

PLYMPTON ST. MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, registered number 1128769. This report has been drawn up in the frameworks of the Charities Act 1993, Charity SORP 2005 and Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The address for correspondence is The Team Office, Market Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 1QW. The Council's bankers are NatWest 14 Old Town Street, Plymouth PL1 1DG and Lloyds 13 Fore St, Ivybridge PL21 9AD. The Independent Examiner is Best Accounting.

The PCC has delegated the day-to-day management of the parish to the Team Vicar, the Rev'd Elizabeth Green.

This report covers the year to December 2024.

OBJECTIVES

St. Mary's PCC has the legal responsibility of co-operating *"with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."* It serves the whole parish of Plympton St. Mary and, together with our sister parish of Plympton St. Maurice forms the Plympton Team Ministry serving all those who live in Plympton. It is also responsible for maintaining various buildings in the parish including St. Mary's church and St. Mary's church hall.

When planning activities for the year, 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.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. After ex-officio posts (clergy, readers, churchwardens and *deanery synod representatives) have been filled, one third of the ordinary members retire each year, but can be re-elected. Elected members normally serve three-year terms.

If a vacancy arises to the PCC during a term of office, a casual vacancy exists. Appointments to casual vacancies run to the end of the original term of office.

PCC membership 2024/2025

Name	Position	Date appointed	Date membership ceased/ceases
<u>Ex Officio</u>			
VACANCY	Team Rector		
Revd Lizzi Green	Team Vicar	December 2022	
Revd Richard Wakerell	Associate Priest	October 2018	
Robert Harrison	Licensed Lay Minister		
<u>Churchwardens</u>			
Claire-Louise Journeaux		May 2024	May 2025
Michael Lewis**		May 2024	May 2025
<u>Members</u>			
Jane Banbury		April 2022	April 2025
Mavis Buttle		May 2023	May 2026
Lyudmila Collier		May 2023	May 2026
Ian Duckworth		May 2024	May 2027
Matthew Duckworth		May 2024	May 2027
Rachel Harrison-French*	Deanery Synod	May 2023	May 2026
Nicola Hellem		May 2022	May 2025
Michael Lewis**		May 2022	May 2025
Morgan Lewis		May 2022	May 2025
Philip Smith***	Honorary Treasurer	May 2024	May 2025
Sam Snelling		May 2023	Resigned 2024
Keith Escott		May 2023	Resigned December 2024
VACANCY	PCC	Casual vacancy	May 2026
VACANCY	PCC	Casual vacancy	May 2026
VACANCY** (Michael Lewis)	PCC		
VACANCY	PCC		
VACANCY*	Deanery Synod	Casual vacancy	May 2026
VACANCY*	Deanery Synod	Casual vacancy	May 2026

*Denotes Deanery Synod representative

**Michael Lewis was previously elected to serve as a PCC member to May 2025

***Philip Smith was co-opted by the PCC in May 2024 to fill a casual vacancy that falls vacant in May 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE APCM FOR 2024

The PCC consists of the clergy licensed to the Parish (ex officio), Readers licensed to the Parish, three members elected to the Deanery Synod and twelve members of the congregation including an Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary. Members of the PCC must be on the Electoral Roll and are voted on during the APCM for a period of three years at a time.

During 2024 the PCC met six times. Responsibility for many of the functions of the PCC, in particular Safeguarding and Health & Safety, have been delegated to the PCC sub-committees which met regularly throughout the year.

The PCC is seeking guidance from the Archdeacon of Plymouth and is working with the PCC of the parish of Plympton St Maurice as it seeks to appoint to the position of Priest in Charge.

The process of auditing all our DBS and safeguarding training for all relevant volunteers is underway in order to work towards our statutory safeguarding requirements.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Rev'd Elizabeth Green

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO THE APCM FOR 2024

There have been several things of note throughout the year.

The fabric of the Church building, as recognised in the Diocesan Quinquennial inspection of August 2021, still needs an ongoing programme of maintenance. We have an active programme of remedial works which is restricted by the funding available. We have dealt with issues of water ingress, guttering, bell tower maintenance, electric/lighting. We continue to monitor further falls of plaster within the building, and other issues of fabric deterioration. We are looking into solutions to remedy these problems, and the health and safety team has formulated a plan to address the plaster fall.

