

PARISH OF
CHRIST THE KING
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

20TH JUNE 2023

PARISH GROUP
REPORTS

Parish of Christ the King AGM 2023
Tuesday 20th June at 7.30 pm

Agenda

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Chairman's report.**
- 3. Treasurer's Report:**
- 4. Parish Groups Reports**
- 6. Canon Matthew's Report**
- 7. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the AGM 11th July 2022

Meeting started at 7:30pm with prayers led by Canon Matthew Jones

Attendance: Canon Matthew Jones, Rev Andy Board, Chris Stevens (Chair), John Worthington (Sec), Ivar Gray (Treasurer.), Helen Stevens, Tess Evans, Lynda Barry, Charles Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, Tania Walsh, Ann Rees, Maureen Greening, Kath Liddington, Justin McCarthy, Andy Lee, Susan Miles, Brenda Welsh, Leslie Kelleher, Gabriela Todd, Ruth Dyer, Anne McDevitt, Matthew Conroy, Simon Brockway.

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Marie O'Brien.

- ⤴ **Minutes of the previous meeting.** Unfortunately as the meeting took place pre-Covid the minutes were unavailable.
- ⤴ **Report from Chairman.** CS reported that he thought that one of the great successes of the pandemic period was the way in which members of the parish came forward to steward the Masses. If it had not been for their help, we would not have been able to open the church. He reminded those present that he had been the PAC Chair for some eight years and that he would be retiring from the post.
The other important matter that had happened was the forthcoming Synod, an international event. Within the parish, we had held meetings and subsequently produced a report. The next phase was the implementation of the ideas that had been brought forward. He thanked the two parish representatives Tania Walsh and Simon Brockway for their work. He wished his successor as PAC Chair every success.
- 3 **Election of new PAC members** CS reported that because of his and others coming to the end of their tenure there were four positions on the Council to fill. He had received four nominations for Simon Brockway, Christine Williams, Elizabeth Taylor and Sally McLaughlin. He advised that those 4 were accordingly elected as members of the Council.
- 4 **Report from Parish Treasurer** IG referred to the document that had been prepared. He pointed out even after the extensive refurbishment that had taken place we still had some £100,000 in the bank. Parish income had stood up well during the pandemic, certainly compared with other churches. He thanked Vickie Adshead for all her hard work.
- 5 **Other Group Reports** CS invited anyone present from the groups to comment.
Tania Walsh spoke about the Circle of Friends – a very active group who were doing excellent work to provide friendship for those living alone.
Elizabeth Taylor spoke about the Liturgy report, which was a compilation of material provided by those mentioned in the report. She pointed out that the requirements for future development were vital, in particular the need to re-engage families. The return of Children's Liturgy was very important to that end. Some seventy children attended the Junior Club run by Marie O'Brien so the families were there, we just needed to make sure they were catered for and welcomed. There was a need to change the start of the 9am Sunday Mass to 9:30 am to make it more accessible for families, older parishioners and those dependent on bus transport.
CS reminded everyone that one of the suggestions from the parish Synod report was that we should compile a Parish register. One person approached to take this on had declined so the search was still on for a lead person.
SM, the Head teacher of Christ the King Primary school, spoke about the school's wish to establish better contact with the Parish and encourage pupils to take part in Sunday Liturgy. Lynda Barry asked if it might be possible to combine one of the class Masses with a Parish Sunday mass so that a larger number of parishioners would be aware of the children. Several people spoke about the suggested change to the Sunday Mass time. Some were against any change but most felt that any change that would encourage families to return to

the church was desirable. FMJ pointed out that Fr Peter was not appointed to the Parish and helped out on a voluntary basis.

- 6 **Report from the Parish Priest** FMJ said he felt quite hurt at the suggestion in the Parish Synod report that the clergy did not engage well with the parishioners. Very often, decisions had to be made which did not please everyone. He pointed out that he had not had a Sunday off for three years. He thanked everyone who had helped over the Covid period. He went on to explain the difficulties that existed as a result of the lack of priests. He felt that Archbishop Mark would do all he could to try and support the clergy.

9 **AOB**

CS said that another of the things that came from the suggestions on the Synod report was that the members of the PAC should be more identifiable and to that end photographs of the members would be displayed on the board in the Church porch, along with any particular roles. JW asked all new and remaining members of the Council to send him a photograph of themselves so that he could collate them for the board.

JW proposed a vote of thanks to CS and applause followed.

A question was raised about having a camera in church so that Masses could be streamed. JW said that he was in full agreement with the idea and that he felt sure that someone in the parish would be able to run the system once installed. The question of cost was raised. FMJ said there would be a cost to set up the system then a monthly fee for the broadcast of the pictures. A lot depended on the complexity of the system installed. He thought that the one installed in St Brigid's had cost about £2,000. He was not sure what the monthly cost was. JW asked if everyone was in favour of putting a system in. Everyone present was in favour of installing a system as soon as possible. CS said that the Parish Advisory Council at its next meeting would have the task of implementing the proposals put forward at this AGM.

Elizabeth Taylor asked the meeting note the work that had been done in the Parish to support Ukrainian refugees.

A point about updating the 3 Churches website was raised. CS said that that was one of the points raised in the Parish Synod report. He felt sure this would be looked at by the Council.

Close of Meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 20:45 hours.

Report of the PAC Chair to the Parish AGM - 20th June 2023

The Parish Advisory Council

The PAC has met 5 times since the last AGM. There were 4 new elected members. I took over as Chair, Christine Williams as Vice-Chair and Sally McLaughlin as Secretary. Our thanks to our predecessors – particularly Chris Stephens and John Worthington. 2 further elected members were appointed in the Autumn to fill further vacancies and since then the PAC has had a full membership – Canon Matthew and Fr Andy, Ivar Grey (Treasurer), Brenda Welsh (representing CtK primary school) and 9 elected members.

3 PAC members have just completed their terms of appointment – Norbert Flynn, Lynda Barry and Jane Stone. We thank them for their contributions. The process of electing their replacements is underway and will be complete before the PAC meets on 4th July.

In a 'first' we held a joint meeting with the St Brigid's & St Paul's PAC in October and were joined by those who had drawn up the Synod reports for the two Parishes. We identified 3 key strands from those reports which required action – improving communications, strengthening outreach to our local community and developing provision for families and young people. These have remained the focus of our PAC meetings and I comment on them below.

Communications

A working group has been established consisting of Canon Matthew, Fr Andy, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the two PACs (Karen Sylvester and Bernard Hayward, myself and Chris W), Simon Williams (responsible for the 3 Churches website) and Luke Todd (editor of the newsletter).

The newsletter has been moved to a new platform (Mailchimp) which has improved its distribution electronically, while enabling it still to be provided in hard copy for those without internet access. Guidance on the length and content of notices has been provided for contributors. There are still some issues to be addressed regarding layout and font size of the back page and we will be inviting feedback on the newsletter in the near future.

