



COME

BELONG



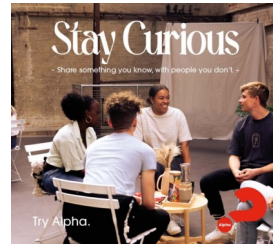
Worship



# Christ Church Barnet Annual Parish Review 2023

ccb  
KIDS

ccb  
YOUTH



PRAYER



SERVE



GIVE

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allowing the manager to devote more time to people with complex issues. Hope Corner is a registered Warm Space (in winter) and Cool Space (in summer), providing relief to those who find it difficult to cope with the different challenges that our climate is throwing at us.

Our work for digital inclusion has been active – in summer we completed a survey of more than 500 houses on Dollis Valley and were able to prove many examples of digital exclusion among residents. The centre is able to offer free and fast Wifi (provided free of charge by Community Fibre). In October, we hosted Boost employment and social outreach surgeries while Chipping Barnet Library was refurbished.

The Dollis Valley Flexible Fund, which we administer, awarded grants to Barnet Community Projects, Mama Haven, Underhill Children's Centre, Barnet Carers and Hope Corner.

In terms of funding, we received a three-year grant for a Seniors Outreach Worker from City Bridge Trust and are currently recruiting for this full-time position. Other funders: Hadley Trust, Jesus Hospital, Space2Grow 29, Hyde Foundation, Good Things Foundation, Barnet Community Fund, Cooperative, DVFF and Churches Together.

**Julian Desborough**  
**Trustee Barnet Churches in Action**

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*“The transformation of Barnet and beyond, with the love of Jesus, one life at a time”*

the challenges and opportunities, that this will bring to them and to that area.

We also spent time looking at a new publication called Love Matters which focuses on the hopes, needs, priorities and aspirations of families within the Church of England.

[Love Matters: Final report of the Commission | The Church of England](#)

Alongside our Vicar Revd. Andy Rimmer, representatives on Deanery Synod from Christ Church Barnet are: Steve Bull, Graham Thomas Julian Desborough and myself. Please do speak to any of us if you would like to know more.

**Anthony Mak Fan**

### **Hope Corner and Barnet Churches Action (BCA)**

More than ever, we give God the glory for all that has been achieved in challenging times at Hope Corner. We thank Him for His guidance, support and protection which has enabled the charity to get stronger and reach more people than ever before.

Hope Corner is well established as the community hub in Underhill Ward and has excellent connections with local authority and voluntary organisations. Janet (our manager) has steered the ship through choppy waters, both professionally and personally, coping with changes in personnel at our regeneration partners and increasing our lettings, including a new long-term let with Longrove Surgery to provide a special NHS clinic for vulnerable people.

The kitchen and café team have brought the café back to pre-Covid levels and make our Seniors Lunch a weekly event that all look forward to, as well as those who receive our twice weekly lunch deliveries. We run a free weekly children's Art Club and twice-weekly free Remedial Maths classes, both of which are oversubscribed. We are thankful for our volunteers – but we are always seeking more, including trustees.

Our Community Support Project has seen significantly higher numbers of people seeking assistance and support, some in real crisis. To cope with the upsurge, we introduced 1-to-1 appointments in September,

## **Parish Matters 2023**

**Baptised:** Isabella Coles, Jack Coles, Katriya Ross, Seyed Hamid, Jayden Dashi, Steven Chappidi, Hrithik Landge, Sorayi Goodavzi, Eleanor Brook

**Confirmed:** Nil

**Weddings:** Nil

**Funerals:** Betty Travers, Alastair St George, Robert Swanborough, Peter Liddelow, Marie Montgomery, Hannah Surie

**Cremation:** Margaret Jarvis



## Vicar's Review 2023

*'Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings' 1 Peter 5:8,9*

Jesus calls his disciples to "Come, Follow Me!" It seems a simple message but it's the greatest invitation we could ever receive. The King of the Universe invites us to walk with Him each day and play our part in His plans for the world. Wow... what a privilege to worship him, live for him and then spend eternity with him.

As Vicar I want to say thank you for the joy of leading us on this adventure. From the youngest to the oldest we long to make CCB a family where we truly belong and a place where we can know His transformative Spirit at work in and through us... whole-life disciples seeing lives changed for Jesus.

2023 saw continued growth on a Sunday and a deepening passion for worship. Our kids and young peoples' work is booming thanks to the oversight of the effervescent Pipe and Julie. At the other end of the age spectrum the Thursday Fellowship continues to flourish and we have a new Pastoral Care Team to support where necessary. We continue to reach out to the community with compassion, through the Open Door Centre and Alpha. As people come to faith our Connect Groups provide places of love and growth. As you'll see in this report this is due to the heart and dedication of so many volunteers... we honour and salute you!

We live though in the backdrop of a broken society and world. We are called to be 'salt and light' contending for the only Truth that can set us free.

This will mean that sometimes we won't be fully understood by the world and even others in the church. We are in, as the verses above

PCC alike remain fully committed to the Open Door Centre and are excited about the opportunities and role it can play in ministry of CCB and the local community in Barnet.

