

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY, PORTCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1130090

Details

Other names ST MARY'S PCC, PORTCHESTER

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-06-10

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

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: Religious services and outreach into community

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£296,248	£327,231	-	-
2023-12-31	£305,954	£318,423	-	-
2022-12-31	£356,825	£261,486	-	-
2021-12-31	£303,195	£241,151	-	-
2020-12-31	£216,342	£216,505	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev IAN MEREDITH BA	Chair	2013-06-16
Christopher Hayes		2020-10-18
DENISE RUTH SIMMONS		2017-04-02
Eric Standen		2022-09-01
GERALD ANDERSON MA		
Ian Parker		2019-04-01
Jeff Gennings		2021-07-28
Michael Crate		2021-07-28
Peter Bradley		2019-04-01
Raymond Ian Norman		2017-04-02
Stephen Oliver		2022-08-01

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Portchester

Charity Registration Number 1130090

2024 Reports and Accounts



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Portchester

Charity Registration Number 1130090

2024 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 20th May 2025 ~ 7.00pm

Agenda

Those residents in the parish or on the Electoral Roll of the church may attend part A of the meeting. Only those on the Electoral Roll may attend part B.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Apologies
3. Presentation of Clerk and Tellers

PART A ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

- Minutes of the Vestry meeting of 2024
- Matters arising
- Election of Churchwardens: *2 vacancies: Nominated: Denise Simmons & Ian Parker*

1. Portchester Parish Hall Accounts
2. Any other business

PART B ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

- Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- Matters arising
- Presentation of the Electoral Roll
- Election of members to the Parochial Church Council:

PCC Members 5 vacancies: Nominations: Matthew Crosby, Steve Traer, Jenny Olding, Eric Standen, 1 vacancy

1. Election of members to the Deanery Synod: *Nominated: Steve Oliver & Peter Bradley*
2. Appointment of External Auditor
3. Financial Accounts
4. Reports:
 - (a) Vicar's general church report
 - (b) PCC
 - (c) Diocesan Synod
 - (d) Deanery Synod
 - (e) Safeguarding
 - (f) Fabric
 - (g) Sound and Technical Team
 - (h) Children, Youth & Families Ministry
 - (i) Seniors' Ministry
 - (j) Outreach
 - (k) Tea Room

- (l) Churchyard
- (m) Men's Breakfasts
- (n) Men's dinners
- (o) Friday Friends
- (p) Choir & LMS Music Group
- (q) Café Church
- (r) Altar Servers & Welcomers
- (s) Tea & Company
- (t) Concerts, Events & Social Team

17. Any other business (to be presented to the Chairman prior to the meeting)

18. Vote of thanks

19. Conclusion

ANNUAL REPORT – 2024
PORTCHESTER PARISH HALL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 249672

AIM

The purpose of the charitable trust is to provide a well maintained building for use by the people of Portchester for religious purposes and use by the community in accordance with the trust deed dated 1907 and the sub-joined deed dated 1915. The assets of the trust are vested in the Trustees, for the time being, of the charitable trust.

GOVERNANCE

The trust is governed by the Trustees for the time being in accordance with the purposes of the trust set out in the trust deed. The trustees are an autonomous body whose prime duty is to fulfil the purpose of the trust deed. The current Trustees can seek advice where necessary from the Charity Commission to ensure their actions are in accord with the current charity law and the trust deed.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees for 2024 were as follows:-

Revd Ian Meredith	Vicar
Mrs Denise Simmons	Church Warden
Mr Eric Standen	Church Warden
Cllr Dave Wiltshire	Fareham Borough Council
Cllr Mrs Chrissie Bainbridge	Fareham Borough Council
Mr Nick Walker	Co-optee
Mrs Elaine Emery	Co-optee
Mrs Sue Walker	Co-optee

HOW THE TRUSTEES OPERATE

The Trustees have an annual obligation to present the accounts at the Vestry meeting of St Mary's church. The Vestry meeting was discontinued by the Church of England in 1927 but St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting is structured in two parts. The first part allows the Parish Hall accounts to be presented as required by the trust deed.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2024 has been a busy year for the hall. There has been the introduction of a variety of new regular groups to the building and irregular bookings are steady. We are booked 365 days of the year. Improvement works include new LED lights installed in the main hall (main and side lights) and kitchen, and a new gas boiler was installed and all radiators and valves serviced. External lighting around the building was improved. The kitchen had one tea urn replaced.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The Trustees will continue to maintain the Hall to a high standard and have a programme of improvements for 2025. All monies that have been placed in the COIF are ring fenced for use for repairs and renewals for the Hall, as required.

POLICIES ON RISK

Trustees have continued to fully insure the building and hold public liability insurance and comply with all health and safety requirements.



PORTCHESTER PARISH HALL

Registered Charity Number: 249672

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PORTCHESTER PARISH HALL for 2024

Expenditure	"2023"	"2024"
Cleaning	£6,172.20	£6,037.00
Windows	£360.00	£380.00
Repair/Serviceing	£3,307.17	13,649.38
Waste Collection	£437.68	£462.44
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Sewage and Water Rates)	£6,383.39	£7,710.45
Gardening	£3,431.00	£3,745.00
Supplies	£453.99	£630.43
Insurance	£2,276.56	£2,350.75
Postage & Office supplies	£274.00	£116.80
Refurb/replacements		£3,475.49
Total Expenditure	£23,095.99	£38,557.74
Surplus for the year	£22,897.28	£6,257.67
	£45,993.27	£44,815.41
Receipts		
	"2023"	"2024"
Hire of Hall (Cash)	£1,283.00	£382.00
(Cheques)	£13,650.00	£5,348.00
(Direct Credits)	£26,094.50	£34,455.00
Rent from Office (inc electricity- 2023) - Direct credits	£1,699.56	£424.89
Lease from Scouts	£160.00	£160.00
Revenue from Boxtree Court flats	£300.00	£300.00
Sub Totals	£43,187.06	£41,069.89
Refund from Uni-Guard		£234.00
Lloyds Interest	£185.74	£253.65
COIF Interest	£2,620.47	£3,257.87
Total Receipts	£45,993.27	£44,815.41
Bank Balances at end of year		
	"2023"	"2024"
COIF	£63,586.60	£66,844.47
Lloyds	£91,495.17	£97,250.28
Lloyds Deposit Account	£21,294.65	£21,548.30
Plus credits	£2,698.00	£34.00
Less direct credits paid for 2025		-£450.00
Less payments & refunds	-£333.12	-£625.28
Balance at end of year		£184,601.77
Breakdown of utilities:		
	2023	2024
Electricity	£4,382.62	£4,942.35
Water/Sewage	£1,182.27	£1,311.04
Gas	£818.50	£1,457.06

Elaine Emery (Treasurer)

Ann Featherstone (Auditor)

Elaine Emery

A. Featherstone

25th March 2025

Minutes of APCM meetings held in St. Mary's Church Portchester on Tuesday 21st May 2024

1.OPENING PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Rev Dr Ian Meredith welcomed everyone to the meetings of the Parish and the Congregation of St Mary's Portchester. He thanked so many people for making the effort to attend the church's annual business meeting, particularly since it is now held in the evening, rather than following the Eucharist on a Sunday. He also welcomed the recently re-elected Councillor Chrissie Bainbridge and newly elected Councillor Dave Wiltshire who were in attendance for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Ian then opened the meeting with prayer.

2.APOLOGIES

Jackie Mitchell stated that the following had submitted apologies.

Sir Michael Moore
Lady Penny Moore
Hilary Dawson
Sally Nguyen
Marilyn Nash
Liz Avery
Ian Parker
Rachel Standen
Pauline Gennings
Jane Baker
Mike Baker

3.PRESENTATION OF CLERK AND TELLERS

Clerk – Rev Ian Meredith introduced Jackie as clerk. Tellers were not required as there were no nominations tonight.

A. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The first part of the meeting was open to any resident of the village of Portchester; the second part of the meeting is only for those listed on the church Electoral Roll.

4.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 2023 – tabled

Portchester Parish Hall accounts were presented; no questions were forthcoming regarding these.

The minutes from APCM held Tuesday 30th May 2023 were presented and accepted.

Proposed Barbara Andrews

Seconded Terry Gautrey

As there were no objections, the minutes were accepted.

5.MATTERS ARISING – none were raised.

6.ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Rev Ian explained that 2 Churchwardens are allowed for each parish, who are elected on an annual basis. We have received 2 nominations, both proposed and seconded: Denise Simmons and Eric Standen. Therefore, they stand elected.

Rev Ian also explained a new rule that has been introduced this year to help prevent unsuitable nominees from being elected. The rule allows anyone to call for a vote from the floor; and then any nominated person would have to receive at least 50% of the votes. However, since there were no objections to our nominations, and Denise and Eric have served well for the past year, Rev Ian accepted that no vote was necessary on this occasion. He declared them elected as churchwardens for the Parish of Portchester for the next year and thanked them for their service. A round of applause followed.

7.PORTCHESTER PARISH HALL ACCOUNTS – tabled

The annual report and accounts of Portchester Parish Hall were presented as required by the 1907 Trust Deed. They are shown on pages 3 and 4 of the booklet and were noted and adopted as correct.

This meeting is held, and the parish are presented with the Parish Hall accounts. It is held historically as the annual meeting was held in the Parish Hall, but we are no longer the majority trustees of the Parish Hall.

Rev Ian explained that the Parish Hall is run by 7 trustees: 3 are from the church (vicar and churchwardens, who are there by virtue of their office); 2 are appointed by Fareham Borough Council – and these are Chrissie Bainbridge and Dave Wiltshire (so they were present at the meeting in that capacity, too); and the remaining 2 are co-opted by the other 5 trustees, to serve for 4 years (yet to be appointed). Rev Ian added that, as Chrissie and Dave have only just been appointed and haven't held a meeting yet, they may not be able to answer questions. No questions were raised.

Chrissie added that they are currently reading through the constitution, minutes, and accounts to get a better understanding. They have met Chris Hayes in the office and are looking forward to the future.

Rev Ian added that the Parish Hall is well run, with high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, and that the finances seem sound. He thanked the trustees for their work and looks forward to working with the new trustees.

8.AOB FOR THE PARISH OF PORTCHESTER – none.

At this point, anyone not on the church electoral roll was invited to leave. (Anyone on the Electoral Roll is the nearest we have to church membership and gives you the ability to vote at the meeting.)

The meeting was then closed.

NOTE: These minutes have been scrutinised by the PCC. The minutes are believed to be a true record of the meeting and are commended to the APCM 2025 for their acceptance.

B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

9. MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

These are on pages 7-9 of the document supplied. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting held in 2023.

Proposed: Judy Sherry

Seconded: Elaine Johnson

10.MATTERS ARISING - none

11. PRESENTATION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

Denise Simmons stated that last year, as per the minutes, there were 290 on the Electoral Roll. She was pleased to report that this year that, despite having to remove 32 names, there are now 300. This means that 42 new people have come on to the Electoral Roll. Denise thanked them for committing to becoming a member of this church.

She added that 71 people (24% of the Electoral Roll) live outside of the parish, so choose to travel to worship here – which means we must be doing something right.

Rev Ian commented that this is highest number on the Electoral Roll in his 11 years at St Mary's, which is very encouraging. He also thanked the new people for coming on to the Roll – most of whom have joined the church or come to faith very recently.

12. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev Ian explained that there were 7 vacancies, and 7 nominations for the PCC: Michael Crate, Jeff Gennings, Elaine Johnson, Tanya Simpson, Dawn Traer, plus 2 vacancies to be co-opted by the PCC.

The 2 vacancies were created by Cheryl Owen's resignation and Steve Oliver taking up Diana Bolton's place on the Deanery Synod, which means he is now an ex-officio member of the PCC (as are Peter Bradley and Gerry Anderson), thus creating 1 vacancy.

Rev Ian therefore invited anyone with an interest in the PCC to let him know if they would like to be co-opted to the PCC for a year, to see what it is all about – and then maybe stand for election in their own right.

13. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO DEANERY SYNOD

As per point 12, Diana Bolton has left, and Steve Oliver offered to take her place on the Deanery Synod. Rev Ian declared that there were no other nominations, so Steve Oliver is elected, and joins Gerry and Peter as our Deanery Synod representatives.

14. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Steve Oliver, Treasurer, advised that we would like to appoint Kevin Smith of KSL Accountants, Spur Road, Cosham, as our independent examiner. Rev Ian stated that the PCC would like to recommend this appointment.

Proposed: Peter Bradley

Seconded: Michael Crate

Bryan Jerrard asked about Portsmouth University who used to supervise their senior students to examine our accounts at a reasonable cost. Steve explained that their turnover limit for this service is £200k; so, with our turnover now at £300k, this is no longer an option.

15. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

The Financial Accounts and a detailed report by the Treasurer, Steve Oliver, were included in the APCM Report and Accounts which had been previously circulated to those on the Electoral Roll via email (with printed copies also available). Steve invited any questions from the audience (none had been submitted prior to the meeting).

- Sue Wilson asked for clarification on Expenditure: 'Bell ringers, choir, admin & ops staff' (under the subheading 'Other salaries & pensions'). Rev Ian explained that this comprised the salaries for the Parish Administrator, Vicar's PA, Operations Manager, plus any fees paid to bell ringers and choir.
- Neil Sherry congratulated the Treasurer on a very clear presentation of the accounts, including pie charts. He queried whether there was repetition in the accounts, and why those on pages 15-16 were 'Unaudited'. Rev Ian explained that the first set of figures simply provided a breakdown of the headings used on the pie chart, with the main accounts being published on page 15-16. Steve explained that he had arranged for KSL to audit the accounts, but they were not received in time for the publication of report. The audited accounts will be available soon (although they will be in typical accountancy format), for anyone who wishes to see them. By next year's APCM, we should be able to include Audited accounts in the report.
- Judith Williams asked for clarification on choir costs. Barbara Andrews explained that pre-Covid, the Choir were paid to sing at weddings. Since then, they haven't sung at weddings, but the entry will be a left-over from that.
- Elaine Johnson asked whether the big difference in the hospitality costs meant we have been more hospitable and sociable this year? Also, what were meals and accommodation for? Steve explained that we have had some visiting speakers, who we needed to pay for overnight accommodation. Elaine suggested we could reduce costs by either sourcing cheaper biscuits or putting out a donation basket at the 11.30, like at the 9.30am service?
- Gwyneth Lock asked why we have to pay for the Parish Hall. Rev Ian explained that Parish Hall is a separate entity. We do not pay rent for the Friday services, monthly Tea & Company, or the 'Different Day'; and we have a discounted rate for the office and other bookings. However, this is something that the new trustees will be looking into.

16.REPORTS – tabled.

- (a) Vicar's general church report
- (b) PCC
- (c) Diocesan Synod
- (d) Deanery Synod
- (e) Safeguarding
- (f) Fabric
- (g) Sound and Technical Team
- (h) Youth Ministry
- (i) Seniors' Ministry
- (j) Tea Room
- (k) Churchyard
- (l) Men's Breakfasts
- (m) Men's dinners

- (n) Friday Friends
- (o) Choir
- (p) Café Church
- (q) Altar Servers
- (r) Tea & Company
- (s) Concerts, Events & Social Team

Rev Ian explained that this year, the above reports have accounted for everything that happens in the church, to give a better overview to the congregation. He asked for any comments.

Bryan Jerrard asked where copies of the PCC meeting minutes could be viewed. Rev Ian explained how, in the recent past during certain (legal) controversies, the minutes had been used against the church, so a decision was made not to display them. However, anyone who is interested can now make an appointment via Chris Hayes to view them in the Church office. Rev Ian added that most of what the PCC decides always appears in narrative form in the newsletter, as he uses the PCC agenda when he's drafting the content – therefore, there should be no surprises for anyone who does read the minutes (as long as they have read the newsletter!).

Gerry Anderson asked if the time of the meeting could be published on the Report & Accounts agenda (which is attached to the document) in future.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none presented to the Chairman prior to the meeting.

18. VOTE OF THANKS

Jean Withinshaw proposed the vote of thanks.

At 7.40pm, the meeting was concluded by commending one another by saying the grace to one another.

NOTE: These minutes have been scrutinised by the PCC. The minutes are believed to be a true record of the meeting and are commended to the APCM 2025 for their acceptance.

Vicar's Annual Report for 2024

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Introduction from the Vicar

Dear Members and Friends. You hold in your hands or are reading on your screen the report of our activities for 2024. This is the second year we have used this format, and it seems to have been received well.

We have made a few paper copies for those who still require this. The Annual Report also comes as one document whereas in past years it used to come as two.

The report is in readiness for our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on Tuesday 20th May at 7.00pm in the church and which I hope as many as possible will attend.

This is part of our stewardship and accountability, firstly to God – have we used the gifts and talents he has given us, to the best of our ability? Have we been prudent and wise with the finances, as well as being generous and equipping a well-resourced church? Secondly, our

accountability to you as a congregation, or rather to each other, as it's not a case of 'us and them' but all of us together.

The Financial Report is always of great interest, and we as a PCC are grateful to Steve Oliver for keeping us up to date and for producing it in an easy-to-understand manner. If you have any questions on this, it might be prudent to send them to Steve beforehand, thus you will be better assured of getting the answer you require.

It is in this area that we face our greatest challenge. Due to the lack of volunteers, we are increasingly having to rely on paid staff. This is not to put pressure on any of our staff, as we realise that with a church our size – (which also punches beyond its size!), we cannot expect all our ministry to be done on a voluntary basis. The building has also required some re-ordering and repairs this year, all of which has meant that the expenditure continues to rise.

However, I am sad to report that for the third year running our income has decreased: 2022 (£356,825); 2023 (£317,477); 2024 (£294,248) and of particular concern – our giving has particularly decreased: 2022 (£143,825); 2023 (£138,250); 2024 (£137,475). We are down £6,000 from two years ago.

For the second year running we ended the year with a deficit, and this year it was a whopping £30,983.

We obviously cannot sustain such a situation for too long before our reserves are used up on running the church. We are keeping an eye on things. Some people think that the Tea Room pays for St Mary's, therefore they don't have to give. As much as we rely on the Tea Room (more than we ought, and we are grateful for it), the largest part of our income is from regular giving.

Part of the reason for this decrease is that several of our older and very generous givers have died this year or have moved away. Although the church is actually growing in numbers attending, this is mainly made up by newer and younger people. Several of these are new to the faith, and regular generous giving has probably not yet become part of their discipleship. Perhaps they think the Church of England supports us financially! It is the opposite – we support the Church of England.

A glimmer of hope is that those giving through the PGS (Parish Giving Scheme) is seeing a small increase each year: 2022 (£50,690); 2023 (£54,098); 2024 (£56,808) with its corresponding Gift Aid.