Work is on-going to remove outdated content from the 3 Churches website, prepare new content and give the site a more user-friendly feel. More information on the newsletter and the website is contained in the AGM report from Simon and Luke. With the changes to the newsletter platform we are able to move forward on developing registers of parishioners – one for each parish. This was a key issue highlighted in the Synod reports. For those with internet access their sign-up to receiving the newsletter on line will be the starting point. In the Autumn they will be invited to provide personal information to populate the register. Provision of such information will be voluntary and therefore compliant with GDPR (privacy requirements). The invitation will make clear how the information will be used, who will have access to it and how it can be updated or removed by the individual. For those without internet access there will be a hard copy route to having their information included on the register.

Work is complete on a new 3 Churches directory of contacts (the current edition is dated 2019). This will be available in the next few weeks. The intention is that in future it should be updated annually.

One area of communication where we have failed is putting information about the PAC members on the board in the church porch (see the note of last year's AGM). We will rectify this. Notices about each PAC meeting have been included in the newsletter and the ratified minutes of each meeting posted on the board. A further step needed is the inclusion of current PAC information on the website.

We continue to have announcements at the start of each weekend Mass to draw attention to significant issues – often by reference to information in the newsletter, which we hope people will then read!

Publication of Link ceased during the pandemic and has not resumed. Many thanks to the editorial team who produced it for many years. Though not a direct successor, we have in its place The Grapevine magazine produced on a 3 Churches basis and with the schools involved. Information about it is in Phil Burkhard's report to the AGM on the Living Faith initiatives.

Outreach

There have been significant developments. The first is the establishment of the Sustainable Books and Clothes Market driven by the efforts of Simon and Sylvia Brockway and others. Since it started in October this has been well patronised by parishioners and by the local community both as donors of and recipients of items and it is providing an opportunity for people to meet and interact.

The second is the weekly Welcome Space held on a Wednesday from 11am to 2pm. Parishioners and locals are invited to attend. Numbers of attendees in the opening period since February have been modest but there is a very lively vibe and the opportunity for people to meet, share activities and have light refreshments. The initiative is being funded by the proceeds of the 50 Club and donations made for tea and coffee after Sunday and Tuesday morning Masses.

Christ the King parishioners continue to be part of the rota for the Free Food Market held at St Brigid's on the 3rd Saturday of the each month; and make cash donations towards the costs involved.

Engagement of Young People and Families

A continuing concern has been the absence of families and young people from weekend Masses and Parish/3 Churches activities generally. For families this is being addressed through the reintroduction of monthly family Masses and children's liturgy at the now 9.30am Sunday Mass – further information on both is given in the liturgy report. There has also been a strengthening of parish engagement with the primary school as described in Brenda Welsh's report on Christ the King school's activities.

33 children have recently completed the 3 churches First Communion programme and 25 of them made their first communion at Christ the King on 10th June – the first time for a significant number of years that first communions have been celebrated here. In a few weeks time 32 young people, most of them from the 3 churches, will be confirmed with the Mass to be held here – again the first time for a number of years that we have hosted confirmations. So there is a good deal of positive activity to build on.

Canon Matthew has been involved in discussions with other parishes and some of the secondary schools about youth provision. He has reported to the PAC that the Archbishop has indicated his support for appointment of a diocesan youth officer but only once there are specific areas identified for that person to work on and which will build on existing initiatives. One of those initiatives involved Deacon Christian Mahoney who co-ordinated the attendance of more than 160 young people from the diocese at the recent FLAME event in London. Discussions about youth engagement continue at deanery and diocesan level.

Buildings

There have been a number of developments. Bernard Adshead has stepped back from his involvement in the tenancy arrangements for 71 Heol Hir (the former presbytery) and in the day to day running of the Parish Centre. We thank him for all his work. The Parish has engaged a commercial agent (Northwood based in

Rhiwbina) to manage 71 Heol Hir and Tony Clark supported by Matt Jones and Paul Kinsey has taken on co-ordination of maintenance arrangements for the Parish Centre.

Chris Stevens continues to manage the maintenance of the church building. During the year new front doors were installed and the remaining problems with the heating resolved.

Other expenditure has included upgrading of the CCTV system for the site and replacement of the projector and amplifier in the parish centre.

The 5 yearly survey of the buildings was carried out for the diocese at the end of March. No significant issues were identified as requiring attention in the church or the parish centre while a range of issues (again none of them major) need to be addressed for 71 Heol Hir. In the coming months the PAC will decide on action needed to address the conclusions of the survey. It will also receive a report on the costs of replacing the (elderly) heating system in the parish centre.

Live streaming

Following discussion at the 2022 AGM, the PAC took the decision in November to install a live-streaming camera in the church. We considered that this would help the sick and housebound to stay in contact with the parish community and facilitate the sharing of special occasions such as funerals, baptisms, weddings with people unable to be present. We took account of the possibility that it might discourage people from attending Mass in person. This has not happened - there has continued to be a gradual increase in the numbers of people returning to church post-pandemic. The camera was installed in mid December and parishioners have quickly become used to it. There has been a good deal of positive feedback from those accessing the live stream. Figures for the number of 'hits' (these do not differentiate between brief access or access for the whole of a service) show Saturdays in the range 70-100 and Sundays 100-120 with peaks of 198 for Good Friday, 193 for Easter Saturday (Vigil) and 145 for Easter Sunday.

Stewardship and Parish Giving Scheme

The scheme is being promoted and facilitated by the diocese. It provides a framework for asking parishioners to review their giving of both money and time. The PAC decided that the scheme should be introduced in the Autumn – it will happen in parallel with its introduction in St Brigid's and St Paul's but will be separate since we are separate parishes.

Finally my thanks to the members of the PAC for their willing engagement in considering the issues facing the Parish, to Marie O'Brien in the parish office for all her hard work and to all those who work to support the wide range of Parish and 3 Churches activities. My sense is that some of the vibrancy we lost during the pandemic has returned and that augurs well as we seek to fulfil our mission of spreading the gospel message in our patch of God's Kingdom on earth.

Elizabeth Taylor 11th June 2023

Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

	31. March 2023	31. March 2022
<u>Income</u>	£	£
Gift aid	36,791	40,363
Collections	13,636	10,791
Total offertory	50,427	51,154
Presbytery (71 Heol Hir) rent	9,625	10,500
Hall rent	8,231	6,381
Tax refunds on gift aid	10,537	9,306
Charitable collections	4,506	2,187
Other	881	1,755
Total income	84,207	81,283
<u>Costs</u>		
Church running costs	- 40,812	- 21,050
Collections for third parties	- 4,551	- 315
Payments to the Archdiocese	- 17,918	- 17,918
Presbytery (71 Heol Hir) expenses	- 7,729	- 1,092
Hall expenses	- 9,177	- 5,766
Other costs	- 11,202	- 8,433
Total running costs	- 91,389	- 54,574
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	- 7,182	26,709

The Parish's financial situation is satisfactory as we have £111,796 in the bank (2002 £118,978). The deficit arises due to repairs, capital and one-off expenditure as detailed below:

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Deficit/surplus for the year	-7,182	26,709
Repayment of deposit (71 Heol Hir)	5,250	
Correction for underpayment of wage	2,450	
Parish centre water boiler	774	
Live streaming equipment, church	3,613	
Church doors	7,690	
Church fan heater repair	4,796	
Plant room sensors, church	726	
Sustainable market	853	
Presbytery new water tank and fence	1,685	
Adjusted surplus for the year	20,655	26,709

During Covid there was limited expenditure on repairs and maintenance and recently the Parish has had the quinquennial review of the Hall, Presbytery (71 Heol Hir) and Church. The review identified areas that need to be looked at in the Hall and Presbytery. The Parish.

