

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, ALMONDSBURY

England & Wales · Charity number 1131407

Details

Other names ST MARY'S, ALMONDSBURY

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-08-27

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

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

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
- South Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£84,980	£83,983	-	-
2023-12-31	£103,469	£75,312	-	-
2022-12-31	£95,214	£126,722	-	-
2021-12-31	£108,096	£125,822	-	-
2020-12-31	£105,680	£172,350	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Richard Jenkinson	Chair	2016-04-17
ASTRID MARIE DOMINGO MOLYNEUX		2012-07-17
Celia Rosemary Radburn Griffiths		2020-09-07
Dr Clare Lorna Jefferis		2016-04-17
Gillian Bostic		2025-05-18
Hannah Fiona Roberts		2025-05-18
Helen Elizabeth Hine		2023-05-14
James Edward Rogers		2025-05-18
Joshua Pullan		2025-05-18
Michael Anthony Keig		2025-05-18
Muriel Pearson		2022-11-22
Pamela Elsie van Rossum		2022-07-19
Pamela Valerie Skelding		2025-05-18
Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam		2023-12-17
Rev Paul Anthony van Rossum		
Sandra Mary Thompson		2021-09-21
Thelma May Gibbs		2022-05-08
Timothy John Jefferis		2021-11-16

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report 2024

Presented at a meeting held on 18th May 2025

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

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Section 1

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

Section 2

- 1 Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024 incorporating:
 - Summarised statement of financial activities for the year;
 - Balance sheet as at the year-end;
 - Detailed notes to the accounts;
 - Independent Examiner's Report.

St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

**Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2024.**

Correspondence address: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DT

PCC Members:

Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, Priest -in-Charge	Rev Paul Van Rossum, Associate Vicar & Treasurer
Astrid Domingo Molyneux, Lay Minister	Pam Van Rossum
Helen Hine	Clare Jefferis
Tim Jefferis, Churchwarden	Gill Bostic
Thelma Gibbs	Dick Avery
Mo Pearson	Rosemary Griffiths, Deanery Synod
Sandy Thompson	Josh Pullan
Pam Skelding, Safeguarding Officer	Hannah Roberts
Mike Jenkinson, PCC Chair and Lay Minister	James Rogers

INTRODUCTION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is drawn from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

REPORT OF PRIEST IN CHARGE

APCM Report: Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam

Overview: I look back over the life of St Mary's Church in 2024 with a sense of gratitude to God for being able to be part of a generous worshipping community that is committed to love God, grow in discipleship, tell others about Jesus and serve the local community. Alongside carrying on with the usual business of the church, my initial focus was to get to know my new context and then begin the process of discerning the mission and vision of the church in this new season of ministry (beginning with the Mission and Vision day in November).

Sunday Services: The service pattern at St Mary's has remained the same with two main services on a Sunday: 8:30am Communion service and 10:00am All Age Service. The congregation at the 8:30 service has grown steadily with attendance often in double figures. The service pattern remains the same with BCP on the first Sunday of the month and a Common Worship liturgy on the other Sundays.

The All Age 10am service with a children's group continues to draw a genuinely all age congregation and we regularly see new faces in the pews. Over the year we have explored different themes and structures in our services in order to best serve the needs of the congregation. This has included the introduction of a regular 'all-age' slot before the children leave for their groups, using a mixture of a thematic and a lectionary-based approach to our sermons and the worship group continues to explore ways in which we can be more open to God in our worship.

Seasonal services: Our seasonal services continue to be well attended. This included the Remembrance Service and the outdoor service to commemorate D Day which were attended by members of the community and the uniformed organisations. Attendance at the services at Christmas time remained high with over 600 people worshipping at St Mary's Church between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and a number of members of the community joined us for the all age nativity and the carol service on 22 December.

Ministry Team: Rev Paul van Rossum, Mike Jenkinson and Astrid Domingo Molyneux have worked together with me to lead and preach at the Sunday services as well as leading funerals. Rev Paul van Rossum has also assisted with weddings and leading services in St Peter's, Pilning. We continue to conduct a number of pastoral services for the community and those connected to St Marys. In 2024 we conducted 6 baptisms, 5 weddings and 17 funerals. Through the year we have continued to explore ways of encouraging those in the congregation to participate in leading worship. This has included greater participation in the leading of prayers and intercessions and a couple of members of the congregation have begun the Exploring Christianity course with the diocese. Since September we have been joined by Trinity Ordinand Val Slade who has taken a full part in the life and ministry of the church.

Discipleship and fellowship: The online home group and the Lent and Advent groups have provided opportunities for discipleship as have the various regular prayer groups: the weekly Tuesday morning prayer group at the Old Hospital and the monthly Tea and Toast and Prayers for a suffering church. Other opportunities to connect with each other include coffee after the 10am service, a weekend away at Lee Abbey and the Lent Lunch.

Outreach: Aside from the seasonal and pastoral services, the church has continued to connect with the community in a number of ways. The church remains open during the day for private prayer. The weekly toddler groups and Messy Church (held approximately once a month) continue to be well attended and draw children and families. Similarly, the Good Friday Activity morning in the Old School Hall drew over 100 people who engaged with the Easter story through crafts and activities. Our links with the school remain strong: Pam Skelding and I lead collective worship in the school and the children have visited the church regularly for collective worship and occasional RE lessons. I am also involved in the life of the school in my capacity as Foundation Governor.

Through the year, we have continued to have a charity focus in our services through the Charity of the month and we have continued to support a number of local and national agencies: Bristol Home bank, Community of the Sisters of the Church Food Bank, the Salvation Army Toy Appeal, the Children's society (through the Christingle service collection).

Parish Administrator: Following the departure of Judi Thompson in January, we were pleased to appoint Louise Simmons to the post of Parish Administrator in June.

A team effort: The continued life, ministry and mission of the church is only possible through the commitment and service of so many people including those in the community. Many of them work in quiet unseen ways. We are very grateful to each and every person who contributes in any way to the life of the church.

CHURCH WARDEN

APCM Report: Tim Jefferis

In a welcome change from 2023, Almondsbury has had an incumbent - Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam - throughout 2024. Having been licensed by the Bishop of Swindon in December 2023 she was warmly welcomed by those involved in the three South Severnside benefice churches and also by the wider community.

As churchwarden I have done my best throughout the year to support Anjali, Rev Paul Van Rossum, Astrid Domingo Molyneux and Mike Jenkinson in their vital work ministering to the congregation and more broadly to the inhabitants of the parish. I have also attempted to support all of the congregation members and other volunteers who help to ensure that St Mary's runs smoothly and touches the lives of as many people as possible. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for all your contributions during 2024.

I would particularly like to thank those who have served as members of PCC this year. |This is a responsible role as the PCC is a charity and the PCC members are trustees. They therefore have overall responsibility for the church finances and also the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church and its contents. Much of this work is delegated to the Finance & Buildings and Worship & Mission committees whose focussed work in discussing and resolving issues allows the main meetings to run smoothly.

There are two matters, both in the Finance & Buildings sphere which may be of general interest:

Firstly, we are attempting to form a long-term plan for the maintenance of the church, so that when we are undertaking significant work on a given part of the building, we will also attempt to minimise future disruption by carrying out other relevant maintenance and changes in the same area at the same time.

Secondly, we have received a grant towards a survey of the condition of the chest tombs in the churchyard, some of which are in poor condition. The survey has been undertaken by a conservation firm and we currently await the report. When we have digested the outcomes we expect to be able to apply for grants to contribute towards recommended rebuilding works.

ELECTORAL ROLL

APCM Report: Mike Jenkinson

There were 103 members on the Electoral Roll as at 31 December 2024, of which 72 were resident in the Parish and 31 resided outside of the Parish.

WORSHIP AND MISSION

APCM Report: Pam Van Rossum

We receive regular input from the group members on aspects of the church's spiritual life and on how the church is functioning. Concerns are addressed and recommendations made to the PCC.

The reports we received from the team members highlight that Anjali's ministry is well received and the continuing input from the Ministry team is much appreciated too.

The Praise group and Matthew (on the organ) give an excellent lead to our worship each week. The worship is tailored to the weeks theme/reading.

It is recognised how many volunteers e.g. welcomers, AV team, cleaners, banner ladies, flower ladies, readers, prayer folk, pull together to be an active part of the worshipping community and to enable us to be a healthy and functioning church.

The 8.30 and 10.00am service reps report on good attendance, input, and good relationships.

The children's group meet each week throughout the year during the All- Age service. There are about 7 regular attendees and sometimes more children. There are usually toddlers, with a parent, too. The Roots teaching material is used.

Messy church meets once a month with about 30 children. Toddlers meet in term time with up to 12 children. There are three prayer groups meeting weekly and monthly and an online Home Group.

