



APCM Reports

May 2021-

May 2022

Please also see the Report and Accounts for the Year ending December 2021 for the combined Parish report. The Church specific reports include required statements and Safeguarding and Buildings. There is a PCC Secretary report on the activities of the PCC during the period covered by this APCM and a report on the revised Electoral role.

Reports of interest covering activities within the Parish are also included.

Report on the Departure and Replacement of our Vicar

The most significant feature in the life of our Parish since the last APCM, has been the resignation of the Reverend Stephen Johnson. In the Parish we reacted with sadness but complete understanding when Stephen announced in May he had found a new job and would be leaving us at the end of July, after 12 years as Vicar. He, Rachel and the children left us to move to Knowle near Solihull where Stephen continues his Ministry and family life.

Our grateful thanks to Stephen for working hard to leave us with much in place to continue as normal without him and for passing on so much information that we would need when he had left us. Stephen's final service with us was on Sunday 25th July when a whole Parish congregation were able to enjoy a wonderful party at St Michael's and bid him and the family a fond farewell.

The Churchwardens, including newly elected Kate Bolsover for St Michael's, were helped by the Diocese in understanding the process ahead of us in filling the vacancy. Over the months following Stephen's departure, much work was done by the Churchwardens, supported by the PCC, to produce a Parish Profile which would tell our story compellingly and attract the right person to fill the vacancy. We should like to record our gratitude to the Archdeacon of Berkshire and the Rural Dean, the Revd David Brown, the Lay Chair of the Deanery Caroline Kallipetis as well as Rhodri Bowen from the Diocese, for all their support over the last six months of 2021.

In the first few months of 2022 we completed our Parish Profile and necessary documentation to put out an advertisement for a new Vicar. Our completed Parish profile can be found on our website, and we are currently awaiting the appointment of a new Vicar for the Combined Benefice, following interviews to be held in May 2022. We pray for wisdom and God's guidance in selecting a new Vicar to join us in September 2022.

Churchwardens and PCC

Church Wardens Report – All Souls.

At All Souls, we have missed Stephen's leadership and spiritual guidance. However, we have been blessed by having Reverend Vusi Mabusa, a self-supporting minister kindly giving his time to All Souls' Church, as well as Reverend Sarah Mortimer, our Curate overseeing Parish Worship, Reverend Tim Norman who has been leading our 4pm Service, and the whole church being ably assisted by our LLM Mary Nichols here at All Souls. A big thank you goes to all the other people who take part in many ways to the smooth running of church in this time of vacancy.

Throughout the easing of lockdown restrictions, we have welcomed back many of our worshipping congregation who had been participating in the Sunday Zoom Services. We have largely remained social distanced, hand sanitised and encouraged mask-wearing in Church; as Government restrictions have been lifted, it is now down to individuals to make their own choices about behaving safely in Church. During Eucharist Services, Communion is being offered in only one kind, being distributed by the officiating minister.

In terms of the fabric of the building, we have conducted works to maintain the roof, as well as regular maintenance to keep the building in good order. This year we conducted a quinquennial inspection, which is an inspection by an architect which occurs every 5 years to assess the condition of the church building. On the whole the report was positive, with recommendations for some repairs to the roof and some masonry which has lost its face through cracking in the icy weather, this work will be conducted over the coming years, with the roof repairs taking priority.

The friendly community Coffee Shop is flourishing, Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 12 noon, with many using it as a place for company, fun and tasty coffee and cakes. Liz Moore and Geraldine Lecky are always looking for volunteers! Let's do Lunch, Chat and Craft, Toddler Praise, the Tuesday Art group, Music Maestros have all restarted making the All Souls' a vibrant social hub in South Ascot. The church has

continued to distribute meals locally, averaging at 20 meals / week, all being organised by Fay Philp, our excellent administrator at All Souls.

The Church is open daily Mon – Sat from 10am until 4pm for private prayer and contemplation, and we are grateful for those who lock up at the end of each day.

Morning Prayer for all takes place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9.45 am for approx.20 minutes. Our Remembrance Day and Christmas Services were well attended with regular worshippers and visitors, as were the recent Easter Services.

