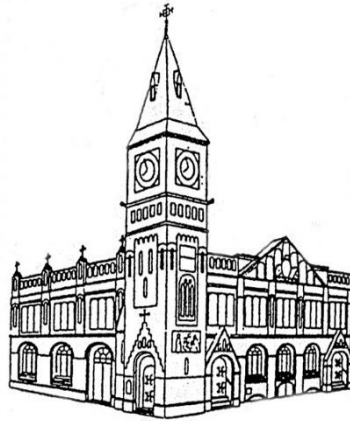


**The Parish of
Brighton**

The Chapel Royal



**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
(APCM)**

30th April 2023

Contents

1. **Agenda**
2. **Minutes of meeting 1st May 2022**
3. **Churchwardens' Reports (x2)**
4. **Safeguarding Report**
5. **Deanery Synod Report**
6. **Building** - Covered in Churchwardens Report **section 3**, & Vicar's Report, **section 12**
7. **Coffee Shop Report**
8. **LCCR (Tuesday Concerts)**
9. **Electoral Roll Report**
10. **Evensong Report**
11. **Knit & Natter Report**
12. **Vicar's Annual Report**
13. **PCC Annual Report**

Finance Report to be received at a later date following Independent Examiner Certificate. The PCC has agreed 2022 annual accounts as presented by the Parish Finance Officer.

1. Agenda

Parish of Brighton: The Chapel Royal, Sunday 30th April 2023.

Vestry Meeting

To elect 2 Churchwardens

Annual General Meeting

Prayers

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1st May 2022
4. Matters Arising
5. To receive Reports from:
 - Coffee Shop
 - Chapel Royal Concerts (LCCR)
 - Evensong
 - Knit & Natter
6. To receive Annual Reports of:
 - Churchwardens
 - Safeguarding
 - Deanery Synod
 - Building – Covered in Churchwardens Report **section 3**, and Vicar's Report, **section 12**
 - Electoral Roll
 - Vicar's Annual Report
 - PCC
7. To receive the Annual Accounts for year ending 31st December 2022
8. To appoint an Independent Examiner for 2023/2024
9. To elect Deanery Synod members
10. To elect members to serve on the Parochial Church Council for 2023/24
11. Any Other Business
12. Date of next Annual General Meeting

2. Minutes for Annual Parochial Church Meeting 1st May 2022

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
on Sunday 1st May 2022 at 11.30 am
in the Chapel Royal, 164 North Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1EA**

15 people were in attendance and the list was on file.

Vestry meeting to elect two Churchwardens

David Bishop acted as Chair. Richard Lovett and Mary Woodhouse had been nominated as churchwardens by Margaret Croucher and Father James Foley respectively. Judy Stanger and Chris Stringer seconded these nominations. It was unanimously agreed that the requirement for churchwardens to stand down after a specified period should be waived in the case of Mary Woodhouse so she and Richard Lovett were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

David Bishop stood down from the Chair.

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome

Richard Lovett and Mary Woodhouse jointly chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone on the happy occasion of Father David Biggs' return to preside over morning service at the Chapel Royal after an absence of 17 months. He will chair the next PCC meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Father James Foley, Carly-May Kavanagh, Adam Englebright, Hilary Niblett, Christine Rowell, Pat Drake, Jo Dunn and Father David Biggs.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23rd May 2021

These had been published, together with the Annual Reports, and were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. Enid Lovett and David Bishop moved that the Annual Reports be accepted and this was unanimously agreed.

4. Matters Arising

There were none.

5. Reports

Reports on Evensong, Knit & Natter, the Coffee Shop, Chapel Royal Concerts and Safeguarding had been received and published. The Coffee Shop had now re-opened and Lunchtime Concerts had been included in Brighton Fringe publicity.

6. Annual Reports

Annual Reports on the PCC, Use of the Building, Electoral Roll, Deanery Synod and Churchwardens had been received and published. Matters normally covered in the Vicar's Report were included in the Churchwardens' Report and Use of the Building Report. Richard Lovett explained that, at the time of writing, a date for Father David's return had not been fixed. He was now back with us and we can rejoice!

Enid Lovett corrected the figure for the Electoral Roll. The total stands at 87 names, not 88 as published.

Mark Laverick gave further details about the main topic addressed at Deanery Synod in the past year, which was the report on sexuality. Despite hopes on the part of many people that this would lead to a fresh approach, the same old ground had been revisited. Apparently, the aim of the report was to encourage listening to people without trying to change their minds and Mark found this rather pointless. The Deanery was generally positive about LGBTQ+ people but there were exceptions to this.

Richard Lovett and Martin Mitchener will establish who is using the building on Wednesdays.

7. To receive the Annual Accounts for year ended 31st December 2021

The PCC had agreed the annual accounts and these will be circulated when Maureen O'Hare has finished preparing them. Any questions may then be addressed to the churchwardens.

8. To appoint an Independent Examiner for 2022/2023

Christopher Tyler, now self-employed, was nominated by Enid Lovett and seconded by David Bishop. The appointment was unanimously agreed.