We are grateful for all those who volunteer their time to support the church cleaning, and including Gabrielle Stook and team. We have had working groups helping tidy up both the church and church hall...it makes an enormous difference to have a tidy and clean environment.

The churchyard maintenance is time consuming, and we helped by Roger Triscott and Phil Smith volunteering and Community Payback Team under the supervision of Plymouth Probation Services who have been attending regularly, making a huge difference to maintaining the hedges and grass. We have 11 Commonwealth War Graves within the churchyard which are maintained. We do have an issue with non-compliant tributes on graves which we continue to address in a sensitive manner.

Jane Banbury has been leading on our green approaches and the areas for rewilding and encouraging butterflies are developing.

The Priory Site- we have engaged in contact with the Plympton Civic Society, and we now have local oversight of the Priory site which is within Plympton St Mary's curtilage.

We appreciate the support of Dennis and Steve who have taken on the responsibility of the hall garden, and this is really taking shape and looking the best it has for some years. We have allocated a small amount of funding to purchase plants etc that might be required to improve this environment still further.

The Hall management is import to us as it provides a venue for local organisations to meet and provide sessions, including sports for all, U3A sessions, keep fit, dancing, private bookings immunisations and voting. All of which provide vital funds. Sarah Duckworth is instrumental in ensuring that all runs smoothly for our hirers and as administrator she is also a central point for us and St Maurice Church's and the Team Ministry...many thanks!

Social Committee- there have been fewer social events, due to limited volunteers but have also supported new church events. Thanks to those who help and work tirelessly behind the scenes to make these activities and events successful. Marcia and John Knight ensure that the tabletop sale takes place monthly along with the refreshment staff who provide light refreshments and are great cake makers. This is our most frequent event and raises regular funds towards our church income.

We thank all the committees who meet regularly to support the safe running of our church and the ongoing leadership of Revd Lizzi Green whilst we remain in our interregnum.

We would also like to thank everyone else who assists and attend the church as there are too many to mention and we are bound to miss someone off the list.

Claire-Louise Journeaux and Mike Lewis— Churchwardens

TREASURER'S report to the APCM for 2024

Introduction

The contents of the Financial Report

On the 3 pages which follow are basic clarification of the contents of the reports from "PCC Accountability The Charities Act 2011", the tables of financial information required to reasonably inform Trustees and the public of the incoming and outgoing resources for which the Trustees are responsible. And a brief look forward to 2025.

Table: **Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)** Summarising Income, Expenditure and Fund balances.

Table: **Balance Sheet** detailing Fixed Assets (some "reasonably" estimated) and Current Assets (Bank Accounts and Reserves)

Table: **Analysis of Receipts and Payments** under standard headings which are more detailed than the SOFA headings. The income and expenditure may be shown as "Unrestricted" (can be used for different purposes), "Designated" (intended to be used as described but could be reallocated if circumstances change), or "Restricted" (Fixed for the stated purpose linked to the description of the donation).

Fund balances are listed. Last Year's values are listed for comparison to enable examination of differences year-to-year.

Some Funds may be unused in a year and empty (or combined with another code) and this will be referred to in the notes that follow. I have used a specific Church-approved accounting application to record transactions and this embeds the information into the appropriate Church of England table for the Annual Returns and prepares for the Diocese Return.

Some Comments have been added below to highlight obvious possible difficulties in understanding since last year's report. There is also a brief look forward into 2025.

Summary notes of Clarification on the 2024 SOFA for Ecclesiastical Parish of St Marys Plympton as presented

Income

"Donations and Legacies" relates to resources given to the church for charitable use through any donations in church, or by payment machine, or online..

"Income from Charitable activities" relates to church use including from Fees (Weddings and Funerals)

"Trading Income" relates to Hall usage and paying for items such as candles

"Other Income" includes Plympton Foodbank, and "other" occasional funding appeals – such as the Clock, Lighting and winter Heating appeals.

