

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, AXMINSTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1127655

Details

Other names ST MARY'S AXMINSTER PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-01-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Rectory
Church Street
Axminster
Axminster
Devon
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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Worshipping God, providing for the local community, raising money to better God's work and for other charities and good causes.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£339,921	£341,293	-	-
2024-12-31	£186,775	£159,159	-	-
2023-12-31	£175,369	£122,955	-	-
2022-12-31	£148,212	£116,530	-	-
2021-12-31	£124,409	£112,868	-	-
2020-12-31	£91,587	£68,756	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Robert Meade		2025-11-27
Amanda Loveridge		2021-05-24
Dr Fraser Russell		2023-04-19
Dr Sugendran Govender		2019-04-25
Joanna Jill Farrow		2024-04-11
Margaret Elaine Steiner		2025-11-27
Martin John Ferdinando		2023-11-30
NICOLA ANNE RUSSELL		2017-04-24
PAMELA MACFARLANE		2020-09-14
Peter John Parshall		2020-09-14
Rev Leisa Potter		2024-11-20
Susan Clarke		2023-04-19

Accounts



**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster
Incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury Lane**

Registered Charity No: 1127655

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2025**

Rector: Reverend Leisa Potter

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Wayne Cook

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Axminster

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury, has the responsibility of supporting the ecclesiastical parish, the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the buildings in the Parish although Holy Cross has its own committee with delegated powers for both the buildings and the day to day running of this church. The Minster is a grade II* Listed Building, and the PCC is also responsible for the Church Room situated between the church and the Rectory.

The Parish of Axminster is within Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) and is in fact the centre of the Mission Community. The Parish is also within the Diocese of Exeter and responsibilities of the PCC align to the Five strategic priorities set by the Diocese. These are:

- Missional Leadership – with most people now not being versed in the Christian faith and the fast-changing culture it is imperative to develop the clergy, the LLMs and lay leaders.
- Missional DNA – Ensuring that the Parish is outward looking, invitational and engaged with the wider community.
- Vocations – expansion of the leadership pathways
- Children, Young People and Families – recognising the need for children and young people to be at the heart of our church life.
- Mixed Ecology -Introduce different ways of doing and being church.

The introduction of these five strategic priorities coincided with the arrival of Axminster's new Rector, and a completely new approach is now being taken within the Parish. The PCC is committed to supporting the implementation of this new approach, enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches, and to be part of the parish family.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, and the sacrament.

Maintenance of the fabric of both the church and the church room are essential to deliver our aims and objectives.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

Attendance at the Minster since the arrival of Rev Leisa Potter has stabilised and new people of all ages have started to become involved. In some services we have seen an upturn which we hope to maintain. Axminster is a growing town, and families are now coming into the Minster where activities for children are always available.

During 2025 average congregational numbers: for the 10.30am Holy Communion, 29. All Age Morning Worship 25, with 6 children. The new Informal Worship evening gathering, 18. The 5th Sunday services gathered an average of 70 when held at the Minster. 5 new adults became regular attenders, 1 new family with 3 children have joined in with the 2nd Sunday, All Age Worship.

Despite relatively low numbers for a market town the Minster has remained financially secure thanks to a limited number who are exceptionally generous and want to see the church flourish in Axminster.

Services at the Minster comprise a 10.30am Sunday service and a weekly Holy Communion service on Tuesdays at 10am. The second Sunday each month is a Morning Worship service and on the other weeks it is Holy Communion. An 8am Holy Communion service is held once a month. New style services are now being introduced including an informal evening service once a month and a plainsong monthly service. The Lent group led by the Rector attracted 10 – 15 people each week.

During the year 0 Baptisms, and 20 funerals were held in the Minster. No weddings took place.

The Minster electoral roll stood at 49 (Holy Cross 33) with the PCC total 82.

The provision of the weekly news sheet, 'Pews News', continued as the vehicle of communication across the AVMC. The Rector provides oversight on this publication, and it is produced and circulated by the AVMC Administrator.

A fortnightly ecumenical Bible Study group continued to meet. This group remains an active group with a focus on the study and understanding of scripture. The leader of this group organised the placing of Bibles in the Minster for use by everyone.

The Remembrance Sunday service led by the Royal British Legion in conjunction with the Rector beside the War Memorial on the Minster Green was as ever well attended and a tribute to the fallen and all who serve.

The Rector has built relationships with the Axminster Schools, and it has been a delight to welcome the pupils and staff into the Minster for celebrations at the main Christian festivals.

Pastoral Care, Mission and Evangelism

The pastoral team is ecumenical. It is led by an Anna Chaplain, and their work is across the AVMC. The team includes the Anna Chaplain, 6 Anna Friends and 8 others. They visit all the Care Homes as well as individuals in their own homes. Currently there are 5 Care Homes within the AVMC boundary, and the team also visit Shire House a Care Home just outside the boundary but populated by people from within the AVMC. Approximately 20-24 people have been visited in the last year. Some have since died, others moved away and some returned to church. At any point in time about 15 people are being visited in their own home. Carol services were arranged in all the Care Homes and were greatly enjoyed.

For many years, the Minster has been a hub of musical activity in the area. 2025 was no exception to this, and we were delighted to be able to provide a venue for music in all sorts of genres. The new Rector is a member of the Choral Society and musical links between the clergy, and the Director of Music have improved significantly since her arrival.

The Minster is extremely fortunate to have the services of two professional organists who have continued to provide music of a high quality at services and at the many Occasional Offices which take place throughout the year. They are ably assisted by other musicians from time to time, and special mention should be made of a new congregant who arrived in the town and who has very generously undertaken to play at the non-Eucharistic services on the second Sunday of the month.

Whilst the Minster no longer has an official choir, singers from the town and wider community come together from time to time to support services on special occasions. The visit of the Bishop of Exeter at the end of September 2025 and the service of Lessons and Carols in December 2025 were examples of this. On both occasions we were able to field a choir of over forty to lead the singing of large and appreciative congregations.

Thursday lunchtime concerts, running for six months of the year from May to October, continue to be a fixture in the life of the town and wider community. In 2025 we were able to offer a wide variety of concerts once again, and our grateful thanks go to all our performers who offer their time and skill for free in support of the upkeep of the church building. Numbers attending these concerts have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic levels, and I think it is true to say that a lack of publicity is at the root of this. These concerts are managed by an unsustainably small band of willing volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to run them. More help is urgently needed, particularly in the areas of publicity and stage management, so that the concerts can be safely maintained in the future.

Two choirs use the Minster for weekly rehearsals and termly concerts. Axminster and District Choral Society have, for forty years, had the Minster as its rehearsal base and performing venue. It performed three concerts in the 2024-25 season - the choir's fortieth anniversary year. Axminster Chamber Choir, a more recent addition to the area's musical map, gave three concerts in the 2024-25 season, the entire proceeds of which were donated to local charities (Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support, Axminster Hospital League of Friends and Axminster Care Service). The Axe Valley Community Choir, Jurassic Coast Choir, Axe Valley Orchestra and Axe Valley Academy have also used the Minster for rehearsals and concerts during the year.

There are 10 bells within the Minster Tower all in good working order. Having reported on the loss of our Tower Captain in 2024 due to work and family commitments his successor has had health issues. We are thus still short of ringers and have had to rely on ringers from other churches to deliver at major events. These included VE Day, the visit of the Bishop of Exeter, and the Advent Peal on the first Sunday of December.

Church Fabric

A major achievement of 2025 was the installation and completion of a new servery and toilets. This project commenced in December 2024 and should have been completed by Easter 2025. However, on removing the flooring in the old kitchen it was discovered that there was concrete not stone below and this led to a major delay. The concrete had to be removed and a new floor of Portland stone laid. The result is lovely, but this involved at least 8 weeks extra work and an increase in the budget of £60k. The installation was finally completed at the end of September and has already proved to be a significant enhancement to the Minster facilities. Due to the increase in costs the narthex at the west end of the Minster was not installed.

Work on the stained-glass windows spilled over into 2025 but has now been completed. As well as checking the glass and the lead work the stone frames were checked and grills applied to prevent damage from the outside.

The unique wall paintings uncovered and preserved in 2024 remain a definite point of interest for visitors.

The PCC is grateful to the Friends of the Minster for the financial support it has given to these major projects. The Friends of the Minster is a separate charity.

The clock situated in the church tower ceased to function at the end of 2024. This is a town clock which was sited in the church tower many years ago and the cost of mending it was an unexpected headache. It had had no major servicing for some time and thus the repairs proved costly. The opportunity was taken to fit an auto regulator and upgrade the electrics in the tower at the same time.

To enable the Rector to develop more interactive services the decision was taken to upgrade the AV systems and fit a hearing loop. In addition, but as phase 2, the decision was taken to fit cameras to enable streaming of services. Phase 1 has been completed and been a major success in terms of people being able to see and hear services or other activities.

Safeguarding Report

As a PCC we remain committed to the safeguarding policies agreed within the Diocese of Exeter. We have a Safeguarding Dashboard on which all training and safeguarding requirements are logged, and the Minster has a Safeguarding Lead who is the first port of call and link to the Diocese.

During 2025 there were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Volunteers

Volunteers remain critical to life in the Minster. Finding new volunteers remains a key focus for the new Rector.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in 2025.

Jean Ray and Nicola Russell were the PCC Deanery Synod Reps with Jean standing down in December 2025 to be replaced by Martin Ferdinando.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll including representatives of Holy Cross. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making the decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year.

Holy Cross Church

Aim and Purpose

Holy Cross is situated in Woodbury Lane, on the southern edge of Axminster. Whilst within the Parish of Axminster Holy Cross has its own Committee with delegated powers for the building and day to day running of the church. Three Holy Cross representatives sit on the Axminster PCC.

Holy Cross has a “gathered congregation” from the outskirts of Axminster and surrounding villages including Raymonds Hill, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

Objectives and Activities

In line with the principles set at Diocesan level and the objectives set by the PCC we work to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Holy Cross held 45 weekly services in 2025 with an average of 26 attendees. The number attending has increased by 4% in comparison with 2024. Holy Cross was closed for 3 weeks in January for internal painting, and as it is a small church it is unable to host the 5th week team services.

We have continued with our service pattern of a lay led Morning Worship for one week each month, with Holy Communion on the other weeks. This pattern has been well accepted by the congregation and numbers are very similar at both types of service. We did not hold any Evensong services in 2025, but we did go as a group to Exeter Cathedral for evensong and a tour of the Cathedral. The outing was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

During 2025 Holy Cross held 1 Baptism and 2 funerals.

The Bible Study group has continued fortnightly during 2025 with an active group of 8 people.

Holy Cross Headlines, our email group has grown again and keeps everyone in touch with our own news as well as AVMC events.

Pastoral care, Mission and Evangelism

We are fortunate to have the sole AVMC Anna Chaplain in our congregation and she is very diligent at ensuring that any members of our congregation are offered home communion if they are unable to attend church. In addition, people who are unable to attend church are part of our Holy Cross community via Holy Cross Headlines. Those not on computers are spoken to by phone and taken Pews News and other key items of information.

In July 2025 Holy Cross held a very successful Flower Celebration under the heading of our “Green and pleasant land”. We organised this in conjunction with the Axminster Flower club. Entry was free and we sold teas and cakes. It was well attended and we split the profits with the flower club. We advertised locally and people who do not normally attend church joined us for the event.

In December we held our Carol service which was also attended by people who do not regularly attend church. We followed this with mulled wine and mince pies in Woodbury Hall. 66 people attended.

Church Fabric

The decoration of the inside of the church took place in January. This has made the church brighter and it also encouraged a major spring clean with the removal of items no longer in use.

Having achieved our Silver Eco Award from AROCHA in 2025 we have spent time encouraging wildlife to our country garden and it was certainly a very good year for butterflies.

Holy Cross Mission Action Plan

A Mission Action Plan (MAP) was developed for the AVMC during 2023 incorporating the plans for all 8 churches. The Holy Cross MAP is reviewed at each Committee meeting to assess progress. It is updated regularly, and new items will be included in 2026.

Safeguarding

There were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature in 2025.

Financial Review 2025

The Minster

The Minster received £125,842 in general income, which is slightly lower than in 2024 where there was substantial fundraising for the clock repair. £90,234 (72%) of this income came from extremely generous major donors. £22,611 (18%) related to services, £5,408 (4%) from fundraising and £7,589 (6%) from other activities.

General expenditure was £67,915 including £24,650 common fund, and £4,608 expenses to the AVMC. The surplus for the year was £57,927 and with a brought forward balance from last year of £174,348 the balance on general funds is £132,069 after transfers to other funds. During the year £100,000 was transferred to reordering and major repairs.