9. To elect Deanery Synod Members

The Deanery Synod normally meets three or four times a year in order to discuss matters that affect the Deanery as a whole. Carly-May Kavanagh stood down as our representative. Mary Woodhouse nominated Chris Stringer and this was seconded by Enid Lovett. Richard Lovett nominated Mark Laverick as our other representative and this was seconded by David Bishop. The Chairs thanked Mark and Chris for taking on this responsibility, and Carly-May for her contribution over the last year.

10. Election of members to serve on the Parochial Church Council for 2022/23

The following members had been nominated and seconded according to official procedure and were unanimously agreed:-

Father David Biggs, SCP (Vicar), by office
Mrs Mary Woodhouse (Churchwarden)
Mr Richard Lovett (Churchwarden)
Mrs Caroline Brown (Hon. Secretary)
Mr Christopher Stringer, by office
Mr Mark Laverick (Lay Reader)
Mr David Farrer
Mr Steve Pates
Mr David Bishop (Deputy Churchwarden)
Mr Adam Englebright
Father James Foley
Mrs Hilary Niblett
Mrs Enid Lovett
Ms Catherine Wilson

Ms Roosa Herranen.

11. Any Other Business

Coffee Shop: Angie Lynn asked for posters announcing its re-opening to be distributed around town. May's partner charity is The Order of St Lazarus, dedicated to helping those suffering from leprosy in Nepal and elsewhere. We need to do our best to bring customers (and their dogs!) back after such a long hiatus, and Angie remarked on how lovely it was that passers-by could once more come in, light a candle and sit quietly. Richard thanked Angie and other helpers for the hard work they put in to running the coffee shop on Saturdays.

Deanery Review: Enid Lovett, Mark Laverick and Roosa Herranen had spent a lot of time last year working through this and the new mission statement had replaced the previous one on the service sheet. Enid asked for it to be posted on the church's website. Enid, Mark and Roosa will meet up with Father David Biggs to complete the review.

Website: Richard Lovett reported that Benjie McDonald-Moss had moved from Brighton and Adam Englebright had kindly offered to take over this responsibility. He will familiarise himself with the set-up and run a training session for interested parties wishing to learn how to add items to the website. For instance, the Lunchtime Concerts group would like to have a link to it.

Memorial Service for Paul Littlewood: This will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 13th July and the gym in the crypt had offered to donate to a charity chosen by Paul's sister, Jill. She had expressed her wish that any donations be split evenly between the Chapel Royal and Victim Support. The owner of the Pavilion Café will cater for a reception afterwards, cordoning off a space. In the event of rain, this will move to the Parish Hall in the church. Chris Stringer and Jill were making arrangements for the final resting-place of Paul's ashes.

Parish Giving Scheme: Revd. Andrew Smith will preach at morning service on Sunday 12th June and give a talk afterwards on the Parish Giving Scheme.

The meeting expressed their enormous gratitude to Mary and Richard for keeping the Chapel Royal's lights on for the past seventeen months during an incredibly difficult period in the nation's life. Richard made special mention of the Parish

Administrator, Martin Mitchener, who had contributed so much to the life and maintenance of the church.

12. Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 30th April 2023.

3. Churchwardens report (x2)

Report to the APCM by Mary Woodhouse, Church Warden, March 2023

As with any community the last year brought us many highs and lows. Not only have we overcome any problems and adversities but we have grown together in coping with whatever life has thrown at us. We have gained strength from our times together both spiritually and socially.

Service numbers have grown, and the church and the hall have many bookings bringing in people who would not normally come to church on a regular basis. Last Easter we welcomed Canon Reverend David Stone to celebrate this wonderful service in the Church Year.

A fortnight later came a day none of us will forget. Father David returned to us. We clapped him in at the beginning of the service and clapped him out at the end while singing his favourite hymn, 'Jerusalem the Golden'. Over fifty people witnessed this very special service and four furry friends. It was also wonderful to have Canon Doris and Father Martin with us to celebrate this day, so long awaited. We soon knew Father David was back on good form when he managed to jam the photocopier within a day of his return, luckily Martin has had to deal with this so many times and he sorted it out once again.

In the second week of May we were very sorry to hear of the death of our dear friend Edna Northen after a very short illness. I still expect to see her sitting in the same chair on a Wednesday morning. What a wonderful lady she was. At least she is now with Robin. Stalwarts of The Chapel Royal who will never be forgotten.

May welcomed The Brighton Festival and once again we were invited to Father James' Open House. It is always such a pleasure to see such interesting artwork in so many different forms, alongside the amazing ceramics created by our dear

friend. Lovely surroundings, lovely food and excellent company always makes this a day to look forward to.

Chris and Andre took centre stage at the beginning of June as they married at Brighton Town Hall with many family and friends to share this very special occasion. This celebration was carried over to the Sunday after, Pentecost, when their union was blessed during the service by Father Martin. Again the church was packed with friends and family and canine friends, followed by a wonderful shared lunch. We were also celebrating The Jubilee, and the lovely Jubilee trifle, made by David Bishop, disappeared before I could even reach for a spoon! The tables were spread with delicious foods, washed down with Rose Prosecco and we finished off with a raffle [of course] raising £116.00.

