

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT DURSLEY WITH ST MARK'S WOODMANCOTE

England & Wales · Charity number 1130972

Details

Other names DURSLEY PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-08-04

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: Church Of England

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£123,997	£201,971	-	-
2024-12-31	£154,416	£111,495	-	-
2023-12-31	£127,315	£100,119	-	-
2022-12-31	£123,714	£133,949	-	-
2021-12-31	£98,161	£88,391	-	-
2020-12-31	£101,091	£104,813	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Juliet Jensen	Chair	2024-09-01
AUSTIN BARRY MEARES		
Anne Elizabeth Shipton		2025-05-21
CAROLINE MARY MARROW		
Christopher Tyler		2022-05-22
David Maurice Smith		2019-04-28
Dr Sally Elizabeth Pearson		2019-04-28
Edwina Gale Walton		2025-05-21
Huw Clayton MR		2026-05-21
Janet Vonberg		2026-05-18
Joy Pepper		2022-05-22
Sheila Gardner		2023-05-30

Accounts

St James the Great, Dursley



APCM Reports 2026

APCM Agenda 17th May 2026
Meetings to be held in St James the Great Church
on Sunday 17th May 2026 at 11.30am

**MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Opening prayers
2. Appointment of clerk to the meetings
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of previous meeting on 18th May 2025
5. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of previous meeting on 18th May 2025
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Electoral Roll Officer's report
4. Treasurer's report to include presentation of Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
6. Annual Report includes:
Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish
Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
Safeguarding
Trustee's report
Other reports
7. Election of new PCC members
8. Election of Deanery Synod representatives
9. Election of Sidesmen and women
10. Matters of parochial interest

MEETING OF THE NEW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Election of Vice Chairman
2. Appointment of PCC Secretary
3. Appointment of Treasurer
4. Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer
5. Date of next meeting: 2nd June at 7pm with Eucharist
Venue: St James

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 18th May 2025

In St James Church

Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens.

Opening prayers by Revd Juliet Jensen

Appointment of clerk to the meeting – Clare White (All in favour)

Present: Nigel Davies, Jan Vonberg, Sally Pearson, Sheila Gardner, Joy Pepper, Barbie Davies, Susanne Shaw, Sarah Hodge, David Vonberg, Elizabeth Oakley, Anne Orchard, Clive Orchard, Anne Shipton, Anne Ransome, Roger Ransome, David Smith, Danny Parker, Donna Pinker, Ros Attak, Bob Attak, Heather Arnold, John Crellin, Pam Crellin, Autin Meares, Valerie Meares, Ann King, Jane Bilous, Harry Atkinson, Sally Arnold, Joyce Lombarde, Sally Haynes, Elizabeth Byrne, Kathie Rebbeck, Geoff Whiley, Susan Gibson, Duncan Gibson, John Ewer, Julia Clarke, Averil Riddick, Angie Philips, Chris Philips, Clare White, Juliet Jensen, Philip Staddon, Chris Tyler, Rachel Tyler.

Apologies: Christine Morgan, Ian Gardner, Gill Mather, Adrian Mather, Edwina Walton, Judith Staddon, Caroline Marrow.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th May 2024: signed by Revd Juliet Jensen as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by David Smith

Seconded by Anne Shipton

All in favour

Election of Churchwardens

Christopher Tyler

Danny Parker

Proposed by Jan Vonberg

Proposed by Clare White

Seconded by Austin Meares

Seconded by Joy Pepper

All in favour

All in favour

Jan Vonberg was thanked for her 3 years as Churchwarden and presented with flowers by Revd Juliet.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting on 19th May 2024 were signed as a true record by Revd Juliet Jensen.

Proposed by Sally Pearson

Seconded by Sarah Hodge

All in favour.

2. **Matters Arising.** There is now a good team of people mowing the churchyard.

3. **The Electoral roll:** 2025 is 103, 2023/2024 was 157. The latest roll is a renewal year.
4. **Treasurers report:** The report for 2024 is in the booklet attached.
Proposed by Sally Pearson
Seconded by Heather Arnold
All in favour
Balances are higher because of the transfer of interest from the Omega Trust (£83K), that has finally been released by the solicitors trust fund. All the costs of the new boilers can be met.
The Parish share was met in full in 2024.
In 2025 our share is £60k, it is suggested that £20-£40k will be funded. Money is available to cover the costs of the tower repairs.
The accounts are comfortable, but we must now be complacent.
Revd Juliet thanked Sally for the massive amount of work she puts into her role as treasurer and her persistence in acquiring funds. Sally has said she wishes to hand on the role in the coming year, she has been treasurer for 6 years.
A volunteer will be sought to work alongside Sally and learn the role.

5. **Appointment of the independent examiner:** Sally Pearson recommended that we use Davies consultants again for this year.
Proposed by Sally Pearson
Seconded by Heather Arnold
All in Favour

6. **Annual reports:** JJ thanked Clare for producing the booklet.

Questions from the attendees:

Larger print for our booklets was requested by Ros Attak.
Sally Haynes thanked JV & DV for their help and how she feels so included in our community.

7. **Election of new members of the PCC:**

Joy Pepper	Heather Arnold
Proposed by Sheila Gardner	Proposed by Caroline Marrow
Seconded by Chris Tyler	Seconded by Rachel Tyler
Donna Pinker	Austin Meares
Proposed by Jan Vonberg	Proposed by Valerie Meares
Seconded by Chris Tyler	Seconded by Rachel Tyler

All were voted in en masse.

8. **Election of sidespeople:** All have agreed to continue and were proposed en masse

Proposed by Clare White

Seconded by Philip Staddon

All were voted in en masse.

Meeting closed at 12.10pm

Meeting of the New Parochial Church Council

Present: Juliet Jensen, Austin Meares, Heather Arnold, Chris Tyler, Donna Pinker, Sheila Gardner, Joy Pepper, Clare White, Anne Shipton, Elizabeth Oakley, David Smith

Apologies: Edwina Walton

Appointment of Vice Chair – Secretary: Clare White

Chris Tyler

Proposed: Sheila Gardner

Proposed: Heather Arnold

Seconded: Joy Pepper

Seconded: Anne Shipton

All in favour

All in favour.

Treasurer: Sally Pearson

Electoral Roll Officer: Austin

Proposed: Clare White

Meares

Seconded: Austin Meares

Proposed: Joy Pepper

All in favour

Seconded: Heather Arnold

All in favour

Date of the next PCC meeting will be 4th June 2025, 7.30pm at St James.

Ewelme Benefice Dursley Parochial Church Council Registered Charity No. 1130972

Trustees Annual Report 2025

Dursley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Juliet Jensen, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the churches of St James the Great Dursley (the parish church) and the Parish Centre located behind the church of St James.

Our Vision

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision. *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.*
John 10:10

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and be part of our community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our buildings.

The Finance Report

• Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

• Accounting Policies

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members

During the year the PCC have agreed Financial Control Procedures to ensure the PCC meets the legal requirements and good practice recommendations set out in the Charity Commission Guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charity.

These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

- **Reserves Policy**

This is now reflected in the Financial Controls Procedures. The purpose of a Reserves Policy is to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of core work. The Reserves Policy is to retain a minimum of £8k in unrestricted funds across all accounts at all times to protect 3 months of core work.

- **Year End Balances**

The Statement of Assets at annex 1 shows at the year end 2025 we were holding assets to the value of £381,900,40. This represents a reduction of £78,406 from last year. This is a result of significant expenditure on capital projects in the church including the replacement of the boiler and repairs to the tower roof.

- **Receipts and Payments**

The Receipts and Payments Account (Annex 2) shows the areas of expenditure and income across all accounts and allows comparison with last year. The key variances are; the reduction in all forms of giving (although the figure for collections, donations and other giving for 2024 includes income from the boiler campaign) the increased commitment to the Parish Share expenditure on repairs to church buildings

- **Parish Share**

- At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment as our Parish Share contribution of £60k. These accounts show an expenditure of £60k against the Parish Share, but this includes a £9k payment made early in 2025 against the commitment for last year. Therefore the contribution made by this PCC in 2025 was £51k

The commitment made for 2026 is currently £62k

- **Parish Finance Return**

This return which is required by the Diocese, and generated from the Diocesan Cashbook, used to record all transactions across all our accounts and investments, is included at Annex 3

- **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

The PCC has elected to subject the financial statements to independent examination. These accounts have been examined by Davies Accountants Ltd (previously known as Davies Accountants (SW) Ltd). Their report is included as annex 4.

Having made appropriate enquiries, the PCC propose Davies Accountants Ltd as independent examiner until the next APCM.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 5 meetings during 2025. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in May to make the necessary election of PCC Officers.

Administrative information

St James the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

The Parish of Dursley is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office, St James Parish Centre, Silver Street, Dursley. GL11 4NA

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Juliet Jensen

Churchwardens: Christopher Tyler (From April 2024)
Danny Parker (from May 2025)

Elected members:

David Smith	Deanery Synod representative
Elizabeth Oakley	Deanery Synod representative
Clare White	PCC Secretary
Sally Pearson	PCC Treasurer
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Heather Arnold
Austin Meares	Caroline Marrow
Edwina Walton	Christine Morgan
Sheila Gardner	Joy Pepper
Anne Shipton (from May 2025)	

Revd Juliet Jensen, PCC Chairman

March 2026

I am hugely grateful to God and to you all for all that we share here in Dursley.

The annual reports from the wide variety of Church life demonstrate the enormous commitment, talent and loving service of so many people in the Parish. This truly is a wonderful place to be, and I'm very grateful for your patience as I have settled into ministry here and navigated some significant personal challenges.

There is so much to be thankful for.

It was a difficult start to 2025 as we said farewell to Revd Jane and not long after we had the very sad news that Tony King's death. We are very grateful for all that they brought to the life of the parish and the wider benefice and I believe that the developments at Dursley Academy this year are in large part the result of seeds that Tony had sown over many years both as part of Open the Book team and listening to children read.

In February there was a Benefice Away day for the PCCs and retired ministers. The message from Dursley PCC is that we do lots of great things and we simply need to get the message out a bit more, so that more people come along.

Well, the message seems to be getting out, with growing numbers of people coming along on Thursdays and Saturdays and to other events too. People experience the special something, the warmth and love of St James, and some venture in for worship on a Sunday too. The quality of the care and welcome are often mentioned when I talk with people who are new or visiting church for the first time. I am hopeful that in the coming year we will get the message out about the beauty of Choral Evensong – and that Choral Singing isn't just for Christmas, the quality and warmth of the choral music at St James is something to be shared more widely.

We didn't come away from the day in February with a vision for how we might engage more with children and families in the parish, but it seems that God does! Over this last year we have been presented with opportunities to develop our relationship with Dursley Academy and explore worship from the perspective of families with young children. We have worked hard with safeguarding this last year and will continue to do this as we explore further how we work with children and families across the Benefice, particularly in relation to the national initiative from the RSCM, The Choir Project.

There are so many people to thank it would take a page to name everyone, you know who you are - THANK YOU!

I feel hopeful as we look ahead and trust that we will have the courage to take the little steps of faith that we are being called to this year. The One who calls us is faithful and will do more than we could possibly ask or dare to imagine – to Him be glory in the Church, now and forever!

Safeguarding report for PCC/APCM 2026

Heather Arnold

I am pleased to report that it has been a positive year for safeguarding training and DBS compliance this year. All the activity leaders that I am aware of have completed at least their Basic Safeguarding Awareness training, and have either completed the Foundation course (if needed) or are in the process of doing so. DBS checks have been completed or are progress for activity leaders.

I ran a Basic Awareness Safeguarding Awareness training session in late November. It was an interesting experience, and I will be better prepared for the next one. I will also have the venue set up in advance, along with a projector and screen, instead of an impromptu trip to the Rectory when it was realised that the Parish Centre was just too cold. I will also make sure the next time is not the day before I have 2 big services to sing at!

There was a working lunch convened in late February to discuss risk assessments and that was very successful. The plan is to have generic risk assessments for the church, Parish Centre and the balcony/belfry that can be adapted for more specific events.

The PCC meeting on 9th September 2025 had a discussion based around promoting a healthy culture and I think we all found it thought provoking. We need to make sure that St. James' is welcoming and safe for all, and we all have a part to play in that.

There have been bumps in the road, and I have certainly learnt some hard lessons. With the help of others I am putting in place a system which captures all the information that different organisations require, and I will also be looking at an Online Hub offered by the Diocese which might be able to send out automatic reminders (once the information is entered into it) to see if it will meet our needs.

Remember – safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**.

Achievements and Performance

Clare White, PCC Secretary

The normal pattern of church services - Holy Communion at 8am monthly and 10am weekly on Sundays and Thursdays Morning Prayer at 9 am on Thursdays, and Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm on two Sundays a month, with Evening Prayer on Zoom on Wednesdays -

was maintained by the faithful service of many volunteers and a much-reduced staff team, very generously supported by retired ministers in the Benefice, with a few services taken by visiting ministers.

Shine! Children and family worship at Dursley CofE Academy School was started in September, the worship is on the third Sunday of each month, lead by Revd Juliet and a team of volunteers; plus Sportily.

The Thursday morning communion congregation has doubled in the last 12 months. The PCC agreed that the communion could be taken by intinction as a way of the excluded feeling that they could participate. Some Sunday services and funerals are live-streamed for the benefit of those who can't attend in person.

Home Communion has been given regularly to housebound members of the church family, and Holy Communion is now being celebrated monthly at residential homes for the elderly in Dursley.

Revd Juliet took up the role of Governor in January 2025 at Dursley C of E Academy School, our contact with the school was maintained through the weekly visits of our Open the Book team (highly praised by visiting school inspectors).

The children from Dursley Academy attended Experience Easter at St James in April 2025, this was led by members of the congregation. The school pupils also came to a performance of "The Bizarre Bible" by 4Front theatre company.

Dursley Academy held their Leavers' Service in St James in July and the end of term Christmas assembly, with input from the Open the Book team. Shine! A monthly Sunday worship for primary school aged children and families started in September 2025, it is held each month at Dursley Academy.

St James is a member of Churches Together in Cam and Dursley, and contributed to the series of Sunday evening Lent services and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. We were represented on the Deanery Synod by two PCC members.

Light Lent Lunches were held in the Parish Centre, throughout Lent. The number on the Electoral Roll this year was 103.

+ Bishop Rachel attended the 7.30pm Ash Wednesday service at St James. The average attendance at normal Sunday services was 55.

Attendance on Easter Sunday was 140 across 3 services, at Harvest 89, at All Souls evening service 44, the Remembrance service at 3 pm on 9th November welcomed, among others, representatives of the British Legion, uniformed organisations and civic dignitaries, the number attending was 360. The attendances at the Epiphany, Advent and Christmas carol services were 48, 76, and 220

respectively. The Crib and Christingle service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve was attended by over 250, approximately half of whom were children. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve drew 107, and 42 attended on Christmas Day. The lack of heating meant that attendance was somewhat lower during the colder months, though 'special' services were not affected so much.

From January 2025 until Easter Church services were held in the Parish Centre because the cold became too unbearable.

Worship at Sunday Parish Communion, Evensong and Carol services was much enhanced by the singing of the choir, and musical accompaniment by our organist and deputy organist was also greatly appreciated.

Three baptisms, 0 weddings and 16 funerals/thanksgiving services were held in St James, and there were 9 interments of ashes in the churchyard during 2025.

St James has welcomed many members of the wider community through its doors to the weekly free bookstall, bimonthly Bring and Take events, monthly (from April to October) 'Coffee, Cake and Music' organ recitals, concerts by local choirs and music groups, enabling good relationships to be forged.

Church news and messages from the clergy have been disseminated through the monthly Messenger magazine, and services and events have been advertised on our website and social media.

The churchyard has been well maintained by volunteers, and our Eco Church group ensures that certain areas are managed for the benefit of local wildlife.

It was agreed by the PCC to change to sustainable flowers to decorate the church.

The Christmas market was a huge success, held on the same evening in November that the town's Christmas lights are switched on. It was incredibly well attended by the locals; who came through the doors to purchase items from our many and varied stall holders.

In February we held a benefice away day at North Nibley Village Hall. The PCC met six times in 2025.

Electoral Roll 2024/25

Austin Meares

We had a starting figure of 155, the new roll was produced in May 2025 with the new figure of 103.

Fabric

Austin Meares

Progress has been made in a number of areas during 2025.

Early in March, two new boilers were installed. One only is working

at present while we await an upgraded gas supply which will permit the entire system to function.

Throughout the year, dehumidifiers have been at work to dry out the building after two years without heating.

The tower roof is now watertight following replacement of some rotten timbers and laying a new lead covering over the affected areas.

The gutters together with downpipes have been cleared of debris which had accumulated. The church clock has been repaired and serviced. All fire extinguishers (including those in the parish centre) have received their annual service.

Some projects included in the Quinquennial have been progressed.

In hand, are plans to upgrade the nave lighting, survey the plain/stained glass windows, install a new sound system and redecorate the building. It is the intention to seek grants for this work. As always, there is close collaboration with Falconer & Gilbert Scott, Architects who oversee our fabric projects.

A small sub-committee has been established to carry forward on-going initiatives in the parish centre.

Churchwardens

Chris Tyler and Danny Parker

At last year's APCM Chris Tyler was relieved and delighted that Danny Parker stepped forward for election as Churchwarden. After only 1 year's experience in the role between us, we relied heavily on the ever-present support from assistant wardens Austin Meares, Christine Morgan, and Caroline Marrow, and our Treasurer, Sally Pearson. Many other people have generously shared their expertise and knowledge to maintain our regular pattern of worship and other activities.

Fulfilling the role has been made considerably easier by having an incumbent. We have learned a great deal while we have helped Rev Juliet find her way around St James and its communities.

Rev Juliet has built up a fruitful relationship with Dursley Primary Academy. The new "Shine" monthly services in Dursley Primary Academy started in August - an addition to our regular worship in partnership with Sportily. Volunteers helped at the Academy's Christmas Fair. "Open the Book" has continued its weekly re-enactments of narrated Bible stories. The RSCM's "Hymnpact" resources have been introduced; this will enable the children to learn a range of hymns, traditional and more modern.

Our much-anticipated annual events such as the Harvest lunch, Christmas Carvery, Christmas Market and Lent Lunches have all taken place successfully, thanks to the cheerful hard work of many volunteers

- you have to get your name on the rota quickly or someone else will do it! (Special thanks here to Ann and Clive Orchard, Cynthia Martin and Anthea Fittall).

“Hardy's Christmas” replaced the live nativity this year and included the moving experience of John Ewer appearing as Thomas Hardy, only a few weeks before he moved to France. Barbie Davies worked incredibly hard to get the show on the road - costumes, lighting, music, movement, inspiration, etc. A lovely community event!

“Coffee, Cake and Music” completed its 17th (?) season. Thank you, Nigel Davies found yet another great lineup of organists, all able to find new delights in the organ. Thanks to choir members for providing the hospitality and making our many regular visitors welcome.

The Saturday bookstall has raised considerable sums, with once a month donations to various charities and the rest to the work St James'. Clive Orchard leads the team of many volunteers; Joy Bell raises extra money selling some of the books online. Thanks to you all for providing such a welcoming and inclusive event.

Many thanks to our Benefice Administrator, Clare White, without whose support the churchwardens' lives would have been very difficult. Thanks also to the PCC for faithfully discharging their duties Thanks to Nigel Davies, Lynn James and the choir for their immense contribution to our worship. Thanks also to Joy Pepper (verger), Sheila Gardner (sacristan), Judith Staddon and Valerie Meares (“Messenger” editors), our wonderful prize-winning bell ringers, George White (and his service streaming team). Thanks also to the Church Security team (making it possible to have our church open 9-5 every day of the year), cleaners, flower arrangers, refreshment servers, readers, intercessors, sides people, Eco-church (thanks to Gill Mather), the gardeners (Paul Prodger and team), those who prepare rotas and everyone who encourages us in our shared ministry here.

Deanery Synod

David Smith

St James Church Dursley is part of the Wotton Deanery.

A sub-committee has produced a draft Building Manual. This includes ‘a deanery-wide team of experts, suppliers and trades in order to service and maintain our buildings’.

Two sub-wardens have been installed. Their role is to support the welfare of Lay Readers in the deanery.

A Deanery Operations Officer has been appointed. Their role is to lead projects too big for individual churches. An example is the

Tyndale Trail. It is 200 years since Tyndale was martyred. The trail will link churches with a Tyndale connection.

We discussed the new system for calculating the Parish Share for each benefice. There is information on what the parish share is for and how it is spent on the Diocesan website.

It has been agreed that in future there should be more Open Meetings. PCC Secretaries and Treasurers would be invited to attend.