The church continues to run at a significant deficit, due to the impacts of covid in reducing hiring revenue, and energy costs increasing significantly. The deficit is quickly depleting the financial reserves of the church, and so we continue to rely upon the generosity of the community to allow the church to remain open. A financial initiative at Christmas proved fruitful and thanks are due to those who gave so generously. As a result of this, a thriving French Conversation group, led by Arabella Cameron has continued on Monday afternoons at 2 pm. Donations may be made to All Souls regularly by Direct Debit (Parish Giving Scheme), via Just Giving, or via the card machine at the back of the Church and through the Service collections which have now been reinstated in the Sunday Services, visit [Allsoulsascot.org/donate](https://allsoulsascot.org/donate) for details. Please continue to give generously to enable the church to remain open in the heart of our community.

Nicola Shaw has continued to organise Sunday School and weekly Toddler Praise on Tuesdays, numbers of children attending the morning service on Sunday have reduced, as several children are of an age to join the join the afternoon service with Reverend Tim Norman at Ascot @ 4. The work of the church with local children and schools continues to be very important.

Sandra Stansfield and Aled Jones
Churchwardens of All Souls, South Ascot

Churchwarden Report – St Michael & All Angels Church

On 6th January 2021, the country went into the third national lockdown in the fight against Covid 19. Fortunately, this time churches were allowed to stay open and we adjusted our services to again provide the safest environment for those attending. Live-streaming of services enabled those unable to get to Church to still be part of the Church family and worship together. We alternated services between the two Churches of St Michael's and All Souls on Sundays, this made it easier for the Ministry team to not have to split themselves to cover 2 services every Sunday.

By March the Government were planning a re-opening and in early April with hospitality venues opening up and by June restrictions on weddings and funerals were abolished.

In November, the first cases of the Omicron Covid variant were reported and although the country did not go into lockdown, our Christmas services were severely affected by the re-introduction of social distancing and mask wearing, resulting in fewer numbers attending. The Christmas Eve service at St Michael's was held outside, another rather cold celebration as it had been in 2020. However, the vaccines proved to make a huge difference and, it meant that in early 2022 things started to return again to normal and we were very pleased to welcome people back into church.

St Michael's has remained open every day between 10 am and 4.00 pm. Our thanks to those who open and close the church.

We are required by the Diocese to arrange for a detailed survey and report on the condition of the Church building fabric to be carried out every 5 years. This is called a Quinquennial Inspection and was due to be carried out in 2021, and we instructed Ablett Architects to arrange for this inspection to be carried out on 6th July last year. This inspection was very detailed, although it did not access the roof voids or open up manhole covers. The Report came back in September, and was very comprehensive and well set out, with plenty of photographs. The good news as set out in the Structural Condition of the Church is that the

Church is generally in a good state of structural repair. The Architect advises that there are some issues which should be attended to. Of particular importance, he highlights:-

- The poor condition of the external door to the Hall.
- Cracking to the walls at the East end to continue to be monitored.
- Damaged decorations from previous issues with the roof.
- The organ requires a major overhaul and repairs.

The report highlights numerous minor repairs and redecorations which in an “ideal world”, with money no object we could tackle. However, this is just not feasible, and the St Michael’s Church Team will concentrate on carrying out the priority repairs identified in the report, first and foremost.

We continued to develop good relationships with our Deanery of Bracknell colleagues and Vanessa has been elected on to the Standing & Pastoral Committee of the Deanery Synod. She attended a very interesting Gathering in October.

Sadly, we lost some very dear members of congregation during the year, including David Marshall in March, a PCC member who contributed great wisdom and gentleness to our meetings.

Fundraising activities at St Michael’s included a Zoom whisky tasting, a lovely Garden Party at the home of Andrew and Melanie Trapnell and a very successful Christmas Appeal.

Before he left us, Revd Johnson worked with Camilla Jarnot, the Music Director of St Michael’s, to hold two Concerts at St Michael’s where the Westminster Chamber Orchestra performed. At the final concert, Revd Johnson delighted us by making a final singing performance which was enjoyed by us all. Mrs Jarnot also arranged a Cello & Organ Recital held at All Souls which raised funds for St Michael’s.

The Churchwardens would like to record our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the congregation who have stepped up to support us and ensure that, even in vacancy, St Michael’s continues to offer a wonderful place of welcome and worship to our community. We introduced in 2021 a new Prayer Time on Fridays at 5.30 pm for people to come to St Michael’s for quiet time. We have been pleased to have people come to this and then join us for services on Sunday.

We could not have had such a successful year without the hard work and loving leadership of our Curate, Revd Sarah Mortimer, Mike Francescon our LLM and our lay preachers, Mike Cross and Geoff New.

