

# **Trustees' Annual Report**

**of**  
**The Parochial Church Council of**  
**Warbleton Parish Church**

**For the year ended 31st December 2022**

**Warbleton Parish Church, Church Hill, Warbleton, East Sussex, TN21 9BD.**

***Incumbent:***

**The Reverend Marc A. Lloyd, The Rectory, Rookery Lane,  
Rushlake Green, Heathfield, TN21 9QJ.**

***Independent Examiner:***

**Mr. Jonathan Gray, Glydes Farm,  
Ashburnham, TN33 9PB.**

### ***Our aims and purposes as a charity***

Warbleton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd. Marc Lloyd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, and the provision of financial support to other organisations with similar objectives. The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, Church Rooms, and Churchyard.

The PCC's objectives are seeking to make disciples (evangelism), Christian nurture and teaching. In particular, we have tried to have a focus on younger people and families, but also to provide practical support and care for people of all ages and needs within the Parish.

### ***What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives***

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. We try to enable our church family to live out their faith as part of the wider community.

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

For 2022 we discussed and planned the following objectives to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church in person and online.
- Reaching out to and enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community.
- Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers.
- Maintaining an overview of worship.
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish.
- Putting faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament, offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations.
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Financial support to missionary organisations.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as an historic centre and focus of life in the village.

### ***What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives***

#### ***Attendance at worship***

The Church family welcomes those from both within and outside the parish boundary and it is our great pleasure to welcome people from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. Voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of public benefit of our activities. We are keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

The average weekly attendance at services, within the church building has, seen a slight increase during the year, with the diminishing of the effect of Covid 19. There has been a regular core of worshippers during the year. Live streaming ended in October 2021; since then, services have been recorded and uploaded to YouTube.

The figures in brackets are included as a comparison from the 2021 statistics for in person attendance. A more realistic view of online participation has been used this year.

	In church	Online (See note below)	Last year
Easter Sunday	70	4	(49)
Marquee service (October 10 <sup>th</sup> )	63	5.	(48)
Harvest Festival	37	4	(56)
Remembrance Sunday	38	6	(48)
Crib Service	169	0 not recorded	(83)
Carol Service	92	10	(82)
Christmas Eve Holy Communion	0 Not held	0	(0)
Christmas Day	80	2	(44)

Dallington

There is a music group involved in our Sunday morning services, helping to enhance the worship of Our Lord. A recent comment received was: "It's a lovely music group that makes church more inclusive". A robed choir leads the singing for weddings and funerals on request.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. In marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and families express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping. During 2022, we were able to celebrate the marriage of one couple in church, six funerals were held in church, one crematorium service and four burials of cremated remains. We held a bereavement service in November for the families of the deceased.

### **Electoral Roll**

On 31 March 2021, there were 79 people on our Electoral Roll - 32 resided outside of the Parish and 47 within it. On 31 March 2022, there were 78 on our Electoral Roll - 31 reside outside of the Parish and 47 within it.

### ***Reaching out to and enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community.***

As well as being good neighbours and friends and being involved in our community we attempt to provide points of contact or "pre-evangelistic" engagement for those who are perhaps not yet Christians.

*Breakfasts:* The monthly Men's breakfasts started again during the year with a variety of speakers. Numbers are gradually increasing.

*Chaps Who Lunch:* This men's group meet monthly for friendship, fellowship and enjoying good pub food. Usually there were between eight to ten of us in 2022. Contrary to apparently general expectation only one of our lunch times involved a steam trip and museum – the KESR at Bodiam and Tenterden.

*Coffee and Company:* we were able to return to Osborne House resident's lounge for our weekly get-togethers, when folk from Osborne House, the community and the church can spend time together over a hot drink. At the end of the year Pauline Clifford handed over the running of the group to Kay Nichols. Our thanks to the committee of Osborne House for the use of the room.

*WarbleArt:* The community art group is continuing to thrive with between six to eight regular members. The aim is to have somewhere to meet with others who are learning and developing skills. We paint in the Church Rooms and outside in the warm weather. We have a WhatsApp group chat and keep in touch through this, offering support to each other. We displayed some of our work at the annual barbecue in July.