General Comments regarding 2023-2024

Reduced levels of Income are noticeable recognisable – some restricted funds (eg Clock) reduce as the appeal ends. Some Income streams have stopped (eg Covid/Household Support Fund for Foodbank use). Some regular donations have reduced due to cost of living increases so donors have reduced level of "loose cash" to donate.

We are very grateful for the generosity of donors, who can understandably prefer to focus giving into specific projects. However, we also need an increase in general regular giving to address the ongoing and increasing running costs for this church. Last year there was a reduction in General Giving of approximately 21%. We need to allow for and enable a long-term plan to address Fabric deterioration – including roof tiling/ plaster fall and water ingress /damp. Then we can look forward to some internal decoration which would be a wasted effort if the basic roofworks cannot be addressed. Many available local or national Heritage grants are either being reduced in size or total, or are being match-funded. Such Grants may be accessible but a Team approach is necessary to make significant improvements.

Gift Aid Tax Relief – at the time of preparation, there was a significant application in process as this may be claimed most efficiently only once a year or so.

There was one major legacy for the church in 2024 from Anona Stocker £1045 .

Fees for funerals, especially, continue to bring much needed funds into the church, and our capability to stream a service, or display a photo-montage is also beneficial to fulfil family's wishes. The fees did reduce somewhat in 2024 from 2023. These have been separately listed in the Current Assets (Fees Account) on the Balance Sheet and the funds carried forward in the "Fund Related to Funerals and Weddings".

Hall Lettings have increased and this is very welcome to reduce the rate of loss of the Church's liquid assets This element is listed under "Other Trading Activities" and amounts to 74% of our £23 000 Trading income. Mrs Duckworth's contribution to maintaining good relations with our hirers is highly appreciated.

Investments: A Lloyds interest-bearing account (see balance sheet Current Asset 6510 CCLA CBF) previously existed. Still open but interest from Endowment now passes directly into the Church Current account. The

accumulated interest was £2755 and was transferred in **2023**. This income remains at approximately £33 per month and is in the Current Account to be utilised for Churchyard care.

Other Income: This predominantly is Foodbank Income but also some one-off donations to the church from outside organisations and individuals. Since 2023 the Foodbank has continued to attract some grants for helping families: £1200 from Plymouth City Council (Household Support Fund) as well as minor grants for from Trussell Trust, Hemerdon Social Club (£200), Sparkwell Parish Council (£500), from individuals (eg via Compton Methodist Church and other Commercial organisations – Olympus/Keymed (£1091). Donations have reduced by 1/3 overall between 2023-24. St Maurice Church contribute towards the Administration costs of running the Plympton Team Ministry on a monthly basis.

Expenditure

The notes that follow the Analysis tables cover specific entries in the Income and Expenditure Sections to explain entries that may be difficult to interpret unless the numbers are clarified.

It is expected that Incomes are always reported Gross, expenses properly recorded and net incomes stated.

Additional Notes to the Financial Statements 2024

- Mrs S Duckworth remains as part-time administrator, who provides the essential administrative support to Plympton Team Ministry (StMary's and St Maurice Churches) and has provided invaluable and vital support to the Team Vicar during a long period of Team Rector vacancy. Her salary is decided by annual review and under Diocese guidance with the current Church of England Pension Scheme.
- St Maurice PCC provides an appropriate portion of the administrative costs to St Mary's PCC.
- Mrs L Collier, Director of Music, receives a monthly payment and was a PCC Member of the PCC during this period to September 2024 when she stood down as PCC Member.
- Mr K Escott received fees for his duties as a Verger at Weddings and Funerals from the funds received for this purpose. He retired from this role on 31st December 2024. He continues voluntarily as Sacristan and provides occasional cover or voluntary support at services.
- Mr M Chanter receives a monthly payment for maintaining the churchyard and a fee when digging cremation plots when required.
- A contract cleaner is engaged through a local company to clean the hall for 3 x 1.5 hrs per week to allow for the Hire usage during each week.
- Mr P Smith, a member of the PCC, has received fees when acting as a temporary Sexton – which authorises him to operate IT streaming, or provide Audio Visual Presentation, or act as a Verger for Funerals and Weddings.
- None of those receiving pay or Fees received more than £50 000.
- There were no disclosable transactions in respect of PCC Members, persons connected with them, or related parties.
- No PCC members received travel or subsistence expenses during the year.