2026 marks the beginning of a new triennium for Deanery Synods.

This means that the current Deanery lay representatives retire though they are eligible to stand for re-election. Currently Elizabeth Oakley and David Smith are the representatives. Donna Pinker stood down last year. Elizabeth and David are not standing for re-election. This means there will be 3 posts to fill.

Saturday Books

Clive Orchard

When after the Christmas Market in 2009, we decided to put out a table on the grass and give away the left over books for a donation, we never could have imagined what would be happening in 2026. Books continued to be donated and from six tables once a month we moved to twelve tables twice a month and now we have forty tables every week and well over 3,000 books.

The community give us tremendous support and local musicians regularly entertain us as we browse through the books.

The Books really are free but donations are given. We have raised over £38,000 since we started. Recently we have started to support small local charities by giving them the donations we receive on the second Saturday of the month and in the first seven months have given over £1200 to six charities.

This has only been achieved by the hard work put in by a small dedicated team - Sheila Gardner who sorts and puts out the books in a way that was recently praised by a librarian, Hilary Barnett who deals with the children's section, Anthea Fittall who deals with the charities and Joy Bell who scans books as they come in to see if they have any online value, and has raised over £2,750 so far.

We are very thankful for the band of volunteers who help put out books on Friday afternoons and pack them away on Saturday mornings but would willingly and eagerly accept more help.

Music Report

Nigel Davies

As ever, the members of the choir continue to give freely of their time and talents to support the worship at St James'. The number of choristers has remained pretty static and we average around 23 members for the

10.00am Eucharist which means we are able to provide a great variety of musical styles ranging from the polyphony of Palestrina to the sometimes outlandish chords of present day composers.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Hugh Whittaker (Bass) as he is no longer able to drive from Uley and we said farewell to Sue Davies (Tenor) who has moved to Cheltenham, and welcomed Sarah Nelson (Soprano) and Sue Gibson (Alto). Huw Clayton (Bass) has moved to Dursley and so is able to sing with us regularly, and Gail Guy (Alto), joins us for evening services. We are always on the lookout for singers to join our ranks – no audition, but the chance to be part of the friendly group of people who make up a choir which has an unbroken tradition.

2025 was a year of several notable events in the life of St James' choir, starting on 23rd June when we sang at the funeral of Lionel Jones. Lionel has figured in music reports on many occasions as he was the longest serving choir member clocking up some 88 years' unbroken service, and only retiring from his choir duties in 2022 when his voice lost its strength.

On the 29th June the choir underpinned a “Come and Sing” event which was a Choral Evensong featuring the music of Dr Herbert Sumson, including the epic anthem “They that go down to the Sea in Ships” with Lynn James directing and Nigel Davies accompanying. Perhaps the most prestigious event in 2025 was the celebration of David Wood's 80 year membership of the choir. which took place on 14th September at the 10.00am Eucharist and included a communion motet written especially for him to the words “Lord, remember David” (taken from Psalm 132) A splendid cake was shared after the uplifting service for which David had chosen the hymns.

On 27th September, St James' Director of Music gave the Coffee, Cake and Music recital followed by lunch to celebrate his 75th birthday and it was lovely to see so many people in the church. The annual Choir Lunch took place on Sunday 2nd November when we were able to celebrate David Wood's achievement once again, as well as thanking those who contribute so much to our music.

Special mention was made of Lynn James (who conducts the accompanied pieces); Anne Shipton who does a wonderful job of looking after our extremely large music library; Chris Tyler whose skills at the organ are much appreciated, and Geoff Whiley, a musician who is not fazed by anything (even when he's got to make up the Gospel acclamation!). As well as using their musical skills, it

is good to see that so many choir members are involved in other areas of church life.

We are fortunate to have an excellent Bluthner grand piano in church which is on permanent loan, and on Sunday 25th May we heard the instrument to excellent advantage in the hands of Christopher Guild (known to many as the accompanist of the Tyndale Choral Society) who performed a programme of music by the eccentric Australian composer, Percy Grainger. The piano has been used by the pupils of Kim Ward who are encouraged to play during times when the church changes into a vast book-room on a Saturday morning.

It is good to note that the church is well used for concerts, and special mention must be made of the Tyndale Choral Society's "Messiah" where the term "capacity audience" was not an exaggeration! The Coffee, Cake and Music organ recitals held on the last Saturday of the month from April to October continue to draw large audiences. No charge is made for these events, and after paying our visiting organists travelling expenses, just short of £2000 was raised for church funds in 2025.

An event of a different nature was held on 22nd November, kept as St Cecilia's day (she is the Patron Saint of Musicians), when the organ was open to anyone to come and play, in line with the Royal College of Organists' "Play the Organ" year. Not having an idea as to how many would take advantage of this offer, we were delighted to host nine children and twenty-two adults. We will consider doing a similar thing in 2026.

Choir members were heavily involved in "Twelfth Night with Thomas Hardy" on 6th January 2026 when Barbie Davies assembled a cast to re-enact some of the traditions of Christmas long ago as chronicled in "Under the Greenwood Tree". It was another occasion when the versatility of our church came into its own with the audience surrounding the drama and joining in with the final dance. Despite illness taking eight members of the cast, and other problems, the event which included the Waterley Bottom Mummers and accompanied by an authentic folk band, was most atmospheric and raised £1000 shared between the animal charity SPANA and the work of St James' church.

At the time of writing, our musical instruments are suffering thanks to the lack of heat in what turned out to be nearly three years in both the church and the Parish Centre! The piano in the Choir Room, given recently in memory of Jo Downing, is suffering from the damp

atmosphere with sticking notes and dampers, and, after the church was once more heated, I am pleased to report that the organ is rather better than it was a few months ago. However, I noticed that the keyboards (replaced a few years ago) are no longer as even as they were, no doubt resulting from the damp atmosphere, and I know there is much internal work needed to repair the missing notes.

Eco Church

Jan Vonberg & Gill Mather

Bring and Take: now held on third Saturday morning every other month, alongside the book stall, and attracts large numbers of people and donations of items. Things left over after each event are rehomed via the Freegle website or taken to charity shops/Kids' Stuff/ GARAS/ recycling centre as appropriate, with remaining items stored in cupboards and suitcases in the Parish Centre. As well as reducing waste, the event provides free second-hand goods to those with limited resources and encourages people to come into St James to socialise. Any monetary donations are shared between the church and Freegle (towards running costs). Some new volunteers have joined us this year, for which we are very grateful.

Churchyard: areas on the north side of the church were left unmown again over the summer, allowing wild flowers such as common spotted orchid, yellow rattle and ox-eye daisy to flourish and providing habitat for insects. In the autumn, Julian Jones (son of the late Lionel) planted out some Limestone Woundwort plants he had grown from seed close to the north-east wall of the church. These rare specimens seem to be establishing well. In February, we arranged a churchyard tidying session and cleared brambles, cut back overgrown shrubs and removed ivy from the yew trees.

Plans to no longer use plastic floral foam in flower arrangements: in September, Gill organised a trip for three flower arrangers and herself to attend a demonstration of sustainable flower arranging. Inspired by this, they have decided to phase out the use of non-recyclable, non-biodegradable plastic floral foam at St James, and to use a new biodegradable type of foam instead. They use locally-grown flowers whenever possible.

Count on Nature survey: on June 13th, we carried out a survey of plant and animal species in the churchyard, assisted by volunteers from Berkeley, and submitted our findings, via the iNaturalist app, to Caring for God's Acre's Count on Nature project. Evidence of a visiting hedgehog was found, and species of invertebrates, flowering plants and lichens were recorded. On June 14th, we held a Nature

Day, with a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust stand, activities for families and moth reveals by local expert Peter Cranswick. Progress towards Silver Award: Gill and Jan have studied the revised version of the Eco Church Survey to ascertain what we still need to do to achieve the Silver Award (we obtained the Bronze Award in 2021).

Monthly article in Messenger: Gill and Jan have continued to contribute an Eco News article to the Messenger each month.

Messenger Magazine Report

Judith Staddon and Valerie Meares

The Messenger again continues to be a window into our Church, giving information, not only to our congregation but also anyone who visits our beautiful church. We have dates for your diary and useful contact details on the inside cover and on the back.

We continue with sales of 95-100 copies per month and online copies go out each month too.

Our advertisers continue plus one new one. No increase in prices this year. We now charge 70p per copy, £7 a year, which is a small increase. Valerie Meares and I are most grateful for the articles and photographs, people submit, the lovely front covers which Clare is now producing, with photos by Steve.

We are always open to fresh ideas to keep the Messenger value for money.

OPEN THE BOOK

Joy Pepper

We are now in our 18th year of going into Dursley Academy and have encountered many changes over this period. There have been four Headteachers, many changes of teachers as well as many changes in the Open the Book team over this during this time.

We have had some sad losses over this time. Unfortunately, Tony King passed away since my last message for the APCM. He was an enormous asset to the team and produced all our overheads as well as acting and leading the worship. He is deeply missed.

John Ewer, who occasionally took part in some of the stories, has gone onto pastures new in France.

Jennifer Kendrick also left the team for health reasons at Christmas 2025. Her acting and leading the worship was much appreciated.

However, over the past year she has been our narrator for most weeks.

We miss her narration as she was very good at expressing the story.

Our team currently consists of myself, Liz Byrne, Edwina Walton, Anthea Fittall, Philip Staddon, Canon Richard Morgan, Pauline

Chidlaw, Joyce Lombard, Gill Mather, Sheila and Ian Gardner and Rachel Tyler.

We are still selecting stories from the new book but do change some of the wording if we feel it is not appropriate. We are thankful that we can still use the old material. We really need new people to join the team, even if you can only do one week per half term. Please speak to one of the team members if you are interested in taking part.

Bellringing

Isaac O'Shea and Elizabeth Byrne

The previous year has seen ringing at Dusley being well supported, both on practice nights and for services.

Ringing remains of a high standard, covering all levels of ability.

There were 10 Quarter Peals rung on the bells and one Peal, this being the Ringing Master's first as conductor.

Our learners are progressing well and continue to make steady improvements. By the end of the coming year they will be well on the way to ringing their first Quarter Peals.

We again won the Branch striking competition, retaining the Beaney Trophy.

The tower outing was a huge hit. A good time was had by all and my thanks go to Philip and Anne for organising a brilliant day out.

My thanks go to all of the band for supporting ringing in the tower, and to those who have run the ringing in my absence when work has taken me away to other towers.

Sides people

Chris Morgan

Our Sides people continue to be the welcoming face of St James on a Sunday morning, evening, or whenever there are special services. They ensure that everyone is always welcomed with a smile, and in most cases, greeted by name.

They ensure worshippers have all the necessary books and other material for services, including candles over the Christmas period.

They often arrange for people to do the offertory procession, or take part in it themselves, and at the end of service, after collecting in the books, they may count the collection.

They are a cheery band, and would always welcome others to their number, so if you fancy helping out at service, please let me know. It's a great way of getting to know people.

Thanks to all our Sides people - St. James wouldn't be as welcoming without you!

St James PCC Dursley Statement of Assets 31 December 2025

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
		£460,302.51	£142,771.62	(£221,173.73)	£381,900.40
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£31,986.31	£99,166.25	(£121,313.83)	£9,838.73
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£138,473.08	£22,482.47	(£85,806.24)	£75,149.31
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	£2,575.26	£3,656.62	-	£6,231.88
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£6,376.44	£203.68	(£6,580.12)	-
E	St James Parish Centre 02476060 (cash)	£2,784.27	£5,117.39	(£7,361.68)	£539.98
F	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (inv)	£6,500.00	-	-	£6,500.00
G	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (inv)	£13,203.15	-	-	£13,203.15
H	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£2,797.85	-	(£111.86)	£2,685.99
I	CBF Dursley PCC Omega Trust CB127603-001 (inv)	£255,606.15	£12,145.21	-	£267,751.36

PCC Dursley Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the Year ended 31 December 2025

	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	41,656	-	570	42,226	44,063
Collections, donations & other giving	9,900	269	2,442	12,611	49,758
Income tax recovered	15,500	-	-	15,500	12,840
Legacies	10,014	-	-	10,014	-
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	3,840			3,840	7,371
Income from other Properties					
Annual Fete/events	16,812	127	1,477	18,416	18,249
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	698	-	289	987	1,114
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees	-	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims	-	-	12,465	12,465	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Other	8,028	-	(90)	7,938	8,554
Total incoming resources	106,448	396	17,153	123,997	141,949
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(929)	(527)	-	(1,456)	(1,052)
Mission & Evangelism	(510)	-	-	(510)	(25)
Parish Share	(60,000)			(60,000)	(25,000)
Clergy expenses	-	-	-	-	(163)
Church running expenses	(19,866)	-	(1,374)	(21,240)	(26,975)
Churchyard maintenance	(381)	-	-	(381)	(369)
Cost of raising funds	(755)		(496)	(1,251)	(2,870)
Running costs:					
Support costs	-	-	-	-	(1,193)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(23,854)	-	-	(23,854)	(21,478)
Other	(8,939)	(92)	-	(9,031)	(8,619)
Governance costs	(432)	-	-	(432)	(432)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	-	-	(83,816)	(83,816)	(20,969)
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-	(2,350)
Capital purchases/additions					
Loan repayments					
Total resources expended	(115,666)	(619)	(85,686)	(201,971)	(111,495)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	(9,218)	(223)	(80,998)	(90,439)	42,919
<i>Transfers between funds</i>					
<i>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains</i>	<i>(9,218)</i>	<i>(223)</i>	<i>(80,998)</i>	<i>(90,439)</i>	<i>42,919</i>
<i>Gains on investment assets</i>	<i>12,033</i>		<i>-</i>	<i>12,033</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Net movement in funds</i>	<i>2,815</i>	<i>(223)</i>	<i>(80,998)</i>	<i>(78,406)</i>	<i>42,919</i>
<i>Funds brought forward at 1 Jan</i>	<i>80,688</i>	<i>3,426</i>	<i>376,190</i>	<i>460,304</i>	<i>76,474</i>
<i>Funds carried forward at 31 Dec</i>	<i>83,503</i>	<i>3,203</i>	<i>295,192</i>	<i>381,898</i>	<i>119,393</i>

Parish Finance Return 2025

The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at:

<http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

Return of Parish Finance

January to December 2025

Parish code:	616031	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:	Deanery:	Wotton
Parish name:	St James, Dursley		Diocese:	Gloucester

INCOMING RESOURCES			UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESOURCES EXPENDED			UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)		
	Voluntary income/ receipts					Costs of generating income					
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£	37,522	£	570	17	Costs of fund-raising activities	£	755	£	496
2	Other planned giving	£	4,134				Church activities				
3	Collections at services	£	2,303			18	Mission giving and donations	£	1,456	£	
	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£	7,866	£	1,442	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£	60,000		
4	Gift Aid recovered	£	15,500	£	-	20	Salaries, wages and honararia	£	18,240		
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£	10,014	£	-	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£	-		
8	Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£	-	£	1,000		Church expenses				
	TOTAL Voluntary income:	£	77,339	£	3,012	22	Mission and evangelism costs	£	510		
	Activities for generating funds					23	Church running expenses	£	28,222	£	1,374
9	Gross income from fundraising activities	£	16,939	£	1,477	24	Church utility bills	£	6,563	£	-
	Income from investments					25	Cost of trading	£	-	£	-
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£	698	£	289	26	Governance costs	£	432		
	Church activities						Major capital expenditure				
	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	£	-	£	-	27	Major repairs to the church building	£	-	£	83,816
	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£	3,840			28	Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£	-	£	-
12						29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£	-	£	-
	Other incoming resources						SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses	£	116,178	£	85,686
13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£	8,028	£	90						
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)					99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£	107		
A	Unrestricted	£	106,844				TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)				
B	Restricted	£	4,688			D	Unrestricted	£	116,285		
C	TOTAL	£	111,532			E	Restricted	£	85,686		
	PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES					F	TOTAL	£	201,971		
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers		45				Cash and Investment Balances	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	
15	Number of other planned givers		5			31	Cash and deposit balances as at 31 December 2024	£	58,640	£	33,120
16	Number of new legacies received in year		1			32	Investments as at 31 December 2024	£	28,304	£	262,106
100	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver		16								

This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook

Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (Indicate ONE)

30 Receipts and payments [X] Accruals []

**produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5*

Date	04/03/2026
Name	Sally Pearson
Position	Treasurer
Telephone or email	v6sep@aol.com

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Dursley Parish Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dursley Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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

Independent Examiner's statement:

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Rhian Davies

Date:

24/4/26

Davies Accountants Limited

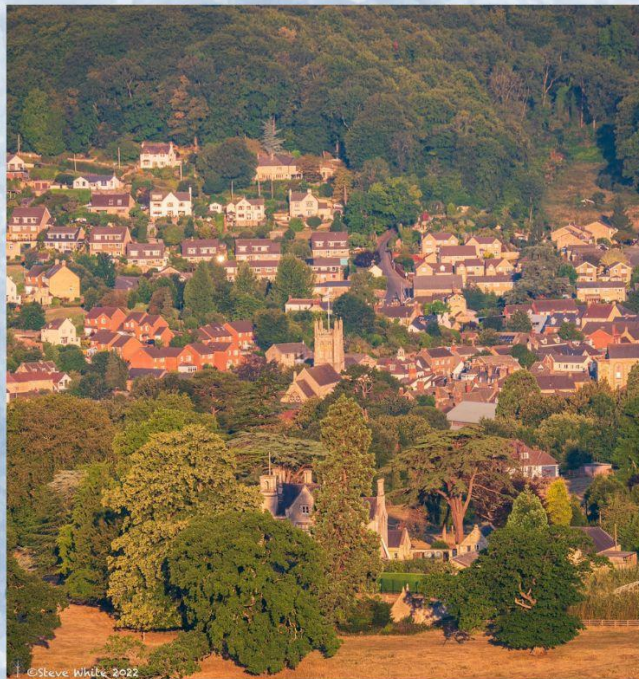
Relevant professional qualification of professional body:

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 130 Aztec, Aztec West Business Park, Almondsbury. BS32 4UB

Accounts

St James the Great, Dursley



APCM reports 2025

Ewelme Benefice
Dursley Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity No. 1130972
Trustees Annual Report 2024

Dursley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Juliet Jensen, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the churches of St James the Great Dursley (the parish church) and the Parish Centre located behind the church of St James.

Our Vision

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision. *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.*

John 10:10

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and be part of our community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our buildings.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding has to be a thread that runs right through our church lives, both during services and the community outreach areas - and it is everyone's responsibility, not just for one or two people to do.

The Parish Dashboard system is designed to be easy to use, I am looking forward to exploring all its capabilities to generate reports and monitor how, as a church, we approach safeguarding and other areas where need to ensure that we have the right people at the right time in the role. Clare White has found some role descriptions, and I am hoping to work with her and Juliet to ensure that people know what they are letting themselves in for when they volunteer to do something. Going forward, I am aiming to have reports ready prior to PCC meetings so that people are aware of what has been done/still needs doing to keep us

compliant and safe for all - and have the opportunity to question me about what is needed and why.

I have recently become an authorised evidence checker for DBS checks, and have just had my first disclosure back. I know that there are more due for renewal, along with any new members of the PCC, so look out for emails from me, along with training reminders.

Reminder - safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Heather Arnold

March 2025

Electoral Roll 2022/23

We had a starting figure of 157, there were 2 people to be removed because they had died during the year.

Final figure for 2022/23 was 155.

Clare White

March 2025

Fabric

2024 has been a challenging year with two large projects held in abeyance pending receipt of sufficient funds. Fortunately, as the year came to an end, our financial position dramatically improved. This will enable a start to be made early in 2025 on repairs to the tower roof to make it watertight. At the same time, it is envisaged that a much needed new boiler will be installed in the coming months. It should be mentioned that many parishioners have supported this project with generous donations to the Boiler Fund.

Early in 2024, following the theft of lead from the porch roof, repairs were carried out which included the fitting of a steel roof which is working well. Refurbishment of the porch room has yet to be made. The entire work is covered by insurance.

The year saw a Quinquennial Inspection which highlighted a number of issues on which the church's architect is working on a specification of works. Included will be addressing the dampness in parts of the church, redecoration of the building, and suggestions for improvements in both the lighting and sound systems. Once estimates are available, grants will be sought.

The church's gutters and downpipes (and those of the Parish Centre) continue to be cleared twice a year.

In the Parish Centre, a new boiler is required which will form part of a project for the refurbishment of the entire premises in 2025.

During the year, The Friends of St. James was launched which has attracted a large membership.

St Mark's Church was handed back to the Gloucester Diocese during the course of the year. They are now responsible for all utility bills as well as the upkeep of the building.

