

Church of the Nativity Annual Report 2022



*To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Vestry
Sunday, February 26, 2023*

AGENDA

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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1. Check In
2. Call to Order & Prayer
3. Appointment of the Vestry Clerk
4. Approval of the Agenda
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7. Silence and Prayer for the deceased, Thanksgiving for new life
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9. Elections & Appointments
10. Financial Reports and Budget 13-18
11. Motions..... 19
12. Word of Thanks
13. Prayer & Adjourn



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

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www.worshipwithnativity.org

2022

CLERGY

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin, Rector
The Reverend Canon David Linn, Honorary Assistant
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson, Parish Deacon

PARISH OFFICERS

Mrs. Jan Collinson, Warden
Mr. David Eccles, Warden
Mr. Doug Lampman, Warden

LAY DELEGATES TO SYNOD

Mr. David Eccles
Mr. William Pleydon
Mrs. Linda Westfall (alternate)

PARISH STAFF

Mr. Peter Harding, Organist and Choir Director
Mrs. Laura Brintnell, Parish Administrator
Mr. Turner Shaw, Caretaker

**The Church of the Nativity
Annual Vestry Meeting
Sunday, February 20, 2022**

The Vestry of the Church of the Nativity convened at 11:35am on Sunday, February 20, 2022 online via zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. There were 36 members in attendance. The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin, Rector, chaired the meeting. Matthew opened the meeting with prayers. Laura Brintnell was appointed as Vestry Clerk.

Motion A: Adoption of Agenda

Millie Marzo moved to adopt the agenda as presented and Linda Westfall seconded. **CARRIED**

Motion B: Adoption of Minutes

Helen Marriage moved to accept the minutes of the 2020 Vestry Meeting and Sue Pleli seconded. **CARRIED**

Parish Registers

Matthew offered prayers for all lost over the last year. He mentioned Trudy Meredith passed away this past year. Her service was conducted at Christ's Church Cathedral and not in our registry. The vestry report will be amended to add her. Jan Collinson offered words about Martha Lampman and David Eccles offered words about John McBride.

Motion C: Election and Appointments

Matthew presented the candidates elected and appointed for 2021. John Robertson moved to accept all members of Council and Lesley Griffin seconded. **CARRIED**

Report for 2021

Matthew thanked everyone who acted for and has supported the ministries who are represented in the reports. He recognized that even during a pandemic we continue to be the church and the world, we are God's hands reaching out and healing in so many ways.

Motion D:

Financial Reports for 2021

David Eccles spoke to the finances for 2021. He mentioned we had projected a deficit but we are \$11,000 to the good for operations; even though revenue was down, expenses were also down due to life in the pandemic. David indicated investments had a great return last year which has helped our position. Money was taken out to pay for the sound system and Halliday room renovation, which is reflected in the Memorial Fund report.

Operating Budget for 2021

David presented the budget for 2022. David explained that the altar guild account has now been folded into the general account. He mentioned that we are hoping to do fundraising this year even with restrictions of the pandemic. Expenditures are relatively the same as last year, however, he explained that employee wages look significantly increased but the caretaker worked nominal hours and we had a wage subsidy most of the year which is now finished. He mentioned we are basically the same as 2019, the last year being fully open, so we have remained fairly steady. The budget was done by Corporation and

recommended by Parish Council. A question was raised regarding wages wanting to make sure enough money was budgeted without a wage subsidy for the coming year. David said he would look into it. Matthew offered the budget is a plan; we do the best we can but never know if changes/shifts will happen along the way. Corporation will make changes necessary and inform along the way. Linda Westfall moved that the budget be accepted and Saj Hashmi seconded. **CARRIED**

Motion E: Authority for Signing, Borrowing and Entering Agreements

Matthew explained this motion is voted on every year. Matthew read the motion and called the question. Blanche Robertson moved and Alan Wilkes seconded. **CARRIED**

Motion F: Gratitude and Affirmation of and for Corporation and Parish Council 2020

Matthew offered his deep thanks to each and all for their part in the work and support of this parish and its ministry. Sue Pleli moved and Susan Lloyd seconded. **CARRIED**

Words of Thanks

Matthew offered how grateful he is to be serving this exceptional community. He sees God's love expressed in this community and wants to say thank you to all.

