

ST MARY'S CHURCH BLOXHAM

APPCM 2025

(January - December 2024)



Annual Report and PCC for 2024

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Revd. Dale Gingrich, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the oversight of the Parish Rooms situated next to the vicarage. The Parish Rooms have a separate committee, but its accounts fall completely within the Parish Accounts.

Membership

The PCC is a charity registered with the charity commission. Members of the PCC are trustees, either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following have served as members of the PCC:

Vicar: The Reverend Dale Gingrich
Wardens, ex officio members of the PCC

Deanery Synod Representatives:
ex officio members of the PCC

Miss Jan Ogilvy, Mrs Jax Hegarty

Elected Council Members

PCC Secretary

Vacant
Mrs. Lynn Brodey

PCC Treasurer

Building Our Future Co-lead
Foundation Governor Bloxham Primary School

Mr. Stephen Craggs (until Dec. 24)
Mr. David Gordon

Fabric

Mrs. Sue Perkin-Ball

Minute Secretary

Standing Committee

This committee is required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any direction given by the Council. The PCC has decided that the membership shall be the Vicar, two Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary to the PCC (vacant) and one ordinary PCC member.

On behalf of the PCC:

The Revd. Dale Gingrich (Chair)

Date

Review of the Year 2024 – Bloxham St Mary Vicar's APCM report

This has been an eventful year for us as a church. The Building Our Future project loomed large in our thoughts, prayers and actions as the building works of Phase One were completed in March and all the scaffolding, heras fencing and tarpaulins were removed to reveal the oak screens housing kitchen, toilets and choir vestry. A significant milestone in the overall project so ably led by Ian Myson and Ian Carlton with the help of so many including Jeremy Bell our architect and Savvy Builders. The Ven David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester, joined us and the wider community in April for a blessing and dedication of the new facilities. All the local schools, including the newly opened Bloxham Grove Academy, began making good use of the church which from a combination of pandemic restrictions and building construction had been unavailable for over three years. Throughout the year we have been discovering new ways of welcoming the community and offering greater flexibility of use in an ancient building made more accessible and hospitable for generations to come.

We have continued to recover from the effects of pandemic lockdowns and societal hesitancy for large gatherings, having only one wedding and three baptisms this year. It has been a year of sorrows for the church with 12 funerals taking place in the church as we commended long time faithful parishioners to God's everlasting kingdom. Considerable change has taken place in the Deddington Deanery clergy and now I am once again a member of the Deanery Standing Committee and longest serving incumbent amongst my colleagues. We continue to be blessed with the support and experience of retired clergy who live in or near Bloxham and enhance the range and frequency of worship in this benefice. Michael Campling, Oliver Smith, John Smith and Hazei Scarr have their Permission to Officiate with us and are joined by Brian Fairbank in furthering our ministry and mission whilst also being available more widely in the Deanery.

Our life together as people of God extends beyond the work of the incumbent and clergy colleagues. We have been blessed to have Jan Ogilvy and Barbara Walklate as churchwardens. The PCC has been tireless in their leadership and support with visionary perspective and often 'roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty' hard work that happens behind the scenes. Our thanks and appreciation go to Lynn Broday, Jan Carlton, David Gordon, Jax Hegarty, Sue Perlin Ball as well as Stephen Craggs who resigned during the year. The danger of starting to name people who merit our thanks is that the list could be endless as so many are engaged in joining in the work that God is doing through us in this place. We have faced challenging times, and no doubt more might lie ahead for us, yet by God's grace we embrace the present opportunities drawing upon our shared formation from the past whilst anticipating a future shaped by our Lord Jesus Christ's presence in, with and through us.

Yours in Christ,
The Revd Dale Glingrich

Safeguarding Report 2025

The year 2024/5 has been a quiet year for Safeguarding at St. Mary's. However, the Church of England itself continues to face historic Safeguarding issues which, I believe, highlights the need for us to continue to do the best we can to make sure every member of St. Mary's congregation is safe and that we protect ourselves by doing training modules where required and going through the DBS process if necessary. As I write I am waiting to hear what changes will filter down to us from decisions made at General Synod.

I have continued to make regular reports to the PCC and our Parish Action Plan has been approved and is up to date, as are the rest of our policies. Training has continued and the actuality of completing it is much easier than the perceived inconvenience of being asked to do it. I am once again indebted to Diana Thompson for her continued support with processing DBS checks. During last Autumn I renewed all my training and was DBS checked so that's me sorted for three years. I won't be renewing again so I'm letting everyone know that in 2027 St. Mary's will need a new Parish Safeguarding Officer. That is something to think about.

As always, thank you all for your support and as always it would be really nice if someone would like to help and keep me company – there isn't a lot to do!

Liz Farmer (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Jan-Dec 2024

As last year the extremes of weather both wind and rain exacerbated some of the issues related to the building especially water leaks. On the roof Alocock's Bicester Roofing have carried out permanent repairs in several locations while we have applied temporary repairs to the less critical areas. The damaged and blocked down pipes were repaired and cleared. Roof gutter clearing is a regular activity to keep everything working well.

The ground level outlets for roof drainage have been cleaned several times and are generally working OK, but the one next to the bins continues to overflow during heavy rain. The drains rely on a soak away system which become less effective as time passes and their locations are unknown.

The dampness of the west wall of the south and main Aisles has greatly reduced since the repairs to the roof and re-pointing to the west wall of the south aisle. The drying was noticeable by the amount of very small loose materials dislodged when the walls were brushed as part of the spring clean.

Hopefully the wall will stabilise assuming we can keep the water at bay.

We continue to monitor the Chancel Fabric, the repairs of which are the responsibility of Elton College. We will review the next Quinquennial Inspection report to see if there is sufficient work to justify engagement with Elton College.

We have tried to complete the priority 1 and 2 repairs from the 2020 Quinquennial Inspection with a significant number still outstanding.

The next Quinquennial inspection is due in Feb 2025 and the report will guide us in the works that need to be carried out to the Church Fabric over the next 5 years.

The main path to the south door has been jet washed twice this year which has kept it in an acceptable condition. The path on the north side of the church would benefit from some levelling work when funds are available.

Aceman Contractors have carried out the priority works to the trees in the churchyard. This included removal of a tree adjacent to the Nursery, removal of dangerous deadwood and cutting back of the branches that were getting too close to the south side of the Church.

The issue of antisocial behaviour in the area of the north porch has improved with the engagement with the young people (mainly school age). A small cross has also been provided that can be put in the north porch to indicate when there are activities in church. However, there is still the use of the porch later in the evening that continues to cause problems. Our thanks to John and Judy Marshall for continuing to clear up some very unhealthy mess left in the area.