SOFA Designated Funds:

Bell Fund: Minor carry forward from 2023. Church Fabric in Deficit due to VAT reclaim for Clock repair not fulfilled till 2025.

Church Fabric Fund overdrawn as Tower Meshing of windows required without sufficient funds (covered by General Fund)

Church Lighting: Remainder from Lighting Fund 2023 needed towards minor repairs 2025.

Hall Fund: Minor overspend carried Forward since 2023.

SOFA Restricted Funds:

Bell Fund: PCC Funds from Bell Ringing Fees account including donations by ringers.

Butterfly Garden: Project being addressed in Feb/Mar 2025 to late 2024-5

Clock&ChimeFund: Overdrawn as awaiting VAT recovery on December 2024 payment for Clock repair (completed). Chime Fund aimed for July 2025.

Family Mission: £1000 donation used towards Children's Corner and activities.

Funds related to Weddings and Funerals: Held funds from 2024.

Organ Fund: Donation from Joan Sunderland (d'cd) – being used from 2025 for tuning and care.

CBF Investment (Endowment) Fund: Revalued by Diocese of Exeter Dec 2024.

Plympton St Mary PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	60,844.34	2,070.33	-	62,914.67	85,173.27
Income from charitable activities	824.93	15,029.96	-	15,854.89	23,596.74
Other trading activities	23,191.62	511.30	-	23,702.92	19,621.25
Investments	752.92	-	-	752.92	591.48
Other income	6,309.06	8,202.75	-	14,511.81	22,932.47
Total income	91,922.87	25,814.34	-	117,737.21	151,915.21
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	13,036.16	-	-	13,036.16	20,100.74
Expenditure on charitable activities	141,007.30	26,927.80	-	167,935.10	168,064.10
Other expenditure	216.11	28.28	-	244.39	-
Total expenditure	154,259.57	26,956.08	-	181,215.65	188,164.84
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(62,336.70)	(1,141.74)	-	(63,478.44)	(36,249.63)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	26,735.80	4,938.33	-	31,674.13	15,154.29
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,872.33)	(26,801.80)	-	(31,674.13)	(15,154.29)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	300.60	300.60	1,138.41
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	3,745.50	-	3,745.50	(500.00)
Net movement in funds	(40,473.23)	(19,259.71)	300.60	(59,432.34)	(35,611.22)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	287,295.50	34,963.12	13,133.69	335,392.31	371,003.53
Total funds carried forward	246,822.27	15,703.41	13,434.29	275,959.97	335,392.31
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General Fund	247,740.03	-	-	247,740.03	284,259.83
Designated					
Bell Fund	171.10	-	-	171.10	171.10
Church Fabric Fund	(3,988.00)	-	-	(3,988.00)	332.00
Church Heating (Gas) Fund	1,058.62	-	-	1,058.62	-
Churchyard	1,774.27	-	-	1,774.27	2,486.32
Hall Fund	(12.17)	-	-	(12.17)	(32.17)
Special Events Fund	78.42	-	-	78.42	78.42
Restricted					
Bell Fund	-	1,911.16	-	1,911.16	216.16
Bibles For Our Linked Schools	-	469.53	-	469.53	391.72
Butterfly Garden	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Charitable Collection Fund	-	369.33	-	369.33	304.00
Church Fabric Fund	-	7.72	-	7.72	7.72
Church Lighting Appeal	-	410.00	-	410.00	410.00
Church Music Development	-	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	-
Churchyard	-	392.00	-	392.00	359.00
Clock&Chime Fund	-	(4,182.90)	-	(4,182.90)	14,415.74
Family Mission Fund	-	434.34	-	434.34	-
Flower Fund	-	620.76	-	620.76	620.76
Fund Related To Funerals And Weddings	-	2,352.50	-	2,352.50	3,745.50
Gift Fund	-	95.97	-	95.97	258.00
Organ Fund	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-
Plympton Foodbank	-	9,623.00	-	9,623.00	13,234.52
Endowment					
CBF Investment Fund	-	-	13,434.29	13,434.29	13,133.69
Total funds	246,822.27	15,703.41	13,434.29	275,959.97	335,392.31