The meeting was formally adjourned and Matthew offered a prayer.

Carol Burnell moved a motion to adjourn and Jackie Tucker seconded. **CARRIED**



ENTRIES IN THE PARISH REGISTERS

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

BAPTISMS

Lilah Lynne Hawley

Logan Shaw

Thomas Foran

CONFIRMATIONS

Reid Starr

MARRIAGES

None

FUNERALS

Kay Fickley

Shelley D'Angelo

Anna Machauer

Joan Thompson

Kath Dubecki

Phyllis Mercer

John Bodden

Giuseppe Laviola

Doug Laxton

Kathleen Wood

PARISH STATISTICS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Families.....	74	72	65	71	
Individuals.....	105	100	95	100	
Total Members.....	290	275	260	270	
Vestry Members.....	164	155	145	150	
Identifiable Donors (over \$25)	150	118	102	109	
Baptisms.....	4	2	0	3	
Confirmations.....	1	0	0	1	
Marriages.....	0	0	0	0	
Funerals.....	8	3	7	10	
Average Sunday Attendance.....	82	--	--	38	
8:30 am.....	18	--	--	8	
10:00 am.....	64	--	--	30	(40)
Midweek Services - Wednesday.....	10	--	--	9	(4)
Attendance in Easter Week.....	227	--	--	114	(218)
Attendance at Christmas.....	171	--	--	82	(74)

(Streaming Numbers)

ATTENDANCE 2022

With so many changes in how we worshipped due to various precautions and restrictions, we wanted to share a better picture of a sense of attendance than simple numbers can provide.

January and February

Sundays

In January and February, our Sunday services took the form of Morning Prayer, streamed to YouTube. In addition to the Rector and the Director of Music, we had one or two other parishioners involved in reading and leading the prayers. We did not record in-person attendance for those services.

The average number of unique streams of those services was 40. (It's worth remembering that multiple people were watching via the same screen.)

Midweek

The midweek service was held using the Zoom video-conferencing software, which meant that different people could take turns leading different parts of the service, and that we could continue after our service with tea, fellowship, and study. **The average attendance at those services was 10.**

March through December

Midweek

With Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, we resumed having in-person services! **Our average mid-week attendance was 9.** From March through our summer break in mid-week services, we were worshipping in the church to ensure proper social distancing, so we also offered an unlisted YouTube stream of that service. (Unlisted streams are only viewable if you receive a direct link to that stream. We used an unlisted stream as we did not have someone to run the board to help cut away at communion and help with privacy issues.) **Our average use of these streams was 4 people per week.** Following the service, we headed back to our homes and had fellowship and study via Zoom.

When we resumed the midweek services in the fall, we moved back to the chapel, which has meant that we haven't been able to stream the service. This is a real conundrum. The midweek community's intimacy really benefits from being able to worship closer together in our familiar spot; it also means that some folk who aren't able to attend in-person aren't able to participate.

Sundays

Our early service was initially at 8:00, but has now moved back to the pre-pandemic time of 8:30 at the request of those who participate in that service. **Our average attendance has been 8,** ranging between 4 and 15.

At our ten o'clock service, we've seen an average of 30 people in attendance each week, ranging between 16 and 87.