Restricted income was £162,566 including grants of £100,000 from Friends of the Minster and £25,000 from Axminster Care Services, both given generously for reordering. Vat was recovered from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (LPWS) and accounted for £41,375. Restricted expenditure was £216,046 including £182,523 on reordering, £14,950 to complete the clock repairs and £14,821 on replacing the AV system.

Designated income was £27,578, including £22,000 from Friends of the Minster for repairs to the stained glass windows and the balance again being VAT recovery from LPWS. Designated expenditure was £27,637 including £22,786 on the stained glass window repairs, and the remainder £3,797 on running the church rooms.

There is further work to be undertaken on reordering tasks, not included in the toilets and servery project, and the AV system. The total bank balances stand at £132,069 in general funds, £60,107 in restricted funds and £150 in designated funds, giving a total of £192,326 .

Holy Cross

General income at £23,324 covered the annual running costs of £22,264. Costs included £11,580 as our share of the Axminster Parish Common Fund, £1,764 to the AVMC central fund and £613 donated to relief charities.

General funds show a positive balance for the year of £1,060, with £8,515 brought forward from last year and a £366 transfer from designated funds, we end the year with £9,941 in general funds, and £25 in restricted funds. Decorating of the church was completed in January costing £6,634.

Ongoing we have 13 standing orders generating £920 per month and our average weekly cash collection is currently £100. We can claim gift aid or GASDS on 95% of our income.

Reserves Policy

The PCC realises that the Minster church has a major task ahead to rebuild the congregation and general giving associated with services. The PCC therefore has resolved to maintain a balance on General (unrestricted) Funds for The Minster Church of £82,000, whilst this work is underway. This is equivalent to 18-24 months general expenditure.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO AXMINSTER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, AXMINSTER – REG. CHARITY NO: 1127655**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



WAYNE MURDOCH-COOK FMAAT, AATQB
Wayne's World of Accountancy
14 Mead Way
Seaton, Devon, EX12 2NR

DATED 24th February 2026

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin (The Minster) is situated in the centre of Axminster and is in the Honiton Deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity no. 1127655.

PCC Members who have served from 1st January 2025 to the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent The Rev'd Leisa Potter

Reader/LLM Ms Su Clark
Mrs Anna Venables

Churchwardens Mrs Jean Ray (Resigned 8th December 2025)
Mrs Amanda Loveridge

Deanery Synod Reps Ms Nicola Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden)
Mrs Jean Ray (Resigned 8th December 2025)
Mr Martin Ferdinando (Appointed 29th January 2026)

Safeguarding Officer Mrs Jean Ray (Resigned 8th December 2025)

Minute Secretary Mrs Jennifer Pyle

Elected Members Ms Jill Farrow
Mr Martin Ferdinando
Dr Sugan Govender
Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Holy Cross)
Mr Alan Meade (Resigned 1st May 2025, reappointed 25th November 2025)
Mr Peter Parshall
Dr Fraser Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden)
Mrs Margaret Steiner (appointed 25th November 2025)

Treasurer to the PCC Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Interim)

Approved by the PCC on the 26th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Leisa Potter

Pamela Macfarlane

Rev'd Leisa Potter

Mrs Pamela Macfarlane

Rector and Chair of the PCC

Treasurer

		Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2,024 £		Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2025 £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2,024 £		Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Minster TOTAL 2025 £	Minster TOTAL 2,024 £
	Note																	
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS																		
RECEIPTS																		
Donations and legacies																		
Regular giving	1	124,625	0	191	124,816	136,482		20,353	0	0	20,353	20,071		104,272	0	191	104,463	116,412
Other voluntary receipts	2	8,081	25,983	162,570	196,634	18,744		1,515	0	0	1,515	1,623		6,566	25,983	162,570	195,119	17,121
Income from church activities	3	11,566	1,595	416	13,577	23,649		1,348	0	0	1,348	464		10,218	1,595	416	12,229	23,185
Other trading activities	4	2,117	0	0	2,117	4,678		0	0	0	0	0		2,117	0	0	2,117	4,678
Investments	5	2,777	0	0	2,777	3,222		108	0	0	108	179		2,669	0	0	2,669	3,042
Other receipts	6	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts		149,166	27,578	163,177	339,921	186,775		23,324	0	0	23,324	22,337		125,842	27,578	163,177	316,597	164,438
PAYMENTS																		
Cost of raising funds	7	660	0	0	660	1,055		224	0	0	224	0		436	0	0	436	1,055
Church activities	8	89,519	34,271	216,843	340,633	158,104		22,040	6,634	797	29,471	21,749		67,479	27,637	216,046	311,162	95,962
Other costs	9	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Total payments		90,179	34,271	216,843	341,293	159,159		22,264	6,634	797	29,695	21,749		67,915	27,637	216,046	311,598	97,016
Excess of receipts over payments		58,987	(6,693)	(53,666)	(1,372)	27,616		1,060	(6,634)	(797)	(6,371)	588		57,927	(59)	(52,869)	4,999	67,422
TRANSFERS																		
Transfers between funds		100,160	(160)	100,000	200,000	0		366	(366)	0	0	0		99,794	206	100,000	200,000	0
Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)					0	0					0						0	
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)					0	0					0						0	
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts					0	0					0						0	
Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)		159,147	(6,853)	46,334	198,628	27,616		1,426	(7,000)	(797)	(6,371)	588		157,721	147	47,131	204,999	67,422
Net movement in funds		(40,853)	(6,854)	46,334	(1,373)	27,616		1,426	(7,000)	(797)	(6,371)	588		(42,279)	146	47,131	4,999	67,422
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS																		
Total funds at 1 January		182,863	7,004	13,798	203,665	176,048		8,515	7,000	822	16,337	15,749		174,348	4	12,976	187,327	160,299
Total funds at 31 December		142,010	150	60,132	202,292	203,665		9,941	0	25	9,966	16,337		132,069	150	60,107	192,326	187,327

	Unrestricted					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Regular giving						
Tax efficient planned giving	5,104	10,750	15,854	5,251	10,255	15,506
Other planned giving		2,061	2,061	125	1,535	1,660
Collections at services	4,818	3,273	8,091	4,094	4,216	8,310
Other recurring donations	72,284		72,284	82,030		82,030
Income tax recovered	22,066	4,269	26,335	24,697	4,064	28,761
	104,272	20,353	124,625	116,197	20,071	136,267
2. Other voluntary receipts						
Grants	742		742	679		679
Legacies	361		361	811	0	811
Non-recurring donations and appeals	5,463	1,515	6,978	6,392	1,623	8,015
	6,566	1,515	8,081	7,882	1,623	9,505
3. Income from church activities						
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	3,109	344	3,453	2,337	319	2,656
Gross income (Church magazine)			0			0
Gross income (Letting of Church Buildings)	1,700		1,700			0
Gross income (Fund raising activities)	5,409	1,004	6,413	5,478	145	5,623
Adverts (Church magazine)			0			0
	10,218	1,348	11,566	7,815	464	8,279
4. Other trading activities						
Trading Income	2,117		2,117	3,717		3,717
	2,117	0	2,117	3,717	0	3,717
5. Income from investments						
Dividends			0		0	0
Interest received	2,669	108	2,777	3,042	179	3,222
Rent received			0			0
	2,669	108	2,777	3,042	179	3,222
6. Other receipts						
Insurance claim and sale of equipment		0	0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Fund raising costs						
Costs of fund raising	436	224	660	1,055	0	1,055
	436	224	660	1,055	0	1,055
8. Charitable activities						
Mission giving and donations	200	613	813	80	650	730
Diocesan parish share	24,650	11,580	36,230	26,791	12,429	39,220
Salary costs (verger, organist, choir, etc.)	4,295	1,680	5,975	4,175	1,715	5,890
Clergy and staff expenses	4,956	1,764	6,720	4,608	1,764	6,372
Church expenses: mission and evangelism	1,037	580	1,617	1,501	292	1,792
Church running expenses	25,737	4,483	30,220	14,319	3,157	17,476
Examination of annual accounts/Governance	232	0	232	220	0	220
Church utility costs	6,372	1,340	7,712	5,883	550	6,433
Expenses on parish magazine		0	0	0	0	0
Cost of Trading		0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to the church building		0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to the church hall		0	0	0	0	0
New building work to the church or church hall		0	0	0	0	0
	67,479	22,040	89,519	57,577	20,556	78,133
9. Other costs						
Other payments			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Designated					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	25,983		25,983	6,425		6,425
			0			0
			0			0
	25,983	0	25,983	6,425	0	6,425
			0			0
	1,160		1,160			0
	435		435	871		871
			0			0
	1,595	0	1,595	871	0	871
			0			0
			0	961		961
	0	0	0	961	0	961
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	100		100			0
	1,001		1,001	6,457		6,457
			0			0
	2,376		2,376	1,244		1,244
			0			0
			0			0
	24,160	6,634	30,794	30,684		30,684
			0			0
			0			0
	27,637	6,634	34,271	38,385	0	38,385
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Restricted					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	50		50	50		50
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	141		141	165		165
	191	0	191	215	0	215
			0			0
	162,150		162,150	2,144		2,144
			0			0
	420		420	670		670
	162,570	0	162,570	2,814	0	2,814
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	416		416	14,499		14,499
			0			0
	416	0	416	14,499	0	14,499
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	1,676		1,676			0
	412	797	1,209	1,735	1,193	2,928
			0			0
			0			0
			0			0
	213,958		213,958	38,659		38,659
			0			0
			0			0
	216,046	797	216,843	40,394	1,193	41,587
			0			0
			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted						Designated						Restricted					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024
	£	£				£	£	£				£	£	£				£
Transfers between funds																		
From organ fund			0		125	125			0			0			0		(125)	(125)
To/From designated	(206)	366	160	4,951	(2,000)	2,951	206	(366)	(160)	(4,951)	2,000	(2,951)			0			0
Reordering agreed by PCC	100,000		100,000			0			0			0	100,000		100,000			0
Balance off funds			0			0			0			0			0			0
50% stained glass repairs to Fabric			0			0			0			0			0			0
	99,794	366	100,160	4,951	(1,875)	3,076	206	(366)	(160)	(4,951)	2,000	(2,951)	100,000	0	100,000	0	(125)	(125)

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	Unrestricted						Designated						Restricted					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL			
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£			£	£	£			£	£	£			£		£
Reconciliation of funds																		
Total funds at 1 January	174,348	8,515	182,863	89,375	8,609	97,984	4	7,000	7,004	35,083	5,000	40,083	12,976	822	13,798	35,841	2,140	37,981
Total funds at 31 December	132,069	9,941	142,010	174,348	8,515	182,863	150	0	150	4	7,000	7,004	60,107	25	60,132	12,976	822	13,798

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted						Designated						Restricted					
	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2024	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2024	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2025 £	Axminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2024
	2025	2025		2024	2024		2025	2025		2024	2024		2025	2025		2024	2024	
	£	£		£	£		£	£		£	£		£	£		£	£	
Investments			0			0			0			0			0			0
			0			0			0			0			0			0
			0			0			0			0			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monetary assets																		
Bank current account (CAF)	41,197		41,197	36,421		36,421			0			0	32,919		32,919	715		715
Bank current account (NatWest)	10,539	511	11,050	4,338	3,915	8,253	150		150	296		296	(1,433)	25	(1,408)	6,779		6,779
Bank deposit account CAF/Natwest	82,000	9,410	91,410	133,237	4,577	137,815			0	(2,248)	7,000	4,752	25,138		25,138	3,621	822	4,443
Petty cash	(1,668)	20	(1,648)	90	23	113			0			0	1,758		1,758			0
	132,068	9,941	142,009	174,086	8,515	182,602	150	0	150	(1,952)	7,000	5,048	58,382	25	58,407	11,115	822	11,937
Debtors																		
Accounts Receivable			0	261		261			0	1,956		1,956			0	1,861		1,861
Gift aid claim (for previous year)			0			0			0			0			0			0
Refund of VAT			0			0			0			0			0			0
	0	0	0	261	0	261	0	0	0	1,956	0	1,956	0	0	0	1,861	0	1,861
Fixed assets for church use																		
			0			0			0			0			0			0
			0			0			0			0			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities																		
Accounts Payable			0			0			0			0			0			0
Agency Accounts			0			0			0			0	(1,725)		(1,725)			0
			0			0			0			0			0			0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,725)	0	(1,725)	0	0	0

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Accounts



**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster
Incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury Lane**

Registered Charity No: 1127655

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2024**

Rector:

Interregnum from January – November
Reverend Leisa Potter licensed November 20th, 2024

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Wayne Cook

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Axminster

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury, has the responsibility of supporting the ecclesiastical parish, the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the buildings in the Parish although Holy Cross has its own committee with delegated powers for both the buildings and the day to day running of this church. The Minster is a grade II* Listed Building, and the PCC is also responsible for the Church Room situated between the church and the Rectory.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches, and to be part of the parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, and the sacrament. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

Maintenance of the fabric of both the church and the church room are essential to deliver our aims and objectives.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

2024 has been a further challenging year for the PCC. Following the retirement of the last Rector in August 2023 we entered 2024 in interregnum, although we ended the year on a high with the Licensing of our new Rector Reverend Leisa Potter on November 20th, 2024. We were also very pleased to have had invaluable support from Reverend Mike Clark an Interim Transition Support Minister, who works within the Diocese of Exeter but was allocated to the Parish of Axminster during the interregnum. During 2024 we were also fortunate to have the Archdeacon of Exeter leading a service in the Minster monthly.