Council is developing plans to address them and the Parish should have sufficient funds to covers the work.

Projects identified to date, excluding those from the review, amount to £20,725.

Comments on individual areas

1. The offertory has decreased slightly. The reduction in the gift aided element may be due to Parishioners supporting the Parish during the COVID closure and the increase in the cash element due to Church reopening.
2. The Presbytery (71 Heol Hir) is managed by an agent and March's rent has yet not been received. The increase in Presbytery running costs arises because the excess deposit of £5,250 has been repaid.
3. The Hall rent has increased as it has reopened following Covid.
4. Tas refunds are based upon the gift aided collections in the prior year.
5. Third party collections were as follows and do not include collections made third parties in the Church.

	£
Holy Places	573
CAFOD fast day	1,099
Pakistan Appeal	360
Warm places	164
Priest training	452
Ukraine	1,858
Total	4,506

6. Church running costs have increased due the church re-opening following Covid and inflation. £16,825 is due repairs and maintenance as detailed on the prior page.
7. The levy to the Archdiocese as notified by them to us.
8. The Parish's income was generated in the following areas

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Church running costs, net of collections	- 18,169	7,459
Tax refunds on gift aid	10,537	9,306
Rent of Presbytery (71 Heol Hir) net of costs and repayment of deposit	198	9,408
Hall rent net of costs	252	536
Deficit/surplus	- 7,182	26,709

Ivar Grey 10 June 2023

Christ the King Safeguarding Annual Report

This year the main focus of our activity has been to continue DBS checks for the various groups within the parish for example; Junior Club, Warm Space and Children's Liturgy.

It is pleasing that the Diocesan Office has taken onboard feedback and now no longer request proof of change of name, this is on the condition that a passport has been provided as form of ID. The requests for proof of change of name, primarily impacted women and were in effect, a form of indirect discrimination.

The diocesan office has also moved to completion of forms online, this is very helpful and streamlines the process, however they have now moved responsibility for obtaining references to the parish safeguarding representatives, involving us in more work.

Christ the King volunteered to be a pilot parish for the use of a portal, to date this has not been implemented but will be a great boost, once we do have access, as we will be able to view the same records as the diocesan office as well as gain access to resources. Hopefully access will be provided shortly.

Training days provided by the diocese have been attended to ensure our skillset is maintained, they also provide the opportunity to network with fellow safeguarding representatives.

Safeguarding now has its own pages on the 3 Churches website.

Christine Williams

Playgroup report

Christ the King playgroup has grown since last year, it is very popular with parents and grandparents, carers and childminders, and of course with children. Those that attend benefit from the friendly, low-cost group that offers preschool age children the opportunity to learn and develop through play, while their carers get to meet others, chat, and enjoy a tea/coffee/biscuit. Children sit together for a healthy snack during the session, promoting healthy eating and social development. There are a wide variety of toys and development activities such as crafts and singing during the session.

Lucinda Nicholls



Report to Christ the King Parish Annual General Meeting – 20th June 2023 -on Behalf of Faith and Light Trinity Community Cardiff

Trinity Community is part of the International Faith and Light family and is one of 2 remaining groups in Wales supported by the Provincial Council for England, Wales, Scotland and Gibraltar.

We are an Ecumenical Christian organisation for people with learning disabilities, their families and friends, celebrating three things- Friendship, Worship and Celebration"

Trinity Community generally meets monthly on the second Sunday of each month in the Parish Hall. On the rare occasions that we have been unable to meet at Christ the King, we have relocated to St. Joseph's. We are a small, but committed and Faithful Ecumenical community, consisting of a Core Group of volunteers, predominantly, parents, family members and friends of our members with additional needs. Our core group consists of 7 members supported by occasional befrienders. 5 out of 6 of our regular members with additional needs have been attending for decades.

We are an ageing but enthusiastic and lively community and would very much welcome new members. Our current membership travel to meetings from across the city and beyond although transport for members and volunteers has and continues to be a great challenge.

Gabriela and Lesley would be happy to meet with all those wishing to know more about us and our group. We are regular volunteers at the Welcome Space each Wednesday

Lesley Kelleher- Tel. No. 029211 56065/07973373263

Gabriela Todd Tel. No. 02920480343/ 07803770962

JUNIOR CLUB

The Junior Club continues to run most Fridays of term time at 6.30pm in the parish centre.

It has a healthy attendance and children can enjoy a variety of games and craft activities. This year we put out a successful appeal for craft resources and bean bags and we are grateful to all who donated. We also received a donation of a new pool table. Some of our games are looking a bit tired now and we hope that we will be able to purchase some new ones over the next 12 months.

Over the past year we have held our annual Halloween party, two bingo nights, two film nights (taking advantage of the new projector) and Mothers and Fathers crafting events. At time of writing, we are planning a games night at the school field and our Junior Club's got Talent event. Unfortunately, we have not had our usual influx of fresh parent volunteers and are increasingly relying on parents whose children have long left junior club, along with some very helpful teenagers. It is vital that we have more volunteers coming forward over the next month or so to share the workload if junior club is to continue in it's current form.

Marie O'Brien

Marriage Registrar's Report. -2023

Sadly there have been no marriages in our church since last years report.

Helen Stevens

Parish Registrar.

Report of the Cleaning Team-2023

The team comprises five ladies and one gentleman, who rotate the cleaning on a fortnightly basis.

The team has reduced in number due mainly to Covid but also the age profile of the volunteers, and so this is also a request for more volunteers to join us to help keep our church clean.

If you are able to help, please contact the coordinator, details below.

Helen Stevens 07967353658

Christ the King Catholic Primary School Annual Report to PAC

This year Canon Matthew and Fr Andy have visited school to celebrate masses and they have welcomed our pupils to Christ the King Church.

The Autumn term began with the Welcome Mass, to which families and parishioners were invited.

The feast of Christ the King was celebrated with a school-led Sunday morning mass in Christ the King Church, and this was particularly well attended.

In December the whole school community travelled for the first time to Christ the King Church for an Advent Mass. It was a wonderful experience to worship alongside parishioners and we hope to make this an annual event.

Parishioners of the 3 Churches were invited to the Advent service at St Brigid's Church and those who attended commented that they had greatly enjoyed the pupils' retelling of the Nativity story through scripture, action and music.

The Christmas Eve Family Mass was attended by members of staff from the primary school, who were directed by Marie O'Brien in supporting the children to participate in the ministeries.

This year has seen the introduction of monthly Family Masses in Christ the King Church and school staff have occasionally assisted by preparing the children for these. Attendance of families with primary-aged children at Family Masses has increased throughout the year and the school will continue to promote these to our school community.

School staff have volunteered to assist in the recently reintroduced Children's Liturgy sessions during Sunday morning Mass at Christ the King.

First Friday prayer, which is led by staff or clergy, is open to any adults who wish to attend. This is a chance for us to take time out of our busy day to reflect on our faith and how we may inspire our children to also be faith-filled.

