

Annual Report & Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay

for the year ending 31st December 2024

Team Rector and Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral:

Fr Nick Debney B.A. SSC

Parish Church:

St Mary the Virgin
St Marychurch
Fore Street
Torquay
TQ1 4PZ

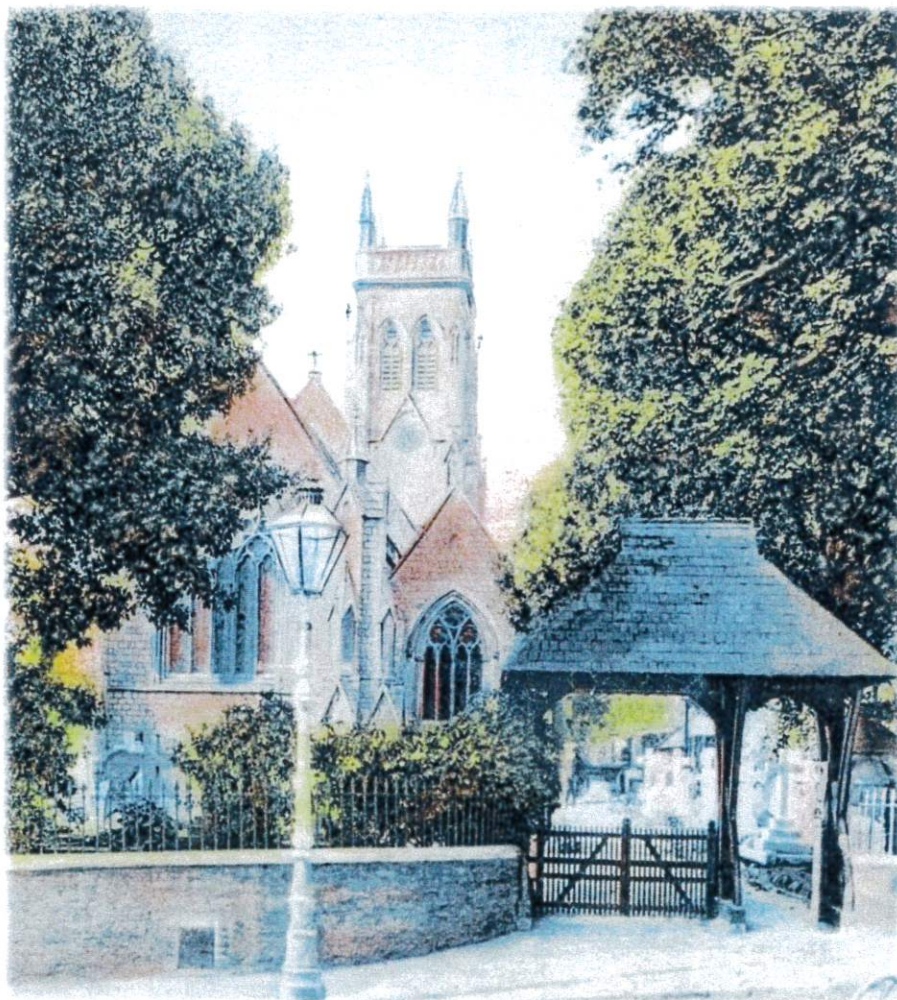
Bank:

HSBC Bank
7 Palace Avenue
Paignton
TQ3 3ED

Independent Examiner:

Mr Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barrett's Chartered Accountants
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot
TQ12 2JS

Registered Charity Number: 1128269



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18/5/25.

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,
St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ**

**Annual Report for 2024 presented at Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 18th May 2025 in the Church after the Parish Mass**

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The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ

**Annual Report for 2024 presented at Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 18th May 2025 in the Church after the Parish Mass**

Agenda

The Meeting of the Parishioners

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. The notes of the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
4. The Priest in Charge's Report
5. The Churchwarden's Report
6. The Election of two Church Wardens

The Meeting of those on the Electoral Roll

1. Presentation of the Revised Electoral Roll
2. The Honorary Secretary's Report
3. The Honorary Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Independent Examined Accounts for 2024
4. General Reports (taken as read)
 - 4.1. Deanery Synod Report
 - 4.2. Forward in Faith and the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda
5. Elections
 - 5.1. The Parochial Church Council (12 posts)
 - 5.2. Independent Examiner
 - 5.3. Electoral Roll Officer
 - 5.4. Deanery Synod Representatives (2 posts)
6. Safeguarding
7. Letters of Thanks as the meeting requires
8. Dates of Future Meetings
 - 8.1. New Parochial Church Council Meeting – to be confirmed following APCM
 - 8.2. Archdeacon's Visitation – 28th July 2025 at 7pm at St Matthew's Chelston
 - 8.3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 17th May 2026
9. Close of meeting by Chair.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ

Annual Report and Financial Statement For Year ending 31st December 2023

Trustees of the Charity

Parochial Church Council members are automatically Trustees and are either elected, ex officio or co-opted. During the year 2023, the following people served as Parochial Church Council members:

Parish Priest:	Fr Nick Debney	Chair	Ex-Officio	
Assistant Curate:	Fr Kenny Wickens		Ex-Officio	
Ordinand:	Toby Humphreys		Ex-Officio	
Church Wardens:	Christine Hinchliffe		Ex-Officio	Until APCM
	Philippe Giorgetti		Ex-Officio	Until APCM
Deanery Synod Rep:	Nicola Hall		Ex-Officio	Until 2026
	Christine Hinchliffe		Ex-Officio	Until 2026
Secretary:	Sorcha Fenlon		Ex-Officio	Until APCM
Treasurer:	Peter Gaston		Ex-Officio	Until APCM
Electoral Roll Officer:	Margaret Roper		Ex-Officio	Until APCM
Parish Safeguarding Rep.:	Valerie Oswin		Co-opted	Until APCM
Elected Members:	Hayden Beazley		Until 2025	
	David Clark		Until 2025	
	Jan Condict		Until 2025	
	Peter Gaston		Until 2025	
	Nicola Hall		Until 2025	
	Janet Morgan		Until 2025	
	Les Northway-Reux		Until 2025	
	Valerie Oswin		Until 2025	
	Alistair Purser		Until 2025	
	Margaret Roper		Until 2025	
	Tui Shirley		Until 2025	
	Jason Watkins		Until 2025	
	Sarah Williams		Until 2025	

Deanery Synod Representatives are elected every three years, upon election they become Ex-officio members of the PCC for the term. Next election in 2026.