Austin Meares

March 2025

Churchwarden's report

Jan Vonberg was delighted when Chris Tyler was elected as Churchwarden alongside her at the APCM in May, and we are both very grateful for the support we have received from assistant wardens Austin Meares, Christine Morgan, and Caroline Marrow, and our Treasurer, Sally Pearson. We were all thrilled to welcome Rev Dr Juliet Jensen as our new Rector on 1st September at a special service of Induction (by Bishop Robert) and Installation (by Archdeacon Hilary), followed by a celebratory tea in the Parish Centre, bringing our period of vacancy to an end. We hope that Rev Juliet will enjoy a long and fruitful incumbency with us.

Annual events, such as the Agape meal, Harvest lunch, Christmas Carvery, Christmas Market, have again all taken place successfully thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, (special mention going to Ann and Clive Orchard), and we enjoyed another Live Nativity in January, directed by Barbie Davies. In July, together with our friends in the parish of Uley, Nympsfield and Owlpen, we held a 'thank you' party at St Giles for all those who had supported us by leading worship in our churches during the vacancy.

The church was without heating for the whole of 2024 and the first three months of this year, owing to a long and drawn out faculty application process for new boilers. The congregation showed remarkable stoicism and patience in enduring very uncomfortable conditions in the colder months, though some, quite understandably, felt unable to attend. Thankfully, the boilers have now been installed, and we can enjoy a warmer church.

Many thanks to our Administrator, Clare White, for supporting the work of our church in so many ways, to the PCC for faithfully discharging their duties, to Nigel Davies, Lynn James and the choir for continuing to lead our sung worship with such dedication and skill, to our Verger, Joy Pepper, and our Sacristan Sheila Gardner, to Judith Staddon and Valerie Meares for editing the Messenger magazine, to our faithful team of bell ringers, and to Tony King, George White and their team for live streaming our services. We are also indebted to Clive Orchard and his team for running the bookstall, and Gill Mather for leading the Eco Church group.

Of course, there are many others who give their time week in week out to unlock and lock up the church, tend the churchyard, clean the church, arrange flowers, serve refreshments, read lessons and intercessions, and welcome people to our services, and we are deeply grateful to all of them for their valuable contributions to the life of St James.

We have recently been reviewing the role of Churchwardens at St James, and hope in future to be able to share some of their duties and responsibilities with a wider group of people.

Jan Vonberg

March 2025

Achievements and Performance

At the beginning of the year we were in vacancy. After a shortlisting meeting in February, two candidates were interviewed, and Rev Dr Juliet Jensen was invited to become our Rector. Once the Lord Chancellor's approval had been obtained, the appointment was announced in April, and Rev Juliet was inducted and installed on 1st September.

During the vacancy, PCC meetings were chaired alternately, and most effectively, by Christine Morgan and Christopher Tyler, nominated by the Lay Chair, Janet Vonberg. The Churchwardens, Associate Priest, and Licensed Readers in the Benefice met monthly, together with the Benefice Administrator and the Area Dean, to plan special services and events and deal with any issues arising. The normal pattern of church services (Holy Communion at 8am monthly and 10am weekly on Sundays and Thursdays, Morning Prayer at 9 am on Thursdays, and Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm on two Sundays a month, with Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer on Zoom on Wednesdays) was maintained, with very few exceptions, and we are very grateful to Moya Wallis for organising the worship rota, and to all the PTOs, Readers and visiting clergy who led worship for us. From September, we have been delighted to have Rev Juliet chairing the PCC and leading worship alongside other members of the Ministry Team. Some Sunday services and funerals are live-streamed for the benefit of those who can't attend in person.

For the first five months of the year, the church was only open for private prayer and visitors during school hours, due to concerns about antisocial behaviour and minor vandalism. As the situation improved, we returned to opening it between 9 am and dusk every day from mid-June.

Home Communion has been given regularly to housebound members of the church family, and Holy Communion has also been celebrated monthly at residential homes for the elderly in Dursley. Although we were unable to provide a Foundation Governor for Dursley Primary Academy (Our Rector took up the role of Governor in January 2025), contact with the school was maintained through the weekly visits of our Open the Book team (highly praised by visiting school inspectors), Experience Easter sessions in the church, and our hosting, in June, of the 4 Front Christian theatre group's production of The Parabularium, performed for pupils from both Dursley and Uley primary schools. Dursley Academy held their Leavers' Service in St James in July, but the lack of heating meant that neither they, nor Rednock School, opted to hold a Christmas end-of-term service/ concert in the church in December.

The Diocese of Gloucester took over responsibility for St Mark's, Woodmancote, on 1st August (St Mark's, formerly a chapel of ease within Dursley parish, was closed for worship in March 2023).

St James is a member of Churches Together in Cam and Dursley, and contributed to the series of Sunday evening Lent services and the Good

Friday Walk of Witness. We were represented on the Deanery Synod by one PCC member until May, and thereafter by three members.

The number on the Electoral Roll this year was 155.

Average attendance at normal Sunday services was 65. Attendance on Easter Sunday was 146 across 3 services, at Harvest 92, at All Souls evening service 40, the Remembrance service at 3 pm on 10th November welcomed, among others, representatives of the British Legion, uniformed organisations and civic dignitaries, the number attending was 334. The attendances at the Epiphany, Advent and Christmas carol services were 56, 68 and 202 respectively. The Crib and Christingle service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve was attended by over 300, approximately half of whom were children. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve drew 115, and 48 attended on Christmas Day. The lack of heating meant that attendance was somewhat lower during the colder months, though 'special' services were not affected so much. Worship at Sunday Parish Communion, Evensong and Carol services was much enhanced by the singing of the choir, and musical accompaniment by our organist and deputy organist was also greatly appreciated.

1 baptism, 1 wedding and 12 funerals/thanksgiving services were held in St James, and there were 4 interments of ashes in the churchyard during 2024. A member of our congregation, Roland Swift, was confirmed in St George's church, Upper Cam.

St James has welcomed many members of the wider community through its doors to the weekly free bookstall, bimonthly Bring and Take events, monthly (from April to October) 'Coffee, Cake and Music' organ recitals, concerts by local choirs and music groups and an art exhibition, enabling good relationships to be forged.

Church news and messages from the clergy and Readers have been disseminated through the monthly Messenger magazine, and services and events have been advertised on our website and social media.

The churchyard has been well maintained by volunteers, and our Eco Church group ensures that certain areas are managed for the benefit of local wildlife.

The Finance Report

- **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

- **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members

During the year the PCC have agreed Financial Control Procedures to ensure the PCC meets the legal requirements and good practice recommendations set out in the [Charity Commission Guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charity](#).

These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

- **Reserves Policy**

This is now reflected in the Financial Controls Procedures. The purpose of a Reserves Policy is to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of core work. The Reserves Policy is to retain a minimum of £8k in unrestricted funds across all accounts at all times to protect 3 months of core work.

- **Year End Balances**

The Statement of Assets at annex 1 shows at the yearend 2024 we were holding assets to the value of £460,302.51. This is predominantly due to the transfer of the Omega Trust (a separate charity) to the PCC. The value of the fund at transfer was £336,611.29. The trust is an endowment with an original investment of £250,000 and any growth in the investment available for the upkeep and other purposes of St James church. In November the growth in the fund (£85,239) was transferred to the Fabric Account to ensure sufficient funds to enable the replacement of the church boiler.

ANNEX 1

St James PCC Dursley Statement of Assets 31 December 2024

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
		£76,475.46	£602,692.45	(£218,865.40)	£460,302.51
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£12,402.90	£116,995.77	(£97,412.36)	£31,986.31
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£32,246.49	£134,168.99	(£27,942.40)	£138,473.08
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	-	£3,906.38	(£1,331.12)	£2,575.26
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£6,521.16	-	(£144.72)	£6,376.44
E	St James Parish Centre 02476060 (cash)	£2,866.52	£6,713.05	(£6,795.30)	£2,784.27
F	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (inv)	£6,500.00	-	-	£6,500.00
G	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (inv)	£13,203.15	-	-	£13,203.15
H	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£2,735.24	£62.61	-	£2,797.85
I	CBF Dursley PCC Omega Trust CB127603-001 (inv)	-	£340,845.65	(£85,239.50)	£255,606.15

(Larger copy available)

- **Receipts and Payments**

The Receipts and Payments Account (Annex 2) shows the areas of expenditure and income across all accounts and allows comparison with last year.

PCC Dursley Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes	General fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	43,703		360	44,063	44,763
Collections, donations & other giving	32,988	393	16,378	49,759	37,169
Income tax recovered	12,777		63	12,840	13,446
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	7,371			7,371	6,255
Income from other Properties					
Annual Fete/events	15,362	276	2,612	18,250	16,647
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	776	-	338	1,114	833
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees		-	-		
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims	-	-	12,465	12,465	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Other	8,554	-	-	8,554	8,203
Total incoming resources	121,531	669	32,216	154,416	127,316
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(448)	(138)	(466)	(1,052)	(2,333)
Mission & Evangelism	(25)	-	-	(25)	(880)
Parish Share	(25,000)			(25,000)	(25,000)
Clergy expenses	(163)	-	-	(163)	(1,650)
Church running expenses	(22,063)	(219)	(4,693)	(26,975)	(32,059)
Churchyard maintenance	(369)	-	-	(369)	(152)
Cost of raising funds	(2,120)		(750)	(2,870)	(1,010)
Running costs:					
Support costs	(1,193)	-	-	(1,193)	(81)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(21,478)	-	-	(21,478)	(20,349)
Other	(8,619)	-	-	(8,619)	(11,909)
Governance costs	(432)	-	-	(432)	(360)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	-	-	(20,969)	(20,969)	(1,392)
Repairs to other property	(150)		(2,200)	(2,350)	(2,946)
Capital purchases/additions				-	
Loan repayments				-	
Total resources expended	(82,060)	(357)	(29,078)	(111,495)	(100,121)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	39,471	312	3,138	42,921	27,195
Transfers between funds					
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains	39,471	312	3,138	42,921	27,195
Gains on investment assets	63		340,846	340,909	237
Net movement in funds	39,534	312	343,984	383,830	27,432
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan	41,154	3,114	32,206	76,474	49,042
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec	80,688	3,426	376,190	460,304	76,474

- **Parish Share**

At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment as our Parish Share contribution of £34k. This was considerably below the amount requested of £52.3k but was agreed to be affordable based on the budget for 2024 agreed in November 2023. These accounts show an expenditure of £25k against the Parish Share, but a further payment in early 2025 means that the commitment for 2024 will be met in full.

During 2025 the Diocese is introducing a new approach to determining Parish Share Contributions. Whilst this is being finalised the PCC have budgeted for a commitment of £60k.

- **Parish Finance Return**

This return which is required by the Diocese, and generated from the Diocesan Cashbook, used to record all transactions across all our accounts and investments, is included at Annex 3

Parish Finance Return 2024

The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at:

<http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

Return of Parish Finance			Parish code:	616031	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:	Deanery:	Wotton
January to December 2024			Parish name:	St James, Dursley. St Marks Woodmancote		Diocese:	Gloucester
INCOMING RESOURCES		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESOURCES EXPENDED		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Voluntary income/ receipts				Costs of generating income			
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£ 39,351	£ 360	17	Costs of fund-raising activities	£ 2,120	£ 750
2	Other planned giving	£ 4,351		Church activities			
3	Collections at services	£ 4,239		18	Mission giving and donations	£ 586	£ 466
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£ 4,141	£ 16,378	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 25,000	
6	Gift Aid recovered	£ 12,777	£ 63	20	Salaries, wages and honoraria	£ 15,796	
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£ -	£ -	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£ 1,356	
8	Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£ 25,000	£ -	Church expenses			
TOTAL Voluntary income:		£ 89,859	£ 16,801	22	Mission and evangelism costs	£ 25	
Activities for generating funds				23	Church running expenses	£ 27,677	£ 4,693
9	Gross income from fundraising activities	£ 15,637	£ 2,612	24	Church utility bills	£ 8,854	£ -
Income from investments				25	Cost of trading	£ -	£ -
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 776	£ 338	26	Governance costs	£ 432	
Church activities				Major capital expenditure			
11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)			27	Major repairs to the church building	£ -	£ 20,969
12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£ 7,485		28	Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£ 150	£ 2,200
Other incoming resources				29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£ -	£ -
13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£ 8,440	£ 12,465	SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses			
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)						£ 81,996	£ 29,078
A	Unrestricted	£ 122,197		99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£ 420	
B	Restricted	£ 32,216		TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)			
C	TOTAL	£ 154,413		D	Unrestricted	£ 82,416	
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES				E	Restricted	£ 29,078	
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers	58		F	TOTAL	£ 111,494	
15	Number of other planned givers	5		Cash and Investment Balances			
16	Number of new legacies received in year	0		31	Cash and deposit balances as at 31 December 2024	£ 68,113	£ 114,082
100	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver	14.5		32	Investments as at 31 December 2024	£ 16,001	£ 262,106
<i>This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook</i>				Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)			
				30	Receipts and payments [X]	Accruals	[]

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

- **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

The PCC has elected to subject the financial statements to independent examination. These accounts have been examined by Davies Accountants Limited. Their report will be included as Annex 4 when this report is presented to the APCM.

Having made appropriate enquiries, the PCC propose Davies Accountants Limited as independent examiner until the next APCM.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 5 meetings during 2024. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in May to make the necessary election of PCC Officers.

Administrative information

St James the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

This church forms part of the Parish of Dursley which is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office, St James Parish Centre, Silver Street, Dursley. GL11 4NA

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent:	The Revd Juliet Jensen (from September 2024)
Associate priest:	The Revd Jane Wood (until February 2025)
Reader:	Antony King
Churchwardens:	Christopher Tyler Janet Vonberg

Elected members:

David Smith	Deanery Synod representative	
Elizabeth Oakley	Deanery Synod representative	
Donna Pinker	Deanery Synod representative (from May 2024)	
Clare White	PCC Secretary	
Sally Pearson	PCC Treasurer	
Edwina Walton	(from May 2024)	
Anne Shipton	(from May 2024)	
Kathryn Rebbeck	(until May 2024)	
Christine Raffle	(until December 2024)	
Sarah Hodge	(until May 2024)	
Sheila Gardner	Austin Meares	Gillian Mather
Joy Pepper	Christine Morgan	Caroline Marrow
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rachel Brown (until November 2024)		
Heather Arnold (from November 2024)		

Revd Juliet Jensen, PCC Chairman

March 2025

Wotton Deanery Synod

Ewelme Benefice, which includes Dursley, is part of the Wotton Deanery. This covers an area from Nympsfield to Chipping Sodbury. The Synod meets about four times a year. Donna Pinker, Elizabeth Oakley and David Smith are the current Dursley representatives from the PCC.

The deanery has spent the year discussing and starting to implement a deanery strategy. The priorities are growth, buildings, finance, governance and administration, mission and ministry. Small groups have met to discuss these priorities.

The main outcomes during the year have been on

- (a) devising a Building Manual Template. This would cover things such as power distribution, building and drainage services, alarms, heating. There would also be a list of shared service providers for maintenance activities.
- (b) Finance. Means of fundraising and discussion of the Parish Share. The latter included how it is calculated, how it is allocated and how it could be made fairer, better understanding of it in each benefice. A new model for calculating parish share will be introduced by the diocese in 2026.

The emphasis during the year has been on the advantages of benefices working together, sharing information and encouraging each other.

David Smith

February 2025.

Music Report

Choir

As ever, I am grateful for the way in which our music-making is supported, enabling us to sing a range of styles from the vast treasury of church music. We are fortunate in having Anne Shipton who organises the library, Lynn James who conducts the accompanied choir pieces, and Geoff Whiley who is an unflappable cantor, sticking to his guns even when the organist is playing the wrong gospel alleluia!

It is to the choristers' credit that we have managed to sustain our music while the church has been without heat, particularly during the winter where, on several occasions the choir outnumbered the congregation in a building which is literally wringing with damp. At the time of writing we are told that the new church boiler will be installed at the beginning of March, but it will take a considerable amount of time for the building to resort to how it was before the boiler gave up in October 2023! I just hope that the complex workings of the organ haven't suffered too much. In 2024 we lost two stalwart members of the alto section; Dr Jacquelin Hill, whose funeral was well attended by her fellow choristers on 3rd May, and Chris Raffle (Memorial Service on 7th January 2025). Jacquelin had been ill for some while, and being a retired GP, she had a good idea what was happening to her body. Whereas Chris' sudden death came as a real shock (just before the Advent Carol Service) as she was in really good spirits and looking forward to singing all the festive music we were rehearsing. Like many who occupy the choir stalls both Jacquelin and Chris were involved in several other areas of the church and their contributions to church life are missed.

We were glad that Sue Gibson (alto) joined us, and we are always recruiting and happy to welcome singers to join one of the few remaining four-part church choirs in the area. No audition!

Despite all the efforts to link a group of children from our primary school to the choir, it seems that there is a lack of parental support for this venture to succeed. Edwina Walton has conscientiously taken a "choir club" after school which a good number of youngsters enjoyed attending, but when the word "Sunday" was mentioned the numbers quickly evaporated. In the past we have managed to get a group of children to sing with us for specific occasions, but that did not happen at Christmas 2024. So we are looking at ways of building on previous successes to involve children on a more regular basis. We've not given up! Some churches have a diocese-funded youth worker whose main job it seems (certainly in Reading) is to recruit young people to the church choir. I wonder if the same would ever happen in our diocese?

Whilst we take our music-making seriously, there are fun occasions too; pre eminent of which is the Annual Choir lunch with its unique Tambourine Award delivered inimitably by our Senior Chorister, David Wood. Our fund-raising activities have, once again, included a collection tin in lieu of the cost of sending individual Christmas cards to each other,

and the Annual Plant and Produce stall which usually coincides with the May “Coffee, Cake and Music” recital.

Concerts and recitals

It is good to see that the church continues to be used by local musicians, and the Dursley Male Voice Choir and Tyndale Choral Society's concerts were given to capacity audiences. The more informal musical gatherings during the mammoth “free books” have also become a feature during the year. The organ recitals “Coffee, Cake and Music” have continued to flourish and draw listeners from a wide area, and I am particularly grateful to those who are involved with the catering. At the time of writing, the 2026 series has already been booked!

Christmas seems to be the time when everyone wants music! Although with so little traditional music of a Christian nature in our nation's schools, the decline of the Christmas carol is well on the way. However, in 2024 it was good to see rather more people joining in our “Shoppers' Carols” and the volume of singing was good – considerably better than the capacity congregation/audience managed for the Christingle service! The “Live Nativity” directed by Barbie Davies on Saturday 4th January brought together a large group of humans and animals of all ages and abilities! The choir were cast in the most unlikely role as the “choir of angels”, and it was good to see Peter Kirvan, with mammoth wings, taking the part of Gabriel. We all know the “plot”, but it was good to have a visual and musical dimension to the story which was much appreciated by the large audience of adults and many children who joined in the congregational carols.

Nigel Davies

February 2025

Dursley Ringing Master's Report – February 2025

In general both Sunday services and practices have been well attended. Most Sundays have seen a variety of methods rung, as well as Call Changes. We've been blessed with regular visits from ringers from other towers which have helped us add to the variety of methods rung.

We continue to give our own ringers priority in what they are learning as well as helping regular visitors to progress and take their experience back to their own towers.

Our annual outing was in June and we rang at the three newly restored rings at Hartpury, Staunton and Corse as well as the 8 at Sandhurst. It was well attended and we had some nice ringing, beer and food.

In October we rang for the funeral of Gerry Pierce. A prominent figure in local politics, Gerry was the father of Erica and Wenna who both learned to ring here. There were a number of top Bristol ringers attending the service, which was a bit nerve racking, but they were very complimentary about our ringing.

On 5th December we had to cancel the practice due to rain pouring through the ceiling, a first in my experience. The Sunday before had also involved ringing in the rain. However, a local builder was able to get up

and clear the offending blockage in the corner of the belfry and we've been ok since.

We were able to ring 6 bells for both Midnight mass and Christmas Morning but couldn't raise enough for the Crib service. Ten ringers attended the annual ringing in the new year ceremony and we managed to do the final tenor bong at almost exactly midnight.

We have had an encouraging amount of interest from potential new ringers and three Andys and myself have been sharing the teaching sessions for 45 minutes prior to the Thursday practice. The four Ladies are all making good progress and there are more waiting in the wings! I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support for the ringing over the last year, both members of the band and the regular visitors who have helped in ringing for services and other events.

Philip Pope and Elizabeth Byrne

February 2025

Open The Book

The Bible Society made changes last year. There is now a yearly fee to be paid to the Bible Society for membership. This covers the new materials supplied, where before we had to purchase them, insurance and other things. We have been very lucky that the Vizard Trust has paid the membership fees for us. We currently have twelve members, but unfortunately some members are only available for one session out of the normal five to six times we go into school.