The situation has been reported to the police who have attended the church several times to monitor what is happening. Unfortunately, without some means of identification they have been unable to take matters further.

The option of installing CCTV monitoring is being discussed with the Police and the PCC and hopefully, subject to DAC approval, will be installed in 2025. The cameras will all be external to the church and the recordings will only be accessible by authorised people from a secure location. There will be no access via the internet. Hopefully this will act as a deterrent and provide information to the authorities.

The new church facilities at the west end

The green curtain has come down revealing the new screen and facilities which reached substantial completion at the beginning March 2024. The snagging works are ongoing and should be completed by the end of March 2025. The fit out of the facilities have been substantially complete with additional shelves in the Store room and Flower cupboard and the new set of drawers in the kitchen. The additional equipment in the kitchen has also been provided thanks to generous donations from the congregation. We now have mugs, glasses, cleaning equipment that enable the facilities to be used. Specific thanks to Liz Gordon for driving the commissioning process and all those who have volunteered to serve. People are always welcome to help with refreshments, we just ask everyone to take note of the kitchen guidelines.

We are working on proposals to shorten some of the pews to reduce the congestion in church and make the layout more user friendly. The cross aisle has been moved to the area in front of the curved screen and the proposed details for the shortening of pews has been submitted to the DAC. We have carried out investigation work and a shortening of one Pew to demonstrate that the shortening is achievable. We are hopeful the DAC will give approval in the first half of 2025.

The gathering to the Parish Rooms is in need of some attention as it has developed some leaks.

The church building and the Parish Rooms (which are co-owned with the Oxford Diocese) continue to be the principal property assets of St Mary's Church, Bloxham. Their value is recorded in the PCC accounts. The Church's property, contents and ornaments continue to be insured with Ecclesiastical Insurance and are maintained with appropriate care and attention. There is no change to the Vestry alarm, with all valuables being stored in the safe.

The Lighting Conductor and fire extinguishers have had their Annual Certification and David Andrews has completed a 'Satisfactory' electrical installation Condition report in May 2023.

The spire and lower lighting is, we hope, going to be replaced with more energy efficient lights. The lights are the responsibility of the Bloxham Parish Council, and we are awaiting an update. Our thanks to Jenny Roberts for her continued work with the Spire light sponsorship.

I acknowledge the continued support and dedication of those who have been volunteered to assist with a variety of tasks such as the Christmas crib installation, clearing the roof gutters, the top floor in the tower and working out ways to manage the displaced pews. Specific thanks to David Andrews for his invaluable support in the care of the Church electrics. We are also indebted to Trevor Shepherd and Team for his work in the Churchyard - see separate report.

David Gordon

Deanery Synod

In the last year we have welcomed a new Area Dean Revd Alicia Baker and said our goodbyes to Revd Sarah Sharp. Vacancies remain a problem this year. The need for a Deanery Secretary is ongoing. This is a busy voluntary position that they are having difficulty filling.

Finance and The Parish Share is discussed at every meeting and the overall increases and shortfall is presented by The Deanery Treasurer. The Parish Share bill is about £500,000 a year for our deanery of 29 parishes and we pay for 11 full time and 2 house for duty posts. Over the whole diocese the Share bill will increase by 2.7% this year.

We have had a presentation about Lay-led worship with an aim to broaden and support what the church has to offer to all in the community. Epwell church has been experimenting successfully with 'Come and Sing' services. The service is based on material from the CQIE website called 'For All the Church Family'. So far, their services have included Harvest Thanksgiving based on an order of service published by the Farm Community Network, a Mothering Sunday service from New Paterns of Worship and a Christmas Service from The Children's Society website. Epwell found plenty of online courses that were helpful and are happy to share their experience. This was a very inspiring shared experience from areas where congregations share a vicar between six or more parishes. Good News Stories is a popular section of our meetings. St Francis Banbury has started a Faith and Film group for those on the edge of church where a film is shown one week and then a discussion group meets the following week. St Paul's has started a church plant in Betch Hill. St Mary's Banbury is offering their kitchens for asylum seekers to cook their own food. With a grant they hope to improve this service.

We have vacancies on The Deanery Synod for anyone wanting to represent St Mary's Bloxham

Jan Ogilvy

Electoral Roll

We have just completed a new Electoral Roll which now stands at 50 which is down from 86 as recorded in last year's report.

Liz Gordon, Electoral Roll Officer

Foundation Governors, Bloxham Primary School

Last April's report discussed the encouraging signs of improvement at Bloxham Primary School following the new head teacher's first year in the role. The October 2022 Ofsted report identified a number of areas for improvement, and it was evident even a year ago that these were in the process of being tackled.

The last year has seen huge progress, building on the foundations established in 2022-4. The transformation has encompassed every aspect of the school, including an increased focus this academic year on integrating with the community and encouraging spirituality within the children. The increased focus on the quality of teaching (one of the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted) is paying dividends. For example the early years unit, identified as one particular area for improvement, is now seen as one of the leaders across the wider Oxfordshire district. Class attendance, a highly topical subject countrywide at the moment, is well above average for the county, and teaching time and education quality have been improved through clear leadership and a consistent approach.

In terms of encouraging spiritual growth for children, the school has implemented a number of changes to enhance its performance as a Church of England School. The school is working to

improve opportunities for children and their families to engage with St Mary's, and the introduction of the bible-based 'Open the Book' sessions has proved popular, with children benefiting from the opportunity to learn about various bible stories in a fun and engaging way. The school also arranged a highly successful festival of nine lessons and carols, with the children handling a number of the lessons, the school choir performing and participation by all children in singing carols and other Christmas-related songs. It was great to see St. Mary's completely full, including standing room. Parents expressed their enjoyment, and it was an opportunity for many local residents to come to St. Mary's and see the new facilities.

As is often the case with major transformations, change has not always been without difficulties though. The current academic year has been a challenge for teaching staff, particularly with the budgetary impacts of lower birthrates in the youngest groups. However, the latest reports from the local authority have assessed school performance as good, with the hope that Ofsted might move its assessment upward in the anticipated assessment in the next few months.

Stephen Craggs, Foundation Governor

Music – Choir and Music Group

CHOIR: Major impact this year is the departure of Rachel and Gareth, and Roger moving into Seacombe House (with Marion for a while). All will be sorely missed. It's been a quiet year on the whole, a good 9 lessons, some collaboration with Deddington over evensongs and a visit by the choir to the RSCM Epiphany carol service in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

We've also enjoyed sailing out together several times at the Red Lion. Choir numbers are still in the healthy zone, but we could really do with a tenor or two, plus maybe a couple more sopranos. Alas and bass continue to be healthily represented.