Standing Committee consists of the Parish Priest, Assistant Curate, Church Wardens, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Administration

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch is located in the North of Torquay serving a large and varied parish. The Parish sits within the Mission Community of Our Lady and All the Saint's which comprises of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, All Saint's Babbacombe, and St Martin of Tours, Barton. From the 1st July the three churches became a legal benefice served by the North Torquay Team Ministry.

Aim and Purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council's (PCC) primary aim is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, Fr Nick Debney (Team Rector from the 1st July 2024), in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Parochial Church Council is also specifically responsible for the Church building, the church hall and the grounds within the boundary.

St Mary's PCC have passed a resolution under the House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests in the Church of England. Following their petition, the Bishop of Exeter has requested Sacramental and Pastoral Episcopal Oversight from the Bishop of Oswestry, the Right Reverend Paul Thomas.

Our mission is to be a growing, joy-filled, Christian presence at the heart of our community. We welcome both local residents and visitors of all ages to all of our services and events. By witnessing inside and outside of our church buildings, we endeavor to walk the journey of faith together, fed and nurtured by God's word and sacraments. Worship is our first duty, and we seek to make the worship at St Mary's both reverent and accessible, but above all filled with joy.

We are a family friendly Eucharistic community that use our buildings to the glory of God as we seek to grow in faith and out-reach to the community we seek to serve. Everyone is very welcome to join us wherever they may be on their journey of faith. Our mission statement is *'Serving the people of North Torquay with joy'*

Objective and Actions

Our 2024 objective in pursuit of our aim and purposes is to offer public worship, a place for private prayer, community events, opportunities to go on pilgrimage and supporting activities aligned with our aim and purpose, both locally and further afield. We have considered the Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe our actions have many benefits to the public and the people living in our parish as we intend to offer the following actions for 2024:

Sung Parish Mass on Sundays in the parish church. Tea and Coffee are served after Mass in the Precinct Centre to encourage fellowship and community, everyone is welcome.

Said Masses take place on Wednesday morning at 10am and Friday morning at 10am, as well as a sung School Mass on a Tuesday morning at 9am in the Parish Church. Refreshments are available in the Precinct Centre after Mass on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Additional services throughout the year including Lent, Easter, Festivals and Saint Days, Patronal Festival and Christmas. These services times vary and with details being available in the news sheet. Bring and share lunches or 'nibbles' follow selected services to continue the celebration and give opportunity for fellowship.

There is not currently a Sunday School running within the Parish, however weekly resources reflecting the readings for the day and the season are provided in a children's area and are well used.

Upkeep and maintenance of the Church, Church Hall and grounds. To ensure they are safe and suitable for the purposes they are being used for.

The Church Hall is hired out to users for many sessions of the week and is available for the community to hire for their personal and community events. The hall is used for Church events e.g. Lent Lunches and receptions/events throughout the year as the Church Hall has a high quality kitchen and toilet facilities.

Historically the parish have been on Pilgrimage to Glastonbury for the South-West Pilgrimage in July each year and have fund a new tradition in being part of the Diocesan Society Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in North-East Norfolk.

These activities are principally funded by voluntary donations through the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders, envelopes, collections and the lettings of the hall. These funds are primarily used for the common fund, heating, lighting, insurance, licences, day to day maintenance and repair of church buildings and grounds. Purchase of resources for services (e.g. candles and printer costs), supporting mission activities (e.g. donations to charity and projects).

The parish is blessed to have the Cornerstone Charity Shop to support the life and witness of the parish. While it is an independent trading company, they make generous grants to the church for fabric and other work.

Committees

During 2024 the P.C.C. operated with just one formal committee which met between full meetings: this was the Standing Committee, elected by the P.C.C. from its own membership.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee recognized by law. It has power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. This committee meets when need arises to make recommendations to the full P.C.C. or to proceed with any work requiring immediate attention. The Standing Committee is made up of the Priest in Charge, Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Church Attendance

There are fifty-nine names on the Church Electoral Roll. The Roll this year has been subject to a full Revision, with a new electoral roll prepared for the annual meeting. The number of names on the Roll - 59 – this is a reduction from previous years due to the number of people who have moved away and no longer worship at St Mary's or who did not return to church after the Covid Pandemic which have been updated through the full revision this year. There were twenty new additions with a further 12 regular attenders who failed to fill in their form - on time!

Sunday attendance has now recovered and increased from the pre-pandemic numbers with average communicants of between 60 and 65. There are usually between 15 and 20 who attend our weekday Masses. A small number of children and non-confirmed adults attend Sunday services.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The Parochial Church Council adopted in 2024 an updated Safeguarding Policy, Safer Recruitment Policy and Employment of Offenders Policy, and that it has due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Through a rigorous review of our Safeguarding practice using the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, relevant individuals, as well as the Parochial Church Council as a body, are fully appraised of the requirements which go both with the offices they hold and also with their qualification to be nominated for such offices.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is automatically co-opted as a member of the Parochial Church Council. Safeguarding is an integral agenda item of every P.C.C. meeting, even if only to report that there are no current issues and that our policies and procedures are current and up to date.