Kate Bolsover & Vanessa Cummings
Churchwardens of St Michael & All Angels, Sunninghill

Electoral Roll April 2022

Last year I reported that the number on the Electoral Roll for St Michael’s was 194 and that for All Souls was 63, giving a total for the Parish of 257. The figure for St Michael’s this year is 213 and that for All Souls’ is 59. The total figure for the Parish this year is therefore 272.

Nicola Hughes
Electoral Roll Officer

Report from the Interim PCC Secretary

The governance of the Parish is vested in the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Members of the PCC include:

- Ministers licenced in the Parish
- Churchwardens
- Individuals elected to the Deanery Synod not otherwise members of PCC
- Elected Lay Members

There can be up to 15 elected Lay Members of the PCC. Members of the PCC during the year are listed in the Report and Accounts. Of the 15 possible members, 10 sit on the St Michael's Church Team and 5 sit on the All Souls Church Team. Members of the PCC serve for a three-year term unless they stand down earlier. They may stand for a second three-year term after which they must stand down.

The following Lay Members of the PCC have completed three years as members of the PCC and have offered themselves for re-election:

Marnie Offord – Treasurer, and Cliffe Chermiside.

The following Lay Member has completed two three-year terms and now stands down from PCC:

Liz Moore

The PCC acknowledges the contribution of Liz over her six years as a member of PCC, and she will continue to be actively involved with the All Souls Church Team.

There are three vacancies on the St Michaels Church Team in addition to the two members seeking re-election, and one on the All-Souls Church Team.

The PCC has met on 6 occasions since the last APCM:

30th May 2021 immediately following APCM

14th June 2021

22nd June 2021

13th September 2021

6th December 2021

4th April 2022

In addition, there were meetings on 15th November 2021 – the S11 meeting and on 7th March 2022 – the S12 meeting, both of which were required steps to progress the vacancy for the recruitment of a new Vicar. Regular topics on the agendas include:

Parish Mission, and activities

Budgets, finances and fund-raising events

Safeguarding including significant discussions on Covid and its impact on the Churches

Health and Safety

Church buildings, maintenance and repairs

Updates from the Deanery

In addition, significant time has been spent on the process to recruit a new Vicar.

Andrew Trapnell
Interim PCC Secretary

Parish Safeguarding Report

The Parish follows the guidance of the Diocese in ensuring that we comply with Safeguarding requirements given our duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. This includes Safeguarding Training for all of those requiring training, under the guidance of Churchwardens Vanessa Cummings and Sandra Stansfield.

Churchwardens

All Souls Choir Report

The choir has been an integral part of All Souls church. Its members are both committed and enthusiastic. They are willing to learn both traditional and modern music during our weekly rehearsals which are in preparation for the services. Both the choir and myself have endeavored to try and integrate with the congregation during the church services. This has enabled members of the choir to sit with their family and friends. This development has been very successful and encouraging for all of us. The choir has responded well to singing both with the organ and piano, focusing on both traditional and modern hymns/songs. I am pleased to say that the choir is going from strength to strength. I am thrilled that we have such an enthusiastic group in the church at All Saints. If you would like to join us, we would welcome any new members.

Judith Usher

APCM Report 2022- Parish Magazine

The Magazine of the Parish of Sunninghill and South Ascot continues to be widely appreciated by its local readership. We know that because they occasionally call us and tell us so! It is centred on the Church, but aims to foster local community spirit and cohesion and promote a favourable environment for the work of the Church within that community. It is the Parish's principal outreach and came out top in the recent National Parish Magazine Awards competition.

We produce 10 editions of the Magazine each year, with joint issues published for December/January and July/August. The print run is nearly 4,000 copies per edition, distributed free of charge to homes throughout the Parish by about 100 volunteers from both churches and great thanks to them! Not all deliverers are regular church-goers, an indication of the local support for the Magazine. The equal split of content between pure editorial and Parish and local community notices on the one hand, and advertising on the other, has been maintained.

We have a new Advertising Manager in Claire Woods, a local lady, who is proving to be effective in coping with the difficulties of selling advertising space in our current financial climate. Her sterling efforts keep the magazine going, and supplied free of charge to its readers! Additional income will be earned throughout the year by the inclusion of loose-leaf flyers. Limited to a maximum of 3 per edition, these allow local enterprises to promote specific events. Advertising pays for all of the Magazine costs, and serves the local community by promoting local businesses for the use of local people.

We are also grateful to Lyndsey and Stewart McNair who took over the task of Distribution management from March 2021 and have been doing sterling work ever since. Also, to Crispin at All Souls, who does a magnificent job in keeping the deliverers supplied for the South Ascot area

Roger Kohn remains our artwork man and is responsible for the stunning layout of the magazine that we enjoy every month, and who struggles in consultation with our printers, Imprint Ltd, to keep down the cost of paper and ink in a world where costs are rising astronomically all the time.