**Andy Wright**  
**Chair of Trustees**

## Rail Pastors

2023 has been a year of development, perseverance and an exploration of new horizons for the Barnet rail Pastors team. It is both a privilege and challenge to lead this team, which has been a flagship of the Ascension Trust initiative, nationwide. We have had many positive and timely interventions with passengers on both our local TL (Transport for London) and GN (Great Northern) routes in and out of London. Furthermore, we have also patrolled at Doncaster - a station who really need our help and are using our experience to assist developing the scheme for Cardiff. We also look forward to partnering with other churches to help recruit more believers to save even more lives.

**Paul Lewis**  
**Barnet Rail Pastors Coordinator**

## Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is one way the Church of England gives people at different roles within their own Church, a chance to discuss key issues and also to help to organise the church's ministry and mission. It sits between the parishes with their Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod.

It meets approximately four times a year, sometimes with guest speakers, meetings are held at various churches throughout the Deanery.

One area of focus this year has been the real importance of the regeneration (and therefore emergence) of Colindale, a mere 6 miles away from us here in High Barnet and within our borough. It looked at the three churches that are within the new area and focused on both

The Centre can still call on a group of active volunteers from within and beyond the CCB congregation albeit numbers were slightly lower than the c.20 seen in previous years. We remain extremely grateful to all volunteers for their support and commitment and would welcome any further applications from new or aspiring volunteers who would like to get involved.

Alongside completion of the ground-floor extension, 2023 was also an important year in terms of revisiting and reviewing the missional objectives of the Centre in the context of Christ Church Barnet (CCB). Specifically, and further to agreement of the PCC in May, a joint ODC/PCC Working Group was established to prayerfully review how best to use the Centre to help deliver the vision and mission of the church.

The Working Group met on six occasions and the approach adopted combined: Two weeks of prayer focus in June for the ODC; A detailed questionnaire about the Centre for church members and customers that were completed in September; The completion of several meetings with key stakeholder groups, and; Visits by Working Group members to several local church-affiliated community centres in the Barnet area to understand and learn from similar organisations.

A paper and draft proposals were presented to the PCC in January 2024 which were unanimously approved. One of the key proposals is to formally lay down the first-floor development for at least 2024/2025. Whilst the development plans are not being cancelled, it has become evident through the review that now is just not the right time.

Rather, the focus for the next two years will be on using what we have already been blessed with to support the local community, and paying off the loan as soon as possible and before any further development of the building. In this respect the trustees took a decision in January 2024 to reduce the outstanding loan balance through a capital repayment from available funds and increase monthly repayments to shorten the residual term. The trustees and

declare, a spiritual battle but we know where the victory has been won. We look to Him alone!

2024 will be a year of change and transition. Change can be unsettling to some but it's an opportunity to trust in the One who is the Lord of the church. We pray with passion and expectation for more to encounter the love of Jesus, to discover the joy of walking with the prince of peace and be filled afresh with His incredible Holy Spirit.

Bring it on!

**Andy Rimmer**  
Vicar



## **A Year at Christ Church Primary School**

*Through God's Love, we learn, aspire, and achieve; we flourish.*

It has once again been a very busy year at school, a time to consolidate and build upon the developments in education, continuing to move forward to ensure that our children receive the best education that we can offer, through our Christian values.

We were fortunate to have had only two staff changes this September, as we said good bye to Miss Byrne, who moved on to pursue travelling plans and Mrs Brennan who had been a meal time supervisor for many years and retired to enjoy time with her family.

We had our long-awaited SIAMS inspection and were pleased to attain a Good judgement and Excellent in Collective worship. The inspector was particularly impressed with the children's direct involvement in organising and leading the class worships each week. He made some very positive comments and said that Christ Church School was "a community filled full of love, gently, with consistent Christian rootedness, bringing about flourishing." He concluded that we demonstrate a "quiet, steadfast purpose of high-quality Church of England education which is shared by all."



We also celebrated the King's Coronation this year. There was a school homework set in which the children wrote about the changes they would make if they ruled the country, and the constitution they would put forward. There were many excellent ideas, linked to the school values and one of the children was chosen to be "Monarch of the Day" and her constitution was followed. This was loved by all, especially the school picnic and ice lollies. The children enjoyed archery and maypole dancing and the celebration was ended with the National Anthem and flag waving.

The school community have continued to support many charities and have regularly collected foodstuffs for the Barnet Food Hub.

There have been some changes in the redecoration and maintenance of the building with no major projects needed. The bungalow has been redecorated with new carpet and painted walls and the Breakfast Club and After School Club children are enjoying the transformation. The Key Stage 1 children had a new climbing frame installed in their playground, replacing the one that had lasted for many years. The Nursery and Reception children also had a new piece of climbing equipment installed in their garden too.

In terms of academic achievement, the school performed extremely well in all the end of Key stage assessments and the Y1 phonics test.

Every member of staff has worked enthusiastically through the year, from the office staff, to our caretaker, school meal supervisors, our teaching assistants and our teachers. They all give generously of their time and have the highest expectations and care for the children. It is a strong team demonstrating and putting into practice the values we share.

**Elena Print**  
**Head Teacher**

## **The Open Door Centre**

Building on the previous year, 2023 was a busy and productive time for the Open Door Centre (ODC) with good progress made on many fronts.

Operationally, the activity of the drop in café continued to strengthen and ended the year back at, if not finally exceeding, the levels seen pre-pandemic which is encouraging.