School-based events such as Masses and fayres are advertised in the parish newsletter and parishioners are welcome to attend these. We aim to continue to build links between school and parish.

In Spring, pupils had the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Andy and Canon John Griffith during a Lenten Reconciliation service.

Year 6 pupils participated in a Stations of the Cross liturgy at Christ the King Church, to which parishioners were invited.

Throughout the year, pupils in years 4,5 and 6 participate in the ministries for the regular Thursday morning masses in Christ the King. Following the First Holy Communion mass in June, Year 3 pupils prepare a celebration Mass in the church.

In July, Year 6 pupils will participate in a Thanksgiving Mass with pupils from Corpus Christi High School cluster primaries at St David's Cathedral

In February the school underwent an Estyn Inspection. Estyn does not report on the teaching of Religious Education (this takes place in a separate RE inspection). However, inspectors do consider the ethos of the school and inspectors reported that:

"Christ the King Roman Catholic school provides a warm, inclusive learning environment for its pupils. The sense of belonging to the school community is a strength of the school. The school promotes its values well, linked to its motto, 'Learning to love, loving to learn'.

The school motto, 'Learning to Love. Loving to Learn' is evident in the way pupils show empathy and respect towards each other and in their enthusiasm for learning. Relationships between staff and pupils across the school are highly supportive.

Many pupils are developing as ethical citizens. They participate in fundraising activities with enthusiasm to support local and global charities. The school promotes positive virtues and expects pupils to show respect and empathy towards others.

Daily meditation sessions help pupils to reflect on fundamental strengths such as truthfulness and on their own beliefs".

Inspectors made two recommendations:

- *To further develop the school's curriculum to ensure suitable progression across all areas of learning and experience*
- *To extend opportunities for pupils to influence how and what they learn in lessons*

Brenda Welsh

Circle of Friends Report - May 2023

The group has been going now for 16 years and although things have changed along the way it's always for the better

As you maybe aware the group was set up under the guidance of Fr. Matthew to provide social support to those who are on their own for whatever reason. Originally it was for divorced, separated & single people but now also includes those who are widowed. We have 39 members

We have lots of activities on the go such as Quiz nights, Book club, Cinema and Theatre events monthly Sunday lunches and Coffee & Strolling twice a week. More recently we have introduced days out to the Cotswolds, Gloucester Quays, National Botanical Gardens and Gileston Manor.

We also support a different charity each year. This year it's the Welcome Space (formally Warm Space) A number of the group have also volunteered to help out every Wednesday.



May 19th saw fourteen of us fly off for a weeks holiday in Corfu - this we thought was a brilliant excuse to celebrate 3 of the members who have turned 70 this year. The hotel thought they were receiving old dodderly pensioners but oh boy were they wrong. We lit up the hotel from the moment we arrived and danced every night till we dropped enjoying every minute. The stars of the shows were the entertainers Ali Ba Ba and Simo. They were amazing!



We are now on the look out for where to go next year....not sure what excuse we will have for that ??

Sue Peat

Welcome Space Report

The Welcome Space was set up in January of this year. It was originally known as The Warm Space but as the months progressed we soon realised that it was more than a place for people to come to keep warm.

It is a community hub run by our parish community. Its purpose is to provide a range of activities for our local people and is accessible to everyone

We offer a range of activities - Crafts , knitting and crochet. Board and cards games. Newspapers and magazines. Books and sustainable clothes. We are hoping to introduce singalong sessions, gentle keep fit / Tai chi and even bingo!! We also have free refreshments and hot and cold snacks

We have had outside speakers such as Age Cymru, Cardiff Care & Repair and Cardiff Well Being Service. We also offer free treatments from a reflexologist (presently funded by one of volunteers!)

We are now in the process of designing a banner and having new posters and flyers made to help advertise the Welcome Space. We will have a break during August but will start again in September.

**

I thought I would share the below email we recently received from one of our neighbours.

"I only wanted to email to say how much I enjoyed the Welcome Space at Christ The King Church today.

This was my first time, and I had seen the 'flyer' in Sainsbury's and the word FREE was soooooooooo appealing, that I decided to walk over.

Happy I did turn up, as the welcome I received was FAB, and great to see so many 'happy/helpful' volunteers/helpers etc, and please pass my thanks on to everyone/all involved today. Had a great coffee/biscuits/chat, and NEVER felt 'alone' etc. MEGA bonus was the 'reflexologist' (think that's correct?), and had a 'session' which was 'wicked' and again for FREE.

I admit something such as this makes a big difference to me, and I will 'deffo' be back again, probably next Wednesday!!!"

How nice to have this compliment.....
So good to know we are doing the right thing.

Sue Peat



Pictures from Welcome Space
2023

AGM 2023 Report – Living Faith Initiatives

We read in Scripture and hear, at Mass, how Our Lord touched peoples' lives 2000 years ago. The Holy Spirit, however, has encouraged many of us – across the Three Churches and beyond – to start / contribute to three recent works of the Holy Spirit, that can be collectively described as 'Living Faith'.



This can be summarised as: faith, hope and love in the 21st Century church and wider Christian faith community. This AGM 2023 report describes the progress made and next steps.

All three initiatives are resources that are beginning to be used by other Ministries (e.g. Holy Communion, Confirmation, Welcome Space and Food Market) & in education. ***Thank you to all!***

Living Faith - <https://www.3churches.org/living-faith/>

Short videos capturing real reflections of how our Lord has touched people's lives (from inside and outside the Three Churches). Thought-provoking props and inspiring music. Hosted in St. Brigid's.

Highlights:

- 10 videos (Three Churches YouTube channel), with amazing stories, viewed 1621 times.
- St. David's Catholic 6th Form College contributed copy and paintings and shared internally.
- Corpus Christi pupil shared her testimony and song from a school production of Godspell.

Next Steps: Ad-hoc videos produced in more informal settings (e.g. parks, pubs and at home)? Ad-hoc informal gatherings (e.g. in Church halls) to view and discuss, to support fellowship and friendship? Education sector to use as complementary resource to provoke discussion and debate?

Living Prayer - <https://www.3churches.org/living-prayer/>

A down-to-earth and humorous existing prayer course, that stimulates discussion. Consists of short videos with optional facilitator notes / questions. We used this 24/7 prayer movement resource as a basis for sessions jointly facilitated by Dean Christian and Phil Burkhard, in St. David's College Chapel.

Highlights:

- An eight-session journey through the Lord's Prayer.
- 15 people, of all ages, participated from the Three Churches and beyond.
- A Millennial said: "it was less about learning and more about sharing and letting God in..."

Next Steps: Others to facilitate small prayer groups and / or to use to complement an Alpha Course?

The Grapevine Magazine - <https://www.3churches.org/the-grapevine/>

An interactive publication that anyone inside or outside the Church, of any age, can contribute to! The focus is faith, hope and love in the 21st Century Christian faith community. Three issues per year with articles that inspire, inform & challenge perceptions. Three Churches & wider editorial team.

Highlights:

- First two issues published. Articles from inside and outside the Three Churches.
- Christ The King Primary School, Corpus Christi and St. David's agreed to contribute & share.
- Christ the King Year 6 pupils have read articles and taken home copy. St. David's Catholic 6th Form College has shared online and added to their Learning Resource Centre.

