

# **Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

## **Parish of Thetford**

**7.30 p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in St Cuthbert's Church**

*It will be assumed that the annual reports and accounts have been read in advance of the meeting.*

- 1. Welcome, apologies and opening prayer**
- 2. Opening worship**
- 3. Minutes of the APCM of 2022 and matters arising**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens for the next year**
- 5. Electoral Roll report**
- 6. Elections and resolutions of the APCM:**
  - a) Election to Deanery Synod (3 people to serve for the 2023-2026 triennium)**
  - b) Election to PCC (7 people)**
- 7. Rector's remarks**
- 8. Annual reports**

*An opportunity to respond with questions, comments, encouragements and ideas. Please note that questions asked in advance are likely to receive a more considered answer on the evening.*
- 9. Financial statements**

*Please note that questions asked in advance are likely to receive a more considered answer on the evening.*
- 10. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 11. Matters raised by the church membership**

*An opportunity to raise questions, concerns, encouragements and ideas regarding the life of the church, and to request future PCC discussion of particular items.*
- 12. Closing worship and prayer**

## **Annual Church Parochial Committee Meeting 09/05/2022 @ 1930 hrs at St Cuthberts Church THETFORD**

Attendees: Mr Gary & Mrs Louise Applin (GA & LA), Mrs Sandra Phillips (SP), The Reverend Dr Peter Herbert (PH), Mr Neil Glen (NG), Mrs Margaret & Mr Rodney Back (MB & RB), Mrs Sue & Mr Keith Goldsmith (SG & KG), Mrs Jennifer Bird (JB), Miss Susie Bratby (SB), The Reverend Matt Houghton (MH), Mrs Maggie Baldwin (MB), Mrs Audrey & Mr Peter Thomson (AT & PT), Mr David Galloway (DG), Mrs Caroline Herbert (CH), The Reverend Tony Heywood (TH), Mr Daniel Sherrington (DS), Mrs Karen & Mr Mick Tobitt (KT & MT), Mrs Steph & Mr Jonathan Richardson (SR & JR).

1/ Welcome apologies and opening prayer: PH welcomed all present to the meeting, Toni Sherrington sent her apologies as did Colin Orbell (CO) and PH led all present in prayer.

2/ Opening worship: hymn number 380, O Lord My God.

3/ Minutes of them APCM of 2021 and matters arising: accepted proposed by JB and seconded by CH.

4/ Election of Churchwardens for the next Year: appreciation to SP by PH for her work over the past year. Sandra Phillips was proposed by GA and seconded by PT, Karen Tobitt was proposed by GA and seconded by CH. All present agreed. MH led all at the meeting in prayer for Sandra and Karen.

5/ Electoral Roll report: report from CO was read by PH. The number on the electoral roll at last year's APCM was 89. Since then two had passed away, one had left the area and seven had been added to the roll which was now at 93, a prayer was said for the people who had sadly passed away.

6/ Elections and resolutions of the APCM:

Election to deanery Synod: Steve Harewood resigned still waiting for a volunteer to fill the vacant position, PH thanked Steve for his service.

Election to PCC: 2 nominations Jenny bird, and Maggie Baldwin has extended her time. Both were re-elected, TH led the group in prayer for Jenny and Maggie and the whole PCC.

7/ Rectors remarks: PH looked back on the past year and how COVID has affected the world and our church, The theme of resurrection is apt at this time. We cannot expect things to be the same as before COVID. PH read from Corinthians Chapter 15 verses 12-34. PH mentioned the need for re-development and works in particular the wall and the levelling of the floor. SB situation was talked about and we need another £10K to make the employment of SB a firm reality.

\* 8/ Annual reports: PH report, MH asked re sexuality and the stance of the CofE with same sex marriages etc, PH said the Church of England still haven't made a decision CH said synod not made a firm stance as yet but may later this year into next year CH happy for people to discuss with her. SB and DS are thanked for there work in the community. MB thanked for taking on the role of parish Safeguarding officer by PH. St Cuthberts piece there were no questions from the attending. Grace Church, Sarah Leggett and Steve Harewood thanked for there service. Cloverfield report no comments from the floor. PCC nothing from the floor, Safeguarding nothing from the floor Deanery synod nothing from the floor, Fabric report PH commented on Ashley our architect and his work with contractors and how useful it was having someone so familiar with the building and the contractors who specialise in the type of work that's needed. Finance report, query on magazine advertising PH explained that we have to pay VAT to the government. JB has mentioned there is confusion as to who has paid for there advertising and not, PH agreed there is

some confusion as to who has paid and those who haven't. Mission Giving was not commented on by those present.

11/ Financial statements: Financial statements had been sent out and were available for those present to comment on there were no queries or comments from those present.

12/ Appointment of Independent examiner: Examiner Robert Dabin, PH Proposed and MG seconded, all present in favour of the appointment.

13/ Matters raised by church membership: no matters arising brought up.