Plympton St Mary PCC

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets		
A001: Church Hall	194,970.00	194,970.00
A003: Churchyard Shed and machinery	500.00	500.00
A02: Church Sound & Streaming Equipment	14,000.00	14,000.00
A03: Church and Hall Heating Equipment	20,000.00	20,000.00
A04: Church Hall Office Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Fixed assets	231,470.00	231,470.00
Current assets		
6501: Bank current account	15,675.11	49,729.40
6503: Fees Account	1,603.80	3,745.50
6505: Bank deposit account	1,860.93	23,845.06
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	-	-
6511: Parish Trust held at Diocese of Exeter	13,434.29	13,133.69
6515: Plympton Foodbank Current Account	10,616.14	13,468.66
Total Current assets	43,290.27	103,922.31
Liabilities		
6699: Agency collections	(1,199.70)	-
Total Liabilities	(1,199.70)	-
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	275,959.97	335,392.31
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	(63,478.44)	(36,249.63)
Z01: Starting balances	335,392.31	371,003.53
Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	300.60	1,138.41
Z03: Gains/(losses) on reval of fixed assets	3,745.50	(500.00)
Total Reserves	275,959.97	335,392.31

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	247,740.03	284,259.83
Designated	(917.76)	3,035.67
Restricted	15,703.41	34,963.12
Endowment	13,434.29	13,133.69
Total	275,959.97	335,392.31

Plympton St Mary PCC

**Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

				Total	
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	
	This year	Last year			
Receipts					
Donations and legacies					
1100 - Tax efficient planned giving - PGS and Envelopes	36,087.30	-	-	-	45,284.68
1200 - Other planned giving- Bank STO or DD	10,496.00	-	-	-	10,748.50
1300 - Loose plate collections	4,932.22	-	25.00	-	5,040.37
1400 - Collections at services POS	1,052.39	-	-	-	646.16
1500 - Tax recovered via Gift Aid	2,124.95	-	-	-	2,526.33
2100 - Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	33.00	-	3,269.09
2220 - Legacies	1,045.74	-	-	-	1,850.00
2300 - Other Giving and Voluntary Income	4,335.74	770.00	1,643.00	-	15,467.29
3304 - Charitable collections for other bodies	-	-	369.33	-	540.85
Donations and legacies Totals	60,074.34	770.00	2,070.33	-	85,173.27
Income from charitable activities					
3101 - Gross Income - Other Income	516.31	308.62	39.46	-	1,597.24
5100 - Fees for weddings and funerals	-	-	14,990.50	-	21,999.50
Income from charitable activities Totals	516.31	308.62	15,029.96	-	23,596.74
Other trading activities					
3102 - Gross Income from Special Events	2,174.70	-	511.30	-	1,134.43
3200 - Gross income from Sales of items	48.18	-	-	-	48.75
5200 - Gross Income from regular trading - Table top etc	3,613.62	-	-	-	3,346.86
5202 - Income from Church Bookstall or candle sales	160.14	-	-	-	283.13
5300 - Hall lettings - fund raising	17,194.98	-	-	-	14,808.08
Other trading activities Totals	23,191.62	-	511.30	-	19,621.25
Investments					
4100 - Dividends from Church Investments	-	397.45	-	-	359.00
4200 - Interest on from Bank Deposits	355.47	-	-	-	232.48
Investments Totals	355.47	397.45	-	-	591.48
Other income					
1401 - Foodbank Income - donations	-	-	3,997.00	-	6,125.79
2102 - Foodbank Grants (via Local/community organisations (incl Trussell, other)	200.00	-	3,865.25	-	5,827.79
3100 - Gross Income from fundraising activities	73.54	-	340.50	-	3,188.76
3104 - Gross Income - Admin cost recovery	5,536.26	-	-	-	-
5203 - Other funds generated	299.26	-	-	-	7,790.13
6400 - Insurance claims	200.00	-	-	-	-
Other income Totals	6,309.06	-	8,202.75	-	22,932.47
Receipts Grand Totals	90,446.80	1,476.07	25,814.34	-	151,915.21

