



**Cathedral
Annual Reports
2022**

**Annual Congregational
Meeting
2023**

**Newport Cathedral
Church of St Woolos**

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF CATHEDRAL 2022

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Annual Cathedral Congregational Meeting 2023

Introduction from the Dean

This booklet, prepared for the Annual Cathedral Congregational Meeting, contains a celebration of the life of the Cathedral community and its vibrancy. It has been a joy to read of the energy, the commitment and passion in each of the reports that follow. This is a lively community grounded in the prayer and worship which we offer each day. During the year the Cathedral has been opened again each day from Morning Prayer until Evening Prayer to enable anyone to call in to visit, to pray, to spend time in the still space, and in some cases to find help. The prayers left on the prayer board are placed on the altar at one of the Eucharists during the week, and many are very moving to read.

Over the past few years, we have been living through strange times and these continued into this year. These have had an impact on us all and the new landscape will take some time to assess. We began 2022 with pandemic restrictions returning and these continued until after Easter. The shared chalice, which was removed in 2020, only returned at Pentecost – I don't think this has happened before since the Reformation – and then only half the congregation have come forward to receive the wine at the Eucharist. The team of altar servers was disbanded during the pandemic and a new team was slowly formed during the year. We have recruited new people to join this team and with choristers carrying the cross at Evensong opened up the prospect of younger people participating.

We noticed something changed in December as the numbers of people attending worship and events jumped with near capacity at most of these. We anticipate that 2023 will be significantly busier with an increased footfall through the doors. Congregation numbers are growing.

It has therefore been a year of re-establishing, thinking through afresh who we are and where we are going, and beginning to shape for the future. I have written more about this in the Chapter report which is attached to the accounts and the summary accounts.

Thank you to everyone who gives so much to the life and witness of this special place. I commend the reports that follow and join you in celebrating everything they contain.

With my prayers and all good wishes

Ian Black

Dean of Newport / Deon Casnewydd

6th April 2023

Bellringers' Report 2022

The tower AGM was held in the Cathedral on 20th March 2022 and chaired by The Dean . We continued to ring for services, including the Installation of our new Dean in May 2021, until the present day. We rang for the Queen's platinum jubilee weekend on Friday, then unusually for a wedding on Saturday, and then for both services on Sunday. This was at a time when we were still struggling to get ringers.

In September with the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II we fully muffled the bells (with the tenor open at backstroke) as is customary with the passing of a monarch. The bells were rung on 3 occasions fully muffled for the Queen, and also open on Sunday evening for the accession of king Charles III, then on the following Sunday the bells were muffled again, followed by ringing of a quarter peal prior to the funeral on Monday. A busy time for the steeplekeeper, as each of the 23 muffles had to be removed and refitted individually. During this sad time we visited by a lapsed ringer from the 1970's who is now a regular member of our Sunday service band. At the end of September there was the Open Doors day event when we were fortunate enough to welcome back another lapsed ringer.

During November we were contacted by BBC radio 4 to record an interview and ringing in connection with the "Ring for the King", a recruitment drive to get new people trained up to ring For King Charles's Coronation. The actual recording took place in Bassaleg Church as the Cathedral was not available. The broadcast was well received by ringers around the country, greatly helped by a skilled BBC presenter. As a direct result of this we attracted another lapsed ringer who came back to "help us out after hearing us on the radio".

The bells were rung half muffled again for remembrance Sunday, with a quarter peal being rung in the evening. There were only 3 full peal attempts during the year, only 1 peal was actually successful. There were also 6 successful quarter peals during the year, reflecting our struggle to get ringers for evensong.

The bells have been well used in the year, with ringing for 64 services (with 3 Sundays when we were unable to ring), St Woolos hosted the Llandaff and Monmouth Assn of Bellringers AGM, rang for 1 wedding, have hosted 5 Llandaff and Monmouth Assn. special ringing practices and 2 visiting bands of ringers on tour from outside the area.

Our numbers of ringers have picked up during the year, with a mixture of lapsed ringers returning and new raw recruits, we have often managed to ring all 12 bells on a Sunday morning. We will still need to recruit and teach in the very near future, even with our current change of fortune.

The annual Bellringers Dinner day was held at the end of November, the meal was held at Junction 28 in Bassaleg with coincidentally 28 people attending, including the Dean and his wife. St Woolos ringers are also still involved in helping and teaching at other Monmouth Diocese towers such as Tredunnoch, Llanedeyrn and St Mellons.

