

# Annual Report and Accounts



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP  
at St. Mary's Church & via Zoom  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30pm**

## **Ecumenical Vision Statement For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish**

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17:21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

**AGENDAS for**  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,  
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,  
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,  
And 45th Meeting of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Trustees  
At 7.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
At St. Thomas' Church – Simpson & via Zoom

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting
  - a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021
  - b. Nominations for churchwardens
  - d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
  - e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2022/23
  - f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative
2. Parochial Church Council Meeting
  - a. Co-option of PCC member
  - b. Election of PCC Secretary
  - c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting
  - a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021
  - b. Presentation of the Report
  - c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2021
  - d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
  - e. Ex-officio Trustees
  - f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (two only required)
  - g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
  - h. Appointment of a Representative to Netherfield Partnership.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair

4. Meeting of Trustees
  - a. Election of the lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
  - b. Election of Trustee for the Trinity Centre, Fishermead
  - c. Election of the Member of the Trinity Centre Management Committee
  - d. Date of next two meetings

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

## Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2022-2023

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

PCC Members <i>all for one year 2022-22</i>	Lynn Castle (St T) Vacant (CVCC) Don Mahon (TF) Di Miller (St M)	
PCC Ex-Officio <i>to note</i>	Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,	
Church Wardens	<i>Christ the Vine St Mary's St Thomas' Woolstone</i>	David Hart David Bird Iola Samuels John Howard
Deanery Synod Representatives	Di Miller, Kim Weston	

### Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC	Revd. Charmaine Howard Revd. Nicola Vidamour
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### Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees  
*For three years to 2022*

For information: *Continuing Trustees*

Lynn Castle (St T)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
Iola Samuels (St.T) <sup>(2021)</sup>  
Mike Davidge (Chair of Trustees)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
David Hart (CtV)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
Don Mahon (TF) <sup>(2019)</sup>  
Marilyn Mahon (TF)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
Kim Weston (St M)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
Di Miller (St M)<sup>(2019)</sup>  
John Howard (W)<sup>(2019)</sup>

*Ex-Officio Trustees*

Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Nicola Vidamour, Revd. Paul Norris,  
Revd. Charmaine Howard

Methodist Circuit (2)	Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon
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Netherfield Partnership (corporate member)	<i>Revd Ian Herbert</i>
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### Trustees Meeting:

Trustee of Trinity Centre	Andrew Buckley
Member of Trinity Management Committee	Ken MacLeod

**Other Appointments and Representatives 2022-2023**

*Ministry Team*

Revd Ian Herbert  
Revd Paul Norris  
Revd Charmaine Howard  
Revd Nicola Vidamour

*Other Ordained Ministers*

Revd Christopher Bell

*Preachers and worship leaders*

Lynn Castle  
Mike Davidge  
Judy Rapp

*URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)*

Pam Rowden (TF)

*Mission Partnership Representatives (appointed by local churches – 2 per church)*

No longer required.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
of Woughton Parish on 6th April 2021  
via Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Present:	Paul Norris	Barbara Albone	Kim Weston
	Lynn Davidge	Mike Davidge	Lynn Castle
	Iola Samuels	Geoffrey Miller	David Hart
	David Bird	Miriam Bird	Mandy Heart
	John Forbes	Ophelia Cole	Nicola Vidamour
	Jill Strong	Ray Pape	Ian Herbert
	Don Mahon	Marilyn Mahon	Brian Baldwin
	Norma Baldwin	Di Miller	Jean Mattinsley
	John Howard	Charmaine Howard	Ruth Thomas

Apologies: Beccy Herbert, Angy Norris  
Sue Smith

Rev Paul Norris led prayers.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th October 2020 were proposed for approval by Jean Mattinsley and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- b) Nominations for churchwardens. Nominations have been received for Jean Mattinsley and David Bird from St Mary's Church, John Howard from Woolstone Church and Iola Samuels from St Thomas' Church. These nominations were proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Norma Baldwin. All in favour.
- c) Election of PCC members. Appendix A with corrections was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- d) The number of elected PCC members for the year 2021/22 to be decided. The meeting decided to keep the number at two from each congregation.
- e) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller are serving the current triennium. Don Mahon as the Parish treasurer is joining the Deanery Synod as the third representative from WEP.

2. Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Election of PCC secretary. Di Miller indicated a willingness to stand for one more year and was proposed by David Bird and seconded by Marilyn Mahon. All in favour.
- b) Proposal that the WEP Treasurer Don Mahon act as the Treasurer for the PCC for the year. Jean Mattinsley proposed, and Mike Davidge seconded this and all voted in favour.

Meeting ended at 7.50pm.

## Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom.

Present. 28 members of the Partnership were present online.  
Apologies. There were three apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair. Before the meeting began, Mike explained that there were insufficient numbers attending (6 short) to make the meeting quorate. The meeting voted to go ahead on that basis. In response to a later question, Mike replied that the significance of not being quorate meant that decisions taken at the meeting could be challenged and another ACM would need to be convened.

### 3. Annual Congregational Meeting.

a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in agreement.

b) Presentation of the Annual Report. Mike thanked everyone for their reports which showed how much effort had gone into keeping the Partnership life ticking over during the pandemic.

Mike asked a representative from the Team and each of the churches to pick out one special feature to high light from their report.

Rev Ian Herbert on behalf of the Team said that he had been most encouraged by the way that all the different talents and skills of the Team had been harnessed to support and encourage the members of the Partnership and a wider audience during the lock down periods. He pointed out particularly the specialist skills required to make the Vimeo videos each week to post on the website. He paid tribute and said we were all very grateful.

St Thomas' Church. Lynn Castle said that the church community were very grateful to Lola Samuels for offering to be the new churchwarden and WEP Trustee. She had stepped into the role with enthusiasm. The Zoom coffee mornings continue to work well.

Christ the Vine Community Church. Mandy Heart reported that Zoom activity has worked well. People have enjoyed new ways of doing things together.

Trinity Fishermead. The membership has been consulted about the possibility of a curate based at St Mary's Bletchley coming to work in the Woughton Parish. There has been a positive response. Rev Ian Herbert explained that this curate will be funded by St Mary's Bletchley but that it is still a matter under exploration and discussion by the Woughton Trustees.

Holy Trinity Woolstone. John Howard reported that during this time of fearfulness and loss, the congregation have encouraged and supported each other.