In July we welcomed an Italian family as their children were baptised. Hearing the Our Father in Italian, spoken loudly and clearly, just reminded us how lovely it is to share such special times with friends from far and wide.

By the end of June Covid numbers rose again so we made the decision to have coffee in the Pavilion Gardens in the open air.

After a long time coming, in July, we held a memorial service for Paul Littlewood, my fellow Churchwarden who died so suddenly over two years ago. We remembered all the wonderful work he did at The Chapel, and representatives from all the other groups he was involved with, including Victim Support and The Garden Greeters, expressed their thanks and pleasure of having worked alongside him over many years. It was lovely to see his sister Jill again, alongside so many family and friends. A wonderful reception was laid on in the Pavilion Gardens by David the owner, just as Paul would have liked. In beautiful surroundings, with family, friends, visitors, and various wildlife, both furry and feathered.

We continued to frequent the Gardens during August, taking with us new people and visitors from the congregation. As the summer continued and covid continued to rise, so did the temperature, up to and over forty degrees, so it was lovely to sit under the shade of the trees with our Chapel friends and watch the world go by.

September brought a flurry of activities. Back to Bankers for fish and chips, Knit and Natter resumed and we held another successful Macmillan Coffee Morning. Things were starting to get back to normal again.

Then, on September 8th, we had the awful news that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II had died. A Zoom meeting, and many messages later we were organised to open up the church for people to light candles, sit quietly and reflect and sign a book of condolences. It remained open during the funeral and many, many people came into the quiet space, some sitting for quite a while, with their thoughts and prayers.

After mourning the loss of our dear Queen at the beginning of October we celebrated Harvest Festival. Father David was up in Scotland so it was lovely to welcome back Father Martin for this occasion, finishing off, as we are good at, with a shared lunch.

In October we held the funeral for James Cairns. Such a lovely man who sadly lost his battle with brain cancer. Leaving a wife and young family. Father Martin led the proceedings. It was truly an amazing occasion, celebrating James' life with music, readings, laughter and tears. One hundred and fifty-six people, sixteen children and a dog somehow managed to find somewhere to stand or sit to take part in this special service.

Our Patronal Festival was held a few days later and we welcomed back Father Denis as the celebrant and preacher. This was another lovely occasion, with of course cake, a fabulous creation made by David which was in fact to celebrate Father David's birthday a few days earlier. In the evening we held our first Evensong for over two years. What a wonderful way to end such a special day.

As Autumn drew in we dusted off the lovely giant poppies created by the Knit and Natter ladies to decorate the church for Remembrance Sunday. Another Evensong in November brought a big congregation to share in this choral tradition, so loved by myself and Father David.

Advent Sunday, a new Church Year and even more to celebrate. Father David's 40th anniversary of his ordination. Canon Doris, Deacon Julie, cake and fizz. Another day to remember in the history of The Chapel. A week later and we were onto the Christmas Fair. A dry but rather cold day. Many, many, people came in to buy and browse round the lovely stalls and have a go on our raffle and tombolas. Thank you to everyone who helped, run a stall, set up and clear up, donated goods and contributed in any-way to make this a firm fixture in our Church calendar. The Coffee Shop was particularly busy and a huge thank you to Margaret and her team for all their hard work with the cakes and coffee! As always, a special thank you to Martin, who is such a great help and support with all things Fair related. There was no excuse for not having any cash as Richard and the card machine

were on call and at the ready at all times. We raised over £900 for our Church funds. This year our goal is £1000!

As we travelled through Advent snow and ice swept the south-east and surrounding areas but The Chapel remained a warm and welcoming place for worship, prayer, reflection and social gatherings and a quiet, private place for the groups who hire the hall.

The Christmas services were well attended and the Church looked beautiful with the trees, lights and the crib under the high altar. As the three kings completed the scene for Epiphany and joined The Holy Family we were once again lucky enough not only to take part in a wonderful service but to enjoy David's fabulous Kings Cakes, complete with 'feves' with our coffee.

Candlemass brought us to the end of the Christmas season. Figures, crib, trees and all things Yuletide, carefully packed away until the end of the year.

As I write this, spring flowers are beginning to show through, and we prepare for the Lenten season, and look forward to Mothering Sunday and more delicious cake, and to Easter, such a special time for all Christian people. For the future I know that we will continue to flourish as a community, as a spiritual family, and that we will try to reach out to all who come through our doors, supported by Father David's never ending pastoral guidance, support and leadership.

As with any group of people there are always those who deserve a special mention and a thank you. Those who have helped in so many ways to keep things going despite hiccups and hurdles. To our musicians, Chris, Adam, Andrew, and Judy and to Sue, always willing to play on a Wednesday if the piano stool is empty.

Chris does the music rotas and is always so organised. You can ask him what the hymn will be in six weeks-time and he will know. All this as well as having a very demanding job and being willing to help out with anything church related if necessary.