Notwithstanding the cost-of-living crisis continued to escalate throughout 2023 and impact the Centre, and indeed the wider economy and society, through higher food prices and utility costs, it continued to respond well under the leadership and guidance of the Management Sub-Committee and Board of Trustees. The ongoing financial support of local grant-making trusts and individual supporters remained important for the organisation and is very much appreciated.

Alongside the café operation, room letting activity remained solid throughout 2023 and the Centre would like to thank all customers for their continued support and usage of the facility.

From a strategic perspective, excellent progress was made in mobilising the plans for the ground-floor extension to the building. Specifically, and after a thorough review process, the trustees were delighted to appoint a local contractor to build a ground-floor extension to the kitchen as part of a phased approach adopted to the development of the building. The extension was largely completed by year-end and the new opportunities this will afford for community outreach are a particular highlight and area of focus.

Overall, the building project went well, and the trustees are pleased with the result which is already making a positive difference. That said, and due to some additional unplanned work to rebuild the chimney that was required, the project took a few weeks longer than originally envisaged. This primarily impacted income generated from the café which operated a reduced menu and shorter opening hours whilst the building work was underway. The team and customers alike were delighted to welcome back 'business as usual' from early November with the Centre very busy and thriving.

We have seen several of our long-standing members pass into God's care this last year. We have also been delighted to welcome some new faces.

In the last year our charity support has focussed on The Evangelical Alliance Relief (TEAR) Fund and Christians Against Poverty (CAP), with generous contributions from our members. We are currently supporting CARE - Christian Action, Research & Education.

Once a month we enjoy a delicious lunch, lovingly prepared by Kate Saint and her team.

We have been blessed to hear from a variety of speakers and musical performers.

Several members of the church family have spoken at our meetings; including Carol Betts at our Christmas celebration. Quizzes are always popular, and we have a termly Bring & Buy sale to enhance funds.

Julie Lewis led a wonderful "Mini Oasis" day in August; with craft, entertainment and food in abundance!

A fantastic support team (transport, setting-up, refreshments and technical) enable the smooth running of our meetings. Without them, the leadership team could not function. A particular "Thank you" to those of you who responded to our cry out for drivers recently, such a need for many of our members.

We pray that God's love would freely be shared in Thursday Fellowship and that He will continue to bless us and draw near to all of our members.

**Judith Brearley, Graham Thomas, Marie Barnes and Liz Seaton**

## **Alpha**

During 2023 we held 2 Alpha Courses, one pre-Easter (in a home) and one in the winter term, on Zoom. Whilst both were fairly small with around 6 guests on each, this meant we were better able to get to know each other and talk in greater depth about the many and various questions that were raised. It has been a true privilege to have been part of this and we are grateful to everyone who has taken part. Both for sharing their story and allowing myself and/or Andy to become a part of their journey to faith. Thank you!

**James Herring**

## **Fabric Report 2023**

The Churchwardens can report on the fabric, goods and ornaments as follows:

### **Audio-Visual System**

For the second year this section is now covered in a separate 'Technical Report'.

### **Computing and Data**

There have been no new hardware or software purchases this year. Anthony Mak-Fan has continued his sterling work in maintaining the computer hardware and network, both in the offices and in the church. The performance of all technology is continually monitored.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

The outstanding work continues to be reviewed.

### **Health and Safety Matters**

We hold current certificates for gas, electrical installation, fire and lightning conductor, which are all inspected at the recommended intervals. We consider Health and Safety to be of great importance and we are grateful to everyone for their compliance with our systems. The intruder alarm continues to be an asset to our security.

Two fire drills with the children's groups were carried out in 2023, both exercises went well.

### **Heating System**

The heating systems have again been trouble-free during the year, needing no attention apart from regular servicing.

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

More parapet repairs were carried out, as well as painting the staircase to the balcony.

The main item of redecoration this year was the church tower. This turned out to be much more work than anticipated and was completed using a mixture of volunteer and paid labour.

We were greatly blessed by the timber for the repair work being supplied free of charge by the timber merchant, saving us almost £1,000!

Whilst carrying out this work two swift nesting boxes were fitted to the North and West faces of the tower using money gifted to CCB by a third party. These are fitted with cameras, as well as speakers to attract nesting birds.

The porch was also refurbished and repainted as part of this work.

The preschool office was redecorated and the lighting updated.

New fencing and driveway were also supplied to 8 Wentworth Road. Many thanks to all those who helped with this work.

### **The Terrier**

The contents of the terrier (the inventory of moveable and fixed articles in the church's possession) have been checked and all items are present.

### **Personnel**

A new Premises Manager, Soorena Saharnaz was employed from March until November, we are incredibly thankful for his service to Christ Church during this time. A replacement will be appointed early in 2024.

We initiated live broadcasts of morning services at the start of the first lockdown in 2020, this has proved a popular way of reaching those who are housebound and indeed regular viewers from far and wide, we have therefore continued to broadcast both the 9am and 10:45am Sunday services live where the combined viewing figures average at around 90 weekly.

Apart from the early morning prayer meetings (Tuesday – Friday) there are now no regularly scheduled Zoom meetings, these have all been replaced with normal in person meetings. We continued to write, rewrite and implement various risk assessments in line with various governmental & diocesan.