St Mary's Woughton. Jean Mattinsley reported that there were two causes for joy in the last part of 2020. Finally, after three years of missed appointments and waiting, Wi-Fi was finally installed in the church which will enable internet connectivity and enhance worship. Thanks to Tim May for his help with achieving this outcome. Secondly the church has been protected from the threat of roots growing under the porch from the nearby cedar tree.

The Reports were proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by Norma Baldwin. All in favour.

c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2020. Don Mahon reported that this year the accounts had not yet been signed off by the examiner because of Covid pressures. As soon as they have been approved, Don will send them to the Trustees and then they will be published in a Partnership document. He expressed his thanks to everyone who had responded to the appeal to give more and who have contributed generously, this has enabled the Partnership to have a deficit of £300 at the end of March 2021. He anticipated when we return to a more normal pattern of worship that plate giving should go up. A subcommittee of Trustees is due to meet to discuss the best way forward. Mike thanked Don and Marilyn for all their hard work in managing the finances of the Partnership.

The Finance Report was proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. All in agreement.

- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Don proposed that Christina Sabucido be appointed to this role again. This was seconded by Mike Davidge and all agreed. Thanks were expressed for all her hard work in this regard.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour and Rev Charmaine Howard are ex-officio Trustees.
- f) Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership. The three-year period continues until 2022. The Trustees are; for Christ the Vine Community Church, David Hart; for Trinity Fishermead, Don and Marilyn Mahon; for Woolstone, John Howard; for St Mary's, Kim Weston and Di Miller and for St Thomas, Lynn Castle and Lola Samuels. Mike Davidge as Chair is a Trustee under the Constitution.
- g) Appointment of representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle were proposed by Di Miller and seconded by Norma Baldwin and the meeting agreed. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with the other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Mike Davidge proposed Rev Ian Herbert and Rev Charmaine Howard, seconded by Kim Weston and the meeting agreed.

4. This section of the agenda was postponed to the first meeting of the WEP Trustees.

AOB. 1. A question about the implications of not being quorate. See the beginning minute.

2. There was a question about the Trustees from each local church. It was confirmed that the Trustees are appointed to the whole Partnership, although it was two from each DCC and an extra Trustee as the Chair. At the moment, there are spaces at Christ the Vine and Woolstone Church.

3. Rev Nicola Vidamour confirmed the dates for her sabbatical in response to a question. They are 12<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. She told the meeting that she will be spending time writing a book on Reflections on the Church's Year. Hopefully there will be the opportunities to make wider visits to family and friends after this very long time apart.

The Meeting ended at 8.20pm

Rev Ian Herbert closed with prayer.

## **Parochial Church Council Report 2021 -- Di Miller, PCC Secretary**

The Parish has been deeply affected by the impact of the Covid 19 crisis on every aspect of life. We have managed to have meetings of the PCC via Zoom before the WEP meetings as usual, but this is very limiting. We have managed to hear from representatives from all the churches and the churchwardens from St Thomas', Christ the Vine, St Mary's, and Woolstones Church. We are pleased to report that David Hart and Mandy Heart for Christ the Vine Community Church and Mrs Lola Samuels for St Thomas' have joined the PCC. At various times in the past year the churches have been open for socially distanced worship but since the third lockdown in December/January 2021 the churches have been closed for services. The Team has managed to produce weekly video services for people to look at over the internet which have been much appreciated. With regard to distributing the Partnership Newsletter and other documentation, these having mostly been sent out via email by Tim May. Tim has also been personally delivering resources on a Saturday to those in the parish that do have online access, I would like to thank Tim for the extra effort he has given to ensure that these members are still able to feel involved in our weekly worship. I wish to indicate that I will be stepping down as PCC secretary at the end of this meeting.

In the past year at St Thomas' Stephen Roberts stepped down as churchwarden in June 2020 and since then Rev Nicola Vidamour has submitted reports of the issues relating to the church and churchyard to the PCC. In summary these have related to the issues concerning the large cracks in the wall of the chancel under the tower and lead flashings on the roof and these have been discussed with the Diocesan architect. These are serious problems which require expensive repairs. The churchyard has continued to be maintained and new LED lights have been fitted in the porch. Mrs Lola Samuels has volunteered to be the next churchwarden for St Thomas' Church.

At St Mary's Church, the problems of invasive tree roots from a nearby cedar tree needed to be tackled. This has involved the digging of a new trench to create a barrier to further growth. A Faculty application was granted for this work, and it has been done satisfactorily. The installation of broadband in the church has been a complicated story. A Faculty was granted but BT's sub-contractor Open Reach took a long time to come and do the work. When they did come, they dug the trench in the wrong place and fractured an electrical cable to the lych gate. Liability for this mistake was accepted and the cost of repair has been met. The cabling into the church has now been done and Wi-Fi is now present inside the church. During the year the north wall has continued to need a rebuild but the cost of this in the pandemic has pushed it down the priority list. It has been made safe for the time being. The tree pressing on to the east wall from the hotel side ultimately pushed the wall over and a temporary fence has been put up. The tree has now been cut down. The hotel ownership is uncertain at the present time so the plan for rebuilding the wall is on hold. Fund raising for the next stage of the audio-visual capability in the church is ongoing. The church clock has not worked at all in this last year and a solution to the problem is being worked on by the company Gillett and Johnson.

The Church Hall has continued as before. It can be used as a polling station but is otherwise not available for hire.

Christ the Vine Community Church is also owned by the Diocese. A decision was taken that boiler repairs were necessary. There were also plans for the Baptistry to put into use. Plans for a new ramp for the door on the east side of the building are also under discussion. The MK Winter Night Shelter has not been running this year. Services from the church have been live streamed through the lockdown time.

Within the Parish, the Fishermead Community Centre is negotiating the Community Asset Transfer which has not yet been completed. The new Trust will be managed by Trustees on behalf of the Diocese and the Residents' Association as a Community Resource. It was reported that complications of the lease are still holding things up but this was expected to be resolved.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The new kitchen was fitted in 2019 but owing to the pandemic has not been greatly used yet. The congregation is scattered but an effort has been made to stay in touch with people. Some socially distanced services were possible in 2021 but the church is now shut. The chancel was cleared of extra things which were not needed and is looking better.

February 2022  
Di Miller  
PCC Secretary

## **Annual Report and Accounts Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Foreword**

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2021. The Covid pandemic continued to have a major impact on our ministry, with churches closed or operating under restrictions about what we could do for much of the year. As in 2020, we owe much to our Ministry team and so many of our members who worked so hard to keep our Christian life and witness going with imaginative and compassionate responses to unpredictable changes.