14/ Closing worship and prayer: hymn number 503, Thine be the Glory, was sung and PH closed with a prayer for the year forward. The meeting closed at 2030 hrs.

## **Rector's Report**

As we look back on 2022, let us join in giving thanks to God for his work across our parish (including its three churches of Grace Church, Cloverfield and St Cuthbert's) and indeed across the whole Team Ministry.

One occasion which particularly sticks in my mind from last year was the Big Team Summer Get Together held in June at the Kilverstone Estate. It was lovely to see people from across the Team (and beyond) come together for fellowship and to have fun together (with everything from a walk and energetic sports through to the craft tent and a quiz) – all rounded off by a lovely barbecue. As part of the day we launched our Team Vision Statement, expressing the churches that we seek to be:

### **Loving God**

Wholeheartedly loving, worshipping and following God

### **Growing Together**

Growing together in our love and care for one another, and as disciples of Jesus who are rooted in the Bible and prayer

### **Reaching Out**

Welcoming everybody as we serve our different communities with the good news of the Gospel through words and actions in the power of the Holy Spirit

Another significant step last year was employing Susie Bratby as Sports and Community Minister here in Thetford. Susie had done sterling work as Trainee Sports Minister as part of the Church Planting and Revitalisation (CPR) Programme, and we are deeply thankful that God provided over £100,000 for us to employ Susie on a three-year contract when her post with the Diocese came to an end. Susie's separate report gives a flavour of all the marvellous work coming out of the sports ministry.

Our participation in the CPR Programme continued throughout 2022, not least with Daniel Sherrington continuing as Trainee Youth Minister. By the nature of the post, much of Daniel's time and energy is focussed missionally on those outside the church (as is the case with Susie). At the start of the year, God opened the door for Daniel to have regular involvement at Thetford Academy, including co-leading a weekly Christian lunch club ('More2Life'), to complement the work of the Pulse Youth Café.

Daniel and the team have continued with the weekly youth group 'Amplify', seeking to nurture and disciple the Christian young people in our churches, and to share the good news of Jesus with those who are exploring. As well as the weekly group, special events such as the Amplify Film Nights and a silent disco have given the young people chance to have fun together, as well as to invite friends along.

Of course, the work of mission and discipleship isn't just for Daniel, Susie and the clergy but is God's calling to all of us. It was good to be able to run the 'Just Start Talking' course in June in order to equip and encourage people in speaking about Jesus with those they know. We also continued to offer a range of outreach events and courses (Life Explored in the spring term, and Hope Explored in the summer and autumn terms) as resources to be used in our evangelism and for newcomers to come along, take a look, and bring their questions.

The fruit of some of this work was seen in July, when we welcomed Bishop Alan for a joyful united service of confirmations and reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

Supremely this is all God's work, for which we give him thanks. We pray for his continued work here in Thetford, and the monthly Team Prayer Nights are such a precious way for us to join

together across the Team in doing that. For those for whom an evening is a struggle, we also continue to offer the option of joining Morning Prayer each Thursday by Zoom.

It is all God's work – and yet he does this work through us. Innumerable hours have been poured into the mission and ministry of our churches over the last year. To everyone who has contributed in myriad ways – thank you.

Peter Herbert  
March 2023

## **St Cuthbert's**

Of great note in the developing life of St Cuthbert's in 2022 was the opening of Café Cuthbert. A separate report celebrates the first year of its life in more detail – but huge thanks to the café team and directors for making such a success of the venture.

Other new initiatives were also added into the mix last year, notably the Easter and Christmas Activity Afternoons. What a joy it was to see St Cuthbert's bursting with children and their families having fun and discovering something of the good news of Jesus. Please join with me in praying for God's continued work in all those who came along. For adults, Crafting Christmas made a welcome return alongside the many other well-established services and events filling the Christmas programme.

We hosted a range of community services, such as the Civic Service in May, the Battle of Britain Service in September, and the Mayor's Carol Service in December. In celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee we hosted a special service and the café opened for afternoon teas.

The joy of the Queen's Jubilee gave way, in September, to sorrow at her death. St Cuthbert's was opened for anyone who wished to sign the book of condolence and to take time for prayer or reflection, and we held a special service of Thanksgiving for the late Queen.

The autumn also saw the first two of a series of trials of a new service format, combining some more traditional elements with some more contemporary ones in either an all-age service or a service with a children's group and also the offer of a youth discussion group immediately after the service.

The separate fabric report describes the current condition of the building and the various maintenance works undertaken last year. We are mindful of the pressing need to apply for grant-funding totalling some £70,000 to attend to the water ingress and associated issues in the wall at the east of the south aisle, as well as to progress the remainder of the redevelopment project before the permission to complete all the outstanding redevelopment work expires this coming autumn (having been granted a one-year extension).

As always, to everyone who has contributed in whatever way to the life of our church over the course of this last year – huge thanks.