Last year's Good Friday Activity morning was an enjoyable community event attended by 76 children and 63 adults. Church members were involved in welcoming and door monitoring, the music group, managing the AV, craft/garden/ cooking activities and refreshments. Anjali led the service. The children go home with their crafts, a book linked to the video and Easter eggs.

The Christingle services are a popular community event too, especially the second one. There were about 500 attendees of which a large proportion were children and young adults. £718 was collected for the Children's Society. Almondsbury shop donated the oranges and village families made half of the Christingles. The Catering team provided refreshments for the Carol Service, Mission and Vision Day, a breakfast between two services, a Lent Lunch which raised funds for TWAM, Good Friday morning, as well as coffee after the 10.30 services.

The wider church community services have been well attended e.g. Remembrance. It is often commented on how the local community or visitors pop into church for some reflection time during the day.

The Charity of the Month focuses the congregation in looking beyond our immediate concerns. The Charities include Leprosy Mission, Uganda Link, Ripple Effect, Tearfund, Suicide Prevention Society, Release International, Royal British Legion, Ride and Stride (Gloucestershire Historic Churches) and the Children's Society.

FINANCE & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

APCM report: Tim Jefferis

The Finance and Buildings Committee met four times during 2024 on:

- 27 February
- 30 April
- 3 September
- 22 October

These meetings were supported by ten different attendees. As chair I would like to thank everybody who has supported these meetings, which have been very useful and productive.

During the year matters discussed can be divided into three main categories:

Finances and Financial budget, including:

- Division of Incumbent's expenses across the benefice
- Setting and monitoring PCC budget for 2024
- Parish share

Energy and Energy Consumption, including:

- Impact of misbilled electricity consumption
- Boiler maintenance
- Heating oil consumption

General Maintenance and Planning Issues, including:

- Belfry access ladders
- Failure of SW buttress light
- Installation of replacement bench
- Survey and repair of listed table tombs
- Assessment of church wiring

The results of these discussions have resulted in a number of matters being forwarded to PCC with a recommendation for action, with others being addressed by the members of the Finance and Buildings Committee using available resources.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

APCM Finance Report: Paul Van Rossum, Treasurer

The church is a registered charity and, as such, is required to prepare its accounts under three separate headings: Unrestricted Funds; Restricted Funds; and Endowment Funds. The Unrestricted Funds also include Designated Funds which have been earmarked for future expenditure.

The principal financial aim of the church is that its regular unrestricted income should cover its normal annual expenditure, including day to day maintenance. In 2024, thanks to some generous donations towards the end of the year, this income exceeded expenditure by £6,362, which now forms part of the church's unrestricted savings and is available for use in the future. Legacies and income from the sale of assets are used for long term investments such as the reordering and major building works.

Restricted Funds can only be spent on the purposes specified for the individual funds. In 2024 the expenditure from restricted funds exceeded income by £5,365. This was mainly due to expenditure from the restricted bells fund and were covered by balances brought forward in this fund from the previous year.

Endowment Funds are funds which have been given in perpetuity. They are held in CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Investment Funds and dividends from these investments are used as restricted funds to support expenditure on, for example, the churchyard and children's ministry.

Finally, we must always remember that the vast majority of our income come from regular donations from individuals, and we are extremely grateful for your generosity.

A full copy of the Accounts for 2024 is included in section 2 of this Annual Report.

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

APCM report: Pam Skelding, Parish Safeguarding Officer

After a year in the role of PSO I'm full of admiration for Liz Tierney who delivered this role so efficiently.

It's been a steep learning curve but hopefully I'm getting there. Thank you to all the people who have co-operated in Safeguarding practices. It's a necessity for every church so your support is especially important.

The parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Policies and Statements

The Safeguarding policy will be reviewed and updated by the PCC at its meeting in March 2025

New guidelines for children's and youth ministry in personal homes were approved in July 2024

Activities

The PCC oversees the following activities for Children / Young People and for Vulnerable Adults: Messy Church, Babies and Toddlers, Oasis, All Age Service Children's Group, and Pastoral Assistants.

Safer Recruitment & DBS

The PCC is responsible for the safe recruitment of people wanting to work with vulnerable groups through the activities mentioned above. During the year, the PCC has recruited the following numbers of people to support those groups.

7 DBS certificates have been processed March 2024 to 2025

Activity	Number of leaders/helpers	Number of new helpers recruited last year	Number of helpers removed (expired/

			deceased/left)
Pastoral Assistants	3	1	0
Messy Church	5	1	1
All Age Service Groups	8	1	0
Babies and Toddlers	3	0	0
Oasis	4	1	0

DBS Checks

As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role. Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups, the PCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.

There are 27 of volunteers / PCC members who require a DBS check for their role and all of them must have a current check (i.e. the check has been completed within the last 3 years). **However, there are 2 volunteers/ PCC members who are due for renewal of their DBS check this year (2025).**

Training

Safeguarding training at different levels is a requirement for all roles; the current situation in terms of meeting the requirements in the parish is as follows:

Basic Awareness (all church officers and volunteers, bell ringers – I have included Flower Arrangers, Sides and Refreshment Helpers though many have not been informed that they are required to undertake the training)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years if highest level of training required	Number with no or expired training
22	0	20

Foundation Safeguarding (PCC members, volunteers working with vulnerable groups, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer, bellringers supervising children who ring with the team)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years if highest level of training required	Number with no or expired training
18	14 (<u>1 is due for renewal this year – 2025</u>)	4

Leadership Safeguarding (Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Tower Captains where children ring with the team – excludes Licensed Lay Ministers as the Diocese are responsible for these)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
9	9 (3 are due for renewal this year – 2024)	

Domestic Abuse (PCC members, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers – excludes Licensed Lay Ministers as the Diocese are responsible for these)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training .This has changed so new requirement
9	4	5

Reporting to the PCC

The PCC was updated about safeguarding matters in the parish at all its meetings throughout the year. During the year there were no safeguarding matters which were reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Action Plan

The PCC has an action plan created by the Parish Dashboard. Progress is reported to the PCC meetings and current progress on our Parish Dashboard

The Safeguarding Dashboard allows us to track down all the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The PSO is responsible for the Dashboard with editor rights, with some PCC members (Vicar, Associate Vicar, Chairperson and Churchwarden) having read access. We continue to use the Safeguarding Hub to enter and keep track of all DBS checks and training, as well as creating job descriptions for the key roles involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

It is nearly 7 years since the new legislation for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. Though we have left the EU, these rules will still apply.

The following can be found on the Church's Website – The Data Privacy Policy, Data Consent Form and Data Protection Procedures Policy. There are copies of the Data Consent Form in church.

The PCC employs Matthew Thomas as Organist and Louise Simmons as Church Administrator. All other routine activities are undertaken by volunteers and Council places on record its appreciation of these volunteers who give their time and skills to the church and community.

THANKS

I am grateful to Liz Tierney for her role as Data Protection Officer. Liz stepped down from her role in March 2024 and Louise Simmons, our Parish Administrator, will be taking this role on.

Anjali Kanagaratnam, Priest in charge

ADOPTION

This report was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 13 May, 2025 for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 18 May 2025

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Reports from Organisations

Distributed with the Annual Parochial Church Report Presented at a meeting held on 18 May 2025

THE LICH GATE

Helen Hine

The Lich Gate Magazine is published by St Mary's and 1,220 copies are distributed to all homes in the Parish and to the community shop. In summer 2024, John and Lucy Ingle expressed their wish to retire as Advertising Managers. In December, Karen Perks kindly volunteered to take over, which was a relief!

Then at the end of 2024 Garth Jackson said that he planned to retire as editor, this was triggered by a complaint, and I do think we do need to pray protection over the magazine! Once again it looked as if the Lich Gate would have to fold, but it was agreed at PCC that the magazine still had the potential to do God's work in the community. Distribution Manager Steve Townsley is still running a strong distribution team, and Steve provides such useful advice-we are very grateful for his work.

A small editorial team was set up to try and spread the workload. Helen Hine, Pam Skelding and Morgan Tickner work regularly to produce the magazine, and a major new addition is the creative designer Gayle Smith at Motion Printers. There is a wider team, which currently meets monthly at the house of Lucy Rogers, and is overseen by Rev Anjali. The February 2025 issue was the last one by Garth's team and the new team have so far published the March issue. We have received much praise and encouragement from Almondsbury community.

We are very grateful to John and Lucy Ingle and to Garth Jackson for all their work on the magazine over the last few years. The team is excited to continue this important project.
Helen Hine (on behalf of the Lich Gate team)

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

Sandy Thompson

Toddler sessions have been very special. We have regular mums and children coming every week. Val out trainee vicar has been telling an illustrated Bible story to our mums, children and glebe residents. Then the children do a craft and colouring related to the story. Playdoh and sit and rides are enjoyed by the children the singing and nursery rhymes with my puppets are loved by all especially the glebe residents who sing them all! At least 10 residents come weekly and join in. It's a very lovely group enjoyed by all. Coffee tea and biscuits are served to everyone weekly.