Online video services continued when churches were closed and some of our churches have continued with these to provide opportunities to worship to those as yet unable to return to meeting in person. Email, phone, WhatsApp and Zoom groups continued to keep people in touch with one another and provide pastoral support when needed.

As restrictions eased towards the end of the year, it was good to see some of our important community actions able to return, including the Winter Night Shelter accommodation and ABC (the group for parents and toddlers) at Christ the Vine. Experience gained in 2020 working with Woughton Community Council on a food parcel scheme led to setting up a food larder scheme in Tinkers Bridge (with another one in planning for Fishermead).

At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub was set up, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting.

Although most of our churches' regular summer events were lost, a number were possible - an autumn flower festival (on the theme 'to live and work to God's praise and glory') and heritage weekend, harvest celebrations, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Christ the Vine Community Church, pumpkin carving, Remembrance Day services and many of the regular Christmas activities returned.

On the financial side, we started the year expecting to have to draw quite heavily on our reserves, but we ended the year with a small income surplus, thanks to generous giving from members throughout the Partnership. Staff costs are our biggest investment in mission. During the year the Trustees discussed the affordability of continuing with two full-time ministers and confirmed their commitment to maintain this level of staffing. We are so grateful to all who donate to keep our ministry running but we know the pressures on costs and income will continue with us. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can take forward our mission in our communities.

We continued to discuss with St Mary's Bletchley a proposal that a Pioneer Minister could be placed within Woughton but have now paused this until later in 2022.

There are many challenges facing us but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.' WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together – those who have worked so hard in such difficult circumstances to maintain our church life and witness.

Mike Davidge  
Chair of Trustees 2022

# Contents

Section	Title	Page
1.	<b>Reference and Administrative Information</b>	
2.	<b>Structure, Governance and Management</b>	
2.1	The WEC Constitution and the WEP Governing Document	
2.2	Appointment and training of Trustees:	
2.3	The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:	
2.4	The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:	
2.5	A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed	
3.	<b>Partnership Aims and Objectives</b>	
3.1	A summary of the objectives of the Partnership as set out in the Governing Document.	
3.2	The Partnership Vision and Mission Objectives, as stated in SO No 1	
3.3	Context and constraints on achieving the aims and objectives	
3.4	The Partnership's main objectives	
4.	<b>Activity and Achievement Reports</b>	
4.1	Team Leader	
4.2	Secretarial Report	
4.3	Christ The Vine Community Church	
4.4	Holy Trinity Church, Woolstone	
4.5	St Mary's Church	
4.6	St Thomas' Church	
4.7	Trinity Church Fishermead	
4.8	Community Outreach: The Soup run	
4.9	Marriage in the Parish	
4.10	Baptisms and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings	
4.11	Bereavement Care	
4.12	Christian Aid	
4.13	Adults, Babies and Children (ABC)	
4.14	Connect – No Longer Running	
4.15	Netherfield Partnership Limited, The Farthing Enterprise	
4.16	WEP Website	
4.17	WEP Safeguarding	

## Appendices

1	WEP Adult Membership Roll 2022
2	Trustees of WEP and Woughton PCC Members for 2022-23
3	Ecumenical Vision Statement for the Woughton Ecumenical Parish
4	Financial Statements

## Annual Report and Accounts 2021

1.	<b>Reference and Administration Details:</b>
1.1	<b>Name:</b> Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, abbreviated to WEP.
1.2	<b>Address:</b> Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583. www.woughton.org
1.3	<b>Trustees:</b> Lynn Castle                      David Hart Mike Davidge                     John Howard Don Mahon                         Kim Weston Marilyn Mahon                    Rev Charmaine Howard Di Miller                            Rev Nicola Vidamour Rev Ian Herbert                  Iola Samuels Rev Paul Norris
1.4	<b>Key Personnel:</b> Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour Secretary: Di Miller Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May
1.5	<b>Principal Bankers:</b> CAF Bank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
2.	<b>Structure, Governance and Management:</b>
2.1	<b>Governing documents:</b> Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish. As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP. WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298. A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs. The SOs and SFIs have been drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises). New SOs and SFIs are developed when need arises.
2.2	<b>Appointment and training of Trustees:</b> The Trustee Body consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (normally for a term of three years)</li> <li>• Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being</li> <li>• Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees.</li> </ul> All current Trustees are either elected or ex officio.  All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. Formal training for Trustees is planned but to date none has taken place.

2.3	<p><b>The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:</b></p> <p>There are five Local Church Councils (LCCs) whose task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing LCCs are contained in SO No. 8 Local Church Councils. Each church may nominate two Trustees to the Partnership. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees. The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual/pastoral care. There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the LCCs and the Trustees during the year. Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p><b>The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:</b></p> <p>WEP was a member of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership throughout 2021. Mission Partnership seeks to advance the Christian faith by drawing together Christian communities from Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas to further the 'Five Marks of Mission' which have been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England. Each congregation in WEP appoints representatives to attend the Mission Partnership Assembly. Mike Davidge is a Trustee of WEP and until 18 December 2021 was a Trustee of Mission Partnership. Nicola Vidamour continued as a Trustee of WEP and a Trustee of Mission Partnership throughout 2021.</p>
2.5	<p><b>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives</li> <li>• Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives</li> <li>• Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination, including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items)</li> <li>• Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability</li> <li>• Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation</li> <li>• Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making, or communications mean that WEP's objectives are not achieved.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.</p>
3.	<p><b>WEP Aims and Objectives:</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Our purpose</b></p> <p>As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p><b>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement</b></p> <p>In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritually alive;</li> <li>• Together in Christ;</li> <li>• Reaching out;</li> <li>• Welcoming all;</li> <li>• Using our gifts;</li> <li>• Being sustainable.</li> </ul>
3.2	

## **Our Mission Objectives**

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:

1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend.
2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community.
3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching.
4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate.
5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community.
6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others.
7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents, and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up.
8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs.
9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas.
10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.

3.3

## **Our objectives for 2022**

### **District churches**

- Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives
- Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan (District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.)

