and volunteers are required to be aware of safeguarding principles and good practice in the Church context. The Church of England provides safeguarding training programme. There are additional modules on recruitment and domestic abuse which are required for specific roles. We use the Parish Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub to track our safeguarding procedures.

2023 was busy with children's work restarting, authorisation of lay preachers and renewal of DBS checks and training. Thank you to Sam Leach for agreeing to act as Assistant Safeguarding Officer with the Mosaic congregation from March 2024.

Thank you to all those who have supported safeguarding during 2023, especially Linda Edwards, our Safeguarding Administrator, and those assisting with applications for DBS checks. Thank you to everyone who has completed DBS checks and safeguarding training within the past year.

Angela Evan: Parish Safeguarding Office)

Bracknell Deanery Synod Report

Bracknell Deanery includes 8 parishes and is one of 29 Deaneries that make up the Oxford Dioceses. The Deanery provides a level above our parish PCC to discuss topics of the church's ministry and mission. All clergy are members of Deanery synod and lay members are elected to represent the parishes. The term of office is 3 years, a Triennium. The number of elected lay members is based on the size of the electoral roll. The Parish of Bracknell has 2 elected members of Deanery (Lesley Johnson, Simon Sellick) out of our allocation of 5 – which means we have 3 casual vacancies if anyone would like to be involved. The current term started in June 2023.

During 2023 there were the usual 3 Synod meetings: 7th Feb (St. Michael and St. Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead) 11th July (All Souls, Ascot), 14th Nov (St. Michael and St. Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead)

February meeting covered a review of the 2020-2023 triennium, that was an exceptional 3.5yr term due to Covid, and introduction to the new 2023-2026 triennium.

July's meeting focused on 23-26 Triennium with working sessions to establish priorities facilitated by Rhodri Bowen, Diocesan Parish Development Adviser.

The November meeting built on the July session and focused on 2 topics: Youth, Children & School work and Growing congregations. This was subsequently further narrowed to a Deanery focus for this triennium on Youth, Children & School work.

There was no Deanery Gathering in 2023 it has been moved to 2024 to allow more planning time given the new Triennium.

Lesley Johnson: Deanery Synod Representative

Town Centre Mission – One Step Closer

Our role is in helping people get one step closer to one another in building community and one step closer to God wherever they are in their in their faith journey.

The TCM team in 2023:

Lynn Davidson and Beth Quinton are our two chaplains, each working four days a month

- Volunteer line manager on behalf of the PCC: Debbie Copping
- Volunteer Chaplain – Sue McCartney (Easthampstead Baptist Church)
- Steering group: Paul Copping, Debbie Copping, allan wilson, Revd Robin Sharples

We were all saddened by the death of allan wilson and are in his debt for his encouragement and prayerful support. Thank you allan.

Current TCM Activity is a 'ministry of presence'. Chaplains take time in the town centre connecting with those who work and visit there.

We pray, and believe, that as we go out, Jesus goes ahead of us and the Holy Spirit guides our encounters and the right words to say. This is a long-term ministry, building relationships and being there when we might be needed, such as when some of our shops have to close, or staff

have medical needs. We encourage, affirm, listen and pray. We are able to signpost people to support (such as Foodbank and Clothes bank) and to churches. If you are interested in being involved in or supporting this ministry please get in touch.

TCM at Events in Bracknell Town Centre

The walk of witness on Good Friday was a success, was very well-supported by the churches of Bracknell and presented a significant statement of faith. We were delighted that the council invited us to provide a Christian presence in Union Square. We had a large cross as a conversation starter and a prayer station; passers-by were invited to write prayers and stick them on the cross and children to do Easter craft.

Thank you to everyone who turned out in the wind and rain in December to sing with great gusto – and to Fabio who bravely played an electric keyboard in such inclement conditions. There were many very positive conversations with passers-by.