All members of the parish community, whose DBS Certificates expired in 2024 have had these certifications renewed. A review is underway regarding Safeguarding Training to ensure and provide evidence that training is in place and where not, to make sure it is in the future.

Review 'Highlights' of 2024

The Parish continues to be well supported by our retired clergy, Fr Tony Oswin, Fr Antony Lane, Fr Trevor Smyth and Fr John Lee who have supported us throughout the year. Rob Atkin has continued as our Organist and Director of Music and we have been served faithfully by our choir members. The serving team led by our head server, Jason Watkins, have grown in number and expertise and greatly enhance our worship on Sundays and for our Occasional Offices.

Social events have continued to recover post-lockdown The Autumn Craft Fayre was held once more raising much needed funds for the parish and thanks to Graham Ward and the team for all their hard work. Through our fundraising efforts as well as through the generosity of our planned giving, St Mary's has been able to fulfill all its financial commitments in 2024. There have been three opportunities to gather as a Mission Community our brothers and sisters in Christ at All Saints, Babbacombe and St Martin of Tours, Barton.

In March 2024 we welcomed Toby Humphreys to the benefice as an ordinand in training for ordination at St Mellitus Theological College in Plymouth. It has been a great joy to have Toby with us and he has made a great contribution to the life of all the churches.

In May 2024, the current phase of work being undertaken by Michael Farley Organ Builders was completed on the organ which means that all the organ (with the exception of the choir organ) is now working and reliable and the console has finally been completed after 20 years of work.

In June 2024 Family Fest took place at the River Dart Country Park. Family Fest is a family camping weekend run by Anglo-Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Exeter. It was lovely to be able to welcome families, young and old, to Family Fest with 300 people enjoying time together in worship and fun.

For the first time in many, many years there was a priestly ordination in the life of St Mary's. Our Assistant Curate, Fr Kenny Wickens was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by Bishop Paul Thomas in St Mary's and just a few days later, he celebrated his first Mass at St Martins, Barton. The church was full, and we celebrated together afterwards. Fr Kenny attended the Centenary Glastonbury Pilgrimage, and it was lovely that a group were able to travel once again from St Mary's to attend the Pilgrimage.

Over the course of 2024, we have had another significant number of funerals both at St Mary's and a much smaller number at Torquay Crematorium which demonstrates how we are reaching back out into our community. There has been another increase both in Baptisms and Weddings at St Mary's this year.

Fr Nick Debney has continued as the Chaplain to the Royal British Legion in Torquay and has led services for the D-Day embarkment, the Home Guard service on Corbyn Head, and services on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

In August we took delivery of four window 'cartoons' the original design drawing of four parts of the replacement East Window when the church was rebuilt after the bombing in 1943. There was a great fundraising project and through very generous donation the cartoons were secured and are now on display in church.

In September we took delivery of projection screens in church. These large flat-screen televisions enable the screening of orders of service for School Masses and to be used for other catechetical purposes. The screens were funded by a very generous grant from the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, and a legacy from the Long sisters. The screens have greatly enhanced our school worship and flexibility of use.

Also, in September we held our first 'Tower Tours', where we held a day of outreach into the community. We were expecting maybe 100 people with 50-60 wanting to ascend the 185 steps up the tower. In the end we welcomed over 600 people into church with over 220 going up the tower. In addition to views from the tower, we organised church tours, there was an organ recital, refreshments and bell ringing demonstrations.

There was again, a larger than usual gathering this year at the St Marychurch War Memorial on the 11th November where our Ordinand, Toby Humphreys preached an incredible homily on sacrifice. The Act of Remembrance was supported by the Royal British Legion.

October also saw the redecoration of the church hall to remove the royal blue paintwork and pink walls to a much fresher cream and white. It is hoped in 2025 to market the hall to increase use and revenue.

Fr Kenny Wickens has continued a programme of Safeguarding review at St Mary's. It has been a really fruitful piece of work which has given the opportunity to review our Safeguarding policies and Procedures, to adopt the newer policies and make sure our training and Disclosure and Barring checks are up to date and for the parish to fully adopt the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which we are now working to complete level 2 moving into level 3 in 2025.

In July, following the retirement of Fr Paul Jones at All Saints Babbacombe and a period of consultation, the North Torquay Team Ministry was formed. The scheme provides for the Team Rector (Fr Nick Debney) and a Team Vicar (to be appointed in 2025) as well as a curate. The Mission Community name will remain the same (Our Lady and All the Saints, North Torquay), but it provides a formal relationship between the three parishes and the provision of ministry across the three churches.

Leading up to Christmas there were many Carol Services and celebrations from across the community. It was a great joy to welcome so many people back to St Mary's, many of whom had not visited since before the lockdown. Our hall bookings have continued to grow from strength to strength under the watchful eye (and lots of work) of Alistair Purser following the retirement of Angela Lee in April.

Christmas was celebrated well with the largest attendances for many years at St Mary's this year with good congregations and lots of happy, smiley faces – Fr Nick wheeled out his snow machine again which brought lots of smiles to the children's faces as we welcome hundreds of shepherds into church wearing their instant shepherd kits given out as part of the Crib Service.

Our work with schools has continued to grow this year. The weekly School Mass has continued for years 3-6. We had the May Day procession and Crowning of the May Queen and the Image of Our Lady in May with a longer procession through the precinct to music culminating in Maypole Dancing in the precinct for the year 6 children. We have welcomed Coombe Pafford School back into Church this Christmas and have had visits from St Margarets School, Homelands, Abbey School as part of the RE Program and syllabus. Resources are provided every week for our younger church members and a huge thank you is given to Sally Debney who spends many hours each week putting these resources together for our junior church (and supporting Fr Nick in so many ways).