Action in Barnet and Barnet Homes which supports vulnerable people needing accommodation and Barnet Social Services. I have so many people to thank....

The wonderful team, affectionately called 'The Renew Crew', who sourced items required and managed to get everything we needed from their friends and neighbours. These amazing helpers also delivered gift packages to clients, which wasn't always an easy task!

Everyone who donated items, lovely ladies who knitted blankets, ladies who made unclean things very clean!, financial supporters, Thursday Fellowship for making Renew their Charity for a term, The Wesley Hall Christmas collections and The Monken Holt for generous donations of toiletries.

To Sharon Butler who saved me from managing the finances! Also, to Ges as we became part of the Compassionate Ministries at CCB. To Wendy Crawford who made crosses in a pouch with a verse enclosed to give to clients, Jo and Pat who patiently and kindly stored so many items in the office. To Graham Paddon who PAT tested all of our electrical items, ensuring safety. To Andy and team for their continued support, encouragement and advice.

To Jean Corney who right at the very beginning let me store lots of items in the Open Door as gifts were coming in quickly and I didn't have any place to keep them.

To the people who prayed, it was good to be able to tell the Clients that CCB were praying for them. Seeds were sown, I am sure of that and for me, showing people Jesus' love was what it was all about.

*Thank you....*

**Kay Gray**

### **Thursday Fellowship**

We meet weekly during term-time, with up to 40 members attending regularly. We seek to blend friendship, companionship and love for one another; with worship, prayer and learning from God.



attending Sunday services and coming along to events put on by the church.

We are still very grateful for the provision we have seen this year both financially and through our amazing prayer and volunteer team. It really is a team effort and we could not do this work without those that God has brought to join us.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Debt Centre please go to [www.ccbarnet.org.uk/cap](http://www.ccbarnet.org.uk/cap).

**Karen Hedges and Beth Raynor**

### **Night Shelter**

Christ Church did not run a shelter in 2023 as we were the first to volunteer to run a shelter in November 2022, as soon as the relevant COVID restrictions had been lifted – something our guests were very grateful for. We will be back in 2024 at our more usual time, demonstrating the love of Jesus by providing food and safe shelter for some of the most vulnerable in society.

**Richard Gibson**

### **Renew**

It is with sadness that I write the last report of Renew to you all. As you may know, in May 2023 I had to have a head surgery and the recovery was quite long. Part of the recovery meant that I couldn't drive for six months and couldn't lift heavy objects. Obviously, these are key elements to getting household items to our Renew clients, and so with a heavy heart and much prayer, I decided to end this very lovely and worthwhile project.

Renew began in June 2020 after supporting a young man I met on the Winter Night Shelter who moved into his first accommodation, which was unfurnished. The process of Renew was to receive pre-loved household goods, store until needed and then give out to clients referred by our Charity partners. Once people began to hear about it, I was amazed at the offers of help and delighted with the amount of household gifts donated. We linked up with Charities such as the Barnet Care Leaving Team, Solace Women's Aid, Homeless

As with every year, we want to express our appreciation for all the work done by the many volunteers who help to keep Christ Church running as smoothly as it does. The foodbank and the compassion fund, to name but two, once again helped CCB project the message of the Gospel in the most practical and effective of ways, these services have been delivered entirely by a volunteer network from within the CCB family.

**Ken Morton  
Churchwarden**

### **Safeguarding**

We have undertaken a big training drive for our volunteers this year. This was to ensure all new volunteers had undertaken safeguarding training, and to keep existing volunteers up to date; so that everyone is trained to serve in a safe manner and can help to maintain a safe environment for all of those that we serve. We held an in person training session in October which was well attended, followed by an online session helping people to access the online training portal and complete their training at home. Safeguarding Sunday in November provided us with the opportunity to inform the wider church community of the efforts undertaken by our volunteers to complete their training and to thank them for their service. We also encouraged the congregation to consider their part in creating a safe culture at CCB, that seeks to help the vulnerable as Jesus did.

A training session for our youth that serve in the kids ministry will occur in the summer term. We will then have completed the necessary training for all staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults and be in a position to progress to level 3 of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.

My thanks to Jo Penn, deputy safeguarding officer for her hard work and support over the past year. I would also like to thank Pipe Figueroa and Julie Lewis for their help with delivering training this year.

**Anna Coles (Safeguarding Officer)**

## Ministry Areas

### Worship

Sung worship is a key component at both the 9am and 10:45am services.

#### 9.00am

This worship is slightly more formal and we have continued this year with the format that we began previously, using a wide range of YouTube videos. However we have also been blessed this year to have Eve Anderson sing twice a month, ably supported by Gilly Bean, Paul Manton and Anthony Mak Fan on guitar. Eve has said that singing at this service gives her so much joy and on each occasion, she is struck afresh at just how marvellous God is.

#### 10.45am

The 10:45am has a larger band with a more contemporary style and a block of extended singing. The children join us for the first part of our service and are a great reminder of the joy and freedom we can experience in our worship.

Some member of Youth have become more involved in the wider worship life of the church and are such a blessing, this has been an exciting development and one we want to continue to invest in over the coming year.