We are very appreciative in having such supportive clergy and staff within the Cathedral and we can nearly always allow requests for extra sessions from both local and visiting bands to come and ring on our exceptional bells.

Barry Hayman
Tower Warden

Choir Annual Report 2022

After the difficulties of the last few years, it has been a real joy that the choir has had a “normal” year - chorister numbers have increased and morale and enthusiasm amongst the choristers, their families and the adult members of the choir are great! I am incredibly proud of every single member of the choir for their determination, hard work and resilience and it is wonderful to see how everyone has worked together to rebuild things after Covid and consistently achieve higher and higher standards.

I would like to mention a few particular highlights from the last year:

In the summer, the choir enjoyed events celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee: some of the choir sang, along with several other Newport choirs, at the Jubilee Beacon lighting event on 2nd June, in the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields, singing a special piece written for the occasion, “A life lived with grace”. We celebrated the Jubilee at the Cathedral on Sunday 5th June, with a celebratory service, followed by a lovely afternoon tea, when we enjoyed singing a new piece commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music, “In our service”, the text of which included extracts from the Queen’s own speeches.

Sadly, of course, only a few months later, we were arranging services to commemorate her Late Majesty: a commemorative Evensong on Friday 9th September and a special civic service on the Sunday.

Towards the end of summer term 2022, we enjoyed several social events: a chorister picnic in the Belle Vue Park, a chorister sponsored walk across the Severn Bridge and a wonderful end of term tea party at the Deanery, with Pimms (adults only!) and ice creams (everyone!).

We started off the new academic year with a busy first half term, which included singing at a service of Vespers in Tintern Abbey on 11th September, a special service on International Chorister Day, Sunday 9th October celebrating the composer Vaughan Williams, in his 150th anniversary year and the Opera Project in October. In this project we worked with children from Gaer Primary School and St Woolos Primary School and the company, Offstage Opera, whose aim is to introduce opera to new audiences, especially young people, in a fun, engaging and unusual way. The project ended with two “A night at the Opera” performances where the children sang along side the professional opera singers, singing music from Carmen, La Traviata and Hansel and Gretel. The project was enormous fun!

As usual, December was a busy month. Along with all the normal Christmas services, the Advent Carol Service, the Christingle, followed by the Christmas tea party for the choristers, the Carol Service and Midnight Mass, we also said farewell to choir member, Derek Fisher, who sang his last service with the choir on Sunday 18th December. Derek has sung in various churches and cathedrals for 80 years, and in Newport for 44, working with 6 different Deans and 2 Directors of Music! We thanked him for his enormous contribution to the life of the Cathedral and presented him with an engraved decanter as well as a special chorister retirement medal.

In the first part of 2023, we enjoyed participating in our first ever Plygain service, a traditional Welsh language carol service, on Sunday 15th January and the first Diocesan Choral Festival on Sunday 5th February. This service brought together singers from all over the area, celebrating choral singing right across the Diocese, including choir members from St Mary’s Abergavenny, St Cadoc’s Caerleon, St

John's Maindee and St Augustine's Rumney. We very much hope that this will become an annual celebration and we have fixed a date for next year already.

We already have lots of things to look forward to in the coming year: a service celebrating the Coronation on Friday 5th May, the girls choir has been invited to sing at the 100th anniversary service of the Ty Mawr Convent on Saturday 20th May, the Three Choirs Festival Evensong with the choirs of Llandaff and Brecon Cathedrals on Sunday 21st May, the choristers sponsored walk across the Severn Bridge on Saturday 1st July and, of course, our end of term party!

Recruitment of new choristers remains a challenge, but has been much easier this year as, unlike during the pandemic, children are now consistently singing in school and the schools have been much more receptive to allowing us to go in to run auditions. We ran major recruitment campaigns in the summer term of 2022 and at the start of the new academic year in September/October 2022. Around 350 auditions took place and around 200 places in the choir were offered, which resulted in 5 boys and 12 girls joining the choir. We are in the process of running another series of recruitment sessions at the moment, with a view to a new intake of choristers starting immediately after Easter.

Sincere thanks are due, as always, to Jeremy Blasby and Steve Harries for their support, hard work, professionalism and musicianship and for everything they do to ensure that the choir runs so efficiently and smoothly.