The Chaplains were pleased to be a presence at Bracknell Pride in June, the Bracknell Cultural Event in July, and the Proms in September. It was a privilege to be invited to lay a wreath at Remembrance.

Monthly Town Centre Mission Prayers and reflection have continued on the second Saturday of the month at 10.00am on Zoom – we welcome everyone interested to join us.

We are looking forward to some challenges as the Town Centre Mission funding runs out during the Spring of 2024. We are actively seeking further funding to enable the initiative to continue.

Mosaic

Mosaic continues to pursue its goals: to grow disciples, build community and to serve others. The leadership team meet monthly to ensure we are always actively pursuing these through Sunday services, outreach, small groups, social gatherings and other actions.

Mosaic Sunday services are planned to be consistently accessible to those with little or no church experience and reflect the Christian calendar whilst exploring current themes. These services are appreciated by the congregation which continues to grow in numbers. Themes of particular significance have included *Love* and *Sensory Nativity*. We have begun to introduce occasional “This Time Tomorrow” interviews in our morning services in order to recognise and support people in their work or everyday lives where they serve others.

We have seen a small increase in the number of people attending small groups; with between 10 to 14 coming along. Currently we have 1 daytime group and one evening group running at Mosaic. We have increased from 2 to 3 group leaders. The groups tend to choose their own topics based on areas they feel they need to grow in, to strengthen discipleship. Sometimes they identify a need to understand a subject more deeply. Topics have included: “Talking Jesus” (from the Hope together 23/24 initiative), Characters of the Nativity and Creation.

Participants value the opportunity to grow closer to each other and grow closer to God as they share in an open and honest way how their faith is lived out in their own lives. It is also a valuable opportunity to learn to pray together and try to listen to God.

We have welcomed new families to our congregation and have introduced **Sparklers**, a children's group for primary school aged children. Sparklers currently runs once a month and includes Bible stories, craft and activities. We are expanding our team of volunteers to enable us to run sessions twice a month alongside the craft table offer on the other Sundays

As part of building up our church family we ran an occasional series of social events on Sunday mornings - involving food, music or both. We also ran a men's dinner as a private event at Il Cortile in Moss End.

Several members of the Mosaic congregation continue to volunteer for **Share Bracknell**, collecting food surplus from local supermarkets and running a **Share** site at Holly Spring School on a Wednesday, supporting families with children at the school.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make things run smoothly with refreshments, putting out (and clearing away) tables and chairs and organising the sound.

The Mosaic Leadership Team

Electoral Roll

At the APCM last year there were 252 people on the Electoral Roll. Since then 11 people have been added, and 9 names have been removed (3 deceased, 2 moved and 4 worshipping elsewhere). There are now 254 names on the Electoral Roll.