The team consists of myself, Liz Byrne, Anthea Fittall, Jennifer Kendrick, Edwina Walton, Canon Richard Morgan, Philip Staddon, Pauline Chidlaw, Joyce, Lombard, Gill Mather, Sheila and Revd. Ian Gardner, Rachel Tyler and John Ewer.

We were supplied with a new storybook and a new introduction and end book for the new stories. These have not been well received. Some of the words used we feel are not appropriate and many other things we are not happy with. Luckily The Bible Society have said we can also use the old material as well. In fact, we have selected some stories from the new storybook but also used the old material too.

As we only have three copies of the new storybook, Tony was scanning the story, adjusting where it was thought necessary, and printing off the story each week. He was also highlighting the relevant speaking parts for those taking part that week. I am thankful for what Tony had prepared and sent to me (the stories for this last half term) before he was taken ill and sadly died.

The group and children at school all really miss Tony's dedication and input.

It would be good if we could enroll further members, especially more men, as I do struggle some weeks to put a team together. Please speak to one of the team members if you are interested in finding out more what is involved. Please remember you do not have to commit to every week.

Joy Pepper

March 2025

Parish Centre Report.

We still have 7 groups who still meet on a weekly basis.

The building is sadly deteriorating because of the lack of heating.

The office is cold and damp which is affecting the paper and therefore the printer.

The PCC has decided that we need to refurbish the building, a decision on the new heating system will be made once a team have planned the buildings future. A group will be put together to oversee this work.

Parishioners will be asked to form a planning team. Building users and parishioners will be asked to propose any changes they feel would benefit the buildings future.

Marie Mills, the cleaner, works very hard 2 days a week (3hours/week) keeping the building clean.

Clare White

February 2025

Messenger Magazine Report

The Messenger continues to be a window into our Church, giving information, not only to our congregation but also anyone who visits our beautiful church. We have dates for your diary and useful contact details on the inside cover and on the back.

We continue with sales of 95-100 copies per month and online copies go out each month too.

Our advertising prices have increased slightly this year. £65 for 1/4 page, £106 per ½ page and £167 per full page and next year the cost of the magazine will rise slightly too, to 70p and £7 for 12 copies.

Most of our booklets have been the full 40 pages and Valerie Meares and I are very grateful to everyone who contributes articles and photographs, and we hope that they will continue to do so and if anyone else is moved to write something for us that would be wonderful.

Judith Staddon

March 2025

St James Eco Church Report

Throughout the year, the group has highlighted the importance of recycling and reusing stuff, mainly to help us all think about, and tackle the problem of rubbish both globally, as well as locally.

The Eco Church group in partnership with Dursley Freegle has held several successful 'Bring and Take' events over the past year. Indeed, it seems to be gaining popularity, and the most recent two events in November and January have been very well supported, both with donations as well as people attending.

Plenty of things seem to get given and, following the last couple of

events, a large sort out of stuff was needed. Surplus things were given to Gloucester City Mission, Bristol Homeless Shelter and Kid's Stuff (a Stroud Children's charity). These have turned out to be excellent contacts. Running the Bring & Take events alongside the book stall is also very successful, with people visiting both events.

The number of regular helpers for the Bring & Take has increased slightly to five of us, but we would very much welcome more!

St James continues to provide a recycling point for used toothbrushes. We also promote other local recycling arrangements including 'Gloucestershire Recycles' (a partnership of Gloucestershire County Council and its six districts which aims to answer questions the public have, about recycling.)

In April we thought about the Christian charity A Rocha, and its inspirational work leading Eco Church. Their update in 2024 reported that 8,000 churched in England and Wales were now participating in the scheme which is wonderful. Eco Church member Jennifer Kendrick organised a coffee morning, with funds raised going to support the important work of A Rocha.

Other church and churchyard projects including the Bug Hotel and swift boxes made progress throughout 2024. We have 2 swift boxes installed in the church tower and will be watching in the spring to see if they are occupied this year. The Bug hotel underwent a couple of refurbishments by Adrian Mather. Both the hotel and the surrounding area is establishing well. Yellow Rattle seed has been planted in the autumn with the hope for further wildflowers to grow. Herbs have also been planted. A hedgehog has been spotted near the Broadwell steps. Hurrah!

We had another successful Count on Nature event in St James Churchyard in June. This year, we are planning to have two separate events: one with our usual nature exhibits, craft and art stations, and a visit by the 'Moth Man' again. A separate biodiversity count will be held on a different day.

Gill Mather

February 2025

Accounts



St. James the Great
In the Heart of the Community

APCM
19th May 2024

Group Reports and Accounts

APCM Agenda 19th May 2024
Meetings to be held in St James the Great Church
on Sunday 19th May 2024 at 11.30am

**MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Opening prayers
2. Appointment of clerk to the meetings
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of previous meeting on 30th April 2023
5. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of previous meeting on 30th April 2023
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Electoral Roll Officer's report
4. Treasurer's report to include presentation of Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
6. Annual Report to include:
 - Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish
 - Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - Safeguarding
 - Trustee's report
 - Other reports
7. Election of new PCC members
8. Election of Sidesmen and women
9. Matters of parochial interest

MEETING OF THE NEW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Election of Vice Chairman
2. Appointment of PCC Secretary
3. Appointment of Treasurer
4. Foundation Governor nomination
5. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 24th July 2024
Venue TBC

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday, 30th April 2023
in the Parish Centre of St James

Present: Canon Michael Cozens, Edwina Walton (Secretary), Sally Pearson (Treasurer), Elizabeth Byrne, Ann King, Tony King, Adrian Mather, Gill Mather, Kathie Rebbeck, Susan Gibson, Duncan Gibson, David Curtis, Margaret Curtis, Geoff Whiley, Harry Atkinson, Anne Shipton, David Smith, Elizabeth Oakley, Austin Meares, Valerie Meares, Matt Wood, Sally Hayward, Revd Jane Wood, Jennifer Leighton, David Vonberg, Heather Arnold, Chris Raffle, Sally Arnold, Jacquelin Hill, John Ewer, Glennis Ewer, Joy Pepper, Jan Vonberg. **NB** John and Glennis Ewer arrived at 12.33pm.

Apologies for Absence: Chris Tyler, Rachel Tyler, Clive Orchard, Ann Orchard, Phillip Staddon, Judith Staddon, Caroline Marrow, Stepanie Say, Clare White, Gill Cozens, Tom Arnold, Anthea Fittall, Lynn James.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd May, 2022: There were two corrections:

- The Electoral Roll should read 147 not 150
- David Smith did not stand down as a Deanery Synod Representative.

It was proposed by Chris Morgan and seconded by Liz Byrne that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: The Treasurer pointed out that the Independent Examiner is no longer AZETS but R.D. Consultancy.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report: The year started with a base of 147. 3 have died and we have gained. The Electoral Role now stands at 155. Chris Raffle stated she was willing to stand as Electoral Roll Officer. This was proposed by Heather Arnold and seconded by Edwina Walton.

Treasurer's Report to include presentation of Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022: The presentation of this report is a legal obligation. The overall position is not substantially different from last year.

The Parish Share of £48,000. The budget was set this year for £42,000. We are not in a dissimilar position to other Parishes. Before Covid, we were regularly exceeding our Parish Share commitment. The issue is being kept under review by the PCC.

Last year, AZETS was our independent examiner. The fee was increased for this year and would continue to rise in subsequent years. In light of this, both Uley and Dursley PCCs asked the Treasurer to find a new independent examiner. Rhian Davies was appointed for this year. She has experience of church accounts and offers flexibility. The Treasurer recommended we appoint her again.

In response to a question, the Treasurer, Sally Pearson, said the closure of St Mark's would have little impact on our Parish Share as this is calculated on the number of Parishioners and the income was from the combined churches. Those parishioners from St Mark's are now part of St James. There are endowment plans and trust funds attached to St Mark's and it is the responsibility of the Trustees to determine what happens to those accounts.

The full share stands at £75,000 for St James and £25,000 for St Giles.

- Harry Atkinson proposed the accounts be approved. This was seconded by Anne Shipton. All agreed.
- Sally Pearson proposed we employ the services of R.D.

Accountancy. This was seconded by Kathie Rebbeck. All agreed.

Canon Michael thanked Sally Pearson for all her hard work on the accounts. It was noted that Sally is the only person with a comprehensive understanding of the church accounts and it would be helpful to have someone to shadow her as an assistant to learn about Parish Accounting. If anyone would like to do this or knows of someone who may like to fulfil this role, please let Sally know. This could be someone from outside our worshipping community. It is important that more than one person has knowledge of these accounts.

Annual Report to include:

- Report on the fabric', goods and ornaments of the parish**
- Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
- Report from Churchwardens**
- Safeguarding**

i After an interesting year, many of the jobs are ongoing e.g. the electrics are never finished and continue to need updating. The coming year will see the need for fundraising in order to achieve the two main projects: the servicing and repair of the organ and the problem with the heating to be resolved. Chris Morgan was able to give a clear appraisal of the situation regarding the heating in the church. The main problem is with the control panel, which seems to be unable to be controlled, meaning it is very erratic - sometimes it switches the heating on when the church is closed and fails to come on in time to heat the church before it is used. An engineer was called out of retirement and said the system was inappropriate for our needs as it is generally used for buildings such as schools and factories, with multiple buildings and a caretaker to manage it. A new control panel has been ordered and, once fitted, we will know if there is a problem with the pump and boiler. The long-term solution would be to replace the boiler; Jan Vonberg is in consultation with the Diocese regarding eco alternatives.

ii The Deanery Synod meets 3-4 times a year. The main focus has been the Deanery Strategic Plan, which has prioritised finance, governance

and administration, local ministry, teams, growth and buildings. There is great benefit in the parishes working together, sharing resources and support.

David Smith and Elizabeth Oakley were thanked for their work during their 3 year term as Deanery Synod representatives. David Smith was willing to stand for a further term

Proposer: Jan Vonberg Second: Chris Morgan All agreed

There are 2 vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives

iii Much time has been spent on fabric issues, including obtaining permission for the new notice boards in the porch, getting repairs done, including the wall in the churchyard, and the heating, resulting in the ordering of a new control unit. Routine maintenance was carried out checking the electrics, cleaning the valleys and gutters, spring cleaning the church and tidying up the churchyard.

There have been a few cases of minor vandalism but no lasting damage.

In addition to services in church there have been quite a few concerts and an excellent art exhibition. After service coffee restarted, and various events with catering, including the Queen's Jubilee, Harvest lunch and Christmas Carvery all resumed.

Thanks to all those volunteers without whom we would not survive, and as always, we could do with more, including in particular, sides men, especially for Evensong.

iv Safeguarding is a standard item on the agenda of every PCC meeting and the Parish Safeguarding Officer usually attends these meetings.

Having adopted the Safeguarding Handbook and Dashboards our policies are reviewed regularly and DBS checks are kept up to date.

PCC members, as trustees, are undertaking online training, which is almost complete.

Other Reports: THESE REPORTS WERE FOUND IN THE BOOKLET PRODUCED FOR THE APCM.

Eco-Church: Canon Michael expressed thanks to Gill Mather and Jan Vonberg for their work. Gill reported that both the swift boxes in the tower and the information board in the churchyard were about to be installed.

Dursley Primary Academy:

2022 saw the continued return to a more usual school routine, following the restrictions of the previous two years. School trips were able to resume and there was greater mixing in the playground. Whole school Collective Worship resumed, with visiting Clergy and the Open The Book Team in school once again. This year Years 1 and 2 were invited to the hall and seemed to very much enjoy the weekly performances.

It was a delight for every class in the school to once more be able to take part in Experience Easter. Another opportunity for Years 1 and 2 to have an outside trip to church, this time St James, arose in July when the three classes came throughout one day to take part in Count on Nature where a variety of related activities were on offer.

Family Fun sessions were able to take place in all phases of the school. It was lovely to be able to invite parents back in to school to join in activities with their children who loved the opportunity to show their parents what they have been learning.

The various sports teams were once again able to take part in the local Primary schools' tournaments and the District Sports track events were held on the school field. Sports Day events also made a return to the school calendar.

The Young Voices singing festival resumed and we proudly sent a choir of children who had learnt the songs with Miss Payne, Miss Brown and Mrs Delmaine. The annual Rotary Club Music Festival for Primary schools took place once again and the same children performed at an event at Berkeley Power Station.

Another, somewhat unique, singing opportunity arose through the St James Church Choir earlier this year. Edwina Walton, a Foundation Governor and member of the church choir, ran a club with Mr Wright to teach a group of 10 singers a church anthem to be sung with members of the church choir at the Easter end of Term service in St James. The children really enjoyed the experience- especially wearing blue cassocks, the same as the adults - and are very enthusiastic to continue learning and performing church music to perform again in the future.

Earlier in the year, we learned that Kath Hopkins, a member of our cleaning staff, had sadly died. Kath had worked in the school for many years and only retired in July 2022.

There have been some staff changes throughout this past year, including Ed Neale in May 2022. Mr Neale was Year 6 teacher and leader of Maths at Dursley for a number of years, he moved on to an exciting role as leader of a Maths Hub. Chris Lee has taken over Ed's responsibilities with great enthusiasm, calling on his experience in such roles in the past. Emma Brown, again a longstanding member of staff, moved on in April this year. Emma was well known as a Reception and Early Years Teacher and the children said a fond farewell at the end of term. Her role has been undertaken by Rosie Webb, an existing school staff member. We wish both Ed and Emma well in their new positions and know they will be remembered fondly by children, parents and colleagues, as will the other staff members who moved on to pastures new during this past year.

We have also welcomed Year 5 Teacher, Mr Tyne, as a valued member of staff and we are delighted at how he quickly he has fitted into the school team.

The school building has also undergone a change in the last year with the refurbishment of four classrooms, the creation of an additional intervention space and redecoration of the corridors. We have also developed two Sensory Rooms, which are used to support many pupils across the school.

We are looking forward to a sunny, happy and productive Sumer Term and the End of Year Service at St James.

Rector's Report: Canon Michael began by mentioning the importance of saying "Thank you" and proceeded to thank the following people in our church community:

all those who come and support our worshipping life; the choir and Nigel Davies; the Servers; Joy Pepper who, in her role as Verger, provides a key point of contact with members of the local community for weddings, baptisms and funerals; flower arrangers; cleaners; bell ringers; Tony King and the live-streaming team.

Glena Neale was thanked for her role in the Thursday Communion Services and her commitment to these over many years, as she has now stood down from this responsibility.

Thanks to Clare White is now in her second year as Parish Administrator and continuing to grow into her role supporting across the Benefice.

Thanks were expressed towards colleagues who share Canon Michael's ministry: Revd. Jane Wood, Tony King and Paula Rixon. Richard Morgan and David Vonberg for their valuable contributions to services. Ian Gardner is expected to resume his role in July. He will no longer be an Associate Priest but will have permission to take services, giving him flexibility.

Morag has been on secondment from Wotton since last summer. Her contribution has been a "God send" and she will be missed when she retires in June.

The legal process to close St Mark's concluded with a moving service on March 16th, 2023. Thanks to the members of St Mark's, who facilitated and allowed this to happen. Tribute was paid to the many members of St Mark's, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude over many years.

The Endowment funds still need to be dealt with and items removed from St Mark's- the chairs will come to the Parish Room!

Legal permission, in the form of a faculty, has been sought to move the organ to St James.

A fitting place for the kneelers is the Lady Chapel and it is proposed to rename this as The Chapel of Our Lady and St Mark as an appropriate

way of keeping recognition of St Mark's Church in association with the Church of St James the Great.

The significance of the Parish Church in the community should never be taken for granted; it played a significant role in the for the people of Dursley following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, providing a place to sign a book of remembrance, light candles and to pray.

The pattern of services will continue, with the 3rd Sunday of every month having a service without the choir. This informal service needs to be developed. Sadly, neither Messy Church or Children's Church have restarted post pandemic.

This week, Canon Michael submitted his letter of resignation and his period of office will end on July 23rd. There will be a special service to mark this celebration of 30 years of service.

"....my time with you is fleeting..." the life of the church continues in all of you and those to come."

There is a clear need for work on the organ and heating.

Special thanks to Clive and his team for the weekly book stall, which provides significant outreach to and engagement with the local community. We are a caring, inviting, and engaging community.

"We should be thankful to one another, all that has been and all to come. Thank you to all of you."

There will possibly be a meeting with the PCCs before Canon Michael retires; both sets of Church wardens are meeting with the Archdeacon on May 10th

Elections

Deanery Synod: There are 3 vacancies, as dictated by the size of the Electoral Roll. Nominations: David Smith proposed by Jan Vonberg and seconded by Chris Morgan

David Smith was duly elected. It is important to note that there are opportunities to appoint people throughout the PCC.

PCC: Four PCC members have completed their terms of office, leaving 4 vacancies and 2 casual vacancies to serve for 1 year only.

Nominations:

Sheila Gardner		proposed by Clive Orchard,	seconded by
Christine Morgan,	"	Jan Vonberg,	" David Smith
Clare White,	"	Edwina Walton,	" Anne Shipton

NB if classified as an employee as PCC, will have to withdraw.

Austin Meares		proposed by Heather Arnold	seconded by Sally Pearson
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Elizabeth Oakley,	"	David Smith,	" Joy Pepper
Chris Raffle,	"	Edwina Walton,	" Heather Arnold

All were duly elected. Two of these appointments are to serve for one year only; this will be decided at the PCC meeting.

Sides men and Sides women: it was agreed to elect the people on the existing list en masse apart from : Julie Campbell.

Chris Morgan proposed this and it was seconded by Jan Vonberg.

Matters of Parochial Interest:

There was a suggestion from Jacquelin Hill that we publicise the service for Sea Sunday, which has traditionally taken place in Sharpness.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm with The Grace.

Edwina Walton

Trustees report for APCM 19 May, 2024

Our Vision.

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE vision. *"I have come that they have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10*

Objectives and activities.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and be part of the community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary & outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our building.

Report for 2023/24 The most significant event of the past year has been our Rector, Michael Cozens' retirement at the end of July, preceded by a wonderful, but bittersweet, farewell party on 13th July at the Cyder Barn, Owlpen, courtesy of Hugo Mander.

Since then we have been in Vacancy, without an incumbent.

A joint meeting of Uley and Dursley PCCs with Archdeacon Hilary and Area Dean was held in September to explain and discuss the vacancy process.

A group of seven lay people from across Benefice consulted with their congregations, then drew up a Statement of Needs (aka Parish Profiles).

November saw a joint meeting of PCCs with Archdeacon Hilary and Bishop Robert to approve the Statement of Needs and ask the Archdeacon to advertise the post of Rector of Ewelme Benefice in the Church Times.

The advertisement appeared over 4 weeks during January. Two people applied for the post. An Interviewing panel, including two representatives from each parish, met to consider applications and judged both strong enough to invite to interview. February 21st was Interview Day. Both

candidates were given a tour of all the churches in the Benefice and Uley Primary school and had opportunities to chat to representatives from each congregation and the ministry team before being interviewed by the panel in the afternoon. A wonderful lunch was laid on by Clare White at St Giles.

From two very strong candidates, the Panel unanimously chose Revd Juliet Jensen to be our next Rector, though we were not able to announce the appointment to our congregations and communities until 21st April, after the necessary paperwork had been completed. We look forward very much to Revd Juliet's licensing on 1st September.

After experiencing a few incidents of minor vandalism (among them setting fire to leaflets and upturning furniture) over the summer, the Standing Committee reluctantly decided in mid-August to keep the church locked when it was not being used. However, thanks to a number of people volunteering to sit in St James, in pairs, we were able to keep it open in the mornings for the rest of the school holidays. Once term started, we reverted to opening 9 till 5, but another serious incident in mid-October meant we had to keep the church locked again. For the past few months, Clare has been unlocking it at 9, and locking up when she leaves at lunchtime, and we have had no further trouble.

Volunteers spent a couple of Saturday mornings in October tidying the churchyard, then in February more volunteers gave the Parish Centre a thorough spring clean. Just last week, the church had its own spring clean. Many thanks to all who helped.

Since Michael's departure, life at St James has continued to follow the usual seasonal rhythms. All the usual Christmas and Easter services were held and attendance were somewhat down on the previous year, except for the Advent Carol service and the Crib & Christingle service. The lack of heating may have contributed to this (our congregations have had to endure temperatures well below the norm, despite the temporary electric heaters and supply of blankets). We have kept the pattern of services mostly the same as before, the one exception being that on the last Sunday of each month we have held a Benefice communion service at 10 am, alternately at St James and St Giles, which has helped to strengthen the bond of friendship between the parishes. On the third Sunday of each month we have had spoken Holy Communion at 8 am, followed by a Service of the Word at 10 am, which has sometimes adopted a less formal structure and focused on a particular theme. Choral Evensong has taken place at 6.30 pm on a Sunday once or twice a month. On Wednesdays, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer have been on Zoom. There has been Morning Prayer and a said service of Holy Communion in church each Thursday at 9 am and 10 am respectively.