*How did we do:* The Covid epidemic and consequent lockdowns continued to have a significant impact on the life and work of all our district churches. Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms became impossible or had to be severely curtailed. Nevertheless, those of our churches where local circumstances allowed, made great efforts to keep some aspects of mission and ministry visible. Some churches were able to open to provide space for private prayer and reflection; Remembrance Sunday was observed; one church was able to organise a flower festival on the theme of 'Missed Celebrations', another organised a local 'Best Garden' community event. Our churches made great efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits where safe to do so.

### **The Partnership**

- Support the Soup Run by making facilities available and encouraging participation
- Provide at least one night's accommodation a week for the Winter Night Shelter scheme
- Offer Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked to all local schools with the appropriate year group
- Encourage members to take up Mission Partnership and other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry

*How did we do:* The Soup Run and the Winter Night Shelter did not operate during the year. The food parcel distribution scheme established in partnership with Woughton Community Council continued, providing regular deliveries to vulnerable and shut-in members of our communities. We were involved in establishing a food larder scheme in one part of our area (and another was at the planning stage). At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub was set up, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting. The Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked events for local schools could not take place. Some members took advantage of on-line courses, provided both within WEP and externally.

### **Trustees**

- Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events
- Provide stewardship support to district churches
- Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership
- Maintain the financial health of the Partnership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations</li> </ul> <p><i>How did we do:</i> The weekly newsletter and web site continue as sources of information, cross-Partnership groups and events were greatly restricted by Covid rules. Members responded with great generosity to maintain a sound financial position in the year and people were encouraged to use standing orders or bank transfers where possible. We introduced contactless giving on a pilot basis and direct online giving via the CAF Donate web site. Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices, but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2021, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. Our planned work on developing strategy was disrupted by the succession of lockdowns.</p>
4.	<b>Activity and Achievement Reports:</b>
4.1	<p><b><i>Ministry Team 2021 Ian Herbert, Nicola Vidamour, Paul Norris, Charmaine Howard.</i></b></p> <p>2021 started with our churches remaining closed due to the ongoing pandemic. It was once again a challenging year for the Ministry Team as we continued to ensure resources were available to keep our churches connected with each other and the communities we serve. This was maintained by our online services through Zoom, Facebook, pre-recorded services, and transcripts being available, along with weekly resources being posted on the WEP website or being hand delivered.</p> <p>Our appreciation and thanks must go to all who have supported us in 2021. Revd. Chris Bell, Mike Davidge, John Howard, Lynn Castle, Judy Rapp, and David Hart who have supported our five churches by leading services and preaching when the churches were able to open. This ensured that we were able to maintain a weekly service in all five churches in the partnership.</p> <p>A note of special thanks must go to all the visiting Ministers who supported St Thomas' while Nicola was on three months sabbatical.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on the shoulders of the Ministry Team, 2021 once again saw a significant increase in the Ministry Team's involvement with church members and residents living in our communities. Again, we found ourselves rearranging weddings, (some for the third time) postponing baptism and memorial services and rearranging where possible. 2021 continued with a high number of funerals and the pastoral care associated with the death of a loved one.</p> <p>The beginning of 2021 once again gave us the opportunity for the whole Partnership to come together for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, through online Bible Study groups, Sunday School, and our Lent reflections. The online Tuesday morning Bible Study and Prayer time hosted and led by Revd. Charmaine Howard, the Tuesday afternoon Sunday Sermon Reflection, hosted by Trinity, Fishermead and led by Revd. Chris Bell and a midweek Reflection led by Revd. Nicola Vidamour.</p> <p>Please read the reports from each of the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>Once the churches were able to open, we were faced with the challenge of ensuring a safe environment for all as several restrictions remained in place. These included wearing face masks, cleaning after every service, restricting the number of people at each service due to social distancing, ensuring there was a one-way system in place, no common cup for communion and no refreshments.</p> <p>Thank you for your patience, support, and help. Without you we would not have been able to ensure the wellbeing of all who attended our churches.</p> <p>2021 saw us once again celebrating public worship at our Easter and Christmas services in all five churches. Although numbers were lower than previous years.</p> <p>With the opening of the churches and the easing of restrictions the Ministry Team were once again able to re-connect with local schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents' associations, Mum's and Toddler groups, community councils and other organisations.</p>

	<p>See local church reports for details of the strong community links our churches have. Throughout 2021, Tim May our Partnership Administrator continued to support the Ministry Team by taking on the day-to-day administrative tasks. Tim has played his part in ensuring the weekly resources have been sent to Geoffrey as well as hand delivering to those who do not have email.</p> <p>The Parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us by offering and exercising their gifts and skills. Without you we would not have been able to be as effective in our churches and communities as we have been.</p> <p>In 2021 we were able to take eight weddings, sixty-two funerals and fourteen interments of Ashes. Three of our church members were confirmed and we took ten baptisms.</p> <p>As we look to the future, we the Ministry Team, encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you might be able to support the work of WEP in the local churches and communities we serve.</p> <p><b>Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard, Revd. Nicola Vidamour</b></p>
4.2	<p><b>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2022</b></p> <p>During this past year of 2021/22 WEP has been able to return to a more normal life gradually but as a Partnership we have continued to have the Trustees meetings on Zoom. We are not yet at full strength with the numbers of possible Trustees. The Annual Congregational Meeting was held via Zoom on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the Trustees have met six times. This included a Special Trustees meeting in July, which was requested by one of the Trustees. The Minutes of all these meetings are available to read in the Parish Office and online. Our individual churches have been able to have some face-to-face meetings of their councils. Services have been resumed in the churches at first cautiously, although some virtual streaming has also been offered.</p> <p>As the pandemic has had a big impact on the financial situation, it was agreed that WEP apply for a Small Society Lottery licence from MK Council which enables the selling of raffle tickets ahead of the day of the draw as a fund raiser. St Mary's particularly has made good use of this on two occasions.</p> <p>Tim May, Parish Administrator, has been working partly remotely and sometimes in the office. He has been compiling and sending out the Parish newsletter and Prayer Diary electronically and also paper copies for those who are not on email. Tim has delivered these for which we record our thanks. Tim has also offered his expertise through the year with PAT testing of appliances and risk assessments. Our thanks too for his help in collating this annual report. The web site continues to be a valuable resource for people to find out information regarding the Woughton Partnership. I wish to indicate that I will be stepping down as PCC secretary at the end of this meeting.</p> <p>Our prayers are now for us to work as a committed Partnership towards the future. We have renewed opportunities as the pandemic crisis has passed and we look for a new vision for growth and enthusiasm in serving God here in Woughton.</p> <p><b>Di Miller</b> <b>Secretary to WEP. February 2022</b></p>
4.3	<p><b>Christ the Vine</b></p> <p><b>Prayer and Worship</b></p> <p>This has been a year of ups, downs, and uncertainties. Coronavirus has continued to have significant impact on our lives and on the life of the church. We have been in and out of lockdown, with various tiers of restrictions imposed by law. However, we have maintained our church presence online - via Facebook and Vimeo - and from Easter we were able to meet in the church building again. A significant number of our people fall into the vulnerable category and so were not able to join us in the church building, however, they were able to worship with us, attend Bible Study and Prayers via Zoom. Our hybrid system of being a gathered church community in the building and online works very well and ensures that</p>