There has been a further reduction of regular attendees at the Minster although since the arrival of Rev Leisa Potter we have seen an upturn which we hope to maintain. Axminster is a growing town, and new families will now be encouraged to participate in the Minster activities, whereas over the last six years there has been a trend for them to drift to the Baptist Church in Kilminster. It was really encouraging to record 137 people, 49 children and 88 adults, at the Christingle service, unlike last year where there were only 12 people in total.

During 2024 congregational numbers averaged 26. Despite this the Minster has remained financially secure thanks to a limited number who are exceptionally generous and want to see the church flourish in Axminster.

Services at the Minster comprise a 10.30am Sunday service and a weekly Holy Communion service on Tuesdays at 10am. The second Sunday each month is a Morning Worship service and on the other weeks it is Holy Communion. An 8am Holy Communion service is held once a month. The new Rector will review the service pattern in due course.

During the year seven Baptisms, and sixteen funerals were held in the Minster. No weddings took place.

The Minster electoral roll stood at 56 (Holy Cross 36) with the PCC total 92.

The provision of the weekly news sheet, 'Pews News', continued as the vehicle of communication across the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC). The Team Vicar provides oversight on this publication, and it is produced and circulated by the AVMC Administrator.

A fortnightly Bible Study group continued to meet in the Church Rooms. It is good to see a focus on study and understanding of scripture.

The Remembrance Sunday service led by the Royal British Legion beside the War Memorial on the Minster Green was as ever well attended and a tribute to the fallen and all who serve.

Pastoral Care, Mission and Evangelism

We now have an Anna Chaplain within the AVMC who worships at Holy Cross. She coordinates a team of seven Anna Friends and seven Ecumenical members. They visit five care homes within the AVMC area and Shire House in Lyme Regis to lead a monthly service. The service is usually Holy Communion. They organised Carol Services in the care homes in the run up to Christmas. There are 12 – 18 people visited regularly in their own homes; with some they share home communion. The team meets every three months and whilst Axminster Churches Together is not active at present, they are maintaining links.

For many years, the Minster has been a hub of musical activity in the area and 2024 was no exception to this. We were delighted to be able to provide a venue for music in all sorts of genres. The Parish is extremely fortunate to have the services of two professional organists who have continued to provide music of a high quality at services and at the many Occasional Offices which take place throughout the year. They are ably assisted by other musicians from time to time. Whilst the Minster no longer has an official choir, singers from the town and wider Mission Community come together from time to time to support services on special occasions. The service of welcome for Rev'd Leisa Potter in November 2024 was an example of this, when we were able to field a choir of over thirty to lead the singing of a large and appreciative congregation.

Thursday lunchtime concerts, running for six months of the year from May to September, continue to be a fixture in the life of the town. In 2024 we were able to offer a wide variety of concerts once again, and our grateful thanks go to all our performers who offer their time and skill for free in support of the upkeep of the church building. Numbers attending these concerts have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic levels, and a review of the publicity will be undertaken. Nevertheless, total attendance of over 1,500 was recorded during the series.

Two local choirs use the Minster for weekly rehearsals and termly concerts. The Axe Valley Community Choir, Axe Valley Orchestra and Axe Valley Academy have also used the Minster for rehearsals and concerts during the year. The organ is often used for teaching by the South Wessex Organ Society. The Minster hosts several one-off musical events throughout the year, be these concerts (such as that given by professional pianist Stephen Beville in December 2024) or activities such as the regular Gregorian Chant workshops.

There are 10 bells within the Minster Tower all in good working order. Sadly during 2024 our Tower Captain had to stand down due to work and family commitments. We also lost some of our younger bell ringers. Two ringers have now taken over leading the group and they will be looking to get back to a full ringing schedule in due course. Using ringers from other churches we were able to ring the Advent Peal on the first Sunday of December.

Volunteers

Volunteers remain critical to life in the Minster. Finding new volunteers will be a key focus for our new Rector.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in 2024.

Jean Ray and Nicola Russell were the PCC Deanery Synod Reps.

Church Fabric

Following the restoration, conservation and stabilisation of wall paintings on the Chancel Arch in 2023, the conservation expert gave a lecture on the process in 2024. The 15th century painting with the pomegranate design is unique for an English medieval wall painting and the silhouette of the rood is also extremely rare and the only one known to exist in the southwest of England. The revealing of the artwork has provided a definite point of interest for visitors and a small information leaflet has been developed.

Work on the stained-glass windows progressed through 2024 and the majority were completed. As well as checking the glass and the lead work the stone frames were checked and mesh grills applied to prevent damage from the outside.

After many delays work on the new servery and toilets was started in December 2024. It is hoped this will be completed by June 2025.

Safeguarding Report

As a PCC we remain committed to the safeguarding policies agreed within the Diocese of Exeter. We have a Safeguarding Dashboard on which all training and safeguarding requirements are logged, and the Minster has a Safeguarding Lead who is the first port of call and link to the Diocese.

During 2024 there were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those

on the Electoral Roll including representatives of Holy Cross. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making the decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year.

Holy Cross Church

Aim and Purpose

Holy Cross is situated in Woodbury Lane, on the southern edge of Axminster. Whilst within the Parish of Axminster, Holy Cross has its own Committee with delegated powers for the building and day to day running of the church. Three Holy Cross representatives sit on the Axminster PCC.

Holy Cross has a “gathered congregation” from the outskirts of Axminster and surrounding villages including Raymonds Hill, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

Objectives and Activities

In line with the objectives set by the PCC we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Holy Cross held 48 weekly services in 2024 with an average of 26 attendees. The numbers attending have increased by 8% in comparison with 2023.

We have continued with our service pattern of a lay led Morning Worship for one week each month, with Holy Communion on the other weeks. Research with the congregation shows that Holy Communion remains the favoured service but attendance at Morning Worship is at a similar level as our communion services. Evensong did not take place in 2024, but it is hoped that it might be reintroduced occasionally in 2025.

During 2024 Holy Cross held one Baptism and one funeral.

The Bible Study group has continued fortnightly during 2024 with an active group of nine people.

Holy Cross Headlines, our email group has grown again and keeps everyone in touch with our own news as well as AVMC events.

Pastoral care, Mission and Evangelism

We are fortunate to have the sole AVMC Anna Chaplain in our congregation and she is very diligent at ensuring that any members of our congregation are offered home communion if they are unable to attend church. In addition, people who are unable to attend church are part of our Holy Cross community via Holy Cross Headlines. Those not using computers are spoken to by phone and taken Pews News and other key items of information.

In July 2024 Holy Cross held a very successful “Pimms and Hymns” afternoon. We advertised locally and people who do not normally attend church joined us for the afternoon. This event brought in funds for the church and may lead to new people joining our congregation.

In December we purchased copies of the “Follow the Star – Calm and Bright” booklet, for Holy Cross congregants including those not able to attend church. These were sent to everyone with a letter from our Minister and the two Chapel Wardens. The booklets provided reflections for the 12 days of Christmas.

In December we held our Carol service which was also attended by people who do not regularly attend church. We followed this with mulled wine and mince pies in Woodbury Hall. 65 people attended.

Church Fabric

We are committed to following green policies where possible and during 2024 we upgraded our Eco Award from AROCHA from bronze to silver.

A working party was organised at the start of 2024 to tidy up the land behind the church and remove old buildings that are no longer in use.

Holy Cross Mission Action Plan

A Mission Action Plan (MAP) was developed for the AVMC during 2023 incorporating the plans for all eight churches. The Holy Cross MAP is reviewed at each Committee meeting to assess progress. It is updated regularly, and new items will be included in 2025.

Safeguarding

There were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature in 2024.

Financial Review 2024

The Minster

The Minster received £138,653 in general income, which is slightly higher than in 2023. £102,288 (74%) of this income came from extremely generous major donors. £22,638 (16%) related to services, £5,478 (4%) from fundraising and £8,249 (6%) from other activities.

General expenditure was £58,632 including £26,791 common fund, and £4,608 expenses to the AVMC. The surplus for the year was £80,021 and with a brought forward balance from last year of £89,375 the balance on general funds is £174,348. This has accumulated over many years and will be used to fund the reordering project which has just begun.

Restricted income was £17,529 including £15,945 in very generous donations from the whole community and the Town Council, for the tower clock repairs. Restricted expenditure was £40,394 including £7,231 deposit for clock repairs, £24,445 reordering project and £8,718 on other equipment and maintenance.

Designated income was £8,257, mainly VAT reclaimed from the listed places of worship scheme and £1,832 raised for the church rooms. Designated expenditure was £38,385 including £30,684 on the stained glass window repairs, and £5,611 upgrade to CCTV.

The total bank balances stand at £187,327.

Holy Cross

General income at £22,337 covered the annual running costs of £20,556. Costs included £12,429 as our share of the Axminster Parish Common Fund, £1,764 to the AVMC central fund and £650 donated to relief charities.

General funds show a positive balance for the year of £1,781, with £8,609 brought forward from last year and a £(2,000) transfer from general to designated funds, we end the year with £8,515 in general funds, £822 in restricted funds and £7,000 in designated funds; giving a total of £16,337. The designated funds will be spent in January 2025 on redecorating the interior of the church.

Ongoing we have 13 standing orders generating £915 per month and our average weekly cash collection is currently £80. We are able to claim gift aid or GASDS on 95% of our income.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on General (unrestricted) Funds for The Minster Church which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments, approximately £20,000.

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin (The Minster) is situated in the centre of Axminster and is in the Honiton Deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity no. 1127655.

PCC Members who have served from 1st January 2024 to the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	Rev'd Leisa Potter from 20 th November 2024
Reader/LLM	Ms Su Clark
Churchwardens	Mrs Jean Ray Mrs Amanda Loveridge
Deanery Synod Reps	Ms Nicola Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden) Mrs Jean Ray Mr Martin Ferdinando
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Jean Ray
Minute Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Pyle
Lay Elected Diocesan Representative for Honiton Deanery	Mrs Anna Venables (Appointed 28 th November 2024)

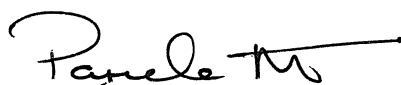
Elected Members	Ms Jill Farrow (Appointed 11 th April 2024) Mr Martin Ferdinando Dr Sughan Govender Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Holy Cross) Mr Alan Meade Mr Peter Parshall Dr Fraser Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden)
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Treasurer to the PCC Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Interim)

Approved by the PCC on the 20th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Leisa Potter
Rector and Chair of the PCC



Mrs Pamela Macfarlane
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO AXMINSTER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, AXMINSTER – REG. CHARITY NO: 1127655**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



WAYNE COOK FMAAT, AATQB
Wayne's World of Accountancy
14 Mead Way
Seaton, Devon, EX12 2NR

DATED 3rd March 2025

Note		RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS				TRANSFERS				RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS				TRANSFERS			
		Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2,023 £	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2024 £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2,023 £	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Minster TOTAL 2024 £	Minster TOTAL 2,023 £	
RECEIPTS																	
1	Donations and legacies																
	Regular giving	136,267	0	215	136,482	112,859	20,071	0	0	20,071	19,199						
2	Other voluntary receipts	9,505	6,425	2,814	18,744	47,376	1,623	0	0	1,623	8,678						
3	Income from church activities	8,279	871	14,499	23,649	8,881	464	0	0	464	142						
4	Other trading activities	3,717	961	0	4,678	4,633	0	0	0	0	0						
5	Investments	3,222	0	0	3,222	1,621	179	0	0	179	101						
6	Other receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Total receipts		160,990	8,267	17,529	186,775	175,369	22,337	0	0	22,337	28,120						
PAYMENTS																	
7	Cost of raising funds	1,055	0	0	1,055	1,215	0	0	0	0	0						
8	Church activities	78,133	38,385	41,587	158,104	121,740	20,556	0	1,193	21,749	20,816						
9	Other costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Total payments		79,188	38,385	41,587	159,159	122,955	20,556	0	1,193	21,749	20,816						
Excess of receipts over payments		81,802	(30,128)	(24,058)	27,616	52,414	1,781	0	(1,193)	588	7,304						
TRANSFERS																	
Transfers between funds		3,076	(2,951)	(125)	0	(43,731)	(1,875)	2,000	(125)	0	0						
Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)					0	0				0							
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)					0	0				0							
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts					0	0				0							
Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)		84,879	(33,079)	(24,183)	27,616	8,684	(94)	2,000	(1,318)	588	7,304						
Net movement in funds		84,879	(33,079)	(24,183)	27,617	8,684	(94)	2,000	(1,318)	588	7,304						
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS																	
Total funds at 1 January		97,984	40,083	37,981	176,048	123,078	8,609	5,000	2,140	15,749	7,889						
Total funds at 31 December		182,863	7,004	13,798	203,665	176,048	8,515	7,000	822	16,337	15,749						