We are having to re-examine repertoire to deal with the new configuration, but are hoping to continue with Choral evensong once a month.

MUSIC GROUP: I've managed to acquire some Orange books that have helped expand our repertoire, though they are 25 years old, they still have some relatively 'new' material in the for St Mary's.

We've had a clean out of the filing cabinet and removed all the stuff no longer required as it's either duplicated in the Orange books or the Hymn books.

It would be 'good' if we could escape the hymn books for café church. I was hoping the new AV equipment from BOF would help there, but it's not geared up to our current requirements. THE OHP is ok, but rather small and not visible from the sides. Maybe we could look into installing a drop-down screen at some point to give a little more flexibility?

I did buy a mixing desk to increase the number of inputs in to the current sound system, and it would be useful to have an extra couple of mics and stands when funds allow.

David Bail, Director of Music

Bells Ringing

We now have ten Bloxham ringers who are members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. We usually manage to ring seven or eight bells every Sunday. I am very grateful to Colin Lee who comes from Adderbury to help us every week.

I offered a bellringing lesson for the Christmas raffle, and a couple donated £50 for the lesson. They came last week. I showed them the bells and taught them how to ring handbells and backstrokes. Unfortunately, they are too busy to continue lessons at the moment, but they now know what is involved, so I hope they will learn to ring and will join the band sometime in the future.

I have been teaching four learners for the last few months. There is a Dad and his two sons aged 13 and 8, and another boy aged 8. So far, they have been learning with the computer simulator, but I am resuming Bloxham practices this Friday so they can ring with the band. We haven't had any practices for the last eighteen months because of my arthritic hip, which is now much better since it was replaced.

Alan Griffin, Tower Captain

Bloxham Puzzlers

Not just puzzles, but games of all sorts, have been enjoyed on Wednesday mornings, together with Fairtrade cookies and tea or coffee to assist with the puzzling thoughts and chat!

All are welcome to visit and join in the 'puzzle on the go' or complete your own – a wide range of puzzles are available from 16 pieces to 1000, or you can choose to hire one and puzzle at home.

For those of a more competitive nature, Scrabble, Rummikub, UNO, Blink and many more games are played, taught or learnt during the morning.

We're a very friendly group - It's a really social morning meeting old and new friends while enjoying fun and games and exercising the brain!

Puzzlers meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10.30 - 12.30 in the Parish Rooms.

£2.00 a session to include refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Lesley Mills & Lindsey Mills

Bloxham Boys Brigade

Membership as at 31 December.

Anchors (5-8)	12
Juniors (7-11)	22
Company (11-14)	6
Seniors (14-18)	5
Young person helpers	3
Officers	7
Adult helpers	6
Total	61

Community

Our litter teams were active throughout the summer trying to keep Bloxham tidy. Over 30 members of the Boys' Brigade attended the Act of Remembrance and Church service that was held in Bloxham. We also supported the Annual Christmas Tree festival which was held in St Mary's Church.

Special events

A large contingent of members spent the day with William Formula 1 in Grove. Our Company section visited Laser Quest in Coventry, the Oxford Climbing Centre, & The Blackwell Adventure Centre in Beaconsfield. Our Anchors and Juniors visited Banbury Bowl.

Awards

Over 40 boys received awards for service and achievement at our 17th annual awards evening which was held in St Mary's Church. Our guest of honour was Rt Revd. Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester (a former BB member). We were delighted to report that one member was awarded with the Queen's Badge, the highest award available to a member of the Boys' Brigade. The first to be awarded in Bloxham!

Church

In addition, our weekly devotions, leaders and members of Bloxham BB participated in various Church services organised by St Mary's Church and Bloxham Baptist Church.

Development

We made presentations to the Deddington Deanery Synod and SS Peter & Paul Church, Steple Aston about offering the Boys' Brigade for Mission and Outreach.

Leadership

During the year we welcomed Becca Sterry into our leadership team (Anchors). We said goodbye to Joe Skinner (Company) following his move to the North East and Annette Murphy (Anchors) who decided to retire. We thank you for your service.

Please kindly consider whether you can help the BB.

Nick Westbury

Building Our Future

Early in the year, a highlight of the Building Our Future (BoF) programme was the completion and handover of the 'West End Works' in Bloxham church. This provides much-needed toilets (including accessible facilities), a new choir vestry, flower cupboard and a full-equipped kitchen with serving hatch. The kitchen and vestry elements of the design are joined by a curved wooden platform and steps opening out from the ringing chamber and this provides (and has been used as) a performance space for small choral or orchestral groups. The new facilities are housed behind architect-designed curved screens, which have already drawn positive critical acclaim – a credit to architect Jeremy Bell whose concept it was. They are an unashamedly 21st century design yet blend well and are in keeping with the fabric of the church, much of it dating back to the 1400s.

Apart from facilitating the delivery of hospitality after services, weddings, funerals etc, the new facilities are already allowing the church to be used for a greater range of activities involving the community and thus fulfilling the project's design intent. Already in 2024 the facilities have supported afternoon teas, tours with refreshments, talks, funeral wakes, concerts by various choirs and musical groups, as well as use by the three schools located in Bloxham. Together £1450 was generated through these 'Community Uses' and this is set to grow as more activities are planned and use of the facilities is more actively promoted.

Completion of the facilities meant that there were still bills to pay and we were grateful to our principal contractors, Savvy, for an extended payment arrangement, allowing fundraising to continue in parallel with initial use of the facilities. Conclusion and agreement on final contract variations and receipt of final invoices from Savvy.

In order to repay Savvy in a timely fashion, it has been necessary to take out some loan facilities.

Two parishioners have generously provided zero interest loans to the PCC and the remainder has been filled by a 10-year loan taken out with an organisation called MCA, which specialises in loans for these sorts of circumstances. The MCA loan will be repaid by funding from Friends of St Marys and both the PCC and FoSM committee have assured themselves that this arrangement is robust and will allow the repayments to be made.

There has now been a pause in peak BoF project activity while outstanding commitments are paid and use of the facilities is developed. However, the plan to rationalise the pews in the church continues (leaving eventually 26 shortened and more readily movable pews). Our own experts, in the shape of David Gordon and Bob Perkin-Bell, are providing the brains and brawn behind this project. Having proved the concept of cutting down pews and making good (to the Diocese's satisfaction) a formal Faculty application has now been made to the Diocese for the full pew rationalisation initiative.

Jon Canton

Church Cleaning

2024 was a busy year full of changes, new ventures and reinstating previous events following the opening of our new church facilities. More use equals more dirt and our need for volunteers was urgent. We are very grateful to those who responded to our call and have given so much help already. In addition to working hard we have had helpful suggestions as to equipment and management and our members have highlighted potential problems they have observed. All this help is vital to our being able to keep this beautiful church open, safe and welcoming.