Next Steps: Even more contributors and topical articles from the neighbourhood, Nation & beyond!

Phil Burkhard (07816 756 509)

The Sustainable Clothes & Book Market.

The sustainable clothes and book market takes place every 3rd Saturday of the month between 1pm until 5pm at Christ the King Parish Centre. We have had great interest from our Parish, both with donations and volunteering, and have a total of 14 volunteers, with some coming from our local community. Christ the King School have also shown an interest in the project and have donated many items collected from parents.

The market seemed to be quickly established with the local community and is continuously busy with around 30/40 people using it. The aim of the market is also to fulfil our Proclaim and Outreach initiatives. The café has been a success, with the smaller tables giving it a warm friendly café-like atmosphere, encouraging people to stay longer, giving us an opportunity to interact.

The next stage is to encourage people who are “not” involved with any Church activities to help, also to establish closer links with the school, thus strengthening our Church community.

Simon & Sylvia Brockway

Quiz Night

The Quiz Night aim was to have a regular parish social event. This has been running from September with between four and six teams. Our aims are: to encourage more people to come from our own parishioners, and to open it to the local the community. To have nine regular quiz masters to cover September to May, with donations going to various Church activities and charities.

Simon & Sylvia Brockway

Liturgy Report

The report to last year's AGM recorded how things had been during the pandemic i.e. from March 2020 to Summer 2022. Things are now more or less back to normal. Few people have resumed sharing the sign of peace during Mass with a handshake and communion continues to be received under one kind. Sharing of the chalice has been permitted since Maundy Thursday but the decision about resumption is a matter for each parish priest. The 3 Churches Liturgy Group has considered the matter at its last 2 meetings but so far advised deferral. However we are aware that quite a lot of churches have resumed offering communion under both kinds with reasonable uptake from parishioners so it would seem appropriate to revisit the issue in early Autumn.

The numbers attending Mass have gradually increased – though they are still significantly lower than pre-pandemic. Since 1st April numbers at 6pm Saturday evening Mass have been 80-90; numbers at 9am Sunday Mass were around 70-80. Since the change of time to 9.30am at the end of April numbers have increased to around 80-90. For both Masses attendance in recent weeks has been affected by bank holidays, 1st Communion celebrations and a school Mass at St Teilo's. It is evident that the monthly Sunday morning family Masses and the reintroduction of children's liturgy from the end of April have drawn some families back – but there is still some way to go.

Some liturgical celebrations have not resumed since the pandemic – morning prayer before weekday Mass and weekly eucharistic adoration.

3 Churches Liturgical Celebrations

During the last year the 3 Churches Liturgy Group has had up to 6 attendees from Christ the King (Kath Liddington, Maureen Greening, Tania Walsh, Matt Conroy, Justin McCarthy and Elizabeth Taylor). Christ the King parishioners have been involved in arrangements for 3 churches celebrations. Those held at Christ the King included a prayer service for Ukraine, Mass with the sick and the Easter Vigil.

Individual Ministry Reports

Readers - Muriel Gaunt (6pm Mass) and John Worthington (9/9.30am)

The reader rota for 6pm Saturday Mass consists of 5 people. Appeals for new members have not been successful and it has not been possible to move to using 2 readers at each Mass. The rota for 9.30am Mass has 12 Members and there has been a return to having 2 readers taking part at each Mass.

Welcomers - Muriel Gaunt (6pm) and Kate Congdon (9.30am)

6pm Mass has 4 teams of 2 people each. 9.30am Mass has 13 people and would like to recruit one more person so that each team has 2 people. The welcomers have taken on responsibility for changing the streaming camera view during Mass and in the case of the 9.30am team, liaising with the children's liturgy catechists. The fact that the teams have willingly taken on these new responsibilities is much appreciated. Overall the teams ensure the congregation feel supported and are welcomed appropriately.

Ministry of the Altar Jon Dartnell (9.30am Sunday), Ben Price (Guild of St Stephen link), Andy Lee (6pm Saturday), Elizabeth Taylor (weekdays)

The big development in the past year has been enrolment into the Guild of St Stephen, the international organisation of altar servers. This brings the parish into line with St Brigid's and St Paul's and provides Christ the King's altar servers with recognition for their service and support for their ministry to ensure that high standards are maintained on the altar.

Enrolment in the Guild is possible after six month's service and servers enrolled are presented with a pack which includes the Guild's handbook and a medal. The final step in the process is for the parish itself to be affiliated to the Guild. This requires the agreement of the Archbishop and with the necessary paperwork sent to Canon Matthew on 28th February it is hoped that this will come through shortly.

The other hoped-for benefit of joining the Guild is that it will assist with the recruitment of new servers. The Sunday morning Mass has benefitted from a new volunteer, who is already proving to be an excellent addition to the team and the Saturday evening team has a recent recruit. However even so each team has only 3 servers and for weekday Masses we are down to 2 servers meaning that some weekday Masses are celebrated without a server (though we have some help from one of the St Brigid's servers and 3 people who help with setting up). As Fr Andy pointed out as he appealed for new recruits when enrolling the existing servers into the Guild, without servers to prepare for the Mass there is too much pressure on the clergy to guarantee the timely celebration of the Mass.

Please seriously consider joining the team of Acolytes on the altar. The ministry is open to anyone who has made their first Holy Communion, and we welcome anyone regardless of age or gender, even if they can only help occasionally. Training is provided, as are albs and cinctures so there are no costs involved. Being more involved in the Mass and deepening your understanding of the celebration are just two of the benefits; being on the livestream may be seen as a mixed blessing (certainly if like me, the author Jon, you have a face for radio) but it helps bring the Mass to those otherwise unable to participate.

Thank you to those who are currently keeping the serving ministry going. If you would like to think about joining or require more information please contact one of us.

Music Ministry – Kath Liddington

Since the 2022 AGM, music and singing has returned to the three Churches. In CtK it has been led at 9am Mass by Matt Conroy for the past year with the involvement of a group of 8 singers. However we have been concerned about the very limited engagement of the congregation as a whole in singing the praises of the Lord. From time to time, Sudhir Lobo provides guitar music to lead singing at 6 pm Mass. (Max Davies supports St Brigid's. St Paul's is still reliant on unaccompanied singing but is looking into the possibility of engaging a paid musician.)

Music over Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter was varied, with new music introduced and singers from across the three Churches joining forces for 3 Churches services.

In April, Matt made the decision to step down from playing at Christ the King. Ami Liddington has stepped in to play at the 9.30 Mass. Simon Williams continues to support the monthly Family Mass at CtK and is willing to play at special Masses when needed. Volunteers are still needed to lead the music across all three Churches, but there has been no response to previous appeals. We still need musicians to come forward particularly given the need to develop the music ministry in time for Advent and Christmas

Eucharistic Ministers - Caroline Dirks (6pm) and Justin McCarthy (9.30am)

Both weekend Masses have fewer eucharistic ministers compared with the pre-pandemic situation. With communion continuing only under one kind 1 Minister is needed when Fr Andy is celebrant, 2 when Fr Matthew is celebrant. 6pm Mass

Saturday the Ministry is down to four regulars with a fifth hoping to resume after illness. There is no formal rota but to date there has always been just enough cover with Deacon Christian often present and able to assist. There are 11 regulars on the rota for 9.30am Mass. Additional ministers will be needed for both rotas as and when distribution of communion under both kinds resumes or if congregation numbers increase markedly.