It has been wonderful to hear stories of encounter with Jesus on a regular basis and evident to see the tangible hunger to meet him in the congregations.

### Worship at the Well

This is now held weekly at 6:30pm in the Church Lounge, this has been an opportunity to listen to what God is saying and go deeper into his presence. This is always a precious time and I wholeheartedly encourage anyone who hasn't yet come to try it.

**Mark Vargeson**

### Technical

The two regular Sunday services have continued throughout 2023, involving sound, visuals and streaming. As always, the hunt for regular volunteers continues although we are blessed with the services of

## Barnet Cap Debt Centre

It has been a busy 12 months from which we have much to thank God for. In 2023 we saw 15 people go debt free for whom £194,616.63 of debt was cleared. £43,392.69 of this was repaid and the remaining £151,223.94 was cleared through insolvency. During this time we have also supported a number of other households and journeyed alongside them as they have taken steps to manage their finances.

In addition to meeting regular clients, Beth has been attending the Chipping Barnet Foodbank once a month. This has provided a great opportunity to build awareness and connections and also receive referrals. This relationship with the Foodbank also provided an opportunity for us to present to their volunteers as well as a number of referral agencies across the borough, which was well received. Karen has attended the local Barnet Job Centre to build on relationships previously established and conversations with other referral agencies have begun.

As always, it was a joy to arrange for clients to receive Christmas Hampers, generously provided by Jesus House, and we also had the pleasure of personally delivering gifts to all our clients and each member of their household. We were able to specifically choose gifts for each person and were also grateful for those who donated items that were well received.

Six of us have recently trained as money coaches to facilitate CAP's new money coaching sessions. We are planning to hold our first course with some of our previous clients this coming April. The course will provide tools in day to day money management and budgeting.

We have been blessed to have more volunteers join us at the Debt Centre; Jonathan Brown from Oakleigh Community Church came on board as a befriender and Anthea Miles joined us to assist our clients with filling out various forms and benefit applications.

We continue to have the opportunity of praying in person with each client every time we meet with them and we are grateful for others that join with us in holding them before God for specific situations. We are thrilled that we have had specific answers to prayer over this year, especially around provision of housing and other things which may seem smaller but remind us and our clients that God cares and wants to provide. We have also seen clients engage with church by

always made clear to clients that our provision is for a limited period and that we are here to be a bridge to help them through a crisis point.

Incredibly over these years the team has largely been made up of the following folk: Kate Saint, Abbie Roberts, Gilly Bean, Richard Lawson. They have been wonderfully augmented by bag packers Wendy Crawford and Tim Curtis with Liz and Roger Seaton who deliver fortnightly to a few who are unable to come and collect food, possibly through ill health. In addition one or two we have continued to support and deliver food to as they have managed to get part time work which makes it impossible for them to come on Friday mornings. Our thanks also to Graham Paddon, Graham Thomas and Manuel Spurgeon for faithfully collecting fresh food from Waitrose in Mill Hill on a weekly basis if supplies were available. And to Waitrose in Barnet, who over the years have supported the Food Bank. What now?

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

So, our present Food Bank has closed – please pray, giving thanks for much faithful provisions and ask for the way ahead to be revealed. Amen.

**Jean Corney**

### **Saturday Morning Meeting Point (10 am –12noon)**

Weather permitting the blue trolley offering coffee and teas to passers-by at the Circle (to the left of Waitrose by the buses) has continued. This is dependent on Steve Bull helped by Anthony Mak-Fan being free to organise this. Thank you to them both. Painted on the trolley is the message that we represent the church in the community – a good opener to a conversation with prayer on offer. Around 10 to 15 or so regulars will drop by, apart from casual shoppers. Meg Francis is a great welcomer and supporter. On Saturdays when the trolley is not available; the group joins in the Wesley Hall coffee. We receive a warm welcome there and greatly appreciate that. Conversations often give rise to sharing our faith - and every opportunity is a joy.

**Jean Corney.**

Anthony, Steve, Emmanuel, John, Keith, Lewis, William and Abigale. The only addition has been to upgrade the presentation and streaming computers and to add an additional remote control camera for the streaming. The rest of the equipment continues to work well.

**Graham Paddon, Ant Mak Fan**

### **Prayer**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*Philippians 4:6*

Prayer is at the heart of all we do at CCB.

Prayer runs throughout our Sunday services starting with prayer meetings before each service, and concluding with an opportunity for prayer ministry afterwards. However, as we are all aware, prayer is not just for Sundays! At meetings, group activities be it for young and older folk, we start with prayer and invariably finish with prayer. It is our bedrock – our 'go to' place.

Throughout 2023 we continued with the 7.00am zoom prayer and it was a great encouragement to see that the numbers taking part increased as the year went on. In June last year we dedicated a fortnight to 'Praying for the Open Door' asking God to help us see, 'What is his vision'. The Trustees were so grateful for the responses they received.

Prayer requests are also sent out as and when someone within our Church or known to us, has a specific and at times, urgent need.

**Carol Betts**

### **Connect Groups**

*'Connecting with God and one another'*

We have 16 Adult Connect Groups which meet regularly for prayer, Bible Study and fellowship. Groups generally meet in person with one group continuing to meet online.

We meet with the Connect Group Leaders at the start of each term for training and encouragement which we hope is helpful.