Despite our challenges, we are still able to give away a tithe of our offerings.

Our two Churchwardens, Denise Simmons and Eric Standen have served us exceptionally well, often working away in the background on so many different projects. This year Eric is standing down after two years, although Denise has offered to stand for re-election. This means we will be looking for a new Churchwarden. There are also vacancies on the PCC. Applications for any of these roles must be with me 2 weeks before the APCM 20^h May.

In thankfulness for a good year, and in anticipation of what is to come, I wish you all a successful and harmonious APCM.

Rev. Ian Meredith (Vicar)

General Church Report for 2024

By Rev Ian Meredith

January. This month we held a survey to see what people felt about taking Communion now that the worst of Covid is over. The majority preference was for the common cup to be restored, although we still retain individual glasses for those with health concerns. We reintroduced the prayer ministry during Communion at the 9.30 service.

February. In February I also became Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's Church, Titchfield. This was to enable them to appoint an Associate Priest to live in the Vicarage. With the possibility that this might not be an experienced priest, they asked me to take on this role. It is also part of our Deanery's commitment to be more collegial and mutually supportive. I hope you see this as part of St Mary's 'giving'.

March. We held a series of Sunday evening services during Lent on 'The Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. These were very well attended with 50 people some nights, which means we have one of the largest evening services in the diocese (one of the only ones!). This month saw another batch of candidates being baptised by full immersion which is becoming more regular now, particularly now that we have our own baptismal pool, kindly donated by one of our members. Four of our members were confirmed at Portsmouth Cathedral.

April. This month we learned of the death of Rev Michael Cooper, a former Vicar of this church. We published the results of a congregation wide worship survey, which in the main showed a very positive response to our worship patterns and variety of styles.

May. The Rogationtide Prayer Walk which had fallen away since Covid was revised, with increasing numbers this year. The D-Day service was again held but with a diminishing number of veterans.

June. This month we introduced 'Church Suite' which is an online hub allowing members of St Mary's to access details of people, book tickets for concerts and events and generally know what's happening. On 6th June, Rev Penny Thatcher was licensed as the Associate Priest at Titchfield. On 29th June Rev Elizabeth Pearn was ordained as a deacon, and she has been appointed as our new Curate. David and Jan Palmer saw an article on Facebook that we needed help with the church gardens. They gladly volunteered and have done a great job. What's more, David and Jan aren't even members of St. Mary's so we greatly value such goodwill from the wider community.

July. A first of our summer concerts was held with Alistair Goodwin. This was well supported and raised money for the church.

August. Another two concerts were given by classical guitarist Jonathan Pragg and later that month by Russian pianist Angelina Kopyrina. The Portchester Gala Day which had been planned for June but had to be postponed was held this month. Members of the Good News Christian Fellowship (formerly Free Church) led our service on the Bank Holiday Sunday.

September. We saw an increasing number of young families join the church so on the seventh a family event was held in the Parish Hall. This was good fun and was well supported. Relationships between the young people were made and others strengthened. Our new Curate, Rev Elizabeth along with Jenny Olding started a new Thursday afternoon women's bible study at the Hub. The Alpha Course has now become a regular feature of St Mary's calendar and saw a good number of people attend. This month we began using the Hub as a venue for mid-week teaching series, "Growing in Faith." Rev Celia Jones led the first course which was on Saturday mornings.

October. We welcomed back the praise band from the Calvary Apostolic Assembly, a black Pentecostal Church from Portsmouth. We raised the roof with God's praise that night! What a variety of services we put on at St Mary's! We held an 'All Together Service' on 4th October at the Community School. Roger Millard retired as our church Verger, and Ray Norman was appointed as our new Verger. This month we saw a major re-ordering of the chancel and crossing, giving us a very useful new space and the high altar being used a lot more in worship.

November. Our new website was launched this month, which has been the fourth incarnation in 12 years. This is the best so far and has many amazing features, particularly a direct link to our YouTube channel where our recorded Sunday services can be found. Another confirmation was held at the Cathedral when seven of our members were confirmed. A new portrait of HM King Charles III, donated by the Government, was displayed in the nave. On All Saints Day, a new book written by me called "Haunted Portchester" was launched. This was very much a community project with several residents and others contributing stories and personal experiences. We printed 400 copies which had all sold out by the end of the year, raising £1,800 for the building fund. Three members were baptised by full immersion.

December. The Christmas Fayre organised this year by Elaine Johnson raised over £3,000 for church funds. Again, this brought in so many friends and supporters from the local community. The month was clearly dominated by Christmas services, and the WI started the Christmas season with their carol service held at St Mary's. 'Narnia' was the theme of our Christmas services, and it was great to have the support of Portsmouth's Sea Cadets, Spinnaker Brass and the Community Choir. Andy Economides was our guest speaker at a new informal carol service, and the Christmas celebrations ended with a visit from a choir from Holland who sang Schubert's German Mass as the setting for the parish Eucharist on 29th December. Numbers attending our Christmas services were the best for the past few years. The year ended with sadness as Roger Millard died on 27th December.

The Church Magazine 'St Mary's News' was published about 9 times in 2024. It is so full each issue, reflecting the bustling life of our church. The colour photographs on the front are mainly from Trevor Harmon, another good community friend of St Mary's who generously allows us to use all his photos. We send out 458 by e-mail and a further 100 paper copies are printed, all of which are taken.

Moved away. This year several of our very active and generous members moved away, and we are the poorer for that. These included: Diana Bolton, Roger and Enid Bazeley, Tim and Penny McIlroy, Helen Thompson and Sandra Marris.

Died. This year we also reported the largest number of deaths in any one year, the equivalent of one each month: Peter Webb, Pam Ide, Joan Searle, Hazel Griffiths, Penny Wood, Susan Hubbard, Jean Baker, Tricia Purchase, Sadie Battley, David Edwards, Jan Shephard and Roger Millard.

New members. We have been encouraged at the number of new people joining us this year, many of them at the younger age. We hope that they will soon fill the gaps. Numbers at all services are mainly static. At least we're not declining, but we need to engage in a lot more outreach and evangelism if we are going to see more people become Christians – that is, converted Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus (not just nice people who believe in God!)

What a great team we have of clergy, paid staff, volunteers and those who give, attend, love and encourage in so many ways. Despite the challenges, I continue to be very happy here – what's not to like! We do the best we can to provide good teaching and sermons, inspiring worship, loving pastoral care and compassionate outreach through our Pastoral Assistants, youth leaders, Tea Room staff and volunteers, literature, social media, website, our 10% charity giving

and the Farmer & Ruel Fund. All that we take in is to enable us to give out. Freely we have received, freely do we give.

Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod in which our own Gerry Anderson is a Diocesan Synod Lay elected member for the Fareham Deanery met three times in 2024 and discussed and voted on a series of local Portsmouth Diocese issues, topical & General Synod matters including

- The Assisted Dying Bill
- Net Zero Carbon Action Plans and developments across the Diocese & the Dioceses of Chichester & Guildford which has enabled the three dioceses to obtain central funding for three Net Zero Carbon people to support local Parishes achieve Net Zero in 2030 in line with the General Synod 2020 resolution
- Living in Love & Faith and the proposed General Synod debate in February 2025 relating to marriage & sexuality
- Safeguarding nationally, with the Diocese and at local Parish level
- The Parish Review Board and the discussions surrounding the proposed Parish Share revisions
- Appointment of a Suffragan Bishop to oversee the IOW
- The Revive, Revitalise & Renew strategy with an emphasis on the Revive element, re-energising the spiritual life of clergy and lay leaders within the diocese.
- Church planting in the Diocese led by Harbour Church and the appointment of Rev. Henry Kendall in the Fareham Deanery with plans to plant two new congregations in Fareham including one in Welbourne Village which commenced construction in 2024

Full details of discussions in Diocese Synod meetings held in 2024 can be found on [Diocesan Synod - Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

Deanery Synod Report

The Fareham Deanery Synod elected representatives for St Mary's in 2024 were Peter Bradley and Steve Oliver

There were 3 formal meetings of the Deanery Synod, 8 February at Holy Trinity Church Fareham, 27 June at Holy Rood Church Stubbington and 7 November at St John the Baptist Locks Heath - all chaired by Revd Richard England (Area Dean).

New clergy were warmly welcomed to the Deanery: Rev Dr Sam Cullen (Holy Trinity with St Columba, Rev Luiz Lima (St John's Locks Heath), Rev Penny Thatcher (St Peter's Titchfield) and Rev Henry Kendal (St John's Fareham).

The main theme for agenda items throughout the year were the Deanery Plan and the review of the Parish Share.

Deanery Plan – this is an essential tool for planning, supporting and developing the Fareham Deanery.

Three elements were agreed to underpin the plan namely: **Prayer** – how do we pray for and with each other? **Partnership** – which is growing across the Deanery and the Bishop is keen to use our Western wards Partnership as a possible model for other churches and breaking away from

being insular is key to successful partnerships. **Planting** – as a Deanery we would want to be seen to be keen to try out new ideas, embracing a ‘pioneering spirit’.

Parish Share Review – PCCs have all been involved with this review completing several questionnaires (Fareham Deanery was the most responsive in providing answers). As a result of the Parish Share Review St. Mary’s 2025 annual Parish Share is expected to rise by 5%. A further 5% increase is projected for 2026

Other topics covered throughout the year included discussions on Eco Church and the way forward to net zero targets set for 2030 & church planting in the Fareham Deanery led by Rev. Henry Kendall

Safeguarding

Tanya Simpson who had served the Parish of St. Mary’s so well for two years as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) decided to step down from the role in 2024 and in late 2024 Steve Oliver the Church Operations Manager took on the PSO role as he recognised the importance of safeguarding with regard to the overall compliance of the church which he is responsible (health and safety, data protection etc). The PCC thanked Tanya for her hard work in the role and managing the transition of safeguarding from a localised reporting system to a Diocese led portal backed by Thirty-One Eight the DBS application portal. To enable Steve Oliver to add safeguarding to his existing responsibilities a Safeguarding Team was formed with a Deputy PSO and an administrator

Andy Hawkins was appointed by the Diocese in 2024 and was assigned St. Mary’s Church Portchester as part of his patch

There were no major safeguarding issues that arose in 2024. There were some concerns raised with the management of ex-offenders attending St. Mary’s Church, but these were addressed in cooperation of the DSO (Diocese Safeguarding Office).

The importance of safeguarding within the parish continues to be recognised by the PCC and is now the first item on the agenda to be discussed at PCC meetings. It is hoped a PCC & Staff Safeguarding Away Day can be arranged in 2025 to enable PCC & staff members can have further training to enable them to undertake their roles in St. Mary’s with an even deeper understanding of safeguarding within our modern & diverse church and wider community.

Fabric

The Fabric team considers it to be a great honour to oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the beautiful historic building of St. Mary’s Church and they would like to thank all the members of the team and volunteers for all their hard work this year.

Over the past year the Fabric team have continued with all of the normal annual maintenance issues such as:

- Inspection of lightning conductor, PAT Testing & statutory electrical inspection
- Repair and maintenance of our lighting system
- Repairs of the wall surrounding our churchyard
- Cleaning and maintenance of drains both surface and waste
- Carry out any work identified after the recent Quinquennial Inspection
- And many other routine day-to-day maintenance issues.

In the past year the Fabric team are pleased to say that they have completed the third shed in the Paddock. This shed is mainly to be used for the storage of equipment used by the younger members of our congregation.

The Fabric team report that the fruit trees which were planted last year in the Paddock in the main are doing well, all but one have survived and the team are looking forward to harvesting fruit in the next year or so.

During the past winter a large baylor tree was blown down in the Paddock. The Fabric team had intended to use the tree and branches in the ongoing construction of the natural fencing along the northern border of the Paddock.

Last year a large amount of plaster came down at the West Wall of the church which meant there had to be scaffolding erected so repairs could be undertaken. The repair work on the West Wall were planned to be completed in early 2025.

Towards the end of 2024 work was carried out at the crossing and chancel and this has provided a very useful additional space which has enhanced our worship and greatly improved our ability to host concerts, sacred dance and plays etc.

Over the past year the Fabric team have continued to engage with new technology such as drone surveys of the church building, which has enabled the team to see broken tiles and replace them before they cause any problems. They have been able to see into the gutters and see any obstruction and deal with it before they block and cause damage to the building.

Sound and Technical Team

Over the past year the Sound and Technical team have endeavoured to continue to improve both sound and visual aids within the church. Week to week the team finds more uses for the new Church projector screen which we installed in 2023 as well as regular worship it is also uses for social events and visual reflections for funerals.

The team are grateful for the additional people in the church who have stepped in to help with the technical production for the 11.30am LMS services.

The Church have recently received a grant from Cllr. Roger Price the Hampshire County Councillor to purchase a new mixing desk to be used for community events and outdoor services, such as the annual Portchester Remembers Service in the Precinct etc. We are grateful to Cllr. Price for his continued support of St. Mary's Church and the wider Portchester community.

The Sound and Technical team continue to film many of the weekly Church services throughout the year enabling those people who are unable to get to church through ill health or away on holiday to still enjoy and take part in St. Mary's Church services via our streaming on You Tube.

In 2025 the Teams are hoping to improve the technical and broadband capabilities to be able to live stream services from the church. The team continue to look for new improved software to aid our weekly worship such as Presenter a program that we have used for the 11.30 LMS services. The team are also looking to put together a proposal to the PCC for a new sound desk cabinet to store and use the ever-growing equipment required for filming & presenting of services etc.

If any member of the congregation feels that they may be able to contribute to the Sound and Technical team, please speak to one of the team and who will be very pleased to tell them about the work that is carried out week on week.

Children, Youth & Families Ministry

This was led by the Youth, Children's & Family Minister Tanya Simpson who led the weekly Connect & Momentum young people's groups helped by her team of Leroy Osborne, Dillon Simpson, Lyn Wilson & Rob Rolfe. A successful Panto was put on in early December by the whole Children & Youth team along with the children and young people attending both Connect & Momentum. The team were grateful to Will & Amy Yates and Annabel Barr for their acting & costume support roles, Lyn Wilson for helping to provide the costumes & set design and Eric Hanley for producing and painting the set props and to Eric Standen and Ray Norman who provided the audio visual.

During 2024 Rev. Elizabeth Pearn the Curate took responsibility for developing the outreach to the families.

St Mary's Lambs, the Wednesday toddler, group continues to grow led by Amy Sparks with helpers including Jenny Olding, Kate Hanley & Holly Broderick.

Junior Church continues to be provided at the 11.30am LMS service and was led by experienced Junior Church leaders including Tanya Simpson, Valerie Agar, Terry Gautrey & Amy Sparks

A Family Day event was held in the Parish Hall in September 2024 with similar events planned for 2025 and beyond. St. Mary's is grateful to Jenny Olding and Holly Broderick and their team for arranging and putting on these events.

Seniors Ministry

Our Seniors Ministry Pastoral Team led by Eric Standen & Sue Oliver who are also both Anna Chaplains visited those in our congregation who live alone or are residents in the various care homes in the Parish and the wider community. The team is made up with around 10 dedicated volunteers in the Pastoral Team to enable people in need within our parish to be visited or even just to receive a phone call or greetings card.

Events like The Different Day and the annual summer afternoon tea ensure that the seniors in our church enjoy a time together.

The Pastoral team also distributed over 20 hampers at Christmas to those in our parish who would otherwise spend Christmas alone

Outreach

St. Mary's held its annual Alpha Group in the Autumn in 2024 attended by nearly twenty people beginning their journeys of faith. The Alpha Group was led by Penny McIlroy & Carol Gay.

A Newcomers Meal was held on 8th March 2024 in the Parish Hall where people who had joined the church within the previous twelve months or so were invited to enjoy a meal & fellowship.

Easter Eggs containing the Easter Story were distributed to all children & teenagers attending St. Mary's or one of the young people's groups or those families attending St Mary's Lambs.

Advent Calendars containing the real story of Christmas were distributed in November 2024 to similar young people's groups & families.

St. Mary's sees this as a unique opportunity to get the Easter & Christmas messages into the homes of people who may not know or have heard about the life & death of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In June 2024 thirty, mainly unchurched people, attended the *Glorious Outreach Dinner* at the Village Hotel in Portsmouth organised by Faith & Football which was followed by a buffet a few weeks later and an outreach curry night in Portsmouth in October.

The annual Hightide summer youth event was held in St. Mary's church when over 100 young people from churches across the Solent Region congregated in the church to play games, enjoy & participate in uplifting Christian worship and hear the gospel preached by the Minister @ Paulsgrove Baptist Church with many young people becoming born again Christians that night.

The Pastoral Team had a tent & table at the annual Portchester Gala held in August (postponed from the usual date in June due to inclement weather) to promote the church pastoral work and to sell the 900th anniversary & history of Portchester books written by Bryan Jerrard.

Prison outreach work continued to be provided by Tim McIlroy but following Tim & Penny's move to Wales in late 2024 it is not envisaged that this work will continue unless anybody from the congregation steps forward to offer to take over the work.

The use of social media to promote the church and its weekly services & activities was further enhanced in 2024, and the tearoom sponsored a weekly show on Angel Radio which has enabled the church to be "advertised" to effectively a worldwide listening audience via the internet.

Tearoom

Since the 2010's St. Mary's has had an active tearoom that sells teas, coffees, cakes, pies & snacks to the congregation & the wider community 7 days a week 52 weeks a year. All profits from sales are used to support St. Mary's Church. The Tearoom has a full time Catering Manager (Ron Prior) ably assisted by Dillon Simpson and over 20 volunteers who give up their spare time to support this valuable Christian resource and vital financial support for the church. The tearoom which was set up as a limited company in 2023 is managed by two Directors namely Ian Parker & Steve Oliver who report monthly to the PCC with financial and operational matters

Churchyard

The churchyard is maintained by the Sexton; Ian Parker with assistance from Steve and Dawn Traer who have taken on responsibility for the Rose Garden located behind the Labyrinth, Julia Gay and Fareham Borough Council who are responsible for cutting the grass. David and Jan Palmer offered to maintain the churchyard gardens, and the Church is very grateful to these two very kind people for making these gardens look so nice, colourful and weed free!

After the work to restore the artists graves was carried out in late 2023 and January 2024 no further large works were required in 2024 just the usual maintenance of the Churchyard grounds as and when required. Steve and Dawn ensure the rose garden is kept well maintained and will plant any roses requested to be planted in memory of loved ones. This often involves obtaining an engraved plaque and wooden stake.

A bench to remember Chris Rees was placed in the graveyard in early 2024 with funds raised from donations from members of the family and the congregation of St. Mary's. A number of families also requested that their loved ones' ashes be buried in the church graveyard during the year

Men's Breakfast

Around twenty men meet each month for 10 months of the year on the second Saturday of the month for breakfast and fellowship followed by a range of speakers and topics including the work of Street Pastors in Portsmouth, the Christian roots of professional football clubs, the work and history of Royal Navy Chaplains and Rev Trevor Hubble who spoke about his life & mission in South Africa.