	Unrestricted					Designated					Restricted				
	Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL	Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL	Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL
	2024	2023	2024	2023		2024	2023	2024	2023		2024	2023	2024	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Regular giving															
Tax efficient planned giving	5,251	10,255	15,506	6,831	9,895	0	0	0	0	0	50	125	0	125	0
Other planned giving	125	1,535	1,560	645	2,195	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collections at services	4,994	4,216	8,310	5,306	3,653	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other recurring donations	82,030	62,102	0	0	62,102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Income tax recovered	24,897	4,064	28,761	18,659	4,091	0	0	0	0	0	165	185	191	191	0
	116,197	20,071	136,267	93,343	19,199	0	0	0	0	0	215	316	0	316	0
2. Other voluntary receipts															
Grants	679		679	439	0	6,425	6,585	6,585	6,585	0	2,144	1,025	2,000	2,200	1,025
Legacies	811	0	811	25,500	25,500	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	200	2,000	2,200	0
Non-recurring donations and appeals	6,992	1,623	8,015	4,408	1,495	0	0	0	0	0	670	540	183	723	0
	7,882	1,623	9,505	30,348	1,495	6,425	6,585	5,000	11,585	0	2,814	1,765	2,183	3,948	0
3. Income from church activities															
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	2,337	319	2,556	3,126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross income (Church magazine)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross income (Letting of Church Buildings)	5,478	145	5,623	3,886	142	871	1,726	1,726	1,726	0	14,499	0	0	0	0
Gross income (Fund raising activities)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adverts (Church magazine)	7,915	464	8,279	7,012	142	871	1,726	0	1,726	0	14,499	0	0	0	0
4. Other trading activities															
Trading Income	3,717		3,717	4,053	0	961	570	570	570	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3,717	0	3,717	4,053	0	961	570	0	570	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Income from investments															
Dividends		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest received	3,042	179	3,222	1,520	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rent received		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3,042	179	3,222	1,520	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Other receipts															
Insurance claim and sale of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Fund raising costs															
Costs of fund raising	1,055	0	1,055	1,215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,055	0	1,055	1,215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Charitable activities															
Mission giving and donations	80	650	730	99	850	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diocesan parish share	26,791	12,429	39,220	28,335	12,429	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salary costs (verger, organist, choir, etc.)	4,175	1,715	5,890	4,320	1,715	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clergy and staff expenses	4,806	1,764	6,372	4,608	1,764	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church expenses: mission and evangelism	1,501	292	1,792	432	113	0	275	275	275	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church running expenses	14,319	3,157	17,476	12,075	2,436	6,457	2,151	2,151	2,151	1,735	1,193	1,139	354	1,493	0
Examination of annual accounts/Governance	220	0	220	1,857	0	1,244	1,401	1,401	1,401	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church utility costs	5,883	550	6,433	7,645	1,155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses on parish magazine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to the church building	0	0	0	(250)	0	30,684	31,929	31,929	31,929	0	38,659	4,908	4,908	4,908	0
Major repairs to the church hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New building work to the church or church hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	57,577	20,556	78,133	59,122	20,462	38,385	35,755	0	35,755	0	40,394	6,047	354	6,401	0
9. Other costs															
Other payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

Unrestricted					
Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£			£
	125	125		500	500
4,951	(2,000)	2,951		(21)	(21)
		0	(25,000)		(25,000)
		0	(2,692)		(2,692)
		0	(18,731)		(18,731)
4,951	(1,875)	3,076	(46,422)	479	(45,943)

Designated					
Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£			£
		0			0
(4,951)	2,000	(2,951)		21	21
		0			0
		0	2,260		2,260
		0	0		0
(4,951)	2,000	(2,951)	2,260	21	2,281

Restricted					
Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£			£
	(125)	(125)		(500)	(500)
		0			0
		0	0		0
		0	432		432
		0			0
0	(125)	(125)	432	(500)	(68)

Transfers between funds

From organ fund

To/From designated

Reordering agreed by PCC

Balance off funds

50% stained glass repairs to Fabric

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Unrestricted				
Aminster	Holy Cross	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£	£	£
89,375	8,609	59,848	7,099	66,947
174,348	8,515	89,375	8,609	97,984

Reconciliation of funds

Total funds at 1 January

Total funds at 31 December

Designated				
Aminster	Holy Cross	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£	£	£
35,083	5,000	40,966	0	40,966
4	7,000	35,083	5,000	40,083

Restricted				
Aminster	Holy Cross	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
£	£	£	£	£
35,841	2,140	14,375	790	15,165
12,976	822	35,841	2,140	37,981

11

Accounts



**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster
Incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury Lane**

Registered Charity No: 1127655

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2023**

Rector:

The Reverend Clive Sedgewick - retired August 2023.
Now in interregnum

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Wayne Cook

Website : www.axevmc.com

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Axminster

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury, has the responsibility of supporting the ecclesiastical parish, the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the buildings in the Parish although Holy Cross has its own committee with delegated powers for both the buildings and the day to day running of this church. The Minster is a grade II* Listed Building, and the PCC is also responsible for the Church Room situated between the church and the Rectory.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches, and to be part of the parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, and the sacrament. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

Maintenance of the fabric of both the church and the church room are essential to deliver our aims and objectives.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

2023 has been a challenging year for the PCC with the retirement of the Rector and thus the start of an interregnum period. There has been a further reduction of regular attendees at the Minster although we have seen the arrival of some new people to the town and the church. Sadly, some people who stopped attending church during Covid have never returned.

During 2023 congregational numbers averaged 30. Despite the reduced attendance the Minster has remained financially secure thanks to a limited number who are exceptionally generous and want to see the church flourish in Axminster.

Services at the Minster have remained at a level much reduced since the pandemic and comprise a 10.30am Sunday service and a weekly Holy Communion service on Tuesdays at 10am. For 3 weeks each month the Sunday service is Holy Communion and on the fourth Sunday there is a lay led Morning Worship. In practice the lay led service is usually week 2. An 8am Holy Communion service is held once a month.

During the year 10 Baptisms, and 15 funerals were held in the Minster. Sadly, this year no weddings took place.

A system of Focal Ministers had been in place across the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) with the focal Minister for the Minster being the Rector. However, since we entered the interregnum Focal Ministry has been impossible to maintain although the Minster has been well supported by a Transitional Support Minister and the Archdeacon. Su Clark, a Licensed Lay Minister remains part of the Minster team.

During the year the Minster electoral roll stood at 61 (Holy Cross 31) with the PCC total 92.

The provision of the weekly news sheet, 'Pews News', continued as the vehicle of communication across the AVMC. The Team Vicar provides oversight on this publication, and it is produced and circulated by the AVMC Administrator.

The fortnightly Bible Study group continued to meet in the Church Rooms throughout the year. It is good to see a focus on study and understanding of scripture.

2023 included a significant 'Civic' celebration when the Minster hosted the celebration of King Charles III Coronation.

The Remembrance Sunday service led by the Royal British Legion beside the War Memorial on the Minster Green was as ever well attended and a tribute to the fallen and all who serve.

Pastoral Care, Mission and Evangelism

A lay team, led by a person from Holy Cross, provides home communion to anyone unable to attend church and to the four Care homes based in Axminster.

For many years, the Minster has been a hub of musical activity in the area. 2023 was no exception to this and we were delighted to be able to provide a venue for music in all sorts of genres.

The Minster is extremely fortunate to have the services of two professional organists who have continued to provide music of a high quality at services and at the many occasional offices which take place throughout the year.

Whilst the Minster no longer has an official choir, singers from the town and wider community come together to support services on special occasions. The service of Lessons and Carols in December 2023 was an example of this, when a choir of over forty led the singing of a large and appreciative congregation.

Thursday lunchtime concerts, running for six months of the year from May to September, continue to be a fixture in the life of the town. In 2023 we were able to offer a wide variety of concerts. Numbers attending these concerts have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic levels.

Two choirs use the Minster for weekly rehearsals and termly concerts. Axminster and District Choral Society has, for nearly forty years, had the Minster as its base. It performed three concerts in the 2022-23 season with its Spring concert being particularly notable, as the first UK performance of the 1789 St Matthew Passion by CPE Bach (the son of JS Bach), attracting the interest of musicians and musicologists

world-wide. Axminster Chamber Choir gave two concerts in the 2022-23 season, the entire proceeds of which were donated to local charities. The Axe Valley Community Choir, Axe Valley Orchestra and Axe Valley Academy have also used the Minster for rehearsals and concerts during the year.

The Minster is fortunate to have 10 bells within its Tower all in good working order. We have a young enthusiastic Tower Captain, and he has been very successful in recruiting new bell ringers. 2023 has however been challenging with the loss of four ringers and at present no replacements. This means that currently the home team cannot ring all 10 Minster bells. However, using ringers from other churches we were able to reinstate the Advent Peal rung on the first Sunday of December. This was supported by extensive community involvement and coverage in the local paper and on social media.

Volunteers

Volunteers remain a critical element of life in the Minster. As people age and retire it has become harder to find new volunteers and this along with participant numbers is a critical focus for the future.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod only met twice in 2023.

Jean Ray and Nicola Russell were the PCC Deanery Synod Reps.

Church Fabric

The Fabric Committee drew up a response and maintenance programme following the receipt of the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection Report, and all urgent items have been completed.

The floor of the nave has finally been made safe. Many of the stones had become loose and unlevel and these have now been restored and reset by a specialist provider.

The Minster uncovered possible wall paintings following a fire in the church and in 2023 their restoration, conservation and stabilisation was completed. The paintings are on the Chancel Arch and their uncovering has provided a link between the Nave and the Chancel. The conclusion of the specialist report was "This palimpsest of wall paintings is a remarkable discovery. The 15th century painting with the pomegranate design is unique for an English medieval wall painting and the silhouette of the rood is also extremely rare and the only one known to exist in the southwest of England". The revealing of the artwork has been of great interest both to locals and specialists and in 2024 we plan a lecture by the conservation expert and hope to spread the word further.

Work on the stained-glass windows has been needed for several years and a plan has now been approved by the PCC and will be undertaken in 2024.

Safeguarding Report

As a PCC we remain committed to the safeguarding policies agreed with the Diocese of Exeter. We have a Safeguarding Dashboard on which all training and safeguarding requirements are logged, and the Minster has a Safeguarding Lead who is the first port of call and link to the Diocese.

During 2023 there were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll including representatives of Holy Cross. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making the decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year.

Holy Cross Church

Aim and Purpose

Holy Cross is situated in Woodbury Lane, on the southern edge of Axminster. As mentioned at the start of this document Holy Cross has its own Committee with delegated powers for the building and day to day running of the church. It is within the Parish of Axminster and thus part of the Axminster PCC.

Holy Cross has a “gathered congregation” from the town and surrounding villages including Raymonds Hill, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

Objectives and Activities

In line with the objectives set by the PCC we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Holy Cross held 50 weekly services in 2023 with an average of 24 attendees. The numbers attending have remained relatively static during the period.

Prior to July the usual service at Holy Cross was Holy Communion. However, with the retirement of the Rector, clergy have been in short supply and Holy Cross introduced a lay led Morning Worship for one week each month. These have been relatively well received although a survey of the congregation indicated that Holy Communion remains the favoured service. Evensong where there is a fifth Sunday in the month has continued and been well supported.

There have been no Life Events in the last year although Holy Cross was honoured to hold a receiving service for the coffin of a very revered member of the clergy prior to their funeral at East Devon Crematorium the following day.

The Bible Study group has continued fortnightly during 2023 with an active group of 9 people.

Holy Cross Headlines, our email group has grown again and keeps everyone in touch with our own news as well as AVMC events.

Pastoral care, Mission and Evangelism

As mentioned previously a member of Holy Cross leads the team providing home communion to individuals and the care homes. During 2023 the Anna Chaplaincy Scheme was introduced with the AVMC, and the one Anna Chaplain is a member of Holy Cross. The team consists of 1 Anna Chaplain, 7 Anna Friends and 5 original members of the Home Communion team.