OASIS GROUP

Jan Cooper

OASIS After school children's group meets monthly in the Lady Chapel from 4.00-5.30pm. We have a Bible story theme with craft/games/discussion with Prayer and a mission focus.

The embryo group is small at present and there is a happy atmosphere with parents joining in.

Team led by Jan and Sue, Michael and Ro

MESSY CHURCH

Sandy Thompson

Messy Church is a very well attended monthly service. Anjali has been a lovely addition. The children enjoy participating in the questions and answers she asks after having watched the introductory Bible story. the children enjoy excellent crafts related to the Bible story afterwards. This is followed by Grace and tea before the children go home. Mo and I prepare the crafts and I make cakes monthly for the children to decorate. We are still looking for more helpers to sit on the craft tables and talk to the children about the craft they are doing and how it is related to the story they have just heard. We learnt about John the Baptist last month and after the overhead

story Anjali acted out a baptism with a doll in a baptismal dress with children as parents and godparents. Anjali explained the meaning of baptism and afterwards we had a parent enquire about having their child baptised. It was a special time and each month everyone takes part and a wonderful atmosphere is experienced in the church. We would still like more helpers as it takes time to set up all the tables crafts and prepare food and drink each month. All helpers are DBS trained before helping.

CATERING COMMITTEE 2024-2025

Rosemary Griffiths

Our committee is still relatively small with just five ladies but with help from willing volunteers we have kept the coffee rota filled each week. Thank you to those who donate the milk and biscuits each week so that the congregation can enjoy their refreshments after the All Age service.

Three committee members have updated their Basic Food & Hygiene certificates this year.

First of the events was at the Good Friday activities 29th March 2024, when we provided refreshments with hot cross buns for around 80 attendees. A church breakfast was held between the two Sunday services on 15th September. This was enjoyed by everyone there. Saturday 8th November. St Mary's held a Mission and Vision Day at which the committee served a choice of soups, bread rolls and cakes, the cakes were donated by members of the church. The committee also served teas and coffees at Almondsbury Village Events Annual Christmas Fayre, on 23rd November. The Christmas Carol Service, as usual we served mulled wine and homemade mince pies (donated by the congregation) after the service.

For Lent Lunches we managed to find two new soup recipes. These were served as usual with a bread roll and fruit for dessert. The charity this year was Tool with a Mission. James Rogers gave a brief summary of the work of the charity and £270 was raised. This rounded off another year at St Mary's Church.

I would like to thank everyone, the committee members and others who willingly offer their help with various events.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Sarah Redmond

Another year gone by when the flowers looked wonderful each time an arrangement was displayed in church.

Going forward I have spoken to the ladies and agreed we will change arrangements forthrightly, instead of weekly. This is preferable to us as there are only 5 regular flower arrangers left now. We will be maintaining our arrangement during the fortnight until it is changed.

The pillar arrangements will continue to be done at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Wedding flowers will be a white arrangement by the church flower arranger, unless the couple commission a florist.

BELLRINGERS

Marcus Booth, Tower Captain

Another packed year as we waved a fond farewell to the Pandemic and settled into a steady routine of ringing. The bells have been rung where possible on Sundays and for weddings and practice nights. There was a large amount of ringing for the various Christmas services, weddings and activities and we even gathered enough ringers to ring at midnight on New Year's Eve 2024/ Day 2025.

Thanks must go to the following people.

- Gerry for continued maintenance, key holder, CCTV, and being able to see the bells in glorious technicolour, fly cleaning and just about everything else that wouldn't have been done without him!
- To Anjali and Paul for their support of the ringers throughout the year
- Adam for continuing as secretary and wedding organiser and doing all the paperwork and keeping us abreast of the news and developments, locally and nationally

- To our members, guests and visitors, without whom we couldn't function. im as Treasurer and Adrian as Deputy Tower Captainll who support Sunday Service ringing and practices

In statistics the story of a record-breaking 2024 is:

Attendance on Sundays ranged from 2 to 10, with the average being 6.35 up from 5.8, the average last year. We rang on all 52 Sundays and had six or more ringers on 37 of these (71% up from 58% last year), with seven or more on 22 (42% up from 24%).

Attendance on Mondays ranged from 6 to 18, with the average being 10.07 up from 8.4 on normal Mondays last year. We rang on 42 of 52 Mondays, one of the missing Mondays being due to our decision (now ceased) to ring once a month at Chipping Sodbury, one to the AGM, four to Bank holidays, and four to too few ringers being available. We had eight or more ringers on 35 of the 42 Mondays (83% up from 81% last year) and ten or more on 24 (57% up from 38% last year).

We have 10 resident ringers, three fewer than last year but we are regularly joined by a number of Alveston ringers who come to us to recover skills they once had when ringing in younger days.

Our ringing highlights in 2024 were three quarter peals (one fewer than in 2023), our first touch of Stedman Triples since 2019, our first Sunday touch of Bob Triples since 2019, and our first plain course of Winterbourne Doubles. Otherwise, there was a string of individual firsts:

- Pauline's first touch of Cambridge Minor and spliced St Simon's and St Clement's Doubles. Gerry's first plain course inside of Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles,
- Madeleine's first plain course inside of Grandsire Doubles
- Adam's first plain course of Nervous Breakdown on the second.

A visiting band rang a peal of Bristol Surprise Major and two others rang quarter peals of Plain Bob Triples and Bristol Surprise Major.

Otherwise, we rang 36 different methods versus 25 last year. These were Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Cloisters Doubles, Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major, Little Bob Minor and Major, Single Court Minimus, Double Court Minimus, Reverse Court Minimus, Double Canterbury Minimus, Nervous Breakdown Doubles, Winterbourne Doubles, Penultimate Doubles, St Simon's Doubles, St Martin's Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, Stedman Doubles and Triples, Erin Doubles, New Bob Doubles, St Osmund Doubles, Single Oxford Minor, Very Little Bob Minor, Crayford Little Court Minor, St Clements Minor, Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor and Major, and Norwich Surprise Minor. With the help of some visitors the abler members of the band rang a half course of Yorkshire Major and a touch of Bristol Surprise Major.

The Almondsbury ringers won our title back as Branch Quiz champions in February 2024 by some distance and remain the team to beat this year!

We look forward to another successful year and have a new target of methods to beat now!

DEANERY SYNOD

Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report 2024

Introduction

Three Deanery Synods took place during 2024 and the key themes were:

- § Serving Others – Focus on Volunteers
- § Life Events and Occasional Offices
- § Priority Communities – Mission and Discipleship

May Deanery Synod:

Life Events

Deanery Synod on 15 May 2024 focused upon 'Life Events and the Occasional Offices. The Meeting was held in person at St Mary's Shirehampton.

The Main Theme: Life Events

A Brief Introduction:

Throughout its history, the Church of England has connected with people as they reach major milestones over the course of their lives and at the end of them. The church offers a variety of services - to mark the birth of a child, to celebrate a marriage, to mark the beginning of a journey of faith, and to commemorate a life that has ended. The Church recognises that all change, even positive events like a birth or marriage, can cause stress as new roles are adjusted to and values, priorities, and belief systems are brought into question. If we take funeral service (in church and at the Crematorium) alone the number in Bristol Diocese has dropped from 2,260 (in 2010) to 1,220 (in 2022). In the same period Marriage and blessings of civil marriage has also halved.

Round Table Discussion:

How do we learn from each other so that we can respond to this decline, connect with people more significantly and develop the missional nature of these events?

1. What items of Good Practice can we share?
2. Given opportunity, what would increase our effectiveness?

Summary:

- § A single approach across the Deanery is difficult because of the different parish policies on Baptism and Marriage – Funerals are more straightforward
- § Building relationships within community is the responsibility of all members of the worshipping community (not just clergy)
- § Building relationships with Schools (Primary and Secondary), Toddler Groups and other centres of community (from pub to Community Associations) is important
- § Introducing a pattern of alternative worship helps: Messy Church and multigenerational services, Tea-Time Service, Rise and Shine, etc
- § Holding specific groups and events is important: Listening Café, Bereavement Groups, Space for Grief
- § Regular invitations and keeping in contact and recognising anniversaries is important
- § Form a Parish 'Life Event Team' (not the Vicar, not a rota!)

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Lee updated Synod on the Lira Palwo clinic (a remote health clinic in Kitgum Diocese which is this year's deanery project), the Archbishop Janani Luwum College and the Nebbi Girlchild Project.

October Deanery Synod:

Priority Communities – Mission and Discipleship

Deanery Synod on 8 October 2024 focused upon Priority Communities – Mission and Discipleship. The Meeting was held in person at St Andrew's Avonmouth.