Peter Herbert  
March 2023

## **Cloverfield Community Church**

There is lots to give thanks to God for over the last year – growing messy morning community, wonderful numbers at our special seasonal events and I was encouraged to be affirmed as permanent minister of Cloverfield and the Thetford Team of churches in January. The list of groups

and activities in our church report shows that despite being a small church we do a lot! In ministry there is always work to be done. I am acutely aware that we are a small church and have limited resources. Where possible it is always good to work collaboratively with other churches and organisations in our community.

Cloverfield church has always been at the centre of the community we have many different and a growing number of groups using our building each week. A key message that can be drawn from the pandemic was that the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs to be a church without walls. There is a danger in thinking that by having a building we should expect people to come to us but Jesus calls us to go to them! Vincent Donovan reminds us of this in his book Christianity Re-discovered

*'In working with people, do not try to call them back to a place where they were, and do not try to call them back to the place where you are now, as beautiful as it may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place where neither you nor they have been before.'*

For Donovan, his experiences as a missionary in Africa meant a total reappraisal of the meaning of his faith, and therefore a rediscovery of his Christianity. His book, which is written with moving simplicity, continues to represent a provocative challenge to us today in the church as we engage in our evangelism and with issues of multiculturalism.

We know what the past has been like – we have found hope as communities as we have emerged from the pandemic, life now feels more normal. But uncertainty still remains, shared issues of struggles with the cost of living and lower numbers attending church worship bring concerns and worries for the future. Tod Bolsinger in his book 'Canoeing the mountains' says "the world in front of us is nothing like the world behind us." What will the future look like?

Proverbs 24:14 says "Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." God's wisdom is found in prayer as we seek him together. The few small shifts of starting our Monday prayer meeting, sharing God stories and how to share our faith all help each of us build his kingdom. I like this analogy of a wheel – Christ is the axle (Hebrews 13:8); his commands and teaching, the church is the hub; the values and practises the expression of our church and the rim is the activities/events that may change over time. We need God's wisdom, as leadership and community to ensure none of these falter so we become off balance. Lets seek him afresh as we look to be a hub for the heart of the Cloverfield community in 2023!

### **Special events; Light night, Easter and Christmas**

Our seasonal events offer the best opportunity to reach people with the good news. At Easter we had our Messy Easter with the Sports factory and this acted well as a prelude to our new Messy Saturdays. On 31<sup>st</sup> October for our Light night event a few hundred came through our doors. There is always room to develop this event further and reflect on our witness but our presence on such a dark night brings God's light to all.

I was especially grateful to David Williams for his All Rapped up event and him and Maggie's gift of drama as they use this in services.

### **Worship**

Sunday worship consists of our usual services plus the new Café services. It has been encouraging to see more children and families attending and the return of refreshments.

We should not forget Messy mornings on a Tuesday and Messy Saturday which is church for those who attend. I am grateful to those who serve each Sunday especially our AWA's Shauna Peacock and Kirsty Houghton who leads the childrens ministry.

## **Thanks**

I would like to express my ongoing gratitude to the church's leadership team; Shauna Peacock as church secretary, Tim Peacock as buildings and bookings, Maggie Baldwin with the important ministry as Safeguarding officer, Geof Young as church warden and Gill Baker as URC link person, finally Kirsty Houghton as children and families lead. Geof is stepping down as church warden after serving for many years and I am grateful for the dedication he has given to this role over many years. Tim Peacock has much involvement in the care of our building; the recent leak in the prayer room has caused much extra work for him in making lasting repairs, the installation of our new TV screens which is and will transform our worship and outreach and he has given much to applying of grants as well as leading worship.

I am also extremely grateful to Neil Glen who has continued to be our treasurer and David Ramanos as gift aid secretary.

## **Thetford Christians together**

These meetings take place every couple of months and as well as providing a space to share news they also help us to consider how churches can work together in initiatives such as the Foodbank, work with the homeless and seasonal events such as the Walk of witness on Good Friday.

## **Ecumenical links**

We continue to hold two meetings a year with our St. Cuthberts and United Reformed church friends. As a local ecumenical partnership we are blessed with a mix of congregational and more formal tradition. We have explored the revising of our constitution but this has been deemed too complex and unnecessary with the new model documents.

## **Pastoral care**

The church's small pastoral team meets every couple of months to ensure the church is being cared for in the best way possible way and I am grateful for this small team of leaders – Gill Baker, Corinne Brindle and Maggie Baldwin.

## **Homegroups**

Corinne Brindle continues to lead our afternoon group and I am grateful for her leading of a large group. Our evening group has been revised and over the last year we have run the Discipleship explored course and Making Disciples courses. Small groups provide a place for spiritual growth and support. They are church as Acts 2 reminds us and provide a place to connect with God and one another.

Other short courses included – Hope explored course.

## **Schools**

The Thetford team are engaged in several schools in Thetford including Bishops, Drake and Norwich Road Academy. I am now governor at Norwich road school and go in regularly to take assemblies. We will be hosting an Easter experience for Year 5 pupils in March.