				Total	
	General	Designated	Restricted Endowment	This year	Last year
Payments					
Raising funds					
8703 - Hall utilities - gas	1,194.10	-	-	1,194.10	885.73
8704 - Hall Utilities- electricity	1,564.30	-	-	1,564.30	695.05
8705 - Hall Utilities - water	898.10	-	-	898.10	732.17
8706 - Hall - Cleaning & Waste	7,401.87	-	-	7,401.87	5,420.04
8800 - Costs of Trading incl Hall Utilities	342.91	-	-	342.91	696.70
8900 - Hall maintenance expenditure	1,418.88	-	-	1,418.88	10,495.05
8901 - Hall Garden care	216.00	-	-	216.00	1,176.00
Raising funds Totals	13,036.16	-	-	13,036.16	20,100.74
Expenditure on charitable activities					
8100 - Ministry parish share etc	83,832.00	-	-	83,832.00	83,831.00
8102 - Home and Care Home mission	-	-	-	-	160.00
8150 - Mission Giving or donations	-	-	304.00	304.00	-
8200 - Salary Costs	20,924.93	-	168.00	21,092.93	19,385.70
8300 - Clergy/Staff expenses	1,514.04	-	247.04	1,761.08	5,394.44
8305 - Assistant ministry staff costs	-	-	25.00	25.00	123.50
8401 - School link resources costs	-	-	-	-	865.80
8402 - Church expenses: Mission and Evangelism	-	-	565.66	565.66	-
8500 - Church Running Expenses	4,961.01	-	448.48	5,409.49	3,806.48
8501 - Church (Telephone IT or Broadband) Communications	1,373.63	-	-	1,373.63	904.28
8502 - Church and Hall- insurance	10,561.04	-	-	10,561.04	9,610.43
8601 - Churchyard Expenses	5,115.80	1,109.50	-	6,225.30	5,703.82
8602 - Organ Maintenance	-	-	-	-	510.00
8603 - Church utilities - gas	4,523.25	-	-	4,523.25	3,891.98
8604 - Church utilities - electric	2,072.50	-	-	2,072.50	1,375.72
8606 - Church cleaning	-	-	-	-	115.71
9100 - Church major repairs	-	-	19,113.60	19,113.60	5,467.20
9101 - Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	288.38
9201 - Church major works - installation	-	4,320.00	258.00	4,578.00	12,750.00
9301 - Foodbank Expenditure	-	-	5,798.02	5,798.02	13,549.66
9310 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	699.60	-	-	699.60	330.00
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	135,577.80	5,429.50	26,927.80	167,935.10	168,064.10
Other expenditure					
8503 - Bank Charges	216.11	-	28.28	244.39	-
Other expenditure Totals	216.11	-	28.28	244.39	-
Payments Grand Totals	148,830.07	5,429.50	26,956.08	181,215.65	188,164.84

Additional Notes:**Looking Forward into 2025**

It is likely that the Accounts may need to be reported under a different level of reporting "SOFA FRS 102" for 2025 which requires Accruals accounting. This will record money received in advance or paid in arrears and as part of Assets and Liabilities when it becomes due , or we are liable, rather than when receipt happens or spending is made. Larger incomes may arrive well before works occur, and large expenditures afterwards, later can give a misleading impression of the financial position of a Charity , or any organisation and this needs to be avoided. There is also a more general review of SOFA- the standard for reporting in the Charity sector - due this year so reporting style and "lines" of income and expenditure may change in 2025.

As far as the overall financial position of the Church PCC, our balances have reduced significantly. The main reasons are:

Reduced income arising from fewer regular worship donors leading to the use of balances from previous years. This has been ongoing for a number of years.

Reduced income from Fees as people move to services at Crematoria or Wedding venues.

Reduced income from special events as numbers of volunteers have fallen. The monthly Table Top Sales have maintained their contribution to funds and as a Social event. We are grateful to Marcia and John Knight for their loyal service in managing this. Increased Income from Hall hire is a notable exception.