Taking communion out to the housebound continues with Fr Andy and a number of the ministers involved in this as the need arises.

Sacristy - Elizabeth Taylor

Looking after the sacristy and the altar area is currently a solo effort apart from Valerie Graham's continuing assistance with the laundry of small altar linens. Help is needed – the tasks include cleaning and tidying, looking after the altar linen, ordering supplies and giving the brass an occasional polish (currently totally neglected!).

Family Masses Marie O'Brien

This time last year we were about to celebrate our first monthly family Mass since the pandemic. That was a huge success and since then we have celebrated regular family Masses at 9.30am on the third Sunday of every month. These have been consistently well attended with large numbers of children taking part in the ministries and we have received positive feedback from parishioners and clergy. Our Christmas Eve Mass saw over 70 children taking part in various ministries and processions and both the church and parish centre were packed to capacity. Despite our initial fears that the school holidays would mean low numbers, Easter Sunday too was very well attended with over 60 children taking part. Our celebrations are lively and joyful and together with the reintroduction of children's liturgy, are clearly encouraging young families back to church. We have a very small team of volunteers that organise and coordinate the children. Going forward, we would very much welcome new volunteers and new ideas.

Children's Liturgy Anne Taylor-Jones

The reintroduction of children's liturgy after a gap of some 9 years, started at the end of April to coincide with the change of time of Sunday morning Mass to 9.30am. Take up so far as been limited – between 6 and 14 children – but the initial weeks have coincided with 3 bank holiday weekends, half term, first communion celebrations and a school Mass at St Teilo's. The start has been encouraging nonetheless. We are grateful for the support and encouragement of the staff of Christ the King primary school. There is a rota of 3 teams of 3 people (2 catechists and 1 supporter) to lead the liturgy.

Looking to the Future

We need more people to offer their services in the liturgical ministries – as altar servers, musicians, eucharistic ministers, readers, in the sacristy and with the family Masses in particular. We have made a start on drawing back families to regular Mass attendance but we need to keep going and build on this.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this report and to everyone engaged in any way in the liturgical ministries.

Elizabeth Taylor

Bereavement Support Group – Report to the Christ the King AGM June 2023

The 3 Churches Bereavement Support Group has existed for 11 years. Currently we are very few in number – 5 of us, all Christ the King based. This includes Sally McLaughlin who has joined us to handle admin for the group.

The support offered to bereaved families takes the form of :

- ⬆ initial contact (visit or phone usually) with a card from the group giving our details and offering help with arranging the funeral or simply to listen
- ⬆ welcoming at the funeral on behalf of the 3 Churches
- ⬆ mass at Christ the King on the first Tuesday of the month when we remember by name those who died 3 months previously - their families are individually invited to attend
- ⬆ the Mass of Memories in November to which all are welcome but families bereaved in the last 12 months are individually invited, as are parishioners who have lost a close relative
- ⬆ a card on the first anniversary of the death offering our continued prayers and support.

We have a dedicated mobile contact number (07594217098) and email address (bereavementsupport@3churches.org).

Since July 2022 we have supported 29 families.

Offering friendship to the bereaved is a key way for our churches to 'reach out' to others as Christ has called us to do. Sometimes the person who has died is a long standing member of one of the churches, but quite often the person is unknown to us. Often the families themselves have had little contact with the Catholic Church. But whatever the situation the families we support are always very appreciative. But what we can do is much restricted by the very limited number of group members. We particularly need group members from St Brigid's and St Paul's – but more generally individuals willing to support bereaved families.

Elizabeth Taylor, Maureen Greening, Anne McDevitt, Brenda Hudson and Sally McLaughlin

3 churches communications report

-Website, social media and newsletter

Introduction and audience

In the 12-month period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023, there were 53,702 users to the 3 churches website. This peaked on Christmas Eve (24 December 2022) and also around Easter (8/9 April 2023).

Users by Country over time

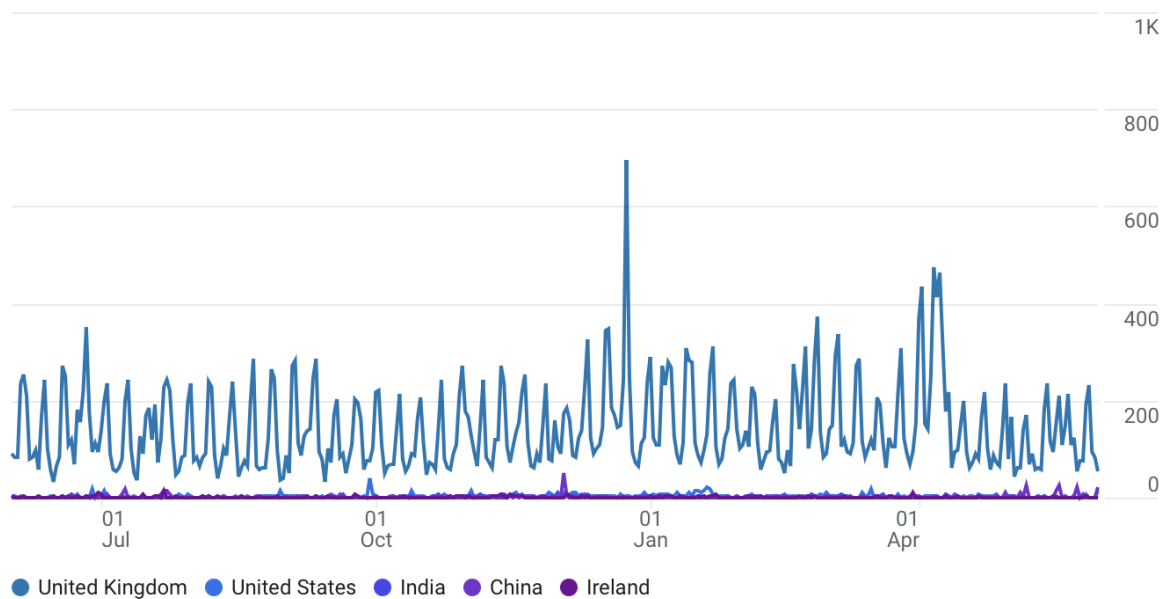


Figure 1. Overall page views to 3 churches website (June 2022 – May 2023)

Streamed masses page remains the most popular page, with 9,994 views in the same period. Whilst most users are from the United Kingdom, as shown below in figure 2, these masses are being viewed across the globe.