everyone is able to participate in church worship, discipleship, and fellowship. Inclusion is central to our beliefs and the use of technology has gone a long way to ensuring that those with visible and invisible disabilities and challenges are able to participate in prayer, worship, and church life. We intend to continue to use and develop technology to help us achieve our goal of becoming a truly inclusive church. Our provision of regular public worship for all who wish to attend has continued uninterrupted throughout the year as a result of offering service in the church building and on online, a number of people who are not members of Christ the Vine Church joined us for worship online throughout the year. We also found that a significant number of people viewed our Church Service videos on Vimeo.

We continue to encourage each other to spend time in daily prayer and to focus on praying for each other and together. Prayer Vine met for prayers on Thursday mornings on Zoom and used our WhatsApp groups to post prayer requests for ourselves, our communities and we continued to say the Lord's Prayer at midday. As we learn to live with coronavirus, praying together and for our communities is an area that we would like to continue to develop in the next year.

Our Sunday Worship was blessed by Soul Survivor Church Watford and SWW Baptist Association who granted permission for us to use their music videos in our worship. Over the last two years we have realised how important sung worship is to us as a church. And even when we were not able to sing in the building, we were able to listen and "sing in our heads". When restrictions were removed, we enjoyed worshipping freely with our voices raised in song. We were further blessed in this respect by Mike Baldwin who offered to lead our sung worship twice a month. We have appreciated his musical gifting as he led us into the presence of God through music and songs.

### **Discipleship**

Study Vine is our Bible Study and Discipleship program. We have continued to meet on Zoom. We regularly have in the region of 14 people in attendance. For most of this year we have used the time to focus on the Bible passage that was read on the previous Sunday. We explored the themes and theology in greater depth. Using the Breakout rooms allowed us to move into small groups for discussion. We found this really useful as it gave space for everyone to speak and contribute to the discussions.

Our Advent and Christmas Bible Study was based on the book of Mark but our main focus this year was on what it means to be a Christian in our ordinary everyday lives. One of the resources we used was LICC Frontlines Series to help us explore our frontlines and the difference that we can make to the lives of other people that we meet regularly. In particular how we can show them the gospel through our daily interactions with them. We gained confidence in our ability to make a difference for the Kingdom.

### **Fellowship and Pastoral Care**

This year we celebrated Christmas together as a church family. We all met for a Christmas meal at the Peartree Bridge. That was a special evening because it was the first time that the whole church had met together for table fellowship in over two years. We enjoyed the food, but we enjoyed each other's company so much more.

The pastoral groups have continued to provide support for each other throughout the year and we have also continued to provide pastoral support for members of the community who need it - perhaps through bereavement, ill health, mental health, family and relationship issues. This year we have mourned the loss of three more members of our church family. We have continued to offer pastoral support to their families and close friends.

### **Mission**

Our Mission and Evangelism work continued. We worked with the local community including the Coffee Hall Residents Association and the Woughton Community Council to provide a day of celebration in the summer. This event was well attended with hundreds of children and families enjoying Face Painting, Magic Mike, a range of different Musicians, Crafts and numerous other activities. The church building and people were an integral part of the celebrations.

We worked with the WCC and the Royal British Legion to organise a community Remembrance Service. The service attracted hundreds of people outside the church - at the memorial - and about 100 people stayed for the church service which followed. This included the deputy Mayor and her husband. The church provided refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service.

In addition to our very successful Easter Bonnet Competition and Easter Treasure Trail, we reclaimed All hallows Eve as a time when the light of Jesus overcomes all darkness. We held a Pumpkin Carving afternoon, where parents and children heard the story of Jesus bringing light and joy into the world. We used Scripture Union's Pumpkin Patch as the basis. This event was so successful that we had to run two sessions. 60 children plus their parents took part. We followed this up with a Light Party Trail.

As reported last year, Christ the Vine continues to work in partnership with local groups to meet the needs of the community. This June we worked together to launch Grapevine Wellbeing Hub on Friday mornings because Wellbeing is one of the priority areas identified by the MK Council, NHS, and local groups. As part of the church mission plan, this collaboration shows signs of early success. Since June there has been about 25 regular attenders at Grapevine Wellbeing Hub and 5 people have joined the church as a direct result of this initiative. In September we opened the Baptismal pool and two people were baptised by immersion. One person was confirmed in November at the Ecumenical Confirmation Service.

We continue to support MK Bridgebuilder Trust and Tear Fund, and we are saddened that we were not able to hold fund raising activities for them this May. However, we were able to host the Christmas Fair in December.

### **Conclusion**

It has been a challenging year, but we are spending time with God and each other to discern what God has planned for us as a church. We have taken comfort from God's promise to be with us wherever we go and have stepped out in faith with our new Mission initiatives. We are learning to be strong and courageous not only in our own discipleship, prayer, and worship, but also in looking for opportunities in our everyday lives to intentionally make and nurture new disciples for Jesus.

**Revd. Charmaine Howard**

#### **4.4 Annual Report – Trinity Woolstone**

2021 once again saw the pandemic affect church life, with us remaining closed, then opened, then having to close again as we followed the guidelines set out for public worship. We, as a church continued with our Sunday services. As we started to meet in person for public worship it was, of course, with restrictions in place, face coverings, socially distanced seating, no refreshments, individual cups for communion and cleaning the chairs before and after church. A huge thank you to John who set up and cleaned down before and after services, and a huge thank you to all for your patience and understanding in what has been and still is, in a lot of ways, a very difficult time.

During 2021:

For the first five months the Parish continued to offer weekly resources, recorded Sunday worship, live Zoom services from CTV and Trinity, and St Mary's and St Thomas' continued to be open for private prayer every weekend for two hours.