Michael Jackson: Electoral Roll Officer

Financial Report

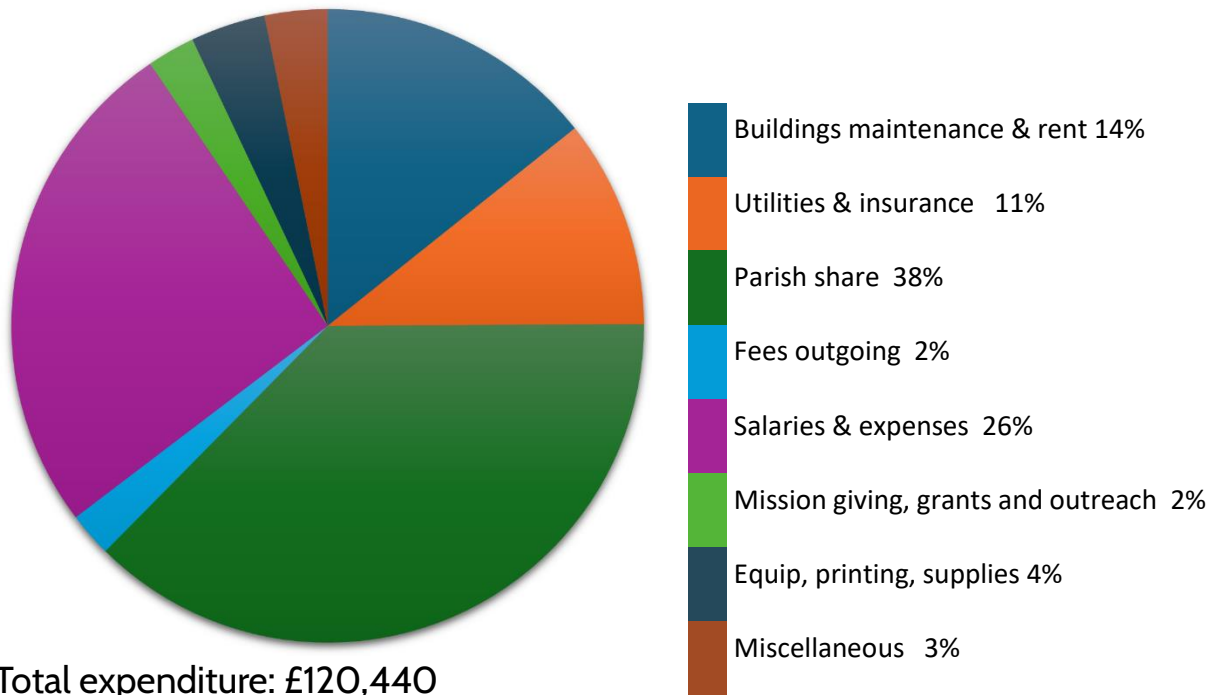
As can be seen in the summary diagrams on the next page, our outgoings in 2023 were less than our income. However spending is likely to increase significantly in 2024. This is due to increases in salary and utility costs, and the contribution we will be making towards the curate's housing costs. We are also intending to spend more on mission and ministry in our parish. We need to spend more on maintenance and repairs at Langley Hall and Holy Trinity to keep our buildings safe and attractive to those using them.

Parish Share is an essential part of our spending. Besides covering clergy salary, pension contributions and housing, it also includes diocesan support and training for leaders and Churchwardens such as used for Authorised Preachers in April 2023.

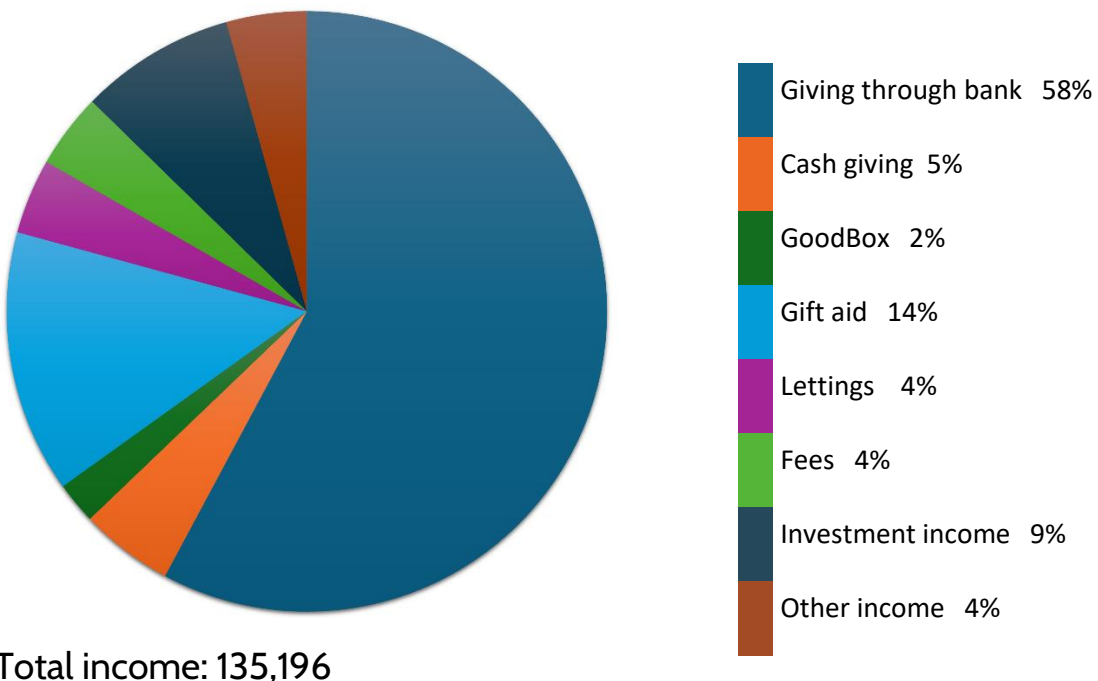
Regular giving is not growing in line with the numbers joining our congregations and increased activities in our parish. Whenever possible we encourage people to gift aid donations as this increases their value by 25%.