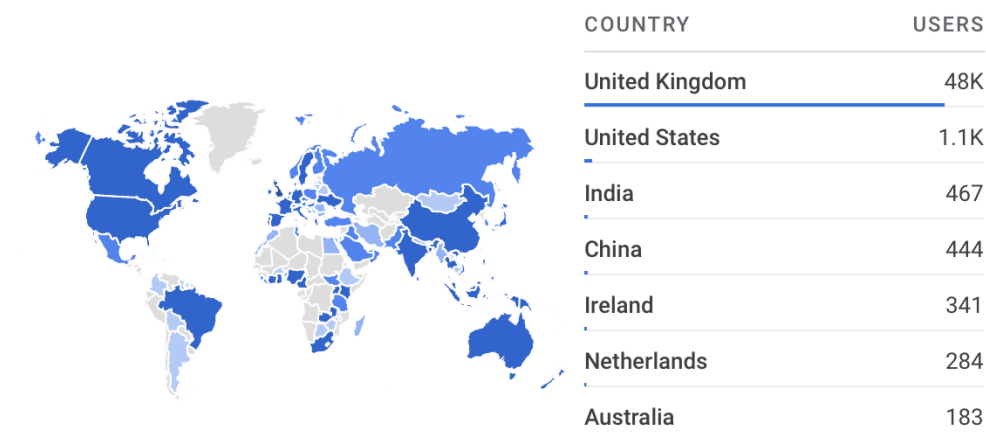


Figure 2. Visitor countries to 3 churches website

The top 10 countries that visit the 3 churches websites between 1 June 2022 and 31 May 2023 are listed below in table 1.

Country	Users	New users
United Kingdom	48428	54123
United States	1065	1086
India	467	492
China	444	389
Ireland	341	382
Netherlands	284	303
Australia	183	239
Cameroon	182	180
Philippines	179	178
Spain	160	176

Table 1. Top 10 countries visiting the 3 churches website June 2022-May 2023

Most popular content

The top most viewed pages on the website are shown below. Views are for the 12-month period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023 inclusive.

Page title	Views
3 Churches in Cardiff Official website for Christ the King, St Paul's and St Brigid's R.C. churches in Cardiff, UK.	16471
Streamed masses	6520
St Brigid's church webcam	6379
Newsletter	5987
Mass times	3590
Newsletter	3125
Our churches	2502
Prayers of the faithful for all masses (13 March 2022)	1167
Bidding prayers	1164
Bidding prayers	596
Contact us	552
Our priests	535
Prayers of the faithful for 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (23 January 2022)	426
Catholic schools	396
3 churches newsletter, Sunday 5 April 2020 (Palm Sunday)	348
Synod	305
Bidding prayers for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (year C) – 12 December 2021	295
Relics of St Bernadette tour 2022	276
Bidding prayers for the faithful feast of Christ the King – Sunday 21 November 2021 (year C)	274
3 churches newsletter, 27 June 2021	269
First Holy Communion	261

Table 2. Most viewed pages on 3 churches website during June 2018 to June 2022

How people get to the website

Website changes and improvements

In response to feedback received from the most recent Synod consultation across our churches, a 3 churches communications task and finish group was formed in November 2022.

One of the actions identified by this group is to refresh and update the content on our 3 churches website, much of which has become outdated and inaccurate.

A number of pages on the website have already been updated. This work will continue as we continue to identify and work with subject matter experts for the different areas, groups and activities.

The homepage has also been redesigned (see figure 3) and now allows for more featured items, news and links to be surfaced on the website. There is now a welcome message as well as quick access to the live streams for St Brigid's and Christ the King. This page will continue to be refined. The content is refreshed weekly and there is a link to further news posts which will continue to be added. There are clear call-to-actions to our Facebook page, to subscribe to the new format digital newsletter described later in this report, as well as quick access to our Synod page, The Grapevine magazine, Living Faith talks and Canon's Stall.

Additional pages have been added to the website for the Grapevine magazine, Living Faith talks and Liturgy calendar.

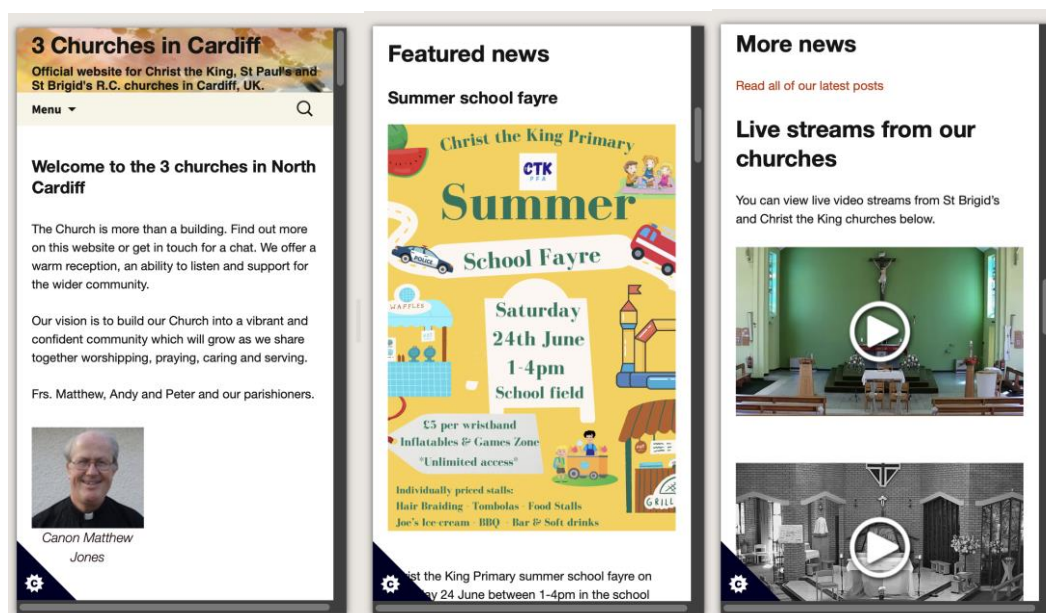


Figure 3. Redesigned website homepage (mobile view shown)

Social media

A 3 churches Facebook page was established in July 2012 at facebook.com/3churches

As of June 2023, the page has 283 followers and 255 likes. In the 12-month period 1 June 2022-31 May 2023 the 3 churches Facebook page **reached 1543 people**. The Facebook page is used to support our website as an additional communications and engagement channel.

The 3 churches Facebook audience demographics are shown below.

Facebook Page followers ⓘ

283

Age & gender ⓘ

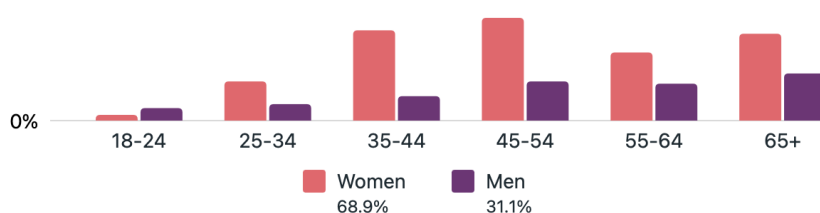


Figure 4. 3 churches Facebook page audience demographics

Newsletter

Another action taken by the communications working group in response to the Synod consultation was to revamp the church newsletter. In February 2023 the 3 churches newsletter moved to the online Mailchimp platform and the opportunity was taken to revise the format. The new format is more accessible, mobile device compatible and more interactive. A printed version is still available in our churches and a link to this version included in each email newsletter.

The newsletter subscribed audience has grown by around 40% (from around 167 subscribers when the newsletter was initially set up to 236 subscribers) in just a few months.