Finally, can I say how grateful I am to all the members of the choir: the boys and girls and their parents, and the adults for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm and for the enormous contribution they make to the worship at the cathedral, and to the clergy and congregation for their support and encouragement.

Emma Gibbins

Communications and Publicity Report for 2022

Information screens in the Cathedral Narthex

This is a new feature (or rather a revived one) established in September 2022. With guidance from Canon David Neale, the website team have created content for the three large screens that greet visitors on entering the cathedral. The central screen provides basic information about clergy and worship service time as well as special or seasonal worship events. The left-hand screen is a list of upcoming events, and the right-hand screen has posters for some of these events. The screens are updated every week and have had, so far, a positive reception.

Cathedral Website

The website usage continues to grow. There were 12,381 users in 2022, an increase of 7% over the previous year. There is a new Governance page which includes full details of the Cathedral Chapter members and Congregational Committee members and notes from their respective meetings. Regular meetings of the new Cathedral Communications Group (see below) have enabled ongoing review of the website and ensured up-to-date information on Cathedral concerts and other events.

St Woolos Quarterly

As expected, four editions have been published in 2022. The remit of the *Quarterly* is to publish material that is of interest not only to regular worshippers but also to the wider community in Newport and beyond. The editors continue to encourage contributions on a wide range of topics from the Cathedral family and the Dean's message is always an important part of this. As with the website, there has been a useful review of the *Quarterly* by the new Communications Group, and small modifications have been made to format and layout, and House Style Guidelines produced. The number of print copies distributed continues to decrease while we hope to encourage readers to view the Newsletter online.

Communications Group

The Communications Group is now well established, and has met five times during the year. Although informal, the Group has been able to put forward a number of proposals to the Cathedral Management Group and/or Chapter which have subsequently been implemented. These include the Narthex screens (see above) and three new trifold leaflets: *The Cathedral Icons*, *Music at St Woolos* and *The Living Churchyard*. Overall management of publicity strategy and material available in the cathedral is now being rationalised. The weekly *Cathedral News*, sent by email to 95 subscribers, was reviewed. In October 2022, the Cathedral Chapter formally commissioned the Group, its composition and its Terms of Reference.

(Streaming and recording of Cathedral services continues successfully under the management of Canon David Neale. Social media communications are managed by the Dean).

Brian & Sian King

Report on the Newport Area Deanery Conference 2022

The Area Deanery Conference was held on June 8th 2022 at St Andrew's Church, Liswerry with the Acting Area Dean, The Revd. Sue Pratten in the Chair. As usual, there were elections and nominations to be made to various diocesan and other bodies. Once these were completed the Conference debated a number of other matters. The Acting Area Dean presented the statement of accounts. The balance in the Business Reserve Account was £274-05 and in the Current Account there was £713-44. Since the future of the Deanery was unclear and other Area Deaneries do not have accounts of this nature, it was agreed to either close the accounts altogether or at most to keep a nominal sum in them for the time being.

The remaining money would be given on a 50/50 basis to the two main food banks in the city. The future shape of the Area Deanery structure was also discussed. At the time of the meeting it seemed likely that Deaneries would be amalgamated. However, there had been little discussion at diocesan level and matters were presently very unclear. Although the issue would be debated at the next Diocesan Conference, it was felt that consultation should take place beforehand. Concern was also expressed about the use of Diocesan property, in particular the use of empty vicarages.

The Archdeacon of Newport had written to the Area Dean setting out the diocesan policy in this matter but the length of time that some properties were left vacant, for example the vicarage at Alway, seemed difficult to understand. The Conference asked the Secretary to write to the Archdeacon expressing these concerns and those members who were on the Diocesan Conference agreed to raise the issue at the forthcoming meeting, should it be necessary.

Malcolm Phillips
Area Deanery Secretary

Monmouth Diocesan Conference 2022/23

This year's Annual Conference was held on Saturday 15th October 2022 at the impressive and very welcoming St Teilo's High School, Cardiff. It was good to meet in person once more after a number of meetings held via Zoom due to COVID restrictions. Robert Cornelius represented Newport Cathedral for a fourth year.

A second meeting, a Spring Conference, was held on Saturday 11th March, once again at St Teilo's High School, in order to vote on two motions and to consider a proposal to streamline some of the Diocesan committees.