We are hugely grateful to Moya Wallis, Churchwarden at Uley, for her hard work and skill in drawing up the clergy rota, and to all the clergy and readers, both from our St James family (Revds Jane Wood, Ian Gardner, Richard Morgan and David Vonberg, and Readers Tony King

and Paula Rix) and beyond, (Revds Bob Callaghan, Peter Cheeseman, Mike Cross, Peter Fewings and Jane Kenchington) who have between them ensured that we haven't had to cancel a single service, and have also taken 2 weddings, 6 baptisms and 15 funerals. Richard Morgan, (helped by Corinne Unsworth), Ian Gardner and Tony King have taken services regularly at the Hollies and Henlow Court care homes, and a team comprising clergy and lay people have taken home communion to the sick and housebound as needed. Revd Jane Wood and Tony King prepared Donna Pinker and Danny Parker for Confirmation, and they were confirmed by Bishop Robert in December at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens. Revd Jane also organised a retreat day at St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield earlier this month. Archdeacon Hilary presided and preached at the Parish Communion service on 10th December, and Bishop Robert did likewise on Christmas Day. It was lovely to have them with us.

Other events, such as the Coronation live stream and cream tea, Harvest lunch, Barn dance, Christmas Carvery, Christmas Market, Live Nativity and Agapé meal have all taken place successfully thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, special mention going to Ann and Clive Orchard and Barbie Davies. The free bookstall, Bring and Take events, the Coffee Cake and Music recitals and the concerts and art exhibition St James has hosted have all continued to build bridges between the church and the local community.

Many, many thanks also to our Administrator, Clare White, whose workload and responsibilities have also inevitably increased during the vacancy, also to Nigel Davies, Lynn James and the choir for continuing to lead our sung worship with such dedication and skill, to our Verger, Joy Pepper, and our Sacristan Sheila Gardner for discharging their duties so efficiently, to Judith Staddon and Valerie Meares for editing the Messenger magazine, to our faithful team of bell ringers, and to Tony King, George White and their team for live streaming our services.

Our link with Dursley Academy has been maintained through weekly visits from the Open the Book team, (which was singled out for special praise during Ofsted and DGAT inspections), through hosting a play performed by a visiting Christian theatre company last June for Key Stage 2 pupils, and through the Experience Easter sessions (organised by Anne Shipton and Edwina Walton) attended by the whole school over a week towards the end of the Spring term. The children also came to church for end-of-term services in July and December last year.

The PCC has met 5 times for regular meetings in June, September, November, January and March. It also met briefly after the APCM in April to elect church officers, and had three extra meetings jointly with Uley PCC in connection with the vacancy process in September, October and November. Thanks are due to all PCC members for coping with this additional work, and especially PCC Secretary, Clare White, Treasurer, Sally Pearson, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Rachel Brown

and Finance and Fabric committee chair, Austin Meares, for their commitment of time and talent in carrying out their roles.

As my fellow churchwarden, Matt Wood, had to step down for personal reasons in August, I am extremely grateful to assistant wardens Austin Meares, Chris Morgan, Sally Pearson and Caroline Marrow for all the support they have given me, helping with churchwarden's duties and supplying wise counsel and vital information as needed.

Of course, there are many others who give their time week in week out to tend the churchyard, clean the church, arrange flowers, serve refreshments, read lessons and intercessions, and welcome people to our services, and I am deeply grateful to all of them for their valuable contributions to the life of St James.

The past twelve months have presented us with a number of challenges, but with God's help and everyone pulling together we have risen to them, and I think we can look forward to the next year with confidence and hope.

Jan Vonberg

May 2024

Electoral Roll 2022/23

We had a starting figure of 147, there were 3 people to be removed because they had died during the year and we added 13 new people. Final figure for 2022/23 was 157.

Chris Raffle, Electoral Roll Officer

April 2024

ST JAMES DURSLEY AND ST MARK'S WOODMANCOTE PCC

REPORT FROM TREASURER TO PCC MARCH 2024

The Finance Report

- **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

- **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members

During the year the PCC have agreed Financial Control Procedures to ensure the PCC meets the legal requirements and good practice

recommendations set out in the [Charity Commission Guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charity](#).

These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

- **Reserves Policy**

This is now reflected in the Financial Controls Procedures. The purpose of a Reserves Policy is to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of core work. The Reserves Policy is to retain a minimum of £8k in unrestricted funds across all accounts at all times to protect 3 months of core work.

- **Year End Balances**

The Statement of Assets at annex 1 shows at the year end 2023 we were holding £76,475 across all our accounts. This represents a movement in funds of £27432 from the year end position in 2022. This is largely accounted for by the decision of the PCC to reduce our contribution to the Parish Share to enable us to accrue sufficient funds to meet the costs of the replacement of the boilers in both the church and the parish centre and meet the excess costs arising from the theft of the lead from the porch roof.

- **Receipts and Payments**

The Receipts and Payments Account (Annex 2) shows the areas of expenditure and income across all accounts and allows comparison with last year.

- **Parish Share:**

At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment to a Parish Share of £42k. As with many other parishes the impact of increased salaries and energy costs has made meeting this commitment challenging. In addition the theft of lead from the roof of the porch and the failure of the heating system in both the church and Parish Centre are estimated to mean the PC will incur costs in excess of £70k. This required the PCC to review the budget position and reduce the Parish Share contribution to £25k.. The commitment from the PCC for 2024 is currently £34k, based on the budget predictions for the year, but this figure will be reviewed in June 2024.

- **Fundraising:**

Fundraising activities increased in 2023. During the year the following has been raised:

Event	Amount (£)
Bookstalls	3667.41
Bookstall DEC	699.15
DEC collections	494.15
Coffee	879.00

Lent lunches	1195.30
100 club	1203.3
Coffee Cake and Music	2681.12
Coronation Teas	342.59
James Hopkins Trust	170.00
Open Garden	625.00
Harvest Lunch	268.20
Wreath making	380.00
Christmas Market	2763.39
Christmas carvery	540.00
Ride and Stride	173.75
Barn dance	114.00
Children's Society boxes	274.22
Other	175.42
TOTAL	16646

- **Parish Finance Return**

This return which is required by the Diocese, and generated from the Diocesan Cashbook, used to record all transactions across all our accounts and investments, is included at Annex 3

- **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

The PCC has elected to subject the financial statements to independent examination. These accounts have been examined by Davies Accountants (SW) Ltd (previously known as RD Consulting, Chartered Accountants). Their report will be included as Annex 4 when this report is presented to the APCM.

Having made appropriate enquiries, the PCC propose Davies Accountants (SW) Ltd as independent examiner until the next APCM.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 5 meetings during 2023. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in May to make the necessary election of PCC Officers.

Administrative information

St James the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

St Mark's Church, Woodmancote, Dursley

These churches form part of the Parish of Dursley which is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office, St James Parish Centre, Silver Street, Dursley. GL11 4NA

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Michael Cozens (until July 2023)

Associate priests: The Revd Ian Gardner

The Revd Jane Wood

Reader: Antony King

Churchwardens: Matthew Wood (until August 2023)

Janet Vonberg

Elected members:

David Smith Deanery Synod representative

Elizabeth Oakley Deanery Synod representative

Clare White PCC Secretary (from May 2023)

Sally Pearson PCC Treasurer

Austin Meares

Edwina Walton (until May 2023)

Christine Morgan

Christine Raffle

Sheila Gardner (from May 2023)

Sarah Hodge

Gillian Mather

Kathryn Rebbeck

Christopher Tyler

Joy Pepper

Caroline Marrow

Marcia Heaven (until May 2023)

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rachel Brown

<https://parishbuying.org.uk/categories/givingandpayments/solutions/paya-z-giving-station>

Sally Pearson, treasurer

March 2024

ANNEX 1

St James PCC Dursley Statement of Assets 31 December 2023

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
		£49,043.67	£165,206.81	(£137,775.02)	£76,475.46
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£9,675.14	£104,882.48	(£102,154.72)	£12,402.90
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£6,112.88	£37,772.88	(£11,639.27)	£32,246.49
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	£40.28	£4,183.99	(£4,224.27)	-
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£8,100.39	£11,230.26	(£12,809.49)	£6,521.16
F	St James Parish Centre (cash)	£2,913.68	£6,900.11	(£6,947.27)	£2,866.52
G	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (cash)	£6,500.00			£6,500.00
H	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (cash)	£13,203.15			£13,203.15
I	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£2,498.15	£237.09		£2,735.24

PCC Dursley Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the Year ended 31 December 2023

	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	43,708	675	380	44,763	48,078
Collections, donations & other giving	20,631	1,692	14,846	37,169	23,233
Income tax recovered	13,446			13,446	13,699
Legacies					
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	6,255			6,255	6,900
Income from other Properties					
Annual Fete/events	14,414	1,065	1,167	16,646	18,705
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	585		249	834	206
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees		-	-		
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims					
Gain on disposal of fixed assets					
Loans received					
Other	8,203			8,203	12,893
Total incoming resources	107,242	3,432	16,642	127,316	123,714
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(893)	(1,440)		(2,333)	(4,794)
Mission & Evangelism	(530)	(350)		(880)	(438)
Parish Share	(25,000)			(25,000)	(50,000)
Clergy expenses	(1,650)			(1,650)	(1,945)
Church running expenses	(25,178)	(437)	(6,443)	(32,058)	(32,427)
Churchyard maintenance	(152)			(152)	(475)
Cost of raising funds	(435)		(575)	(1,010)	(2,951)
Running costs:					
Support costs	(81)			(81)	(232)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(20,349)			(20,349)	(15,128)
Other	(11,910)			(11,910)	(9,826)
Governance costs	(360)			(360)	(552)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings			(1,392)	(1,392)	(15,180)
Repairs to other property	(288)		(2,658)	(2,946)	
Capital purchases/additions					
Loan repayments					
Total resources expended	(86,826)	(2,227)	(11,068)	(100,121)	(133,948)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	20,416	1,205	5,574	27,195	(10,234)
Transfers between funds					
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains	20,416	1,205	5,574	27,195	(10,234)
Gains on investment assets	237			237	(332)
Net movement in funds	20,653	1,205	5,574	27,432	(10,566)
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan	20,501	1,909	26,632	49,042	59,608
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec	41,154	3,114	32,206	76,474	49,042

Parish Finance Return 2023

The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at: <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

Return of Parish Finance

January to December 2023

Parish code:	616031	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:		Deanery:	Wotton
Parish name:	St James, Dursley, St Marks Woodmancote			Diocese:	Gloucester

INCOMING RESOURCES										RESOURCES EXPENDED			UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
Voluntary income/ receipts																
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£	40,712	£	380					Costs of generating income			£	435	£	575
2	Other planned giving	£	3,671							Costs of fund-raising activities						
3	Collections at services	£	6,560							Church activities			£	2,333		
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£	3,539							Mission giving and donations						
6	Gift Aid recovered	£	13,446							Diocesan parish share contribution			£	25,000		
7	Legacies received (capital value)									Salaries, wages and honararia			£	14,878		
8	Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£	12,223	£	14,846					Clergy and staff expenses			£	1,730		
	TOTAL Voluntary income:	£	80,151	£	15,226					Church expenses						
										Mission and evangelism costs			£	880		
9	Activities for generating funds									Church running expenses			£	31,687	£	6,443
	Gross income from fundraising activities	£	15,480	£	1,167					Church utility bills			£	9,449		
	Income from investments									Cost of trading						
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£	585	£	249					Governance costs			£	360		
	Church activities									Major capital expenditure						
	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)									Major repairs to the church building					£	1,392
11	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£	6,304							Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration			£	288	£	2,658
12	Other incoming resources									New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property						
13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£	8,153							SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses			£	87,040	£	11,068
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)									Other payments/expenditure not already listed			£	2,011		
A	Unrestricted	£	110,673							TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)						
B	Restricted	£	16,642							Unrestricted			£	89,051		
C	TOTAL	£	127,315							Restricted			£	11,068		
14	PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES									TOTAL			£	100,119		
	Number of tax efficient planned givers				54					Cash and Investment Balances			UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		
15	Number of other planned givers				5					Cash and deposit balances as at 31 December 2021			£	55,554	£	18,186
16	Number of new legacies received in year				0					Investments as at 31 December 2021			£	2,735		
100	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver				14.3											

This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook

30	Receipts and payments [X]	Accruals	[]
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*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Date	04/04/2024
Name	Sally Pearson
Position	Treasurer
Telephone or email	v6sep@aol.com

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Dursley Parish Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dursley Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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

Independent Examiner's statement:

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Rhian Davies

Date: 27/03/2024

Relevant professional qualification of professional body:

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

Rocktop, Itchington Road, Tytherington. GL12 8QE

Wotton Deanery Synod Report for Dursley APCM Meeting 2024

Wotton Deanery covers an area of Gloucestershire east of the Severn, from Nympsfield to Chipping Sodbury. The Synod usually meets about four times a year. Synod members are ex officio members of the PCC. They are on the PCC as Synod reps. Clergy are members of Synod. Dursley can have three lay members. At present there is only one rep. The two vacancies can be filled at the APCM.

The main business of the Synod during the year has been the Deanery Strategic Plan. The first part of this was engagement and support of role holders such as treasurers, and administrators. Much of this has been through a working group. Subsequently the synod has started to look at how benefices and parishes can increase their incomes.

Few, if any, of the deanery benefices have been able to meet their Parish Share this year. Covid has had a marked effect on church attendance and giving.

The church is facing huge problems particularly in the small villages. As deanery reps we support each other. It is encouraging to hear of initiatives throughout the deanery to reach out to communities. In our own parish we have the work with the primary academy, and the weekly free book-stall as examples.

David Smith.

April 2024

Parish Centre Report.

This year we have lost a few of the regular groups who met in the Parish Centre. This was due to the central heating boiler being condemned in September 2023. We still have 7 groups who still meet on a weekly basis. The building has been very cold ever since, without my trusty heater from St Mark's I may have frozen to my desk!

After much research and investigation on many people's parts we finally have a solution to the problem, hopefully by winter 2024 we will have a new boiler in place.

A building consultant has been hired to make plans for work on the building, as part of the work he will get permission from Stroud District Council and Listed Buildings to carry out necessary maintenance jobs, including fitting a new flue for the gas boiler.

CCTV cameras will be fitted as security for anyone using the centre. Our cleaner Marie Mills works very hard two mornings a week and is doing an excellent job.

On 17th February a large group met in the Parish Centre and gave it a thorough Spring Clean. It was much needed and looks so much better. Thank you to that group.

Clare White

April 2024

Fabric

It has been a challenging year with having to contend with some serious issues. Early in 2023, the lead on the porch roof was stolen allowing water penetration into the room below causing damage to the walls. A new roof (of stainless steel to minimise another theft) has been fitted and although this work was largely covered by insurance, our exposure ran into several thousand pounds. The porch room will be redecorated later once the premises has thoroughly dried out. The cost will be covered by insurance. During the year the church boiler failed (as indeed did that in the Parish Centre) and after considerable advice this state of affairs will be remedied shortly.

The lead roof on the tower requires attention as there has been some water ingress into the belfry. This will entail a careful inspection of the wooden framework immediately below the roof – a project for 2024. Following lengthy discussions with the Diocese, WiFi will be installed in the church during the next month or two.

As usual, the church gutters have been cleaned on a regular basis. However, dampness has appeared on some of the inside walls (due in part to lack of heating) and this too will need to be addressed in the coming months.

Austin Meares

April 2024

Safeguarding

Since the last APCM I have continued to use the Parish Dashboards software to ensure we are complying with Diocesan and National parish safeguarding requirements. This software allows me to keep the PCC up to date with a Safeguarding Action Plan, generated by the data I input, which shows how much progress we are making towards the targets set, and at our last PCC meeting in March we approved and reviewed all our safeguarding policies and procedures. In January this year I attended a Wotton Deanery Safeguarding Officers meeting in Wickwar which was the first time all the Deanery PSO's had met together. It was an encouraging meeting for those of us from the Ewelme Benefice as Pat Jones from Uley and myself have been using the Parish Dashboard software since its conception, whereas many Parishes have yet to get started, so our new incumbent will be well supported in this respect. During the vacancy I have been meeting every couple of months with Rev Jane and Jan Vonberg to keep in touch with any issues within the Parish and during this time we have dealt with and resolved welfare concerns, safeguarding issues in liaison with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and provided background support for the welcome presence of the children's' choir at Harvest and Advent.

Heather Arnold has kindly offered to take over from me as Dursley's PSO once our new incumbent is in place, and she too attended the Deanery meeting and is already making her mark with her competence

and experience as a School Governor and her excellent IT skills. Until I hand over officially to Heather, I shall continue to work with her as we make sure any newly-elected PCC members are DBS checked and supported to complete their mandatory training, and we will continue to adhere to the requirements of the Dashboards to make sure we are in a strong position as we head towards the end of this period of vacancy.

Rachel Brown, Safeguarding officer

April 2024

Music Report

The choir continues to support our worship on a regular basis and when all members are present, we number thirty with an average attendance of around twenty-five. It is sad to report that we are one of the very few “traditional” church choirs in this area, relying on our own members and not using an “ad hoc” group of singers for special occasions. As ever, I am indebted to the choristers for their loyalty, support, diligence, and goodwill, and for making the regular Friday rehearsals so enjoyable. The choir is fortunate to have the support of Lynn James who directs the accompanied pieces and Anne Shipton who sees to it that literally hundreds of pieces of music are given out, repaired, and put away after use each month.

Since the last APCM we have had quite a few “extras” to our usual commitments, beginning with a concert in memory of the late Jo Downing (13th May), followed by the annual Plant and Produce Stall on the day of Eric Tyson's organ recital (27th May). July saw the organ from St Mark's transported to St James where it now lives in the Children's Corner on its moveable platform. On Sunday 23rd July five singers from St Giles Uley augmented the choir to sing for Canon Michael's final service which was a splendid occasion as well as a sad one, as Michael's ministry was so well appreciated not only by our churches, but by the wider community.

The annual choir lunch (August 5th) was held at Capel Gosen, Cynghordy (the chapel which Barbie and I have been restoring). It was the choir's second visit to this beautiful, slightly remote part of Carmarthenshire, but this time there was no singing as such, just lunch and, of course, the Tambourine Award. David Wood was on fine form once again highlighting the misdemeanours of the choristers with 2023's award being given to Rob Marrow. (Spoiler alert; I am a sure-fire nomination for 2024!).

The choir rests during August and the level of singing from the body of the church was extremely good for our services and I am grateful to Chris Tyler for being able to play in my absence.

A rather sad occasion was to sing at the funeral of Glenis Ewer on 1st December. Glenis was a faithful member of the choir and despite her failing health she sang for as long as she could aided by husband John

and her fellow sopranos, particularly Sally Arnold. May Glenis rest in peace.

What a good job St Mark's organ was available for the Midnight Mass! The splendid pipe organ in St James' has not taken kindly to the lack of heat; perhaps its reactions are human after all? Specifically, it has been prone to sticking notes and stops not cancelling making it a bit of a nightmare for the player. It let its presence be known after the Sanctus with a high-pitched cipher on the Tromba which refused to cancel. So, the choir was accompanied on the piano for the Agnus Dei and after the communion, we decamped to the back of church to finish the service to the accompaniment of St Mark's organ.

Saturday 6th January saw the choir completely out of character taking the part of the "Choir of Angels" in the Live Nativity. We welcomed Peter Kirvan back to take the part of the Angel Gabriel complete with huge wings! Despite the unlikely angels, the event was truly atmospheric and thoroughly enjoyable thanks to Barbie Davies' vision and organisational skills.

As ever, the Coffee, Cake and Music organ recitals continue to attract large audiences (in 2023 making a profit of £2791.12), and since Canon Michael's departure I am grateful to the Rev'd David Vonberg for "fronting" these occasions. In February 2024 we started the 19th series early with a recital given by the Dutch organist Harry van Wijk. It was gratifying to see that the lack of heating did not deter the regulars, and even more gratifying that the organ behaved itself!

Several choristers have been able to support the Dursley Academy's church services by singing alongside the small group of would-be choristers which Edwina Walton has been teaching. At the Easter service, we actually sang a proper hymn; a triumph in itself when the young people are bombarded with "pop".