## **Youth work**

Daniel Sherrington continues to be our trainee Youth worker across the team and serves in Amplify Sunday group, Pulse youth café on Tuesdays and the schools assemblies and clubs at Thetford Academy. His role will come to an end in Sept 2023 and so much prayer is needed for the way forward beyond this.

## **CAP money course**

We held a pilot course in 2022 and have plans to run further two courses in 2023. Howard Truscott is now trained up as a money coach and we are looking to share the provision of this resource with Vineyard church across the town.

## **Good grief café**

Alongside Mal Turner of Turners funeral directors, I have attended and facilitated this small community of folk and continues to meet every two weeks in our building. Offering a place of support and solace for those facing grief and loss.

The Revd Matt Houghton

## **Grace Church**

It's been really encouraging to see the Lord adding to our numbers at Grace Church over the last year with about 8 or 9 new members of the congregation. I thank God for them and the gifts, personalities, wisdom and experience they bring to our church family. Some have come along through looking us up on our website, others have come through specific outreach events but more often than not people have come through that most effective of communications; the personal invitation!

Our **Sunday Services** at 4pm in the Arts' Centre, Bishop's School are the shop window into Grace Church. Our church band, headed up by Steph Richardson are a great blessing and it's been a joy to see new folk serving and contributing to the sung worship through that. We have enjoyed sermon series through Ecclesiastes, Galatians, Encounters Jesus had in John's Gospel and a mini series looking at Christ's Heart for Sinners and Sufferers. To mix things up, we have also had more 'meditative' services going through some Psalms, a wonderful testimony service (hearing of the Lord's work in Cilma Phillips and Pete Vale's lives), as well as our regular all-age services. I'm excited (if slightly daunted!) to be starting a series in the Song of Songs after Easter. It is always a great joy after the formal service to share food with one another, while getting to know each other better. It really does feel like family; we are a mix of all ages and stages! It's lovely to regularly have some youth with us who then head over to St Cuthbert's for Amplify. Helen Heywood does an excellent job overseeing the children's group and she has a growing team of leaders. There are 4 or 5 regulars with a number of others who come more occasionally. They try to teach on the same passage that the adults are looking and will often re-join us full of excitement with what they have been learning and the craft they have made. Helen has been encouraged by their willingness to engage with God's word, share their lives and pray for one another.

God has placed us on the **Abbey Estate** and we seek to reach out to and bless the estate in various ways as well as our weekly Sunday services. Susie and I have enjoyed doing some door-knocking; a chance to introduce ourselves, get chatting to people, see how they are doing and basically just see where the Lord takes the conversation! We have found to our excitement that at roughly 1 in 10 houses / flats we had a 'significant' chat. Over the summer holidays Susie organised some drop-in sports / games sessions on the green space between Gloucester and Ely Way. This and the regular Legacy Holiday Clubs in school holidays have enabled precious outreach to people across the estate.

Our relationship with the school has been strengthened through all Susie's presence there with lunch clubs, after school clubs and PE cover when the regular PE teacher has been off sick. A number of folk from across the Thetford Team are also volunteering to help children with their reading for an hour or two per week. I'm a school governor and take a weekly assembly each Monday afternoon. This always feels like a huge privilege being able to open up God's word to 350 young people (and their teachers!). I also get invited to particular classes to speak on various RE



topics, such as: 'What does it mean for Christians that Jesus is Saviour?' and "How do Christians bring hope at Christmas?"

Vineyard Church are another church presence on the estate through their wonderful Grow Kids outreach by the Abbey Neighbourhood Centre and we hope to partner more with them through that and perhaps some shared prayer walks and outreach events.

**Home Group** meets 7:45 on Wednesdays with various people hosting and leading. Since last Autumn we have tried linking the Bible passage more with what we've looked at on the preceding Sunday to help us further reflect on, apply and pray in that truth. It's a great time to share life, feed on God's word (and cake!) and pray together.

For **Socials** we have enjoyed getting together for a pancake party, film nights, BBQs, brunch, walks and more besides.

For all this and so much more I am very grateful and give thanks to our loving, providing, gracious God. To Him be the glory!

Tony Heywood

## **Thetford PCC**

Friends,

Firstly, thank you all for reading the papers associated with the PCC and the APCM, it does take a lot of work to produce by all those required to submit reports a good many of which have other occupations and families to look after.

This year 2022/23 has been an especially busy year for me both professionally and with the PCC I have attended all but one of the PCC meetings and not unsurprisingly the only reason I couldn't attend the one I missed was because my substantive job came calling and thanks to Caroline Herbert for kindly doing the minutes for that meeting.

There has been a great deal of discussion at the meetings held throughout the year in particular the ballot of parishioners over whether to change the service on a Sunday at St Cuthberts and if so to what format I think its fair to say there was a great deal of discussion and in the end it was decided to go with a traditional element on the first Sunday of the month with a children's group run by Caroline Herbert and Karen Tobitt which has proved successful.