*Warbleton Walkers:* Warbleton walkers is a group of local people who enjoy walking with company. There was one walk during 2022 comprising a local walk followed by tea and cakes. New members are always very welcome.

*WarbleSingers:* The community choir has continued to meet. We had our annual concert in July at Eastbourne, participated in the Christingle service, sang at the Heathfield Farmers' Market, led the singing at Carols on the Green and followed this up by singing in the Horse and Groom afterwards. Mulled wine warmed us up. Members of Kerry's Eastbourne choir (Bourne to Sing) joined us for all events.

*Christmas craft evening:* On 18th November 2022 we held our first craft evening since the Covid Pandemic. In order to limit numbers, we only invited the adults from Little Warblers. 7 mums and grannies attended, as well as 8 of us from the church community. Sadly, several were unable to attend due to last minute illness and childcare issues.

We enjoyed an evening of Christmas craft activities: making a folded book Christmas tree, a melted snowman tea light, felt stars, rag wreaths, painted jars and a flower arrangement. We also enjoyed mulled wine and delicious puddings.

Jane Atherden spoke to us about the book Love Story, by Glen Scrivener. Glen explains how God's love, stoops, suffers, sacrifices, and stands.

Those who attended enjoyed the company and a chance to go out for an evening after the Covid restrictions.

*Easter Egg Hunt:* In addition to 8 leaders and helpers (some of whom were teenagers) 14 children and 11 adults attended the Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. As well as chocolate, participants enjoyed crafts, songs, refreshments and a Bible talk and were given a leaflet about the meaning of Easter and an invite to services and events.

We reached out to the community by donating food to the local Food Bank at Harvest and Christmas, and filling shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox Appeal.

*Dallington deanery Synod report 2022* There were 3 meetings in 2022 the first on March 8 at St Richards Heathfield where the main speaker was Gary Cregeen Rural officer for East Sussex and Priest -in -charge at Ashburnham where he stated that Chichester Diocese is 70% rural and a mix of farming and urban incomers many working from home. Communication very important and the Grace of God through example vital. The next meeting was held at Burwash Weald on 14 June where the main speaker was Rob Dillingham, Deputy Director of Apostolic Life he said that the Mission Action Plans should be reviewed and used as a tool to create and expand. The final meeting of 2022 was held at Broad Oak on Wednesday 30 November where the speakers were from The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support this work is very important and we heard how families were being supported who experienced domestic abuse, mental illness, bereavement, and many other problems.

### ***Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers and putting faith into practice.***

We are committed to seeking to live in the light of and share the good news of Jesus Christ in faithfulness to the Scriptures and in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit. We want to know, love, and follow Jesus. We believe we are called to care for, support and encourage one another as we grow in our discipleship.

We believe we are called to study, in order to grow in our Christian faith, and encourage involvement in appropriate study and discussion groups. Several house groups meet around the parish, providing opportunities for discussion, teaching, prayer, and fellowship including The Good Book Club, Ladies Home group, Bible and Biscuits and the Topics group. These have, to a certain extent been able to re-start during the year, after the online prayer and bible study group for the benefice on Zoom. On average, 15 people benefit from this. We meet for prayer on the first Thursday of the month; this a hybrid in-person at the Rectory, and on Zoom meeting.

We look to the deepening of faith for all ages and alongside our services there is a programme for young people from birth to teenagers.

*The Youth Club:* (TCWNN) In recent months, we have been looking for guidance on how we might progress after the lock down. We rebooted our initiative, with Youth Connect, among young people, in liaison with Hailsham and Horam, last year. On the back of that, we looked at the possibility of re-floating a youth club in Horam and "SOUL" was launched in conjunction with Christ Church and the Horam Chapel in November. After some soul searching (pardon the pun) a group was started for youngsters of a secondary school age on Friday nights at the Chapel.

Resources, particularly leadership, are stretched and in the New Year we will review how best we can move forward. As it stands, TCWNN meets on a Tuesday at 7.15, Hailsham on a Thursday at 7 and SOUL at the Chapel in Horam at 7 on a Friday. They tend to be attended by different sets of youngsters but there is a little bit of overlap. There is no doubt, however, that if this work is to continue, we need more people to commit to leadership. Not just to make it a sustainable process for all but also to fulfil statutory requirements.