It is good to see that the church continues to be a venue for various community musical events; Piano pupil concerts; the Dursley Male Voice Choir; the Tyndale Choral Society; Rednock School, to name just a few, and when we have winter heating, I'm sure it will become an even more popular venue!

Looking to the future, the choir is in good shape, but we are always on the lookout for new (and particularly younger!) members; Ria Davies (Soprano) joined us in 2023. Hopefully in 2024-5 we will be able to recruit a number of youngsters to create a Junior Choir. The organ will definitely need some TLC before too long, and, more importantly, we look forward to welcoming our new Rector.

Nigel Davies

April 2024

Dursley Ringing Master's Report – February 2024

Sunday service ringing and Thursday practice nights have usually been well attended,

although there have been rare occasions where we've not had a band able to ring all eight bells - we've made the most of what we've had at the time. 2023 has seen a continuing strengthening of our regular band: The more experienced ringers are now regularly managing 8-spliced Surprise Major on a practice night.

Having rung his first quarter peals trebling to Bob Doubles and Grandsire Triples, Ashley is now ringing inside to Plain Bob Triples. Our newest learners, Joy and Karen, are making good progress at handling and are both ringing for Sunday service. Earlier in the year they benefited from many Friday evening tied bell practices, run by Liz and John T. Joy is now progressing with call changes, while Karen is getting comfortable ringing in rounds.

A number of ad-hoc tied bell / simulator practices have been arranged over the year for those available to ring in the mornings and afternoons.

We've had a more bountiful crop of Quarter Peals this year:

This is primarily due to Philip efficiently organising a Quarter for the second Monday of each month.

The successful (4-spliced surprise) quarter peal in October was rung in thanksgiving for St Mark's Church, which had its valedictory service earlier in the year.

We've had a few Evensong Service Quarter attempts, with two successes, but Evensong ringing has usually been managed as open ringing.

There were also a couple of Quarters rung by visiting bands.

Philip organised a Peal attempt at Dursley for the Coronation celebrations for King Charles III, planning diligently around the town council's schedule of celebrations; Unfortunately we weren't successful but after a couple of restarts we did successfully ring a Quarter Peal of Cambridge Surprise Major to mark the event.

As it was proving too difficult to agree an open-ringing session at St. James for the rest of the band to join in the celebrations, band members not involved in the Peal attempt were encouraged to take part in open-ringing at our neighbouring towers, including Cam and Berkeley.

Out of three Peal attempts over the year, we did successfully complete a Peal of Rutland Major to compliment the retirement of Rev Canon Michael Cozens and in thanksgiving for his ministry. By taking part, Janet Morris, a former Dursley ringer, completed the circle in peals!

A very enjoyable ringing outing was had in June, spanning four towers (Ashchurch, Ashton-under-Hill, Hampton and Woolstone) Many thanks to Frank for organising such a successful day out and excellent lunch.

We've had continuing success with the local striking competition:

In April, Dursley represented Wotton branch again in the Association Croome Trophy 6-bell competition, held at Frenchay. Eight teams entered, and we came joint sixth.

In September, we entered a band into the Wotton branch striking competition at Avening. Dursley came first out of four entrants, including Coaley, Chipping Sodbury and a scratch band. We therefore won the Beaney Trophy again and are due to represent the Wotton Branch at the next association Croome Trophy 6-bell competition.

We've rung for two weddings. and hosted visiting towers' outings.

We continue to benefit hugely from members of other towers' teams, for Service ringing, practices, and Quarters, in particular Tim, Andrew W, Jonathan, Hilary and Mike. Without their contribution there would be many sessions where our repertoire would be greatly restricted, even preventing us from ringing all eight bells had they not been present. We are very grateful for their continuing involvement which makes the ringing at Dursley that much richer.

I'd also like to acknowledge the great distance some of our ringers travel to get to Dursley, when they could be ringing much closer to home. Their choice of tower is appreciated!

There have been odd occasions where we've had so many people at practice that it's been a challenge to fit in each ringer's preferred method. This year I've developed an appreciation, that while we should strive to grow and strengthen as a band, people's personal circumstances may not allow for everyone to learn new methods thoroughly each week. Thanks to Andrew Ward and Ashley who have maintained the tower over the year, which has enabled us to ring without interruption; This has included changing ropes and fixing the boss on the tenor.

Finally, many thanks to Andy B, who ran practices and Service ringing when I wasn't in Dursley, and provided valuable guidance and support over the year.

John Cole and Elizabeth Byrne

April 2024

Open The Book

The Open the Book team first went into Dursley Academy in 2008/09. During that time, we have seen many changes with three Headteachers, changes in staff and of course the children, when they eventually leave the Academy to go onto senior school. Open the Book Team members have also changed since we first started. Unfortunately, some could no longer participate for different reasons, and some have since passed away, which has been a great loss to the team.

At first it was only the juniors that came into the hall to watch us and take part, but at the time of writing this we now have the whole school including the reception class. However, the reception class didn't come into the hall until after Christmas, getting settled first into the school routine. Children often participate in the play. The number of children required and the class taking part has already been asked for on the schedule which has been to the team members and the school at the

beginning of each term. We still follow the same pattern. Firstly, the person who is doing 'beginning and end' asks the children questions about the story that we have done the previous week. Many hands go up, some even before the question is asked. Some say they have forgotten when asked but there are many that have the correct answer. They are given a sticker for getting it correct. We then introduce the story for that week and ask the children to put their hands together 'To Open the Book'. After the play we do a simple conclusion and a final prayer. Any children taking part in the play are given an 'Open the Book' sticker.

During last term GDAT (Gloucester Diocese Academy Trust) came into the school to do an inspection. The team were told that it was the best Open the Book they had ever seen, and they had seen many. That followed a few weeks later by an inspection by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). One of the Inspectors came up afterwards to the team and congratulated us on the performance and again said it was the best they had seen. We are all delighted to have received such praise from the two inspections. Since my last report in 2023 Joyce Lombard has joined the team. May I say thank you to the Team Members that take part in Open the Book and the support that they give me.

Joy Pepper

April 2024

Messenger Report

It was decided during Canon Michael's time here that The Messenger was a window into our Church, giving information, not only to our congregation but also anyone who visits our beautiful church. We have dates for your diary and useful contact details on the inside cover and on the back.

We continue with sales of 95-100 copies per month and online copies go out each month too.

All our advertisers have returned for another year which is very pleasing. Valerie Meares and I are very grateful to everyone who contributes articles and photographs and hope that they will continue to do so and if anyone else is moved to write something for us that would be wonderful.

Judith Staddon

May 2024

St James Eco Church Report 2024

Quite a lot of Eco church projects have progressed in the past year, and we are very grateful to the many people who have been helping us. I shall attempt to try and say thank you to everyone throughout the report, but apologies if I overlook anyone (if I do, may I offer a big 'thank you' before I begin).

Project	Up-Date	A big 'Thank you' to.....
<u>Swift boxes</u>   <i>Simon & Paul installing caller.</i>	Two swift boxes have been constructed and installed into St James belfry by two of the bell ringers. The swift bird caller has been installed adjacent to the swift boxes. This is set on a timer to sound twice a day, for about 6 weeks, 9.00 – 11.00 and 16.00 – 18.00. The sound will hopefully help attract some swifts to nest in the boxes. It is worth considering that the boxes may not be occupied for 1- 2 years. 	Andrew Ward and Ashley Pearson have been very kind giving their skill, materials, and expertise with the installation. Simon Bilous and Paul Winterbottam gallantly installed and set the swift caller for us. We are very grateful to Julian Jones for his ongoing support, advice, and encouragement regarding installation of the swift boxes. Julian is the director of Wild Dursley ('WILDur') which is a Community Interest Company.
<u>Bug Hotel</u>  <i>Before</i>  <i>After</i>	The bug hotel roof has recently received a refurbishment! Wooden edging has been added, to help maintain the 'living roof area. New turf and plants including house leeks and sedums have been planted. The existing wildflowers including dandelions, Common Sowthistle and Herb Robert have been left to flourish.	Jan Vonberg has carefully trimmed the grass surrounding the bug hotel and planted some lavender and herbs. Adrian has fixed a wooden surrounding to the Gabion and Gill has added some turf and further plants including a House Leek, two sedum and a creeping thyme. A couple of Foxgloves have also appeared.



Examples of The temporary bee hotel to be added soon

Jennifer Kendrick has also donated a splendid house-shaped bee hotel which will be added to the existing bug hotel as a temporary fixture soon.

Wildlife Information Sign



Paul and Adrian with the finished job!



Brendan, Adrian and Jennifer checking the sign height.

Eco Church members made a general contribution to the design and content of the sign, and Izzy Merry (Gill's daughter) lent her graphic design skills with its final design. Once we had followed the processes for obtaining permissions to install the sign, we were able to have it printed on a robust aluminium board. Prior to the sign installation, we realised the importance of making sure that the sign was a good height for wheelchair and mobility scooter users to use. Brendan, Jennifer, and Adrian spent time making sure the sign height was appropriate.

We're very grateful to Brendan Skelton who designed and constructed the fantastic sturdy metal sign stand.

Thank you also to Jennifer for her tremendous support and generosity with the sign.



The sign was installed last summer and we're very grateful to Paul Pogba and Adrian Mather for making such a good job of it.

Count on Nature 2023



This is a national initiative open to all denominations and is a nature-recording project piloted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church in Wales, and the Church of England, in partnership with A Rocha UK. Following the success of similar events the previous two years, St James held this again in the churchyard, on June 10th, 2024. As before, the Eco Church group hoped to raise

This year, we were very fortunate to have a visit by Peter Cranswick, 'The Moth Man'. Peter is a local wildlife expert who has a particular interest in moths. He organised two 'Moth Reveals' in the churchyard, which was fascinating, and captured the imagination of the passing public.



A Privet Moth!

	awareness of the wildlife projects that are happening at St James in response to the climate crisis. The event also encouraged appreciation of wildlife, as well as demonstrating projects that might be tried at home.	Thank you to David Smith, Elizabeth Oakley, Steph Say, Clive Orchard, David Vonberg, Kathy Rebeck, Brendan Skelton, Jennifer Kendrick, Claire White, and Adrian Mather, for all the help and support both with the planning and on the day.
<u>Radio 'Spot'</u>	In May, Katherine Clamp (Gloucester Diocese Communications Officer) contacted St James Eco Church team to request if anyone would be happy to be interviewed on BBC Radio Gloucester Breakfast Show and talk about 'No Mow May' happening in the churchyard.	Gill was happy to be interviewed by the very friendly radio presenter, Jon Smith. We discussed why this campaign was started by the Wild Plant Charity as well as the benefits to the wildlife and people.
<u>Climate Change Service</u>	In July, the Service of the Word was focussed on God's creation, and the climate crisis.	Thank you to Michael Cozens for helping Jan and Gill with the overall planning and leading of this service.
<u>'No Mow May'</u>	St James took part in the Wild Plant Charity 'No Mow May' campaign again last year. Happily, a couple of Common Orchids appeared again during this which were wonderful to see.	A big 'thank you' to John Crellin and David Wood for their ongoing support with this different mowing regime, both through and beyond May into the summer. Some new temporary signs from Caring for God's Acre charity will soon appear. These will explain why we are encouraging some meadow areas for wildlife in the churchyard.

<u>Bring & Take Events</u> Saturday 11th May 9.00am – 12 noon St. James Church, Dursley Bring and Take Event Inside the Church Come and take pre-loved toys, games, clothing and household goods for free and bring any that you no longer need! (no electrical goods, please) Hosted by St James Church Eco-group & Dursley Freecycle  Tea, coffee, and cakes Alongside the regular free bookstall Don't throw it away – give it away with Freecycle	This event, held every couple of months and run alongside the regular book sale inside the church, continues to be very successful. The event is hosted by St James Eco Group and Dursley Freecycle. Pre-loved clothing, toys, games, household good (excluding those that are electrical) are exchanged by the public for free. Any donations are given to Dursley Freecycle	A big 'Thank You' to Val Pedrick (Dursley Freecycle) who inspires and leads these events. Also, huge thanks to Lizzie Adkins who has recently joined the group, and is also very inspirational and hard working. Also, a big 'thank you to Clive for helping with all the tables on the day, as well as David Smith and all those who come and help serve refreshments. We couldn't do it without you.
<u>A Rocha and Eco Church Award Framework</u>	We are continuing to work towards the silver Eco Church award and hope to have made some further progress over the next year.	The St James Eco Church team is aware that A Rocha is a charity. They provide the framework we follow to help achieve a 'greener' church'. In light of this, the team has decided to try and raise some funds for them, and have a coffee morning planned in St James on Thursday 9th May, following communion.
<u>Dog Fouling Prevention signs</u> 	Many people have commented on the problem of dog fouling in St James churchyard. To try to address this, three new temporary signs have been created to encourage dog owners to 'pick up' after their dog.	The team were very grateful to the 1st Dursley Brownies to join in with this project and design some signs for us to use. The Brownies enjoyed taking part in the design competition, and three winning designs were chosen and used.

Gillian Mather

April 2024

Accounts

Ewelme Benefice
Dursley Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity No. 1130972

Trustees Annual Report 2022

Dursley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Michael Cozens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the churches of St James the Great Dursley (the parish church) and St Mark Woodmancote and the Parish Centre located behind the church of St James.

Our Vision

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision. *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.*
John 10:10

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and be part of our community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our buildings.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a standard item on the agenda of every PCC meeting and the Parish Safeguarding Officer usually attends these meetings. Having adopted the Safeguarding Handbook and Dashboards our policies are reviewed regularly and DBS checks are kept up to date. Safeguarding is reported on at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Achievements and Performance

This year has seen a gradual return to pre-pandemic patterns of activities across the parish and wider benefice. The practise of receiving communion in two kinds was resumed although this continues to be administered by the priest dipping the consecrated host in the chalice. Refreshments after services restarted and in June the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was marked by cream teas on the church lawn, an Agape meal was held on Maundy Thursday, a Harvest lunch in October and the Christmas Carvery, which is open to the wider community, was held in December. In June a successful Arts Week exhibition by local artists was held in St James and the 'free books' on a Saturday has now become an almost weekly event, with refreshments available. During the early part of the year, all donations were given to the Ukraine appeal following the start of the war. Prayers continue to be regularly offered for the situation in Ukraine and church members have taken part in the weekly community Vigil for Ukraine as well as offering support to those in the area who have hosted refugees. Carol services in the Advent and Christmas seasons were well-attended as was the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and services of Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning. Shoppers Carols were held for a second year in December as a community event and a full series of monthly 'Coffee, Cake and Music' organ recitals from April to September were well supported. Sadly the Children's Church has not resumed and Messy Church has not been held again this year.

A new Principal was welcomed at Dursley C of E Primary Academy in January and the whole school took part in Experience Easter outdoors at St Mark's during Lent. Whole school worship resumed and has been regularly led by the Rector and local clergy and in September the Open the Book Team re-started live services in school on a weekly basis. The church of St James the Great has remained open every day and is well used for private prayer. This was particularly apparent in the period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, when the opening hours were extended, opportunities to light candles were offered and a book of condolence was available. The church bells were rung muffled on several days following the death and our church services at the time also reflected on the life of the Queen and offered opportunities for thanksgiving for her many years of faithful service.

Activities for growing faith and developing discipleship have continued throughout the year across the Ewelme Benefice. In January, a group met weekly via Zoom to follow the 'Living in Love and Faith' course exploring issues of human sexuality. Lent and Advent groups were also offered and in March a Spirituality Day was run by volunteers in St James. Evening Prayer via Zoom has continued twice a week and is still appreciated. In person Morning Prayer has resumed in St James on a twice weekly basis.

We have been fortunate to have a Benefice Ministry team of a full-time stipendiary Rector, 3 self-supporting assistant priests and 2 Licensed Readers, supported by retired clergy and a Benefice Administrator. This is in addition to the many volunteers who carry out varied ministries across the parish and give their time to support the many activities of the church community. In the summer we were joined by the Revd Morag Langley who will remain with us until her retirement in June 2023. The Revd Ian Gardner retired from his licensed ministry in December and will be taking a 6 month break from ministry before he is able to apply for the bishop's permission to officiate (PTO). The Revd Canon Michael Cozens (Rector) announced his retirement at the Annual Meeting and will be leaving his post in July 2023. Representatives from the Ewelme Benefice have taken part in consultations relating to the Deanery Strategic Planning Process which is being carried out across the Diocese and is on-going.

The consultation process relating to St Mark's Woodmancote has continued this year and has been conducted by the Church Commissioners. A final consultation period was held in the autumn ending in November. No objections requiring investigation were received and the Church Commissioners indicated that they will be able to issue a notice of closure for public worship. This is anticipated early in 2023 when a final service of thanksgiving will be held.

Following last year's bronze Eco-church award, further progress has been made led by a small group of volunteers. A bug hotel was installed in early spring and some areas of the churchyard were left unmown over the summer. Two year groups from Dursley Academy visited for out door activities led by the Eco-church group and this was followed by a 'Count on Nature' event. Planning for the design and installation of an information board in the churchyard and also for the installation of swift boxes in the church tower has continued throughout the year. Traidcraft stalls have also been held and a cake stall to raise money for the 'twinning' of two of our toilets to mark Big Green Week. The first Bring and Take event was held in October in collaboration with Dursley Freegle and was well supported and clearly appreciated.

Maintenance of both church buildings and the parish centre has continued through out the year. Major work in January was carried out in St James to repair a number of the wall monuments. New notice boards have been installed in the porch at St James, given in loving memory of a member of the church family.

The Finance Report

- **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

- **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members.

During the year the PCC have agreed Financial Control Procedures to ensure the PCC meets the legal requirements and good practice recommendations set out in the [Charity Commission Guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charity](#).

These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

- **Reserves Policy**

This is now reflected in the Financial Controls Procedures. The purpose of a Reserves Policy is to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of core work. The Reserves Policy is to retain a minimum of £8k in unrestricted funds across all accounts at all times to protect 3 months of core work.

- **Year End Balances**

The Statement of Assets at annex 1 shows at the year end 2022 we were holding £49,042 across all our accounts. This represents a £10k deterioration largely accounted for by an increase in energy costs and salaries in the year, on last year on last year.

There has been considerable expenditure from the Fabric Account in 2022. So the balance in this account now stands at just over £6k. The most significant expenditure was for the repair to the church wall monuments. The total cost was £16k and we successfully secured grants for £10k. Any further significant work to support the fabric of the church will need to be supported by either grants or specific fundraising.

- **Receipts and Payments**

The Receipts and Payments Account (Annex 2) shows the areas of expenditure and income across all accounts and allows comparison with last year. Due to change in coding these accounts show no parochial fees income. These are now included in other income and in 2022 totalled £8947.15. The expenditure related to parochial fees is included in church running expenses and totals £6591.60.

- **Parish Share:**

At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment to a Parish Share of £48k. As with many other parishes the impact of increased salaries and energy costs has made meeting this commitment challenging. During the year the PCC made a contribution of £48k and a further £2k to meet a shortfall in the commitment for 2021. The commitment from the PCC for 2023 is currently £42k, based on the budget predictions for the year, but this figure will be reviewed in June 2023.

- **Fundraising:**

Fundraising activities increased in 2022. During the year the following has been raised:

Event	Amount (£)
Bookstalls	3110.85
Bookstalls Ukraine	1387.20
Coffee	556.20
Lent lunches	1062.10
Open garden	592.20
Plant stall Ukraine	130.00
Plant stall James Hopkins	124.00
Coffee Cake and Music	2104.69
Jubilee cream teas	376.03
Jubilee come and sing	441.18
Art Week	835.94
Christmas Market	3016.23
Christmas carvery	375.12
TOTAL	£14111.74

Contributions to other charities have been made as follows:

Charity	Amount (£)
Railway Children	1000.00
Gloucestershire Young Carers	1000.00
DEC Ukraine Appeal	1658.00
James Hopkins Trust	124.00
Children's Society	738.00
Toilet Twinning	124.20
A Rocha for Eco Church Support	125.00
TOTAL	4769.28

- **Parish Finance Return**

This return which is required by the Diocese, and generated from the Diocesan Cashbook, used to record all transactions across all our accounts and investments, is included at Annex 3

- **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

At the last APCM the PCC elected to subject the financial statements to independent examination and appointed Azets as the independent examiner. When they were approached to review the accounts this year their costs had risen to £750 plus VAT with an indication they would increase further if there were any anomalies with the accounts that needed correction and in subsequent years. The PCC therefore sought an alternative independent examiner and at its meeting in March appointed RD Consulting. These accounts have been examined by RD Consulting and their report is included as Annex 4.

The PCC propose that RD Consulting is appointed as the independent examiner for 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, which had 150 names on it in May 2022.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 5 meetings during 2022, 3 of which were held virtually, via Zoom. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in May to make the necessary election of PCC Officers.