Cleaning in St Marys' is divided into zones so that no one is over worked in such a large space. We have cleaners in most age groups but the majority on our team have been relied for some time. We would like to see some more volunteers in each area so that, as is the case at the moment, if someone is needing to take time off there are others to step up and carry on. I have the list and the zone map for now and can be contacted on Telephone number 01285720054.

Jean Ogilvy

Church Flowers

We continue to have a dedicated group providing flower arrangements for the church throughout the year. We welcomed Barbara Saunders to the team this year. After many years of dedicated service, Marian Stein and Sally Williams stepped down. Another committed member of the flower team, Alison Smith, sadly died this year.

During the year, Bloxham florist Melissa Dinwiddie, kindly provided an autumnal workshop for the team. The aim of the workshop was to explore alternative techniques to using floral foam for our flower arrangements and to hear about sources of locally grown flowers. These initiatives were identified as a way of using more sustainable methods for flower arranging, to help us meet St. Mary's

goal of achieving an Eco-silver Award. Knowledge and skills gained in the workshop were put to good use for our flower arrangements for Harvest Festival.

The team enjoy the opportunity to come together to decorate the church for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We are grateful to Jenny Roberts who continues to grow beautiful chrysanthemums to decorate the church at Harvest Festival and Christmas.

We would like to thank the Flower Team for their commitment and hard work over the past year. Feedback from members of the congregation and visitors to our church is testimony to how much the team's work is appreciated.

We are always pleased to welcome new people to the team. If anyone is interested in joining, please do contact Lesley or Becky.

Lesley Mills and Becky Horton.

Churchyard

Work maintaining the Churchyard continued through 2024 on Wednesday mornings, weather permitting and on other days to make back lost time.

The volunteers comprised Trevor Shepherd, Andrew Whiffin, Graham Higgins, Chris Field and David Carr.

Chris relocated to Bath towards the end of the year and we will miss his contribution in the Churchyard, as will Bloxham Bowls Club where Chris was part of the team there who maintained the Bowling Green.

Ian and Pat Lapworth joined the Churchyard team during the year and have undertaken a variety of tasks that in previous years had not been completed due to shortage of labour.

In March the Churchyard Equipment Store was broken into and many items were stolen. However, replacement battery powered items have been purchased with money from the insurers.

A local company of tree specialists carried out a safety survey of the trees in the Churchyard and returned to deal with trees and branches judged as a risk.

In June local Botanist, Peter Shasby gave an illustrated talk in the Church about the Wild Flowers that grow in the Churchyard. Display boards were also created with photographs showing well over 100 varieties of plants. The evening was well attended, with refreshments available before and after the talk.

A new hedge, comprising 2 legs of 40 metres was planted at the bottom of the Churchyard. This project was co-ordinated by Biodiversity Bloxham who secured a grant and involved many members of the local community to help with the planting.

Maintaining areas of the Churchyard in different ways continued, but due to the shortage of volunteers this was determined by workload rather than choice and more grass areas had to be left to grow longer.

We need more help in the Churchyard, especially during the Summer, so if you would like to join the volunteers either on a regular basis, or occasionally, then please get in touch.

Fallen leaves in the autumn and winter were again raked up to create heaps to produce leaf mould. Some of the 2022 leaf mould remains available for anyone who would like it. The remainder of the arisings from the Churchyard were placed into brown wheeled bins and collected by Cherwell District Council for recycling into compost, much of it being grass cuttings, hedge and tree prunings and fallen twigs and small branches which come from the many trees in the Churchyard.

Andrew continued to trim back the bramble/hedge on the South side. Graham's areas of Tessel plants grown from last year's seeds grew well and the Snowdrops he transplanted along the south side of the Churchyard along the line of the railings produced an impressive line of white flowers. Chris again pruned and shaped the shrubs and bushes inside the front wall and planted bulbs in the wooden tub.

The display of seasonal flowers from January to June starting with Snowdrops followed by primroses, crocuses, cyclamen, daffodils, tulips, bluebells etc. is always worth a visit to the Churchyard whether when walking or to just sit and relax/rehired in a mostly quiet place.

We need more help in the Churchyard, especially during the Summer, so if you would like to join the volunteers either on a regular basis, or occasionally, then please get in touch.

For matters relating to the upkeep of the Churchyard please contact Trevor Shepherd on 01295 720640 or email trevor.shepherd@btinternet.com

Eco Church



As a reminder, Eco Church is a project run by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity, in partnership with The Church of England, Christian Aid, The Methodist Church, Tearfund, The United Reformed Church and Altruistics Trust Limited.

It provides churches and their leadership with a way to take practical action on caring for God's earth along with a toolkit of resources and an online award survey. The Eco Church survey helps you 'go green' in all areas of your church life and counts towards an award - which can be Bronze, Silver or Gold.

St Mary's Activities and Progress

History

Last year we reported that we had successfully achieved the Bronze Award in May 2023

Changes to The EcoChurch Survey and their Impacts

The EcoChurch survey had a major revamp during the year – and the new survey was first talked about in Spring 2024, then trailed in autumn 2024 and finally released at the beginning of 2025. It has now superseded the previous, original version that had remained unchanged since 2016.

- The first section of the survey, the **Worship and Teaching** category has probably seen the least amount of significant change, and it is the category that we follow most closely.
- The category on **Buildings and Energy** introduces the need for the church to have assessed the Carbon Footprint of both church buildings and all other church activities, including food purchasing and congregational travel. These are required for us to plan and monitor our path to Net Zero.
- The section continues with questions on our energy usage – where many of the options they present to us are limited by the age and status of our building.
- The section then concludes with questions on our plans or policies for a range of topics, including -
 - Future climate resilience,
 - A procurement policy focused on products and services with a low environment impact,
 - Waste and recycling policy
 - Letting policy (prioritising the sustainable use of the site)
 - Carbon footprint offsetting policy

- The category on **Land and Nature** has developed considerably since the original survey. Encouraging wildlife is an absolute focus for us, but we are limited in that there are constraints of needing to maintain the access to graves in a relatively tidy manner. We also score by having planted hedgerows on our land, but we are not involved with either funding or planting trees or hedgerows locally. We then get involved with some 'Citizen Science Projects' but we are not involved with projects focused on managing declining species and habitats. Finally our ability to provide a wider range of activities in the Graveyard is limited by the amount of free space available.