During Lent 2021 a weekly reflection was hosted on Zoom, and it was wonderful to be open for services on Easter Sunday. Our Advent and Christmas services were able to go ahead, with our midnight communion service seeing 47 non-church members from the community in attendance. We have welcomed 2 new members into the fellowship, and occasionally see visitors at our services.

I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement, we as church have received during 2021. To Sue, Sophie, and Judith, for leading us in our Sunday worship, to John and Judy for committing to lead us in worshiping and preaching the word.

	<p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Holy Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely, and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community, and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p><b>Revd. Ian Herbert (Rector)</b></p>
4.5	<p><b><u>St Mary`s Woughton on the Green report by Kim Weston DCC Chair</u></b></p> <p>The District Church Council (DCC) has met 9 nine times over the past year, by Zoom, then Face to face when allowed. Each meeting starts with prayer lead by a Council member, as we commit our thoughts to God's will.</p> <p>Di Miller is our minute secretary. The minutes are for everyone to see, and a copy is in the church, an electronic copy is available on request for all members.</p> <p>Ruth Davis continues to produce the weekly 'pew' sheet, which are emailed to members .It is an invaluable source of information. A few hard copies are available in church for visitors and those that don`t have email access. This is the way for all church members to communicate with the wider church and Ruth will happily include information that you send her.</p> <p>The report that follows covers various aspects of church life and gives an indication of activity since Jan 2021, in what has been a second year of restrictions, we have been busy.</p> <p>Practical issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clock was reinstalled has been working well, 99% of the time.</li> <li>• The churchyard is maintained by a small team led by Brian Baldwin. The memorial garden was tidied in the autumn after families were notified. We have established a valuable rapport with some families. As the weather improves, we will have another attempt at maintaining order, as we have had several internments of ashes and burials in the last few months.</li> <li>• Brian Baldwin our long serving Tower Captain resigned his post during the year, we are very grateful that he has served this church for so long, teaching many the skill of ringing and for his care for the bells, Simon Head has taken over as Captain, but Brian can still be seen hanging on a rope .</li> <li>• Several general upkeep measures were needed, including removal of mould on internal walls, woodworm in vestry, guttering and roof work, electrical overhaul in tower and elsewhere in the church, one gas heater replaced, and others serviced, these are all essential to the maintenance of a safe environment, all the yearly checks where completed and action taken as needed</li> </ul> <p>Mission and Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donations. It was decided by the DCC that as many people were feeling the pinch financially, personally and within the WEP Partnership, that we would not make any donations to outside charities as a church. We supported Link Romania shoebox appeal as usual, but this was a lot less than previous years</li> <li>• "Open for You" continued in a different format, at the beginning of the year with no refreshments or chat and just a time for quiet Prayer ,as restrictions lifted we started Open for You, it was a slow start ,but we now have some of our old followers back and new faces to, Saturday mornings we are open 10am till 12noon, we welcome people to have a cuppa and a chat even though the church has been pretty nippy at times. Some of our old followers have been poorly and too unwell to attend but Norma and Jean keep in touch. The chancel is available for quiet prayer and the opportunity to light a candle.</li> <li>• All of our other activities, e.g., Fund-raising events, the Summer Fayre and Christmas Bazaar, Old Woughton Parish Council meetings, Walkers' refreshments, remained closed until the summer. This was disappointing but understandable, but it was important to think of something to boost our resources, based on the success of the previous year's Flower show it was decided that a further similar event would take place in Sept, and was a great success community wise and financially. The same format was</li> </ul>

	<p>repeated in Dec and was again a success, made possible by the use of the Small Lottery license that WEP purchased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annual National Remembrance Service took place at the Village Memorial and the Two minutes silence was observed. Poppy wreaths were laid on behalf of the Church, Old Woughton Parish Council and by private individuals. Many local residents joined us observing social distancing. They were invited into church afterwards for private prayer and reflection.</li> <li>• Guests next door. In late December a group of asylum seekers were moved into the Woughton House Hotel, as a church we rallied to support them with providing clothing, games, and sweets. These have been gratefully received. Because of changes in the use and management of the hotel, the rebuilding of the east and north churchyard walls has not been carried out. Negotiations for both the repair of the walls and the carpark lighting are on-going with the new owners.</li> <li>• Archdeacon's inspection was carried out by David Thom Chairman of the Deanery in May 2021.</li> <li>• Marriage registers, half were deposited in the Aylesbury Archive and half at MK Registrar in accordance with the new marriage registration process.</li> <li>• The Church Council and church members have continued to work well together and have managed to maintain the building and grow together spiritually.</li> <li>• Our thanks to Paul for his continuing Ministry to us all, a change of service times and types was necessary and seems to have been working well, It is felt that the format now established will remain for the foreseeable future due to WEP only having 2 paid ministers for 5 churches</li> <li>• You will be aware that the report does not include Children's Church or The Soup Run. These activities have not recovered from 2020, but we look forward to a time when they can restart and grow.</li> <li>• A little later in the year than usual, David Bird and Jean Mattinsley were sworn in as Churchwardens at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Central Milton Keynes on 13 September 2021 by The Archdeacon of Buckingham, Venerable Guy Elsmore. Their legal responsibilities are to care for the church fabric and churchyard and welfare of the Incumbent.</li> <li>• <b>Church Hall</b> The title deeds for St. Mary's Church Hall were received from Oxford for checking. Inspection and two valuations complete. Next steps being reviewed by Revd. Ian Herbert and David Mason, Diocesan Buildings Officer.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Record of Occasional Offices Solemnized</u></b> Holy Matrimony -4    Renewal of vows - 0    Baptism - 4    Funeral - 3 in total x 2 with churchyard burial -Interment of cremated remains x 8</p>
4.6	<p><b>Minister's Report for 2022 ACM</b></p> <p>I would describe 2021 as a three in one year! The first part of the year was still dominated by Covid. WEP churches took it in turns to provide pre-recorded videos and we met on Zoom for "Coffee after Church" on Sundays. I am very grateful to everyone who took part in the videos - especially to our musicians and Harvey for the time and effort required to produce hymn recordings with sing-along lyrics! It was a joy to worship together in church on Easter Sunday and to sing <i>Thine be the Glory</i> in the churchyard at the end of the service, accompanied by William on the trumpet. The second part of the year began shortly after Easter when I started a three-month sabbatical. St. Thomas' welcomed a variety of visiting preachers during that period. Janet Wootton received such rave reviews that she was invited back in October for the annual Methodist Thanksgiving Service for the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders. lola had only recently taken on the role of church warden but did a fantastic job of</p>