One thing for me as Secretary to the committee which I will be doing my best to implement is a report on PCC meetings being sent to Colin who edits our Contact magazine so more parishioners can be kept up to date with what we discuss and what's decided, not forgetting that if any parishioner wants to see minutes of these meetings if they contact me I can either send them electronically or print off copies for them.

Thanks again for reading my report.

Kind Regards

Gary Applin  
Thetford PCC Secretary  
07955402847

## **Safeguarding Report**

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

I have been the Parish Safeguarding Officer since May 2021. New Safeguarding training has been introduced and along with DBS checks has to be renewed every three years.

All DBS checks required during the year have been applied for and appropriate Safeguarding training has been undertaken promptly for the various roles in the church. The PCC will have to complete a further module on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse by the end of Dec 2023 to bring their training up to date.

Training has been undertaken by people as required for their roles with Children, Young People or Vulnerable adults but I must emphasise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if anyone has any concerns at any time please speak to me.

Maggie Baldwin  
Thetford Team Ministry Safeguarding Officer

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Thetford and Rockland Deanery Synod met on the following occasions:

- 12<sup>th</sup> January at Cloverfield Community Church, Thetford. The speaker was Revd Jennifer Elliott de Riverol on spiritual direction.
- 31<sup>st</sup> March at St James's Church, Great Ellingham. There was a Q & A session with Bishop Graham and a presentation on the Parish Giving Scheme.
- 9<sup>th</sup> June at All Saints' Church, Besthorpe. Revd Richard Washington gave a talk about the Diocese of Europe.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September at St John the Baptist, Garboldisham. Revd Canon Keith James, Director of Ministry, gave a brief update on Living in Love and Faith followed by a talk on the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing.
- 15<sup>th</sup> November at the Garnier Hall, Eccles. Revd Canon Bob Baker spoke on YANA (You Are Not Alone) a local charity which supports the mental health of farmers.

The Eucharist on Ascension Day (26 May) at St Mary's, Attleborough was open to all those who were not having services in their own parish.

Revd Canon Steve Wright moved on to a new post in Northumberland at the end of February, so Revd Matthew Jackson took up the role of Rural Dean again.

Revd Peter Herbert and Revd Simon Richardson joined Revd Matthew Jackson as clergy representatives on Diocesan Synod from the Deanery.

Caroline Herbert

## **St Cuthbert's Fabric Report**

This is a relatively short report for the APCM which will just highlight the things that have been or are about to be done:

- We need an account with the Water Board to be able to address the low water pressure problem that we currently have. This causes problems when the Café is open and the toilets are used more frequently. The flush isn't as effective as it should be which has led to Alan Miller kindly unblocking toilets and drains on many occasions.
- We have also been indebted to Alan Miller when the locks on the front doors failed to work, he stripped them down and replaced the batteries. He has also put up shelves in the kitchen area.
- There has unfortunately been no further progress with the refurbishment of the floor space or the water damage to the wall. We are looking at ways of funding for both these projects and they are on the PCC's urgent list.
- We are due to have a grease trap system installed into the kitchen in the near future to make us compliant with the requirements of Anglian Water.

Mrs Sandra Phillips & Mrs Karen Tobitt  
Church Wardens

## Mission Giving

The policy of the PCC is to give 10% of the giving received in the previous year to external mission and charitable causes.

The total allocation for 2022 was £2,100, which was shared equally between our parish mission partners: Nicola and Graham Aylett (£700), Simon and Gillian Clegg (£700) and our mission partners in South Asia (£700, namely £50 per month plus an additional payment of £100).

Peter Herbert  
March 2023

## Sports Ministry

From Philippians 1:3-5: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel."

I begin with thanks; for employing me as Sports and Community Minister and enabling Sarah Killick to use her gifts in leading sessions at Bishop's School, helping with community events and the Summer of Sport programme on a flexible contract. Also to those on team for events; without you many of the events we run simply would not happen.

It has been an active year! Each week we are engaging with about 200 people aged between 4 and 94 in a variety of settings. Adult social football, stretch and pray, and at four schools delivering a variety of after school clubs, lunch clubs, PE lessons, Active RE and assemblies. Making use of the catering facilities and the new TVs in St Cuthberts, we've held big screen events, a family quiz and recently a sports quiz and big screen event. We've run drop-in sports sessions for children and young people over the summer holidays, mornings of sport for families in Croxton and at Cloverfield, football cage sessions to accompany the Charles Burrell Community Day, as well as the Light Night and Christmas Lights switch on. We've included a couple of sports sessions at Pulse youth café, and of course Legacy holiday club four times a year for between 2 and 5 days, through which we have been training young leaders so that the baton of servant leadership can be carried by their generation.