We are so very blessed with our flower team at St Mary's led by Jenny Purver. The quality and drama of our displays are exceptional and we are so very lucky to have such talent within the parish. A massive thank you to everyone who is involved in our flower team and for your creativity and drive.

There have been a steady flow of new people coming along to St Mary's and it is a joy to welcome them and everyone to our Mass on a Sunday morning – how heartening that 20 new people have applied to go on the Electoral Roll this year.

St Mary's continues to witness faithfully to the Gospel and as a parish we are in good heart indeed.

Team Rector's Annual Report for 2024

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin my first report as Team Rector by saying a massive thank you to you all for your continued care and concern for each other and for me, Sally and Adam. 2024 has been another busy year, it is not until you look through photographs and refer to the annual review on Page 6 that we can begin to see all the things that are happening here at St Mary's. Some things we would like to move at a faster pace, but we are all bound by time and capacity. I would also like to thank our retired clergy for supporting the life of the parish in this last year.

We have had a number of significant and one-off events this year with a number of Mission Community events most notably the ordination of Fr Kenny Wickens to the Sacred Priesthood. His Ordination took place here at St Mary's and he celebrated the Mass for the first time at St Martin's a few days later. As usual, 'Team St Mary's' came up trumps and the whole day was wonderful. We observed our usual celebration of our patronal festival and have continued in the St Mary's way of observing the festivals of the world-wide church. The Holy Week and the Triduum were celebrated across St Martins and St Mary's for the first time this year. All services were really well attended meaning combined choir, servers, clergy and people made for a more worthy celebration of these most sacred liturgies.

Last year I reflected how I felt things were settled across the two churches. Life was changed again in 2024 with the formation of the new Team Ministry. It has been challenging taking on a third church and congregation and I would like to thank you for your generosity to me and each other in these changes. I would like to publicly thank Fr Kenny who, very quickly after his priestly ordination, has had to 'fly solo' to celebrate Masses across all three churches, meaning we are not together on a Sunday in the same way as we were a year ago. We expect to appoint a Team Vicar and a part-time administrator to complete the team in 2025.

I would like to thank the PCC for all their hard work this year and pay tribute to our faithful churchwardens Christine Hinchliffe and Philippe Giorgetti. They undertake many tasks behind the scenes. As I have mentioned earlier, we have undertaken a significant amount of work around safeguarding and I would like to thank Val Oswin who has continue in the role of our Parish Safeguarding Representative.

I would also like to give thanks to Peter Gaston and all involved in finance who have worked so hard to bring good financial governance to the parish. Our current position is challenging (as it is for so many people personally at this time) and if people can review their giving to the parish, it would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to end by emphasising my final paragraph in last year's report...

It continues to be an incredibly exciting time in the life of St Mary's, we are beginning to see more and more things happening in the parish, by God's grace, and as we look forward, my prayer is that we remain faithful, joyful and focussed on growing God's Kingdom in this part of Torquay – for if we are faithful, with God nothing is impossible!

Fr Nick Debney

Team Rector and Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral

The Churchwarden's Report for 2024

The Church of England's quinquennial inspection provides for the inspection of church buildings every five years by an architect or chartered building surveyor. The quinquennial report is one of the key documents which assists the parochial Church Council (PCC) in the care and repair of a church building, for which it is legally responsible. It gives a snapshot of the repair needs of the building, and lists the repairs needed according to their priority.

Our next five yearly inspection will be undertaken in March 2025, and the report will be presented to the new PCC after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 18th May. This all comes at a cost, and we would encourage you all to consider increasing your weekly giving, as without your support there will come a time when we cannot continue with the upkeep of the building.

As a parish we have done really well in undertaking work identified in our last Quinquennial Inspection including previously reported decorating and work in the Holy Innocents Chapel and South Isle. In 2024 further work on the Church organ was completed. We owe a great debt of thanks to the Cornerstone Charity Shop for their continuing support of the parish and donations to Church Funds. As always, they are looking for volunteers who might be able to give a few hours to support this vital work. We are expecting a focus on work to the bell tower in the next report to make sure it remains in good order.

The Church Hall has had much needed decoration along with conversion of ceiling lights to LED which has helped to contain the significant increase in our energy costs this year.

Hall Bookings were taken over by Alistair. A big thank you to Angela Lee for all the work she has done over the years.

Further projects to be completed,

- Repair to the tarmac in the car park near to the Blower house.
- Ongoing management of the damp in the Holy Innocents Chapel.
- Repair and upgrade to the tower lightening conductor which has failed its annual test due to degeneration of metal rods to take the charge – they have been in the ground for many decades.
- Re-decoration of the office, vestries, corridors and toilets.
- Remedial plumbing work in the church hall to manage historic damp and leaks.

This Christmas we had a wonderful 25-foot fresh Christmas Tree donated by Haydon and Jen Beazley and their family. In 2024 a new area has been allocated for refreshments and meetings. This is already proving to be very successful and in time we hope will be a great asset to the Church.

Over 2024 we have developed a successful and valued welcoming team which has grown in numbers and are supporting the Churchwardens for Sunday Services and weddings and funerals. More Volunteers are always welcome. If you have any skills which you feel would help our church community, please let Fr Nick, Phil or myself know.

A thank you to all our Volunteers who work so hard to maintain and bolster the flourishing life of the Church.

Chris Hinchliffe and Philippe Giorgetti
Churchwardens.

Revised Electoral Roll 2024

This year a full revision has taken place.