Annual Conference

Session

1

after an opening act of Worship, which reflected upon the Vision of the diocese, Faith in the Future, the President of Conference, Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, welcomed delegates to our first 'live' meeting for three years. In a moving and inspirational Presidential Address, the Bishop put in to context the need for 'Faith in the Future', highlighting some of the challenges facing us, not least:

- declining numbers of people coming to Church;
- financial challenges; and,
- Facing an increasingly anti-religious society, with Wales seen as the most secular country in the UK.

There is, however, hope and joy, and energy and excitement through the love of God. The Bishop underlined three areas in which the Diocese can address the challenges:

- We have been awarded additional financial support from the Representative Body which will help us to maintain a stipendiary clergy and to build and grow over the next 10 years.
- We have bold and exciting plans spearheaded by the launch of the Diocesan Vision.
- We have faith and recognise God at the centre of all that we do: *God so loved the World that He gave His only Son.*

There then followed Conference Business, including agreement of the minutes from 14th and 16th October 2021 and reports from various committees, including: the Standing Committee; the Parsonage Board; and, the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Two motions were then presented to conference, both of which were carried:

MOTION A: *Conference proposes that Article Nine, Lay Elected Members, section (f) of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference shall be removed.*

The full section to be considered reads:

- (f) Lay membership of the conference shall cease on the member attaining the age of seventy-five.

The removal of this clause would thereby eliminate the age restriction currently in place for lay membership of the Diocesan Conference.

MOTION B: Deanery Restructuring.

This Conference agrees to the dissolving of all current eight Deaneries and the creation of 16 Deaneries each with the same name and boundary as the 16 Ministry Areas in the Diocese.

In each Deanery, the membership of the Deanery Conference shall be the same as the Ministry Area Council. The Conference agrees to any necessary amendments to the Constitution in order to facilitate this motion.

Session 2

This session was dedicated to the launch of the Diocesan Vision, and its five branches:

Discipleship: growing more like Jesus

Stewardship: living as thankful and generous people

Environment: caring for God's creation

Social Justice: serving together to strengthen our communities

Equality and Diversity: welcoming all.

The President then gave her final remarks, ending with a closing prayer.

Spring Conference 2023

This additional meeting was held in order to consider two motions, both of which were carried.

After opening worship, reflecting on peace in and through Christ, the following motions were considered.

MOTION A: *This Conference agrees that amendments be made to articles 30, 31 and 33 of the Diocesan Constitution to include the Cathedral in the Ministry Share Scheme and the Exceptional Support for Ministry Share and also allow the Cathedral to nominate clergy and laity for election to Provincial and Diocesan bodies...*

Article 33, in particular, enables the Cathedral to have rights to elect people to Diocesan bodies that will take place at the Diocesan Conference in October 2023.

MOTION B: *The conference agrees that any elections that it is required to conduct, pursuant to the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference or the Constitution of the Church in Wales, may be conducted using an electronic voting system and the following subsection is added to Article thirty-three of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference.*

Currently there is no electronic system in place; but lockdown rather highlighted the need for this motion.

Diocesan Restructuring

The Bishop presented an item for discussion about bringing together the Standing Committee, Diocesan Financial Board and the Diocesan Trust to create a Diocesan Council. It is envisaged that in doing so there would be increased capacity for accountability and collaborative work; and that the new body would allow greater representation from some areas of the Diocese, such as The Gwent Valleys. A motion will be brought forward at the Annual Conference in October 2023 for approval. The Conference closed in prayer.

Robert Cornelius

Friends of Newport Cathedral Choir

To be honest that until recently FNCC has been quiet. We had a number of activities planned pre Covid and as Emma's main focus has been rebuilding the choir so other activities have taken a bit of a back seat.

The choir have received two small grants; one will be used to create a recruitment video for the choir and the other will be used for choir development. FNCC will support the Cathedral Music Team as it looks to bring these two activities to fruition. In addition to these grants, FNCC are looking to reintroduce the music lesson grant, that allows choir members receive financial contributions towards music lessons. The next few months will see FNCC developing plans to support the whole choir going forward and along with reintroducing the music grant we will be looking at restarting chorister concerts and other activities that will allow the expanding choir to bond and develop.