The Main Theme: Priority Communities – Mission and Discipleship

Andy Murray, Dean of Priority Communities, provided an introduction to the work being conducted within the Priority Community Network. Many communities across our Diocese have been subject to decades of underinvestment from national and local government leading to significant socio-economic disadvantage and marginalisation. Across the Bristol and

Swindon area approximately 30 of our parishes sit within the top 20% of the national indices of multiple deprivation (IMD). Local churches and clergy in serving in these areas often face a range of particular challenges, not least limited resources. We long to turn the tide and see clergy and churches in these areas flourishing and cultivating sustainable good growth, through intentional investment and support.

Support for clergy, lay leaders and churches who serve in PCs, through:

- § Priority Community Network (PCN) gatherings for prayer, planning or social events. This has initially focussed on the gathering clergy from the churches below, and other invited clergy. In time, we anticipate opening the invitation to a wider range of PC churches.

- § Tailored lay & ordained ministry development coaching, courses, and programmes.
- § The offer for 5 parishes to be part of 'Jesus Shaped People' discipleship programme, which is running parallel to the PC programme (for churches in the top 20% IMD).
- § Financial investment for 14 PC contexts, which sit in the top 12.5% IMD.

1. Intentional Mission and Discipleship

a. Mission is about sharing God's vision of justice and love for all people in the world around us, including our local neighbourhood. Discipleship is about recognising and responding to God's presence in every aspect of our lives and, as church members, helping each other to do that. How does this translate into what we do as a Deanery?

Roundtable Discussions:

Following an introduction provided by Revd. Andy Murray, Synod discussed the question of what we actually mean when we talk about Christian Discipleship.

Key points included:

Discipleship:

- § Is more than 'volunteering' it is embarking on a journey with God.
- § It is the 'working out' of our faith
- § The challenge to parishes is to create a culture that enables people to grow in faith – it's about flowering and flourishing
- § Some parallel ideas are about 'stepping-out' and 'life of service'
- § Is there an important idea about 'belonging' before taking next steps?
- § Enable sense of fellowship

Invitation:

- § Far better to make personal contact and invite rather than general requests for volunteers
- § Also, keep investing in people – enabling offering learning and opportunity, equipping, encouraging, being affirmative, recognize gifts
- § How do we recognize those who would like to take next steps?
- § Do we have a plan to foster future leaders/
- § Make sure it's a safe place to take risks
- § Make sure we stick to the Safeguarding policies

Focus:

- § The focus of our gifts can be in worship, nurturing, prayer, ministry, pastoral activity and mission – so many ways to live-out being a disciple
- § Preaching, teaching, home-groups
- Challenge:
 - § Many parishes are limited in the number of potential 'volunteers'
 - § Young people and families are often an empty area in churches
 - § Volunteers for key roles
 - § Being willing to stop something if it doesn't work
 - § Being willing to share across boundaries

Elections to Diocesan Synod

Bristol West elected the following numbers to Diocesan Synod:

House of Clergy Nine members elected (out of nine places)

House of Laity Ten members elected (out of eleven places)

Ex-Officio Two members from General Synod – one of each house (not elected)

THE END

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury
Statement of Financial Activities
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming Resources (Note 2)					
Income from Charitable Activities	3,519.00			3,519.00	
Income from Donations and Legacies	66,764.27	1,638.10		68,402.37	
Income from Lich Gate Advertising	9,923.00			9,923.00	
Investment Income	1,692.10	1,443.41		3,135.51	
Total	81,898.37	3,081.51	0.00	84,979.88	119,595.60
Resources Expended (Note 3)					
Charitable Activities:					
Charity Management and Administration	148.30			148.30	
Church Buildings Costs	8,211.67	2,567.61		10,779.28	
Church Running Costs	10,658.31	5,285.96		15,944.27	
Cost of Services	206.27			206.27	
Employment Costs	8,100.73			8,100.73	
Expenditure on Lich Gate Magazine	10,106.52			10,106.52	
Grants and Donations	2,451.65			2,451.65	
Ministry Costs	3,642.18	593.23		4,235.41	
Parish Share	32,010.00			32,010.00	
Total	75,535.63	8,446.80	0.00	83,982.43	91,792.93
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)					
	6,362.74	(5,365.29)	0.00	997.45	27,802.67
Gains/(Losses) on Revaluation of Investments	4,679.57		1,190.15	5,869.72	14,800.82
Net income/(expenditure)	11,042.31	(5,365.29)	1,190.15	6,867.17	42,603.49
Total Funds Brought Forward (Note 6)					
	136,237.19	14,938.03	51,997.85	203,173.07	160,569.58
Total Funds Carried Forward (Note 6)					
	147,279.50	9,572.74	53,188.00	210,040.24	203,173.07

Balance Sheet

	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
Fixed Assets (Note 4)		
Investments	149,533.63	143,663.91
Current Assets (Note 5)		
Debtors	3,601.43	2,850.00
Cash At Bank And In Hand	59,524.74	59,962.69
Total current assets	63,126.17	62,812.69
Creditors falling due within one year (Note 5)		
Other Creditors	2,619.56	3,303.53
Net Current Assets	60,506.61	59,509.16
Total Assets	210,040.24	203,173.07
Funds and Reserves (Note 7)		
Endowment Funds	53,188.00	51,997.85
Restricted Funds	9,572.74	14,938.03
Designated Funds	101,428.33	79,882.70
Unrestricted Funds	45,851.17	56,354.49
Total Funds	210,040.24	203,173.07

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2024

Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups (e.g. The bellringers) or informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose. They may also be used to support Restricted funds which are deficient. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that are allocated by the PCC to specific projects and purposes. They may only be re-allocated at the direction of the PCC.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantified. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £2,500 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The PCC owns the land on which the Doctor's Surgery and Church Rooms were constructed. The building is subject to a 125-year lease to the doctor. The underlease on the Church Rooms was held by the PCC but was sold to the surgery in 2019. In view of the long-term letting of the surgery, no value is given to the land containing this surgery.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no items with an accounting value at 31 December 2024.

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The Consolidated Churchyard and the Frost and Miles funds are 'Permanent' Endowment funds. The former is an amalgamation of many individual gifts, funds and bequests. The latter is held under the terms of the bequests of the late Miss Frost and Mr Miles. The capital (and any associated capital growth) underpinning these funds remains locked into the Endowment funds, the income, in the form of dividends, being allocated to the respective Restricted revenue accounts which remain restricted to the purpose of the underlying fund. The Endowment Chancel fund contains the amalgamation of several obligations for the support of the chancel that were converted into lump sum payments a number of years ago. Again, income from dividends is restricted to expenditure on the Chancel. The Investment Fund was created from some of the proceeds of the sale by the PCC of the house containing the village shop. It is a Designated Fund.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2024 using share values provided by the CCLA – the fund manager.

Terms Used in the Report

Fees received on behalf of third parties

Fees received on behalf of third parties (e.g. elements of wedding and funeral fees which are collected on behalf of the diocese) are not under the control of the PCC and, therefore, not included in these as income and expenditure.

Employees

During the year the PCC employed an organist and secretary (both part time). These employees equate to less than one full time employee. There were no associated social security costs but the secretary and organist are enrolled in the NEST pension scheme.

Payments to trustees

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than to reimburse clearly identifiable expenditure incurred on specific purchases or in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocese for the payment of clergy and Licensed Lay Minister expenses.

Note 2	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
Incoming Resources				2024
Income from Charitable Activities				
PCC Fees Income:				
Funeral Travel - PCC	120.00			120.00
Funerals - PCC	1,728.00			1,728.00
Weddings - Bells - PCC	200.00			200.00
Weddings - PCC	1,471.00			1,471.00
Total	3,519.00	0.00	0.00	3,519.00
Income from Donations and Legacies				
Donations:				
Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Donations	30.00			30.00
Coffee/Catering Donations	650.95			650.95
Good Friday Activities Morning Donations	137.91			137.91
Toddlers/Messy Church Donations	502.67			502.67
General Donations	6,358.98			6,358.98
Legacies	1,000.00			1,000.00
Regular Giving	44,253.18			44,253.18
Gift Aid Claimed	12,220.93			12,220.93
Grants		1,638.10		1,638.10
Special Collections and Activities	1,609.65			1,609.65
Total	66,764.27	1,638.10	0.00	68,402.37
Income from Trading Activities				
Lich Gate Magazine Advertising	9,923.00	0.00	0.00	9,923.00
Investment Income:				
Dividends received		1,443.41		1,443.41
Interest Received	1,692.10			1,692.10
Total	1,692.10	1,443.41	0.00	3,135.51
Total Income	81,898.37	3,081.51	0.00	84,979.88

NB As a new structure of accounts has been introduced in 2024, the detailed breakdown in 2023 has not been included above. For the detailed breakdown please see the 2023 accounts.