Hayden Beazley	Amanda Gough	Wendy Piddlesden
Ann Berrow	Jeremy Gough	Alistair Purser
Alexandra Blellock	Margaret Harris	Jenny Purver
Dawn Brown	Christine Hinchliffe	Mike Roper
Simone Bygraves	Meg Joliffe	Margaret Roper
David Clark	Jennie Kay	Margaret Rosser
Mirian Clark	Michael Kay	Victoria Segebarth
Jan Condict	Kathryn Kelly	Tui Shirley
Fiona Cook	Jane Lane	Clifford Spence
Robert Cook	Naomi Lawrence	Libby Spence
Dianne Dann	Angela Lee	Barrington Stevens
Ken Davies	Jacueline Lewis	Jill Stevens
Elaine Davies	Shannon Lewis	Graham Ward
Sally Debney	Florence Mitchelmore	Nora Whelan
Jennifer Elliot	Julia Montages	Denise Williams
Sorcha Fenlon	Janet Morgan	Sarah Williams
Cora Grant	Leslie Northway-Reux	Leonard Windsor
Peter Gaston	Ruth Northway-Reux	Victoria Windsor
Philippe Giorgetti	Val Oswin	Sharon Winter
Judith Giorgetti	Alma Pearson	

Summary

This roll contains 59 names, and includes the following summary:

Additions:	Twenty new people have joined St Mary's electoral roll in 2024
Moved away:	Two
No longer attend:	Ten
Worship elsewhere:	Two
Worship elsewhere in team:	Three
Deceased:	Five

Regular attender but new form not completed: Twelve

Honorary Secretary's Report for 2024

The PCC met seven times on the following dates in 2024, 17th January, 24th March, 3rd June, 24th July, 16th September, 25th November and an extra-ordinary meeting on the 9th December.

Januarys Meeting

The PCC began a safeguarding controls assurance process, Fr Paul Jones had announced his retirement leaving at Easter and the PCC discussed the implications of this, the PCC agreed to share the Easter Triduum with St Martin's, an electronic calendar for the church was created and a new hall committee was due to meet on the 27th January.

March Meeting

The PCC agreed to a fundraising project to purchase the window cartoons used by John Hardman and Co. to make the new East window in the 1950's and the success of this years Lent Lunch and Stations of the Cross was shared.

June Meeting

There was a safeguarding focus at this meeting and a work plan agreed, following a successful grant application the PCC agreed for the introduction of screen into church to assist with the school masses, we began the formal consultation on the proposed North Torquay Team Ministry, we discussed Fr Kenny's forthcoming ordination and the transfer of candles from wax to oil. The PCC also approved the redecoration of the hall.

July Meeting

We approved new and updated safeguarding policies and launched the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The PCC approved the work to begin the recruitment of a parish administrator, the Bible Course has been running very successfully and a new License to Occupy for the Pre-School was agreed.

September meeting

The PCC approved the appointment of a new Hall Cleaner using safer recruitment processes, there was a discussion and review of cash handling processes, the new branding was approved for the new North Torquay Team Ministry and the upcoming Tower Tours were discussed.

November meeting

The safeguarding work has continued looking at Parish and non-parish activities, we reviewed hall letting costs and looked at ways of marketing the hall now it has been redecorated. The PCC received a restricted legacy for the organ and after discussion decided to pause on a decision on the work at this time.

December Meeting

Extra-Ordinary PCC Meeting to discuss the organ project in the light of risk around the Listed Places of Worship Grant and the reclaiming of VAT of circa £3,000. The PCC discussed a briefing paper produced by Fr Nick and decided to progress with the project to secure 2024 materials price and to be able to reclaim the VAT.

Sorcha Fenlon

Honorary Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

Honorary Treasurers Report for 2024

I again would like to start by thanking those without whose help I would not have been able to fulfil this role.

I would especially thank the Churchwardens Christine Hinchliffe and Phillipe Giorgetti for their tireless work throughout the year and Janet Morgan and her helpers for counting the Sunday and other collections, Valerie Oswin for bringing them to me when I have not been at church as well for her lifts to PCC Meetings and Graham Ward for the hard work with the Craft Fair and generally throughout the year. I would also thank Angela Lee for dealing with Hall Bookings for many years and welcome and thank Alistair Purser for taking this on.

The financial position alas continues to be challenging. An increasingly vigorous and lively parish life brings with it a concomitant growth in expenditure. We must also live with a massively higher level of utility prices. A deliberately cold church would be a false economy and detrimental to our ministry as well as being inhospitable and unwelcoming.

The increased activity and rising attendance are not however reflected in our income, which shows a fall in giving, especially regular planned giving which is the bedrock of our finances. This is due to the loss of a number of very generous donors as they have moved away or been promoted to glory. Although we have received some generous legacies, we cannot rely upon the dead to finance our ministry to the living.

We received two legacies, one of £30,000 from David Woodman and £10,000 from Robert Stone. The latter is restricted and being used to fund the penultimate stage of the Organ project. The balance of Miss Long's legacy was used to partly pay for portable screens to make the church more user-friendly for school services and other activities.

There has been continuing regular work on maintaining the fabric of the Church and Hall and we are very grateful to the Cornerstone shop for their generous donations. We thank Cornerstone for allowing us to use their donation to meet the balance of the costs of the screens.

The Quinquennial Inspection due this year will undoubtedly show where ongoing work is needed on the fabric, and we must also plan for the future for significant expenditure for example the church boilers – while they are working week currently, they will not last forever.

The Hall broke even this year, and with the investment in the repair and improvements to the Hall should make it more attractive and enable the charges to be raised leading to a significant rise in income.

As I prepare to lay down my abacus and retire from the role of Treasurer, I see a Parish in good heart and growing, but for this continue we do need an increase in regular giving and fundraising in order for us to meet our financial obligations consistently in the future.