These are the events, but what is so exciting are the people who are encountering Jesus, may be for the first time, through this variety of settings. There are many stories to share, but here are a few from this past year:

I first met 'P' at Bishop's School. Over time we became friends and I offered to pray for her when she was having a difficult time. This friendship has grown; she has prayed with me for situations and her children have heard the Gospel at Legacy holiday club. I am excited to see what God is going to do next!

I first met the 'G' family at Legacy holiday club, shortly after they had moved from Ukraine. The son now regularly attends the after school club at Cloverfield where we look at stories in the Bible. They also came to the Nativity service in Croxton which was a real encouragement.

It is amazing to see the fruit that has come from the social football group. Many of them came along to the world cup big screen events with their families, our recent sports quiz and they have booked their children into sports mornings and Legacy. Some have also come to church for the first time.

In conclusion, we pray the words of Psalm 60:17, "The favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands".

Susie Bratby

## **Café Cuthbert**

The Cafe had a full year of operating in February this year and although opening for only 4 hours each Saturday has been well received by both church members and the general public. At present we are staffed by volunteers only and Rod Back's team of cooks, waiters and general helpers number 22 of which 6 were originally customers who then decided that they wanted to take an active part in the cafe.

In addition to the Saturday opening the Cafe staff continue to provide when requested, catering for funerals, quiz nights, a wine tasting evening and rugby TV events. Special Teas will be served at the forthcoming Coronation celebrations as it was at the Queen's Jubilee.

St Cuthbert's has a very special location right in the centre of town with space to comfortably accommodate a good number of tables and we want to build on this by opening more frequently. However, we cannot do this with volunteers only so with the approval of the PCC we are currently engaging Charity Fundraisers Ltd to seek funding so that we can employ a full time manager and subsequently other paid staff alongside our devoted volunteers. The cost of hiring consultants will be met in full from the profits generated by the cafe sales.

We are confident of a good outcome as Charity Fundraiser were successful raising funds towards the redevelopment of kitchen, toilets etc. which has made this whole operation possible. We need to supply much input into the fund raising and have on board a task force team of 7 to make this possible. A good amount of work has been done already and we hope to start sending out applications to grant bodies by early May. This could mean that by Autumn we should start the recruitment process and if successful we plan to extend our opening hours by the Spring of 2024. It should be noted that there will be an extensive programme of staff training especially with young people seeking to get work experience and hospitality qualifications.

We were successful in getting a grant from European Union funding for the original redevelopment but this was based on us employing staff. Our plans for the future will fulfil this outstanding requirement.

The customer surveys that we have undertaken show that there is much goodwill towards the cafe and a desire for extended opening hours as well as better facilities for children which we are in a good position to provide.

We do not lose sight that St Cuthbert's is a church serving the Thetford community and this is always in the forefront of our decision making. The cafe profits will be at the disposal of the PCC as has always been the case.

To conclude, we see Cafe Cuthbert as an extension to the work of the church in Thetford and we are convinced that we are an integral part in the church's mission.

Peter Thomson, Sue Goldsmith and Sandra Phillips  
Café Cuthbert Directors  
April 2023

## Finance Report

This report highlights some of the headlines from the 2022 accounts. For the full picture, the accounts can be found online at <https://thetfordteamministry.org.uk/annual-meetings>, or there are some hard copies available at St Cuthbert's, Cloverfield and Grace Church.

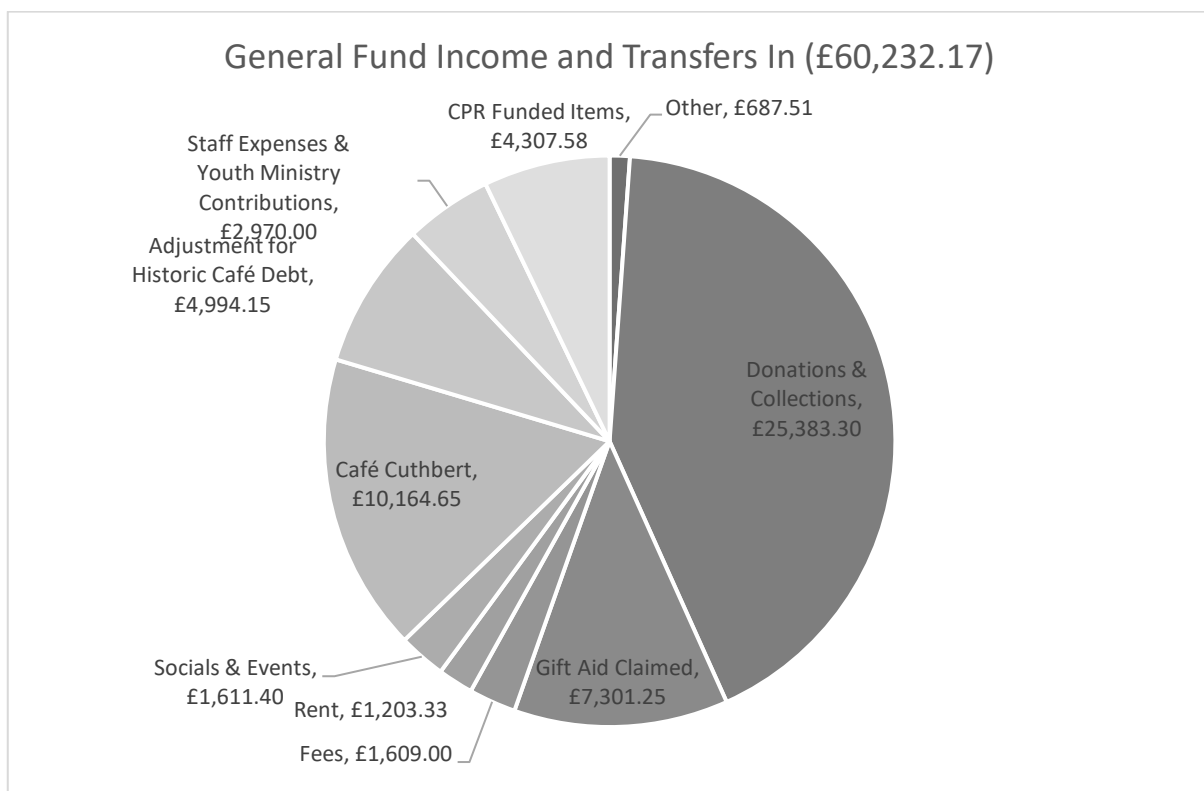
The accounts cover the activities of the PCC, including Grace Church, but not Cloverfield Community Church, for which accounts are compiled and reported separately.