In May Holy Cross held a special celebratory service for the Coronation followed by a celebratory tea in Woodbury Hall.

In December we held a Carol service which was very well attended by people who do not regularly attend church and we followed this with mulled wine and mince pies in Woodbury Hall. Numbers were 20% higher than last year.

Church Fabric

After the flood of 2021 it has been good to see that this year, despite heavy rains, our new defences have stood up well. The barrier at the gate is clearly working well and efforts by several people have ensured that the drains have been kept clear of leaves at all times.

The employment of a regular gardener has helped ensure that the gardens have been much tidier.

We are committed to following green policies where possible and during 2023 we applied for, and received the Bronze level Eco Award from AROCHA.

Holy Cross Mission Action Plan

A Mission Action Plan (MAP) was developed for the AVMC during 2023 incorporating the plans for all 8 churches. The Holy Cross MAP is reviewed at each Committee meeting to assess progress. It is updated regularly and new items will be included in 2024.

The Minster

The Minster has been very fortunate in 2023 with substantial major donor and legacy income. These two exceptionally generous, but high risk, categories have accounted for 75% of the £136,287 received in general income. Less than 20% of the income (£24,700) came from members of the church/services and there are now only 10 standing orders each month with a value of £362 (£4,344 p.a.).

General expenditure was £60,337, the common fund £28,335 and expenses to the AVMC £4,608 accounted for more than half of this. There was minimal expenditure on repairs and maintenance. With a further £46,423 set aside for reordering and repairs to the windows in 2024, the remaining net surplus on general funds was £29,527. With brought forward funds from previous years of £59,848 the carried forward total on general funds is £89,375.

On restricted funds there was net expenditure of £ (3,966) mainly covering the payment of the final bill for Marcus Chantry to Benjamin Beauchamp. There is £35,841 in restricted funds, the reordering fund is the largest at £21,814.

On designated funds there was net expenditure of £ (26,873), the bulk of this being the conservation of the wall paintings. There is £35,083 in designated funds, the largest is the fabric fund containing £20,650 which is half the cost of the stained-glass repairs booked for 2024.

The total bank balances stand at £160,299.

Holy Cross

Holy Cross started 2023 making the assumptions that general income would equal expenditure; no large fundraising events would take place, and there would not be any major expenditure on the building.

General income at £20,937 did cover the usual running costs of £20,462 and two very generous legacies totalling £7,000 were received which have boosted reserves. Payments include £12,429 share of the Axminster Parish Common Fund and £1,764 to the AVMC central fund for clergy expenses and parish office costs.

At the end of December, general funds show a positive balance for the year of £954; with £7,655 brought forward from last year we have £8,609 in general funds, £2,140 in restricted funds and £5,000 in funds designated by the Committee. The bank balances total £15,749.

Ongoing Holy Cross has 12 standing orders generating £880 per month and our average weekly cash collection is currently £90. We claim gift aid or GASDS on 95% of our income.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund for the Minster Church which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (approximately £16,000).

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin (Minster Church) is situated in the centre of Axminster and is in the Honiton deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity No.1127655

PCC Members who have served from the 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Rev'd Clive Sedgewick – Chair - Resigned 31 st August 2023
Curate	Rev'd Tracey Voysey – Resigned 8 th August 2023
Licensed Minister	Rev'd Shuna George – Resigned 24 th May 2023
Reader	Ms Su Clark
Churchwardens	Mrs Jean Ray Mrs Amanda Loveridge
Deanery Synod reps	Miss Nicola Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden) Mrs Jean Ray (Minster Churchwarden)
Safeguarding Officer	Rev'd Tracey Voysey until 8 th August 2023
Minute Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Pyle

Elected Members

Mr Martin Ferdinando – Appointed 30th November 2023
Mrs Emily Govender
Dr Sugendran Govender
Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Holy Cross Rep)
Mr Alan Meade – Appointed 19th April 2023
Mr Peter Parshall
Mrs Margaret Peirce - Resigned 27th September 2023
Mrs Jennifer Pyle - Minute Secretary
Dr Fraser Russell (Holy Cross Chapel Warden) – Appointed 19th April 2023

Treasurer to the PCC Mrs Melissa Kirkby – Resigned 30th November 2023
Mrs Pamela Macfarlane is acting as interim treasurer

Approved by the PCC on the 21st March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Mike Clark
Transitional Support Minister & Chair of PCC



Mrs Pamela Macfarlane
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO AXMINSTER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, AXMINSTER – REG. CHARITY NO: 1127655**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


WAYNE COOK FMAAT, AATQB
Wayne's World of Accountancy
14 Mead Way
Seaton, Devon, EX12 2NR

DATED 26th Feb 2024

Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2,022 £
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Note

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS				
Donations and legacies				
Regular giving	112,542	0	112,859	108,055
Other voluntary receipts	31,843	11,585	47,376	15,860
Income from church activities	7,154	1,726	8,881	13,732
Other trading activities	4,063	570	4,633	3,958
Investments	1,621	0	1,621	271
Other receipts	0	0	0	6,336
Total receipts	157,224	13,881	175,369	148,212
PAYMENTS				
Cost of raising funds	1,215	0	1,215	993
Church activities	79,584	35,755	121,740	115,537
Other costs	0	0	0	0
Total payments	80,799	35,755	122,955	116,530
Excess of receipts over payments	76,424	(21,873)	52,414	31,682
TRANSFERS				
Transfers between funds	(45,943)	21,012	24,932	0
Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)				0
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)				0
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts				0
Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)	30,481	(862)	22,795	31,682
Net movement in funds	30,481	(863)	22,816	31,682
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds at 1 January	67,503	40,965	15,165	90,431
Total funds at 31 December	97,984	40,083	37,881	123,634

Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2023 £	Holy Cross TOTAL 2,022 £
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19,199	0	0	19,199	18,595
1,495	5,000	2,183	8,678	3,296
142	0	0	142	1,325
0	0	0	0	0
101	0	0	101	17
0	0	0	0	6,336
20,937	5,000	2,183	28,120	29,569
0	0	0	0	244
20,462	0	354	20,816	34,541
0	0	0	0	0
20,462	0	354	20,816	34,785
475	5,000	1,829	7,304	(5,216)
479	21	(500)	0	0
954	5,021	1,329	7,304	(5,216)
954	5,000	1,350	7,304	(5,216)
7,655	0	790	8,445	13,661
8,609	5,000	2,140	15,749	8,445

Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Minster TOTAL 2023 £	Minster TOTAL 2,022 £
--------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------

93,343	0	316	93,660	89,460
30,348	6,585	1,765	38,698	12,564
7,012	1,726	0	8,739	12,407
4,063	570	0	4,633	3,958
1,520	0	0	1,520	254
0	0	0	0	0
136,287	8,881	2,081	147,249	118,643
1,215	0	0	1,216	749
59,122	35,755	6,047	100,924	80,996
0	0	0	0	0
60,337	35,755	6,047	102,139	81,745
75,949	(26,873)	(3,966)	45,110	36,888
(46,422)	20,991	25,432	0	0
29,527	(5,883)	21,466	45,110	36,888
29,527	(5,883)	21,466	45,110	36,888
59,848	40,966	14,376	115,189	76,770
89,375	35,083	35,841	160,299	115,189

Unrestricted													
Amminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL		Amminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL			
2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£		
1. Regular giving													
Tax efficient planned giving	6,631	9,895	16,526	14,131	9,990	24,121	1,800	1,800	24,121	1,800	24,121		
Other planned giving	645	1,550	2,195	0	1,800	1,800	0	1,800	1,800	0	1,800		
Collections at services	5,306	3,683	8,989	5,185	2,984	8,139	0	2,954	8,139	0	2,954		
Other recurring donations	62,102	0	62,102	49,500	0	49,500	0	49,500	49,500	0	49,500		
Income tax recovered	18,659	4,091	22,750	19,064	3,800	22,864	0	22,864	22,864	0	22,864		
	93,343	19,199	112,542	87,870	18,544	106,414	0	106,414	106,414	0	106,414		
2. Other voluntary receipts													
Grants	439	0	439	6,534	392	6,926	0	6,926	6,926	0	6,926		
Legacies	25,500		25,500	0		0		0	0		0		
Non-recurring donations and appeals	4,408	1,495	5,903	3,700	2,404	6,104	0	2,404	6,104	0	2,404		
	30,348	1,495	31,843	10,234	2,796	13,030	0	2,796	13,030	0	13,030		
3. Income from church activities													
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	3,128	0	3,128	3,734	236	3,972	0	3,972	3,972	0	3,972		
Gross income (Church magazine)			0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
Gross income (Letting of Church Buildings)			0	1,125	1,125	1,125		1,125	1,125		1,125		
Gross income (Fund raising activities)	3,886	142	4,028	3,626	1,087	4,913	1,764	1,087	4,913	1,764	4,913		
Adverts (Church magazine)			0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
	7,012	142	7,154	6,665	1,325	10,010	1,764	1,325	10,010	1,764	10,010		
4. Other trading activities													
Trading income	4,063	0	4,063	3,465	0	3,465	0	3,465	0	0	3,465		
	4,063	0	4,063	3,465	0	3,465	0	3,465	0	0	3,465		
5. Income from investments													
Dividends		0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
Interest received	1,520	101	1,621	264	17	271		17	271		271		
Rent received			0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
	1,520	101	1,621	264	17	271		17	271		271		
6. Other receipts													
Insurance claim and sale of equipment		0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
7. Fund raising costs													
Costs of fund raising	1,215	0	1,215	749	244	993		244	993		993		
	1,215	0	1,215	749	244	993		244	993		993		
8. Charitable activities													
Mission giving and donations	99	850	949	554	685	1,239		685	1,239		1,239		
Diocesan parish share	28,335	12,429	40,764	25,011	12,429	37,440		12,429	37,440		37,440		
Salary costs (verger, organist, choir, etc.)	4,320	1,715	6,035	6,050	1,645	7,695		1,645	7,695		7,695		
Clergy and staff expenses	4,606	1,764	6,372	4,224	1,764	5,988		1,764	5,988		5,988		
Church expenses: mission and evangelism	432	113	545	504	432	936	275	432	936	275	1,230		
Church running expenses	12,075	2,436	14,511	14,251	2,802	17,053		2,802	17,053		17,053		
Examination of annual accounts/Governance	1,857	0	1,857	727	0	727		0	727		727		
Church utility costs	7,845	1,169	9,000	3,406	1,308	4,714		1,308	4,714		4,714		
Expenses on parish magazine	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
Cost of Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
Major repairs to the church building	(250)	0	(250)	24,877	0	24,877		0	24,877		24,877		
Major repairs to the church hall		0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
New building work to the church or church hall			0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
	59,122	20,462	79,584	79,654	21,309	100,963		21,309	100,963		100,963		
9. Other costs													
Other payments			0	0	0	0		0	0		0		

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

[illegible]

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Designted					
Accumulator	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Remainder	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
£	£	£			£
	0	0	0	0	0
6,300		6,300			0
64		64			0
28,719	5,000	33,719	40,948		40,948
35,083	5,000	40,083	40,948	0	40,948
					0
0	0	0	0	0	0
					0
0	0	0	0	0	0
					0
0	0	0	0	0	0
					0
0	0	0	0	0	0

[illegible]

TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

Unrestricted							
Aminster		Holy Cross		Aminster		Holy Cross	
2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	500	500	500			(573)	(573)
	(21)	(21)	(21)				0
(25,000)			(25,000)	(25,144)			(25,144)
(2,692)			(2,692)				0
(18,731)			(18,731)				0
(18,920)	470	470	(18,920)	(25,144)	(573)		(26,717)

Designated					
Ammeter	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2023	Ammeter	Holy Cross	TOTAL 2022
£	£	£			£
		21		(3,927)	(3,927)
		21			0
		0	25,124		25,124
		2,280			0
18,731		18,731			0
20,881	24	21,032	25,124	(3,927)	21,197

Restricted											
Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL		Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL	
2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£
			(600)		(600)				4,500		4,500
25,000			0		0	20			0		0
432			25,000		25,000				20		20
			432		432				0		0
25,432			(600)		0	20			4,500		4,520

Unrestricted					
Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL	Aminster	Holy Cross	TOTAL
2023	2023	£	2022	2022	£
59,848	7,655	67,503	41,314	7,069	48,413
89,375	8,699	97,984	59,848	7,655	67,503

Total funds at 1 January

Designated					
Aminster		Holy Cross		TOTAL	
2023	£	2023	£	2022	£
40,966		0	40,966	26,314	5,281
					31,595
35,083		5,000	40,083	40,966	0
					40,966

Income

Unrestricted			
Axminster	Holy Cross		
2023 £	2023 £		TOTAL 2023 £
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
0	0		0
			0

Designated			
Axminster	2023 £	Holy Cross 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
	0	0	0
			0

Restricted		
Axminster 2023 £	Holy Cross 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0
0	0	0
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0

[illegible]

Michael Loh

Transitional Support Minister & Chair of PCC

Paula

Treasurer

Accounts



**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster
Incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury Lane**

Registered Charity No: 1127655

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2022**

Rector:
The Reverend Clive Sedgewick
The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Sharon Smith, 16 Ilex Close, Exeter, EX4 9JZ.