God has shown us his way to date, and we have no doubt that he will continue to do so.

*Sunday Club:* in 2022 continued on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month, led by Jane Atherden and Sue Holden. At the beginning of the year, we enjoyed learning about when the three wise men visited toddler Jesus from the Faith in Kids teaching material, which was followed by The Wonder of Easter from the same writing team from February to May. We enjoy using this material as it includes imaginative games and activities – these ideas help us to use the churchyard as much as possible!

We selected two sessions from the TnT series Mission Unstoppable, The Holy Spirit Arrives and Peter's Speech from Acts 2 to learn from during the summer. As we had not managed to finish the book of Daniel last year, we went back to learn from the whole series in Autumn 2022. Daniel trusted in God alone, even in difficult situations. It helped us to understand that we must not allow anything to affect our relationship with Jesus. At Christmas we went back to the Faith in Kids Adventure of Christmas series, particularly looking at what the angels said to the shepherds and how they acted on these words! We were joined during the year by a 7-year-old girl who asked to go to Sunday Club! She commented 'I like learning about Jesus and God. The games we play about what happens in the Bible are fun. The grown-ups are really nice too. I like going there!'. So, during the year we've averaged 3 children attending. So wonderful to teach God's Word to young people!

*Little Warblers:* the group for preschool children and adults, has had a good year. Numbers grew from an average of 5 adults and 5 children in January 2022 to an average in December of 11 adults and 15 children. Those attending the group have said that the adults running the group have come alongside them and are helpful. Shirley Austin, Jane Atherden and Sue Holden have collective experience of working alongside children and families and so have been able to help parents who are finding things difficult. Wendy Greaves, a grandparent to one of the children, has sometimes stayed behind to help with washing up.

The toys and equipment are on a three-week rota so there is a different variety each week in each of the three rooms, and during the year we have been able to reintroduce playdoh following the lifting of Covid restrictions. One mum commented that the small rooms mean it's easier for a parent/carer, with more than one child, to keep an eye on their children.

We have continued to use the Faith in Kids Bible teaching material for toddlers and at Christmas we gave each family a copy of their Nativity Sticker Advent Calendar. We are very grateful that members of the congregation sponsored these Advent Calendars as well as a Nativity chocolate for each child. We have also used the Tim Thornborough Bible story books especially written for young children. Copies of his Christmas and Easter books have been given to families over the last year. One mum commented recently that her daughter loved listening to the 'Jesus' stories! We take it in turns to teach the true Bible story each week, as well as Marc (our Rector) who does one session per term.

7 mums and grannies attended the Little Warblers' Christmas craft evening in November. More information about the evening can be found in the Annual Report.

Our final session of the year on 13th December had to be cancelled due to snow on that morning. Some lovely comments were put on our Facebook page including: 'Thank you for running such a lovely group, looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year, 'Thank you all so much for entertaining us every week!' and 'Thank you so much for everything you do!'.

We pray continuously that we may have deeper conversations with the families about Jesus and his Word and that some might be interested in learning more about the Christian Faith.

*Bible and Biscuits* is a women's Bible study group that began meeting in October 2021 and meets twice a month in various locations. Studies are led by different members of the group, and we have recently been looking at women of faith in the New Testament.

### ***Maintaining an overview of worship***

We are committed to enable as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to being part of our parish community at Warbleton. We maintain an overview of worship throughout the parish and make suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

Monthly meetings, to pray for the church and parishioners, are held in the Rectory and via Zoom. Since the start of the pandemic, our Rector has broadcast Morning and Evening Prayer on Facebook, Mon-Thurs, and Sat, except on his weeks off. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9am at Osborne House in Rushlake Green is scheduled to re-commence in 2023.

### ***Considering how services involve the many groups that live within the parish.***

In addition to our regular services, events and activities, and our commitment to all who live in the parish, we continue to have a focus on ministry to children, young people and families through: monthly family service, Children's Sunday Club, the role of Foundation Governors at Dallington Church of England Primary

School / Woodlands Federation, Little Warblers Toddler Group, and The Club With No Name Youth Club. As can be seen elsewhere in this report, these activities that were curtailed or modified because of COVID-19, are getting back to something like normal or even a new normal.