Peter Gaston
Parochial Church Council Honorary Treasurer

PARISH OF ST MARYCHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED)		
CHURCH		
RECEIPTS		
PLANNED GIVING	9,013	10,710
PLATE	6,178	7,126
PARISH GIVING SCHEME	12,102	13,817
CARD MACHINE	1,386	
DONATIONS	1,118	2,725
GIFT AID ENVELOPES	787	
GIFT AID TAX REFUND	2,180	2,198
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS	1,900	
CHURCH HIRE	100	
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	0	650
UTILITY CREDIT	598	
OPEN DAY	645	
CRAFT FAIR	909	1,001
GIFTS	0	
HOSPITALITY GRANT	200	111
FEES	9,763	6,093
TOTAL	46,880	44,431
PAYMENTS		
GIVING	258	820
DIOCESAN SHARE	14,446	14,044
UTILITIES	14,456	9,623
INSURANCE	9,316	8,831
RECHARGE TO HALL	-1,593	-1,510
ADMIN	3,561	3,805
CLERGY EXPENSES	2,345	2,859
UPKEEP OF SERVICES	2,912	2,346
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	1,133	1,321
GIFTS	288	100
FEES	9,475	8,641
HOSPITALITY	1,539	372
TRANSFER TO ORGAN AND MUSIC FUND	0	42
TOTAL	58,171	51,293
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-11,291	-6,862

HALL**RECEIPTS**

HIRE FEES	9,680	11,111
DONATION FOR NEW LIGHTS/ COOKER	0	400
ELECTRICITY REFUND	0	3,161

TOTAL	9,680	14,672
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PAYMENTS

UTILITIES	2,337	5,323
CLEANER	3,455	3,352
INSURANCE	1,593	1,510
DEPOSITS REFUNDED	824	640
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	1,519	2,271
BOILER		
NEW LIGHTS/COOKER	0	445

TOTAL	9,728	13,541
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SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-48	1,131
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COMBINED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-11,339	-5,731
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LEGACIES FUND

MISS LONG LEGACY (BALANCE)	2,436	6,084.30
LESS		
CHURCHYARD & TOWER LIGHTING	0	-3,648.73
PART COST OF SCREENS	2,436	
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	0	2,435.57

WOODMAN LEGACY	29,953	
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STONE LEGACY	10,000	
TRANSFER TO ORGAN AND MUSIC FUND	-10,000	
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	0	

BASIC GENERAL FUND

BALANCE 1ST JANUARY	15,003	20,244
CHURCH SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-11,291	-6,862
HALL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-48	1,131
UNPRESENTED CHEQUES WRITTEN BACK/ADJUSTMENT	366	491

BALANCE	4,030	15,003
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BAREWELL FUND

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	88,634	89,099
PAYMENTS		

ORGAN PROJECT	10,000	
SOUND SYSTEM	84	-465

BALANCE	78,634	88,634
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COMMON FUND ACCOUNT

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	13,758	27,802
FROM GENERAL ACCOUNT	12,925	14,044

PAYMENT		
PARISH SHARE	26,683	28,088

BALANCE	0	13,758
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WINDOW CARTOONS

RESTRICTED DONATIONS	2,000	
COST	-2,000	

BALANCE	0	
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FABRIC FUND

BALANCE 1/1	25,582	23,212
RECEIPTS		

CORNERSTONE DONATION	16,000	20,000
DONATIONS	0	365
INSURANCE CLAIM	0	3,672
DONATION FOR LIGHTS	0	1,000
TOTAL	16,000	25,037

PAYMENT

CHURCH FABRIC		
FLOORING	0	3,922
WATER SUPPLY/HOLY INNOCENTS	0	525
CHURCH BOILER	2,084	1,697
QUINQUENNIAL WORK	114	11,256
BLOWER HOUSE DOORS	1,181	
ELECTRICAL & LIGHTING	531	
SCREENS	3,987	

CHURCH TOTAL	7,896	17,399
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HALL FABRIC WORK	234	2,113
HALL LIGHTS	0	2,090
HALL BOILER	1,045	1,064
HALL PORCH	1,820	

HALL TOTAL	3,099	
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TOTAL	10,995	22,667
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BALANCE	30,587	25,582
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MUSIC AND ORGAN FUND

BALANCE 1/1	0	0
RECEIPTS		
ORGAN PIPE & OTHER DONATIONS	33	696
ORGAN STOPS PROJECT	1,325	300
FROM BAREWELL FUND	10,000	
STONE LEGACY	10,000	
VAT REFUND	4,728	
TOTAL	26,086	996
PAYMENTS		
PIANO TUNING	69	138
ORGAN TUNING	480	
ORGAN REPAIRS	0	900
ORGAN PROJECT	14,969	0
TOTAL	15,518	1,038
TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND	0	42
BALANCE	10,568	0
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY		
BOXES	105	
PAID TO SOCIETY	-105	
BALANCE	0	

PARISH OF ST MARYCHURCH

STATEMENT OF FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

BASIC GENERAL FUND	(UNRESTRICTED)	4,030	15,003
LEGACY FUND	(DESIGNATED)	29,953	2,436
BAREWELL FUND	(DESIGNATED)	78,550	88,634
COMMON FUND ACCOUNT	(DESIGNATED)	0	13,758
FABRIC FUND	(RESTRICTED)	30,587	25,582
ORGAN AND MUSIC FUND	(RESTRICTED)	10,568	0
CHILDRENS' SOCIETY	(RESTRICTED)	0	0
TOTAL FUNDS		153,688	145,413

REPRESENTED BY

CURRENT ACCOUNT	32,600	148,663
UNBANKED INCOME	1,728	940
CBF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	100,000	
CBF INVESTMENT FUND (COST)	20,000	
UNPRESENTED CHEQUES	-640	-4,189
TOTAL FUNDS	153,688	145,413

The Market Value of the CBF Investment Fund Units at 31st December 2024 was £19,989.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ

Notes to the Financial Statement for Year ending 31st December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparing the Financial Statements

The accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis. As a small charity, it is not obliged to follow the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

2. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

3. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

The Trustees received no remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2024.