Phae Cole

The Living Churchyard

The Living Churchyard at St Woolos is inspired by the Living Churchyard movement that the diocese became involved with some years ago. It can be found to the northern and eastern areas of the churchyard. Bird feeders and nest boxes may also be found in other areas. Although the wildflowers and grasses are allowed to grow freely in the spring and summer, the area is strimmed and cleared later in the year.

The Living churchyards represents one of the five marks of mission of our Christian community namely to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Cathedral Chapter are now responsible for the management of the churchyard and whether some developments can occur will depend on their agreement. These may include providing some modest cover to encourage small birds to use our bird feeders.

I am grateful to Bethan Cole for looking after the bird feeders, Canon Andrew in his pioneering work to support hedgehogs in the churchyard with hotels and in arranging a talk by Hedgehog Sue, Brian and Sian King for their work in producing an updated visitors leaflet and of course to Dan for his work of strimming and clearing.

More help is always welcome but meanwhile, I hope that you all will find some time to slow down and be with nature in God's Acre at the centre of Newport remembering that God is as much present outside the cathedral as he is within it.

Philip Jones

Mind on the Hill

The Mind on the Hill group has now been meeting for 6 months. It is a varied group and over 25 different people have attended at some stage, with the usual attendance being around 11 people per week.

We have some very willing volunteers from the Cathedral who make us very welcome with a cup of tea and biscuits. Every week we do some relaxation and Mindfulness with Sally. Rev Andrew's 'On this Day' quiz is a regular feature which leads smoothly into some interesting conversations. We have had poetry readings, talks and music. There is always something interesting going on including visits from Cathedral Kim! We look forward to joining a trip to Slimbridge in April, courtesy of Natural Resources Wales.

Anybody who would like to attend the group for their Wellbeing should make an appointment with Newport Mind on 258741.

Hilary Sloan

Mission and Congregational Development

In developing a mission strategy, we have sought to honour existing cathedral initiatives, the emerging diocesan vision, and the needs of the city and wider world. Various themes have also emerged: food poverty, mental health, social and environmental justice, and a desire for ongoing teaching and learning around spirituality and prayer. The importance of creating what may be thought of as pastoral space where people can spend time getting to know each other, sharing concerns with each other, in a semi structured format has also become clear. The majority of newly launched mission activities have been the result, or fruit, of small groups of congregants spending time together listening to external speakers and praying together. The majority of the new mission activities have been bottom up driven and congregationally resourced. Examples include the talk from Gareth Raynor Williams from St. Teilo's School which led to the creation of Pantry on the Hill, the cathedral's project to play a small part in helping to alleviate childhood food poverty.

A further example is the talk from Home Help for Hedgehogs which led, directly, to Hogs on the Hill and the installation of a small bug hotel in the cathedral yard. The talk given by Peter Leonard on Emotional Health was instrumental in renewing a prior commitment to emotional and mental health. Through the celebration of the Chartist movement, we were able to build a relationship with the campaign for The Statue for Lady Rhondda, exemplifying our commitment to justice and equality. We have been able to build a strong relationship with Pride in the Port and this has led to new worshippers and further ongoing work.

Walking together has also emerged as a theme with the concrete expressions being 'Come Walk with Me,' the Llandaff to Newport Cathedral sponsored pilgrimage and the Severn Bridge Choristers pilgrimage. The latter two raised a significant amount for the Bishop of Monmouth's Social Responsibility Fund.

The cathedral continues to donate to a wide range of organisations with larger donations being made to the Social Responsibility Fund, the Welsh Refugee Council, and St. Dunstan's Cathedral in the High Veld to support their work with the homeless. We have also raised money for, volunteered in, and provided clothing to Eden Gate supporting their work with Newport's Street Homeless. Prayers for the City followed by a soup lunch has become a monthly commitment.

In late 2022 confirmation preparation began for eight candidates whilst Lent and Advent courses were also held. It has become clear that Mission and Congregational Development are deeply aligned activities, with mission flowing from the prayerful concerns of the community, and a communal spirituality being expressed through mission, outreach and service, with these in turn being closely aligned with the diocesan vision and strategy.