- The category on **Community and Global Engagement** is also a significant change from the earlier version. The first part of this section looks at Local, National and Global issues and asks to what extent we respond with discussion within our own church or whether we also extend it to discussion within our wider community. It then looks at the actions that we take on environmental and social justice issues, how we work in partnership, the events that we organise, how we steward the church's finances as well as all the accreditation schemes we recognise. It finally looks at the food we provide, our promotion of sustainable transport, our waste and recycling policies, our approaches to EcoChurch communications and finally whether we financially support an Environmental Charity.

- The final section on **Lifestyle** brings a strong focus on how we promote and plan ethical and environmentally aware consumption by all individuals and households. This section starts by looking at how we share information and advice on ethical and sustainable lifestyles, how frequently we share it and how we encourage the congregation to get

involved in wider social and environmental issues. It then looks at how we promote auditing of individual and household carbon footprints and encourage people to reduce their energy consumption. Finally it looks at how we are actively educating people to make better choices in respect of their food choices, their transport choices, their choices of where and how they manage their money in an ethical manner and finally how we promote the ethical consumption of goods and services within our congregation.

Previous and Current (estimated) scoring:-

I have completed a desk review of the new questions using my best assessment of the current information - (to give an understanding of where we stand with the new questionnaire) :-

Question Category	Level at the time of the May 2023 Award	Current Level – based on desk review of new questions
Worship and Teaching	Gold	Gold
Buildings (now – plus Energy)	Silver	3x Gold
Land	Silver	3x Gold
Community and Global Engagement	Silver	3x Gold
Lifestyle	3x Gold	3x Gold

It is clear the new question set is more demanding and will in a number of areas, present some real challenges to a parish with a church the size of St Mary's and with a small electoral roll. However, we have lots of areas that we can work on to improve our focus and management of the great many of these ethical, environmental and social issues.

Future path and goals

Our previous actions of awareness talks, information published to the EcoChurch web page and inserts to the weekly sheets have dried up a bit in recent months as we waited for the new question set to be finally published. With that now fully available and the development of the BOf facilities now completed, we can refocus our efforts to:-

- Relaunch the regular advice and information inserts to the weekly sheet and onto the website to continue to encourage engagement and actions on both the items that we had previously addressed as well as the many new items that this new question set raises
- Continue our focus and awareness of many of the national and global ethical, social and environmental issues that are so vital today. The efforts of Owen and John Smith to bring our focus onto events such as the Great Big Green Week and the Global COP Meetings have been and remain vital in these areas.
- Tackle some of the trickier issues – such as estimating the Carbon Footprint for the church and the community, which will involve multiple inputs.

Realistically with the much broader focus of the new EcoChurch survey we will be looking to improve our standing in all the 5 categories, but we are unlikely to be ready to step up to the Silver award for a little while. I will take the lead to move all of these items along – but our speed of progress may be restricted by the availability of volunteers to push forward some of the actions.

Neil Hegarty

Friends of St. Mary's

As major funders of the BOf project, the Friends are delighted that the impressive West End facilities have been completed and are now being used to support existing and new church and community activities. The Friends organised a terrific celebratory reception in church in April, attended by some 200 guests. All told, the Friends have made BOf-related grants to the PCC of just over £118,000 up to the end of 2024. And our involvement in the project will continue; not least through ongoing grants to the PCC to service BOf-related loans.

The benefits of the new facilities were highlighted by the Christmas Tree Festival in early December, organised by the Friends. A Festival Café operated in church during the Festival, making the experience for visitors more welcoming and sociable, and encouraging people to spend longer in the building... meaning they were more likely to consider other attractions, including fundraising opportunities on offer. The new facilities also made it possible for the Friends to organise Sunday afternoon teas in church during July and August. These were delightful social occasions, again bringing more people into the church building, and providing Bloxham Museum visitors with an adjacent refreshments option. About 35 people came along each Sunday. Many thanks to Mel Rayner, Becky Horton and their team for starting what we hope will become an annual institution. The Christmas Tree Festival (with its theme this year of 'The Greatest Hits of Christmas') was the centrepiece of Friends' fundraising in the year. It was the main component in a programme of Christmas-related activities, accompanied by a Christmas Quiz in Ex-Servicemen's Hall (which followed a quiz in April in Jubilee Park Hall), an Online Auction and a special Golden Ticket Draw. Together, these generated over £7,000 of funds - a record! The Festival weekend in church attracted 1,150 visitors, with 800 people voting for the 'People's Choice' winning tree (the Nordic Walkers... by a country mile!). Thanks to the huge team of people involved in a great team effort during a period of intensive activity in November/December.

And throughout the year we have been pushing Friends' greetings cards and merchandise, including on our stall at Bloxham Fun Day in June.

Since our founding in 2002, with the generous support of so many people with connections to St Mary's and Bloxham, the Friends have (at end 2024) raised just under £370,000 and made grants to the PCC for capital projects related to the building of just over £267,000.

Diad 2024 accounts (to be presented for approval at our AGM in church on 9 April 2025) indicate a net surplus in the year of over £17,000. In 2024 we made grants to St Mary's PCC of £12,800. This included a further £4,500 contribution to maintenance and insurance costs related to the church building.

The Friends continue to benefit from a committed and enthusiastic Committee, and a stable and loyal membership base, which includes our generous 200 Club members. The 200 Club had another very strong year, generating net just over £7,400.

Many thanks to all our members and supporters, for all that you've helped us achieve in another successful year!

Ian Myson, Chair – Friends of St. Mary's Bloxham

Fundraising & Engagement Group

This is a new initiative and the group is looking at ways to provide events and activities that will both enable the church to engage with the wider Bloxham community and through some of the events to raise much needed funds to support the work of the church.

An initial meeting was held in October 2024 attended by 16 members of the congregation where a large number of ideas were brought to the table.

Further meetings have been held with good attendance and ideas which have resulted in a programme of a variety of events being planned commencing with the successful Christmas Mini Fayre running alongside the Christmas Tree Festival raising nearly £2,000.

Planned events for 2025 include a Candelmas Biring and Share Supper, Spring Market, Pet Service, Flower Festival, Murder Mystery Evening, Harvest Event and a Jigsaw and Games Sale. I'm sure there will be something at Christmas too!

Ian Lapworth (Group Coordinator)

Julian Prayer Group

The Julian Meeting is a contemplation lasting about half an hour. The leader makes a short oral introduction aiding us to focus on a subject in silence. Taizé music helps. We close the Meeting with prayer.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Rooms. Why don't you come to join us?