We have covered a multitude of conversational topics this year – most of which are in direct alignment to the material we are studying. However other subjects pop up leading on from that or perhaps through someone's personal circumstances at that time. It makes for an incredible 'stretching of the mind' which can only be good for us all!

Please do speak to me if you are not in a Connect group but would like to be – our groups cover a wide range of ages, and meet at various times on different days to suit everyone. There are also two women only groups, and one group just for guys. I would love to chat through in more detail with you!

**James Herring**

### **Prophetic**

We have had an exciting and encouraging year growing in learning to hear God's voice!

The School of the Prophetic ran once a month from September '22 to June '23 and around 30 people came each time.

We used some live teaching and some video based using Emma Stark's Prophetic Warrior e-course. We had wonderful feedback about how practical the teaching was and how much people felt they grew in discerning God speaking to them and understanding our authority over the enemy. Everyone loved it!

The Prophetic Coaching day in October was well attended by 60+ people – with fantastic talks by Sam Robertson. It was a real faith boost and the teaching much appreciated!

In February we launched the 'School of the Spirit' that will run twice a term. The Holy Spirit is often the least understood member of the Trinity and yet He is as much (equally!) God as God the Father and the Lord Jesus – and He is absolutely essential to us all! These mornings are open to all, and are to help us grow in our understanding of how wonderful the Holy Spirit is, what He does and how we can learn to work better with Him for the Kingdom of God.

**Mary Rimmer**

### **CCB Women**

We held two events specifically for women last year: Firstly a Curry Night when we took over an Indian restaurant in Barnet and packed it

Aviation Fellowship); Danny and Rachel John (Care2Share – UK/India) and Chris and Hannah Scutt (YWAM Malawi) all joined us for our Mission Sunday service with Chris preaching, followed by a bring and share picnic.

We also support the work of Tearfund and, at our Harvest Service, speaker Peter Cashman highlighted their Church & Community Transformation Project, which equips churches to lead transformation in their local communities. Giving at the service and the subsequent Tearfund quiz (a lively, enjoyable and informative evening!), raised over £1400. Further information about our partners can be found at [www.ccbarnet.org.uk/mission](http://www.ccbarnet.org.uk/mission), and recent news and prayer requests are shared via the termly Mission Focus newsletter.

**Sue Jackson**

### **Compassion Ministries**

#### **CCB Food Bank**

*Psalm 42:11 "Put your hope in God."*

This is the verse I used in last year's report and it is good to say it is as appropriate now as then. When the Food Bank was set up 11+ years ago the prayer was for God's provision to meet the needs of whoever comes. We have a faithful God as week by week that is exactly what has happened.

The process of closing down our Food Bank has turned out to be one of sharing many, many thanks with such a wide variety of people. It has been good to write, with thanks, to a large number of schools, organisations, individuals and other churches who have supported and of course now a huge thanks to the many people at CCB who have simply brought their contribution week by week and together we have all been able to feed many hundreds of people making that vital difference in their lives. Thank you to so many of you for your provision.

Many clients have been content for a prayer to be offered for their situation and that has been a privilege. Prayer will continue. We have

we sing a familiar song or recite the 'Lord's Prayer' the residents faces light up and they heartily contribute.

**Andy Rimmer**

### **Hadley Lawns**

Hadley Lawns is a local care home in the parish which has a long-standing openness to Christ Church ministry. Over the years we have made friendships, seen residents come to the Lord and been touched as our dear friends depart to be with Him.

This starts our third year back after the Pandemic, (though even that gave opportunity to bless folk here with presents, and lovely blankets from Livingstone Court!) Each month we take a service which is both outreach and spiritual-support to the residents, visitors and staff at this home. We offer prayers, singing and chat, and for some who are brought very low by age, a warm touch and prayer.

If sharing like this something you can manage give me a call and come and join us. My special thanks go to Andy and the Connect-Groups and individuals that have built and carried this ministry over the years.

**Paul Jackson**

### **Mission Support**

The Mission Committee continues to support the work of Christ Church's Mission Partners, who share the love of Jesus through their work in evangelism, pastoral care, health, education, humanitarian aid and poverty relief.

This year we welcomed new mission partners Simon and Miriam Desborough, serving with AIM in Madagascar and seeking to mobilise local believers for God's mission. We were also blessed by visits from all our other mission partners: Clive and Glenda McMinn (Bettaway Church, South Africa); Paul and Clare Woodington (Mission

out with CCB girls! Delicious food and a good time together. Then on a Saturday morning in July we held a women's breakfast – which was a guest event. 80 ladies came and Michele Herring spoke so well from Jeremiah 17:7-8 - about being rooted in God and from this place providing shelter for those around us.

**Mary Rimmer**

### **CCB Men**

2023 has been an encouraging year with many new men joining the church with their personalities and giftings benefitting the whole church. There have also been a number of events that have run in 2023 specifically for men. There has been a couple of Shed nights which are informal evenings with food, drinks, games, banter and the telling of people's stories. Pints of view has also restarted up on the first Sunday of each month at the Mitre. Both events have proved successful at enabling blokes to chat and mix informally whilst being environments where friends can be invited along too.