Mike Cross

APCM report for the Discipleship Group 2021/2022

The group continues in strength every Thursday evening at 8pm in St Michael's Church Hall at the moment. We have had several meetings on Zoom during the ban on meetings during the pandemic which were relatively successful but it's not the same! We normally look at one book of the Bible at a time and much informal discussion ensues as to its original sense and what it means to us today. The group is valuable in that no questions are out of bounds, and I think we can all safely say that we have learned much from it. Thanks to the efforts of two or three regular members of the group we regularly enjoy cups of coffee and the odd piece of cake! Our group numbers vary between about half a dozen and a dozen, so it's a cosy, welcoming atmosphere in which those deepest questions of life and faith can be addressed without fear or favour. Do come and join us, the wider spread of opinions and knowledge we have, all the better! Any questions contact Mike at mike@mike-cross.me.uk

Mike Cross

APCM report for Ladies' Fellowship 2022

After a difficult 15 months when LF was unable to meet, I'm happy to say that since last June our group has gone from strength to strength. Our membership numbers have risen and our new ladies are proving to be very enthusiastic and full of ideas.

Sadly, since Christmas, two of our much-loved long-standing friends have died; Joyce Bowyer and Erika Potulski, you are greatly missed.

In July, Stephen took us for Holy Communion – this time it was outside for safety's sake. All went well until the heavens opened, but we carried on worshipping and "singing in the rain"!

Each Thursday morning our timetable is jam-packed with interesting and fun activities. We've painted, knitted yet more poppies, played hilarious board games, sung carols with Lionel and Jennie, enjoyed a sherry-tasting with Andrew Trapnell, and either Sarah or Mary leading us in Holy communion once a month.

Outside speakers have included Richenda, telling us about the fascinating life led by her journalist mother, Roberta Crookes. Local historian and metal detectorist, Hugh Gibbons, kindly waived his fee so we were able to donate to the [Feed4children](#) charity.

In February we posted a hand-painted card with a poem and all our signatures, To Her Majesty to congratulate her on her 70th Anniversary and were very excited a few weeks later to receive a thank-you from Buckingham Palace! In the autumn we will be planting an oak tree in the Church grounds to commemorate her platinum jubilee.

Margaret H demonstrated a couple of flower arrangements. They were magnificent and she made it look so easy!

For Easter this year, we painted and decorated eggs to make an Easter Tree with some of our more artistic ladies who displayed their works of art in the hall.

We have many plans for this coming term, starting again on the 28th April and finishing with a flourish on the 21st July with lunch out locally,

Our calendar of events and photographs are pinned up in the hall. We are always happy to warmly welcome new members; for more information my email is pami@mike-cross.me.uk and phone number 01344 303991.

Pami Cross

1st South Ascot Scout Group – April 2021 to April 2022

The 1st South Ascot Scout Group has finished all the works to the hut including installing a new fence along Church Road and a new patio to the rear of the hut. The number of children attending the group is increasing and the new Explorer Unit for 14-18-year-olds is very successful.

We now have 15 leaders across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers with 77 children and 2 young leaders. We have 32 on our waiting list with 12 of age to join but we are at capacity.

The hut is also rented out to a couple of exercise classes and baby group. Whilst other groups rented out the hut at the end of last year they have stopped using the hut. A few parties have also been held to create extra revenue for the church and Scout group.

Scout Activities

The Scouting groups remained open throughout Covid with many meetings held via zoom but they have enjoyed being back together meeting in the hut and local woods and park. Our Akela left at the end of December but we are lucky to have a new Akela step up and the cub pack is thriving.

30 Scouts and Explorers (plus leaders) will be attending an International Jamboree in Kent in July and 30 beavers and parents will be attending the annual Parent and Child Camp in September. A group of beavers and cubs will be camping overnight at Legoland with 2 days at the park in May which is very exciting for them!

2022 - 2023

We are considering opening a new Squirrels group for ages 4–5-year-olds but will need new leaders to run this.