A Ladies Breakfast is planned to be launched in early 2025

Men's Dinners

Launched at the Eat Out to Help Out campaign during August 2020 at the end of the first lockdown Bryan Jerrard has continued to arrange monthly "Men's Dinners" at the Delme Arms for eight months of the year which helps encourage the men of the church to meet to get to know each other from all four Sunday services and the other services held during the week

Friday Friends

A weekly group of mostly ladies who meet every Friday in the church for fellowship and support and who help at Christmas time to assemble and wrap the Christmas Hampers

Choir & LMS Music Group

The Church Choir led by our Church Organist Judith Williams made up of ladies from the church who mainly sing at the 9.30am Sunday Services and at the annual Christmas services.

The LMS Music Group led by Pauline Gennings is the music group & singers who provide the 11.30am Sunday morning service live worship for two to three Sundays per month.

Café Church

A monthly afternoon service & gathering starting at 4pm aimed at families with children which usually meets in St. Mary's Church on the third Sunday of the month (term time) and provides a cooked evening meal followed by games, sung worship, prayer and a bible story. Café Church provides an opportunity for families who don't attend a traditional church service to attend a service that is very family orientated and to enable them meet other parents and guardians for friendship and fellowship.

Altar Servers & Welcomers

St. Mary's is fortunate to have a dedicated team of Readers, Servers and Communion Assistants who help support the Clergy at the 8am & 9.30am at communion services.

St. Mary's Welcomers welcome the congregation and visitors to the three Sunday morning services and for the 11.30am service also serve the teas & coffees at the end of the service.

Tea & Company

A group set up originally by Sheila Marsden and now ably run by Eric & Rachel Standen to support the recent bereaved or those in our community who are suffering from the long-term effects of a bereavement such as loneliness. The group meets on the first Sunday of the month.

Concerts, Christmas Fayre & Social Events

Throughout the year St. Mary's are blessed with an array of concerts and social events. These events include a visit by the Solent Fellowship Band (Salvation Army), the annual skittles evening held in the church, the annual Harvest Supper held on the last Saturday in September,

special concerts/events to raise money for the building fund including the annual BBQ held in the summer.

The church also held a series of lunchtime concerts that included sessions by folk artist Alistair Goodwin, classical guitarist Jonathan Pragg & classical violinist Fumi Otsuki.

The church hosts the annual Christmas Fayre at the end of each November and is major fund raiser for the building or for urgent building repair bills (such as the West Wall repair). The tearoom also participates in the annual Portchester Summer Gala by providing the best BBQ of the day.

Other groups who regularly meet in & around St. Mary's Church include:

Jennifer's House Group

A house group of over 15 people meeting & attending each Tuesday in the North Chancel.

Contemplative Prayer Group

A silent prayer group who meets every Thursday morning in the Chancel who pray for the various events of the day.

Morning Prayer Group

A said prayer and reflection time that meets each week on a Wednesday & Friday morning at 9am

Women's Bible Study

A bible study & fellowship for ladies of all ages that meets each Thursday at 1pm in The Hub in Portchester Precinct

Connect & Momentum

Children's & Youth groups that meet every Friday in the Parish Hall Portchester. Connect meet at 6.15pm – 7.45pm & Momentum 7.45pm to 9pm

Castle Hand Bells

Hand bells group that meets every Monday at 7.30pm in St. Mary's New Room (Tearoom)

Aim and Purposes of the PCC

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent. The Reverend Dr. Ian Meredith in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and its fabric and 24 Jute Close Portchester.

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of the PCC is the formation of a community of people who are seeking to grow in faith, to live out that faith, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ through our service of, and engagement with those who live in the Parish of Portchester. The PCC does this in accordance with the teaching and practices of the Church of England.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees have taken account of such guidance when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning activities.

Achievement and Performance

In 2024 there are 300 (290 in 2023) parishioners on the electoral roll of whom 20% live outside the parish Boundary. The average weekly attendance counted in October 2024 was 211 of whom 22 were children (240 counted in October 2023 31 were children).

Safeguarding

St. Mary's recognise the importance of a safe Church and place where the congregation & visitors will know that their children and the vulnerable will be protected. St. Mary's safeguarding is led by Steve Oliver the Parish Safeguarding Officer assisted by Linda Johnson the Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer and Sue Oliver the Parish Safeguarding administrator. All PCC members, those in leadership roles, those who are responsible for children's and young people's groups & those who are involved in pastoral and other roles in the church have all had safeguarding training and those in appropriate roles have DBS Enhanced checks.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's Portchester

Ex- Officio Members

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr. Ian Meredith

Curate: The Reverend Elizabeth Pearn

Readers: Mrs. Carol Gay

Churchwardens: Mrs. Denise Simmonds (30th October 2021– present)_

Mr. Eric Standen (16th May 2023 – 21st May 2025)

Elected Members:

Diocesan Synod Representatives: Mr. Gerald Anderson (June 2018 – present)

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mr. Peter Bradley(1st April 2019 – present)

Mr. Stephen Oliver (February 2024 – present)

Laity Representatives:

Mr. Ian Parker (1st April 2019 – present)

Mr. Ray Norman (2nd April 2017 – present)

Mrs. Dawn Traer (15th April 2018 – present)

Mr. Stephen Traer (15th April 2018 – present)

Mr. Chris Hayes (25th October 2020 – present)

Mrs Tanya Simpson (23rd May 2023 – 20th May 2025)

Mr. Michael Crate (30th October 2021– present)

Ms. Elaine Johnson (21st May 2024 – present)

Mr. Mark Woods (21st May 2024 – present)

Mr. Jeff Gennings (30th October 2021– present)

PCC Secretary:

Mrs. Jackie Mitchell (31st May 2022– present)

PCC Treasurer:

Mr. Stephen Oliver (1st September 2022 – present)

Trustees

Chair: The Reverend Dr. Ian Meredith (16th June 2013 – present)

Others:

Mr. Ian Parker (1st April 2019 – present)

Mr. Ray Norman (2nd April 2017 – present)

Mrs. Dawn Traer (15th April 2018 – present)

Mr. Stephen Traer (15th April 2018 – present)

Mr. Chris Hayes (25th October 2020 – present)

Mrs Tanya Simpson (23rd May 2023 – 20th May 2025)

Mr. Michael Crate (30th October 2021 – present)

Ms. Elaine Johnson (21st May 2024 – present)

Mr. Mark Woods (21st May 2024 – present)

Mr. Jeff Gennings (30th October 2021 – present)

Standing Committee:

Chair: The Reverend Dr. Ian Meredith (16th June 2013 – present)

Members

The Reverend Elizabeth Pearn (September 2024 – present)

Mr. Ian Parker (1st April 2019 – present)

Mrs. Dawn Traer (15th April 2018 – present)

Mr. Peter Bradley (1st April 2019– present)

Mr. Stephen Oliver (1st September 2022 – present)

Mrs. Denise Simmons (30th October 2021 -present)

Mr. Eric Standen (16th May 2023 – 21st May 2025)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church

Council of the Parish Church of St. Mary's Portchester.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 27 - 30

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees St. Mary's PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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

Independent Examiner's statement

Charities with gross income exceeding £250,000.00 must be examined by a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith
Chartered Accountant
KSL Accountants
Vinnetrow Business Park
Chichester PO20 1QH

Treasurer's Report

Income

Once again St. Mary's annual income in 2024 dipped by around £21k against 2023 and we had to again rely on the reserves built up over many previous years however we were still able to do the many ministries and works that St. Mary's provide for the church and the wider community.

Clearly however we need to address the shortfall in income and the PCC led by the Treasurer & The Vicar are again on a mission in 2025 to encourage the many new members of our church who may not contribute regularly to the church finances either through the Parish Giving Scheme or by monthly standing order. The PCC also recognises in this increasingly cashless society when the baskets go around the church many people do not carry cash with them and so we have increased the methods of which to pay by card or phone by introducing QR payment codes in the weekly notices and on posters around the church.

If any member wishes to donate a one-off donation in addition to their regular giving, please arrange to pay into the church bank account or see the Church Treasurer. Thank you for your continued financial support.

No significant legacies were received in 2024, but we are expecting a significant legacy in 2025. If any Church member wishes to leave a legacy to the church they should speak to their solicitor, family, financial advisor or speak in private to The Vicar.

Sales of books are detailed in Publishing of Books in the income section of this report. We are grateful to both Rev. Ian & Bryan Jerrard for their book sales which have helped with the income.

We are also indebted to St. Mary's Tearoom Ltd for their donations in 2024 amounting to £62k which has contributed to St. Mary's income and has allowed the church to maintain its annual Parish Share commitment of a £100k pa.

Expenditure

During 2024 the PCC decided to invest in the building by reordering the Chancel cross over. One reason was to eliminate the many trip hazards the previous arrangement was subject to and to give the church a platform for music groups, choirs, dance groups even plays to be performed in the church and also as importantly to provide another worship area for prayer and worship. The reordered Chancel has also provided a safer space for the St Mary's Lambs to meet.

As is known St. Mary's is looking to build a £1.5million Heritage Centre and the long road of planning & grant applications have started in earnest which inevitably leads to professional Architect fees being incurred

There was an increase in Staff numbers and living wage rises in 2024. To support those in need financially there was the usual discretionary donations given by the Vicar as indicated in the Farmer & Ruel expenditure column.

St. Marys have continued to provide many hospitality teas, good quality of biscuits for after services (and more hygienic as they are individually wrapped). Spend on outreach, mission & discipleship has increased due to the church recognising Jesus call on the Church to spread the Gospel to the world (Mark 16 : 15) St. Mary's have started to do more outreach and mission in the community which has led to many new people joining St. Marys Church. These new people are often completely new and unchurched Christians.

The PCC took the decision in 2024 to purchase our own baptistry and following a request for a donation to purchase the baptistry a very kind single donation enabled the PCC to purchase the item and it was used for the December 2024 baptisms.

The Paddock sheds have all been erected and within budget.

In 2024 Rev. Ian's book *Haunted Portchester* was published and after printing and set up costs the profits that the sales of the books are generating are being put into the building fund. Bryan Jerrard's books and other books and card sales are continuing to add to the church income.

The Parish Share continues to be our single biggest monthly expenditure, and the Parish Share increased in 2024 by £4k pa. The St. Mary's Parish Share is not the highest in the Deanery. The Parish Share is used to pay our Vicar, support the Diocese and help other churches in the Diocese who are not as fortunate as St. Mary's to have income from the church members, attenders and visitors and of course the Tearoom meaning many churches simply cannot afford to pay all or even some of their Parish Share.

To enable St. Mary's to publicise events better we are now advertising more widely social events, Christmas services and the Christmas Fayre etc on social media, the monthly Stay Local magazine and noticeboards across the village which has meant we have seen post Covid record attendances at Christmas services and another increase in the annual Christmas Fayre in November.

Like last year we now include the Anna Chaplain wages in the Seniors Ministry column and the Youth & Families Minister in the Youth & Children section. This way we can demonstrate to the church and the wider community our financial, pastoral & spiritual commitment to the Young & Seniors in our communities.

The vicarage increase in 2024 was as a result of the need to purchase a new petrol mower for the garden and paddock.

As the tearoom turnover had exceeded the limit required for VAT registration in 2023 it was necessary to register the tearoom for VAT. After financial advice it was decided to separate the tearoom from the church and set it up as a limited company. St. Mary's Tearoom Ltd is now a registered company and registered for VAT. The two employees in the tearoom (Ron Prior and Dillon Simpson) have been TUPE across as employees of the PCC to employees of St. Mary's Tearoom Ltd. The PCC are considered the (only) shareholder of the company and the PCC appointed two members to be Directors of the company namely Steve Oliver and Ian Parker. Limited Company accounts for the first full year of trading (year ending 2024) will be published later this year.

**St. Mary's Church
Portchester**

**Annual Accounts December 31st 2024
Income**

Title	Description	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
PGS	Parish Giving Scheme	56,808	54,098	50,690
PGS Gift Aid	PGS Gift Aid	13,196	13,406	12,226
Regular giving	Standing Orders & Envelopes	40,866	39,359	53,019
Gift Aid	Regular giving not under PGS	10,889	13,406	12,506
Collections	Plate/Basket Offerings	16,104	17,981	15,384
Sub Total		137,883	138,250	143,825
Interest	Bank & investments	2,740	1,622	285
Bells Fund	Weddings & New bells	0	0	520
Building Fund	Monthly Giving, Off Donations Blue small collection boxes	3,388	2,967	240
Collection Boxes (Cash)	Pillar safe, candles,	4,440	5,640	2,312
Contactless Sum Up, Just Giving	Church Card Machine	5,004	4,599	1,768
Donations	Alpha Course, Specific Purpose	2,884	6,100	2,611
Farmer & Ruel Fund	One Off Donations	500	0	1,190
Funerals & Churchyard	Funeral Fees Includes Roses, Labyrinth,	21,714	30,228	13,543
Weddings	Wedding Fees	20,996	21,188	40,362
Fundraising & Social events (general)	Events, Concerts, Gala, Christmas Fayre, Soundwave, BBQ, Harvest Supper, Int Food Fest	6,478	6,286	7,304
Grants & Insurance Claims	Fareham Borough Council & Hants County Council	1,306	1,699	2,700
Legacies	Bequests not for specific purposes	0	5,000	0
Jute Close	Jute Close Rental Income	12,982	11,523	12,578
Church & New Room	Church & New Room Hire Fees Including Spinnaker Brass, AA	1,888	1,585	965

Refunds	Solicitor (2022), Overcharges	534	1,672	4,609
Sales of books & merchandise	Bryan Jerrard & Rev. Ian books & postcards etc	2,696	2,802	0
St Mary's Lambs	Weekly Donations/Subs	255	452	140
Misc	Monday Market, Sale of Church Equipment, Hampers, Men's Breakfast, Xmas Trees	1,188	927	0
Tea Room	Tea Room Transfers	62,203	72,316	107,158
Youth	Connect & Momentum, High Tide & Fireworks & Panto	2,609	2,621	2,430
Artist's memorials	Artists Exhibitions	0	0	4,125
Refugee Project	Refugees Support	0	0	7,960
Sub Total		158,365	179,227	213,000
GRAND TOTAL		£296,248	£317,477	£356,825

Annual Accounts December 31st2024
Expenditure

Title	Description	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
Altar & Sanctuary & Baptistry Purchase	Communion, oil, books, Cloths,	3,199	1,961	397
Artists Memorials	Repair & restoration of artists graves	1,185	4,125	0
Bank charges	Bank & Card Payment Machines	1,091	1,700	658
Bells	Bell Tower Survey & H&S Report	0	350	600
Existing Church Building Projects	TV, AV & Church Lighting Improvements,	6,541	37,862	5,632
New Building Project	Architects, QS fees, New Platform construction costs	32,561	14,397	7,616
Charity Giving (10% Fund)	Charity Support	3,263	5,962	3,752
Churchyard maintenance	Faculty for Exhumation, Rose Garden	352	286	459
Church Cleaning	Cleaner Fees & Materials	57	90	200
Clergy Fees	Weddings & Funerals	4,077	5,218	2,105
Concerts & events	Calvary Church, Lunchtime and Evening Concerts	1,267	404	2,150
Diocese Parish fees	For weddings & funerals.	9,317	12,943	15,442
Employees tax & NI & NEST Pension	Statutory Deductions & Pension payments	21,023	15,198	9,628
Fabric & Building maintenance	Cess pit cleaning, Boiler Maintenance, Toilet Door	13,788	4,739	4,346

	Repair & Janitorial, West Wall Repairs Scaffolding, Jute Close			
Farmer & Ruel	Vicar's Discretionary Fund	900	2,750	500
Fees	Legal, accountants	1,753	5,218	2,505
Flowers	Church Flowers	628	664	621
Hospitality & Social events	Biscuits after services Receptions, meals & accommodation.	2,665	4,214	839
High Tide (Youth)	Summer Residential costs & support of other churches in the Diocese	2,100	681	1,260
Insurance & licenses	CCLI, Ecclesiastical	4,042	3,952	3,722
Organist's payments	Church Organists Fees	7,225	6,630	3,950
Organ replacement & maintenance	Including piano tuning	40	0	120
Outreach, mission and discipleship	Alpha, leaflets, house group, teaching material, Wedding Fayres, Glorious Dinner	899	1,811	888
Paddock	Clearance of Paddock Area, Purchase & Erection of sheds	2,432	6,633	0
Parish Hall hire	Evening & Day services & church events	2,270	1,610	2,660
Other hall rent	St Andrews, Hayling Isl. The Hub	1,454	200	100
Parish Office rent etc	Office Admin Office	1,300	1,925	3,058
Printing & Publishing of books	Bryan Jerrard's & Ian Meredith, Post Cards, Posters, Xmas Cards etc	5,445	5,097	397
Office expenses	Phone, IT, photocopier, postage	5,123	8,659	7,604
Refugees	Syrian Refugees	0	0	12,000
Parish Share	Diocese	103,893	99,108	99,108
Refunds	Weddings, bells, etc.	150	730	0
Salaries & Wages	Admin & Ops staff.	26,353	29,810	43,180
Seasonal Expenses	Xmas Trees, Mulled Wine etc	2,089	420	350
Tearoom	Cross Charges (NEST & PAYE)	3473	0	0
Thanksgiving for ministry	Including donations to visiting speakers	563	688	541
Training & Workwear	PCC Away days, staff training, First Aid,	1,019	423	655
Utilities	Gas, Electric, Water, Broadband	14,427	11,581	10,181
Vicarage	Vicarage Gardener & Utilities	4,708	2,050	1,800

Vicar's & Curates expenses,	Mainly travel; training, retreats,	2,181	1,056	2,643
Wedding Exps.	Wedding Fayres	677	320	0
Worship Resources	(Hymn & Prayer Books etc)	450	310	0
Youth & Children	Youth, Cadets, Schools, monastic, & Youth Worker salary	20,503	19,262	4,885
St Marys Lambs	Lamb's resources	284	849	84
Seniors Ministry	Anna Chaplain Wages, Expenses & Training	10,464	9,830	3,600
TOTAL		£327,231	£333,932	£261,486

Total Income 2024: £296,248

Total Expenditure 2024: £327,231

Income over expenditure: (£30,983)

Bank Balances (Year End 31/12/2024):

Current Account: £23,149

Treasurers Account: £10,000

Deposit Account: £200,555

**St. Mary's Church
Portchester**

**List of Investments
31st December 2024**

Name	Description	Total £
Jute Close	Curate's house	400,000
Dore Avenue	Former Curate's house & church room.	22,829
Ascension Church	Former church in White Hart Lane	7,405
North Boarhunt	Land sold in 1901	948
M&G Investments	Investment	252