It's the ten o'clock service that we've been live-streaming since the resumption of in-person services; **we've seen an average of 40 streams each week.** *

Easter

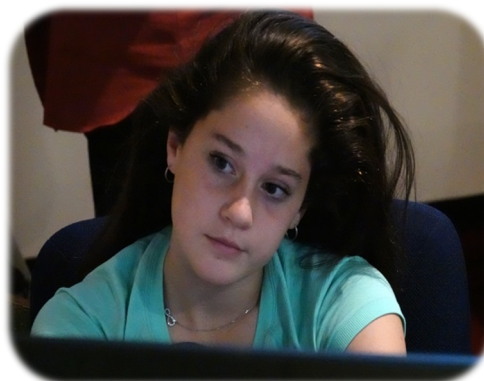
In addition to the 52 people who attended Passion Sunday with the Liturgy of the Palms on April 10th, 71 streams of that service were also watched—a reminder of how much this celebration means to the parish! We held in-person services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as Easter. Total attendance that week was 144 in-person, and 218 streams.

Christmas

What a delight to be able to celebrate Christmas in-person for the first time since 2019! The 4:00 service saw 30 people in-person, with 34 streams; the 8:00 outdrew both with 41 in-person and 40 streams. There were 11 people in attendance Christmas Day, which we did not stream. That gives us a total Christmas attendance of 82 in-person, and 74 streams.

We also resumed our Christmas Songs and Stories celebration. With a special story from Sue, a musical offering from Derek, and great work from the choir and Peter, we welcomed 45 people in-person... and saw 143 streams! This service really is a fantastic way of being able to invite others into God's story in an accessible way.

* We record the number of stream views one week following the 'premiere' of a given video. We want to be able to have a consistent metric for any future comparisons.



REPORT

A few years ago, my family watched the movie *Free Solo*. It's a documentary profiling the climber Alex Honnold and his desire to free solo – climbing without ropes or other protective equipment – a route on the El Capitan Mountain in Yosemite National Park, CA. It's a mere 3,000 feet (914 metres) tall.

The film is beautiful: full of gorgeous shots of Yosemite and other mountains, with an eye for the truly awesome nature of God's creation. It's also full of interesting questions. Will the filmmakers interfere with Alex's safety, even with precautions? Is it ethical for them to film this attempt, knowing that death is a very real possibility? Why is Alex seemingly without any fear at all about this goal? How will he and his partner Sanni make sense of their relationship, with such risky efforts as part of their life?

The logistics of an effort like this aren't simple. They're about more than replacing your climbing shoes and making sure you've got enough chalk on hand! We see Alex working through his chosen route, called Freerider, making sense of each section. He practices constantly (with ropes), committing every detail of El Capitan's face to his memory. We see him deal with a compression fracture and a badly sprained ankle and swollen foot.

For much of the film, it feels like Alex is taking two steps forward and then one step back. Making progress, but slowly. His climbing feels like a metaphor for life: gritty determination combined with effort, mistakes that lead to learning, hard-earned achievements. And as we watch, we wonder—is this worth it?

Being one of God's communities – being the Church of the Nativity – isn't likely to show up as a *National Geographic* documentary, let alone an Oscar-winning one! At the same time, we've been living through very real challenges and the precarity – the worrying uncertainty – has been deeply palpable.

Just before Christmas of 2021, in-person services were shut down. We'd learned from previous experiences. Our streaming solution, installed earlier in 2021, meant that as 2022 began we were able to share in worship together, even if we were doing so remotely. We called one another; we checked in; we supported and prayed for one another.

Ash Wednesday saw the resumption of in-person services, though half the pews were still roped off and seating was assigned. We've kept streaming all of the services, to help those who were unable to or felt unsafe to attend in-person continue to be a vital part of this community.

We saw more signs of progress as we made our way further into Lent. Back in 2021, a dozen faithful 'palmer' made some 1,200 perfectly crafted crosses for fifteen parishes—all working from home. But in 2022, a larger group re-gathered to do the work in-person for more churches. The palmer didn't just support more churches; they also were the beginning of a return to fellowship. Community was beginning to re-bloom like the irises out in the gardens.

And as the weather grew better, we resumed having coffee hour times. At first, this was only outdoors in the **Nativity Gardens**, with pre-packaged juice and cookies. As the fountain bubbled, folk enjoyed the colourful chairs and sat in the sun or in the shade—and we started to laugh together again.