Our website : www.axevmc.com

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Axminster

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Clive Sedgewick, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. As well as the church itself, which is a grade II* Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for the Church Room between the church and the Rectory together with the church building known as Holy Cross Church in Woodbury Lane, Axminster although their day-to-day running is governed by its own separate Committee.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the church and the church room.

Achievements and Performance

During 2022 the Minster Church worked hard to recover and rebuild from the issues created by the covid-19 pandemic and to meet the challenges of the rise in fuel and heating costs and the cost of living issues faced by everyone in the community.

The impact of covid restrictions and protection of the most vulnerable reduced our regular congregational numbers during 2022. Pre-pandemic we regularly enjoyed average congregations of above 40. However, over the last two years a significant number of those who supported the Minster over the years have died, become less firm and struggle to attend and have moved away from the area. We have been pleased to welcome new members to the church but sadly, not to the same extent as we have lost them. During 2022 congregational numbers generally averaged 34. In spite of our reduced attendance, we have seen the Minster continue to flourish financially and for this we are grateful to all who continue to support the work of the church and PCC.

We were pleased to return to a full year of weekly services and activities in 2022. We were able to offer a 10.30 service every Sunday apart from those 'fifth Sundays' of the month where we joined with the other churches of the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) to celebrate team communion services.

In an attempt to attract and serve families and new members we introduced a service of 'Morning Worship' on the second Sunday of each month instead of the Holy Communion Service. Rev'd Shuna George led on this initiative along with others. The services did not attract many new people and we did lose some of the regular attenders on those Sundays though overall we saw numbers growing a little by the end of the year.

The 'Focal Ministers' for the Minster remained Rev'd Clive Sedgewick, Rector; Rev'd Shuna George, Associate Priest and Su Clark, Licensed Reader. The 'focal ministry' approach introduced at the end of 2021 has continued and people at the Minster were very secure with their focal minister relationships. This system will continue to develop but is quite secure in Axminster.

In the autumn the Minster returned to the 'shared chalice' for Holy Communion. Due to the Covid risk assessments priestly intinction had been the method of sharing communion but along with many churches the return to the chalice was welcomed by many and the Minster was encouraged to do so. (Holy Cross chose to retain communion by priestly intinction for the present).

During the year the Minster electoral roll stood at 56 (Holy Cross 31) with the PCC total 87.

The provision of the weekly news sheet, 'Pews News', continued to be a positive vehicle of communication and to be a good link for all eight of our churches to share and receive information. During the year Louise Collard, AVMC Administrator, continued to improve and develop this important publication and to distribute it electronically and in physical format.

2022 saw the establishment of a very successful 'Stay and Play' group for toddlers and carers on Wednesday mornings. Led by Rev'd Shuna and her team, we regularly saw 20+ toddlers and similar numbers of adult carers enjoying friendship, play and discussion in church. Over the year more than 40 children and 35 adults joined in these very successful sessions. It was very clear that the group were meeting an important need within the community.

It was a joy to see many of these children and families take part in our Christingle Service in Advent – and again thanks go to Rev'd Shuna for her organisation and for building up strong relationships to bring about this success.

We remain very grateful to all who worked with PCC, church and wider community during the year. Their efforts, care and commitment are much appreciated during another challenging year.

We are pleased that the fortnightly Bible Study group continued to meet in the Church Rooms throughout the year. Numbers increased significantly and were frequently in double figures. It is good to see the focus that we have upon study and the understanding of scripture. Our thanks continue go to Dr. Sugan Govender for his leadership, vision and commitment here.

The 9.00am 'Breakfast Together Service' on the first Sunday continued through the year and offered an informal opportunity for prayer and worship before the main service at 10.30.

2022 included significant 'Civic' events and services. In particular we enjoyed an exceptional Platinum Jubilee for the Queen with two hundred or so joining the service in the Minster followed by a 'cream tea' in the Guildhall. Thanks go particularly to Mervyn and Jacqui Symes for all their work in making this a wonderful community success.

Sadly, we also commemorated the death of the Queen and again the support, involvement, and contributions from all in the community were wonderful at a time of national mourning. The Minster was open throughout the official period of mourning with a book of condolences. This book, with hundreds of signatures and messages has been lodged with the Devon Archives and records the sense of loss felt by all.

The Remembrance Sunday service led by the Royal British Legion beside the War Memorial on the Minster Green was particularly well attended with 300+ people and was a fine tribute to the fallen and all who serve.

Mission and Evangelism

Besides the very successful 'Stay and Play' toddler group we were able to offer a full season of Thursday lunchtime concerts again in 2022. We were able to hold 26 concerts in the Minster. Numbers attending were not up to pre-pandemic levels but were significantly improved on the half season of 2021. The decision was taken not to serve food or refreshments at concerts which greatly reduced the work for the wonderful team of volunteers who made the concerts possible and this did not appear to impact negatively on the donations received with over £3000 raised. Our thanks go to all the artists who gave their time and skills, and to all who worked so hard to organise and arrange the season.

We were able to hold the Minster Christmas Tree Festival in 2022 and it brought such joy to so many. Again, many visitors came for the Festival and some wonderful conversations were held. Our thanks go to Mervyn & Jacqui Symes for making the event happen and for their generosity throughout, and to all who volunteered and provided the trees. It was a joy to have such a sense of the purpose of the season during the Christmas period.

The Christingle was well supported, and a donation made to the 'Children's Society'.

Carol singing on the Minster Green on Market Day just before Christmas was much appreciated, well supported and reported on television with filming taking place outside the Minster.

Volunteers

During 2022 we very much appreciated our many voluntary activities and the work of individuals which maintained the life of the church. We record our thanks to all who contributed to the life of the church in any way during 2022.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod three met times in 2022.

Jean Ray and Nicola Russell were the PCC Deanery Synod Reps.

Church Fabric

The new energy efficient lighting fitted in the autumn 2021 was completed in February 2022. The new lighting has been transformational and brightens up the whole church.

The Fabric Committee drew up a response and maintenance programme following the receipt of the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection Report, and this is being delivered in a phased programme.

Safeguarding Report

As a PCC we remain committed to the statement:

“The PCC has and will continue to comply with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop’s Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults as set out under S5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016”.

During 2022 there were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll including representatives of Holy Cross. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making the decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year.

The Minster Church

Financial Review

Total receipts for the year totalled £118,642. This was made up of payments into the unrestricted General fund totalled £110,507, Designated fund totalled £3721 and the receipts to the Restricted fund totalled £4,412. Payments into the General Fund were up £14,963 from the previous year. Payments out of this General fund totalled £66,830 which is a decrease of £8,322 on the previous year. This was due to limited further expenditure relating to the re-ordering work and completion of the lighting project. This leaves an excess of receipts over payments in the General fund of £30,105. The expenditure from Designated funds and Restricted funds totalled £1,342. This leaves a total excess of Income over Expenditure of £43,677.

Income from tax efficient planned giving at £15,286 was up £1,455 on the previous year. We are extremely grateful that our many of our regular donors were able to maintain their giving despite the other financial pressures they may have been under. Collections at services £3,594 had increased by £723, a slow but positive move in the right direction.

We were able to fully pay our Common Fund commitment of £37,44. The Minster paying £25,012 and £12,429 being paid by Holy Cross Church. All other financial commitments were paid in full.

A Gift Aid claim for Quarter 4 of 2022 totalling £6,321.44 will be made in January 2023.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (approximately £16,000). Over the year, the average balance of the General Fund has been considerably over this figure. There are substantial reserves for the upkeep of the Church buildings.

This year's General fund surplus of £43,677 and brought forward General funds now total £59,847. Designated funds total £40,966 and Restricted funds total £14,374. A total of £115,118.

A designated amount of £8,460 remains towards repairs identified in a previous Quinquennial Report. A budget of £25,000 was previously agreed for work on the wall paintings to preserve and display them of which £22,332 remains.

Our major challenge is to greatly increase the amount of money we receive from planned giving during the forthcoming year, so that we can more easily budget our expenditure and pay our way in the knowledge that we have sufficient regular funds coming in. We have many givers who already donate through standing order. We have also now registered with the Parish Giving scheme to offer an additional, easy process of regular giving. To enable easier ways to give, we have also purchased a card reader so that card and contactless donations can be accepted in the Minster.

Holy Cross Church - Review of 2022

Aim and Purpose

Holy Cross is one of eight churches in the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC). It is situated in Woodbury Lane, Axminster and comes under the auspices of The Minster PCC, although the day to day running and upkeep of the church are governed by its own separate committee.

Holy Cross has a gathered congregation from the town and surrounding villages including Raymonds Hill, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Holy Cross held 49 weekly services in 2022 with an average of 25 attendees. There has been an increase in the numbers attending, especially during the second half of the year. Our electoral roll stands at 31.

The Church was closed for one week in January to complete repairs on the floor following the October 2021 flood.

Since July, Evensong has been introduced where there is a fifth Sunday in the month and these services have been well attended.

Three funerals took place, two of them for longstanding members of the congregation and we were delighted to have four baptisms.

Holy Cross Headlines, our email group has grown again and keeps everyone in touch with our own news as well as AVMC events.

Church Fabric

The insurance claim from the October 2021 flood was finalised and the repairs to the floor completed. The Quinquennial Inspection took place, along with the five-year electrical testing and required updates were made.

New LED lighting was installed, a small contribution to the Church of England carbon net zero 2030 initiative. Half of the cost was paid by a generous legacy from a former member of the congregation.

Mission and Evangelism

Holy Cross has a long-standing relationship with our neighbours Woodbury Hall, and it was good to be able to hold several fellowship events there this year. This included a "Welcome Back" Tea Party in March, and Platinum Jubilee Celebration in June.

A Harvest Celebration was held in September to raise funds, by serving lunches and teas from the Hall and holding a Songs of Praise in Church on the Sunday.

A Memorial Service was held in October to remember those who have been part of the Holy Cross community over the years, and it was lovely to welcome back some of their families.

Our annual Carol Service took place in December with over 50 people enjoying mulled wine and food after the service.

Financial Review (2021 figures in brackets)

General income for the year was £22,682 (2021: £19,467) and expenditure £21,553 (2021: £19,182) giving a surplus for the year of £1,129 (2021: £285).

Thanks to everyone generously maintaining their giving and our Harvest fundraiser, all commitments including £12,429 contribution to the Axminster Parish common fund, were paid in full.

Charitable donations of £685 were made to the DEC appeals for Ukraine and the floods in Pakistan.

A donation of £1,000 was made to Woodbury Hall towards car park repairs.

A total of £11,878 was spent on repairs and maintenance, the quinquennial inspection and five-year electrical inspection.

We end the year with funds significantly reduced, however we have completed major repairs and maintenance and met all our commitments.

Fund balances carried forward are £7,655 (2021: £7,099) in general funds, and £790 (2021: £6,562) in restricted funds, giving a total of £8,445 (2021: £13,661).