To Enid for her continued work on the electoral roll and for her lovely singing, together with Roosa, during the Sunday services.

To Angie for all her endeavours to keep the coffee shop open and for building it up again and bringing in the charities who so desperately need support at this time. And for her continued overseeing of safeguarding matters should any concerns arise.

To those who prepare and serve refreshments after the services, especially to Caroline on a Wednesday, always managing to find cake or biscuits to have with our coffee.

To those who serve, read, intercess, sit on the PCC and Deanery Synod,

To Caroline Brown, our PCC secretary, who always produces such accurate accounts of meetings and the APCM from her notepad and myriad of pencils.
To Steve, dealing with ongoing clock repairs, not an easy task when the machinery you are looking after is way up those stairs. Luckily Steve is very interested in clocks but those he has at home are at least on ground level.

To Maureen our Finance Officer. A difficult job at any-time dealing with Trusts, Auditors, Reports, and keeping up with the latest regulations for church finances.

To Mark, our Reader, for his work with the intercessions and for preaching some Sundays when work permits.

To Rosemary, always willing to help out in anyway, from sorting 'bric a brac' to making coffee or reading at a moment's notice on a Wednesday.

To Stuart, who calls himself a newbie, but has fitted into our church family so well. Stuart now does the weekly banking, produces spread sheets, and has met with Maureen to look at the overall finances and how things run on a monthly basis. He has also offered to run a stall at the next Christmas Fair. That's being organised!

Now to David, our Deputy Churchwarden who carries out so many important duties. Sacristan, serving, polishing anything that is static, Parish Giving, advising on insurance matters, and many other jobs that go unnoticed in the general day to day running of a church. A huge thank you. But best of all, David makes excellent cakes, but you've got to be quick to get a slice. Get your fork at the ready. I speak from experience of missing out too many times.

And then to Martin, our Administrator, master of all church related matters. He deals with all the office admin, compiling mass booklets, printing, floor cleaning and other tradespeople, furniture moving, liaising with groups and people enquiring about church events, and many, many, more jobs that come his way often spending his own time wating around for builders or repair people to turn up. His help with the Christmas Fair, producing posters and banking sheets, sorting tables etc, is invaluable. He is always one step ahead of everyone else!

And now an enormous thank you to Richard. My fellow Churchwarden. Richard deals with so much behind the scenes. The church log book has never been so up to date, along with records of who has keys, records of the church silver, records of who hires the hall, the lunchtime concerts etc. He also has to manage builders and service people in the ongoing struggle to keep things going, including the continuing saga of the heating. The list is endless. And, Richard has also taken over all my duties while I am unwell just to add to his workload. As the saying goes, if you want something done, ask a busy person! Thank you so much Richard.

And now to finish. We have been lucky enough to have the support of Father Martin, Father Denis, Deacon Julie, Canon Doris and dear Father James over the year.

But to have Father David back is the last piece of the puzzle. We are complete and so lucky he is with us again. Father David works tirelessly to support and include everyone in the congregation, visitors, the groups who use the hall, and those who frequent the Coffee Shop.

Nothing is too much trouble. He is well known in the surrounding area too and can rarely walk along the road without someone stopping him for a chat.

Father David welcomes everyone through our glass doors and if they've got a dog, so much the better, in his eyes. We are truly blessed.

Mary Woodhouse. Churchwarden

Report to the APCM by Richard Lovett, Church Warden, April 2023

I believe I mentioned at last year's APCM that I would not be standing as Churchwarden this year. How-ever events overtook me, and it looks as though I will be presenting another Churchwarden's report at the 2024 APCM.

The greatest joy last year came when we were able to welcome Father David back to Chapel Royal in early May. His Ministry here has touched so many people in the Parish, and we are truly blessed to have such a shepherd to us, his flock.

In early 2022 we received the Quinquennial report from our inspecting architect, Julian Vallis. It is a comprehensive report on the condition of the fabric of our lovely old building. We put together a small working group to meet together to discuss the priorities identified in the report. In May 2022 we had to have the uprighter fittings replaced in the kitchen and hall area.

In July 2022 the Clock winder was replaced by Smiths of Derby at a cost in excess of £4k. This was partly offset by a generous gift from a parishioner. Since then the striking mechanism for the bell has failed, and this needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately £3k. We have been given a couple of decent donations towards this, but we do need to fundraise to find the remaining money. Many thanks to the Coffee shop Volunteers for their fundraising efforts on a Saturday. At this point I need to mention Steve Pates for negotiating with Smiths of Derby, and his daring in climbing

the ladder to the top of the tower on numerous occasions to put the clock right, and to adjust the time when the clocks go forward or back. In August 2022 after protracted negotiations with the owners of the Flats at Regency Court and the strip of land that runs along the back of the Church, we were finally able to have the gutters cleared out and urgent roof repair work carried out. This work was carried out by a company who employ steeplejacks, which meant we didn't need to have scaffolding erected (daring Steve Pates had no involvement in this). This work cost us in excess of £10k.