We bid farewell to our Theological Intern, Monica Romig Green. In her time with the Nativity, Monica preached, shared in leading services, and led a series of experiences of different forms of prayer with the midweek community. We wish her well as her studies proceed, and offer our continuing prayers as she moves toward ordination.

September saw the monthly community lunch program resuming. There are fewer folk in attendance than before the pandemic precautions, but we've been able to welcome back our friends from the wider community, and to forge new relationships (as well as to invite more people into mocking Matthew for disliking broccoli). Being able to work and serve together really is a gift.

The fall also included a parish barbeque, and inside coffee hours as the weather grew colder. Choir practices started back up, and we started to sing more hymns each Sunday. We celebrated as Bishop Susan appointed Linda Westfall to the Order of Niagara, in recognition for her devoted care to the parish in a variety of roles, including her long tenure as Altar Guild president.

In November, Bishop Susan ordained Larry Collinson to be our parish deacon. He's already hard at work applying for grants and developing opportunities for us to reach out to seniors in the community around us.

Some seasonal traditions were brought back as we got closer to Christmas. The mitten tree went up in the church, and folk generously donated an astonishing number of mittens, hats, scarves, and socks to offer warmth to those in need. The Bag Ladies hosted a fabulous Christmas luncheon, with a carol singalong led by Peter and with SAM clients joining in, too. We held our Christmas Songs & Stories celebration a week before Christmas, and got to enjoy incredible music from the choir & Derek, a moving contemporary story from Sue. The Decorating Committee made sure that the poinsettias and other decorations had the church looking amazing as we held in-person Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services for the first time since 2019.

Things don't look exactly as they did in the before times. Our progress has been somewhat like Alex Honnold's in *Free Solo*: uncertain, and with plenty of set-backs. But thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Church of the Nativity community throughout, we are well positioned as we figure out where the next hand-holds will be as we scale the obstacles before us. We'll have to do more thinking together about new possibilities and challenges.

The main difference I see between us and Alex is that we're very much not climbing a mountain on our own, with no support. Instead, we're a community that cares deeply for the well-being of one another and of those around us. What's more, our goal is to be faithful: to listen to what God is up to, and to join in. While that work still demands much of each of us and has its perils, we're also attached to ropes and have God who never slumbers nor sleeps watching our belaying lines. As we're reminded in the book of Deuteronomy, "the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (33.27).

PARISH COUNCIL 2022

Rector	Matthew Griffin
Warden	Doug Lampman
Warden	Jan Collinson
Warden	David Eccles
Lay Delegate to Synod	David Eccles
Lay Delegate to Synod	William Pleydon
Youth Delegate to Synod	Darrah Smith
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod	Linda Westfall
Treasurer	David Eccles
Greening Facilitator	Corrina Smith
Appointed & Elected Members:	Carol Burnell Helen Marriage Sue Pleli Blanche Robertson Arlene Sheridan



Finances at a Glance

REVENUE	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	
<u>Offerings</u>					
Envelopes	73,013	73,000	72,964	75,000	
Pre-Authorized Givings	83,854	82,000	74,282	75,000	
Other	10,306	15,550	16,763	17,500	
Total Givings:	167,173	170,550	164,009	167,500	77.9%
Rental Income:	17,899	18,000	21,605	21,800	9.6%
Miscellaneous Income:	17,330	24,550	19,715	25,700	12.5%
Total Revenue:	\$202,402	\$213,100	\$205,329	\$215,000	100%
EXPENDITURES					
Building Operations	42,220	48,250	60,583	57,200	23.5%
Parish Operations	5,302	8,634	8,468	9,484	3.9%
Employee Compensation	115,181	140,500	133,901	143,025	58.7%
Diocesan Mission & Ministries	34,211	35,204	34,822	33,781	13.9%
Total Expenditures:	\$196,914	\$232,588	\$237,774	\$243,490	100%
Net:	\$5,488	-\$19,488	-\$32,445	-\$28,490	
Investment Fund Withdrawal	0	0	8,000	0	
Surplus (Deficit) on Cash Basis	\$5,488	-\$19,488	-\$24,445	-\$28,490	
Unrealized Gain on Investment Fund	14,895	12,000	-24,047	4,000	
Surplus (Deficit) with Non-Cash Gain	\$20,383	-\$7,488	-\$48,492	-\$24,490	

Financial Overview:

Offerings from parishioners represent approximately 78% of our total revenue.