The total income in 2023 was £119,595.60

Note 3	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
Resources Expended				2024
Charitable Activities				
Charity Management & Administration				
Bank Charges	148.30	0.00	0.00	148.30
Church Buildings Costs:				
Church Insurance Costs	5,724.42			5,724.42
Church Routine Repairs and Maintenance	1,196.48	1,965.50		3,161.98
Churchyard Maintenance Costs	1,290.77	602.11		1,892.88
Total	8,211.67	2,567.61	0.00	10,779.28
Church Running Costs				
Electricity	3,252.06			3,252.06
Equipment Purchase and Maintenance	993.07	5,285.96		6,279.03
Heating Oil	4,602.48			4,602.48
Office and Administration Costs	1,705.52			1,705.52
Water and Sewage	105.18			105.18
Total	10,658.31	5,285.96	0.00	15,944.27
Cost of Services				
Organ / Piano Tuning & Repair	75.00			75.00
Wine / Wafers / Candles	131.27			131.27
Total	206.27	0.00	0.00	206.27
Employment Costs	8,100.73	0.00	0.00	8,100.73
Expenditure on Lich Gate Magazine	10,106.52	0.00	0.00	10,106.52
Grants and Donations				
Grants and Donations	842.00			842.00
Special Collections and Activities	1,609.65			1,609.65
Total	2,451.65	0.00	0.00	2,451.65
Ministry Costs:				
Children's Ministry Costs:	196.31	88.29		284.60
Good Friday Activities Morning	96.84	43.56		140.40
Messy Church and Toddlers	503.41	226.41		729.82
School	407.95	183.47		591.42
Sunday Groups	114.50	51.50		166.00
Total	1,319.01	593.23	0.00	1,912.24
General Ministry Costs:	28.41			28.41
Bible Reading Fellowship Notes	184.71			184.71
CCLI and Other Licences	604.50			604.50
Catering	616.87			616.87
Clergy Expenses	888.68			888.68
Total	2,323.17	0.00	0.00	2,323.17
Total	3,642.18	593.23	0.00	4,235.41
Parish Share	32,010.00			32,010.00
Total	75,535.63	8,446.80	0.00	83,982.43

NB As a new structure of accounts has been introduced in 2024, the detailed breakdown in 2023 has not been included above. For the detailed breakdown please see the 2023 accounts.

The total expenditure in 2023 was £91,792.93

Note 4**Fixed Assets**

Investments	Investment Fund	Chancel	Churchyard	Frost and Miles	Total
Brought Forward 31 Dec 2024	91,666.06	8,937.01	21,690.24	21,370.60	143,663.91
Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	4,679.57	204.55	496.46	489.14	5,869.72
Carried Forward 31 Dec 2025	96,345.63	9,141.56	22,186.70	21,859.74	149,533.63

All Investments are in CCLA Church of England Investment Accounts

Note 5**Current assets and Liabilities**

Current Assets	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
Debtors		
Gift Aid Pending	4,251.53	2,850.00
Pilning and Compton Greenfield - Clergy Expenses	121.66	
Prepaid Grant Income	(771.76)	
Total	3,601.43	2,850.00
Cash At Bank		
CCLA - Deposit Account	22,546.05	21,409.66
HSBC - Deposit Accounts	29,810.13	32,884.68
HSBC - Main Current Account	7,168.56	5,668.35
Total	59,524.74	59,962.69
Total current assets	63,126.17	62,812.69
Current Liabilities		
Creditors due within one year		
Miscellaneous liabilities	215.74	3,291.53
Deferred Income - Lich Gate	1,047.00	
Liability - Heating Oil	728.82	
Liability - Invoice paid twice	445.00	
Receipts on Behalf of 3rd Parties	183.00	
Total Current Liabilities	2,619.56	3,291.53
Net Current Assets	60,506.61	59,521.16

Note 6

Analysis of Funds

Fund Name	Type of Fund	Brought Forward 31 Dec 2023	Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Carried Forward 31 Dec 2024
Chancel	Endowment	8,937.01	204.55	0.00	0.00		9,141.56
Churchyard	Endowment	21,690.24	496.46	0.00	0.00		22,186.70
Frost and Miles	Endowment	21,370.60	489.14	0.00	0.00		21,859.74
Total Endowment		51,997.85	1,190.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,188.00
Bells - ABRP	Restricted	14,938.03		0.00	5,613.36		9,324.67
Chancel	Restricted	0.00		248.07	0.00		248.07
Churchyard	Restricted	0.00		602.11	602.11		0.00
Frost and Miles	Restricted	0.00		593.23	593.23		0.00
Total Restricted		14,938.03	0.00	1,443.41	6,808.70	0.00	9,572.74
Bells	Designated	4,882.70		200.00	0.00		5,082.70
Building and Grounds	Designated	30,000.00				(30,000.00)	0.00
Short/Medium Reserve	Designated	5,000.00				(5,000.00)	0.00
Long Term Reserve	Designated	40,000.00				(40,000.00)	0.00
Share Volatility Reserve	Designated	15,000.00				(15,000.00)	0.00
Investment Fund	Designated	0.00	4,679.57	0.00	0.00	91,666.06	96,345.63
Total Designated		94,882.70	4,679.57	200.00	0.00	1,666.06	101,428.33
General Fund	Unrestricted	41,354.49		81,482.63	75,319.89	(1,666.06)	45,851.17
Total Unrestricted		41,354.49	0.00	81,482.63	75,319.89	(1,666.06)	45,851.17
Totals		203,173.07	5,869.72	83,126.04	82,128.59	0.00	210,040.24

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's, Almondsbury

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 8, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') to the extent described below.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC, Examiner and Treasurer

Members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that, given the relatively simple nature of the church accounts (and corresponding income and expenditure), the formal the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. The SOFA is examined by an independent examiner who is not a member of any of the PCC committees but who is a member of the congregation. Independently, the SOFA is checked against bank accounts and CCLA returns by members of the PCC who confirm that they are satisfied that the SOFA presents a true picture of the church assets held in these accounts. It is my responsibility as treasurer to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report by the independent examiner

My examination of SOFA2024 was carried out in accordance with good practice to ensure the consistency and accuracy of the figures and calculations. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from PCC trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that the SOFA contains any material inaccuracy;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

 12/2/25

Anthony S G Kite

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury



Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 28 April 2024

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

CONTENTS

Section 1

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

Section 2

1 Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 incorporating:

- Summarised statement of financial activities for the year;
- Balance sheet as at the year end;
- Detailed notes to the accounts;
- Independent Examiner's Report.

St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

**Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2023.**

Correspondence address: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DT

PCC Members:

Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, Priest -in-Charge	Rev Paul Van Rossum, Associate Vicar
Astrid Domingo Molyneux, Lay Minister	Pam Van Rossum
David Thomson, Deanery Synod	Clare Jefferis
Helen Hines	Nick Roach, Treasurer
Tim Jefferis, Churchwarden	Dick Avery
Thelma Gibbs	Rosemary Griffiths
Mo Pearson	Rose Pullan
Sandy Thomson	Mike Tierney
Judi Thomson, PCC Secretary	Mike Jenkinson, PCC Chair and Lay Minister
Liz Tierney, Safeguarding Officer and Data Protection Lead	

INTRODUCTION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield, which is currently in vacancy.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

ASSOCIATE VICAR'S REPORT

This report relates to the calendar year 2023.

The interregnum, which started in August 2022, continued through almost the whole of 2023 until Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam joined us on 17 December 2023. More about this below.

During 2023 the pattern of Sunday services continued as previously, with a mixture of Communion and Morning Prayer Services at 8.30am. At 10am the All-Age Service, with a Children's Group, continued and included a monthly All-Age Communion Service.

During this period the role of 'vicar' continued to be carried out by Astrid Domingo Molyneux, Mike Jenkinson and Paul van Rossum working together. As well as leading services in Almondsbury, we have also taken services and funerals at St Peter's, Pilning.

As in 2022, we have sought to work with the Parochial Church Council to promote the Good News of Jesus Christ and to help people to grow in their faith. At St Mary's we have focused this on our Mission Statement of 'Connecting with God, each other and our community.'

We have continued to connect with God. As we moved through 2023 confidence grew and numbers at services have returned to pre-pandemic levels. For example, over 500 people took part in the two Christingle Services on Christmas Eve. Messy Church is meeting regularly every month in Church and the monthly Saturday morning prayer meeting, Tea Toast and Prayer, has continued in-person with healthy numbers attending.

We have also continued to connect with each other, particularly through the coffee time after the All-Age service. The house group continued to meet weekly on Zoom and in 2023 a new weekly lady's group met in church for a season. The Daily Thought email continued through the year before being retired at the end of November.

We have connected with the community through various means. The weekly toddlers' group meeting every Tuesday in Church in term-time. The ministry of the Church has also been available for private prayer during the daytime. The Church continued to contribute to school life through an input to an assembly every two weeks by Pam Skelding and through the work of the foundation governors. We have continued to promote a 'Charity of the Month,' which both raises awareness and funds. We also support local agencies including the Sisters of the Church Food Bank in St Pauls, Bristol North West Home Bank, and the Salvation Army Christmas Toy appeal. We also showed the Coronation of King Charles on 6 May 2023 on the large screen in church, at which many local residents joined us. The annual Remembrance Sunday Service also brought the village together for this important memorial service.