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2024.

4. Staff Costs

One cleaner/caretaker was employed during the year.

5. Debtors and Creditors

All Debtors and Creditors are due within one year.

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,
St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ**

**Independent Examiner Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay**

Charity Number: 1128269

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary The Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 16th May 2025

General Reports for 2024

Deanery Synod 'Highlights' for 2024

Christine and I have been St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives for the last three years, we will serve until the Annual Meeting in 2026. Three meetings were held in 2024: 7th March 2024, 17th July 2024, and 27th November 2024. Each session commences with opening worship. Our role is to be prepared to contribute to the meeting, bringing views, experience, and expertise from our parish to debate and discuss at Synod.

7th March 2024

In small groups everyone shared three areas of blessings, challenges, and opportunities.

Archdeacon Douglas reminded everyone that historically the parish system was the heart of the Church and that the twofold purpose of the church is mission and ministry. He stated that everyone was part of the church historically but now we are ministers in communities that are detached from the church. The archdeacon charged us to live the life of the deanery synod; one that is living and vibrant, encouraging, inspiring, resourcing and supporting. He expressed how the Parish Giving Scheme allows people to increase their giving annually but 90% do. He stated that we should be asking ourselves 'could I give more? Has my giving gone up with inflation?'

The secretary gave a summary of the October meeting of Diocesan Synod. Parishes were strongly encouraged to seek out new members, either through the PCC or at Annual Meetings.

The Lay Chair reminded us that we were still in need of a Deanery Treasurer, but James Devonport kindly agreed to keep things 'ticking over'.

17th July 2024

There was a Presentation by Jeremy Putnam, Diocesan Mission Enabler, and a group discussion. Jeremy spoke of his 14 years in full-time mission, firstly in a church plant in Portishead, a church that labelled itself ecumenical rather than denominational, then in a resourcing church in Truro. His role as a Mission Enabler was to see what was already going on and then seek to resource. He quoted Antoine de Saint-Exupery, "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." We were asked to consider two main questions: What is mission? and What is already going on in the diocese? Were children and young people in the forefront of our thinking? An explanation was provided of the Growing Faith movement that exists to put children, young people, and families instinctively at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church by changing the culture of the Church of England.

Jeremy went on to explain that Mission Communities were not (just) multi-parish benefices, but included churches, schools and households. Research showed that 95% of pupils in Y6 prayed and worshipped weekly but far fewer did by Y8. 50% said that they believed in God; if they were all in our churches we would need a massive increase in capacity; our church leaders are already working at capacity.

Statistics were given from the Talking Jesus Report which shows the state of faith in the UK, how people come to faith in Jesus and how we, as the church, can talk about Jesus more effectively with our friends and in our community. 48% identify as Christians but only 6% are practising. 60% of the 48% know someone who is a practising Christian.

The Secretary gave a brief report on the proceedings of the June meeting of Diocesan Synod.

We were still looking for someone with the skills/gifts to serve as Deanery Treasurer. Thanks were expressed to our previous treasurer.

27th November 2024

Claire Reynolds, curate at St Matthias, and Disability and Additional Needs Advisor for the Diocese of Exeter asked how we could make our churches more welcoming to people with additional needs and plans to offer training days around the diocese. Claire introduced a video produced by Urban Saints called Invited to Belong which has been developed by Youthscape and Urban Saints; it's a six-part journey to consider, alongside those we work with, how we might invite young people with additional needs to find a place of belonging within our community, youth group and church. A group discussion was then held, and we were asked to think of some of the barriers people may encounter coming into our churches, and in what ways can we make them more-accessible places? What were the challenges, and what one thing could we change?

As this was the first synod meeting following the publicity about John Smythe, and the subsequent resignation of Archbishop Welby, Rev Samantha Stayte spoke on safeguarding. She explained independent Safeguarding Reports were being published, including one on Exeter Diocese. Deanery Synod wished to minute our appreciation of all those in our parishes who take on this role and explained it was important that all PCCs were compliant with DBS, Safer Recruitment and ongoing training.

Feedback from Diocesan Synod and General Synod were given and an update on Common Fund to include discussion on Diocesan decisions on budget and stipendiary clergy. Thanks were expressed to all parishes that have paid their Common Fund contributions. The Rural Dean gave a takeaway away question of how do we care for one another?

Nicola Hall and Christine Hinchliffe
Deanery Synod Representatives

Bell Tower Report for 2024

We have an enthusiastic team of ringers. Three learners are progressing well and are now competent to ring for Sunday Services. All our ringers are keen supporters of the Mid Devon Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers who celebrated their 150th anniversary during 2024. Our tower Captain has just retired after 37 years as Branch Ringing Master – we are pleased to report that the branch is thriving and regularly holds practices and training events to help ringers in the area to progress and meet ringers from other churches. Martin continues to serve on the Branch Committee and regularly produces a newsletter know as "Tower Talk". We are grateful that several ringers from the area regularly support our Tuesday practices which is a great benefit to our ringers. We desperately need new recruits and are always ready to show potential ringers what is involved. We are in a very good position to teach the basics as several of our ringers have taken part in training organised by ART (the Association of Ringing Teachers). Our ringers regularly support other churches, in particular (but not exclusively) Berry Pomeroy and Stokeinteignhead.

Martin Mansley
Tower Captain

Forward in Faith and Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda Report for 2023

Forward in Faith is the organisation which funds the work of the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda, the Society. It is important that as a church affiliated to the society those members of our congregation are also members of the Society; and should they wish to be, they are also encouraged to be members of Forward in Faith. This year saw Fr Nick and to hand the baton on to Fr Ben Rabjohn's, Team Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Heavitree. Mrs Sue Way will continue as Lay Chair and locally Fr Peter March is a member of the council and the clerical representative for our Archdeaconry.