The assets of the PCC recorded in the accounts are broken down into two types of fund: **restricted** and **unrestricted** funds. Year-end balances for all the funds are given on page four of the accounts.

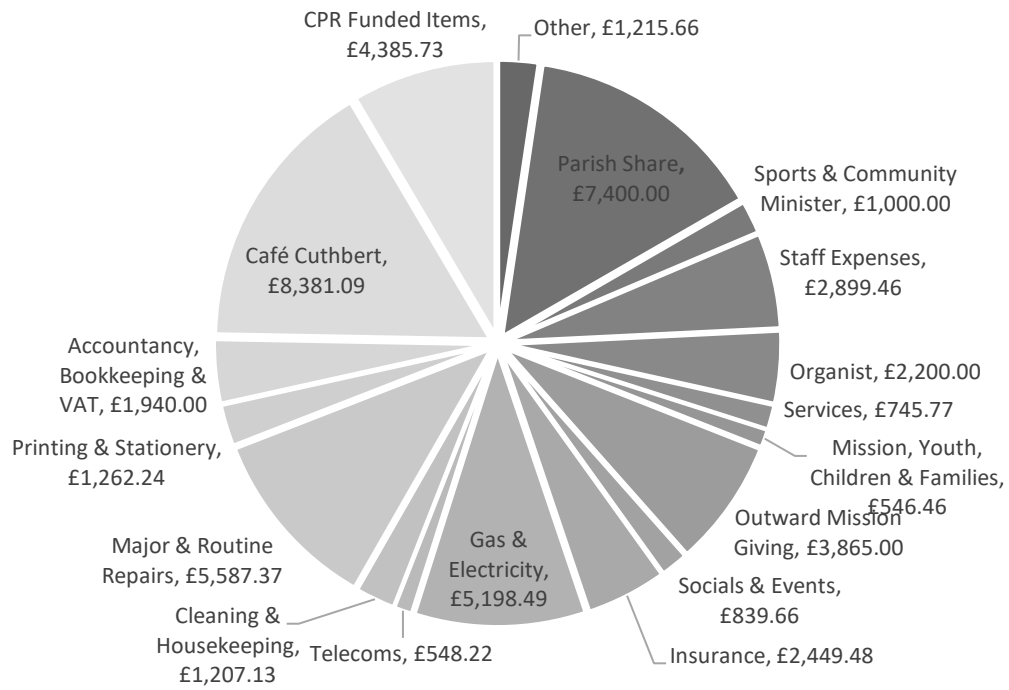
**Restricted** funds have been explicitly donated for a particular purpose, and their use is legally restricted to that purpose. The PCC's current restricted funds are the organ fund, the choir fund, the two funds for different stages of the St Cuthbert's redevelopment project, and the Sports & Community Minister fund (by which Susie is employed).

Of the **unrestricted** funds, the General Fund represents the day-to-day operations of St Cuthbert's, the Grace Fund does likewise for Grace Church and similarly the Sports Ministry Fund for the sports ministry. The Projects Fund was created to hold a generous legacy left to the church – some of which has been used to complete the LED lighting renewal at St Cuthbert's, with more earmarked for further lighting works.