Increased costs – Utilities for Church and Hall, Insurance, costs of events.

Increase costs - maintaining the church and hall. There are many major, now, essential maintenance needs for the church so the remaining cash funds are held for reactive need arising from sudden events (relating to trees especially in 2024). Fabric repairs to the church such as mortar pointing, will need to be emphasised in 2025 and going forward . Some works may be addressable via the on-going plan Church Commissioner's Chancel Grant started in 2023 by Revd Robert Harris and now being enacted through 2025 (Chancel roofing and guttering first; East Window repairs following).

There are significant Quinquennial Inspection 2021 matters that continue to be addressed.

We need to continue to request support from the community of Plympton to maintain this church as such a historic building cannot be maintained purely by the income of the worshipping Church congregation.

Philip Smith

Hon Treasurer & Trustee

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council on the unaudited accounts of Plympton St Mary the Virgin.

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church Plympton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is required.

It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) which gives us 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 the accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Best Accountancy Services (Plymouth) Ltd

Best Accountancy Services

Best Accountancy Services (Plymouth) Ltd
Licenced and Regulated by the Association of Accounting Technicians
Unit 7, Seaton Business Park
36 William Prance Road
Plymouth
PL6 5WR

Date: 6th June 2025

C. Journeaux
CLAIRE-LOUISE JOURNEAUX
Chair of P.C.C + Churchwarden
23-07-25,

HEALTH and SAFETY report to the APCM for 2024

During the reporting period 1st January to 31st December 2024, Plympton Team Ministry H&S team has continued to provide H&S support and advice to the PCCs and churchwardens across the Parish.

The team have provided the annual reviews of extant Risk and COSHH Assessments, H&S policies, Fire and evacuation plan, maintenance of the Permit to Work regime and completion of multiple risk assessments for various Church and Church Hall events, activities, and upkeep projects.

The team has also supported the Parish Safeguarding officer and the churchwardens throughout the year ensuring that the parish remained legally compliant to H&S, safeguarding regulations.

The H&S team members form part of the Fabric Committee and as such have provided expertise, support and advice to ensure effective and compliant maintenance activities are conducted in a timely and safe manner.

Routine annual building maintenance and inspections, testing of fire appliances and heating systems have continued throughout 2024 with the H&S team providing advice to the churchwardens, as necessary.

Quarterly H&S meetings were held throughout the year; all supporting records are stored in the Church Office.

Ian Duckworth NEBOSH Dip - Deputy Health and Safety Officer

SAFEGUARDING report to the APCM for 2024

The PCC and the Safeguarding Officer have particular responsibilities, but making sure everyone is safe is a commitment that all members of our Community

Safeguarding concerns

- February 2024 safeguarding issue referred to the Diocese
- 17th March 2024 National safeguarding alert from Diocese Exeter appropriate action taken
- 24th July 2024 individual visiting Churches, appropriate action taken. Police made aware

DBS checks

All volunteers and PCC members are required to have DBS checks, and to have all relevant safeguarding training
PCC members and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS enhanced check.
DBS checks can be accessed on [Thirtyoneeight.org](https://thirtyoneeight.org) website (reference and password needed)

A Confidential declaration form to be completed for enhanced certificate, found on e-bulk guide

Log in for training

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

For Basic Foundation, Domestic abuse Leadership where required.

43 people are required to have basic training

16 people are required to have foundation and domestic abuse training

17 people are required to have enhanced DBS check.

Safeguarding policies, procedures, reviews and reports to be updated asap.

Requirements

It is very important to remember that ensuring that all children and vulnerable adults in our community are safe is the responsibility of all of us. If there is any doubt regarding any issues of concern, please do discuss them with the following – contact numbers and e mails detailed below:

Exeter Diocesan safeguarding advisor

Costas Nassaris

Telephone: 01392 294969

Reverend Lizzi Green
Email: rev.lizzi84@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Shirley Rogers
Telephone: 079033 66929
Email: ptmsafeguarding2@gmail.com

In house and online safeguarding training has been provided for those who require it.