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin (Minster Church) is situated in the centre of Axminster and is in the Honiton deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity No.1127655

PCC Members who have served from the 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Rev'd Clive Sedgewick - Chair
Curate	Rev'd Tracey Voysey
Licensed Minister	Rev'd Shuna George
Reader	Ms Su Clark
Churchwardens	Mrs Jean Ray Mrs Amanda Loveridge
Deanery Synod reps	Miss Nicola Russell (Holy Cross) Mrs Jean Ray
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Su Clark (until July 2022) Rev'd Tracey Voysey (from July 2022)
Minute Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Pyle

Elected Members	From 5th May 2022 Mrs Emily Govender Dr Sugendran Govender Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Holy Cross Rep) Mrs Jennifer Pyle - Minute Secretary Miss Nicola Russell (Holy Cross Rep) Mr Peter Parshall Mr Peter Simpson (until September 2022) Mrs Jacqui Symes (until 20 th July 2022) Mr Mervyn Symes (until 20 th July 2022) Mrs Margaret Peirce (from 21 st September 2022)
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Treasurer to the PCC Mrs Melissa Kirkby

Approved by the PCC on 16th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd Clive Sedgewick
Chair



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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December, 2022	Charity no (if any)	1127655
Set out on pages	5 - 11		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 07.03.2023

Name: Sharon Smith

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 16 Ilex Close, Exeter, EX4 9JZ

CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE MINSTER AND HOLY CROSS

	Note	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS						
RECEIPTS						
Donations and legacies						
Regular giving	1	106,414	0	1,641	108,055	102,253
Other voluntary receipts	2	13,030	0	2,830	15,860	12,610
Income from church activities	3	10,010	3,722	0	13,732	7,759
Other trading activities	4	3,465	0	493	3,958	1,780
Investments	5	271	0	0	271	7
Other receipts	6	0	0	6,336	6,336	0
Total receipts		133,190	3,722	11,300	148,212	124,409
PAYMENTS						
Cost of raising funds	7	993	0	0	993	1,261
Church activities	8	100,963	2,696	11,878	115,537	109,360
Other costs	9	0	0	0	0	2,247
Total payments		101,956	2,696	11,878	116,530	112,868
Excess of receipts over payments		31,234	1,026	(578)	31,682	11,541
TRANSFERS						
Transfers between funds		(25,717)	21,197	4,520	0	0
Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)					0	0
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)					0	0
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts					0	(4,216)
Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)		5,517	22,223	3,942	31,682	7,325
Net movement in funds		19,089	9,371	4,738	33,198	7,325
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds at 1 January		48,413	31,595	10,423	90,431	82,028
Total funds at 31 December		67,502	40,966	15,161	123,629	90,431

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Investments

0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

Monetary assets

Bank current account (CAF)	35,584	0	(2,130)	33,454	16,935
Bank current account (NatWest)	19,399	0	0	19,399	12,699
Bank deposit account CAF/Natwest	11,739	40,966	14,918	67,623	60,350
Petty cash	779	0	588	1,367	448
	67,501	40,966	13,376	121,843	90,432

Debtors

Accounts Receivable	0	0	0	0	0
Gift aid claim (for previous year)	6,247	0	75	6,322	0
Refund of VAT	0	0	0	0	0
	6,247	0	75	6,322	0

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Accounts	0	0	(1,788)	(1,788)	(4,216)
	0	0	(1,788)	(1,788)	(4,216)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Regular giving

Tax efficient planned giving
Other planned giving
Collections at services
Other recurring donations
Income tax recovered

24,121	0	1,155	25,276	25,277
1,800	0	0	1,800	1,544
8,139	0	0	8,139	4,321
49,500	0	0	49,500	51,738
22,854	0	486	23,340	19,373
106,414	0	1,641	108,055	102,253

2. Other voluntary receipts

Grants
Legacies
Non-recurring donations and appeals

6,926	0	1,510	8,436	5,054
0	0	500	500	275
6,104	0	820	6,924	7,281
13,030	0	2,830	15,860	12,610

3. Income from church activities

Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.
Gross income (Church magazine)
Gross income (Letting of Church Buildings)
Gross income (Fund raising activities)
Adverts (Church magazine)

3,972	0	0	3,972	2,481
0	0	0	0	0
1,125	1,035	0	2,160	842
4,913	2,687	0	7,600	4,436
0	0	0	0	0
10,010	3,722	0	13,732	7,759

4. Other trading activities

Trading Income

3,465	0	493	3,958	1,780
3,465	0	493	3,958	1,780

5. Income from investments

Dividends
Interest received
Rent received

0	0	0	0	0
271	0	0	271	7
0	0	0	0	0
271	0	0	271	7

6. Other receipts

Insurance claim and sale of equipment

0	0	6,336	6,336	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	6,336	6,336	0

7. Fund raising costs

Costs of fund raising

993	0	0	993	1,261
993	0	0	993	1,261

8. Charitable activities

Mission giving and donations
Diocesan parish share
Salary costs (verger, organist, choir, etc.)
Clergy and staff expenses
Church expenses: mission and evangelism
Church running expenses
Examination of annual accounts/Governance
Church utility costs
Expenses on parish magazine
Cost of Trading
Major repairs to the church building
Major repairs to the church hall

1,239	1,000	0	2,239	1,038
37,440	0	0	37,440	36,437
7,695	0	0	7,695	5,995
5,988	0	0	5,988	6,436
1,230	0	0	1,230	327
17,053	537	20	17,610	11,967
727	0	0	727	953
4,714	1,159	0	5,873	3,150
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	47
24,877	0	11,858	36,735	43,010
0	0	0	0	0
100,963	2,696	11,878	115,537	109,360

9. Other costs

Other payments

0	0	0	0	2,247
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	2,247

Accounts



**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster
Incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury Lane**

Registered Charity No: 1127655

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2021**

Rector:
The Reverend Clive Sedgewick
The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Sharon Smith, 16 Ilex Close, Exeter, EX4 9JZ.

Our website

www.axevmc.com

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Axminster

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) incorporating Holy Cross Church, Woodbury, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Clive Sedgewick, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. As well as the church itself, which is a grade II* Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for the Church Room between the church and the Rectory together with the church building known as Holy Cross Church in Woodbury Lane, Axminster although their day-to-day running is governed by its own separate Committee.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:

- Worship and prayer: Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the church and the church room.

Achievements and Performance

During 2021 the Minster Church was again significantly affected by the impact of Covid-19 regulations and restrictions. This resulted in the required closure for services of worship from January to March, and services operating with significant restrictions throughout much of the rest of the year. Even where restrictions were no longer legally required our 'Covid Risk Assessments' led to great care being taken, including continued wearing of face coverings, reduced opportunities for singing and limiting physical contact whilst maintaining high levels of hand and equipment sanitisation. For most of the year we encouraged 2m spacing between people who are not of the same family or 'bubble'. We also continued to complete services without the sharing of refreshments and discouraged members from congregating before and after services. This was a great pity and we felt significantly affected the atmosphere of services and opportunities for fellowship for much of the year.

The PCC continued to work effectively to ensure that the appropriate regulations were interpreted properly and fulfilled, even though these changed several times during the year and could, at times, be quite confusing - we remain grateful to everyone who did their best to ensure the safety and care of all who came into the Minster, carried out risk assessments and adapted to the requirements of the Covid-19 safety restrictions.

Abiding by the regulations the church was opened for private prayer as often as possible and from October was able to open daily. This was occasionally affected by the fact that the Minster held 17 funerals during the year. In addition, there were 9 funerals held at Crematoria.

We were pleased to re-appoint Mrs Amanda Loveridge as churchwarden and that Mrs Jean Ray continued in this role for a second year.

2021 was challenging in so many ways. During the year we were again aware of losing several wonderful and valued members of our congregation and community.

Whilst worship in church was often very difficult or not allowed, we were pleased to maintain the use of online and telephone-based services, Bible Studies, meetings and events. We had well viewed social media pages on Facebook, and the weekly Youtube services established by a team from Uplyme continued to provide highly professional worship for members of all our churches. This proved a real boon until we were able to phase out the online services as it became possible to return to regular services in churches. We recognise that the confidence of individuals, and especially the more vulnerable, meant that this phasing was important, though by the end of the year almost all services were taking place back in churches.

At the beginning of Advent, the Mission Community introduced 'Focal Ministry' across our churches. This is a system whereby each church and community have a named Minister(s) as their primary contact and who will seek to build up a close and positive relationship as a local minister. This does not exclude them from visiting and supporting other churches but is seen as a positive way to build community links for all our Ministry Team. The 'Focal Ministers' for the Minster are Rev'd Clive Sedgewick, Rector; Rev'd Shuna George, Associate Priest and Su Clark, Licensed Reader.

During the year the Minster electoral roll stood at 61 (Holy Cross 32) with the PCC total 93.

Due to Covid restrictions and sensitivities to the impact of new 'variants' our home Communion Team did not go into homes and houses, and we look to rebuild this much appreciated ministry in 2022.

The provision of the weekly news sheet, 'Pews News', provided a good vehicle for communication across the Minster congregation and Mission Community. We were pleased that Louise Collard, AVMC Administrator, continues to develop this vital communication publication.

We remain very grateful to all who worked with PCC, church and wider community during the year. Their efforts, care and commitment are much appreciated during another challenging year.

It is good to record that the fortnightly Bible Study group continued to meet throughout the year, initially on Zoom and then latterly in person and with caution. Our thanks go to Dr. Sugen Govender for his leadership, vision, and commitment here.

Worship & Prayer

2021 remained a challenging year as we worked to maintain our activities but also sought to maintain levels of care and protection for all. The timing of the main service on a Sunday settled at 10:30 AM and seems to have proven successful and popular.

The introduction of additional styles of worship is difficult to fully evaluate but has offered a breadth of worship styles and opportunities. We have maintained a service of Holy Communion in the Minster, each Sunday, though on the third Sunday of the month this takes place at 8.00am. Numbers attending this service have generally been low and usually in single figures – but the service attracts those who would probably not attend other services.

At 10.30 on the third Sunday our Morning Worship has been developing a welcoming and less structured approach and is again attracting some who might not attend a more traditional Communion Service, though we recognise that some who appreciate the ‘traditional’ do go to other local churches on these occasions. The number of alternatives within the Mission Community is a strength of the system.

In November the Minster Introduced a 9.00am ‘Breakfast Together Service’ which has begun well and seems to offer an informal opportunity for prayer and worship before the main service at 10.30.

We were able to maintain an online daily service of ‘Morning Prayer’ at 8:30 AM each weekday throughout the year.

Mission and Evangelism

2021 was a very much a year of rebuilding and developing our connections and contacts and activities. This was achieved far more rapidly and effectively than in many churches and dioceses across the land. We are also thankful for continued involvement with the care of others at many levels which reflected the support of the Church and individuals to practical mission and evangelism - so many were involved in living out their faith.

Events during the Year included the ‘Big Church Day Out’ – an event for churches across 3 Mission Communities held at Pecorama. It was a real success and thanks go to Shuna George for arranging everything and to Michael Pritchard and all at Pecorama for allowing us to use their site and facilities.

It was a real joy to re-establish the Thursday lunchtime concerts again in 2021. Although we only held 13 events, which equates to half a ‘normal’ concert season, it was good to have the lunchtime music in the Minster and to see reasonable numbers attending those which took place. Our thanks go to all the artists who gave their time and skills, and to all who worked so hard to organise and arrange the season.

We were able to hold the Minster Christmas Tree Festival in 2021 and it brought such joy to so many. We estimate 1000+ visited the church while the Festival took place and some wonderful conversations were held. Our thanks go to Mervyn & Jacqui Symes for the absolute show stopper tree at the front of the Minster, and to all who volunteered and provided the trees. It was a joy to have some sense of normality and fun during the Christmas period.

The Christingle was well supported, and a donation made to the 'Children's Society'.

There were a number of 'Civic Events' and activities including:

- The 100th Anniversary of the installation of Axminster War Memorial
- 75th Anniversary of VE Day
- Remembrance Day events

Volunteers

During 2021 we very much appreciated the returning of voluntary activities and the work of individuals which maintained the life of the church. We record our thanks to all who contributed to the life of the church in any way during 2021.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met both virtually and in person in 2021.

Jean Ray and Nicola Russell - Deanery Synod Reps.

Church Fabric

Due to the nature of the restrictions, limited formal work to the structure and fabric was carried out in 2021 although the Fabric Committee did meet and ensured that all items raised in the 2016 Inspection Report were addressed. The 2021 Quinquennial inspection was carried out in October 2021 and the Report will be available in early 2022. Initial information suggests there will be little of which we were unaware and preparing for.

The new energy efficient lighting was fitted in the autumn, though there remain a few finishing aspects to be completed. The new lighting has been transformational, and the removal of the old ball lights has made a huge difference to the nave space.

Safeguarding Report

Mrs Maureen D'Albertanson remained the named Safeguarding Officer for the church, PCC and Mission Community at the beginning of the year. She and husband, Roger, have since moved away from the area and Su Clark has agreed to take over the role for the Minster, Holy Cross and Combpyne. The role of Mission Community Safeguarding Co-ordinator is being explored and we were fortunate to have Karen Lawrence agree to take on this role just before Christmas.

As a PCC we remain committed to the statement:

“The PCC has and will continue to comply with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop’s Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults as set out under S5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016”.

During 2021 there were no reported incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll including representatives of Holy Cross. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making the decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year.

The Minster Church

Financial Review

Total receipts into the unrestricted General Fund totalled £95,554 an increase of £11,993 on the previous year. Payments out of this fund totalled £75,152 which is an increase of £19,227 on the previous year. This included costs of £26,272 for church repairs, re-ordering work and completion of the lighting project. This leaves an excess of receipts over payments in the general fund of £20,392. Once deductions have been made to Restricted and Designated funds the excess is £12,169.

Income from tax efficient planned giving at £13,831 was down £2,318 on the previous year. However, we are extremely grateful that our many of our regular donors were able to maintain their giving despite the other financial pressures they may have been under. The lifting of restrictions and reduced Church closures meant that collections at services £2,871 had increased by £1,309.