**List of Designated Funds
31st December 2024**

Name	Description	Total £
10% Charity	10% of collections & regular giving (includes carry over from 2023)	18,768
Bells	Repair and purchase of new bells	75,000
Building	New Build (including Architect Fees)	59,587
Farmer & Ruel	Vicar's discretionary hardship fund	3,465
Legacies	Legacies given for general purposes	6,845
Organ Replacement	Purchase of next organ	4,374
West Wall	West Wall Repair (includes legacy)	2,660
Kneelers	Replacement Kneelers	1,000
TOTAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS	171,599

**St. Mary's Church
Portchester**

Charities Supported In 2024

Name	Description of Funds Used for Gift	Total £
The Children's Society	Christingle 2023 Collection	500
Release International	Annual Charity Giving	500
Society of St. James	Annual Charity Giving	300
Faith & Football	Annual Charity Giving	300
Soteria Trust	Annual Charity Giving	500
Bible Society	Annual Charity Giving	500
Urban Saints	Annual Charity Giving	252
Street Pastors	Annual Charity Giving	500
TOTAL		3,352

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

**Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended
31st December 2023**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

Charity Information

For the Year 1st January 2023 to December 2023

Trustees	The St. Mary's Church PCC
Treasurer	Stephen Oliver
Charity Number	1130090
Address	St. Marys Church Castle Street Portchester PO16 9PY
Accountant & Auditor	KSL Accountants & Business Advisors 9 Vinnetrow Business Park Vinnetrow Road Chichester West Sussex PO20 1QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

Profit and Loss Account

For the Year from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Tunover (Income)	305954	344247
Other Income	11523	12578
Staff Costs	(34972)	(53463)
Other Charges	(318423)	(260086)
Profit/Loss For Year	(946)	96739

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

Balance Sheet As At 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets	437666	400000
Current Assets	269827	231172
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	<u>(149223)</u>	<u>(164176)</u>
Net current assets (liabilities)	120604	66996
Total assests less liabilities	<u>558270</u>	<u>466996</u>
Nett assets (liabilities)	<u>558270</u>	<u>466996</u>
Captital & Reserves	<u>558270</u>	<u>466996</u>

(These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting principles)

These were approved on 15th July 2023

Stephen Oliver
Church Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

Detailed Profit & Loss Account

for the year from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover/Revenue		
Artists Memorials	0	4325
Bells Fund	0	520
Building Fund	0	240
Church & New Room Rent	1585	965
Collection Boxes (Cash)	5640	2312
Collections	17981	15384
Contactless Sum Up	4599	1768
Donations	6100	2611
Farmer & Ruel Fund	0	1190
Fundraising & Social Events (General	6286	7304
Funerals & Churchyard	30228	13543
Gift Aid	13406	12506
Grants	1699	2700
Interest Income	1622	285
Legacies	5000	0
Misc - Monday Market, Sale of Church Equipment etc)	927	0
PGS	54098	50690
PGS Gift Aid	13406	12226
Refugee Project	0	7960
Refunds (Solicitor/Overcharges)	1672	4609
Regular Giving	39359	53019
Sales of Books & Merchandise	2802	0
St. Mary's Lambs	452	140
Tearoom Net Profit	72316	107158
Weddings	21188	40362
Youth	2621	2430
	<u>305954</u>	<u>344247</u>
Other Operating Income		
Jute Close Rental Income	11523	12578
	<u>317477</u>	<u>356825</u>
Staff Costs		
Employers National Insurance	4739	9628
Salaries & Wages	29810	43180
Training	423	655
	<u>34972</u>	<u>53463</u>
Other Charges		
Altar & Sanctuary	1961	397
Bank Fees	2700	658
Bells	350	600
Charity Giving (10% Fund)	5962	3752
Church Cleaning	90	200
Churchyard Maintenance	286	459
Clergy Fees	5218	2105
Concerts & Events	404	2150
Diocese Fees	12943	15442
Existing Church Building Projects	37862	5632
Farmer & Ruel	2750	500
Fees - Legal & Accountants	5218	2505
Flowers	664	621
Fabric & Building Maintenance	4739	4196
High Tide (Youth)	681	1260
Hospitality & Social Events	4214	839
Insurance & Licenses	3952	3722
Jute Close Maintenece	0	150
New Building Project (Architect Fees)	14397	7616
Office Expenses	5722	3939
Organ Replacement & Maintenance	0	120

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester

Detailed Profit & Loss Account (Continued)

for the year from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Organist Payments	6630	3950
Other Hall Rent	200	100
Outreach, Mission & Discipleship	1811	888
Paddock Sheds	6633	0
Parish Hall Hire	1610	2660
Parish Hall Office Rent	1925	3058
Parish Share	99108	99108
Printing & Advertising	1569	597
Publishing of Books	3528	0
Refunds	730	0
Stationery & Postage	2967	3665
Seniors Ministry	9830	3600
Special Projects	681	12000
St. Mary's Lambs	849	84
Thanksgiving for Ministry	688	541
Utilities	11581	10181
Vicar Expenses	1056	2643
Vicarage (Gardeners)	2050	1800
Wedding Expenses	320	0
Worship Resources	310	0
Youth, Family & Children Work	<u>19262</u>	<u>4885</u>
	318423	260086
Profit/Loss for the year	(946)	96739

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Mary Portchester

Charity Registration No 1130090

2022 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 30th May 2023

Those residents in the parish or on the Electoral Roll of the church may attend part A of the meeting. Only those on the Electoral Roll may attend part B.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Apologies
3. Presentation of Clerk and Tellers

A. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

4. Minutes of the Vestry meeting of 2022
5. Matters arising
6. Election of Churchwardens
 - 1 nomination: Denise Simmons*
 - 1 Vacancy (to be appointed at a later date)*
7. Portchester Parish Hall Accounts
8. Any other business

B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

9. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
10. Matters arising
11. Presentation of Electoral Roll
12. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council:
 - 7 Vacancies and 7 nominations: Chris Hayes, Steve Oliver, Cheryl Owen, Tanya Simpson, Eric Standen, Ray Norman, Mark Wood.*
13. Election of members to the Deanery Synod
14. Appointment of External Auditor
15. Financial Accounts
16. Reports:
 - (i) Vicar's general church report
 - (ii) Diocesan Synod
 - (iii) Deanery Synod
 - (iv) Safeguarding
 - (v) Fabric
 - (vi) Sound and technical team
17. Any other business (to be presented to the Chairman prior to the meeting)
18. Vote of thanks
19. Conclusion

Portchester Parish Hall Accounts

Expenditure	"2021"	2022"
Cleaning	£4,934.40	£9,793.34
Windows	£300.00	£300.00
Repair/Serviceing	£966.80	£2,668.38
Waste Collection	£414.60	£399.58
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Sewage and Water Rates)	£2,400.00	£2,669.78
Gardening	£4,601.50	£2,095.00
Supplies	£13.56	£385.41
Insurance	£1,946.61	£2,193.86
Postage & Office supplies & Management Fees	£957.83	£143.25
Management Fee		£260.00
Replacement windows & equipment		£2,470.00
Total Expenditure	£16,535.30	£23,378.60
Surplus for the year	£21,922.58	£20,556.58
	£38,457.88	£43,935.18
Receipts	"2021"	"2022"
Hire of Hall (Cash)	£392.00	£1,245.50
(Cheques)	£9,061.17	£18,048.50
(Dir Credits)	£9,110.50	£19,889.50
Rent from Office (includes electricity) - Direct Credits	£2,852.67	£1,699.56
Lease from Scouts	£160.00	£160.00
Revenue from Boxtree Court flats	£300.00	£300.00
Sub Totals	£21,876.34	£41,343.06
Lloyds Interest	£2.11	£10.82
Grants from FBC (2021) Refunds from SEE & Business Stream (2022)	£16,573.43	£2,087.55
COIF Interest	£6.00	£493.75
Total Receipts	£38,457.88	£43,935.18
Bank Balances at end of year	"2021"	"2022"
COIF	£50,605.51	£51,099.26
Lloyds	£62,256.70	£83,768.12
Lloyds Deposit Account	£21,908.09	£21,108.91
Plus credits	£635.00	£3,220.00
Less payments	-£1,542.40	-£2,764.47
Balance at end of year	£133,862.90	£156,431.82
Boxtree Court Accounts	"2021"	"2022"
B/F	£8,765.21	£1,754.31
Boxtree Court Receipts	£6,060.00	£6,312.00
£100 from Glanvilles Solicitors - No.5 Flat sold		£100.00
	£14,825.21	£8,166.31
Less Expenditure	-£13,070.90	-£4,315.87
	£1,754.31	£3,850.44
In Bank A/C @ end of year	£2,154.31	£4,507.68
2021 cheque not presented. 2022 payments made	-£400.00	-£294.58
End of year includes the unpaid cheque & refunds from British Gas		£462.66
Total for end of years	£1,754.31	£4,213.10
Utilities Breakdown for 2021 no payments made for Sewage/Waste = A/c in credit £904.05		
Utilities Breakdown for 2021 =£2400 Electricity = A/C in credit £1791.02		
Utilities Breakdown no payments made for Gas in 2021 = A/C in credit £1268.12		
Sewage and water & electricity credits all repaid in 2022 (new providers)		
Gas in credit £218.03 at end of November 2022		

Elaine Emery (Treasurer)

E. O. Emery

25th April 20
2023

Ann Featherstone (Auditor)

Ann Featherstone

The Parish Church of St Mary's, Portchester

Minutes of meetings held in the Church on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 7pm

1.OPENING PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Rev Dr Ian Meredith welcomed everyone to the meetings of the Parish and the Congregation of St Mary's Portchester. He thanked everyone for coming out in an evening, and for their interest in St Mary's Church. He explained how the meeting will be focusing on the 'machinery' of the Church – what goes on behind the scenes to make everything happen – and electing people to offices for the rest of the year.

Ian then read a passage of scripture from Luke, Ch1 (beginning at v39) – today being the Feast of the Visitation of Mary, the Mother of our Lord, to Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptists. He then continued with an opening prayer.

2.APOLOGIES

Denise Simmons stated that the following had submitted apologies.

Barbara Andrews
Jane Baker
Mike Baker
Justin Capps
Carol Gay
Pauline Jennings
Susan Hubbard
Sylvia Hunns
Michael Moore
Penny Moore
Sally Nguyen
Liz Niece
Richard Niece
Dawn Traer
John Walton

3.PRESENTATION OF CLERK AND TELLERS

Clerk – Rev Ian Meredith introduced Denise as clerk.

Tellers – no tellers were required as insufficient nominations for vacant posts.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The first part of the meeting was open to any resident of the village of Portchester; the second part of the meeting is only for those listed on the church Electoral Roll.

4.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 2021 – tabled

Portchester Parish Hall accounts were presented; no questions were forthcoming regarding these.

The minutes from APCM held Sunday 27th June 2021 were presented and accepted.

Proposed Ray Norman

Seconded Liz Bartlett

As there were no objections and by a show of hands the minutes were accepted.

5.MATTERS ARISING – none were raised.

6.ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Denise Simmons stated that she was willing to stand again, and had been proposed and seconded. Billy Bean, who was unable to be here tonight, was also willing to stand again, and had been proposed and seconded.

Rev Ian Meredith stated that no other names had been nominated, therefore we declare that Denise Simmons and Billy Bean are elected as Church Wardens for the next year. He thanked them both for standing – it is much appreciated.

7.PORTCHESTER PARISH HALL ACCOUNTS – tabled

The annual report and accounts of Portchester Parish Hall were presented as required by the 1907 Trust Deed. They are shown on page 2 of the booklet and were noted and adopted as correct.

This meeting is held, and the parish are presented with the Parish Hall accounts. It is held historically as the annual meeting was held in the Parish Hall, but we are no longer the majority trustees of the Parish Hall. There were no questions.

8.AOB FOR THE PARISH OF PORTCHESTER – none.

At this point, anyone not on the church electoral roll was invited to leave. All remained seated. Anyone on the Electoral Roll is the nearest to church membership and will give you the ability to vote at the meeting.

The meeting was then closed.

NOTE: These minutes have been scrutinised by the PCC. The minutes are believed to be a true record of the meeting and are commended to the APCM 2023 for their acceptance.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

9. MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

These are on pages 4-12 of the document supplied. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting held in 2021

Proposed: Judy Sherry

Seconded: Jean Withinshaw

10. MATTERS ARISING - none

11. PRESENTATION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

Denise Simmons stated that she would continue to handle the Electoral Roll for the time being. Last year, as per the minutes, there were 269 with 51 living outside the parish, so that's 23% of our congregation travel to worship here. This year, we have taken 11 off, and we've managed to keep our numbers at 273, and that's 19.41% live outside the parish, so more are living inside the parish than last year. She thanked everyone for coming and for staying on the Electoral Roll.

Rev Ian Meredith was pleased to see an increase in the Electoral Roll, considering 11 had been taken off. He believes there's potential for up to a further 70 people who could be added to the Roll: these are people whose names are on the Attenders' Roll (the separate Roll of those who attend St Mary's Church and who are under our pastoral care) – which would give us around 340 people who belong to the Church.

12. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev Ian Meredith stated that 2 members who have served for several years were standing down tonight: Sally Young, our Treasurer; and Kay Walker, who had agreed last year to stay on for 1 more year to see through some administrative tasks she had been involved in. Although Kay continues to work behind the scenes, family matters mean she is not able to be so active at the moment. We thank them both for their time on the PCC.

Denise Simmons stated that Ian Parker, Keith Phillips and Steve Traer were up for re-election tonight. There was 1 new member, Jackie Mitchell, who had taken on the PCC Secretary role for the last few meetings, and now comes on as a member in her own right.

There are currently 2 vacancies for which we could co-opt people during the year for 1 year (in the first instance) who could then go on to see if they would like to be elected in their own right. Anyone interested in this should speak to Ian or Denise.

13. ELECTION OF MEMBER TO DEANERY SYNOD

Denise Simmons advised we can have 3 representatives. At the moment, we have Gerry Anderson, who is also our Synod rep; Peter Bradley; and Diana Bolton – who came on last year, just after the APCM, when she saw the need. Peter Bradley has done 3 years, but is prepared to stand again. Peter is also an excellent member of the Standing Committee, and we value your time – thank you.

14.APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Sally Young, Treasurer, explained that for the last 2 years' accounts, we had used Portsmouth University. But for 2021 accounts, it became a problem because the total income for the Church was over £250k, which means you cannot have only an independent examiner. You have to have a Chartered Accountant to examine the accounts. Portsmouth University worked with us and, by chance, the Course Director from the year before is a Chartered Accountant and – for a mere £200 – she offered to sign them off for us, which was very generous. We cannot appoint an external examiner because we are over £250k; we have to go to a Chartered Accountant, and this is under discussion at the moment.

Rev Ian Meredith clarified that we are not in a position to appoint anyone tonight, but it will be done at the PCC meeting at the end of June.

15.ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sally Young, Treasurer, reported that St Mary's accounts are in good order – thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. At present, 56 parishioners give through the very successful Parish Giving Scheme; 70 who donate via the bank by standing order; and many people who donate regularly via the donation plate or weekly into envelopes.

Sally encouraged others who are interested to consider the Parish Giving Scheme, which is easy and can be done online or over the phone. For details, speak to Emma in the office.

Sally wanted to give special thanks to those within the Church who have given her such loyal help in this role: Roger Millard; Tony Gillam; and Steve Traer. She also thanked her daughter (not present), who is a Chartered Accountant, and who helps her with the accounts at year end to get them ready to be examined.

She also took the opportunity to recognise Neil Sherry who, for many years, has recorded the income and expenditure of the tea room, which has been a tremendous help to Sally and to the Church as a whole.

Points to note in the accounts included one disappointment – the 'Charity Checkout donating' button on the website, which was set up during the first lockdown. Last year's donations did not cover the cost of the licence, so we decided to cancel it. However, on a positive note, new this year is the contactless 'donation station' at the back of the Church, which is already proving very successful. Donations through the candle box have also increased significantly since it was re-sited into the main body of the Church.

The tea room continues to go from strength to strength through the hard work of our volunteers and Ron Prior, our catering manager. Due to its success, we are currently in the process of setting it up as a separate trading subsidiary, in line with the Charities' Commission regulations.

From this year's income, we will be able to give £10k to charitable causes. For the past 2 years, we have given to small, local charities as it helps to build a connection. Suggestions

for this year's charities should be given to Emma as soon as possible, so the PCC can decide how to distribute the money.

There are many other projects we will be working on throughout this year, thanks to everyone's generosity.

Rev Ian Meredith thanked Sally for her stewardship of the accounts.

16.REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith gave a short update. He is also the Area Dean of Fareham, looking after 10 parishes from Portchester in the east to Warsash in the west. Currently 5 (soon to be 6) of the parishes are in vacancy, so there will be only 4 parishes with vicars. He thanked everyone for their patience, as his workload has meant being able to do less parish visiting.

On a positive note, the 'forced amalgamations' of parishes (mentioned at last year's meeting) is now off the table, with the arrival of the new Bishop.

17.REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith advised that our new Bishop will be coming to a service at St Mary's in September (4th or 18th), when we will hold another of our joint services for our 3 congregations. He will preside at the Eucharist and be the preacher that day. (He already receives copies of our newsletter, and is looking forward to coming to Portchester.)

The Diocese produces a very good newsletter, and our youth element was featured in the most recent edition. We will feature in the next issue, too, regarding 'alternative worship' – and this will cover other 'other' services such as the 11.30, evening and joint services.

18.REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith reported that there had been 1 safeguarding issue in the tea room in the past year, which had now been closed.

Denise Simmons advised that the safeguarding role has become much more of an undertaking that it had previously been, with courses, training and forms to be completed. Tanya Simpson has been appointed to replace Jane Baker, who is retiring from the role this year. Tanya cannot start until September, so Jane has offered (with the PCC's agreement) to cover until then.

19.REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith stated that the fabric of the building is in good shape and he gave his grateful thanks to the individuals on the team for all the jobs they do, saving the Church thousands of pounds. It is very much appreciated.

20.REPORT FROM THE SOUND AND TECHNICAL TEAM – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith noted that many of the Fabric team are on the Sound and Technical team. He commended the team for the good sound system, and is looking forward to the arrival of the electronic drop-down screen they will install shortly (similar to the one at Alverstoke).

21.REPORT FROM THE PRAYER CHAIN TEAM – tabled.

22.ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none presented to the Chairman prior to the meeting.

23.THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – tabled.