The Parish safeguarding representative is Shirley Rogers

DEANERY SYNOD Report to the APCM for 2024

Since the last Deanery Synod Annual Report, Plymouth Deanery Synod has met three times: in February, June and October last year. Each meeting was attended by our current deanery synod representative. The meetings have been well attended overall with opportunities to meet with representatives from churches across the deanery and to hear about changes that are happening within the diocese. We currently have one deanery synod representative but would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to become involved. It's a really valuable experience and well worth the time involved. So what is the aim and purpose of the deanery synod? The Church of England is episcopally led and synodically governed; Deanery Synods can form motions that will go on to Diocesan Synod and on to General Synod and is an opportunity for members of the deanery to meet together. Please find below brief notes from the meetings that have taken place in 2024.

February 2024 Deanery Synod meeting:

Speakers from Transforming Plymouth Together – John Williams (speaking on Food Projects in the area) and new appointment Rev. Scott Shackleton. Scott introduced himself and spoke about his time in Plymouth and in Southway in particular. He reminded the meeting briefly of the history of TPT and outlined the financial challenges that have faced the organisation in the last 2 years. Scott has seen much that has given him encouragement in the work of TPT and looks forward to meeting those who serve in Plymouth tackling the issues of food poverty and the results of the cost-of-living crisis. The Synod was asked to remember prayerfully the work of TPT.

The presentation was continued by John Williams who reminded the Synod that TPT was an organisation that supported people to help themselves. TPT has supported food programs with the help of Fareshare and it is apparent now that Fareshare are struggling to deal with the demand. John reported that Plymouth City Council have contributed £250,000 to tackle these issues. Some of the activities run by local organisations and churches include HIVE and Feast of Fun addressing the need of holiday hunger. Families rely on the provision of school meals, and this often leaves a gap during the school holidays. There were 8000 meals served in 2023. Other issues included hygiene and access to hygiene products. John encouraged churches to get involved via TPT. Discussions were held in small groups to ask the question "Is there anything our churches can do? Is there any way I can help?"

June 2024 Deanery Synod meeting:

The Rev'd Jane Bakker, archdeacon of Plymouth, introduced herself and described her role. Jane explained that there are a lot of possibilities with a city deanery, including encouraging churches to be creative and develop partnerships. Plymouth is looking to create a new plan. Church attendance currently is low in Plymouth and deprivation is high. This means the Church Commissioners will invest in Plymouth, but they won't invest in what is already going on. The review will make recommendations, together with the bishop and the archdeacon.

There is a big deficit in the diocesan budget and whilst there was concern raised about how the plans would be funded, the archdeacon said that the intention is for these plans to be funded centrally, which means that there will not be cuts in Plymouth. Jane explained that engagement does not always lead to greater church attendance, so we need to be careful about measurables. When the review is completed, the archdeacon would like to have some way of measuring the soft outcomes. There are the bald measures of attendance, church office holders, etc., but we also have to look at what's happening on the ground. Where churches are makes a huge difference.

October 2024 Deanery Synod meeting:

Rev. Jeremy Putnam (Mission Enabler) spoke about a new mission initiative adopted by the Church of England aimed at this group called "Growing Faith". He asked, what is the view of the world through the eyes of young people today?

There has been much research on how young people are engaging with the Christian faith. But what might it look like here in Plymouth?

Data: Growing Faith foundation exists to put children, young people and families at the heart of mission and ministry of the church by changing the culture of the Church of England. What lens are we looking through?

Points to note:

1. Use of technology to connect with friends and the world. No 1 means of connecting.
2. An increase in young people calling ChildLine with suicidal thoughts.
3. An increase in CAMHs referrals. The values that young people treasure most are authenticity and integrity and acknowledgment of weakness. The need to look for this in their leaders.

Jeremy then asked, "Do we include our young people in our plans and discussions?" We need to raise the profile of young people in our churches as they are the future of the church. The current position is that only ¼ of UK churches engage with young people on a Sunday. This is an important point because it raises questions about how we can engage with families and children. What are we doing now and what plans do we have for the future?

Rachel Harrison-French – Deanery Synod Representative