Also in August we discovered that the cupboard used by the cleaner to store his equipment was flooding during heavy rain. The cupboard is situated at the back of the church, and can best be described as a single storey extension with an external flat roof. We had a local contractor look at the roof, and it was established that the felt asphalt roof covering was in a very poor state. Because this was deemed as storm damage, we were able to claim back a substantial portion of the repair cost of £2.5k. Many thanks to David Bishop for his work on the negotiations with the insurance company.

Apart from these major works, we have had to have the usual annual safety checks on the lightning conductors, the fire extinguishers, and the electricity PAC testing carried out. Recently we have had to have a new hand basin and taps fitted in the Accessible (Women's) toilet. At the time of writing this report we are awaiting the installation of a new notice board for outside the building.

We have also received numerous complaints from Church and Hall users regarding the noise levels coming from the Vault 64 Gym, situated in the crypt of the Church, at various times of the day. In September we registered a complaint about the issue with the Environmental Health Department of the City Council, and this is the subject of an ongoing investigation by them. At the time of compiling this report, we are still awaiting a satisfactory outcome.

Most of the above work, where we haven't received donations or insurance money has had to be funded from Parish funds and The St. Johns School Trust. We don't have an infinite cashflow, and need to be very cautious where the money is spent. At the moment we have had to put a hold on using any more money from the St Johns School Trust.

We have recently formed a finance sub-committee comprising of Fr David, Maureen, The Churchwardens, David Bishop and Stuart Jessop. We meet together every couple of months, to ensure that funds are spent wisely.

In January of this year, Mary my fellow Churchwarden suffered a serious illness, from which she has not yet fully recovered. As a result of this, she has made the decision not to stand as Churchwarden this year.

It has been amazing working with Mary since 2020 when I became Churchwarden. We have always bounced ideas off each other, and she is brilliantly supportive. She was an absolute rock during Fr. David's absence and the problems arising from the Covid pandemic. I will miss her, but look forward to working with whoever is elected to succeed her. Thank-you Mary.

Thanks also to Father David for his support and wise counsel, to Martin Mitchener for his massive contribution in keeping our Church running smoothly, and for letting various tradespeople into the building at unearthly hours, to Maureen for her financial acumen, to David Bishop for his work in the sacristy, his knowledge of the insurance market, and for deputising for Mary and I when needed.

Chris for his recommendations of local trades, and his musical contributions, Adam for his work on the web site and his piano playing, Caroline for her minutes, and all the PCC for the support in the last twelve months, and anyone else I've forgotten to mention.

A final thanks to Emma and Greg of the DAC, based at Church House for their help with Faculties and Archdeacon's permissions. Because of their advice, we have successfully avoided any faculty fees in the last twelve months.

Richard Lovett. Churchwarden.

4. Safeguarding report

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for the year was Angie Lynn.

The Safeguarding Policy statement and Expressing Safeguarding Concerns document are displayed in the church.

There is a dedicated email address: safeguarding.chapelroyal@gmail.com to facilitate contacting the safeguarding officer confidentially with any concerns.

The overarching aim of safeguarding at the Chapel Royal is to manage any issues through informed vigilance. It is the responsibility of all members of the congregation to be watchful in ensuring the safety of all members of the Chapel Royal community, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ISSUES

The management of specific incidents is a shared responsibility, and information is shared regarding individuals on a 'need to know' basis, to maintain both safety and confidentiality. Where necessary police and probation services have also been involved.

The PSO would like to thank Fr. David, the members of the congregations and in particular the Churchwardens for their vigilance and support.

Angie Lynn. Parish Safeguarding Officer.

5. Deanery Synod report

No report this year.

6. Building report

Covered in Churchwardens Report **section 3**, and Vicar's Report, **section 12**.

7. Coffee shop report

The Coffee Shop in partnership with local charities re-opened after the pandemic. It has understandably taken a while to rebuild our customer base, so takings have not yet matched pre-pandemic levels, although we have seen some improvement. We recruited charities for 2022 (May to December) successfully, but because of a pause to review the project in October, we were late in approaching charities for 2023, and have struggled to recruit partners. We like to work with smaller charities operating locally in the parish, and our usual partners have struggled to find enough volunteers post pandemic.

The PCC has acknowledged that it is important to have the Chapel open on a Saturday to maintain a community hub, and as an outreach mission.

Because of this we have decided to recruit helpers for the Coffee Shop from within the Chapel Royal congregation, in addition to the team leading the sessions - Angie, David, Hilary, Pat and Steve.

A number of people have been generous with their time, in particular Caroline Brown, Hilary, Jorre, Margaret, Marie, and Stuart. More volunteers would be welcome! This means that we can now meet the Chapel Royal's Health and Safety

policy of having two members of the church in the building when open, even if we don't have a charity partner.

We continue to keep the operation of the Coffee Shop under review, and hope to recruit charity partners in the future. In the meantime, when we don't have a charity partner, profits go to the Chapel Royal, most recently the Clock Clapper Fund. We will be reviewing our pricing shortly. We may in future consider donating a proportion of profits to local charities, in line with our mission of outreach. Steve continues to receive plaudits for his excellent chocolate cake!