We are hugely grateful to all those who, often in unseen ways, have worked hard to enable us to do all of this in changing circumstances. Particular thanks are due to Judi Thomson, Parish Administrator, who has given us all incredible and unflappable support throughout the year before moving to Scotland in January 2024. It is through good teamwork and God's grace that the mission of St Mary's has continued to grow through the year.

At her licensing on 11 December 2023, we welcomed Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam to her new role as Priest in Charge of the South Severnside Benefice, comprising of St Mary's Almondsbury, St Peter's Pilning, and All Saints Compton Greenfield. Anjali combines the role with that of Racial Justice Coordinator in Diocese and formally started both posts on 17 December 2023.

We are really pleased that Anjali, Neil and their family have joined us. We look forward to her leadership and working with her in the months and years to come.

Paul van Rossum
February 2024

APCM Report 2023

PRIEST IN CHARGE: NOTE OF THANKS

I wanted to use this opportunity to formally thank all those who worked tirelessly over the period of interregnum to ensure that the life and mission of St Mary's Church continued over this period. The Associate Vicar reports of a full and busy year of growing together in discipleship and connecting with the community. This would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of all involved. I am particularly grateful to the members of the Ministry team, Revd Paul van Rossum, Mike Jenkinson and Astrid Domingo Molyneux, who not only led services at St Mary's but across the Benefice, and Tim Jefferis (as Church Warden) and members of the PCC who led the church during this period of transition.

As a family, we would also like to thank the church family at St Mary's and members of the wider community, for the very warm welcome we have received. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you as we continue to journey together and share the love of Jesus to those around us.

Anjali Kanagaratnam
March 2024

CHURCH WARDEN

Almondsbury entered 2023 in vacancy following the retirement of Philip Rowe in August 2022 and so much of my effort as the sole churchwarden was dedicated to working with the Diocese to ensure the timely appointment of a good candidate to minister to Almondsbury, Pilning and Compton Greenfield. In collaboration with Pilning and Compton Greenfield we drafted a Parish Profile, which forms an important part of the information for prospective candidates.

Early in the year the Diocese indicated that any appointment was unlikely to be on a full-time basis, as the South Severnside Benefice was too small to justify such an appointment, when compared with other areas of the Diocese. It was initially unclear whether this meant that an appointment would be made jointly with a neighbouring benefice, however, eventually the Diocese identified that an appointment could be made for South Severnside 4 days per week, with the other two days filling the role of Diocesan Racial Justice Coordinator. Additionally the Diocese discovered that they had a preferred candidate for this combined role, which removed the time and cost involved on advertising the role.

Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam was this preferred candidate and having passed the interview process was licensed by the Bishop of Swindon in December 2023, being warmly welcomed by all those involved in the three churches and the wider community.

During the vacancy we were able to maintain a similar programme of regular services, of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and other activities to that which Philip Rowe had led and I want to personally thank everybody who contributed to running and attending all of the church activities. Having an active and vibrant church to welcome Rev Anjali was a great boost to all concerned.

In 2024 we are looking to rejuvenate our work looking after the Finance and Buildings aspects of St Mary's, which have rather taken a back seat in 2023. We are due a visit from the architect for our Quinquennial Review in 2025 and so we want to try and make sure that everything is in hand before that event, so that we can address any additional concerns that are raised then.

Normally the church has two churchwardens, and so I would be pleased to talk to anybody who might feel that they could serve the church in this role.

Tim Jefferis, Church Warden

ELECTORAL ROLL

There were 98 members on the Electoral Roll as at 31 December 2023, of which 69 were resident in the Parish and 29 resided outside of the Parish.

Mike Jenkinson

WORSHIP AND MISSION

We receive regular input from the group members on aspects of the church's spiritual life and on how the church is functioning. Concerns are addressed and recommendations made to the PCC.

The reports we received from the team members highlighted how well and efficiently the Ministerial team covered the Interregnum and that they were much appreciated. They continue to support the Priest in Charge in her new role. Anjali's ministry has been well received and we look forward to the changed service leading structure.

The Praise group and Matthew (on the organ) give an excellent lead to our worship each week. The worship is tailored to the weeks theme/reading. It is recognised how many volunteers e.g. welcomers, AV team, cleaners, banner ladies, flower ladies, readers, prayer folk, pull together to be an active part of the worshipping community and to enable us to be a healthy church.

The 8.30 and 10.00am service reps report on good attendance, input, and good relationships.

The children's group met each week throughout the year during the All- Age service. There are about 5 regular attendees and sometimes more children. There are often toddlers, with a parent, in with us too. The Roots teaching material is used as is used by the church service leaders.

Last year's Good Friday Activity morning was very well attended with 54 children and 52 adults in addition to our helpers. - The songs, videos, music, activities, and refreshments were all good. Lots of church members were involved in helping so it was a real whole church outreach.

The Toy and Gift Service with pop up Nativity, included a few extra children but numbers were lower than expected. The Christingle services were as popular as ever, especially the second one. There were about 500 attendees of which a large proportion were children and young adults. £623.67 was collected for the Children's Society.

The Catering team do a great job providing refreshments after the 10am service and at other events including this year a Breakfast between the 2 services and a Lent Lunch which also raised funds for the Leprosy Society.

The wider church community services have been well attended e.g. Remembrance, Carol, Christingle. It is often commented on how the local community or visitors pop into church for some reflection time during the day.

Messy church and Toddlers are much appreciated by the wider church community.

The Charity of the Month focus engages the congregation in looking beyond our immediate concerns.
Charity of the Month

January:

February: Leprosy Mission, Astrid Domingo Molyneux

March: Uganda Link: Clare Jeffries, CMS link with Simon and Sarah Cawdell

April: Easter services dominate.

May:

June: SAT 7

July: Ripple Effect (was Send a Cow), Pam Skelding

August: Tools with a Mission, David and Joy Laban

September: Ride and Stride/Gloucestershire Historic Churches, Astrid Domingo Molyneux

Tearfund at Harvest Service cash collection, Paul van Rossum

October: Suicide Prevention Bristol, Suzanne Alsop

November: Royal British Legion (cash collection at Remembrance Sunday)

Release International, Jan Cooper

December: Children's Society, Pam van Rossum, includes cash collection at Christingle.

The Tea, Toast & Prayer continues once a month and is well attended as does the Prayer for the Suffering Church group. There is a small evening group on zoom running each week.

Pam van Rossum, Chair, Worship and Mission

FINANCE & BUILDINGS

The Finance and Buildings Committee was temporarily disbanded during 2023 because the numbers required for a quorum had fallen to below that threshold, and so the PCC took over responsibility in the meantime. Building work was constrained by the need to consolidate spending, and therefore only essential work was progressed. It is hoped to reinstate the Committee shortly in view of new people joining the Church who have relevant skills and knowledge, and the financial circumstances improving.

The focus for the future needs to take into account:

- The quinquennial inspection due in 2025 and reviewing outstanding recommendations from the last quinquennial report in 2020.
- Urgent repairs need to be scheduled e.g. radiator valve in choir stall and lighting in the choir vestry.

- Identifying and prioritising significant works e.g. recovering north transept roof, improvements to lighting and review of monuments for safety. Work in relation to improving our Green credentials needs also to be identified and set in motion.

Mike Tierney, Chair, Finance and Building Committee

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance Report for year ending December 2023

At last, our financial position begins to improve. We are by no means out of the wood yet but with continued restraint and commitment we can provide a decent legacy for the next generation. Last year I reported that our investments reduced by over £46,000 and that we had an operating loss of over £30,000. We have seen a steady deterioration in our investments since the start of the COVID pandemic but our operating loss in respect of day to day expenditure has been present for a number of years – for instance it was £6,000 in 2019 and increased in later years.

We took action at the beginning of 2023 – significantly reducing our contribution to Parish Share and cutting other important but non-essential expenditure. We recognised that this would be painful for the Church but that it was essential to avoid running out of money in years to come.

This year I am pleased to report that over 2023 our investments grew in value by £14,800, that we received a legacy of £26,000 and that our yearly operating loss reduced to £1,700 leaving us with a total Parish worth of £203,173. This might seem like a large sum of money but most of it is committed to funds that support the maintenance of the Church over the next decade and with a substantial amount tied up in endowment funds. The rise in investment value and the legacy are out of our control and we must be grateful for both the legacy and the Church of England's management of our investment accounts. But we must recognise that our goal is as a minimum to break even on our operating budget; which we have still not managed to do.

Our aim for the coming year must be to generate a greater income than expenditure to allow us to support more good causes, other parishes in our diocese and allow us to achieve our 2030 target of a zero carbon budget. As a final thought, we must recognise that nearly all our income from donations and that the Church and the PCC are so grateful for all that our people and visitors provide and the time and support that so many give to maintaining the Church, community and our good works.