Fr Nick Debney – Outgoing Clerical Chairman of Forward in Faith

Structure, Governance and Management

This parish is a constituent member of the Torbay Deanery. The parish is within the Totnes Archdeaconry in the Diocese of Exeter of the Church of England. This parish receives episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Oswestry and has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' declaration on the ministry of Bishops and Priests.

This parish is affiliated with The Society under the Patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda and remains a member of Forward in Faith. Our services are of the Anglo-Catholic tradition with our worship is enhanced by the use of incense, candles, music, altar servers, and vestments.

This parish is registered with the Charity Commission – Charity Number 11282569.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. Members that make up the Parochial Church Council are either elected, ex-officio or co-opted and are all trustees.

Locally the parish is governed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which reports its activities to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of all laypersons whose names are entered into the electoral roll of the parish and all those clerics licensed to the parish or who have the Diocesan Bishops Permission to Officiate. The APCM meets once a year and has a report on the work of the Parochial Church Council, reports from officers and leads on activities and an update on the fabric of church buildings and their use. At this meeting the elections of the Church Wardens and members of the Parochial Church Council are held.

Church Wardens are ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council. Two Church Wardens are elected by the annual meeting of the parishioners (during the APCM). This consists of members of the parish by local government electoral roll by reason of them residing in the parish and by those on the parish electoral roll.

Licensed Clergy are Ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council, the Team Rector is the Chair of the Parochial Church Council. Retired Clergy or Readers with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate do not have places within the Parochial Church Council.

At the first Parochial Church Council meeting after the APCM the Officers of the PCC are elected (Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer). Co-opting of members can be undertaken at any Parochial Church Council meeting.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 19th May 2024 in the Church after the Parish Mass

The Meeting of The Parishioners

There were 47 adults and 4 children in attendance.

Fr Nick opened the meeting in prayer.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Peter Gaston (Treasurer), Margaret Harris.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Fr Nick asked all to turn to the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The notes were correct as proposed by Meg Joliffe and seconded by Les Northway-Reux.

Priest in Charge's Report

Fr Nick said had been an absolute joy to be here he offered a massive thank you to everyone who has played a part in the life of the church this year. We have had a number of high-profile events this year with concerts, performances. Most notably the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the bombing of the church with a wonderful display in the churchyard by the Yarn Fairies, an incredible and moving dance and music performance in the Vigil Service and the Requiem Mass. We also welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury to St Mary's for the 'Come and See' weekend of Mission.

We have completed a large amount of physical work identified in the Quinquennial Inspection and Fr Nick paid tribute and offered thanks to all who volunteer and run Cornerstone and for their very generous donations towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church. A significant project was also undertaken to address the issues with the organ, and he thanked everyone who sponsored a stop head to complete the project.

It has been a joy to welcome Fr Kenny Wickens as our Assistant Curate to the parish. Fr Nick also thanked Chris Hinchliffe and Philippe Giorgetti for their support for him and all they do for the parish.

Last year saw the re-establishment and growth of servers and choir and Fr Nick thanks them and all who undertake a ministry in the church to enhance our life and worship.

Fr Nick asked if there were any questions or concerns which people wished to raise from the floor. There were none.

Churchwardens Report

Philippe Giorgetti presented the Churchwardens' Report. Philippe highlighted the need for more volunteers to join the Welcome Team. Fr Nick thanked him for his report.

Election of churchwardens

Christine Hinchliffe and Phillippe Giorgetti had been nominated as Churchwardens. Given there were no further nominations both were duly elected.

Meeting of Those on the Electoral Roll

Margaret Roper presented the revised Electoral Roll. There were eight additions, one has moved away and four have gone to Glory. The net electoral roll has increased to 75. Fr Nick thanked Margaret Roper for all her hard work with this.

Honorary Secretary's Report

Fr Nick presented the Secretary's Report. Angela intends to step down as PCC Secretary and Fr Nick invited volunteers to speak to him and to apply for this important role.

Honorary Treasurers report

Fr Nick presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Peter Gaston. The drop in income was highlighted due to one-off grants received in 2022, and submissions sought for fundraising ideas and support. Expenditure is increased from 2023, but this is expected, and in line with an increase in missional activity.

We are continuing to support the payment of the Common Fund from the Barewell fund (from the sale of the Curates house in 2021). We are meeting all financial commitments but need to undertake some work surrounding our investment income, the claiming of Gift Aid and more budgeting and financial planning in the future. We need to keep a close eye on utilities in the hall and the church as we face an increase in our costs.

Fr Nick said expressed sincere thanks to Cornerstone shop which makes a huge difference to the way we manage our finances and look after our beautiful building. Any questions, there were none. Thanks were expressed to Peter Gaston in his absence for his hard work throughout the year.

Elections of the Parochial Church Council

The following people were elected to serve on the PCC for the ensuing year:

Jan Condict, Tui Shirley, Hayden Beazley, Janet Morgan, Les Northway-Reux, Valerie Oswin, Margaret Roper, Sarah Williams, Peter Gaston, Alistair Purser, David Clark, Jason Watkins

Appointment of An Independent Examiner

The meeting appointed Ian Barrett as independent examiner.

Electoral Roll Officer

Margaret Roper has agreed to continue as the Electoral Roll Officer.

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Valerie Oswin has asked to step down as the Parish Safeguarding Representative. Fr Nick thanked Val for her diligence and hard work, he highlighted the importance of this role and invited potential volunteers to contact him.

Next PCC Meeting

The new PCC will meet for the first time on Wednesday 22nd June at 7pm in Church.

2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM will take place after Mass on Sunday 18th May 2025 in Church after Mass

Signed.....
Fr Nick Debney, Team Rector

Date: 18th May 2025