A total of £2,361.01 was raised for local charities. Charities that benefited included, The Order of St. Lazarus, The Clare Project, Thousands and Thousands, Sussex Night Shelter, Freedom from Torture, Brighton Unemployment Centre, and The Chapel Royal. A detailed breakdown is available in a separate document which can be viewed at The Chapel Royal.

Angie Lynn

8. LCCR - Tuesday concerts

LCCR Chairman's report.

It was with great pleasure that we were able to re-open finally the LCCR again at the beginning of the year after our enforced closure at the end of 2019 due to COVID. The great thing was that it took us little time to regain our usual sized audiences, and we are extremely grateful for their loyalty.

Paul was able to engage his usual mix of artists and music and to hold a three-concert contribution during the Fringe. We are very grateful to Paul for his efforts and recognise the difficulties when there has been a last-minute cancelation. We are proud of our record of always holding a concert on the scheduled Tuesdays. Our banking difficulties of 2019 were resolved and the system of receipted cash to the artists is working well, and we are grateful to Yoko for keeping on top of this and preparing the accounts.

At the beginning of the year, we sadly had to accept the retirement from the committee of Geoffrey Hatcher, who brought a lot of enthusiasm and wisdom to our work. At the last annual meeting we were very pleased to welcome Ruth Goodall to our committee, and she has managed the Box Office with great efficiency and fairness.

We have now agreed new seating arrangements which means we can leave the altar table in place and only having to move a minimum of chairs. It has been good to see Fr. David back in the office; we are grateful to him, Martin and all supporters of our enterprise.

AEN Whitehouse MA. Chairman LCCR.

9. Electoral Roll report

Last year 2022 the Electoral Roll had 88 names
The Electoral Roll for 2023 has 95 names.
2 have been removed. 9 names have been added
The next full revision of the Electoral Roll is 2025

Enid Lovett. Electoral Roll Officer

10. Evensong report

Evensongs eventually resumed at The Chapel last October after a break of over two years. Despite this rather long interlude due to Covid it was lovely to see so many regular singers from many different churches back in good form and so enthusiastic to take up their places once again.

Much church news was exchanged in-between rehearsal and service and I suspect a trip to the pub after! Through advertising on various appropriate Facebook sites we are now able to reach others in the city and surrounding areas who are interested in this choral tradition. This has resulted in a big increase in the numbers in the congregation which makes all the hard-work so rewarding.

A huge thank you to Chris, our Director of Music, without whom this would not happen. And to Andrew our organist, and of course to everyone who comes and sing; and to Father David who is so supportive in keeping Evensong alive in our city centre church.

Mary Woodhouse. Churchwarden.

11. Knit & Natter report

When we resumed Knit and Natter last September, we decided that it would be nice to do some charity knitting through the year alongside our

own projects, for ourselves, and the church. We have since started knitting some warm colourful blankets which will be eventually shipped off to one of the many worn torn countries in so much need at this time.

Easter chicks have also been made in readiness for Easter Sunday, and after these have flown the nest, we will look at any local charities that we can help in anyway.

There was great interest in our handicraft stall at the Christmas Fair and we completely sold out. A local teacher that came said she would contact me in the future as she would like to put in a bulk order for our little Christmas pudding covers with the Ferrero chocolates for presents for her class at the end of the year. we could be in business!

Thank you to our dedicated ladies who not only knit, are good at nattering but most of all come together to form such a lovely social group.

Mary Woodhouse. Churchwarden.

12. Vicars annual report

Mary our Churchwarden.

Together with Susan Yates, Mary Woodhouse very kindly agreed to be the churchwardens during the closing days of the former joint parish. It was a complex and at times unhappy journey to make, finally resolving itself in June 2009.

As a separate parish Mary, and Susan, continued as churchwardens for the new The Chapel Royal, Parish. Mary later working with Paul Littlewood as churchwardens until Paul's tragic death. Mary then continued to be a churchwarden with Richard Lovett.

Mary has brought her tremendous gifts of management, insight, wisdom, pastoral care and excellent people skills, to her role as a churchwarden. Due to sudden ill health Mary has, wisely, decided she cannot continue in this demanding role. For sixteen years, working with Susan, Paul and Richard, Mary has been a tremendous churchwarden and friend to so many here. All of us are indebted to her conscientiousness work, kindness, thoughtfulness and encouragement.

Mary will continue to be a much loved and valued parishioner at The Chapel Royal. We wish her a good recovery as she lays down her central role of leadership at church.

Richard our Churchwarden

We are fortunate and greatly blessed to have Richard Lovett as a churchwarden. His 'warden-skills' were well formed at the former church of St. Patrick's Hove. The sad closure of St Patrick's has been a blessing to The Chapel Royal with the arrival of Richard and Enid.

Richard has taken up the responsibility for the building and its maintenance in the manner of Paul Littlewood R.I.P.

The Parochial Church Council has continued to work closely with the two churchwardens and Parish Priest to create a Pastoral Celebration of Mass and a creative community hub space.