Summary Diagrams

Where has our money has gone in 2023?



Where did our money come from in 2023?



Agnela Evans and Russell Goodburn: Acting Treasurers

PCC

The PCC consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and members elected by members of the congregations (Mosaic and Holy Trinity) who are on the electoral roll. PCC is 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 spent.

The PCC has a Standing Committee, which consists of the Incumbent, the two Parish Wardens, Secretary and one other member. The Standing Committee is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings, and reports to the full PCC.

The PCC met regularly during 2022/23.

The PCC has two committees, one to deal with buildings and a Finance and Administration Committee. These committees both initiate actions and make recommendations to PCC

Some examples (beyond those noted above) of PCC actions in 2023

- Discussed and agreed the Charities to be supported – Thames Hospice, Refuge and Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- Regularly discussed safeguarding matters and approved risk-assessments for parish activities.
- Approved the Parish Budget for 2024.
- Ensure that staff salaries remain above the Real Living Wage

The PCC employs a part-time Parish Administrator (Linda Edwards), and Finance Administrator (Sally Evans).

Parish of Bracknell Parochial Church Council Members
Following the APCM – May 2023

Clergy				Meeting Att.
Revd Robin Sharples	Clerk in Holy Orders	Ex Officio	From Sept 2022	PCC/SC/F&A /Buildings
Church Wardens				
Angela Evans	Churchwarden	Ex officio	2 nd term 2022-2025	PCC/SC/F&A
Russell Goodburn	Churchwarden	Ex officio	1 st term 2022-2025	PCC/SC/ Buildings
Deanery Synod				
Lesley Johnson	Deanery Synod Rep		2023-2026	PCC
Simon Sellick	Deanery Synod Rep		2023-2026	See Below
There are 3 casual vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives				

Elected Lay PCC Members	Elected	Re-elect in	Meeting Att.
Sam Leach (Mosaic)	2023	2026	PCC
Fabio Marques (Holy Trinity)	2023	2026	
David Roper (Mosaic)	2020	2023	PCC
Sally Roper (Mosaic)	2022	2025	PCC
Les Allen (Holy Trinity)	2022	2025	PCC
Shirley Taylor (Holy Trinity)	2021	2024	PCC
Neil Arden (Holy Trinity)	2021	2024	PCC
Paul Byron (Holy Trinity)	2022	2025	PCC
There are 7 casual vacancies for Lay PCC Members			
Parish officers			
Treasurer	Vacant		PCC / SC / F&A
Secretary: Simon Sellick	Appointed 2019		Deanery / PCC / SC

Parish of Bracknell – Committees	
Committee	Members
Finance and Administration	Shirley Taylor, Financial Administrator (Sally Evans), Parish Administrator (Linda Edwards), Ade Odofin, Angela Evans, Robin Sharples
Buildings Committee	Les Allen, Russell Goodburn, Robin Sharples, Neil Arden (from Spring 2024)
Standing Committee	Simon Sellick, Angela Evans, Russell Goodburn, Shirley Taylor, Robin Sharples