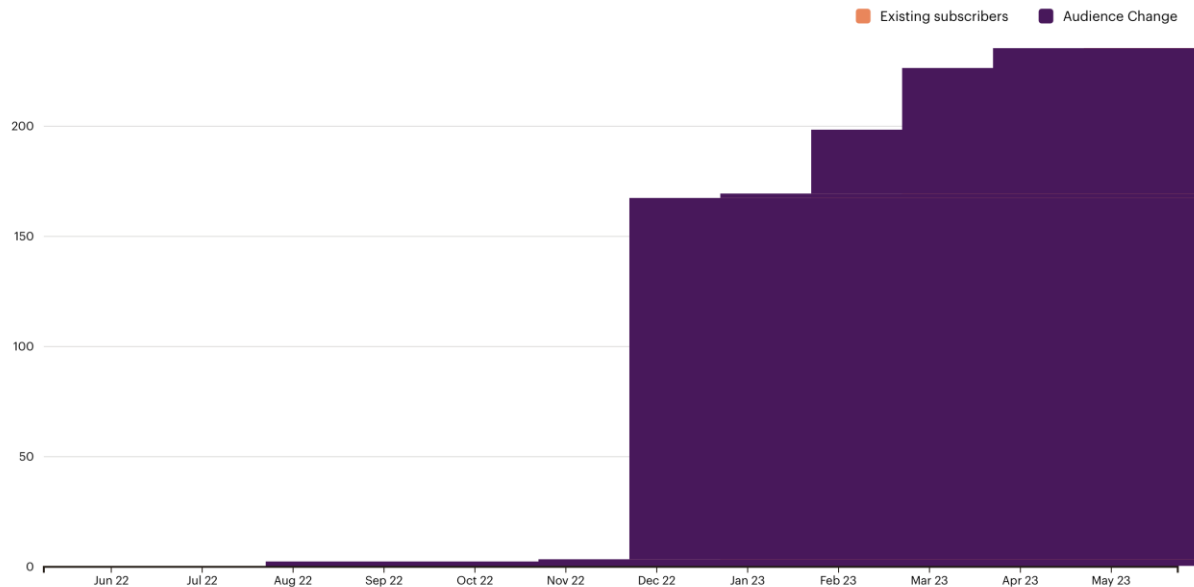


Figure 5. Audience growth for digital 3 churches newsletter

Date of newsletter	Opens	Clicks
26 February 2023	82.2%	23.6%
05 March 2023	82.1%	28.3%
12 March 2023	79.9%	25.1%
19 March 2023	79.1%	18.7%
26 March 2023	82.8%	25.0%
02 April 2023	84.9%	25.8%
9 & 16 Apr 2023	81.7%	17.8%
23 April 2023	76.3%	16.5%
30 April 2023	80.9%	14.0%
07 May 2023	78.1%	15.9%
14 May 2023	79.1%	16.7%
21 May 2023	81.2%	17.9%
28 May 2023	76.8%	17.6%

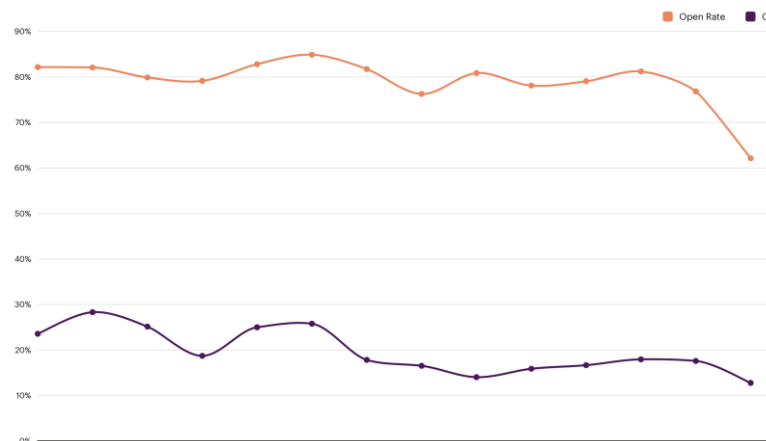


Figure 6. Email newsletter engagement (email opens and link clicks)

It is now possible for anyone to subscribe or unsubscribe online to the newsletter, the process is fully automated and GDPR compliant.

The format of the newsletter will be reviewed regularly. Feedback from parishioners is also encouraged.

Parish directory

Work is also underway to develop a parish directory using the platform Mailchimp, since this enables integration into the newsletter subscriber database. It will enable parishioners to go beyond subscribing to the newsletter and optionally choose to register other key information, such as involvement in ministries or activities in our 3 churches. Individuals will be able to update or remove their information at any time and access will be restricted to key individuals only.

Costs

The annual website hosting cost with TsoHost for 2023 is £84.96 plus £35.99 for the website SSL certificate. There are no other maintenance costs associated with the website.

The Mailchimp newsletter is currently on Mailchimp's Essential plan and with a 15% non-profit discount costs approximately £11 a month.

Luke Todd

Simon Williams

Parish report SVP

Our St Vincent De Paul Society Conference (Christ The King & St Brigid's) continues its work - not just within our Parish boundaries but the adjoining areas where the neighbouring Parish may not have an SVP presence.

Our mission is as it has always been – to seek and find those in need, providing them with practical support and assistance. The work includes visiting, providing material and financial assistance where practical and helping with a host of other activities, some of which are initiatives being introduced by other local outreach groups. Our work is done on a 'face to face' basis, so assessing needs and building relationships with our beneficiaries is important.

We have 4 'full' members and one auxiliary member, not a large number but we have been able to respond positively to all the requests for assistance (requests come in many ways – examples include direct from an individual, from a concerned relative or friend, via Parish Priests, referrals from other Conferences and from National office).

The current financial situation is, of course, causing many people problems and over the last 12 months we have provided food, furniture and money on several occasions to individuals and families who are in need, including Ukrainian families who have sought safety from the terrible situation in their own country. We have paid particular attention to a young family who moved from Barry to be closer to Heath Hospital due to medical issues and who struggled financially to settle into their new property.

Further afield we continue to support our twinned Conference in India which thankfully has survived the pandemic and maintains its work within the local community – it has a particularly close relationship with the schools and supplies students with many of the materials they need to further their education. We exchange letters with them throughout the year and it is remarkable to hear of the work they undertake and the assistance they are able to provide.

The SVP Community shops continue to do well, our nearest is Abergele Road Rumney but there is also a new one on Crwys Road and one in Pontypridd – they provide much needed access to reasonably priced clothing and household goods as well as a source of income to the Society.

We are fortunate with the generosity of our parishioners, we have had many offers of furniture, clothing and other household goods which have been gratefully accepted at the Shops, and we thank all those who have kept us in mind when looking to recycle/re-use good quality items – please continue to do so. We don't currently have storage facilities for large goods, so we are restricted in what we can deal with. We have also benefitted from the proceeds of the Parish 50 club, which has enabled us to support those in the greatest financial need.

We are also very fortunate that our parish has several other groups organising activities to help those in need – Warm Spaces, the Free Clothes and Book market at Christ The King and the Free Food Market at St Brigid's are good examples, so there is a lot of community spirit going around at a time of great concern for many people.

Peter Morris
Conference President