AA groups and the use of the building

In the past year we have welcomed back most of the 12 Step programmes and AA groups. There have also been some new AA groups meeting in the hall. They greatly value the lovely space, the atmosphere and indeed the spirituality of the venue.

The AA groups have a special place in my pastoral heart. In my twenty-four years here I have met so many people whose lives have been changed and transformed by these meetings. It's always a joy to meet someone, sober many years, whose first meeting was in our hall. Addiction to drugs and alcohol are a real problem within the city. In a small, quiet way, we are doing something to help. I encounter many people on the bus who announce to me they go to my church. It's generally to an AA meeting, and not to Mass!

As a Parish Priest it's a blessing to have a Pastoral relationship with AA members. Some ask for prayers, others ask me to preside at friends of family funerals.

The Saturday Coffee Shop restarted in the Summer and this, together with the Tuesday Lunchtime Musical Concerts (LCCR) are valued by those who support them. The Tuesday Concerts are no longer a PCC responsibility and are run by a separate organisation, LCCR. (see Section 8 for their report).

In more recent months the Saturday Coffee Shop has found it more difficult to recruit local small charities to partner with us. Thank you to all who have found the time to volunteer for this. I appreciate we are feeling pressurised for time.

Funerals

After presiding at Jacob and his wife's marriage and later baptising their daughter, one year on, Fr. Martin presided in church at Jacob's funeral. As a young forty year old, Jacob's death was tragic. The Church was bursting full of young people and many toddlers. All were very grateful for the space and spirituality of our building. Fr. Martin, Fr. James and I joined family and friends for Edna's funeral and Cremation. Her husband, Robin, funeral had been during lockdown and was attended by a small number of people due to the restrictions at the time.

Edna's funeral allowed some of the congregation to attend. At Edna's funeral we were able to give thanks for both of their generous ministries here over twenty years. Robin in his reading and brass cleaning. Edna in charge of the weekly cash count after Wednesday Mass.

All other funerals I have presided over in the past year have been contacts via the city centre, my former parish, friends, AA & 12 Step programmes or my work with HIV many years ago.

Administration

I wish to pay tribute to Martin our Administrator for all his work in the Parish office. He brings administration efficiency and excellent people skills from his secular work environment. If I have a noticeable weakness it is with Admin & IT.

The very fact the Parish Office runs efficiently is down to Martin's skills and efforts, complementing those of Richard and Mary as churchwardens. Agendas, Mass books, notices, notice-sheets, risk-assessments, dealing with enquiries letting contractors in, seeing things to do before they happen. "Thank-you Martin".

Music

A huge, grateful, thanks to Chris & Adam for proving music for the Sunday Mass. If we are known for one liturgical thing, it's our singing. Thank you to Chris for sharing his gift of choosing hymns, songs, and Mass settings that we know or can easily learn. 'Those who sing pray twice over'. Music enriches Mass. Thank you to all singers.

Thank you to Judy for playing a hymn each Wednesday. It's also been lovely to have Sue fill in on the piano when Judy is not available.

Finance

For some years Maureen has been our Finance officer. More latterly we have been able to form a Finance sub-group. A great help as we face up to a loss of income. In

past years we have been blessed with grants from The Robertson Hall Trust (RHT) and St John's School Trust.

The grant from RHT has diminished by 75% and we are currently unable to use the St. John's Trust of which the Vicar and Churchwardens are the three trustees. Thank you to everyone who makes a financial contribution to the life of the church. Money is tight in the parish. With the 'cost of living' crisis the Parish Office and PCC has reviewed expenditure. The building is no longer heated from 7am to 9pm and lights are turned off on leaving the building. I appreciate that, over the last winter, the church felt colder than in past years.

Sacristy

In my childhood the sacristan was known as "Bossy Bess". Fr. Frank, the Vicar, was terrified about touching anything as the refrain was always: "don't I've just polished that".

I'm very grateful to David Bishop for maintaining the Sacristy and its supplies in a manner that is tidy, clean and easy to use. The altar and communion linen are always clean and beautifully ironed. In a church of our tradition maintaining high standards is not always easy. The Sacristy is a joy to work out of. Thank-you to David, and latterly Roosa, for serving on a Sunday, and to Enid for serving on a Wednesday, to them all for organising the bells' candles, lights, vestments, bread, wine, water, and the sound system etc.

Worship

Many thanks to all the readers who proclaim the Sacred Scriptures, and those who lead the Prayers of the People, on a Sunday and Wednesday. To those who assist with the distribution of communion, and make people feel welcome.

Also thank you to those who serve tea and coffee after the Masses, and to people who sing.

Post lockdown we re-introduced lay participation in the liturgy gradually. We were one of the last churches in the city to re-introduce the chalice on an opt-in basis. This was wise.

COVID - Post lockdown

In many respects those long months of lockdown feel rather like a bad dream. Somehow we have returned to how we used to live our lives before March 2020. Face masks, hand-gel, endless hand washing, avoiding people: these things have

disappeared for the majority of people. We eat out, go to the cinema, theatre, catch buses, and trains with little thought of COVID.