Rev Ian Meredith stated that, as he has mentioned in many newsletters and sermons, the last 2 years have been his most difficult in ministry ever – what with no services or restricted services, and not being allowed to visit people. But we held together and came through it. He thanked everyone for the love and support showed to him.

He mentioned how many people treat the church the way they would treat a supermarket (with the vicar as the manager) – only there for their convenience, and not caring about the people who run it. But the church is different – it is a true family of honest, loving and good people that cares for, and about, one other. And our care for Ian is what keeps him going. He is still enjoying his time here, but has never been busier!

Going forward, Ian said there will be 2 appointments under the new Bishop's vision: a youth worker and an "Anna Chaplain" (a role offering support for seniors in the church who are being neglected e.g after moving into nursing homes, they can slip through the net).

Ian also thanked 2 servers who are stepping down from office for health reasons and presented them with a small gift to mark the occasion: Liz Bartlett and Hazel Bunker.

We will be welcoming 2 new servers: Chris Hayes and Mark Wood, and there could be a third one soon, so the team is building up again.

Ian also gave special thanks and a small gift to Neil Sherry, who has been tea room treasurer for last year, faithfully dealing with accounts, and providing a monthly report. (With the threshold for VAT now passed, we are now looking a different way of managing the tea room finances, separating it from the work of the Treasurer.)

Finally, Ian gave thanks to Sally Young, our Treasurer. She took on the role early in 2019, when the finances were in a mess. She did an incredible amount of work behind the scenes (with the help of her aforementioned daughter, Natalie, a Chartered Accountant) and managed to get the finances back on track. We now have regular understandable, accountable, and reliable accounts, thanks to her stewardship. The accounts are now healthy and in a far better place than they have been in this Church for a long time. For personal reasons, Sally is now relinquishing the post of Treasurer.

In the next Newsletter, Ian will be looking for volunteers to create a new finance team, including a treasurer and an assistant treasurer. (With the tea room accounts now separate, this takes a great weight off the future treasurer.)

Ian again thanked everyone present for their love and support – all those he had named and all those he had forgotten to name!

NOTE: These minutes have been scrutinised by the PCC. The minutes are believed to be a true record of the meeting and are commended to the APCM 2023 for their acceptance.

General Church Report (Rev Ian Meredith)

After the 'Covid year' of 2021, this year saw us returning to some sort of normality. Have our numbers returned to what they were pre-Covid? Yes, I think so, although we have to add all three Sunday services together. Although the 9.30 Parish Eucharist is not as full as it previously was, when you add the 11.30 congregation to that, it probably exceeds previous years. Of course numbers aren't everything and behind each statistic is a person – someone we were once in fellowship with, and journeying in faith with us, but no longer do so. St Mary's has recovered mainly thanks to the many new people who have joined us last year, and we are so encouraged by this.

March saw the appointment of our new Bishop, Jonathan Frost, and although not technically part of the 2022 report, it was lovely to have him at our 2023 Epiphany service.

Staff. This year we appointed several new staff members who have greatly helped our ministry: Judith Williams our organist has endeared herself to us, and has entered fully into the life of the church, not just while playing. Later in the year we appointed Eric Standen as our Seniors' Minister and Anna Chaplain, and also Tanya Simpson as youth minister. Frit has already come from these, with more of our older members feeling cared for and visited, and the growing number of young people at Connect and Momentum on Fridays. Jackie Mitchell came on as our PCC Secretary and her contribution has been much valued. Steve Oliver took over as our Treasurer this year, and we have greatly appreciated his ministry among us, which has also extended to HR manager and also line manager for some of our staff.

Ministry Team. Our team has been supplemented this year by the addition of two retired clergy, Rev Adam Gay and Rev Philip Parker-Osler. Tim McIlroy was licensed as a Reader at the cathedral. Others have ministered at our 11.30 service, such as Richard Gunton, Jeff Gennings and Steve Oliver, and it is thanks to all these that we are able to provide such a variety of services.

Fabric gifts

Due to the generosity of one friend who donated £1,000 and others who gave, we were able to fit the church out with new pew cushions. A large screen was purchased for the New Room, which can be used for showing films, powerpoint presentations, and is also regularly used for displaying church news and notices.

Mission

10% charity giving. We continue to be able to give away a tithe of our offerings and regular giving, and this year we have away £3,752. This of course does not represent 10% so it means that we have a balance of funds available to give away throughout the year.

Refugee Project. Arising from the contemplative Prayer group with some additional friends, we set up a support group in order to house a refugee family. Although the purchase of the house was by the charity 'Hope into Action', the internal furnishings, garden have been provided by our church members, some giving very generous donations. We continue to collect food for Ukraine, and Adam and Carol have hosted a Ukranian refugee family.

In October we distributed leaflets to over 8,000 homes in the parish, and although the fruit of this has been slow, it has been constant, as new people appear almost every week.

Alpha course

Of course, ministry like funerals particularly have a missional side, and many people start coming, or return to church after a funeral has been handled well pastorally.

Royal Occasions

This year saw two important commemorations for Queen Elizabeth and we held Civic Services to honour her. The first was in February to mark 70 years of her reign. Sadly in September, our beloved Queen died and we opened the church for people to sign a book of remembrance, and held a Civic Service.

Falklands 40.

This year also saw the 40th anniversary of the Falklands campaign which we marked with a special service. We do have our own dedicated Falklands Memorial as part of the churchyard. Despite a couple of offers to develop this, it still lies in a sadly neglected state, and perhaps here is a project for the future. On the subject of veterans, we hosted and service and buffet lunch in May for the D-Day veterans and their carers.

Outside use the church

We saw the return of AA to our New Room on Thursday evenings. Although not technically a ministry of St Mary's, by offering hospitality and a safe space, is a way of supporting those recovering from alcoholism and other addictions. Spinnaker Brass also found a base at St Mary's and they practice in the church every Monday evening. We appreciated their contribution at the summer 'Soundwave' and the Christmas Carol services.

Theology Group

We had a series of good speakers and discussions at our monthly meetings. Sadly we had to let this group close, as we were not able to get the hall for a morning. This shows the desperate need for more church accommodation, and there is the possibility of starting up this group again, perhaps on an evening.

Artists

One very exciting and successful project this year was our local artists' exhibitions which were held throughout the year. This gave the opportunity for artists to display and sell their work, and brought thousands of people through the church door to see them. We also raised £4,000 which will go towards the restoration of artists' graves in the churchyard.

The Friends of St Mary's.

Sadly this year the charity had to close. Despite appeals for new committee members, no one came forward. Over the years the Friends had provided many useful and lovely things for the church: sound PA cabinet, defibrillator, art in the transept. They gave the balance of their account to the PCC, but we will be able to put this to good use as we have other projects in mind.

Musical events

In July Justin and Emma Capps organised a mini music festival, "Soundwave", which brought some talented musicians to the church as well as hundreds of visitors. It was a very worthwhile event, even if it made a financial loss, but it would be good to have more events like this in the future. The Japanese violinist Fumi Otsuki with pianist Sarah Kershaw held a lunch time concert in August which was well supported. We used to have

these throughout the summer, and again we wonder if there is someone who would like to begin this again.

Teaching Ministry

In September we hosted a day conference on 'Faith in the workplace'. This was attended by around 40 people, and has given us some idea for future conferences. Sunday night services include a teaching ministry and these have been greatly appreciated.

Discipleship and growth

We held another very successful Alpha course this year, and seven of our members were confirmed at the Cathedral in Easter and again in December. We held our first baptism by full immersion service for many years.

St Mary's Lambs.

It was sad to see the end of our toddler group last year, as there was no one willing to take this on. Some things need to die a death in order to be re-born, and this year Jennifer Olding felt moved to start this again. A new team were soon in place to support her, and the group has gone from strength to strength.

Communications

We continue to use social media to communicate our message, and are pleased to see a growing number of people engaging with our Facebook and Instagram. The newsletter 'St Mary's News' goes out by e-mail each month. We are often sad to learn that some people don't read it, or even get it. This year we started to produce the newsletter in magazine format, leaving sometimes up to 100 copies in the Tea Room and church. These are all taken.

Time and space do not permit to report on the myriad of other things which happen at St Mary's, and the many people who make these happen; and of course our members and friends who support them. The Tea Room in particular, under Ron's leadership and his amazing team of volunteers, has provided the finances to do a lot of what we do.

Despite all that we do, we realise we still can't please everyone: for some the worship isn't good enough; there is not enough pastoral care; there could be more teaching, and we are probably not evangelistic enough; the Spirit isn't moving enough; we don't have enough musicians and young people – the list goes on, so much grist for the mill with those with a ministry of criticism. However, we can only do what we do with the people and gifts (and time) God sends us. Jesus is the one who alone can build his church, and Jesus is the one who draws people to himself. We do what we can. For a medium sized middle-of-the-road parish church, we have been so incredibly blessed, we have been a blessing to many people, and the Lord has used us, probably in ways we don't even know, to build his kingdom here in Portchester and beyond.

Thank you for keeping faith with us, for your financial giving, and for the many gifts you share with us.

Diocesan Report (Gerry Anderson)

Diocesan Synod met three times this year.

This report provides links to the meeting reports on the Diocesan web-site. These provide the official narrative. I have also included my brief personal comments and views as given to the PCC.

April 2022 Synod

The official report is at <http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/synod/april-2022/>

G A COMMENTS I objected to the previous minutes where I had spoken to the increase in central cost from about 10% of the budget to 30% and this had been left out of the minutes.

I was encouraged by Jonathan's emphasis on working with young people and adults; they are the future church. I was also encouraged by his emphasis on following Jesus Christ's leading in what we do and the mention of the Holy Spirit. I was, at the time, puzzled by Anna Chaplaincy for the older folk; I thought Anna was prayerfully faithful and prophetic and was offering ministry.

June 2022 Synod

The official report is at www.portsmouth.anglican.org/synod/june-2022/

G A COMMENTS This meeting had little on the agenda of any substance. I felt we were talked at and there was little dialogue. The only decision taken was to change the legal status of the Board of Education to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

As a result of the decision at the previous Synod the DAC had done some work on reducing the diocese's carbon footprint. The main area of reduction would be vicarages and clergy housing. In Oxford diocese (a large diocese) the cost had been estimated to be £M10.

November 2022 Synod

The official report is at www.portsmouth.anglican.org/synod/nov-2022/.

To understand the bishop's views on relationships please read his address from the link within the report.

G A COMMENTS Unfortunately I didn't make the meeting having driven into Old Portsmouth intending to use the parking in the Grammar School. This had been arranged at the last minute, and I found, along with others, the gates firmly locked.

G Anderson 19/5/23

Safeguarding Report (Tanya Simpson, Parish Safeguarding Officer)

This report runs from 24th September 2022 as that is when I took over as Safeguarding Officer for the Parish.

During this time the following numbers have completed their DBS and safeguarding training:

DBS – 6

Courses

Basic awareness - 33

Foundation - 34

Domestic Abuse - 23

Leadership – 2

We were able to offer a face to face training session with Julia Barton from the Dioceses, this was very well attended.

Q&A Sessions

I have attended 2 Safeguarding Q&A sessions on zoom lead via the Dioceses which has been very useful and helpful.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Officers have had 1 safeguarding update session. It was announced during this session that DBS ID's can now be submitted online while applying for your certificate. The cost for this will be covered by the Dioceses and reviewed later on. This will save time and the process of getting your DBS should be sped up.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

I am pleased to report we have now moved on stage 3 of the Dashboard. This is an ongoing process and regularly gets reviewed and actioned.

Safeguarding Conference

I was unable to attend the last Safeguarding Conference due to my commitments in school, however the next one is scheduled for September and I have already signed up for that. The feedback was very good from the last one so I am looking forward to this.

Safeguarding Reports

There have been 2 safeguarding reports since September. These have both now been closed.

Fabric team report 2022-2023 (Ray Norman)

We on the fabric team consider it to be a great honour to oversee the day-to-day maintenance of our beautiful historic building; I would at this time like to thank all the members of the team and volunteers for all their hard work this year.

Over the past year we have been able to continue with all of the normal annual maintenance issues as an example,

- Inspection of lightning conductor
- P.A.T. Testing
- Repair and maintenance of our lighting system
- Repairs of the wall surrounding our churchyard
- Cleaning and maintenance of drains both surface and waste
- Carry out any work identified after the recent Quinquennial Inspection

And many other routine day-to-day maintenance issues.

We had a very successful cleaning day when the floor was re polished and returned to its former glory, we also carried out a high-level clean in the areas our cleaners cannot reach.

Over the past year we have continued to engage with new technology such as drone surveys of the church building, which has enabled us to see broken tiles and replace them before they cause us to have problems. We've been able to see into the gutters and see any obstruction and deal with it before they block and cause damage to the building.

This year we are carry out extensive work in the paddock behind the Vicarage we will soon be demolishing the existing outbuildings and replacing with 3 new large storage sheds.

Kate Tame and her team have continued to find many graves which had gone missing due to the grass growing over them and headstones being broken and removed in the distant past.

In the near future we will give attention to improving the lighting in the Chancel and replacing the high level spots in the nave with a more energy efficient equivalent, very soon now we will be installing a new larger motorised back projection screen.

There are many unseen maintenance issues throughout the year and we are pleased to carry them out both for our Lord and for you.

Ray Norman

St Mary's fabric team

Sound and technical team report 2022-2023

Over the past year we have endeavoured to continue to improve both sound and visual aids within the church, we have purchased new foldback speakers for use with the music group, and we have improved the positioning of the projector for the back projection screen.

We are now able to connect to the projector through our network from many points in the church, within the next few weeks a new electric back projection screen will be installed in the Chancel, and we also will soon be installing a new more powerful projector to cope with our new larger back projection screen.

We now film many different types of Church services throughout the year enabling those people who are unable to get to church through ill health or away on holiday to still enjoy in our services.

If you feel you may be able to contribute to our technical team please speak to one of the team and we will be very pleased to tell you all about the work we do week to week and we are always looking for new members.

Ray Norman
St Mary's sound and technical team

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity No 1130090**

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith

Readers: Mrs Carol Gay (25 May 2016 – present)
Mr Tim McIlroy (24 September 2022 – present)

Churchwardens: Mrs Denise Simmons (30th October 2021-present)
Mr Maurice Bean (30th October 2021 – present)

Elected Members

Diocesan Synod Mr Gerald Anderson

Deanery Synod: Mr Peter Bradley
Mrs Diana Bolton

Lay Representatives: Mr Ian Parker (24 April 2015 – present)
Mr Ray Norman (2 April 2017 – present)
Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 – present)
Mr Stephen Traer (15 April 2018 – present)
Mr Chris Hayes (25 October 2020 – present)
Mr Keith Phillips (15 April 2018 – present)
Mrs Dawn Traer (15 April 2018 – present)
Mr Peter Bradley (1 April 2019 – present)
Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 – present)
Mrs Kay Walker (2 April 2017 – present)
Mr Michael Crate (30th October 2021 – present)
Mrs Diana Bolton (30th October 2021 – present)
Mr Steve Oliver (14 September 2022 – present)
Mr Eric Standen (22 June 2022 – present)
Mrs Jackie Mitchell (31 May 2022 – present)

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity No 1130090**

Dep Churchwardens: Mr Peter Bradley
Mrs Dawn Traer

PCC Secretary Mrs Jackie Mitchell (22 June 2022 – present)

PCC Treasurer Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 – 31 August 2022)
Mr Steve Oliver (1 September 2022 – present)

Trustees

Chair: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith

Other: Mrs Denise Simmons
Mr Raymond Norman
Mr Peter Bradley
Mr Stephen Traer
Mrs Sally Young
Mrs Kay Walker
Mr Ian Parker
Mr Keith Phillips
Mr Gerald Anderson
Mrs Dawn Traer
Mr Chris Hayes
Mr Michael Crate
Mrs Diana Bolton
Mr Eric Standen
Mr Steve Oliver
Mrs Jackie Mitchell

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Mr Gerald Anderson
Mrs Dawn Traer
Mr Chris Hayes
Mr Michael Crate
Mrs Diana Bolton
Mr Eric Standen
Mr Steve Oliver
Mrs Jackie Mitchell

Income: 2022 & 2021,

Title	Description	2022	2121
Subject to 10% Charity Giving			
Parish Giving Scheme	PGS	50,690	48,705
Regular giving	Through bank DD; CAF, Envelopes	53,019	44,841
Collections	Plate/Basket Offerings	15,384	11,553
Total		119,093	105,099
	10% to Charity Fund Exc GA	12,000	
Tax recoverable through PGS	Parish Giving Scheme	12,226	-
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	Gift Aid envelopes, cash	12,506	21,707
Interest: Bank & investments		285	280
Bells Fund	Weddings & New bells	520	200
Building Fund	Monthly Giving, Off Donations Blue small collection boxes	240	4,999
Collection Boxes (Cash)	Pillar safe, candles, blue box in Tea Room;	2,312	2,189
Contactless Sum Up	Church Card Machine	1768	0
Donations	Alpha Course, and other donations.	2,611	18,187
Farmer & Ruel Fund	One Off Donations & Monthly Donations	1,190	240
Fees – Funerals & Churchyard	Includes Roses, Labyrinth,	13,543	5,340
Fees - Weddings	Includes bells	40,362	10,420
Fundraising & Social events (general)	Events, Concerts, Gala, Christmas Fayre, Soundwave, BBQ, Harvest Supper, Int Food Fest	7,304	2,208
Grants	Fareham Borough Council	2,700	1,680
Legacies	Bequests etc	0	1,000
Rental: Jute Close	Jute Close Property	12,578	12,672
Rental: Church & New Room	Including New Room, Spinnaker Brass, AA	965	440
Refunds	Solicitor,	4,609	2
Sales of books & merchandise	Books;	0	50
St Mary's Lambs	Weekly Donations/Subs	140	0
Tea Room net profit	Tea Room	107,158	115,070
Youth	Connect & Momentum & Fireworks	1,540	1,810
SPECIAL PROJECTS			
Artists memorials		4,325	
High Tide		890	
Refugee Project		7,960	
TOTAL		356,825	303,393