Administrative Information

St James the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

St Mark's Church, Woodmancote, Dursley

These churches form part of the Parish of Dursley which is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office c/o The Rectory, Broadwell, Dursley. GL11 4JE

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Michael Cozens

Associate priests: The Revd Ian Gardner

The Revd Jane Wood

Reader: Antony King

Churchwardens: Christine Morgan (Lay Vice-chair)

Janet Vonberg

Elected members:

David Smith Deanery Synod representative

Elizabeth Oakley Deanery Synod representative

Edwina Walton PCC Secretary

Sally Pearson PCC Treasurer

Austin Meares

Christine Raffle

Sarah Hodge

Marcia Heaven

Corinne Unsworth (until May 2022)

Gillian Mather

Kathryn Rebbeck

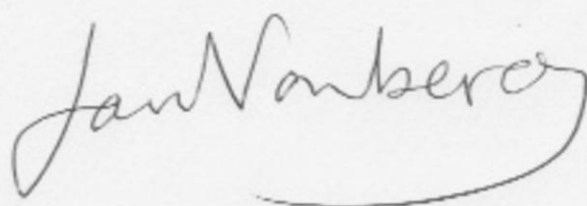
Christopher Tyler

Joy Pepper

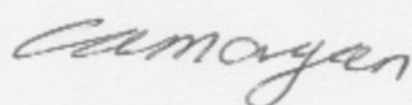
Caroline Marrow

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rachel Brown

Revd Canon Michael Cozens, PCC Chairman
April 2023



J. VONBERGEN.
CHURCHWARDEN
16. 4. 2023



C. MADSEN
CHURCHWARDEN,
16. 4. 2023

St James PCC Dursley Statement of Assets 31 December 2022

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£59,607.98	£143,489.94	(£154,054.25)	£49,043.67
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£10,955.86	£110,385.83	(£111,666.55)	£9,675.14
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	£11,633.38	£14,455.31	(£19,985.81)	£6,112.88
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£3,015.88	£6,324.40	(£9,300.00)	£40.28
E	St Marks Business Bank Instant 06009130 (cash)	£8,737.04	£6,133.65	(£5,770.30)	£8,100.39
F	St James Parish Centre (cash)	-	-	-	-
G	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (cash)	£2,732.88	£6,180.75	(£5,999.95)	£2,913.68
H	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (cash)	£5,500.00	-	-	£6,500.00
I	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£13,203.15	-	-	£13,203.15
		£2,829.79	-	(£331.64)	£2,498.15

Jan Vanbergen

J. VONBERGEN
CHURCHWARDEN
16. 4. 2023

Carmogan

C. MUEGAN
CHURCHWARDEN
16. 4. 2023

PCC Dursley Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the Year ended 31 December 2022

	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	46,678	960	440	48,078	49,857
Collections, donations & other giving	9,696	937	12,600	23,233	13,864
Income tax recovered	13,699			13,699	10,997
Legacies					700
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	6,900			6,900	5,302
Income from other Properties					
Annual Fete/events	15,684	1,759	1,262	18,705	11,052
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	163		43	206	91
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees					1,957
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims					
Gain on disposal of fixed assets					
Loans received					
Other	12,633	260		12,893	4,341
Total incoming resources	105,453	3,916	14,345	123,714	98,161
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(3,467)	(1,327)		(4,794)	(2,886)
Mission & Evangelism	(52)	(386)		(438)	(1,040)
Parish Share	(50,000)			(50,000)	(46,000)
Cherry expenses	(1,945)			(1,945)	(803)
Church running expenses	(28,392)	(20)	(4,015)	(32,427)	(15,695)
Churchyard maintenance	(475)			(475)	(50)
Cost of raising funds	(2,204)		(747)	(2,951)	(1,218)
Running costs:					
Support costs	(232)			(232)	(109)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(15,128)			(15,128)	(10,832)
Other	(9,751)	(75)		(9,826)	(9,123)
Governance costs	(552)			(552)	(635)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings			(15,180)	(15,180)	
Repairs to other property					
Capital purchases/additions					
Loan repayments					
Total resources expended	(112,198)	(1,808)	(19,942)	(133,948)	(88,391)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	(6,745)	2,108	(5,597)	(10,234)	9,770
Transfers between funds					
Net incoming(outgoing) resources before gains	(6,745)	2,108	(5,597)	(10,234)	9,770
Gains on investment assets				(332)	356
Net movement in funds	(6,745)	2,108	(5,597)	(10,566)	10,126
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan	27,578	(199)	32,229	59,608	49,482
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec	20,833	1,909	26,632	49,042	59,608

Jan Vonberg
J. Vonberg, Churchwardens
16. 4 2023

Camryn
C. MORGAN, Churchwardens
16. 4 2023

Parish Finance Return 2022

The form below is produced by the Archdiocese's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at: <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>



Return of Parish Finance

10 December Rev Michael G Cozens

Parish code	636033	Parish name	St James, Dursley, St Marks Woodmancote	Deanery	Weston
Diocese		Diocese		Diocese	

INCOMING RESOURCES		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESOURCES EXPENDED		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
1	Voluntary income/ receipts	£ 45,526	£ 440	17	Costs of generating income	£ 2,224	£ 747
2	Traffic lights planned giving	£ 2,311		18	Costs of fund-raising activities		
3	Other planned giving	£ 6,254		19	Church activities	£ 4,794	
4	Collectors at services			20	Mission giving and donations		
5	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (excluding one-off)	£ 2,879	£ 20	21	Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 50,000	
6	Gift Aid recovered	£ 33,699		22	Salaries, wages and benefits	£ 12,528	
7	Legacies received (capital value)			23	clergy and staff expenses	£ 2,177	
8	Grants (includes recurring and one-off)	£ 2,520	£ 12,580	24	Church repairs		
9	TOTAL Voluntary income	£ 71,969	£ 13,043	25	Mission and evangelism costs	£ 438	
10	Activities for generating funds			26	Church running expenses	£ 33,644	£ 4,015
11	Gross income from fundraising activities	£ 17,443	£ 1,262	27	Church utility bills	£ 3,913	
12	Income from investments			28	Cost of trading		
13	Church activities	£ 113	£ 43	29	Governance costs	£ 552	
14	Charitable, interest, income from property etc.			30	Major capital expenditure		
15	Church activities			31	Major repairs to the church building		£ 15,180
16	Parsonage fees retained by the PCC (vestments, fireworks etc)			32	Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		
17	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall), NOT fundraising	£ 6,950		33	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property		
18	Other fundraising resources			34	SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses	£ 113,360	£ 19,942
19	Are other income/ receipts not already listed	£ 12,844		35	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£ 747	
20	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)	£ 107,369		36	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)		
21	Unrestricted	£ 54,365		37	Unrestricted	£ 114,007	
22	Restricted	£ 53,004		38	Restricted	£ 19,942	
23	TOTAL	£ 107,369		39	TOTAL	£ 133,949	
24	PLANNED GIVING AND LEGACIES			40	Cash and Investment Balances		
25	Number of tax efficient planned givers	10		41	Cash and deposit balances as at 31 December 2021	£ 34,028	£ 12,517
26	Number of other planned givers	1		42	Investments as at 31 December 2021	£ 2,498	
27	Number of new legacies received in year	0					
28	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver	17.3					

This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Clubbook

Date	04/04/2023
Name	Sally Pearson
Position	Treasurer
Telephone or email	spearson@stjames.org.uk

Sally Pearson

J. von Bock, Churchwarden

16.4.2023

Camryn

CMC

16.4.2023

Churchwarden

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Dursley Parish Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dursley Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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

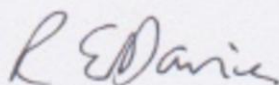
Independent Examiner's statement:

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

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

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

Signed:



Name : Rhian Davies

Date 18/04/2023

Relevant professional qualification of professional body:

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

Rocktop
Itchington Road
Tytherington GL12 8QE

Accounts

**Ewelme Benefice
Dursley Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity No. 1130972**

Trustees Annual Report 2021

Dursley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Michael Cozens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the churches of St James the Great Dursley (the parish church) and St Mark Woodmancote and the Parish Centre located behind the church of St James.

Our Vision

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision. *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.*

John 10:10

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and be part of our community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our buildings.

Safeguarding

We reviewed all our Safeguarding policies and procedures in our April 2021 PCC meeting. The Church Choir which was not meeting in its entirety for the first half of 2021 resumed in September and the Safeguarding training, DBS checks and risk assessments necessary for its resumption was undertaken and completed. We are continuing to use the Parish Dashboards to dictate our Safeguarding requirements in conjunction with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer undertook the Safeguarding Leadership training, Safer Recruitment and People Management training and the Domestic Abuse training, the latter which will be a requirement for the PCC Trustees to undertake during 2022, alongside the Safeguarding training they have already completed. The DBS process continues to be rolled out as and when checks require updating. Safeguarding is regularly reported on at PCC meetings and our policies and procedures will be reviewed annually as dictated by the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and Dashboards.

Achievements and Performance

The covid pandemic has continued to have a big effect on how we can carry out our objectives and activities. Throughout we have followed C of E and Gloucester Diocesan directions for the use of our church buildings and the conduct of services. The churches were closed for services after Christmas 2020 and we returned to holding Benefice Services via Zoom until Easter Day when a service was held in St James. We were able to open St James each day for private prayer during this period. Services then continued to be held in church following Covid guidance with social distancing where possible and the requirement for face masks to be worn. The choir returned to sing at the main services although the pattern of monthly services continued to be reduced. Sadly the Children's Church has not resumed and Messy Church has not been held this year. Christmas 2021 was celebrated with reduced attendance at most services. The decision was taken to cancel the Crib and

Christingle services due to concerns about rising Covid numbers. St James was opened on Christmas Eve for people to visit and to collect Christingles. After Covid restrictions were eased, 1 wedding was held in St James and 9 baptisms. During the year there were 23 funerals of which 7 were held in church and the rest at local crematoria.

The clergy have continued to undertake a limited number of home visits and pastoral contact has continued to be maintained by telephone calls and through the 'Buddies' system set up in March 2020. Regular services in some of the local nursing and residential homes were able to recommence in the autumn and have continued under Covid restrictions.

In October, following an interview process with 3 candidates, Mrs Clare White was appointed as Benefice Administrator. Clare succeeds Clive Orchard who had indicated that he would like to step back from the role which he had held for some 18 years. We were able to mark Clive's long service and his commitment to the life of the parish and wider benefice after the Benefice Advent Carol Service.

Contact with Dursley C of E Primary Academy has been maintained through Teams meetings for governors and the provision of recorded worship by the Rector. The Open the Book team also provided recorded OTB stories for the Academy to show to classes. Some in-school Collective Worship was possible in the autumn and the whole school held a Christmas Service in St James in December. At this service, thanks were given to Paul Daniels on his retirement as Principal. A new Principal, Mrs Toni Holford-Wright, was appointed in September and she takes up her role in January 2022.

During 5 weeks of the school summer holidays, the parish again joined with other churches from Churches Together in Cam and Dursley to offer a Pop-up café with craft activities. In Dursley this was run once a week in conjunction with members of Dursley Tabernacle.

Deanery Synod

We have space for three representatives on the Wotton Deanery Synod, currently we have one vacancy. There was one meeting during the year, on 22 September at Holy Trinity, Wickwar. The Diocesan Director of Education gave a presentation followed by discussion on activities church communities do with schools and the relationships between parishes and schools. The other main topics discussed were the Deanery Strategic Review and Finance. The treasurer reported that 61% of the deanery commitment had been received so far which was a good result. The Zoom meeting scheduled for 17 November was cancelled, and there were no other deanery synod meetings during the year. The Dursley churchwardens are representing the parish on the Deanery Synod Strategic Review working party.

Electoral Roll

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for 2021 were 150, and increase of 2 on the previous year. Chris Raffle continued to serve as Electoral Roll Officer.

The Messenger Parish Magazine was published monthly during the year with an increasing number of printed copies when COVID restrictions were eased for church buildings. The Magazine also appears online on the Benefice website. We continue to be very grateful to Judith Staddon for her role in producing the magazine each month and for the small group who work with her.

Fabric

Although the state of the fabric at both St James' and St Mark's remains generally in fine fettle, the year has not been without its challenges. Following an Ecclesiastical Insurance Risk Management Review in 2020, work (mainly of an electrical nature) was carried out at both churches (as well as at the Parish Centre) to comply with current regulations. Most of

the work was completed during the year but further electrical modifications at St James' will have to wait until 2022 when funds are available. The repair of the internal wall monuments at St. James' (project cost £32,000) has had to be scaled back to cover the seven monuments most at risk (cost 12,650 plus VAT) and work is due to commence on 10th January 2022. We are in possession of a Faculty to enable the work to proceed. We have received a grant of £4,500.00 from Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and a further grant of £2,550.00 from Torch Acre Trust. An additional £3,000.00 is promised from St Andrew's Conservation Trust on completion of the project. In November, in response to a Quinquennial requirement, a survey was carried out on the bells and bell frame. This has revealed a number of issues which will occupy the Fabric Team and others in 2022. Due to changes in the weather pattern, the gutters and downpipes at both churches (as well as at the Parish Centre) will require clearance twice a year. During 2021, this work was undertaken in both July and again in December. The churchyard has continued to be well cared for by a dedicated group of gardeners and grass cutters. The existing wooden church display case on the steps leading to the porch at St James' is rotten and will be replaced by a metal unit early in 2022.

A report from the Churchwardens

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who has quietly got on with all those 'behind the scenes' jobs during this second year affected by the pandemic. especially the gardeners, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the coffee makers, the book stall, and the administrators; it's been lovely to welcome Clare to the main role and be allowed to raise a glass to Clive after the Benefice Advent Carol Service. Together we continue to show that we are a family of God all working together. The year began with the third of the lockdowns and so back to Zoom services before being able to celebrate Easter together back in church despite the restrictions. The services resumed with booking in, ensuring mask wearing and hand sanitising, appropriate seating spaces and carefully choreographed communion and a couple of months of coffee before the new variant appeared! Thank you to the choir who have continued to sing for the Sunday services and are now able to be all together again. For half of the year, areas of the church have been cordoned off, due to the unsafe wall monuments. Austin Meares has worked tirelessly to obtain grants and funding for these finally to be made safe in January 2022. We are greatly indebted to Austin for the time and effort that he has put into this project. We will start 2022 with the church in a safe state. Of course we continue to look for volunteers to help out in all areas of the church life so please don't hesitate to chat to one of us. No offer is ever too small!

The Finance Report is included in the Independent Examiners Report carried out by Azets.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 5 meetings during 2021, 3 of which were held virtually, via Zoom. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in May to make the necessary election of PCC Officers.

A monthly Service of the Word has been held in St Mark's church during the year. The Bishop's Council requested the Church Commissioner's to draw up a Scheme for the closure of St Mark's. This Scheme is still awaited and will then be sent out for consultation.

Administrative information

St James the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

St Mark's Church, Woodmancote, Dursley

These churches form part of the Parish of Dursley which is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office c/o The Rectory, Broadwell, Dursley. GL11 4JE

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Michael Cozens

Associate priests: The Revd Ian Gardner

The Revd Jane Wood

Reader: Tony King

Churchwardens: Caroline Marrow (Lay Vice-chair)
Christine Morgan

Elected members:

David Smith Deanery Synod representative

Elizabeth Oakley Deanery Synod representative

Edwina Walton PCC Secretary

Sally Pearson PCC Treasurer

Austin Meares

Chris Raffle

Sarah Hodge until May 2021

Marcia Heaven

Ian Unsworth

Corinne Unsworth

Jan Vonberg

Gill Mather

Kathie Rebbeck

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rachel Brown

Revd Canon Michael Cozens, PCC Chairman
March 2022


23.4.22

CAROLINE MARROW. CHURCHWARDEN 4
TRUSTEE


24/4/22
CHRISTINE MORGAN
CHURCHWARDEN TRUSTEE.

ST JAMES DURSLEY AND ST MARK'S WOODMANCOTE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021

1. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

2. Accounting Policies

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members

During the year the PCC have agreed Financial Control Procedures to ensure the PCC meets the legal requirements and good practice recommendations set out in the [Charity Commission Guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charity](#).

These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

3. Year End Balances

The Statement of Assets at page 3, shows at the year end 2021 we were holding £59607.98 across all our accounts. This represents a £10,126 improvement on last year.

The balance on the PCC Dursley Stewardship account includes a £3k grant from the Ouseley Trust which is to provide 3 year support for the appointment of an Assistant Director of Music. It has not been possible to progress this appointment in 2021.

Income in the Parish Centre account has improved as hall lettings have returned.

Expenditure from the St Marks Account has been lower than income in the year.

The balance in the Fabric Account is £1.5k lower than last year, continuing a year on year trend.

4. Receipts and Payments

The Receipts and Payments Accounts on page 4 shows the areas of expenditure and income across all accounts and allows comparison with last year.

Parish Share: At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment to a Parish Share of £48k. As with many other parishes the impact of Covid made meeting this commitment challenging. During the year the PCC made a contribution of £46k and has contributed a further £2k from the 2022 accounts to meet the 2021 commitment in full. This figure is still £16k less than the commitment made in 2020. The commitment from the PCC for 2022 is currently £48k but this figure will be reviewed in June 2022.

Fundraising: Fundraising activities have continued to be impacted by the constraints of Covid. During the year the following has been raised:

Event	Amount Raised
100 Club (for Fabric Account)	£1116.00
Art Project	£525.00
Book Stall	£3324.92
Cakes	£19.85
Coffee Cake and Music	£441.22
Christmas Fair	£2945.05
Children's Society	£743.55
Coffee	£118.81
Open Garden	£625.50
Patronal Picnic	£61.50
Plant Stall	£654.24
Ride and Stride	£176.00
Wreath Making	£300.00
Total	£11051.64

(figures include cost of fundraising)

5. Parish Finance Return

This return which is required by the Diocese, and generated from the Diocesan Cashbook, used to record all transactions across all our accounts and investments, is included at page 5

6. Appointment of Independent Examiners

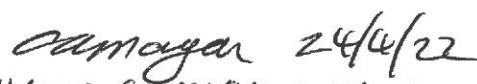
These accounts have been examined by Azets, Chartered Accountants. Their report is included at page 6.

Each year the APCM must approve the appointment of Independent Examiners for the coming year. It is recommended that Azets are appointed for 2022.