keeping everyone informed and involved whilst I was away. She also had to deal with a lot of issues in the churchyard – both in response to the biodiversity project and the letters we had to put on graves which were breaching the regulations. Thank you, lola!  
The third part of the year began in July when Covid restrictions began to be eased - until the arrival of the Omicron variant in the late autumn! I have appreciated being able to attend the Tuesday coffee morning regularly – both when it was meeting in the church and now in the village-hall. The Saturday night quizzes have been great fun and it would be lovely to have more church people support these. I would like to pay tribute to Pat for the time and energy she puts into arranging these quizzes - as well as the regular concerts. New developments in the life of the church this year have been the Harvest Supper with home-grown entertainment; the monthly all-age worship which Lynn Castle and I have been leading together; and the monthly Monday hymn-singing sessions with friends from the Simpson Day Centre.

We have been glad to welcome new people into the life of the church and were also delighted to celebrate the confirmation of Peter and William Thomas. We have missed those who have not been able to come to church for health reasons and hope to see them again soon.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Nicola Vidamour  
18th February 2022

### **Church Warden's report for St Thomas' Church Simpson ACM 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Thank you all for supporting me during this "Covid Year". I am grateful to Rev Nicola for her guidance and support, Jane for her sterling work as Secretary and Ruth for producing the Newsletter.

As the year progressed, I began to feel part of the community of St Thomas. The DCC meetings were conducted via zoom, thankfully we can now meet properly together  
It was wonderful to celebrate Easter together and to sing in the churchyard.

Nicola's sabbatical absence proved to be an interesting time. She had planned superb people, all from very different backgrounds, to lead our worship each week.

#### **The Churchyard**

Trying to bring the Churchyard in line with Diocesan regulations has proved difficult. However, we have met and chatted to many of those who visit the graves of their loved ones. This is an ongoing project.

The Biodiversity project of the Churchyard led by Rebecca Hiorns was challenging. We found some beautiful wildflowers; small creatures and I must mention the "bee orchids". Just letting nature take its course upset some people and delighted others. Rebecca kindly wrote a report, this was circulated, and a copy was sent to the Arch Deacon of Oxford.

A huge amount of work has been carried out by levelling the far end of the Churchyard allowing space for 21 more graves.

#### **The Chancel – the large cracks in the walls.**

The initial investigative work is now complete. The Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme reimbursed us for VAT of over £2.000. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Buckinghamshire's Historic Church Trust. Pat Hodges ran quizzes and concerts, and donations were received permitting us to pay this bill in full.

#### **Moving on**

We have welcomed new people into our church. It was a privilege to attend the confirmation of Peter and William Thomas.

On the second Monday of the month the local day centre for people with a dementing illness, their carers and members of our congregation, meet for hymns. Percussion instruments give everyone a chance to sing and contribute to the music,

A Christingle Service was held in December for the Guides, Scouts Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows. Each person decorated their Christingle.

This past year has been full of activity, new members and the making new friends. St Thomas' Church has survived the pandemic successfully.

**Iola Samuels**

**Church Warden 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

4.7

**Trinity Church, Fishermead**

	<p>2021 once again saw the pandemic affect church life with us remaining closed, then opened, then having to close again as we followed the guidelines set out for public worship. We, as a church continued with our online Sunday services and Marilyn continued to support our young people with online Sunday School. As we started to meet in person for public worship it was, of course, with restrictions in place, face coverings, socially distanced seating, no refreshments, individual cups for communion and cleaning the chairs before and after church. A huge thank you to all who helped with the set up and clean down before and after services, and a huge thank you to all for your patience and understanding in what has been and still is, in a lot of ways, a very difficult time.</p> <p>During 2021 we continued to be involved in delivering food parcels to those who had been shielding or who were unable to leave their homes because of the pandemic. We were also able to support five families who had fallen on hard times, giving us the opportunity to show the love of Christ in a real and practical way. Through this last year we have also been able to build on existing relationships within the community as well as foster new friendships.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Trinity Centre we were able to secure a grant from Oxford dioceses to start an internet café in the Trinity Centre, this will be launched in the spring of 2022 along with a homework club run by Trinity church members.</p> <p>For the first five months the Parish continued to offer weekly resources, recorded Sunday worship, live Zoom services from CTV and Trinity, and St Mary's and St Thomas' continued to be open for private prayer every weekend for two hours.</p> <p>During Lent 2021 a weekly reflection was hosted on Zoom, and it was wonderful to be open for services on Easter Sunday. Our Advent and Christmas services were able to go ahead although numbers were lower.</p> <p>I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement we as church have received during 2021. To Don, Jill, and Pam for leading us in our Sunday worship, to Chris for committing to lead us in worshiping and preaching the word as well as leading us in our online Tuesday afternoon Bible reflection and first Sunday of the month evening prayer, to Ann for taking on the role of hospitality and refreshments.</p> <p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ  <b>Rev. Ian Herbert (Rector)</b></p>
4.8	<p><b>The Soup Run:</b></p> <p><b>Due to Covid throughout 2021 - Nothing to Report</b></p>
4.9	<p><b>Marriage in the Parish</b></p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.10	<p><b>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</b></p> <p>Please Refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.11	<p><b>Bereavement Care:</b></p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.12	<p><b>Christian Aid</b></p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2021 – Nothing to report</p>
4.13	<p><b>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</b></p> <p>No Report Received</p>
4.14	<p><b>Connect – No longer running</b></p>
4.15	<p><b>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</b></p> <p>NP Ltd is a Charitable Society for the Benefit of the Community registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. WEP was a founder member in 1999 and is one of two</p>