Expenditure: 2022 & 2021

Title	Description	2022	2021
Altar & Sanctuary	Worship material Communion, oil, books, Cloths,	397	79
Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	658	663
Bells	Bell Tower Survey	600	0
Existing Church Building Projects	TV, AV, Church Cushions, Faculty Charges	5,632	1,169
New Building Project	Architects, QS fees	7,616	0
Charity Giving (10% Fund)	Includes £1,000 transferred to F&R	3,752	2,287
Churchyard maintenance	Faculty for Exhumation, etc	459	54
Cleaners & cleaning material	Cleaner Fees & Materials	200	1,440
Concerts & events	Soundwave	2,150	1,101
Diocese fees	For weddings & funerals.	15,442	17,303
Employees tax & NI & NEST Pension	Statutory Deductions	9,628	8,016
Fabric & Building maintenance	Cess pit cleaning, Boiler Maintenance, Toilet Door Repair	4,196	5,455
Farmer & Ruel	Vicar's Discretionary Fund	500	1,450
Fees	Legal, accountants	2,505	3,780
Flowers	Church Flowers	621	535
Hospitality & Social events	Biscuits after services Receptions, meals & accommodation.	839	154
High Tide (Youth)	Westbook IOW Res.	1,260	0
Insurance & licenses	CCLI, Ecclesiastical	3,722	3,107
Jute Close maintenance	Rental Property Maintenance	150	0
Ministers' (retired) fees	Weddings & Funerals	2,105	1,085
Organists payments	Church Organists Fees	3,950	3,170
Organ replacement & maintenance	Including piano tuning	120	125
Outreach, mission and discipleship	Alpha, leaflets, house group, teaching material, Wedding Fayres	888	228
Paddock	Clearance of Paddock Area	0	0
Parish Hall hire	Evening & Day services & church events	2,660	1,455

Other hall rent	St Andrews, Hayling Isl.	100	100
Parish Office rent etc	Office Admin Office	3,058	1,398
Publishing of books	Bryan Jerrard's, etc.	0	0
Office expenses	Phone, IT, photocopier	3,939	3,632
Special Projects	Refugees, High Tide,	12,000	0
Parish Share	Diocese	99,108	106,317
Printing and Advertising	Posters, Xmas cards etc	597	711
Refunds	Weddings, bells, etc.	1,000	920
Salaries & Wages	Bell ringers, Choir, and all staff.	51,180	37,515
Stationery & postage	Office Admin	3,665	2,088
Thanksgiving for ministry	Including donations to visiting speakers	541	50
Training	PCC Away days, staff training, First Aid,	655	20
Utilities	Gas, Electric & Water	10,181	10,103
Vicarage	Vicarage Gardener	1,800	1,800
Vicar's expenses,	Mainly travel; training, retreats,	2,643	1,650
Youth & Children	Youth, , Cadets, Schools, monastic	885	530
St Marys Lambs	Lamb's resources	84	40
TOTAL		261,486	219,530

Total Income: 356,825

Total Expenditure: 261,486

Income over expenditure: 95,339

31st December 2022 List of Funds & Investments

Name	Description	2022	2021
ENDOWMENTS			
Jute Close	Curate's house	400,000	225,000
Dore Avenue	Former Curate's house & church room.		20,531
Ascension Church	Former church in White Hart Lane		15,9381
North Boarhunt	Land sold in 1901		1,127
Other Endowments			70
DESIGNATED FUNDS (PCC Resolution October 2022)			
10% Charity	10% of collections & regular giving	8,248	-
Artists Memorials	Repair & restoration of artists' graves	4,125	-
Bells	Repair and purchase of new bells	25,469	2,299
Building	Building Extension (including Fees)	106,545	88,892
Farmer & Ruel	Vicar's discretionary hardship fund	6,515	5,395
Friends of St Mary's	Balance from former charity	2,847	-
Legacies	Legacies given for general purposes	1,845	1,845
Organ Replacement	Depreciation & purchase of next organ Plus repairs and maintenance	4,374	375
Paddock Development	For young people 3 Storage sheds	2,700	-
St Mary's Lambs	Wednesday Toddler group	56	140
Youth Fund	Connect & Momentum	733	747
TOTAL		163,457	99,693

10% Charity Giving

We donate 10% of our regular giving (bank standing orders, Parish Giving Scheme, envelopes, and cash collections) to other Christian missions and charities. In former years we dispersed the whole year's fund in one go, but now we keep some back so that we can give to causes which arise during the year. We invite members of the church to nominate charities and ministries, but we prefer these to be smaller and more local where possible, and for the member to have a personal involvement or interest in that charity.

£252	Urban Saints (Christian youth ministry, formerly 'Crusaders')
£200	Spinnaker Brass
£400	TS Tenacity (Nautical Cadet Corps, Portchester)
£300	Friends of the Homeless, Fareham (Food bank)
£400	Motiv8 (Local mental health charity working with young people)
£400	The Rainbow Centre, Fareham (people affected by neurological conditions)
£250	New Foundations (Christian ministry to ex prison offenders)
£50	The Royal British Legion (Service personnel and veterans)
£500	Soteria Trust (Andy Economides' ministry in Nigeria)
£1,000	Farmer & Ruel Fund (Portchester parishioners in need of financial help)
TOTAL:	£3,752

Accounts

2021 Reports and Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

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Annual Report for 2021

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Aim and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and 24 Jute Close, Portchester.

Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the PCC is the formation of a community of people who are seeking to grow in faith, to live out that faith, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ through our service of, and engagement with those who live in the Parish of Portchester. The PCC does this in accordance with the teaching and practices of the Church of England.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees have taken account of such guidance when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

In 2021 there are 269 parishioners on the electoral roll. The average weekly attendance, counted in October 2021, was 192, of whom 17 were children.

Highlights of 2021

Some aspects of our church life such as Safeguarding, Youth and Finances have their own reports, so will not be included in this which is a general church report.

The past two years have been some of the strangest in living memory – those who lived through the War might have experienced some similarities, and most of us are too young to remember the Black Death! Covid and its lockdown have been the dominant themes of the year, and this had an impact on our church.

Like all families we have had our difficulties and challenges, and it is well to mention these first. One of the saddest aspects of the year was that we lost a lot of members of our congregation, many of whom I suspect will not be back. It's so easy to get out of the habit of Sunday worship; some have found other things to do on Sundays; others had their faith tested and perhaps realised there wasn't much there in the first place; some have had genuine concerns over Covid, but others have allowed fear to paralyse them. There may also be some who felt the church (more probably the Vicar) did not do enough for them.

We were not able to continue with our services in the care homes, and hospital visiting was severely limited.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

After 20 successful years we had to close our toddler group, St Mary's Lambs, as no one was found willing to take it on. A lovely reunion farewell picnic was held in the church grounds in July. Thank you to all who over the years have led this so well.

Despite the valiant attempts of Janice Sargent to revive the Mothers' Union, no interest was forthcoming. Either the MU has had its time in St Mary's, or that's for another time – or perhaps a different form of women's ministry?

We said farewell to Rev David Simpson who has served our church so well, particularly in motivating us towards a greater commitment to young people. We lost several by death and others, who had been very active in the church, moved away from the area.

Sadly the appointment of our youth worker did not work out, and so we also had to let him go.

If we have failed people, and it is likely we have, then we are very sorry, but St Mary's is far from perfect, we are all a work in progress, but we did the best we could under difficult circumstances, and perhaps the Lord allowed us to feel our weakness and vulnerability, so that we might realise that any real spiritual work is done in his strength and not ours.

Now for the good news

Although our church was closed for several months and clergy and others were not allowed to visit in people's home for a while, we did discover that the Holy Spirit was alive and at work in St Mary's congregation, as during the year worship continued, pastoral care was shared in different ways, people's gifts were utilised to the full, many people grew spiritually through the challenges and many new people were added to our congregation.

During the first few months of the year when the church was closed, worship continued each week through the medium of Facebook and YouTube. I want to thank particularly Peter Bradley whose recording skills have been so vital and appreciated this year. Thanks also to Emma for editing and putting them on YouTube. By April we were back in the church building, but during the summer we were able to hold our services outside most weeks. These attracted congregations of over 100 each week and drew new people in. Thanks to Ray and the PA team for finding and playing the songs and hymns.

The work of the Tea Room grew during the year thanks to Ron and his amazing team of volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of the local council, charities and our own church members, we were able to provide over 800 free school meals to kids, and around 200 Sunday lunches to people on their own, or who had not been well, or who we felt would just be encouraged by this.

The year ended with a financial surplus, which is nothing short of miraculous considering the low numbers attending services (with low collections!) and the absence of fund raising events. Of course the fact that many of our expenses were not so great this year also helped. Thanks so much to Sally our Treasurer for keeping an eye on the housekeeping, and for all of you who joined the Parish Giving Scheme; gave donations large and small; and continued to pay via your bank accounts. The Christmas Fayre was back again this year, thanks to Denise and her team. I continue to be amazed at the generosity of our congregation and the abundance of people who are prepared to use their time and talents for the glory of God, the upkeep of the church and the extension of the Kingdom.

We appointed two new Churchwarden, Billy Bean and Denise Simmons; the meetings of the Standing Committee and PCC kept going throughout the year. Initially these were held by zoom, but then

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

physically present. All the PCC members have responsibilities outside their meetings, and we are grateful for this.

St Mary's is held in much respect and affection by the wider community, and we are grateful to the Friends of St Mary's Church who provided us with three pieces of modern art for the transept, depicting worship, silence and openness to God. The fact that this area of the church is being used more and more is gratifying, and the present of the contemplative prayer group on Thursdays gave the inspiration for the art. Kate Tame, Chairman of the Community Association has headed up a project to uncover, clean and record all memorials in the churchyard.

In September we held a 'Back to Church Sunday' at the school, where we filled the assembly hall and had a 'bring and share' lunch afterwards. This marked that things were slowly coming back to normal. Numbers at our 8.00am Communion Services and Evening Services are back up to where they were pre-Covid; our 11.30 Later Services is larger now than before Covid, having attracted several younger people and families. A successful Pizza Night was held in November; the Junior Church is now held at 11.30 and has over 20 children belonging to it. The main casualty has been the 9.30 Parish Eucharist which has dropped by about a third, but each week we are seeing numbers grow as old friend come back and new people join us.

New groups and initiatives were started: Rev Celia's monthly 'Slow sewing group'; Charmaine's weekly Poetry Group and Felicity's weekly "Friday Friends".

We had one of our most successful Alpha Courses ever, attracting over 20 people, and there was a waiting list for folk to go on to the next one!

All of our services are attracting new people. There are some very exciting plans for 2022, and we look forward with confidence and faith to our new year.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointing PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The 2015 annual meeting resolved that no representative of the laity may hold office for more than six years (two terms of three years) but may stand for election again after an interval of one year. Its membership consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, readers and members elected by those of the congregation whose names appear on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met 11 times during the year with an average attendance of 75%.

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in the grounds of Portchester Castle and is part of the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Church, Portchester Parish Hall, Assheton Court, Portchester, Hampshire, PO16 9PY. The registered charity number is 1130090.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Portchester

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith*

Readers: Mrs Carol Gay (25 May 2016 - present)

Churchwardens: Mr Keith Phillips (18 June 2019 – 30th October 2021)
Mrs Kay Walker (18 June 2019 – 30th October 2021)
Mrs Denise Simmons (30th October 2021 – present)
Mr Maurice Bean (30th October 2021 – present)

Elected members:

Diocesan Synod: Mr Gerald Anderson*

Representatives: Mrs Valerie Agar (June 2018 – 30th October 2021)*
Mrs Diana Bolton (30th October 2021 – present)*

Deanery Synod: Mrs Valarie Agar* (June 2018 – 30th October 2021)*

Representatives: Mr Mike Baker (2 April 2017 – July 2020)*

Laity Representatives: Mr Ian Parker (24 April 2015 - present)*
Mr Leroy Osbourne (2 April 2017 – 30th October 2021)*
Mr Ray Norman (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mrs Kay Walker (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mr Stephen Traer (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mr Chris Hayes (25 October 2020 – present)*
Mr Keith Philips (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mrs Dawn Traer (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mr Colin Chambers (25th October 2020 – 30th October 2021)
Mrs Janice Sargent (30th October 2021 – 16th November 2021)
Mr Peter Bradley (1 April 2019 - present)*
Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 - present)*

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

Dept. Churchwardens: Mr Peter Bradley
Mr Keith Philips
Mrs Dawn Traer

PCC Secretary: Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 – 30th October 2021)*
Mrs Janice Sargent (30th October 2021 – 16th November 2021)

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sally Young (from 1 April 2019 - present)*

Trustees:

Chair: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith (16 June 2013 – present)

Other: Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 – present)
Mrs Valerie Agar (25 May 2011 – 30th October 2021)
Mr Leroy Osbourne (1 June 2016 – 30th October 2021)
Mr Raymond Norman (2 April 2017 – present)
Mr Terry Marris (6 April 2014 – 25 October 2020)
Mr Peter Bradley (1 April 2019 – present)
Mr Stephen Traer (15 April 2018 – present)
Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 - present)
Mrs Kay Walker (1 June 2016 – present)
Mr Ian Parker (1 April 2019 – present)
Mr Keith Phillips (15 April 2018 – present)
Mr Gerald Anderson (- present)
Mrs Dawn Traer (15 April 2018 – present)
Mr Chris Hayes (25 October 2020 – present)
Mr Colin Chambers (25 October 2020 – 30th October 2021)
Mr Chris Hayes (25th October 2020 – present)
Mr Michael Crate (30th October 2021 – present)
Mrs Diana Bolton (30th October 2021 – present)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Church of St Mary, Portchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Charities with gross income exceeding £250,000 must be examined by a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Louisa Burton ACA

64 Union Road

Portsmouth

PO3 6GF

Dated: ...22 May 2022.....

Statement of Financial Activities

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Whilst accounting duties are delegated to the Treasurer, this does not remove its legal responsibilities.

The total incoming resources for 2021 report an increase of 34%, which is amazing, particularly as we were 'locked down' for much of the start of the year because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite this, the regular giving reported an increase of nearly 10%. The introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme continues to be a great success, with more than 50% of our regular givers using this method. Donations still remain high at £15,578 although slightly lower than the £17,047 received last year. The revenue generated from Church service Collections has continued to fall (24%) but Envelope-Giving showed a slight increase of 6.5%. The tax refunds from HMRC were updated as at 31 December.

This year we were able to perform 37 wedding ceremonies despite the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. The income generated from funerals is still lower than previous years as it appears that more people opted for a less religious ceremony.

Other income streams such as our concerts and the Portchester generated very little income but the Christmas Fayre generated an amazing £1,520 this year.

The Tea Room has continued to be a great success, despite the pandemic. Although the Tea Room operated just a take-away service for the first few month of the year, it has generated £57,790 net income. Its continued success, we believe, has been down to the loyal support of the Tea Room volunteers and to the hard work from Ron Prior, our Tea Room manager.

The parish share was slightly reduced this year by 1.8% to £99,825, and again, despite the very difficult situation we found ourselves, we were able to pay our share in full. This has to be attributed to the generosity of our parishioners – thank you!

At the financial year end, the Church had a total bank and deposit balances of £245,539. This compared to the previous year of £181,703.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

Reserves Policy

PCC policy is to maintain a balance on free reserves which equates to three months of unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £60,000 and is held to smooth fluctuations in cash flow and meet emergencies.

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 29th May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: Ian Meredith

Name: IAN MEREDITH

Title: VICAR & CHAIR OF P.C.C

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090

Statement of financial activities incorporating the income and expenditure account
For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Incoming Resources							
Donations and legacies	2.1	146,946	2,220	2,648	0	151,814	140,066
Other trading activities	2.2	15,960	3,019	0	0	18,979	8,172
Charitable activities	2.3	117,328	0	0	0	117,328	50,347
Income from investments	2.4	280	0	0	0	280	912
Other incoming resources	2.5	13,527	0	1,267	0	14,794	16,845
Total incoming resources		294,041	5,239	3,915	0	303,195	216,342
Resources expended							
Raising funds	3.1	55,806	0	140	0	55,946	28,122
Church activities	3.2	181,000	0	1,043	0	182,043	186,238
Other resources expended	3.3	3,161	0	0	0	3,161	2,144
Total resources expended		239,968	0	1,183	0	241,151	216,505
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers		54,073	5,239	2,732	0	62,044	-163
Transfers between funds in		0	0	0	0	0	47,597
Transfer between funds out		362	0	-362	0	0	-47,597
Net incoming resources before other gains / losses		54,435	5,239	2,370	0	62,044	-163
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets for charities own use							
Gain / losses on investments		-495				-495	0
Net movements in funds		53,940	5,239	2,370	0	61,549	-163
Total funds brought forward		67,432	62,671	73,415	242,135	445,653	445,816
Total funds carried forward		121,373	67,910	75,785	242,135	507,203	445,654

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090

Balance Sheet

	Note	2021	2020
Fixed assets			
Tangible	7.1	242,916	246,224
Investments	7.2	9,330	9,914
Total Fixed Assets		252,245	256,138
Current assets			
Investment in Dore Avenue	8.1	21,264	21,253
Debtor	8.1	9,350	14,038
Bank & cash	8.1	245,674	181,883
Total Current Assets		276,289	217,174
Liabilities			
Creditors due in one year	9.1	17,082	17,223
Provision for liabilities due within one year	9.2	4,250	10,436
Total Current Liabilities		21,332	27,658
Total Current Assets		507,202	445,654
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		0	0
Total Net Assets and liabilities		507,202	445,654
Parish funds			
Unrestricted	10.1	121,373	67,432
Designated	10.2	67,910	62,671
Restricted	10.3	75,785	73,415
Endowment	10.4	242,135	242,135
Total Parish Funds		507,203	445,653

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on ²³May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Jan Merrick.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and bulletin 2 published 5 October 2018), the financial reporting standard applicable in UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK generally accepted practice (UK GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The accounts have been prepared in GBP which is the functional currency for the church and rounded to the nearest whole £.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts of endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust of bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the year-end must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use are abated in line with assets' annual depreciation charges in the SOFA. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to general funds.

Risk management

Reserves are held by the Church to provide for future activities and initiatives which cannot be funded from income in a single year. They are also required to cover unforeseen expenditure. The PCC reviewed the level of reserves during the year.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds have been accrued to 31st December 2021. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accountable for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are considered as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

The curate's house, 24 Jute Close, Portchester was revalued on 31 December 2006 at £225,000 and the value has been used for this financial year (original cost £215,000). The Diocese has advised that there was no requirement to revalue the property in the current economic climate unless a PCC decision to sell was imminent. As this is not the case, the PCC has chosen not to revalue the property as there has not been a significant change in value.

The new Organ is being depreciated over ten years.

Investments are valued at market value on 31 December 2021.

Current assets

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England funds, COIF funds or at the bank.

Financial risks

Believing in God's care and provision for his people, the PCC has undertaken no further financial risk assessments.

Assumptions and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the PCC to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expense during the

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. For financial statements to 31 December 2021, there are no material estimates or assumptions.

Liabilities

Creditors represent the money owed by the PCC. These are recorded at cost.

Financial risks

During this year, a global pandemic continued, which resulted in multiple “lockdowns” from January 2021 for three months, 5th November for 6 weeks and then straight after Christmas and still ongoing into 2021. This has had a significant impact on income as we have not been able to open the Church and therefore not had the Open Plate collections from weekly services nor have we received the normal envelope giving during that time.