Brian Fletcher

House Group

We have had another thought provoking & prayerful year at House Group. There are currently 12 members who regularly attend our fortnightly meetings (these are weekly in Lent). We alternate the meeting venue between members' houses. Over the last year we have covered Isaiah, James, Hebrews, 1 Peter and are starting the new year with Psalms. We sometimes use structured courses from booklets but mostly, this year, have used Graham's notes which he kindly prepares ahead of time to assist with our readings, together with the leader's research and prayers. We take turns in leading the sessions – a task which initially seems onerous but usually is very rewarding as it forces one to deeply consider, research and reflect on bible passages. As members of the house group, we all view our meetings, discussions and prayer as an essential part of our faith journey, and the fellowship provided such a very important support to our lives.

Helen Hedley

Bloxham Mothers' Union

Another year, another AGM. The theme for the year was Rise Up with the emphasis on maintaining and developing the profile of activism against gender based violence. A talk from a representative of Reducing the Risk, an organisation supporting victims of domestic violence, was one of the speakers we had hoped would help us in this action. We had hoped that we could establish a supportive link with a hostel/ refuge but unfortunately that wasn't to be. Nevertheless, members have become more alert to the signs of abusive situations and the signposting they can offer. We have continued to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence at the Tuesday morning service in December.

We have heard about Chaplaincy to the Arts, how we could all contribute to the church's Eco Church campaign and Naval Chaplaincy. Spent time together in reflection, led by Hazel. Attended a superb Quiet Afternoon at Bodicote and held the Deanery Festival when we were given a wonderful insight into life in Zimbabwe by Cynthia, wife of the vicar at St Leonard's. Three more successful Beattie Drives raised money for Standing in the Gap, who support school children and their families whilst they wait for mental health services to respond to their referral. A local NUU project providing toiletries and tea, coffee etc to Ronald MacDonald house at the JR, where parents of children in the Children's Hospital can stay and are supported through often difficult times. And AFIA, Away From it All Holidays who provide much needed breaks for those who wouldn't otherwise get away. A very successful fundraising model and with St Mary's new facilities as a venue we are able to offer an outreach activity introducing the building and a warm welcome to the members of the community who come. The next Beattie Drive, on Sunday 6th April, will be raising money for the upkeep of St. Mary's.

In other ways 2024 was a difficult year with the deaths of five members who had each brought their own strengths to the service of our branch. They included our very valuable treasurer, Alison, who died in post. I am very pleased to say we are now supported on the treasury side by Pat and Ian Lapworth. Many thanks to them for all their help.

Looking forward to the rest of 2025, we are planning more Beattie Drives and hope to enrol a new member in the near future. Our programme is taking shape and already includes something on the challenge Christians face when considering the situation in Palestine today. A session on Scams and how to respond and a return visit and talk on the Community of the Cross of Nails.

Mothers Union continues to be an amazing organisation which speaks the Christian message in local, national and international situations. St Mary's Branch may not have a high profile at that level but we make a significant contribution to ministry and mission in our wider community through prayer and action. Together we will keep this going.

Pat Smith, Retiring Branch Leader

Parish Breakfast

Approximately 20 people regularly attend our very social monthly gatherings on 2nd Sundays to enjoy sausages, croissants and coffee - we do try to cater for a variety of dietary requirements so everyone is welcome.

The generous donations we receive are used to support a variety of charities including BYFP, Christian Aid and Home Start and we also respond to global and national disasters when necessary. We are hugely thankful to Anne for her loyal service at the sink. All offers of help are gratefully received.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to seeing you on the next 2nd Sunday.

Pat Angel and Liz Gordon

Renew Wellbeing Bloxham

We have enjoyed another good year working in collaboration with friends in the Baptist Church running our welcoming safe space every Tuesday. We continue to provide a variety of areas where people can sit quietly, do a jigsaw, join in with craft, chat or play a game. We offer prayer with no obligation to attend and provide refreshments and useful information.

This atmosphere has proved very successful this year in encouraging people to be more confident and able to try other experiences in a busy world. We have seen one member join a choir, another progress in a new relationship and others getting together to go to concerts and social gatherings. We have been able to guide members to useful local information and support them as they deal with service providers and other day to day problems. In return we have learnt so much along the way. Our folder of useful information continues to grow.

At Christmas some of our members helped make decorations for a tree at St Mary's Tree Festival and we hope to join in with a creation for the 2025 flower festival. For the moment our group are adding items to a Renew scrapbook.

Both churches support this venture financially and spiritually and we would welcome anyone wanting to learn more to visit us on any Tuesday 13.30 – 16.00hrs at the Baptist Chapel.

Jan Ogilvy

St Mary's Parish Rooms

The Accounts for 2024 show a deficit of £1,324.00 (£1,260.00 in 2023). Once more the income figures demonstrate the important contribution from both the Thursday Club and the Bridge Club. The Soup Saturday team make regular payments towards the light and heat used in their sessions, but fees from single bookings in 2024 only amounted to £200. The building is available for hire by other organisations, but two recent enquiries failed to progress.

Maintenance charges were higher than usual partly due to electrical work which is not expected to be necessary in 2025, but increasing energy charges are a continuing concern.

Reverend Dale Gingham, Liz Farmer, Becky Horton and Jan Ogilvy – Parish Rooms Committee

Pat Angel

Soup Saturday

Soup Saturday is a church outreach event, launched in January 2000 and held in the Parish Rooms on the first Saturday of each month from September to May.

Attendance appears to be back up to pre covid numbers of between 35-40 people most months and everyone has enjoyed a varied choice of homemade soups and desserts as well as the social interaction.

The charge of £5 per person more than covers the costs on the day including an annual donation towards the heating and lighting of the Parish Rooms. This leaves a good surplus over the year, which is then donated to various charities, most of which are local. This year we divided the money raised (nearly £1000) between Barbury Young Homeless Project, South Central Ambulance Charity, and Katharine House Hospice, plus a donation of £32 towards the Church Kitchen Fund. In May Judy Marshall stood down as the organizer, after many years of dedication to the role, and is now enjoying having lunch on the Soup Saturdays instead. She does however continue to provide soup and/or dessert each month. Mel Rayner has taken over the organisation together with a small team of helpers.

There was no December Soup Saturday this year but we sponsored a tree at the Bloxham Christmas Tree Festival instead with some very inventive decorations.

Our current team are Mel Rayner, Becky Horton, Angela Morris, Helen and Hannah Auld, Marcia Cooper and Jax Hogarty, with David Bell making a soup most months. This is a small and friendly team and we would always welcome more helpers. Finally, thanks to all who attend each month and make it an enjoyable occasion.