Canon Andrew Lightbown

St Woolos Mothers' Union 2022

At the AGM in February 2022 there was a change of officers as Mrs Glenys Rowe had completed her term of office and Mrs Maureen Mahoney became the Branch Leader for the next three years. Mrs Jen Robinson took over as Branch Treasurer. Although Mrs Sandra Toulson only agreed to take the minutes, the resignation of Mrs Barbara Marsh as Branch Secretary later in the year, promoted her to Branch Secretary. Both Mrs Rowe and Mrs Marsh have served the branch selflessly and have left a good record to follow. Mrs Rowe remains on the committee as does Mrs Sylvia Arthur.

During Lent Revd Jenny Mole came to lead us in a contemplative afternoon and members are also pleased to see her when she celebrates at the weekly Thursday morning eucharist. This often coincides with our Corporate Communion on the second Thursday each month.

Other activities and speakers during the year included World Day of Prayer in April and the commissioning of officers by the Dean at the May meeting. He also talked about his life and work before coming to Wales.

The beginning of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend coincided with our June meeting and members of the congregation were invited to join our celebration with a Strawberry Tea and entertainment. The work of the MU further afield was explained by our July speaker, Mrs Jenny Barton. She is a member of the Central MU Trustee Board as the Zonal Trustee for Wales and has been the Diocesan President for Worcester and Monmouth dioceses.

The September meeting was held in the Cathedral as our speaker Revd Audrey Jenkins had suffered an accident and was using a wheelchair. Fortunately this mishap had occurred after her receipt of the Royal Maundy Money before Easter. The service had been held in St George's Chapel Windsor and performed by the then Prince of Wales, our King Charles III.

'One is nearer God's heart in a garden' and Psalm 68 were the texts of Bishop Cherry's talk at the October meeting. Several members of the congregation joined us for this meeting. 'Mothers of the Bible' beginning with Eve and ending with Mary was the title of Mrs Jean Hackett's talk in November and we ended the year with an Advent meditation as we met on December 1st. Too early for a party but not mince pies!

The members have continued to support the Diocesan MU Projects for the hospitals in the ABUHB by providing toiletries and syringe bags. In June we served refreshments after the Hospital Chaplaincy Memorial Service for the bereaved parents of babies and children who had died in the previous twelve months. The members have also supported the outreach projects of the Cathedral.

Maureen Mahoney
Branch Leader.

Music@StWoolos

In 2022 there were eleven Saturday mid-day recitals and two Thursday evening concerts. Two events were cancelled during the year: a concert because of the sudden and unexpected unavailability of the performers and a recital following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. As usual all the Music@StWoolos events had free admission.

We were entertained by two local choirs, seven groups of students from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, a Joint Head Chorister of the Cathedral Choir, The National Youth Guitar Ensemble, a professional harpist and a Baroque Ensemble.

The average audience size was 49 and after paying performers' travel expenses or an agreed proportion of the retiring collections, almost £2,500 was paid into the Cathedral funds.

Brian Cox

The Cathedral Shop Report 2022

Once again I thank all of you who support us as it benefits both you and the Cathedral.

As, due to safeguarding we now require two people at a time to man the shop, I am always looking for volunteers. Just two hours a week when you could find time to read a book or do some knitting or just have a chat with a friend. If you are lucky you could be entertained with delightful organ music. Please give this some consideration.

As well as our unique selection of cards we now have a bigger choice of books which are well worth perusing. If you have a particular request I will always try to find it.

A particularly big thanks to those who already so ably assist in its running. We pray that 2023 will be even more successful.

Christine Thomas

Thirty-somethings' Report 2022

Due to the recent "Pandemic Lockdowns" that we all have experienced and the gradual easing back into some form of normality, the social year for the 30-Somethings' Group started later than usual in May rather than February with the traditional Pancake Supper followed by the Annual General Meeting. This return to some degree of normality was very much appreciated and welcomed by the Group.

As the ghost of the Pandemic was still hovering, people were still reluctant to get together in close proximity. In view of this and the problem of procuring transport, it was decided not to have a summer outing.

On 10th October the annual Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz Night took place. The meal was very enjoyable and Garry certainly had everyone scratching heads trying to answer the questions in the quiz. We definitely had plenty of teasers to think about that evening. A thankyou to Garry and well done for putting such a good quiz together.

On 9th December the traditional Christmas Lunch took place at Junction 28 with Dean Ian attending as Canon Andrew was not able to be there in person.

It was a happy "get together" time being able to enjoy each other's company and the good food.

Although the year started cautiously, it ended on a good note with a more relaxed atmosphere as people came together to socialise.

Jen Robinson