The Tea Room was only able to operate as a ‘take-away’ service until May but still managed to maintain a steady income.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090

Incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Voluntary income						
<u>2.1 Donations and legacies</u>						
Regular giving	44,321	240	280	0	44,841	82,104
Envelope giving	5,304	0	0	0	5,304	4,979
Collections	6,249	0	0	0	6,249	8,181
Parish Giving Scheme	48,705	0	0	0	48,705	3,098
Charity Checkout	-157	0	0	0	-157	298
Altar & Sanctuary	71	0	1,368	0	1,439	43
Pillar safe	750	0	0	0	750	606
Donations received	16,578	0	0	0	16,578	17,117
Donations for free lunches	1,125	0	0	0	1,125	1,066
Alpha course donations	484	0	0	0	484	0
Youth Group Connect	1,810	0	0	0	1,810	13
Baptism donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration income	0	1,980	0	0	1,980	0
Tax recoverable	21,707	0	0	0	21,707	22,562
Legacies received	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0
Total Donations and legacies	146,946	2,220	2,648	0	151,814	140,066
<u>2.2 Other trading activities</u>						
Building development income	0	3,019	0	0	3,019	3,686
Wedding fees	10,420	0	0	0	10,420	1,736
Funeral fees	5,340	0	0	0	5,340	2,536
Bell and choir	200	0	0	0	200	214
War memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other trading activities	15,960	3,019	0	0	18,979	8,172
<u>2.3 Charitable activities</u>						
Tea rooms	115,070	0	0	0	115,070	48,628
Concerts	428	0	0	0	428	1,312
Merchandise income	50	0	0	0	50	253
Wedding fayre & flower festival	0	0	0	0	0	80
St Mary's lamb	0	0	0	0	0	75
Special effort income	264	0	0	0	264	0
Christmas & summer fayre	1,516	0	0	0	1,516	0
Total Charitable activities	117,328	0	0	0	117,328	50,347
<u>2.4 Income from investments</u>						
Interest received	280	0	0	0	280	912
Total Income from investments	280	0	0	0	280	912
<u>2.5 Other incoming resources</u>						
Rent from 24 Jute Close	11,405	0	1,267	0	12,672	12,672
Rental Income Church & New Room	440	0	0	0	440	195
Legal income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank charge compensation	2	0	0	0	2	322
Covid Furlough Grant	1,680	0	0	0	1,680	3,656
Grants received	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other incoming resources	13,527	0	1,267	0	14,794	16,845
Total incoming resources	294,041	5,239	3,915	0	303,195	216,342

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Notes to Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
3.1 Raising funds						
Tearoom	55,278	0	0	0	55,278	27,510
Concert expenditure	350	0	0	0	350	300
Merchandise costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Mary's lambs	0	0	140	0	140	81
Christmas & summer fayre	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wedding fayre	178	0	0	0	178	232
Total Raising funds	55,806	0	140	0	55,946	28,122
3.2 Church activities						
Charity giving 10%	9,885	0	0	0	9,885	6,348
Donations	500	0	0	0	500	0
Outreach	551	0	200	0	751	670
Free lunches costs	1,297	0	0	0	1,297	0
Gifts from Farmer Ruel Fund	0	0	250	0	250	2,716
Thanksgiving to ministry	735	0	0	0	735	52
Parish share	99,825	0	0	0	99,825	101,623
Wedding / Funeral fees - Diocesan	0	0	0	0	0	192
Worship resources	265	0	0	0	265	296
Music Director	0	0	0	0	0	8,524
Salary & employers in	21,000	0	0	0	21,000	21,000
Employers Pension	880	0	0	0	880	662
Investors in people	4,409	0	0	0	4,409	0
Organist & verger payments	780	0	0	0	780	4,676
Bell ringers	10	0	0	0	10	110
Training	0	0	0	0	0	368
Ministry training & formation	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ministry team working expenses	2,215	0	12	0	2,227	1,310
Youth Group	1,382	0	0	0	1,382	886
Junior Church	102	0	0	0	102	0
Alpha course expenses	408	0	0	0	408	0
Social Events	283	0	0	0	283	52
Café Church	32	0	0	0	32	0
Parish hall rent	1,275	0	0	0	1,275	755
Church office	3,298	0	0	0	3,298	3,852
Insurance	2,385	0	0	0	2,385	2,368
Water rates - vicarage / church	473	0	0	0	473	481
Gas- Church	7,026	0	0	0	7,026	4,796
Electricity-Church	2,604	0	0	0	2,604	1,882
Telephone	2,162	0	0	0	2,162	1,799
Cleaning	1,518	0	0	0	1,518	3,394
Altar & sanctuary	267	0	0	0	267	289
Church flowers	0	0	0	0	0	170
Church yard	0	0	0	0	0	98
Licences	930	0	0	0	930	1,026
Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0	20
Fabric & buildings	5,034	0	0	0	5,034	4,055
Restoration costs	2,631	0	0	0	2,631	0
Expenses - 24 Jute close	0	0	581	0	581	517
Publicity	0	0	0	0	0	56
Postage	134	0	0	0	134	252
Advertising	412	0	0	0	412	278
Legal fees	1,440	0	0	0	1,440	3,951
Finance	640	0	0	0	640	2,671
Bank charges & interest	905	0	0	0	905	738
Organ depreciation	3,307	0	0	0	3,307	3,307
Total Church activities	181,000	0	1,043	0	182,043	186,238
3.3 Other resources expended						
Vicarage maintenance	2,203	0	0	0	2,203	2,034
Audio/Visual equipment	759	0	0	0	759	0
Governance	200	0	0	0	200	0
War Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	110
Total Other resources expended	3,161	0	0	0	3,161	2,144
Total resources	239,968	0	1,183	0	241,151	216,505

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090**

4. Staff costs

4.1 Wages and Salaries

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	47,649	46,174
Social security	0	0
Pension	898	662
Total	48,547	46,836

Total furlough grant received: £1,440.

4.2 Payment to PCC Members

No PCC members received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

5. Independent examiners remuneration

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examination	200	0

6. Related party transactions

Mr Ian Parker, Trustee and Laity Representative, is the proprietor of Taylor & Wallis. During the year Taylor and Wallis paid the church £11,610 (2020 - £10,730). At the year end, the amount due from Taylor & Wallis was £458 (2020 £9,350). Because of the pandemic, there have been problems with invoicing and chasing up payments.

The amount of donations received by the church from trustees and other related parties amounted to £20,399 (£13,385 in 2020)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090

Notes to the balance sheet

	Freehold land / buildings	Organ	2021	2020
7.1 Tangible Fixed assets				
Cost as at 1/1/2019 and 31/12/2019	225,000	32,140	257,140	257,140
Depreciation b/fwd		-10,916	-10,916	-7,609
Depreciation charge in year		-3,309	-3,309	-3,307
Total depreciation carried forward	0	-14,225	-14,225	-10,916
NBV as at 31 December	225,000	17,916	242,916	246,224
7.2 Investments				
CBF 3.73 Investment			195	166
CBF 649.96 Fixed Sec Int			1,029	1,099
CBF 4940 Fixed Sec Int			7,823	8,357
M&G Charibond			282	292
Total 7.2 Investments			9,330	9,914
8.1 Current assets				
Dore Avenue			21,264	21,253
Debtors			9,350	13,984
Net Salaries			0	54
Bank Current			7,815	11,473
Bank Savings 1			149,295	144,889
Bank Savings 2			88,428	25,341
Charge Card			-164	-119
Petty cash & floats			299	299
Total 8.1 Current assets			276,289	217,174
9.1 Liabilities				
Charity distribution			16,282	14,097
Wedding deposits			800	3,126
HMRC PAYE			0	144
Accruals			4,250	10,292
Total 9.1 Liabilities			21,332	27,658

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
Charity 1130090

Notes Funds

Represented by:

	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains / losses	Total 2021
10.1 Unrestricted Parish funds						
Investors in people	27,500	0	0	0	0	27,500
General fund	39,932	294,041	239,968	362	495	93,873
Total Unrestricted funds	67,432	294,041	239,968	362	495	121,373
10.2 Designated Parish funds						
Building project	62,671	5,239	0	0	0	67,910
Total Designated funds	62,671	5,239	0	0	0	67,910
10.3 Restricted Parish funds						
Community outreach	874	0	0	0	0	874
Labrynth	1,663	0	0	0	0	1,663
St Mary's lambs	641	0	140	-362	0	140
Lych Gate	605	0	0	0	0	605
Mission opportunities	3,038	0	12	0	0	3,025
Monasticism	267	0	0	0	0	267
War Memorial	3,319	0	0	0	0	3,319
Farmer & Ruel	5,565	280	450	0	0	5,395
Bell maintenance fund	2,299	0	0	0	0	2,299
Organ replacement fund	375	0	0	0	0	375
Building fund	20,982	0	0	0	0	20,982
Altar & Sanctuary	0	1,368	0	0	0	1,368
Legacy fund	845	1,000	0	0	0	1,845
Dore Avenue investment	20,531	0	0	0	0	20,531
Youth fund	747	0	0	0	0	747
Jute Close maintenance	11,666	1,267	581	0	0	12,352
Total Restricted funds	73,415	3,915	1,183	-362	0	75,785
10.4 Endowment Parish funds						
Ascension Portchester	15,938	0	0	0	0	15,938
Portchester North Boarhunt	1,127	0	0	0	0	1,127
Other endowments	70	0	0	0	0	70
Jute Close property	225,000	0	0	0	0	225,000
Total Endowment funds	242,135	0	0	0	0	242,135
Total Funds	445,653	303,195	241,151	0	495	507,203

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
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10.2 The purpose of St Mary's Church funds

Designated

Building Project A fund made available for parishioners to donate to which is held in reserve for special a Building Project, such as a possible extension to the Church.

Restricted

Community Outreach A fund held which is especially for a special project within the Community which requires specific funding;

Labyrinth A fund held for the maintenance of a special part of the Church Cemetery where family members' Ashes are interred, who did not wish to have a gravestone;

St Mary's Lambs A fund held specifically for a toddlers' group within the Church;

Lych Gate A fund held specifically for the repair and maintenance of the Victorian gate at the entrance to the Churchyard;

Mission Opportunities A Grant which was received in order be able to expand the type of worship opportunities for our parishioners;

Monasticism A grant received from Fareham borough council to fund the schools' monastic project;

War Memorial A fund to create a Memorial for those who died and who had lived in Portchester;

Farmer & Ruel A fund held to give help for a member of the community who is struggling financially;

Bell maintenance fund A fund held for maintenance and repairs of the church bells;

Organ replacement fund A fund held for replacing the church organ in ten years' time;

Dore Avenue Investment An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese after sale of Dore Avenue property;

Youth Fund A fund and grant received specifically to set up Connect – a youth club for young teenagers in the Parish;

Jute Close Maintenance A fund held specifically for any repairs or maintenance of the rental property in Jute Close;

Endowment

Ascension, Portchester An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese;

North Boarhunt An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese;

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
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Other Endowments A fund held especially from endowments received;

Jute Close Property The value of the Jute Close property.

Accounts

2020 Reports and Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Portchester
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Annual Report for 2020

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Aim and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and 24 Jute Close, Portchester.

Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the PCC is the formation of a community of people who are seeking to grow in faith, to live out that faith, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ through our service of, and engagement with those who live in the Parish of Portchester. The PCC does this in accordance with the teaching and practices of the Church of England.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees have taken account of such guidance when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

In 2020 there are 275 parishioners on the electoral roll (271 in 2019). Of whom 20.0% live outside the parish boundary (19.93% in 2019). The average weekly attendance, counted in October 2020, was 153, of whom 5 were children (222 in October 2019, 11 of whom were children). Due to Covid restrictions, attendances were low.

Highlights of 2020

During this Coronavirus year the church has been closed for much of the year and services have not been held in the building for much of the time. What has been surprising, however, is the amount of things St Mary's Church has still been able to do even in this difficult year of restrictions.

In February we started "**CONNECT**" a new youth group for teens each Friday in the Parish Hall. This was led by Rev David Simpson and his dedicated team of volunteers. This was the first initiative for teens in our church for a long time. We were only able to meet three times before lockdown hit us, but the numbers increased each week.

The same months saw initiatives to re-start a branch of the **MOTHERS UNION**, and a meeting was held in the Wicor Mill Pub to which around 20 women came. The result was that we were going to start not just one group – but two! A second group would be formed for younger women.

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The Coronavirus struck in March, and we had to change our style of ministry. We started **recording the services**, firstly from the church but then from homes. This was a new venture for us, and we saw our on-line viewing numbers exceed anything like the numbers we got to 'live' services.

Our COMMUNICATIONS changed from weekly paper notice sheet and monthly 'Keeping in Touch' newsletter to a weekly (later fortnightly) mail chimp on e-mail: St Mary's News. This has a mailing list of over 300 addresses and in addition we print 60 copies for those not on e-mail. These are printed and delivered by a dedicated team of volunteers.

PASTORAL AND OUTREACH. We co-ordinated a network of volunteers from the church who phoned round people to assure them they were not alone and to see if we could offer practical support like collecting shopping and prescriptions. We also had an arrangement with the Wicor Mill pub where we were able to have **DELIVERED SUNDAY LUNCHES** to the elderly, housebound and others.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY continued but online as Emma Capps, Amy Sparks and Heather Jones produced some wonderful children's services and activities which were broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. **ST MARY'S LAMBS** our toddler group held a summer picnic and have kept their members in regular contact through Facebook. Heather Jones was appointed this year as their new leader and she and her daughter Isabel have produced some wonderful videos.

During the warmer summer months, while still not able to meet indoors, we held **OPEN AIR SERVICES IN** the churchyard each Sunday. This saw many of our members come back to worship after several months away, and the numbers exceeded 100 every week. We also saw a number of new people join our congregation as a result of this.

In June, Justin and Emily produced a special St Mary's version of the lockdown Christian song '**THE BLESSING**'. This included some wonderful drone footage of the church, castle and churchyard and has been a blessing to many people, near and far.

In July, we launched out on one of our most exciting initiatives – the appointment of a full-time manager for our **TEA ROOM – RON PRIOR**. By this means we were able to re-open the Tea Room that month. Ron is assisted by a team of over 30 volunteers. As well as providing a financial revenue for the church, it has been a great means of fellowship, hospitality and welcome. The Tea Room once again received a 5 Star certificate from the Council's Environmental Health and a 'Traveller's Choice' certificate from Trip Advisor who continue to have excellent reviews from members of the public who have enjoyed the Tea Room. The Tea Room has also started its own **FACEBOOK PAGE**.

In September we recommenced our Friday morning services in the **PARISH HALL**. We moved into the large hall for two reasons: firstly, to encourage better social distancing, and secondly, because the numbers were increasing so much that we no longer fitted into the smaller hall. The Rev James Hair took a particular interest in this service and during lockdown provided a regular Friday devotional post on our Facebook dedicated to the Friday congregation.

The Autumn saw the commencement of our **ALPHA COURSE** which has now been running for the seventh consecutive year at St Mary's and through which many have come to faith or had their faith renewed. After many years of leadership, Vicki Powell stood down from this, and Penny McIlroy took over. This year's course started as a live group, but when the next lockdown came, they completed the course online and with Zoom meetings.

The group, the **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S** donated three devotional panels which were fitted into the alcoves of the north transept. These will help the prayerful ambience of that space, and although

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many members have not seen them yet, we look forward to enjoying them once we return to the building.

There were national concerns that during the school holidays and during lockdown, some children were going without their lunch. In October we commenced a system of offering **FREE MEALS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN**. This was funded from our 10% charity fund but also from outside individuals and groups. This ministry of hospitality continues and so far we have been able to give away hundreds of these meals.

A new church **WEBSITE** was created in December by our talented administrator, Emma Capps. This website is a lot more user friendly than the previous one, and has attracted many favourable comments. It has some extra features like a weekly calendar and videos of services.

All this and more has been possible due to the amazing generosity of our congregation. During this year when there were no collections, several sent in large donations by cheque, and small amounts were also appreciated. Others took out standing orders with the bank. This year we launched the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME** and already we are in the top 20 churches in Portsmouth Diocese for the number of participants and for the amount given through this means.

The year ended with all our bills paid, all our financial obligations met, our Parish Share paid in full and no debt!

Did someone say that not a lot had happened this year!!

[Structure, governance and management](#)

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointing PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The 2015 annual meeting resolved that no representative of the laity may hold office for more than six years (two terms of three years) but may stand for election again after an interval of one year. Its membership consists of the incumbent, the assistant curate, churchwardens, readers and members elected by those of the congregation whose names appear on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met 7 times during the year with an average attendance of 78%, these meetings were conducted on Zoom where we were unable to meet in person.

[Administrative information](#)

St Mary's Church is situated in the grounds of Portchester Castle and is part of the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Church, Portchester Parish Hall, Assheton Court, Portchester, Hampshire, PO16 9PY. The registered charity number is 1130090.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Portchester

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith*

Readers: Mrs Carol Gay (25 May 2016 - present)

Churchwardens: Mr Keith Phillips (18 June 2019 -present)*
Mrs Kay Walker (18 June 2019 - present)*

Elected members:

Diocesan Synod: Mr Gerald Anderson*

Representatives: Mrs Valerie Agar (to June 2018)*

Deanery Synod: Mrs Valarie Agar*

Representatives: Mr Mike Baker (2 April 2017 – July 2020)*

Laity Representatives: Mr Ian Parker (1 April 2019 - present)*
Mr Leroy Osbourne (2 April 2019 - present)*
Mr Terry Marris (2 April 2017- 25th October 2020)*
Mr Ray Norman (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mrs Kay Walker (2 April 2017 - present)*
Mr Stephen Traer (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mr Chris Hayes (25 October 2020 – present)*
Mr Keith Philips (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mrs Dawn Traer (15 April 2018 - present)*
Mr Jay Lannon (1 April 2019 – July 2020)*
Mr Peter Bradley (1 April 2019 - present)*
Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 - present)*

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PCC Secretary: Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 - present)*

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sally Young (from 1 April 2019 - present)*

Co-opted Members: Ms Carolyn Bullock (November 2020 – next APCM**)

Mrs Janice Sargent (November 2020 – next APCM**)

Mr Alan Sargent (November 2020 – next APCM**)

** Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Trustees:

Chair: The Reverend Dr Ian Meredith (16 June 2013 – present)

Other: Mrs Denise Simmons (2 April 2017 – present)

Mrs Valerie Agar (25 May 2011 – present)

Mr Leroy Osbourne (1 June 2016 – present)

Mr Raymond Norman (2 April 2017 – present)

Mr Jay Lannon (1 April 2019 – July 2020)

Mr Terry Marris (6 April 2014 – 25 October 2020)

Mr Michael Baker (6 April 2014 – July 2020)

Mr Peter Bradley (1 April 2019 – present)

Mr Stephen Traer (15 April 2018 – present)

Mrs Sally Young (1 April 2019 - present)

Mrs Kay Walker (1 June 2016 – present)

Mr Ian Parker (1 April 2019 – present)

Mr Keith Phillips (15 April 2018 – present)

Mr Gerald Anderson (- present)

Mrs Dawn Traer (15 April 2018 – present)

Mr Christopher Hayes (25 October 2020 – present)

Mr Colin Chalmers (25 October 2020 – present)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Church of St Mary, Portchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Charities with gross income exceeding £250,000 must be examined by a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Louisa Burton ACA

4 Albert Road

Southsea

PO5 2SH

Dated: ...22 March 2021.....