Our major expenditure each year relates to Employee Compensation. The Diocese of Niagara has recommended a 4.0% wage increase for all staff for 2023. This increase is incorporated in the budget for 2023

Church of the Nativity

Balance Sheet December 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
ASSETS		
Bank	\$25,337	\$35,104
CIBC - Memorial Fund	43,477	38,355
Petty Cash	200	200
Investment Fund at Fair Market Value	215,047	239,094
Rector's Fund at Fair Market Value	392,009	461,956
HST - recoverable current year	1,098	3,708
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$677,168</u>	<u>\$778,417</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>137,214</u>	<u>137,214</u>
TOTAL ASSETS AND CAPITAL ASSETS	<u><u>814,382</u></u>	<u><u>915,631</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	4040	1970
Rector's Discretionary Fund	<u>10,213</u>	<u>213</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14253	2183
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets – beginning	913,448	849,272
Memorial Fund - annual contributions	5,120	3,180
Unrealized Gains - Rector's Fund	(69,947)	40,714
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>-48,492</u>	<u>20,282</u>
Net Assets-ending	<u>800,129</u>	<u>913,448</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>800,129</u>	<u>913,448</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$814,382</u></u>	<u><u>\$915,631</u></u>

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for 2022 and Budget for 2023

REVENUE

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
<u>Offerings</u>					
Envelopes	83,992	73,013	73,000	72,964	75,000
Direct Deposit	71,910	83,854	82,000	74,282	75,000
Christmas Envelopes	4,565	5,130	5,000	11,375	10,000
Coin Cards	1,753	65	1,700	70	1,200
Easter Envelopes	3,586	3,485	3,500	3,135	3,500
Harvest Envelopes	4,055	1,425	4,000	1,715	2,000
Loose Offering	616	43	1,200	303	600
Sunday School	9	0	-	0	-
Initial Offering Envelopes	96	158	150	165	200
Total Weekly Offerings	170,582	167,173	170,550	164,009	167,500
<u>Property Rental</u>					
Harmony	935	660	1,000	1,320	1,500
Hall Rental - Misc	1,070	2,325	1,500	4,295	3,500
TOPS	420	0	600	975	1,200
SAM	14,352	14,352	14,400	14,452	15,000
Clean & Free	594	562	500	563	600
Total Rental Income	17,371	17,899	18,000	21,605	21,800
<u>Miscellaneous Income</u>					
Group Donations	0	0	-	0	-
Pop Cans	15	0	-	316	350
Altar Guild & Flowers	0	0	1,500	2,289	2,000
Nativity Marketplace	575	0	500	0	500
Special Event Fundraising	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Rectory Fund	17,000	17,000	17,050	17,000	17,650
Other Income	384	330	500	110	200
Total Miscellaneous Income	17,974	17,330	24,550	19,715	25,700
Total Revenue	\$205,927	\$202,402	\$213,100	\$205,329	\$215,000