I found myself surprised to catch COVID last year, and more surprised when friends caught it for the second time. My small vicarage was overflowing with guests for a friend's seventieth birthday party. I hardly pondered COVID.

But somethings are not the same. Charities and Churches are still impacted by what happened. Few churches have returned to their pre-pandemic numbers in cities. Village churches appear to have recovered better. Small local based charities are struggling to find volunteers. The beloved Soup run on the seafront, run for so many years by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is no more. The current Cost of Living crisis is impacting heavily on small charities, as it is churches.

I've recently heard younger Christians say "We still believe, but we don't want to belong".

I discern a new living in which people having been denied family and friends during the pandemic and are now choosing to spend more time together. Perhaps there is a sense of making up for lost time, or maybe a new realisation of the fragility of human life.

Post-pandemic I celebrated my fortieth year of Priesthood with you last Advent. Every generation of clergy will chant "how things have changed". Forty years ago clergy lives were marked with many baptisms, weddings, and often up to three funerals a week. These 'pastoral offices' have become far, far fewer. I hear of curates who have little experience of them.

Many churches had two, or sometimes three, well attended services on a Sunday. In my time in New Zealand I had a Sunday, 8am Mass, with forty, to fifty in attendance. The Anglican Sunday Mass at 8am has almost entirely disappeared. As I head into my old age, yes despite my youthful looks, I'm on a state pension, with a free bus pass; I look at a much-changed church, reduced in numbers attending almost everywhere.

However, I want to inspire you, and me, to look outwards. Outward looking. Focusing not on what was, but what has yet to become.

The local Community of Faith (church), is not a club, but to be the real and living example of God's grace, love, mercy and compassion for others.

Living and being for others, is very counter-cultural in a society that focusses on "me". If we live for ourselves, we will die for ourselves.

The sharing of our beautiful beloved building is one fine example of 'reaching-out', embracing and being inclusive of others.

We must not adhere to our 'tradition' at all costs.

In the end, of course, it's up to God. All God requires, this little of us, is for us to be open, generous, outward looking and loving.

"And the Word was made Flesh and Lived among us".

Fr. David Biggs. S.C.P.

13. PCC annual report

The Finance Report is to be found in a separate document

Trustees Report April 2021/22

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Brighton: The Chapel Royal

Membership 2022/23

Father David Biggs, SCP (Vicar), by office

Mrs Mary Woodhouse (Churchwarden)

Mr Richard Lovett (Churchwarden)

Mrs Caroline Brown (Hon. Secretary)

Mr Christopher Stringer, by office

Mr Mark Laverick (Lay Reader)

Mr David Farrer

Mr Steve Pates

Mr David Bishop (Deputy Churchwarden)

Mr Adam Englebright

Father James Foley

Mrs Hilary Niblett

Mrs Enid Lovett

Ms Catherine Wilson

Ms Roosa Herranen.

By agreement of a Special Annual Parochial Church (PCC) Meeting in 2009 with the formation of the new Parish of Brighton; The Chapel Royal. The PCC shall consist of 2 Churchwardens & 9 elected members unless a subsequent APCM changes this. To date no APCM has changed the number of members. All Hon Assistant clergy are welcome to attend PCC meetings, to speak sharing their insights of wisdom, but have no voting powers.

At each meeting of the PCC the following items were also on the agenda for presentation and discussion: Finance, Safe-guarding, The Vicar's report.

Parochial Church Council as Trustees met on the following dates:

26th June 2022

Appointment of Officers.
Finance - Maureen O'Hara re- appointed.
Admin - Martin Mitchener re-appointed.
Adoption of Parish accounts for year.
Website update
Quinquennial update on building repair costs.
Deanery review

25th September 2022

Churchwardens report on building works
Website update
Deanery MAP review
Saturday Coffee Shop review
Financial situation

20th November 2022

Building works update
Deanery MAP
Advent & Christmas events

26th February 2023

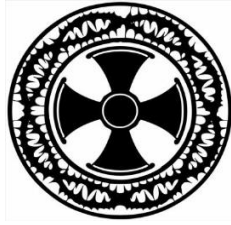
Building works and Clock
Replacement of outside noticeboard
Finance

End of APCM report.

**God of compassion,
be close to those
who are ill,
afraid,
or in isolation.
In their loneliness,
be their consolation;
in their anxiety,
be their hope;
in their darkness,
be their light;
through him who suffered
alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Chapel Royal, Brighton
is a community
within the liberal catholic tradition
of the Church of England
which is led by the Gospels
and works to inspire others
to come to faith
in Christ Jesus.

The community is dedicated
to maintaining a prayerful,
inclusive and diverse
Christian ethos
centred around
the Eucharist
with sacraments
at the forefront.



The Parish of Brighton

The Chapel Royal

CONTACTS

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www.chapelroyal.church

Parish Priests

David Biggs S.C.P.

Martin Morgan S.C.P.

Safeguarding Officer

Angie Lynn

Email: safeguarding.chapelroyal@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Mary Woodhouse

Richard Lovett

The Chapel Royal

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Chapel Royal Brighton

April 2023

Registered Charity Number 1151007