Sally Pearson (Treasurer) February 2022


23.4.22

CAROLINE MACROW: CHURCHWARDEN
TRUSTEE


CHRISTINE MORGAN: CHURCHWARDEN
TRUSTEE

St James PCC Dursley Statement of Assets 31 December 2021

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
		£49,482.49	£115,129.83	(£105,004.34)	£59,607.98
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£8,419.91	£88,867.49	(£86,331.54)	£10,955.86
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£13,173.58	£4,878.42	(£6,418.62)	£11,633.38
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	£100.77	£9,615.11	(£6,700.00)	£3,015.88
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£4,903.51	£6,694.00	(£2,860.47)	£8,737.04
E	St Marks Business Bank Instant 06009130 (cash)	-	£200.00	(£200.00)	-
F	St James Parish Centre (cash)	£707.52	£4,519.07	(£2,493.71)	£2,732.88
G	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (cash)	£6,500.00	-	-	£6,500.00
H	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (cash)	£13,203.15	-	-	£13,203.15
I	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£2,474.05	£355.74	-	£2,829.79

17/11/22

24.4.22

CAROLINE MARELOW: CHURCHWARDEN
Trustee

CAMERON 24/4/22
CHRISTINE MORGAN: CHURCHWARDEN
Trustee

PCC Dursley Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the Year ended 31 December 2021

Notes	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	49,192	-	665	49,857	45,360
Collections, donations & other giving	9,817	-	4,047	13,864	27,052
Income tax recovered	10,997	-	-	10,997	12,582
Legacies	700	-	-	700	-
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	5,302	-	-	5,302	2,862
Income from other Properties	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events	8,774	-	2,278	11,052	6,055
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	85	-	6	91	179
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees	1,957	-	-	1,957	1,169
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Other	3,968	-	373	4,341	5,833
Total incoming resources	90,792	-	7,369	98,161	101,092
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(25)	-	(2,861)	(2,886)	(1,934)
Mission & Evangelism	(40)	-	(1,000)	(1,040)	(650)
Parish Share	(46,000)	-	-	(46,000)	(64,000)
Clergy expenses	(803)	-	-	(803)	(1,723)
Church running expenses	(9,854)	-	(5,842)	(15,696)	(16,092)
Churchyard maintenance	(50)	-	-	(50)	(142)
Cost of raising funds	(535)	-	(683)	(1,218)	(1,028)
Running costs:					
Support costs	(109)	-	-	(109)	-
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(10,831)	-	-	(10,831)	(9,774)
Other	(7,274)	(949)	(900)	(9,123)	(9,051)
Governance costs	(635)	-	-	(635)	(420)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended	(76,156)	(949)	(11,286)	(88,391)	(104,814)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	14,636	(949)	(3,917)	9,770	(3,722)
Transfers between funds	(96)	-	96	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains	14,540	(949)	(3,821)	9,770	(3,722)
Gains on investment assets	356	-	-	356	155
Net movement in funds	14,896	(949)	(3,821)	10,126	(3,567)
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan	12,682	750	36,050	49,482	53,049
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec	27,578	(199)	32,229	59,608	49,482

177
23.4.22

CAROLINE MARRON: CHURCHWARDEN/REVEREND

carolanne 24/4/22
CHRISTINE MARRON: CHURCHWARDEN/REVEREND

Parish Finance Return 2021

The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at: <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>



Return of Parish Finance to December Rev Michael G Cozens

Parish code:	Gloucester	Deanery:	St James Dursley
Parish name:	, 616031	Dioecese:	Wotton

INCOMING RESOURCES				RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
Voluntary income/ receipts				Costs of generating income			
Tax efficient planned giving		£	47,401	£	665	£	535
Other planned giving		£	1,791	£	-	£	25
Collections at services		£	4,174	£	-	£	46,000
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)		£	2,893	£	797	£	8,016
Gift Aid recovered		£	10,997	£	-	£	913
Legacies received (capital value)		£	700	£	-	£	-
Grants (include recurring and one-off)		£	2,750	£	3,250	£	-
TOTAL Voluntary Income:		£	70,706	£	4,712	£	40
Activities for generating funds				Mission and evangelism costs			
Gross income from fundraising activities		£	8,774	£	2,278	£	14,656
Income from Investments		£	-	£	-	£	6,271
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.		£	85	£	6	£	-
Church activities				Major capital expenditure			
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£	1,957	£	-	£	-
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.		£	5,451	£	-	£	-
Other incoming resources		£	3,819	£	373	£	-
Any other income/ receipts not already listed		£	-	£	-	£	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)		£	90,792	£	15	£	900
Unrestricted		£	73,669	£	-	£	-
Restricted		£	98,161	£	-	£	-
TOTAL		£	98,161	£	-	£	-
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES				SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses			
Number of tax efficient planned givers		£	44	£	-	£	75,921
Number of other planned givers		£	2	£	-	£	-
Number of new legacies received in year		£	2	£	-	£	-
Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver		£	20.5	£	-	£	-
Cash and Investment Balances				SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses			
31 Cash and deposit balances as at 31 December 2021		£	96,215	£	-	£	9,703
32 Investments as at 31 December 2021		£	2,890	£	-	£	-

Account books on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)
 Receipts and payments [X] Accruals []
 *produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Date	31/01/2022
Name	Sally Pearson
Position	Treasurer
Telephone or email	v6sep@ad.com

23.4.22

CAROLINE MAREK: CHURCH WATSON / TREV 766
 CAMERON 24/4/22
 CHANTONNE MAREK: CHURCH WATSON / TREV 766

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Dursley Parish Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dursley Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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

Independent Examiner's statement:

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

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

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

Signed: *I. Lansdown*

Name: Ian Lansdown

Date: *26 April 2022*

Relevant professional qualification of professional body:
INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Address:

Azets
Prospect House
5 May Lane
Dursley
Gloucestershire GL11 4JH

Accounts

Ewelme Benefice
Dursley Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity No. 1130972

Trustees Annual Report 2020

Dursley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Michael Cozens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the churches of St James the Great Dursley (the parish church) and St Mark Woodmancote and the Parish Centre located behind the church of St James.

Our Vision

As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision. *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.*

John 10:10

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and be part of our community. Patterns of worship are discussed by the PCC which makes suggestions on how to improve contact with everyone within the parish. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; hearing about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To do this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our buildings.

Safeguarding

As a parish we have been working through the requirements of the Safeguarding Handbook and have been involved in a pilot trialling the new Parish Dashboards. Our PCC and Churchwardens have completed all the online safeguarding training required of them, and by our next PCC meeting in April 2021 we will have complied with all the requirements of Level 2 of the Dashboards, which will allow us to access Level 3, which is the highest Level available. Our focus for 2021 will be rolling out those DBS checks which are now up for renewal, and planning for the return of our congregation and our children and young people's ministry.

Achievements and Performance

The covid pandemic has had a huge effect on how we can carry out our objectives and activities. Throughout we have followed C of E and Gloucester Diocesan directions for the use of our church buildings and the conduct of services. The churches have been closed from March to July, opened during the summer with social distanced seating and no singing apart from by a small choir of 8, and closed again for the period of the November lockdown. When permitted, restricted areas of St James have been open for private prayer two days a week. No weddings were held in 2020 and only 1 baptism. Severe restrictions on attendance numbers at funerals and memorial services meant fewer than usual were held in our churches. The benefice has developed expertise in holding and recording services online using Zoom, publicising the links through email contacts and the benefice website. PCC and other meetings have also been held via Zoom. The restrictions have prevented much of the practical outreach work we would have hoped to do however the positive outcome of Zoom services has been that we have been able to reach church members

online who normally would have found it difficult to attend and also be regularly joined by people from as far away as Germany and France.

The clergy have been able to undertake a very limited number of home visits and telephone contact has been maintained with more vulnerable people in the parish using a 'Buddies' system set up in March 2020. The Open the Book team have not been able to visit Dursley C of E Primary Academy due to the restrictions. The Rector has provided recorded worship for the school to use and the PCC funded the cost of some iSingPop worship for the autumn term. It has not been possible to hold any of the usual school services and events in church. The Christingle service was held online, bags with the ingredients to make Christingles were put in the church porch for collection. A benefice Christmas carol service was pre-recorded and uploaded to Youtube.

Messy Church in St James was able to hold one session in the first quarter of 2020 before the COVID restrictions came in. This was well-supported and we are grateful for the leadership of Liz Rymer from Uley, who took on the co-ordination across the Benefice, as well as the loyal team of volunteers and we look forward to a re-launch in autumn 2021. Diane Ansell ran a weekly online Children's Church on Facebook which followed on from the 10am Benefice Zoom service. Diane also ran an online Summer Holiday Club.

During the school summer holidays, the parish worked with other churches from Churches Together in Cam and Dursley to offer two weekly Pop-up cafes which included take away craft activities for children. In December, the same group of churches, in collaboration with the local town councils, created an outdoor nativity trail using children's drawings of nativity figures entered in a local competition. These were reproduced on tough corex board, mounted on posts and displayed in the various churchyards. The figures were all gathered together outside St James during the week leading to Christmas and were then taken up to St Giles Uley, reassembled, displayed and lit up on Christmas Eve, remaining up until Candlemas.

The parish is a member of Churches Together in Cam and Dursley. We have space for three representatives on the Wotton Deanery Synod, currently we have one vacancy. There have been two meetings of the synod since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in October. They were held online on 18 November and 10 February. At the first meeting Bishop Rachel gave an inspirational talk followed by questions. The questions included how to cope with Covid and new approaches to 'doing' church. The main topic at the second meeting was the Deanery Strategy Planning Process. There was a video presentation to illustrate the process followed by a discussion. Finance was the main topic at both meetings. The deanery treasurer gave updates on parish share payments. He said that all the parishes had responded magnificently to the difficult situation they had all faced.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for 2020 were 148. Chris Raffle continued to serve as Electoral Roll Officer.

The Messenger Parish Magazine was published monthly during the year with a reduction in the number of printed copies due to the COVID restrictions. The Magazine also appears online on the Benefice website. We are grateful to Judith Staddon for her role in producing the magazine each month and for the small group who work with her. Thanks were given to Marlene Powell who stepped down from her involvement with the production of the magazine after many years of service.

The state of the fabric at both St James' and at St Mark's remains generally good and is well maintained.

In October 2020, Ecclesiastical Insurers carried out a Risk Management Review at each premises and issued a report with a number of recommendations. Those for St Mark's have been actioned but some at St James' remain outstanding. These are mainly of an electrical nature which will be attended to shortly by the church's electrician, Francis Jones, who was isolating earlier in the year.

At St James' the repair to some of the wall monuments (project cost £32,000) remains outstanding while we await a Faculty and continue to apply for grant funding. Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust has promised £4,500 towards the project once work commences.

The gutters and down pipes of both churches (as well as the Parish Centre) received their annual clearance in December. The churchyard at St James continued to be well cared for by a small but loyal group of gardeners and lawn cutters.

A report from the Churchwardens

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who has quietly got on with all those 'behind the scenes' jobs during this difficult year, especially the gardeners, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the administrators, the telephone buddies, the IT and social media contributors. Together we have shown that we are a family of God all working together and keeping connected.

The year started with Canon Michael going on a planned sabbatical. All the various tasks and responsibilities had been carefully delegated and this meant a smooth transition. As the months went on, as we know, suddenly changes had to be made and made, sometimes, quite quickly. Another 'thank you' to the pastoral team for their work in setting up the new Facebook page, and over a short time getting to grips with Zoom, leading services from home, getting worship materials out to those without IT access, and setting up a phone buddy system to keep in touch with those particularly on their own.

Just after Easter we were pleased to welcome Canon Michael back to a different look Parish situation and as we worked our way out of lockdown we had a series of risk assessments to complete to allow safe and COVID secure access to the churches, firstly for private prayer and then for services, and also for the parish centre. Thank you to everyone who came and helped with the spring clean of St James and the Parish Centre in July and at St Marks in September.

The services looked very different with booking in, ensuring mask wearing and hand sanitising, appropriate seating spaces and carefully choreographed communion and a couple of attempts at 'outside bring your own coffee' before restrictions tightened again. It was also good to welcome back a small and distanced choir to add another dimension to our worship, the challenge being to listen to the hymns and not join in! On a positive note most Sundays we nearly reached our maximum number and thankfully never had to turn people away.

October brought the postponed APCM and a change of Churchwarden. A huge thank you to Austin Meares as he stepped down following many stints as Churchwarden, sharing and showing knowledge and dedication to our churches and the parish. We are so thankful that he continues to lead the fabric committee. It was great to welcome Chris Morgan as his successor.

We then entered another lockdown in November meaning that the Remembrance Day Service was Zoomed and then a simple wreath-laying ceremony was live-streamed. Although lockdown was lifted in December, we Zoomed most Christmas Services, including the Carol Service, Crib and Christingle and Midnight Services, but were back in Church for the Christmas Day services at St. Mark's and St. James.

The Facebook Virtual Christmas Fair saw a variety of people hold home based stalls, with COVID safe delivery or collection once the lockdown was lifted. Amazingly for our first attempt at this type of venture it raised over £1,000.

The Finance Report see appended documents:

- Independent Examiner's Statement
- Annual Accounts Narrative
- Annual Accounts Assets Report
- Annual Accounts Parish Finance Return
- Annual Accounts Receipts and Payments

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The members of the PCC are listed below. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Elected members serve for 3 years to enable a rotation of the membership.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC held 7 meetings throughout 2020. The first two of these were held in person, pre Covid-19 restrictions. A further 4 full meetings were held virtually, via Zoom. We held a very short meeting in the Church immediately after the APCM in October, again in person, following the Covid-19 guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing.

St Mark's church remained closed until September when the PCC again discussed the future of the church there. During November, Canon Michael wrote to all the members of St Mark's church family informing them of a PCC discussion to be held in December relating to the future of St Mark's. Responses to these letters were brought to the PCC in December and included in the discussions before a vote was taken to request the Gloucester Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Group to begin the process to consider the closure of St Mark's. The resolution was passed with 1 member against and 1 abstention. We are now awaiting further details of a consultation period.

Administrative information

St Janes the Great Church, Silver Street, Dursley

St Mark's Church, Woodmancote, Dursley

These churches form part of the Parish of Dursley which is part of the Ewelme Benefice with the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield. The Benefice is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address for these churches is via the Parish Office c/o The Rectory, Broadwell, Dursley. GL11 4JE

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity, number 1130972

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Michael Cozens

Assistant priests: The Revd Ian Gardner
The Revd Jane Wood

Reader: Tony King

Churchwardens: Caroline Marrow (Vice-chair from October 2020)
Austin Meares (until October 2020)
Christine Morgan (from October 2020)

Elected members:

Leonie Northcote	Deanery Synod representative until
David Smith	Deanery Synod representative
Elizabeth Oakley	Deanery Synod representative
Edwina Walton	PCC Secretary
Peter Kirvan	PCC Treasurer (until March 2020)
Sally Pearson	PCC Treasurer (from March 2020)
Chris Raffle	
Joy Pepper	until October 2020
Valerie Meares	until October 2020
Anthea Fittall	until
Sarah Hodge	
Marcia Heaven	
Ian Unsworth	
Corinne Unsworth	
Jan Vonberg	
Gill Mather	
Kathie Rebbeck	from October 2020

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rachel Brown

Approved by the PCC on 14th April 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Rector, the Revd Canon Michael Cozens, PCC Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report

to the PCC of Dursley Parish Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dursley Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2020

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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

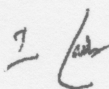
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1. Accounting records were kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;
- or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: Ian Lansdown

Date. 22 April 2021

Relevant professional qualification of professional body:

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Address:

Azets
Prospect House
5 May Lane
Dursley
Gloucestershire GL11 4JH

ST JAMES DURSLEY AND ST MARK'S WOODMANCOTE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2020

1. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

They have been produced utilising the Diocesan cashbook, developed by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance as a simple way of recording receipts and payments, for the average PCC. It uses the information entered to produce a generic Receipts and Payments Account and Finance Return.

2. Accounting Policies

The financial statements include transactions and assets for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are for informal gatherings of church members

3. Year on Year Comparisons

Comparisons of income and expenditure across the codes, between 2019 and 2020 are difficult due to:

- The impact of COVID which significantly changed the activities of the church from March 2020. These impacts are likely to continue into the 2021 accounting year.
- Use of more of the functionalities within the diocesan cashbook than in previous years and decisions to attribute some categories of income and expenditure to different account codes. These changes will be carried forward into the next accounting year so year on year comparisons will be more robust.

4. Year End Balances

Over all of the accounts, these show a deterioration of £3567 since 2019. This is primarily due to expenditure from the Fabric Account exceeding income.

It should be noted that the balance on the PCC Dursley Treasurers account includes a £3k grant from the Ouseley Trust which is to provide 3-year support for the appointment of an Assistant Director of Music.

5. Parish Share

At the beginning of the year the PCC made a commitment to a Parish Share of £72k. As with many other parishes the impact of Covid made meeting this commitment challenging. During the year the PCC has made a contribution of £64k. The commitment from the PCC for 2021 is currently £48k but this figure will be reviewed in June 2021.

6. Fundraising

Fundraising activities have been severely restricted. During the year, £2000 has been raised and this will be distributed between the PCCs four chosen charities, The Mara Trust, Rory's Well, Julius and Dora Children's Centre and Gloucestershire Young Carers

Sally Pearson (Treasurer) February 2021

Parochial Church Council of Dursley Parish Church

Statement of Assets 31 December 2020

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance	Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
		£53,049.94	£132,215.25	(£135,782.70)	£49,482.49
A	PCC Dursley Treasurers Account 02391588 (cash)	£5,388.05	£102,205.65	(£99,173.79)	£8,419.91
B	PCC Dursley Fabric Account 02391693 (cash)	£16,996.36	£2,226.17	(£6,048.95)	£13,173.58
C	PCC Dursley Stewardship Account 07974395 (cash)	£578.44	£6,912.33	(£7,390.00)	£100.77
D	St Marks Treasurers Account 02476397 (cash)	£7,314.02	£18,401.85	(£20,812.36)	£4,903.51
E	St Marks Business Bank Instant 06009130 (cash)	-	-	-	-
F	St James Parish Centre (cash)	£750.46	£2,314.66	(£2,357.60)	£707.52
G	CBF Fabric Fund 616190001D (cash)	£6,500.00	-	-	£6,500.00
H	CBF Legacy Fund 616292001D (cash)	£13,203.15	-	-	£13,203.15
I	McClaverty Shares (Inv)	£2,319.46	£154.59	-	£2,474.05
			-	-	-

St James Dursley 's Receipts & Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2020 £	2019 £
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Planned giving		44,900	-	460	45,360	44,977
Collections, donations & other giving		22,344	-	4,708	27,052	27,503
Income tax recovered		12,582	-	-	12,582	13,186
Legacies		-	-	-	-	5,000
Activities for generating funds						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc		2,862	-	-	2,862	9,506
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events		2,709	-	3,346	6,055	14,449
Investment income:						
Interest & dividends		143	-	36	179	2,212
Income from charitable activities:						
Parochial fees		1,168	-	-	1,168	3,082
Other incoming resources:						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Loans received		-	-	-	-	-
Other		5,833	-	-	5,833	2,503
Total incoming resources		92,541	-	8,550	101,091	122,418
Resources expended						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities		(769)	-	(1,164)	(1,933)	(4,740)
Mission & Evangelism		-	-	(650)	(650)	(850)
Parish Share		(64,000)	-	-	(64,000)	(71,232)
Clergy expenses		(1,723)	-	-	(1,723)	(1,289)
Church running expenses		(10,798)	-	(5,294)	(16,092)	(28,657)
Churchyard maintenance		(142)	-	-	(142)	-
Cost of raising funds		(434)	-	(594)	(1,028)	(3,407)
Running costs:						
Support costs		-	-	-	-	(394)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)		(9,774)	-	-	(9,774)	(15,932)
Other		(9,051)	-	-	(9,051)	(9,571)
Governance costs		(420)	-	-	(420)	(336)
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings		-	-	-	-	(1,450)
Repairs to other property		-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions		-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments		-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		(97,111)	-	(7,702)	(104,813)	(137,858)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources		(4,570)	-	848	(3,722)	(15,440)
Transfers between funds		(40)	-	40	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		(4,610)	-	888	(3,722)	(15,440)
Gains on investment assets		155	-	-	155	366
Net movement in funds		(4,455)	-	888	(3,567)	(15,074)
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2020		17,137	750	35,162	53,049	68,123
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2020		12,682	750	36,050	49,482	53,049

Parish Finance Return

The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted using their webportal at:

<http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>



Return of Parish Finance

January to December 2020

Parish code:	616031	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:	Deanery:	Wotton
Parish name:	St James Dursley , St Marks Woodmancote		Diocese:	Gloucester

INCOMING RESOURCES				UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESOURCES EXPENDED				UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
Voluntary income/ receipts								Costs of generating income							
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£	42,888	£	460	17	Costs of fund-raising activities	£	434	£	594				
2	Other planned giving	£	2,012	£	-	Church activities									
3	Collections at services	£	2,913	£	668	18	Mission giving and donations	£	769	£	1,164				
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£	7,431	£	340	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£	64,000	£	-				
6	Gift Aid recovered	£	12,582	£	-	20	Salaries, wages and honararia	£	6,868	£	-				
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£	-	£	-	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£	1,723	£	-				
8	Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£	12,000	£	3,700	Church expenses									
TOTAL Voluntary income:		£	79,826	£	5,168	22	Mission and evangelism costs	£	-	£	650				
Activities for generating funds						23	Church running expenses	£	14,453	£	5,294				
9	Gross income from fundraising activities	£	2,709	£	3,346	24	Church utility bills	£	7,271	£	-				
Income from investments						25	Cost of trading	£	-	£	-				
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£	143	£	36	26	Governance costs	£	420	£	-				
Church activities						Major capital expenditure									
11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	£	1,168	£	-	27	Major repairs to the church building	£	-	£	-				
12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£	3,006	£	-	28	Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£	-	£	-				
Other incoming resources						29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£	-	£	-				
13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£	5,689	£	-	SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses				£	95,084	£	7,108		
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)						99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£	1,174	£	-				
A	Unrestricted	£	92,541			TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)									
B	Restricted	£	8,550			D	Unrestricted	£	96,692						
C	TOTAL	£	101,091			E	Restricted	£	7,702						
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES						F	TOTAL	£	104,394						
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers		68			Cash and Investment Balances				UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED				
15	Number of other planned givers		10			31	Cash and deposit balance as at 31 Dec 2020	£	22,625	£	24,384				
16	Number of new legacies received in year		0			32	Investments as at 31 Dec 2020	£	2,474	£	-				
100	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver		10			Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)									
This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook						30	Receipts and payments [X]	Accruals	[]						

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Please refer to the notes on the following pages to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 2013.	Date	17/02/2020
	Name	Sally Pearson
	Position	Treasurer
	Telephone or email	v6sep@aol.com