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Actual</u> 2020	<u>Actual</u> 2021	<u>Budget</u> 2022	<u>Actual</u> 2022	<u>Budget</u> 2023
Building Operations					
Heat	7,151	5,939	6,500	11,295	14,000
Hydro	2,844	2,745	3,500	3,147	3,500
Telephone & Internet	1,557	1,752	1,800	1,931	2,000
Water	718	607	750	1,082	1,200
Groundskeeping & Snow Removal	6,375	7,114	8,700	8,763	8,500
Insurance	13,033	15,312	17,000	16,573	18,000
Repairs & Maintenance	9,462	8,751	10,000	17,792	10,000
Total Building Operations	41,140	42,220	48,250	60,583	57,200
Parish Operations					
Office and administration	4,450	2,682	4,000	3,718	4,000
Photocopier Lease	1,334	1,455	1,334	1,334	1,334
Bank Service Charges	275	230	250	366	400
Music	545	644	600	485	600
Offering Envelopes	224	170	250	240	250
Sunday School and Education	272	0	250	125	125
Altar Guild & Flowers	0	0	1,500	720	1,500
Worship Supplies	380	0	300	465	500
Fellowship	165	121	150	635	500
Synod Fees	0	0	-	380	275
Total Parish Operations	7,645	5,302	8,634	8,468	9,484
Salary Expenses					
Employee Compensation	132,765	131,873	140,000	132,766	141,825
Federal Wage Subsidy	-35,578	-16,692	0	0	0
Vacation Coverage/Honoraria	0	0	500	1,135	1,200
Total Salary Expenses	97,187	115,181	140,500	133,901	143,025
Diocesan Mission & Ministries	43,515	34,211	35,204	34,822	33,781
Total Expenditures	189,487	196,914	232,588	237,774	243,490
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	16,440	5,488	-19,488	-32,445	-28,490

	<u>Actual</u> 2020	<u>Actual</u> 2021	<u>Budget</u> 2022	<u>Actual</u> 2022	<u>Budget</u> 2023
Fund Activities					
Investment Fund Withdrawal	0	0	-	8,000	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Surplus (Deficit) cash basis	<u>16,440</u>	<u>5,488</u>	<u>-19,488</u>	<u>-24,445</u>	<u>-28,490</u>
Unrealized Gain on Investment Fund	16,515	14,895	12,000	-24,047	4,000
Surplus (Deficit) with non-cash gain	<u>\$32,955</u>	<u>\$20,383</u>	<u>-\$7,488</u>	<u>-\$48,492</u>	<u>-\$24,490</u>

Investment Fund and Rectory Fund Summaries for 2022

Rectory Investment Fund (restricted withdrawals)

Balance as of January 1, 2022	\$ 461,596
Withdrawals	- 25,000
Unrealized market value gain	<u>44,587</u>
Balance December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 392,009</u>

Investment Fund (unrestricted withdrawals)

Balance as of January 1, 2022	\$ 239,094
Withdrawals	- --
Unrealized market value gain	<u>24,047</u>
Balance December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 215,047</u>

Statement Annual Memorial Fund Report For the year ending December 31, 2022

CIBC Bank Balance at January 1, 2022	\$	38,356
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RECEIPTS

Donations	\$	4,980	
Interest Income	\$	224	\$ 5,204

DISBURSEMENTS

Bank Service Charges	\$	84
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CIBC Memorial Bank balance at December 31, 2022	\$	43,476
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ENABLING & HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS

Motion A:

THAT the Agenda be adopted.

Motion B:

THAT the minutes of the 2022 Annual Vestry of the Church of the Nativity be approved.

Motion C:

THAT the nominees be elected and appointed as the wardens, delegates to synod, and members of Parish Council for the coming year.

Motion D:

THAT the Financial Statements for 2022 be approved, and the budget for 2023 be commended.

Motion E: Authority for Signing, Borrowing, and Entering Agreements

THAT the Rector, the Wardens and the Treasurer of the Church of the Nativity be authorized as signing authorities for the purposes of banking for the coming year;

AND THAT the signatures of two of the above required on all cheques issued until our next annual vestry meeting.

AND THAT the Corporation be authorized to borrow at its careful discretion, should the need arise, until our next annual vestry meeting.

AND THAT the Corporation be authorized to approve licenses or space agreements so long as all requirements of the Diocese of Niagara are met.

Motion F: Gratitude and Affirmation of and for Corporation and Parish Council 2022.

THAT Vestry affirm the actions and decisions of Corporation and the advice of Parish Council during 2022, AND Vestry offers its thanks and appreciation to all who have served.