The Gathering weekend in July was a highlight for the group from CCB who attended joining with 2,000 other men. God moved in many people's lives especially during the times of worship and the powerful testimonies shared. Firepit prayers sessions have also begun, seeking God through prayer around an firepit in the vicarage garden. Please continue to pray for all of these men's events that God will continue to bring new men into CCB and that we would all move forward with God in 2024

**Stuart Nichols**

### **Marathi Congregation**

'Community and Growth' ~ Bethany Marathi & Hindi Congregation traces its roots back to a humble beginning as a small group gathering for family prayer on Saturdays. Today, it has evolved into a diverse community offering services in English, Marathi, and Hindi. Guided by a commitment to spiritual growth, the congregation boasts a thriving youth group under the mentorship of Pipe Figueroa and dedicated Sunday school teachers nurturing children's spiritual development. We maintain an active online presence through Facebook and YouTube.

'Present Endeavours' ~ Currently, we conduct regular services every 2nd and 4th Sunday where we are led into songs of praise by our dynamic Worship Team, followed by enlightening messages from Vicar Andy Rimmer, Pastor Anil Amanna and James Herring. Additionally, we engage in CCB services every 3rd Sunday, affirming our commitment to community engagement. We recently had two of our community members (one of them being a youth) have their Confirmation and Baptism at CCB in 2023. Beyond the church, members hold intimate family prayers in their homes, occasionally including bhajans.

'Our Future and Missions/Goals' ~ Our mission is to cultivate spiritual maturity and unity among our members, creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. With a focus on nurturing the next generation, we aspire to guide and inspire children and youth in their spiritual growth. We aim to remain a beacon of hospitality, extending God's love to all and reaching out to those in need, both physically and spiritually. Ultimately, we are dedicated to glorifying God through our actions, relationships, and service to others. If you are interested, please do get in touch, we would like you to join our ever growing congregation!

**Prabhudas Awale**

### **Church Garden**

Again another busy year. Friday mornings seem to come round more quickly as the year progresses.

The garden has given great joy to us and passers by. The tree peony was a magnificent sight when in full bloom displaying its raspberry pink, tea plate sized flowers. Its neighbour commonly known as 'The Bride' was resplendent in sprays of white flowers in early spring.

The daffodils, tulips, narcissi and other spring bulbs brightened the borders adding splashes of early colour. Many of the shrubs provide more subtle colouring in their leaves and occasional flowers. Thanks to all gardeners, Gill, Marion, Jenny, Andy G, Thanita and Jackie.

Please all help to keep it looking good by very careful parking!

**Lesley Causton**

games – Bunnies, Cinderella, Ladders and Squirrels being our current favourites. In the summer, the Brownies enjoyed building and lighting different types of fires outside and how to make a fully waterproof pack for their clothes. They also worked on aviation badge and completed two 'Badges in an evening' – one entitled 'I'm an adventurer' about rowing across the Atlantic and another 'Building Bridges' – one team definitely has a future as civil engineers!

THANK YOU to all the parents who have helped and continue to do so and to John and Avery for all their support and enthusiasm.

**Sally Gilman**

### **Serving the Community here and abroad**

#### **Leathersellers**

Christ Church have had a connection with Leathersellers Close (near the Black Horse Pub) for many years now. Carol Betts, Julian Desborough and myself hold a service once a month for the residents – either morning prayer or communion. In the past two years we have used music on 'bluetooth' rather than live but it hasn't dampened the atmosphere. The chapel (due for reordering soon!) is always well set up by the lovely Anita Simmance and we normally get between 5 and 9 residents. The big event is the annual Christmas Carol Service when members of the Company of Leathersellers, the residents and the choir from Christ Church Primary School combine to produce a magical service. Big thanks to Monica Linton for playing the piano for this service and Sarah Wade and team from the school.

We hope to invite any from the CCB community to join us at the monthly services in the future.

**Andy Rimmer**

#### **Abbey Ravenscroft**

Myself and Shaun Sanders from the Methodist Church currently visit the Abbey Ravenscroft Care Home monthly to provide some spiritual input to both residents and staff. The staff are generous in their welcome but it's not always an easy environment to share the love of Jesus in song and prayer. It always fascinates me though that when



We still thinking in how to engage with local schools but hopefully this year will be the year where we can have an active presence in secondary schools of the area.

Please keep praying for the team and all the young people who we have contact with!

**Felipe (Pipe) Figueroa**  
Youth Worker

### **Rainbows and Brownies**

Another lovely year has passed with Rainbows and Brownies, with lots of new girls joining us and some of the older ones leaving for Guides. Lots more badges have been earned too!

Rainbows (aged 5 and 6) meet from 5 – 6pm in a group of 12. We often make things and in the Spring we made Chinese lanterns, and chocolate truffles for Mothering Sunday. We also learned to innovate with our designs for paper boats to be blown across a pool and how to build the highest tower with fruit as well as lots of new skills for our 'Reflect' and 'First Aid' badges including putting each other into the recovery position and learning Maslow's hierarchy of needs! Rainbows enjoyed a joint Coronation party with the Brownies organised by our wonderful Young Leaders as well as celebrating Thanksgiving.

As always, we made poppies for Remembrance Day and read the names on the war memorial at the back of church, remembering to say 'thank you.' As you can see the programme is very varied and always fun. Rainbows also work on interest badges at home such as Drawing and Family Tree badge.