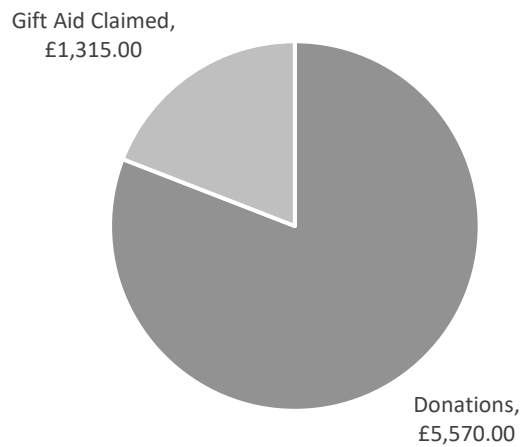
The following charts give a simplified breakdown of 2022 income and expenditure for the General Fund and the Grace Fund (detailed figures for all the funds, as well as comparative figures from 2021, are given in the full accounts):

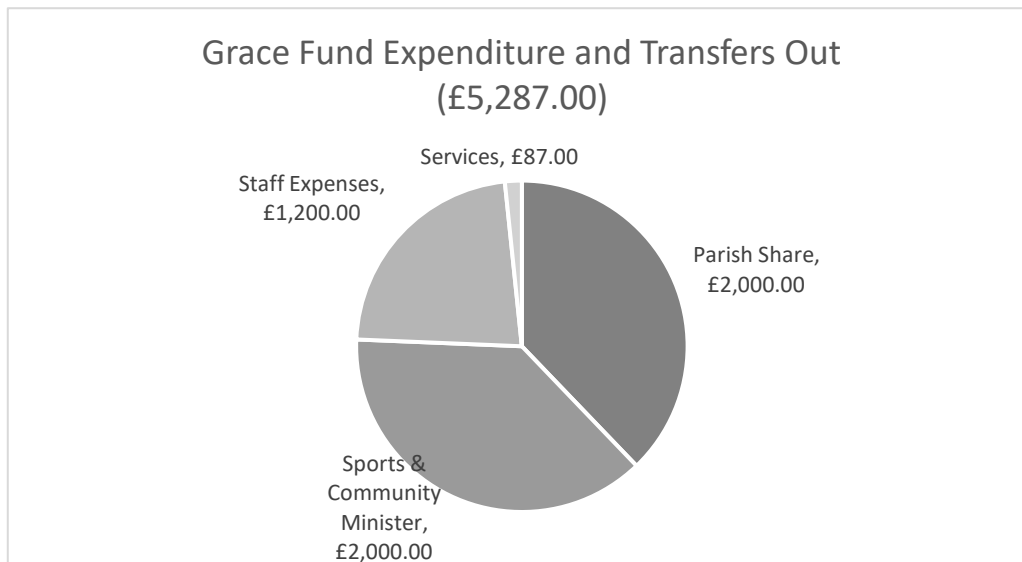


### General Fund Expenditure and Transfers Out (£51,671.76)



### Grace Fund Income (£6,885.00)





It will readily be seen that the largest source of income for both St Cuthbert's and Grace Church is giving and donations. A huge thank you to everyone who contributes financially to the lives of our churches – we are sincerely grateful for each and every gift.

2022 also saw a bumper Gift Aid claim: after a delay in our bookkeeper being able to register with HMRC's system we were finally able to make a backdated claim and thus the Gift Aid received in 2022 includes claims relating to 2022 as well as the majority of 2021.

With finances beginning to look a little healthier we were able to increase the Parish Share paid to the Diocese in respect of their costs for our stipendiary clergy and central parish support costs. St Cuthbert's paid £7,400 (from the General Fund) and Grace Church paid £2,000 (although still some way short of the 2022 request of £21,810 and £8,180 respectively).

The Development Fund continues to contain a contingent liability of £30,527 in respect of redevelopment funding from the EU which will have to be repaid if insufficient paid posts are created, in accordance with the terms of the grant. Furthermore, the Development Fund includes the equipment in the kitchen at St Cuthbert's as a fixed asset, depreciating at 20% per annum. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, therefore, the Development Fund contained within it £14,209 worth of equipment – which obviously cannot be spent as if it were cash.

The year-end General Fund balance of £57,430 looks at first glance to be relatively healthy – and in many respects it is. However, it must also be remembered that this figure isn't all 'cash in the bank' (since it includes debts owed to the PCC but not yet paid across). The General Fund (or other unrestricted funds) also needs to be able to cover the deficits in other funds. If one were to subtract the debt owed, the negative funds and fixed assets from the General Fund, we would be left with a deficit of just over £13,270 – which would need to be covered from reserves or other designated funds. Clearly the releasing of the EU contingent liability would make a significant difference here.

Finally, the scale of the full accounts indicate the amount of work involved in making all these payments and keeping track of all the incomings and outgoings. We continue to be grateful for a warm working relationship with Kieran Kenny, our bookkeeper at Emerald Accountants – and a huge vote of thanks for all the work done by Sandra Phillips and Mick Tobitt (as bank account signatories) and Karen Tobitt and Louise Applin (as the counting team). And to everyone else who helps in all manner of ways – thank you.

Peter Herbert  
April 2023