Nick Roach, Treasurer

2023 Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Policies and Statements

The Safeguarding policy will be reviewed and updated by the PCC at its meeting in March 2024.

These statements will be reviewed and updated by the PCC at its meeting in March 2024

- Domestic Abuse Statement
- Responding to Concerns and Allegations
- Lone Working Policy

The following Statement was reviewed and agreed by the PCC - Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Statement (Jan 2024)

Activities

The PCC oversees the following activities for Children / Young People and for Vulnerable Adults: Messy Church, Babies and Toddlers, Oasis, All Age Service Children's Group, and Pastoral Assistants.

Safer Recruitment & DBS

The PCC is responsible for the safe recruitment of people wanting to work with vulnerable groups through the activities mentioned above. During the year, the PCC has recruited the following numbers of people to support those groups.

Activity	Number of leaders/helpers	Number of new helpers recruited last year	Number of helpers removed (expired/deceased/left)
Pastoral Assistants	3	0	3
Messy Church	5	0	2
All Age Service Groups	8	1	2
Babies and Toddlers	3	0	0
Oasis	3	0	1

DBS Checks

As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role. Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups, the PCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.

There are 27 of volunteers / PCC members who require a DBS check for their role and all of them have a current check (i.e. the check has been completed within the last 3 years). **However, there are 10 volunteers/ PCC members who are due for renewal of their DBS check this year (2024).**

Training

Safeguarding training at different levels is a requirement for all roles; the current situation in terms of meeting the requirements in the parish is as follows:

Basic Awareness (all church officers and volunteers, bell ringers – I have included Flower Arrangers, Sides and Refreshment Helpers though many have not been informed that they are required to undertake the training)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years if highest level of training required	Number with no or expired training
22	2	20

Foundation Safeguarding (PCC members, volunteers working with vulnerable groups, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer, bellringers supervising children who ring with the team)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years if highest level of training required	Number with no or expired training
20	16 (<u>7 are due for renewal this year – 2024</u>)	3

Leadership Safeguarding (Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Tower Captains where children ring with the team – excludes Licensed Lay Ministers as the Diocese are responsible for these)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
8	7 (<u>1 is due for renewal this year – 2024</u>)	1 (PSO who is standing down this year – 2024)

Domestic Abuse (PCC members, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers – excludes Licensed Lay Ministers as the Diocese are responsible for these)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
16	16	0

Reporting to the PCC

The PCC was updated about safeguarding matters in the parish at all its meetings throughout the year. During the year there were no safeguarding matters which were reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Action Plan

The PCC has an action plan created by the Parish Dashboard. Progress is reported to the PCC meetings and current progress on our Parish Dashboard is 89% at level 3 (highest level).

The Safeguarding Dashboard allows us to track down all the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The PSO is responsible for the Dashboard with editor rights, with some PCC members (Vicar, Associate Vicar, Chairperson and Churchwarden) having read access. We continue to use the Safeguarding Hub to enter and keep track of all DBS checks and training, as well as creating job descriptions for the key roles involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Finally, I am standing down at this APCM after 6 years, as we are moving on to another church. I wish to thank all those who have renewed their DBS certificates and undergone Safeguarding Training. I wish to thank all the support I have had over the years especially the Ministry Team, Group Leaders and the Safeguarding Team at the Diocese of Bristol. At the time of writing, there is no replacement, but I wish whoever takes on the role every success.

Liz Tierney, Parish Safeguarding Officer

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

It is nearly 6 years since the new legislation for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. Though we have left the EU, these rules will still apply.

The following can be found on the Church's Website – The Data Privacy Policy, Data Consent Form and Data Protection Procedures Policy. There are copies of the Data Consent Form in church.

Various other data consent forms are available for other areas where personal data may be displayed in the public domain – like Noticeboards, the website or the Lich Gate. All data, apart from the Lich Gate, is kept in the Church Office. The Vicar, Data Protection Lead and Parish Administrator have access to the data. The Lich Gate data is kept by the Data Protection Lead and passed onto the Lich Gate Editor for inclusion in the Lich Gate. It is planned that the Lich Gate data will be kept in the Church Office.

We as a Church MUST with all emails relating to Church business using the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) option – many of us already do use this. We must remember that not everyone wants their email address in the public domain.

As with the Parish Safeguarding Role, I will be standing down from this role at the APCM, and to date there is no replacement.

Thank you to everyone who filled these Data Consent forms over the past year and for your support over the past 6 years.

Liz Tierney, Data Protection Lead

THANKS

The PCC employs Matthew Thomas as Organist and Judi Thomson as Church Administrator. All other routine activities are undertaken by volunteers and Council places on record its appreciation of these volunteers who give their time and skills to the church and community.

ADOPTION

This report was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 14 March 2024 for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28 April 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury



Reports from Organisations

Distributed with the Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 28 April 2024

THE LICH GATE

The Lich Gate Magazine is published by St Mary's and is distributed to all homes in the Parish.

In early 2022 Edward Ranger indicated that he would retire as editor at the end of January 2023 making the February issue his last. For a while it looked as if the Lich Gate would have to fold, as no new editor had come forward. Fortunately, Garth Jackson offered to become the new editor and he took over the role in January which enabled a seamless transition.

We are very grateful for all of the work done by Garth as Editor, Steve Townsley as Distribution Manager and John and Lucy Ingle as Advertising Managers. Without them, there would be no Lich Gate.

Long may it continue.

Paul van Rossum

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

Toddlers has been busy over the winter, with the glebe residents also joining us for tea and singing. It's a very lovely atmosphere for young and old!!

Sandy Thompson, Leader

OASIS GROUP

The OASIS online/home meetings are restarting with individual families at mutually convenient times from Easter. This is after a break while Jan recovered from a heart operation. During Covid restrictions these proved helpful to struggling families once monthly.

After Covid restrictions eased, we met in homes and gardens with one or 2 families. When the time is right we would hope to return to after school Oasis meetings in church. The team is keen to continue Oasis children's work and Sue Hewson has enthusiastically provided craft and materials suitable for home/online meetings throughout all the changes. PRAISE GOD for all He is doing to build families and youth/children's faith in the area.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Jan Cooper and Sue Hewson, Ro Palmer, Sarah Redmond, Michael Kirby

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church has been well attended throughout the year. Children particularly enjoy the crafts and we are so lucky to have Gratz preparing and cooking the food with Sarah. We are still looking for more helpers as it is very time consuming preparing and packing up afterwards. The children and parents listen to the story on the overhead projector before crafts and questions have been raised afterwards, which is very encouraging. We are looking forward to Anjali joining us in the future.

Sandy Thompson and Mo Pearson, Leaders

CATERING COMMITTEE

The year had quite a quiet beginning for the committee who are still a reasonably small band of just four ladies. It was decided to put out a donations box and ask for contributions towards the coffee and teas served after the All Age Service on a Sunday. A notice has been added to the yellow pages sheet to this effect and the congregation have responded well.

Our first real event was at the Good Friday activities when we provided refreshments with hot cross buns for around 80 attendees. This was well received.

Saturday 6th May the committee were asked to provide teas and coffees for the televising of the Kings Coronation. Numerous donations of cakes made it a really special occasion for all who were there.

Following the appointing of Anjali the three P.C.C.s were invited to meet with her at Pilning church. St Mary's were asked to help and we provided a variety of savoury items as well as cakes for this.

Pam VR suggested we could try a Church Breakfast for 15 th October before the AA service and after the 8.30 one. Croissants, pain au chocolat, orange juice as well as coffee and tea was on offer. We were surprised and delighted by how many of the congregation turned out for this and it is perhaps something we could repeat.

The Almondsbury Village Events team approached the committee to serve teas and coffees with mince pies at their Christmas Fayre which we did, and this was held on 25 th November.

As usual we served mulled wine and homemade mince pies (donated by the congregation) after the Carol Service which is always sees the church full.

This rounded off another year at St Mary's Church.

I would like to thank everyone, the committee members and others who willingly offer their help with various events.

Rosemary Griffiths

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Greetings, the flower arrangers have produced lovely displays on a weekly basis, except during lent and advent as per the church calendar.

I would like to extend my thanks to our volunteers on behalf of the church congregation and church clergy.

We as arrangers will continue to provide an arrangement at the lectern, and pillar arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and I am sure they will continue to be enjoyed by all. I was asked if it would be at all possible to reintroduce arrangements at the altar, sadly this is not feasible as we have too few arrangers now, and this would be asking too much of them.

Sarah Redmond

BELLRINGERS

Another packed year as we truly settled back into the post-pandemic era. In terms of activities, the bells have been rung where possible on Sundays and for weddings and practice nights. There was a large amount of ringing for the various Christmas services, weddings (including my own daughter!) and activities and we even gathered enough ringers to ring at midnight on New Year's Eve 2023/ Day 2024, having failed last year!