We were able to fully pay our Common Fund commitment of £36,437 (with the aid of £12,144 from Holy Cross Church), and all other financial commitments were paid in full.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund which equates to at least three months’ unrestricted payments (approximately £16,000). Over the year, the average balance of the General Fund has been considerably over this figure.

In previous years we have had no real reserves for the upkeep of the Church buildings.

This year’s general fund surplus of £12,169 and brought forward general funds now total £41,314. Designated funds total £26,314 and Restricted Funds total £13,359. An amount of £18,000 has

already been designated towards repairs identified in a previous Quinquennial Report. Funds are available for additional electrical works. A budget has also been agreed for work on the wall paintings to preserve and display them. This will be in the region of £25,000 and this amount will be designated to that fund.

Our major challenge is to greatly increase the amount of money we receive from planned giving during the forthcoming year, so that we can more easily budget our expenditure and pay our way in the knowledge that we have sufficient regular funds coming in. We have many givers who already donate through standing order. We have also now registered with the Parish Giving scheme to offer an additional, easy process of regular giving. To enable easier ways to give, we have also purchased a card reader so that card and contactless donations can be accepted in the Minster.

Going Concern

The pandemic has still impacted the income for both the minster Church and Holy Cross Church for 2021. However, the PCC has reviewed budgets and forecasts for income and expenditure for 2022 along with available reserves and is reassured about the financial stability of the parish.

Holy Cross Church

AIM AND PURPOSE

Holy Cross is one of eight churches in the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC). It is situated in Woodbury Lane, Axminster and comes under the auspices of The Minster PCC, although the day to day running and upkeep of the church are governed by its own separate committee.

Holy Cross has a gathered congregation from the town and surrounding villages including Raymonds Hill, Charmouth and Lyme Regis. We hold a 9.30am Holy Communion Service each Sunday, apart from the quarterly AVMC Team Services (held elsewhere when there is a fifth Sunday in the month).

At the start of Advent, we welcomed Reverend Cate Edmonds (Rural Dean of the Honiton Deanery and Canon Steward Exeter Cathedral) as our Focal Minster.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

The year began with a service on the first Sunday, this was then followed by another 11 weeks of church closures and Covid-19 restrictions. Thanks must go to the Chapel Wardens and all who cared for the Church during this difficult period.

It was a huge relief to open again on Palm Sunday at the end of March, one of 33 services held during the year, with an average congregation of 22 people.

It was wonderful to be together again and able to hold our annual Harvest Festival and Carol Services, both were much missed in 2020.

Holy Cross is a small church and with social distancing the maximum capacity is c. 30-35 people. During the year, our electoral roll reduced to 32, as one long standing parishioner sadly died, and another moved away. Two funerals and one baptism were held in the church.

Holy Cross Headlines, our email group has grown and been vital again this year; keeping everyone in touch with the latest news and events. These communications are posted, or hand delivered to all who cannot access the internet.

Church Fabric

Unfortunately, the Church was subject to flooding from heavy rain in October and had to be closed for five weeks whilst an insurance claim was processed, and substantial repairs were made to the floor. Additional drainage and flood protection has now been put in place.

As well as regular maintenance activities, and with a Quinquennial Inspection due in the autumn, we agreed to replace the guttering and soffits. The pandemic held up supplies for the contractors and this work was finally completed in December.

Mission and Evangelism

Following on from the success of our Spring Flower Celebration in early 2020, we held an Autumn Flower Celebration in September. We served lunches and teas from Woodbury Hall, and this gave us an opportunity to engage with the wider community, as well as raising funds for the Church. The Celebration ended with a Songs of Praise Service and tea for everyone on the Sunday afternoon.

Sadly, not everyone feels confident to return to church yet and as part of keeping in touch and sharing fellowship, we distributed the Church of England booklets of reflections, #Live Lent and Comfort and Joy at Christmas. We also sent links to online and telephone services taking place within the AVMC and in the Diocese

Usually, we would advertise our festival services widely and aim to attract new people, especially at Christmas, but the size of the Church has prevented this in the last two years. On the positive side, Holy Cross with c.30 people in it looks pleasantly full and welcoming and we have attracted several new people to services in 2021.

Financial Review

General income for the year was £19,467 and expenditure £19,182 giving a surplus for the year of £285. Thanks to everyone generously maintaining their giving and our September fundraiser, all commitments including £12,144 contribution to the Axminster Parish common fund, were paid in full. Charitable donations of £520 were made to Give the World a Shot and Crisis at Christmas. Fund balances carried forward are £7,099 in general funds, £5,281 designated funds, and £1,281 restricted funds.

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin (Minster Church) is situated in the centre of Axminster and is in the Honiton deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity No.1127655

PCC Members who have served from the 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

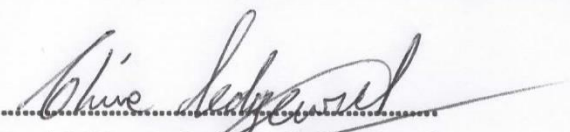
The Incumbent	The Rev'd Clive Sedgewick - Chair
Curate	Mrs Tracey Voysey
Reader	Mrs Su Clark
Churchwardens	Mrs Jean Ray Mrs Amanda Loveridge (from 24 th May 2021)
Deanery Synod reps	Miss Nicola Russell (Holy Cross)
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Maureen D'Albertanson (to September 2021) Mrs Su Clark (from September 2021)
Minute Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Pyle

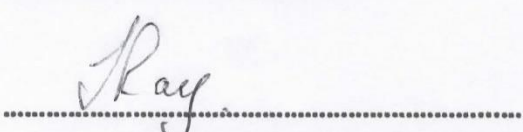
Elected Members **From 24th May 2021**

Mr Tony Boshier
Mrs Emily Govender
Dr Sugendran Govender
Mrs Pamela Macfarlane (Holy Cross Rep)
Mrs Jennifer Pyle - Minute Secretary
Miss Nicola Russell (Holy Cross Rep)
Mr Peter Parshall
Mr Peter Simpson
Mrs Jacqui Symes
Mr Mervyn Symes

Treasurer to the PCC Mrs Melissa Kirkby (from 8th July 2021)

Approved by the PCC on the 27th day of April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:


Rev'd Clive Sedgewick (Incumbent)


Mrs Jean Ray (Churchwarden)

**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES****Independent examiner's
report on the accounts****Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees of** The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Axminster**On accounts for the year ended** 31 December, 2021 **Charity no (if any)** 1127655**Set out on pages** 11 - 14**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

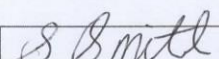
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: **Date:** 26.04.2022**Name:** Sharon Smith**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):****Address:** 16 Ilex Close, Exeter, EX4 9JZ

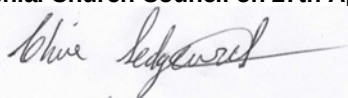
COMBINED FIGURES OF AXMINSTER & HOLY CROSS

	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2,020 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
RECEIPTS					
Donations and legacies					
Regular giving	100,255	6	1,992	102,253	83,274
Other voluntary receipts	5,211	1,815	5,584	12,610	21,798
Income from church activities	7,759	0	0	7,759	4,574
Other trading activities	1,780	0	0	1,780	1,770
Investments	7	0	0	7	39
Other receipts	0	0	0	0	1,171
Total receipts	115,012	1,821	7,576	124,409	112,626
PAYMENTS					
Cost of raising funds	1,261	0	0	1,261	1,232
Church activities	90,828	8,640	9,892	109,360	77,818
Other costs	2,247	0	0	2,247	7,718
Total payments	94,336	8,640	9,892	112,868	86,768
Excess of receipts over payments	20,676	(6,819)	(2,316)	11,541	25,858
TRANSFERS					
Transfers between funds	5,959	(5,959)	0	0	0
Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)				0	7,887
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)				0	(291)
Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts				0	(1,079)
Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)	26,635	(12,778)	(2,316)	11,541	32,375
Net movement in funds	26,401	(12,778)	(5,220)	8,403	32,375

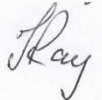
	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2,020 £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds at 1 January	22,012	44,373	15,643	82,028	49,655
Total funds at 31 December	48,413	31,595	10,423	90,431	82,029
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES					
Investments					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Monetary assets					
Bank current account (CAF)	21,151	0	(4,216)	16,935	9,262
Bank current account (NatWest)	12,699	0	0	12,699	1,254
Bank deposit account CAF/Natwest	14,115	31,595	14,640	60,350	70,895
Petty cash	448	0	0	448	619
	48,413	31,595	10,424	90,432	82,030
Debtors					
Accounts Receivable	0	0	(4,216)	(4,216)	0
Gift aid claim (for previous year)	0	0	0	0	3,732
Refund of VAT	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	(4,216)	(4,216)	3,732
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	0	0	0	0	(235)
Agency Accounts	0	0	0	0	(1,314)
	0	0	0	0	(1,549)

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Clive Sedgewick
(Chair)



Mrs Jean Ray
(Churchwarden)



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2,020 £
1. Regular giving					
Tax efficient planned giving	24,137	0	1,140	25,277	29,330
Other planned giving	1,544	0	0	1,544	1,575
Collections at services	4,321	0	0	4,321	2,950
Other recurring donations	51,738	0	0	51,738	30,880
Income tax recovered	18,515	6	852	19,373	18,539
	100,255	6	1,992	102,253	83,274
2. Other voluntary receipts					
Grants	0	1,435	3,619	5,054	1,134
Legacies	0	275	0	275	10,457
Non-recurring donations & appeals	5,211	105	1,965	7,281	10,207
	5,211	1,815	5,584	12,610	21,798
3. Income from church activities					
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals	2,481	0	0	2,481	3,070
Gross income (Church magazine)	0	0	0	0	30
Gross income (Letting of Church Buildings)	842	0	0	842	0
Gross income (Fund raising activities)	4,436	0	0	4,436	1,474
Adverts (Church magazine)	0	0	0	0	0
	7,759	0	0	7,759	4,574
4. Other trading activities					
Trading Income	1,780	0	0	1,780	1,770
	1,780	0	0	1,780	1,770
5. Income from investments					
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Interest received	7	0	0	7	39
Rent received	0	0	0	0	0
	7	0	0	7	39
6. Other receipts					
Insurance claim and sale of equipment	0	0	0	0	1,171
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	1,171
7. Fund raising costs					
Costs of fund raising	1,261	0	0	1,261	1,232
	1,261	0	0	1,261	1,232

	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2,020 £
8. Charitable activities					
Mission giving and donations	933	105	0	1,038	1,316
Diocesan parish share	36,437	0	0	36,437	34,704
Salary costs (verger, organist, choir, etc.)	5,995	0	0	5,995	4,905
Clergy and staff expenses	6,436	0	0	6,436	7,062
Church expenses: mission and evangelism	166	161	0	327	25
Church running expenses	10,438	1,384	145	11,967	11,831
Examination of annual accounts/Governance	953	0	0	953	1,058
Church utility costs	3,150	0	0	3,150	6,095
Expenses on parish magazine	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of Trading	47	0	0	47	2,939
Major repairs to the church building	26,273	6,990	9,747	43,010	7,432
Major repairs to the church hall	0	0	0	0	451
	90,828	8,640	9,892	109,360	77,818
9. Other costs	2,247	0	0	2,247	7,718
Other payments	0	0	0	0	0
	2,247	0	0	2,247	7,718

Holy Cross

Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2,020 £
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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS

Donations and legacies

Regular giving

Other voluntary receipts

Income from church activities

Other trading activities

Investments

Other receipts

Total receipts

PAYMENTS

Cost of raising funds

Church activities

Other costs

Total payments

Excess of receipts over payments

TRANSFERS

Transfers between funds

Debtors - payments in advance (at 1 January)

Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts (at 1 January)

Liabilities - Receipts in advance & agency accounts

Excess of receipts over payments (after transfers)

Net movement in funds

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Total funds at 1 January

Total funds at 31 December

16,719	6	113	16,838	83,274	
504	380	635	1,519	21,798	
2,243	0	0	2,243	4,574	
0	0	0	0	1,770	
1	0	0	1	39	
0	0	0	0	1,171	
19,467	386	748	20,601	112,626	
748	0	0	748	1,232	
18,434	105	1,941	20,480	77,818	
0	0	0	0	7,718	
19,182	105	1,941	21,228	86,768	
285	281	(1,194)	(628)	25,858	
0	0	0	0	0	
			0	7,887	
			0	(291)	
			0	(1,079)	
285	281	(1,194)	(628)	32,375	
285	281	(1,194)	(628)	32,375	
6,814	5,000	2,475	14,289	49,655	
7,099	5,281	1,281	13,661	82,029	