Mel Rayner

Tea & Toast

Another year of fellowship and fun in Bloxham served up every Friday morning with hot drinks toast and the occasional tea cake. Tea and Toast has enjoyed another good year. Although most weeks at present, we are visited mainly by more senior citizens with only an occasional young family visiting, we are a vibrant group ready to welcome all ages. During school holidays our numbers increase and the toybox opens again. We have a good group of volunteers running our Friday mornings and we are very grateful for their contributions. You will see Tea and Toast advertised online and in the Broad sheet. We would like to ask everyone in the village to mention our group to anyone new to Bloxham.

Jan Ogilvy

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024

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LEB
18-Mar-25

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE P.C.C.
OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, BLOXHAM**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 & 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulations, that section 144(2) of the Act does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of The Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(5) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's report

In connection with my examination of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - A. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, and
 - B. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations: have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



EXAMINER

Ian Lapworth

Date Signed 6TH APRIL 2025

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

2023 £		Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources						
212,409	Voluntary income	3	59,626		125,748	185,373
4,826	Activities for generating funds	3	3,092		720	3,812
11,035	Church activities	3	10,114	2,733	30	12,877
514	Investment income	3	404		368	772
49,042	Other incoming resources	3	733	-	58,973	59,707
<u>277,826</u>	Total incoming resources		<u>73,969</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>185,839</u>	<u>262,541</u>
Resources expended						
386	Cost of generating funds	4	-	-	20	20
58,438	Church activities	4	57,140		1,839	58,978
26,131	Running Exps incl Governance Costs	4	21,556	4,058	5,867	31,480
332,074	Major Capital Expenditure	4	2,274	-	354,425	356,698
<u>417,029</u>	Total resources expended		<u>80,970</u>	<u>4,058</u>	<u>362,150</u>	<u>447,177</u>
(139,203)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(7,001)	(1,324)	(176,311)	(184,636)
(139,203)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		(7,001)	(1,324)	(176,311)	(184,636)
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
494	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	7	-	-	310	310
<u>(138,709)</u>	Net movement in funds		<u>(7,001)</u>	<u>(1,324)</u>	<u>(176,000)</u>	<u>(184,326)</u>
378,638	Total funds brought forward from previous year		203,031	5,946	30,952	239,929
<u>239,929</u>	Total funds carried forward		<u>196,030</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>(145,048)</u>	<u>55,604</u>
For Information Only						
	Take out Value of Parish Rooms		(167,778)			
	True value of general funds available to use		<u>28,251</u>			

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

2023 £		Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets						
167,778	Tangible assets (Parish Rooms)	6	167,778	-	-	167,778
4,592	Investments	7	-	-	4,902	4,902
<u>172,370</u>	Total fixed assets		<u>167,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,902</u>	<u>172,680</u>
Current assets						
3,513	Debtors (Incl Gift Aid Due)		4,171	-	2,589	6,760
147,730	Cash in hand and at bank	10	24,081	4,622	69,545	98,248
<u>151,243</u>	Total current assets		<u>28,252</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>72,134</u>	<u>105,008</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year						
(3,683)	Accruals		-	-	(142,084)	(142,084)
(80,000)	Interest Free Loan for Building Our Future Appeal (BOF)		-	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
<u>(83,683)</u>	Total		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,084)</u>	<u>(144,084)</u>
<u>67,560</u>	Net current assets		<u>28,252</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>(71,950)</u>	<u>(39,076)</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year						
-	Interest Free Loan for Building Our Future Appeal (BOF)		-	-	(78,000)	(78,000)
	Total		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(78,000)</u>	<u>(78,000)</u>
<u>239,929</u>	Net assets		<u>196,030</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>(145,048)</u>	<u>55,604</u>
Funds of the church						
Unrestricted funds						
203,031	General fund		196,030	-	-	196,030
5,946	Designated fund	9	-	4,622	-	4,622
<u>208,977</u>			<u>196,030</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,652</u>
30,952	Restricted funds	8	-	-	(145,048)	(145,048)
<u>239,929</u>	Total funds of the church		<u>196,030</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>(145,048)</u>	<u>55,604</u>
For Information Only						
	Take out Value of Parish Rooms		(167,778)			
	True value of general funds available to use		<u>28,251</u>			

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rev'd Dale Gingrich

Lynn Brodey

Chairman

Treasurer

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

The Accounts are drawn up under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investment assets at market value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. These Accounts do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Accounting policies

Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which they have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against those specific funds. The aim and use of each fund is explained later in the Notes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Accounts) when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants & legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received, not when the tax refund is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SOFA.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for use by the church are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Rental income from letting the Parish Rooms is accounted for when it falls due.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

Realised gains are accounted for on assets held for the church's own use and are taken into account at the time of sale.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis & is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services.

All costs have been directly attributed to the various categories within the SOFA.

Any general support costs have been allocated across activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources based on an allocation of actual costs.

As the PCC is not registered for VAT, all expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the cost of the preparation of the Annual Accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Parish Share is accounted for when paid except that any Parish Share unpaid at the end of the financial year is provided for in the accounts as a constructive obligation, although not a liability, and is included in the balance sheet as a liability.

Investments

Investments are shown on 31 December at market value.

Both realised and unrealised gains are shown under 'other recognised gains/(losses)' section of the SOFA.

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

2023			2024	
Total funds	3 Analysis of Incoming Resources	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted
£		£	£	£
	Voluntary Income			
35,898	Tax - efficient planned giving (excl. tax)	32,392	-	2,170
3,776	Collections at Services incl White Envelopes	4,226	-	100
280	Service Collections & Donations in aid of other Charities	497	-	-
1,150	Spire Lighting Donations	1,310	-	-
8,722	All other Giving & Voluntary Income	4,613	-	18,404
	Card Machine used by other Organisations (see Resources Expended)	568	-	-
11,118	Gift Aid Tax Recovered / Due	10,719	-	3,074
149,100	* Grants Received (see analysis below)	4,800	-	102,000
2,366	Legacies	500	-	-
<u>212,409</u>		<u>59,626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,748</u>
	Activities for generating funds			
4,372	Fund Raising Activities (Fayres/Concert/Pimms Party/Toilet Twinning)	3,092	-	75
454	Church Heritage Tours (in aid of BOF)	-	-	645
<u>4,826</u>		<u>3,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>720</u>
	Church Activities			
8,114	Fees - weddings, funerals etc	6,719	-	30
500	Hiring out Church Facilities	3,395	-	-
2,421	Parish Rooms	-	2,733	-
<u>11,035</u>		<u>10,114</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>30</u>
	Investment Income			
514	Bank/HMRC Interest/Dividends etc	404	-	368
<u>514</u>		<u>404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>368</u>
	Other incoming resources			
849	Income from Mission Activities (Tea&Toast/Puzzlers)	733	-	-
1,083	Income from Mission Activities (Parish Breakfast/Soup Saturday)	-	-	1,764
350	Others (Incl Bell Ringing & Flower Fund)	-	-	250
43,514	DCMS Scheme (VAT Rebate on BOF Capital Works)	-	-	54,636
3,246	Other general (Insurance Claim re stolen Churchyard Equipment)	-	-	2,323
<u>49,042</u>		<u>733</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,973</u>
<u>277,826</u>	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>73,969</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>185,839</u>