Fiona Jones

Parish Care Network 2021/22

Keeping an eye, mainly from a distance, I notice how well most people are supported pastorally by other church members. Whilst we have been unable to visit – and sometimes all services have been online – some of our pastoral visitors have found themselves no longer able to be involved. Sadly, older people have been advised to keep away from COVID in order to stay healthy themselves. A lot of telephone calls have happened and these have made a big difference, especially to the elderly who live alone; however, the phone buddy scheme has ended and left a gap for some. Phone calls are still appreciated and any volunteers can be linked to those in need of contact – please ask if you would like to help. Transport to church has also become more difficult due to COVID and more help with this from younger people would be appreciated.

Whilst we are without a vicar, services in the homes and sheltered accommodation have not been resumed but hopefully these can happen again before too long. Contact is being maintained.

Many thanks to all who keep in touch with all those who need support. We all look forward to pastoral care being more personal in the coming year.

Mary Nichols (LLM)

Sunday School at All Souls' Church

In normal times

All Souls SUNDAY SCHOOL meet at 10.30am every Sunday - except the 1st Sunday in each month, when we celebrate 'Cafe Church'

Aim :

To teach the Children to pray

To worship in a happy & fun environment

To prepare the children for normal Sunday worship.

To encourage them to grow spiritually

& find a deep faith that will help them through the teenage years and into adulthood.

We have fun activities, a time of worship, Bible stories, drink & biscuits and crafts - plus a time to share thoughts and feelings.

During Lockdown

During the last year Sunday school as been on zoom & taken a new form.

I emailed the worksheets & the Bible readings with names next to each verse so every child (5 – 12 years) can read & take part. Numbers have been consistent with 7 children joining each week. We follow the same Bible readings as the congregation. We discuss what the passage means & how we can learn from it & put it into practice in our own lives.

June 2021 we started to have Sunday school, outside at 10.30, still trying to be covid safe. Then in September we went back to meeting upstairs in our Sunday school room. We did our Nativity play in December. Numbers vary – 3 children who met regularly on zoom have not come back to worship with us and another one has gone to a different church.

With All Souls at 4pm, I am encouraging our older children to get involved with that & also the youth activities Sarah is organizing. Sandra & I need to rethink Sunday school and work out the best way to take this forward.

Nicola Shaw

Toddler Praise at All Souls' Church

We are a friendly and very lively group that meet every Tuesday at 10.30am. The service is specially designed for babies, children and their parents or carers - it is simple & short.

Our session begins with a craft activity followed by a Bible story to help us learn about God.

We have lots of fun as we sing, dance and pray together. We also meet during the school holidays and look forward to welcoming older brothers & sisters back to visit us. To summarize - it's an exciting time of talking, sharing and listening to each other as we grow in our faith and learn more about our incredible God.

Not everyone was still comfortable to meet inside, so on the 27th April 2021 we decided to meet in the garden of the Scout hut to have our service face to face, obviously it wasn't perfect as we had to battle against wind, hail, & rain – but did get some sunshine, but it was covid safe.

At the end of September 2021 we started back in the Lady Chapel at all Souls church. Our Christmas Toddler Praise was slightly different as it was outside in the park, Liz provided us with hot drinks & mince pies, we coloured pictures, had the Christmas story, prayed & sang. We decided to do it this way, because we all wanted to be well at Christmas & able to meet up with family. 2022 started very well with new families joining us, numbers do vary from week to week but we have 11 families that join us most weeks

Nicola Shaw

SOUTH ASCOT VILLAGE SCHOOL - ASSEMBLIES

Fiona & I go into South Ascot Village School once a month to lead the assembly. This is not a Church school so we have to tread carefully in what we say & do.

We use the OPEN the BOOK BIBLE which is Ofsted approved.

The Children are very lively and enjoy volunteering to take part in the stories. We share two stories from the Bible - during the session we ask the Children what links the two stories together and they always come up interesting & amazing comments. The whole school comes over to All Souls Church for extra Assemblies, this is to celebrate Christmas, Easter & Harvest.

Obviously with Covid we haven't been able to lead these assemblies, however we were delighted to welcome the School over to All Souls for the Harvest Assemble, wonderful! life was getting back to normal however we had to cancel the Christmas assembly at church because of Covid again, this was disappointing. but On April 6th we welcomed the whole school into Church for an Easter celebration assembly. Hopefully things are now getting back to normal & Fiona & I will be able to go back into the school each month.

Nicola Shaw and Fiona Jones

SOUTH ASCOT VILLAGE SCHOOL – FOUNDATION STAGE

The Foundation stage of South Ascot Village School is separate from the main school. Selina the teacher makes us very welcome; it's a pleasure to go in, we tell two Bible stories. Obviously with Covid things have been difficult and we haven't been able to go into the class yet.

Nicola Shaw