	<p>corporate members, the other being Milton Keynes Council (MKC). The main activity of the Society is to manage the operation of the Farthing Enterprise Centre (FEC), which provides workshop/office units for new and start-up businesses, primarily for applicants from the Netherfield area, but also encompassing the Woughton Ward.</p> <p>The premises, formerly the Red Cross Centre, and owned by MKC, were refurbished under the "New Start for Netherfield" European Social Fund (ESF) Programme. This regenerated part of Netherfield and the Society was formed to run on from the ESF Programme. It has held a 17-year lease on the FEC premises which has just been renewed for a further 13 years.</p> <p>The 11 FEC units are occupied by a variety of businesses including a hairdresser, picture framer, tattooist, PC repairs and IT consultancy, accountancy and bookkeeping, healthcare professional's provider, fashion design and maker, and export /catalogue sales. Tenants benefit from managed units with Wi-Fi, and are subsidised through rents discounted below market levels, which are progressively raised as their businesses mature. A Training and Meeting Room is kept for hire and one unit is available for a Charity to occupy at a peppercorn rent. The Society is well established, and the financial model is robust, maintaining the Centre in excellent repair and funding sufficient reserves.</p> <p>Revd Ian Herbert and Revd Charmaine Howard are the WEP representatives on the management committee.</p> <p>Due to the Covid19 there have been no meetings to my knowledge.</p> <p><b>Revd Ian Herbert 2022</b></p>
4.16	<p><b>Webmaster's Report for 2022 AGM</b></p> <p>Because of the continuing Covid-19 lockdown from the beginning of the 2021 the website remained very active, with weekly updates to services and other arrangements. Obviously things slowed down gradually as the year progressed and have now settled back to pretty much as they were before the pandemic. As always, I have been grateful to all those who have provided content.</p> <p>When Barbara Albone retired as Parish Administrator she handed over to me the management WEP's entries on the "A Church Near You" website. In order to reduce the effort of maintaining two websites I set things up so as to direct visitors to that site on to the WEP website.</p> <p>I have recently discovered that I no longer have access to the pages for St Thomas's, Trinity Fishermead and Christ the Vine on the "A Church Near You" website, because the log-in credentials have been changed. It is obvious that someone within WEP is curating those entries because the content is being updated.</p> <p>All enquiries have failed to discover who now has control over those entries and I have had no response from the managers of the domain. I would be very grateful for any help which anyone can offer with this.</p> <p><b>Geoffrey Miller, Webmaster</b></p>

4.17

## SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR WEP

WEP continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy which is available here: [https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18740/safeguarding\\_policy\\_procedures\\_and-guidance\\_for\\_the\\_methodist\\_church\\_sept\\_2020.pdf](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18740/safeguarding_policy_procedures_and-guidance_for_the_methodist_church_sept_2020.pdf)

As this is a “live” document with constant updates (and also very long), printing is advised against, and the electronic version should always be read to ensure the most up to date version is being viewed. It provides a comprehensive set of operating procedures for all Safeguarding matters in relation to children, young people (under 18 years old) and vulnerable adults.

Each May, the WEP Safeguarding Policy is updated and the revised version (Standing Order No 15) is approved by WEP. A new poster has been sent to all churches with the most up to date contact details, if you have not seen one, please let me know. It is a requirement that this is displayed in each of the Churches. The Partnership Policy is part of the wider national Policy.

During the previous year Jo Newall stepped down as the Safeguarding Lead for WEP and as safeguarding officer for Christ the Vine, Rev Nicola Vidamour has been providing cover. Each church appoints its own, but WEP needs a lead.

After much deliberation and conversation with Nicola, I offered to take on role and to work closely with her. I have held the role at St Mary’s for a couple of years and was appointed in Dec 2021 by the Trustees. I have just completed the advance safeguarding module, which has highlighted some areas that over the next few months, I will be discussing with DCC’s and church officers, as points for consideration and setting up meetings with leads for at least a yearly review of the systems they have in place.

The register of who has had DBS checks and completed training, has been reviewed and it was not till later in the year that those who needed to have refreshers or do the foundation course under the Methodist Policy were able to attend and WEP was able to get most of their people updated.

The Methodist Circuit had asked for a financial contribution from the LEP’s to support the workload that falls on the Superintendent Minister and this was done last year.

The MK Methodist Circuit Safeguarding Leads Meetings that commenced in 2018 have continued by Zoom initially, but I offered to attend in Nicola’s place, as she was on leave, this was to be the first face to face meeting, for months, this meeting was a review of what had been occurring during the pandemic and a copy of the report of that meeting has been sent to the church leads, this meeting was worthwhile as networking is so much easier face to face and sharing ideas is always good.

There is still significant amount of work to do on risk assessments and implementing Safer Recruitment procedures and this is just not for employees this should be your volunteers as well.

Implementing the Safeguarding Policy is complex and challenging for all. We give thanks for all who are involved in this task and ask that this important work is held in your prayers to promote the well-being of the young and most vulnerable in our communities.

At all of the courses I have attended the one resounding comment is that Safeguarding **is every ones responsibility**, not just if you have a DBS or a cert. under your belt, none of us knows everyone’s life story and so just “be kind” and remember you may hold the missing piece of the jigsaw.

**Kim Weston WEP Safeguarding Lead**  
**Revd, Nicola Vidamour WEP Safeguarding Lead**

**WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2022 (2021 numbers shaded)**

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2022 (2021 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
St Thomas'	21	1	3	1	6	2	34
	21	1	3	1	8	5	39
St Mary's	48	2	4	4	0	12	70
	44	2	7	5	0	10	68
Trinity	6	5	5	0	3	16	35
	6	5	5	0	3	18	37
Woolstone	10	2	0	0	0	1	13
	17	3	1	1	0	0	22
Totals for 2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189
2021	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2020	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2019	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2018	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2017	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2016	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2015	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2014	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2013	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2012	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2011	99	14	25	3	27	32	200
2010	94	15	26	4	34	23	196
2009	100	15	24	2	31	30	202
2008	95	16	22	3	30	21	187
2007	88	18	27	1	28	16	178
2006	97	16	26	4	35	23	201

**Appointments at Partnership Level 2020-21**  
**Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership**  
**and Woughton PCC Members 2021-22**

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	David Hart		Mandy Heart
Woolstone Church		John Howard	
St Mary's Church	Kim Weston	Di Miller	David Bird
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle Iola Samuels	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Rev. Paul Norris Rev. Ian Herbert Rev. Nicola Vidamour Rev. Charmaine Howard	Jean Mattinsley

Deanery Synod Representative Di Miller, Kim Weston

Church Wardens

*Christ the Vine Community Church*

David Hart

*Woolstone Church*

John Howard

*St Thomas' Church*

Iola Samuels

*St Mary's Church*

Jean Mattinsley

David Bird

United Area Meeting

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership  
corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Andrew Buckley

Member of Trinity Centre  
Management Committee

Ken MacLeod