* Sources of Grant Funding

The Friends of St Mary's raises funds for the beautification, preservation and restoration of the church
The organisation is a registered charity, not under the control of the PCC

Grants received by the PCC during the course of the year:

The Friends of St Mary's (Annual Grant)	£	4,800
Bloxham Parish Council (Churchyard Maintenance)	£	2,000
Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust (BOF Grant)	£	2,000
Valencia Communities Fund (BOF)	£	50,000
Joseph Rank Trust (BOF Grant)	£	25,000
Bernard Sunley Foundation (BOF Grant)	£	10,000
Bloxham Feoffees (BOF Grant)	£	5,000
The Friends of St Mary's (BOF Grant)	£	8,000
	<u>£</u>	<u>106,800</u>

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

2023		2024			
Total funds.		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds
£		£	£	£	£
4 Analysis of resources expended					
Cost of generating funds					
386	Costs of Fundraising Activities	-	-	20	20
<u>386</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
Church activities					
2,083	* Mission Giving & Donations (see analysis below)	-	-	1,839	1,839
280	Service Collections/Donations paid to other Charities (The Childrens Society / RBL Poppy Appeal)	497	-	-	497
51,975	Parish Share	51,975	-	-	51,975
4,100	Organists & Music Director Fees / Ministry Exps	4,100	-	-	4,100
-	Other Organisations using Card Reader (see receipts)	568	-	-	568
<u>58,438</u>		<u>57,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,839</u>	<u>58,979</u>
Church Running Expenses (Incl Governance)					
924	Mission & Evangelism Costs	989	-	18	1,007
2,027	General Maint Repairs/Contracts + Churchyard	1,932	-	5,256	7,187
8,138	Insurance	8,675	-	-	8,675
527	Organ, Choir / Church Music	563	-	25	588
1,040	Church Requisites	577	-	568	1,145
572	Printing, Stationery, Postage, Web, Books	485	-	-	485
1,708	Photocopier Rental / Exps	1,661	-	-	1,661
696	BT contract	758	-	-	758
46	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
6,771	Utility Bills - Heating, Lighting & Water	5,915	-	-	5,915
<u>3,682</u>	Parish Rooms	-	4,058	-	4,058
<u>26,131</u>		<u>21,556</u>	<u>4,058</u>	<u>5,867</u>	<u>31,480</u>
Major Capital Expenditure					
-		-	-	-	-
2,060	Fabric costs	2,274	-	117	2,390
0	Setting up New Kitchen	-	-	511	511
330,014	Building our Future Project (BOF)	-	-	353,797	353,797
<u>332,074</u>		<u>2,274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>354,425</u>	<u>356,698</u>
<u>417,029</u>	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>80,970</u>	<u>4,058</u>	<u>362,150</u>	<u>447,177</u>

* Mission Giving & Donations Analysis:

From Service Collections:

The Childrens Society	380.00
The Royal British Legion	117.00
£	497.00

From Fundraising:

Toilet Twinning	75.00
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From Soup Saturday:

South Central Ambulance Charity	300.00
Katharine House Hospice	295.00
Banbury Young Homeless Project	295.00
Donation to Church Kitchen Fund	82.00

From Parish Breakfast:

Crisis at Christmas	55.00
The Warner School Farm Trust	258.00
Christian Aid	113.00
Banbury Young Homeless Project	75.00
Farming Community Network	55.00
The Royal British Legion	48.00
Home-Start, Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton	95.50
Toilet Twinning	51.00
Donation to Church Kitchen Fund	41.00
£	1,838.50

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the PCC received any remuneration for their work on the PCC. The clergy, who is an ex officio member receives a stipend but is not remunerated for his service on the PCC.

6 Tangible fixed assets

Total £		Freehold Land & Buildings £
167,778	64.53% equity share in the Parish Rooms	167,778
<u>167,778</u>	At 31 December 2024	<u>167,778</u>

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

7 Investments

	Value at 31 December 2023	Value at 31 December 2024	Gain/(Loss)
	£	£	£
The Bellrangers Fund - CCLA	4,314	4,533	219
Listed on London Stock Exchange -Lloyds TSB (Bells)	278	369	91
	<u>4,592</u>	<u>4,902</u>	<u>310</u>

8 Restricted funds

	Fund balances brought forward £	Transfers & Incoming resources £	Resources expended / transferred £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Outreach (Bloxham Puzzlers)	72	0	(18)	0	54
Bell Fund	3,841	72	0	0	3,913
Bell Fund (Investments)	4,592	0	0	310	4,902
BOF (incl 2024 GAid not yet rec'd & Accruals & deferred payments)	15,959	178,599	(353,817)	0	(159,259)
BOF (Grant for restoration of Rood Screen)	3,500	0	0	0	3,500
Parish Breakfast (incl Toilet Twinning Raffle £75)	0	867	(867)	0	0
Communion Service Materials	862	0	(211)	0	651
Churchyard	1,297	4,323	(5,256)	0	365
Fabric Fund	117	0	(117)	0	0
Flowers	714	178	(357)	0	534
New Kitchen Fund	0	798	(511)	0	287
Choir Fund	0	30	(25)	0	5
Soup Saturday	0	972	(972)	0	0
	<u>30,952</u>	<u>185,839</u>	<u>(362,150)</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>(145,048)</u>

9 Designated funds

	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended or transferred £	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward £
Parish Rooms	5,946	2,733	(4,058)		4,622
	<u>5,946</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>(4,058)</u>		<u>4,622</u>

10 Cash funds and location

	Unrestricted fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Total
General Funds	24,081			24,081
Choir Fund			5	5
Bell fund			3,913	3,913
Communion Service Materials			651	651
Outreach (Bloxham Puzzlers)			54	54
New Kitchen Fund			287	287
Building Our Future (BOF)			63,736	63,736
Flower fund			534	534
Churchyard			365	365
Parish rooms *		4,622		4,622
	<u>24,081</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>69,545</u>	<u>98,248</u>

* Not under direct control of the PCC Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE P.C.C.
OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, BLOXHAM**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 & 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulations, that section 144(2) of the Act does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of The Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(5) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's report

In connection with my examination of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - A. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, and
 - B. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations: have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



EXAMINER Ian Lapworth

Date Signed 6TH APRIL 2025