We continue to have a long waiting list for Rainbows, so if you would like your daughter or grand daughter to get in, please register her on [www.Girlguiding.org](http://www.Girlguiding.org) as soon as you can and certainly well before she is 5 as places are offered in the order in which they are registered.

Rainbows move up to Brownies when they are 7 and stay until 10. We meet from 6.15 – 7.15pm and have 24 girls currently in the pack.

Brownies have also had a fab year and parents have been a great support coming in to help with sessions on a rota. They love playing

### **Church Office**

2023 was a busy year for the Church Office! We were delighted to welcome Soorena as the new Premises Manager, this was a great blessing to Jo especially as it meant she was able to hand over many additional tasks she had been managing. Soorena's appointment was relatively short lived but he made the job his own, and became a very welcoming smiling face around the building! We are now looking forward to working with Otto as he gets to know CCB and all its quirks!

The regular tasks the Church Office deals with, were by the grace of God, completed on time. Weekly and monthly information sent out; quarterly and annual figures to the Diocese; weekly and special services prepared; and rotas were created. Many and varied was the publicity which was created, uploaded, streamed, printed and distributed - accompanied by occasional shouting at the photocopier when it didn't appear to be listening to us!

Life in the Church Office is rarely quiet, there is always something happening – supporting the staff & leadership team and church family; enquiries about Banns of Marriage, the graveyard, hall bookings & services or (as has happened) asking about hall hire and the possibility of a fire engine or reindeer in the car park!

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has helped us in a multitude of ways this year, in particular to Sheila Ladd then Stella and John Chan, who came in on a regular basis to count and bank our Sunday collections. (Stella stepped into the breach when Sheila Ladd had to take timeout for health reasons).

Gilly Bean and her never ending pile of folding and sorting, we would be lost without her! To Graham Paddon and Anthony Mak Fan – our 'go to stars' who always seems to be able to fix whatever issue throws us off course. We are also so grateful to the brilliant volunteers in the Open Door - Pat in particular could not survive a day without a takeaway coffee! Their friendliness and wonderful smiles are a great example and encouragement to us both.

To the many others who quietly and without fuss, somehow seem to be there at the right God given moment, always with a smile of encouragement for us both – we thank you. Our office door is always open and we love the opportunity to serve you. It is a privilege to do what we can for people, be they needing information, a quiet place to sit or simply someone who will listen.

**Jo Penn and Pat Blyth**

## **Serving Children and Youth**

### **Kids Church**

It is my privilege to report that we have had a great year in our Kids ministry here at CCB, we have seen significant growth, this is due to a combination of creative and fun programs, outreach and a welcoming environment.

Sunday mornings continue to be lively and engaging, with children eagerly anticipating their time in groups, this is thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our exceptional team of volunteers. Additionally, to provide further support to families during the week, I had the pleasure of running an 8-week Parenting for Faith course during the summer months, providing them with the resources and practical insights to nurture their child's spiritual growth at home.

Throughout the year, our partnership with Christ Church School has remained strong and fruitful, as we have provided fun and inspirational weekly collective worship, the **Easter Experience** we ran was a powerful opportunity for the whole school to engage with the story of Jesus' resurrection in a meaningful and interactive way and it was well received. **Star Ship Troopers Holiday club** was a real **blast**, we saw over 70 children sign up and the children learnt what it meant to be chosen, belong and believe. In September to ease the pressure on volunteers CC Tots toddler group was given a makeover and it became **Tots and Tunes**, becoming an interactive story and singing time led by Abi Coles, we have a core group of families who attend, and they love it! Our silent disco at the **Light party** was a real hit with both children and parents, everyone had a fantastic time celebrating Jesus the Light of the world.

We must acknowledge the departure of several valued volunteers from our team this year, however, we are grateful to report that despite these farewells, new individuals have stepped forward to offer their time and talents which is a cause for celebration and thanksgiving. The recruitment and retention of volunteers to serve has been a consistent challenge and we would really appreciate your prayers in this coming year.

**Julie Lewis**

**Children & Families Worker**

### **CCB Youth**

God doesn't stop His work amongst young people here at CCB!

It is beautiful to see our young people growing not just in height but in faith too. Since last September a new group of kids transition to the group of young people on Sundays. This transition made the group younger and bigger. For that reason, we decided to divide this group in two creating a new structure for the program.

Now we have a group for youth years 6 and 7 called Way-makers and another one for years 8 and 9 which are the pathfinders, both at the 10.45 service which allow is to have deeper conversations with the older ones and have a more energetic session with the young ones. We provide youth work for around 15 kids on average on Sunday mornings.

Our group of older youth on Sunday evenings called ONE has been consolidating and now we have an average of 10 young people joining our sessions where we discuss, eat together, and build community.

At the Barnet college we had the opportunity to run an alpha at McDonalds which was an exciting opportunity to share the Christian perspective of the big matters of life to 12 young people totally disconnected to church, and because our weekly visits on Tuesdays we are starting a group with 3 believers on Wednesdays to support them and encourage them in their faith.

Our Friday Youth club called "the Livingroom" has been a safe space for an average of 15 young people who come to play games and we can share a bit about our faith with them.