Statement of Financial Activities

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Whilst accounting duties are delegated to the Treasurer, this does not remove its legal responsibilities.

The total incoming resources for 2020 report a decrease of 32.1%, which, sadly, is a direct result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite this, the regular giving reported an increase of 19.5% and donations made throughout the year increased from £3,488 last year to £17,047. The revenue generated from Church service Collections and Envelope-Giving showed a decrease of 45% and 62% respectively. The tax refunds from HMRC were updated as at 31 December.

The Parish Giving Scheme was launched at the APCM in October and, by the end of December, 40 of our parishioners had already joined the scheme which is very promising. We also had a very encouraging communication from Chris Parker, the Diocesan Stewardship Director, stating that at 40 givers, St Mary's is in the top 20 parishes in the Diocese by number of givers, and average weekly gift.

We were only able to perform 5 wedding ceremonies this year due to the pandemic and, as a result, there was a considerable reduction in this income source, however, many couples who hoped to marry this year have already booked a date in 2021. The income generated from funerals also dropped significantly, not only because for 3 months, no charge was made, but also it appears that more people opted for a less religious ceremony.

Other income streams such as our concerts, Portchester Gala and the Christmas Fayre generated virtually no income at all this year.

The Tea Room has continued to be a great success, despite the pandemic and the recent arrival of the Seahorse Coffee Bar that presides in the Castle grounds. Although the Tea Room was closed for four months and for much of the rest of the time just a take-away service, it has generated £21,400 net income. Its continued success, we believe, has been down to the loyal support of the Tea Room volunteers and to the appointment of Ron Prior, who has done so much in such a short period of time. The decision of the PCC to appoint a permanent Tea Room manager has certainly taken the pressure off our concerns regarding its future.

The parish share has also increased – this year by 3.7% to £101,623, however, despite the exceedingly difficult situation we have had to face this year, we were able to pay our share in full. This must be attributed to the generosity of our parishioners – thank you!

At the financial year end, the Church had a total bank and deposit balances of £181,703. This compared to the previous year of £165,228.

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Reserves Policy

PCC policy is to maintain a balance on free reserves which equates to three months of unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £60,000 and is held to smooth fluctuations in cash flow and meet emergencies. It can be seen from the accounts, the general fund at the end of December was somewhat lower than this because the PCC wanted to ensure that the Parish Share was paid in full so that no debt was carried forward into 2021.

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 31__March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: Ian Meredith

Name: IAN MEREDITH

Title: VICAR OF ST. MARYS

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Statement of financial activities incorporating the income and expenditure account
For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Incoming Resources							
Donations and legacies	2.1	137,646	220	2,200	0	140,066	128,220
Other trading activities	2.2	4,486	3,686	0	0	8,172	56,852
Charitable activities	2.3	50,272	0	75	0	50,347	85,329
Income from investments	2.4	912	0	0	0	912	820
Other incoming resources	2.5	14,912	0	1,933	0	16,845	32,469
Total incoming resources		208,228	3,906	4,208	0	216,342	303,690
Resources expended							
Raising funds	3.1	28,059	0	63	0	28,122	23,823
Church activities	3.2	182,309	0	3,930	0	186,238	319,015
Other resources expended	3.3	2,144	0	0	0	2,144	3,125
Total resources expended		212,513	0	3,993	0	216,505	345,963
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers		-4,284	3,906	216	0	-163	-42,274
Transfers between funds in		12,500	30,000	5,097	0	47,597	0
Transfer between funds out		-47,597	0	0	0	-47,597	0
Net incoming resources before other gains / losses		-39,381	33,906	5,313	0	-163	-42,274
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets for charities own use							
Gain / losses on investments							
Net movements in funds		-39,381	33,906	5,313	0	-163	-42,274
Total funds brought forward		106,814	28,764	68,103	242,135	445,816	488,089
Total funds carried forward		67,432	62,670	73,416	242,135	445,654	445,816

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

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Balance Sheet

	Note	2020	2019
Fixed assets			
Tangible	7.1	246,224	249,531
Investments	7.2	9,914	9,601
Total Fixed Assets		256,138	259,132
Current assets			
Investment in Dore Avenue	8.1	21,253	21,163
Debtor	8.1	14,038	18,596
Bank & cash	8.1	181,883	165,304
Total Current Assets		217,174	205,063
Liabilities			
Creditors due in one year	9.1	17,366	15,336
Provision for liabilities due within one year	9.2	10,292	3,043
Total Current Liabilities		27,658	18,379
Total Current Assets		445,654	445,817
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		0	0
Total Net Assets and liabilities		445,654	445,816
Parish funds			
Unrestricted	10.1	67,433	106,814
Designated	10.2	62,671	28,764
Restricted	10.3	73,415	68,103
Endowment	10.4	242,135	242,135
Total Parish Funds		445,654	445,816

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 31 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Jan Meredith

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and bulletin 2 published 5 October 2018), the financial reporting standard applicable in UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK generally accepted practice (UK GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The accounts have been prepared in GBP which is the functional currency for the church and rounded to the nearest whole £.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts of endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust of bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the year-end must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use are abated in line with assets' annual depreciation charges in the SOFA. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to general funds.

Risk management

Reserves are held by the Church to provide for future activities and initiatives which cannot be funded from income in a single year. They are also required to cover unforeseen expenditure. The PCC reviewed the level of reserves during the year.

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Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds have been accrued to 31st December 2019. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accountable for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are considered as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

The curate's house, 24 Jute Close, Portchester was revalued on 31 December 2006 at £225,000 and the value has been used for this financial year (original cost £215,000). The Diocese has advised that there was no requirement to revalue the property in the current economic climate unless a PCC decision to sell was imminent. As this is not the case, the PCC has chosen not to revalue the property as there has not been a significant change in value.

The new Organ is being depreciated over ten years.

Investments are valued at market value on 31 December 2020.

Current assets

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England funds, COIF funds or at the bank.

Financial risks

Believing in God's care and provision for his people, the PCC has undertaken no further financial risk assessments.

Assumptions and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the PCC to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expense

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during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. For financial statements to 31 December 2019, there are no material estimates or assumptions.

Liabilities

Creditors represent the money owed by the PCC. These are recorded at cost.

Financial risks

During this year, a global pandemic occurred, which resulted in multiple “lockdowns” from March 2020 for three months, 5th November for 6 weeks and then straight after Christmas and still ongoing into 2021. This has had a significant impact on income as we have not been able to open the Church and therefore not had the Open Plate collections from weekly services nor have we received the normal envelope giving during that time.

The Tea Room has also been closed for the first lockdown period and therefore unable to generate income.

After re-opening the Tea Room in line with government guidance, another “Pop up” Café was set up in the Castle ground, directly competing, which is further impacting income generation.

A second “lockdown” took place during November, resulting in the Tea Room operating as a take-away service. How the take-away service will impact on generated income during 2021 is unknown.

*The CBF Investment fund to date has not been updated. The Portsmouth Diocese Finance department has very recently amalgamated with the Winchester Diocese and unfortunately, they have been unable to locate this fund.

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Incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Voluntary income						
<u>2.1 Donations and legacies</u>						
Regular giving	81,484	0	620	0	82,104	71,222
Envelope giving	4,979	0	0	0	4,979	13,124
Collections	8,181	0	0	0	8,181	14,812
Parish Giving Scheme	3,098	0	0	0	3,098	0
Charity Checkout	298	0	0	0	298	0
Altar & Sanctuary	43	0	0	0	43	0
Pillar safe	606	0	0	0	606	2,140
Donations received	15,317	220	1,580	0	17,117	3,488
Donations for free lunches	1,066	0	0	0	1,066	0
Youth Group Connect	13	0	0	0	13	0
Baptism donations	0	0	0	0	0	981
Tax recoverable	22,562	0	0	0	22,562	21,608
Legacies received	0	0	0	0	0	845
Total Donations and legacies	137,646	220	2,200	0	140,066	128,220
<u>2.2 Other trading activities</u>						
Building development income	0	3,686	0	0	3,686	31,537
Wedding fees	1,736	0	0	0	1,736	20,573
Funeral fees	2,536	0	0	0	2,536	4,284
Bell and choir	214	0	0	0	214	458
War memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other trading activities	4,486	3,686	0	0	8,172	56,852
<u>2.3 Charitable activities</u>						
Tea rooms	48,628	0	0	0	48,628	64,582
Concerts	1,312	0	0	0	1,312	6,948
Merchandise income	253	0	0	0	253	1,575
Wedding fayre & flower festival	80	0	0	0	80	951
St Mary's lamb	0	0	75	0	75	328
Special effort income	0	0	0	0	0	5,638
Christmas & summer fayre	0	0	0	0	0	5,307
Total Charitable activities	50,272	0	75	0	50,347	85,329
<u>2.4 Income from investments</u>						
Interest received	912	0	0	0	912	820
Total Income from investments	912	0	0	0	912	820
<u>2.5 Other incoming resources</u>						
Rent from 24 Jute Close	10,771	0	1,901	0	12,672	12,558
Rental Income Church & New Room	195	0	0	0	195	4,723
Legal income	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
Bank charge compensation	290	0	32	0	322	589
Covid Furlough Grant	3,656	0	0	0	3,656	0
Grants received	0	0	0	0	0	4,600
Total Other incoming resources	14,912	0	1,933	0	16,845	32,469
Total incoming resources	208,228	3,906	4,208	0	216,342	303,690

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Notes to Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
3.1 Raising funds						
Tearoom	27,510	0	0	0	27,510	16,134
Concert expenditure	300	0	0	0	300	5,011
Merchandise costs	0	0	0	0	0	1,334
St Mary's lambs	18	0	63	0	81	468
Christmas & summer fayre	0	0	0	0	0	518
Wedding fayre	232	0	0	0	232	357
Total Raising funds	28,059	0	63	0	28,122	23,823
3.2 Church activities						
Charity giving 10%	6,348	0	0	0	6,348	10,758
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	980
Outreach	0	0	670	0	670	1,282
Gifts from Farmer Ruel Fund	0	0	2,716	0	2,716	0
Thanksgiving to ministry	52	0	0	0	52	1,170
Parish share	101,623	0	0	0	101,623	97,924
Wedding / Funeral fees - Diocesan	192	0	0	0	192	235
Worship resources	153	0	143	0	296	2,107
Music Director	8,524	0	0	0	8,524	4,200
Salary & employers in	21,000	0	0	0	21,000	20,926
Employers Pension	662	0	0	0	662	313
Organist & verger payments	4,676	0	0	0	4,676	8,984
Bell ringers	110	0	0	0	110	30
Training	368	0	0	0	368	8
Ministry training & formation	1	0	0	0	1	180
Ministry team working expenses	1,310	0	0	0	1,310	5,471
Youth Group	684	0	203	0	886	507
Social Events	52	0	0	0	52	3,626
Parish hall rent	755	0	0	0	755	1,819
Church office	3,852	0	0	0	3,852	7,507
Insurance	2,368	0	0	0	2,368	2,139
Water rates - vicarage / church	481	0	0	0	481	543
Gas- Church	4,796	0	0	0	4,796	4,560
Electricity-Church	1,882	0	0	0	1,882	2,296
Telephone	1,799	0	0	0	1,799	2,459
Cleaning	3,394	0	0	0	3,394	3,000
Altar & sanctuary	289	0	0	0	289	845
Church flowers	170	0	0	0	170	560
Church yard	0	0	98	0	98	35
Licences	1,026	0	0	0	1,026	1,086
Subscriptions	20	0	0	0	20	0
Fabric & buildings	4,055	0	0	0	4,055	5,629
Restoration costs	0	0	0	0	0	113,758
Expenses - 24 Jute close	417	0	100	0	517	75
Publicity	56	0	0	0	56	223
Postage	252	0	0	0	252	48
Advertising	278	0	0	0	278	286
Legal fees	3,951	0	0	0	3,951	7,153
Finance	2,671	0	0	0	2,671	1,609
Bank charges & interest	738	0	0	0	738	1,379
Organ depreciation	3,307	0	0	0	3,307	3,307
Total Church activities	182,309	0	3,930	0	186,238	319,015
3.3 Other resources expended						
Vicarage maintenance	2,034	0	0	0	2,034	2,884
War Memorial	110	0	0	0	110	241
Total Other resources expended	2,144	0	0	0	2,144	3,125
Total resources	212,513	0	3,993	0	216,505	345,963

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4. Staff costs

4.1 Wages and Salaries

During the year the PCC employed a Church Administrator, a Director of Music who was furloughed and then made redundant in December, a Verger who retired at the end of July but was not replaced, two cleaners who have been furloughed, a Tea Room Manager who was appointed in July, choir members and bell ringers who individually did not earn £50,000 per annum or more.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	46,174	36,000
Social security	0	1,622
Pension	662	378
Total	46,836	38,000

Total furlough grant received: £3,656.

4.2 Payment to PCC Members

No PCC members received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

5. Independent examiners remuneration

	2020	2019
	£	£
Independent examination	0	1,260

6. Related party transactions

Mr Ian Parker, Trustee and Laity Representative, is the proprietor of Taylor & Wallis. During the year Taylor and Wallis paid the church £10,730 (2019 - £0). At the year end, the amount due from Taylor & Wallis was £9,350 (2019 £10,730). Because of the pandemic, there have been problems with invoicing and chasing up payments.

The amount of donations received by the church from trustees and other related parties amounted to £13,385 (£7,887 in 2019)

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Notes to the balance sheet

	Freehold land / buildings	Organ	2020	2019
7.1 Tangible Fixed assets				
Cost as at 1/1/2019 and 31/12/2019	225,000	32,140	257,140	257,140
Depreciation b/fwd		-7,609	-7,609	-4,302
Depreciation charge in year		-3,307	-3,307	-3,307
Total depreciation carried forward	0	-10,916	-10,916	-7,609
NBV as at 31 December	225,000	21,224	246,224	249,531
7.2 Investments				
CBF 3.73 Investment			166	151
CBF 649.96 Fixed Sec Int			1,099	1,065
CBF 4940 Fixed Sec Int			8,357	8,094
M&G Charibond			292	291
Total 7.2 Investments			9,914	9,601
8.1 Current assets				
Dore Avenue			21,253	21,163
Debtors			13,984	18,596
Net Salaries			54	0
Bank Current			11,473	64,319
Bank Savings 1			144,889	57,979
Bank Savings 2			25,341	42,930
Charge Card			-119	-224
Petty cash & floats			299	299
Total 8.1 Current assets			217,174	205,063
9.1 Liabilities				
Charity distribution			14,097	13,493
Wedding deposits			3,126	1,843
HMRC PAYE			144	0
Accruals			10,292	3,043
Total 9.1 Liabilities			27,658	18,379

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Notes Funds

Represented by:

	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains / losses	Total 2020
10.1 Unrestricted Parish funds						
Investors in people	15,000	0	0	12,500	0	27,500
General fund	91,814	208,228	212,513	-47,597	0	39,933
Total Unrestricted funds	106,814	208,228	212,513	-35,097	0	67,433
10.2 Designated Parish funds						
Building project	28,764	3,906	0	30,000	0	62,671
Total Designated funds	28,764	3,906	0	30,000	0	62,671
10.3 Restricted Parish funds						
Community outreach	874	0	0	0	0	874
Labrynth	1,761	0	98	0	0	1,663
St Mary's lambs	532	75	63	97	0	641
Lych Gate	605	0	0	0	0	605
Mission opportunities	3,181	0	143	0	0	3,038
Monasticism	267	0	0	0	0	267
War Memorial	3,319	0	0	0	0	3,319
Farmer & Ruel	1,719	2,232	3,386	5,000	0	5,565
Bell maintenance fund	2,299	0	0	0	0	2,299
Organ replacement fund	375	0	0	0	0	375
Building fund	20,982	0	0	0	0	20,982
Legacy fund	845	0	0	0	0	845
Dore Avenue investment	20,531	0	0	0	0	20,531
Youth fund	950	0	203	0	0	747
Jute Close maintenance	9,865	1,901	100	0	0	11,666
Total Restricted funds	68,103	4,208	3,992	5,097	0	73,415
10.4 Endowment Parish funds						
Ascension Portchester	15,938	0	0	0	0	15,938
Portchester North Boarhunt	1,127	0	0	0	0	1,127
Other endowments	70	0	0	0	0	70
Jute Close property	225,000	0	0	0	0	225,000
Total Endowment funds	242,135	0	0	0	0	242,135
Total Funds	445,816	216,342	216,505	0	0	445,654

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10.2 The purpose of St Mary's Church funds

Designated

Building Project A fund made available for parishioners to donate to which is held in reserve for special a Building Project, such as a possible extension to the Church.

Restricted

Community Outreach A fund held which is especially for a special project within the Community which requires specific funding;

Labyrinth A fund held for the maintenance of a special part of the Church Cemetery where family members' Ashes are interred, who did not wish to have a gravestone;

St Mary's Lambs A fund held specifically for a toddlers' group within the Church;

Lych Gate A fund held specifically for the repair and maintenance of the Victorian gate at the entrance to the Churchyard;

Mission Opportunities A Grant which was received in order be able to expand the type of worship opportunities for our parishioners;

Monasticism A grant received from Fareham borough council to fund the schools' monastic project;

War Memorial A fund to create a Memorial for those who died and who had lived in Portchester;

Farmer & Ruel A fund held to give help for a member of the community who is struggling financially;

Bell maintenance fund A fund held for maintenance and repairs of the church bells;

Organ replacement fund A fund held for replacing the church organ in ten years' time;

Dore Avenue Investment An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese after sale of Dore Avenue property;

Youth Fund A fund and grant received specifically to set up Connect – a youth club for young teenagers in the Parish;

Jute Close Maintenance A fund held specifically for any repairs or maintenance of the rental property in Jute Close;

Endowment

Ascension, Portchester An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese;

North Boarhunt An investment fund held by the Portsmouth Diocese;

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Other Endowments A fund held especially from endowments received;

Jute Close Property The value of the Jute Close property.