There are annual joint Benefice services held for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and the joint Benefice Marquee Service in July, shared with the Heathfield Chapel congregation.

The monthly Parish magazine covers the activities of the three churches in the Benefice as well as serving the wider community by keeping our parishioners informed of upcoming services and events in the benefice. Most of our services, events and activities are also listed on our website: [warbletonchurch.org.uk](http://warbletonchurch.org.uk) which also contains our monthly Benefice Magazine and weekly notice sheet.

*The Sanctuary Guild* Members continued to provide flower arrangements each week with a special effort at Harvest, Easter, and Christmas. Brass and altar linen has been cared for and flowers have also been provided for a wedding. Three new members have been welcomed.

*Bell Ringers:* There has been little to report for 2022 but things gradually returned to normal with several weddings during the summer the bells have been working fine. We have had some visiting teams ringing as it is always fun to ring another set of bells as each church's bells are different.

A monthly, quiz on Zoom has been held to help people keep in contact with one another, and to raise moral in difficult times.

### ***Ecumenical Relationships***

The church is a member of The Sussex Gospel Partnership. Meetings in person recommenced during 2022.

### ***Pastoral care***

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Marc Lloyd has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Other members of the church also visit those who are house-bound or in hospital. One of our members has dedicated themselves to the work for the Street Pastors in Heathfield.

### ***Mission Support***

We have continued to support with prayer and giving a different Christian organisation each month, donating approximately 10% of normal income. Details of the work and items for prayer are published in the parish magazine and the weekly bulletin. The support is as follows:

Overseas Mission Fellowship, Chris and Kesia Pain, Japan

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Brickworks, John and Poppy Spens, South Sudan, and Uganda

Latin American Mission, Ken and Sue Vissers

Beachy Head Chaplaincy

Prison Fellowship

Ben Williamson, Plant A Church

Speak Life, Glen Scrivener

Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship

Brighton and Hove City Mission

Bible Society

St. Matthew's School, Rwanda

In addition, we have supported Tear Fund (Marquee Service) and the Royal British Legion

### ***Maintaining the fabric of the church building***

For the year 2022 there have not been any major projects organised, but we did suffer considerable damage to the church roof in a storm where several hundred tiles were removed from the roof above the south porch and they fell onto the porch roof damaging and displacing more tiles. We did manage to find a builder very quickly who got scaffolding and the job was done within a week and we never had any internal damage. Ecclesiastical insurance covered the claim. The louvres in the bell tower are letting in water and will have to be replaced in future but when the architect does the quinquennial decisions will have to be made. A builder sorted out a small leak in the tower roof. The local defibrillator was moved to the side of the church rooms



and a sign is due to be put up by the roadside. We are planning to investigate putting better insulation into the church rooms to conserve energy.

### ***Church Rooms***

During the week, the church rooms are used for various meetings and clubs, and for small gatherings after funerals etc. Their use had been limited during the pandemic but now have returned to normal usage. The new heaters are now programmed and working effectively for the enjoyment of all who use the church rooms.

### ***Thank You***

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of the church in any way, often quietly carrying out their duties in the background.

### ***Structure, governance and management of the charity***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. The governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod) and up to nine members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). As a previous APCM had decided, the Reader is also a member of the PCC.

Two members of the PCC sat on the deanery synod providing the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible. The PCC members are 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 to be spent.

We were unable to hold the APCM in April because of delays due to the pandemic. In accordance with regulations, we were able to hold it in following the morning service on 29th May in church.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

#### ***Ex Officio members:***

Incumbent: The Revd. Marc Lloyd - Chairman

Churchwardens: David Cleverley – Vice Chairman and Representative on Deanery Synod  
Jonathan Austin since the AGM

Representatives on Deanery Synod - David Cleverley, Matthew Van Grutten (from APCM)

Reader: Sir Jeremy Cooke (as decided by a previous APCM)

#### ***Elected Members:***

Jane Atherden

Gail Welford

Meryl Clark - Treasurer

Sue Holden

Matthew Van Grutten

Sue Beedle

Fenella Holmes

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC at their meeting on 24/4/23 and signed on their behalf by the Revd. Marc Lloyd, PCC Chairman

*M. A. Lloyd* 25/4/23