Thanks must go to the following people.

- Gerry for maintenance, risk assessments, CCTV, and being able to see the bells in glorious technicolour, fly cleaning and just about everything else that wouldn't have been done without him!
- To Paul for his support of the ringers throughout the year and welcome Anjali
- Adam for continuing as secretary and wedding organiser and doing all the paperwork and keeping us abreast of the news and developments, locally and nationally
- To our members, guests and visitors, without whom we couldn't function.
- Tim as Treasurer and Adrian as Deputy Tower Captain
- All who support Sunday Service ringing and practices

In statistics the story of 2023 is:

Attendance on Sundays ranged from 0 to 8, with the average being 5.8 up from 5.6, the average last year. We rang on 50 of 52 Sundays and had six or more ringers on 29 of these (58% up from 52% last year), with seven or more on 12 (24% up from 23%).

Attendance on Mondays ranged from 2 to 13, with the average being 8.4 down from 8.8 on normal Mondays last year. We rang on 37 of 52 Mondays, nine of the missing Mondays being due to our decision to ring once a month at Chipping Sodbury, one to the AGM, and five to Bank holidays. We had eight or more ringers on 30 of the 37 Mondays (81% up from 61% last year) and ten or more on 14 (38% up from 18% last year). We have 13 resident ringers, one more than last year, of whom, a daughter of one of the resident ringers, is a junior.

Our ringing highlights otherwise, we achieved the first courses of Beverley and Surfleet Surprise Minor for four years, the first plain course of Erin Triples for four years, a touch of Cambridge minor, a first ever plain course of Plain Bob Major on a Sunday, the first Sunday touch of Grandsire Triples for three years, the first Sunday touch of Stedman Minimus for three years, Gerry's first touch of Grandsire doubles inside, and a touch of call changes on five with a working tenor.

We rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples to welcome Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples for the coronation of King Charles, and two other quarter peals of spliced Stedman, Plain Bob, St Martin St Simon Doubles, and a fourth quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. This total of four quarter peals is one more than the three we rang in 2022.

Visiting bands rang quarter peals of Grandsire Triples, Single Oxford Bob Triples, Plain Bob Major whilst a visiting band of Cumberland youths rang a peal of Lessness Surprise Major with full sound proofing on.

Otherwise, we rang 25 different methods versus 23 last year. These varied from Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Cloisters Doubles and Triples, Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major, Antelope Doubles, St Simon's Doubles, St Martin's Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, Stedman Doubles, Erin Doubles, Kent Minor, Single Oxford Minor, Double Oxford Bob Minor, St Clements Minor, Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Beverley Surprise Minor, Surfleet Surprise Minor, and Norwich Surprise Minor.

An attempt at Cambridge Major unfortunately didn't make the grade.

We continue with our monthly joint practice with our friends at Chipping Sodbury. This allows us to ring Surprise Minor and Major and also give the learners a chance to have a stronger band around them as they progress.

Almondsbury wrote and ran the Branch Quiz Champions in February, yielding our title to Winterbourne, (but winning it back again in 2024 by some distance!)

"A bell's not a bell 'til you ring it"

Marcus Booth, Tower Captain – Almondsbury

DEANERY SYNOD

The Bristol West Deanery Synod report was published in April 2024. It has been added below.

Clare Jefferis and Rosemary Griffiths, Deanery Synod representatives

Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report 2023

Introduction

Three Deanery Synods took place, all were held in person, unlike the two previous years when many meetings had to be conducted by Zoom.

In 2023 and the key themes were:

- **Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T**
- **Understanding the TC.T Value - Generosity**
- **DLT Elections and understanding the TC.T Value - Creativity**

March Deanery Synod:

Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T

Deanery Synod on 14 March 2023 focused upon this being a Triennial Year and exploring the missional opportunities with Bristol West. The Meeting was held in person at St Mary's Leigh Woods.

Triennial Year

Synod was reminded by the Area Dean that this is a Triennial year. Consequently, Deanery Representative will need to be elected at APCMs for a three-year term of office and in accordance with the number stipulated for parishes and united benefices.

The Deanery Synod Annual Report will be ready for circulation prior to the commencement of APCMs.

The Main Theme: Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T

The Area Dean welcomed Rob Mountain, Director of Transformation, and members of the Diocesan Transformation Team. Rob introduced the session with some slides demonstrating the reason why this Diocese is participating in the National Emerging Church programme and how this begins to translate at a local level.

Following the TCT overview, Synod broke into discussion groups to identify the active opportunities that might start to shape the projects across the Deanery that could form a focus for TCT Missional Community activities. Recognising that some of these projects could and should cross boundaries of geography, parish, deanery, denominations, inter-faith and other organizations.

Discussion output is included with these minutes (see attachment) and have been gathered under the emergent headings:

- **Activities and Events**
- **Worship and Teaching**
- **Crossing Boundaries**
- **Culture Shift**
- **Resourcing**

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Hill and Sarah Thomas updated Synod on the Deanery trip to our link Dioceses in N Uganda which took place at the end of October 2022.

May Deanery Synod:

The 'Transforming Church. Together' Value 'Generosity'

Deanery Synod on 17 May 2023 focused upon our understanding of the TC.T value – 'Generosity' - and how this is exhibited in our words and actions. The Meeting was held in person at Christ Church Clifton.

The Main Theme: Generosity, one of the four values within Transforming Church. Together

The Area Dean reminded us of the four values of the diocese, Openness, Creativity, Generosity and Bravery. We

reflected in pairs and groups on the diocesan definition,

'We value generosity and receive and give sincerely. We give our time and resources to share what we know of Jesus' love. We want our communities to feel supported and cared for in the way Jesus would do, to experience God's love through our action and an opportunity to journey into faith if they choose.'

Then in different groups we discussed what generosity looked like, we shared ideas and wrote on post it notes. There was feedback from every group, including a range of suggestions, from publicising food baskets in churches to showing generosity in our listening towards others stories.

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Lee showed slides from the trip last October and in particular of Lira Palwo clinic, the remote health clinic in Kitgum Diocese which is this year's deanery project.

October Deanery Synod:

The 'Transforming Church. Together' Value 'Creativity

Deanery Synod on 5 October 2023 focused upon DLT Elections and the TC.T value of Creativity. The Meeting was held in person at Holy Trinity, Westbury on Trym.

The Main Theme: Creativity, one of the four values within Transforming Church. Together Elections to the DLT

It was noted that there was a lack of clarity as to the purpose and functions of the DLT, action on Area Dean to circulate role descriptions for clergy and lay reps ahead of next Deanery Synod.

Creativity

Caroline Jowett-Ive, Diocesan Director of People and Bishop's Staff link to Bristol West, reported on the Transforming Church Together, TCT, 5-year programme to bring transformation with £6.8million grant. The money would help fund new roles, both full and part time, permanent and temporary, clergy and lay. Two particular new roles to note concerning clergy in our deanery, were Rev Andy Murray, now made Dean of priority communities and Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, Racial Justice coordinator.

Caroline then introduced the evening's key topic 'Creativity':

'We value creativity and we co-operate with the work of the Spirit. We are faithful, rooted in faith and responsive to the Spirit. Our communities feel inspired, this is bold and joyful faith, work and worship that engages us all. We want our communities to experience a variety of projects and worship styles, celebrating tradition and innovation in connection to God.'

Looking at the definition of creativity, the synod then discussed in small groups how creativity was and could be expressed in their parishes. The results are attached to this report.

The Uganda Link

The Revd. Janet Lee mentioned the bank issues currently being addressed and which will be shortly resolved. She also talked about the Bristol-Uganda partnership, which is now 54 years old, and that it will be an item for discussion at Bishop's Council in December.

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

For Calendar Year 2023

Section 2

Approved

Statement of Financial Accounts

As approved by the PCC on 12th March 2024
And presented to the AGM on 28 April 2024

SOFA 2023 year ending 31 December 2023

Prepared by Nick Roach - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
SOFA 2023 year ending 31 December 2023

Balance Sheet						
				As per SOFA22	End 2022 figures as corrected end 2023	31-Dec-23
		Notes		2022	2022	2023
Fixed Assets						
	Tangible			-		-
	Investments	4(b)		128,863.09	128,863.09	143,663.90
				128,863.09	128,863.09	143,663.90
CURRENT ASSETS						
	previous year liabilities not yet banked			-	-	-
	Receivables and PrePayments	5		2,947.12	2,750.64	2,850.00
	Short term deposits					
	Cash at bank and in hand	8		31,130.41	31,130.41	59,950.69
	Total Current Assets			34,077.53	33,881.05	62,800.69
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
	previous year liabilities not yet paid out by PCC				-	(200.00)
	Less Current Liabilities			(2,224.56)	(2,174.56)	(3,091.53)
	Payables falling due < 1 year	6				
	Payables should have been					
NET CURRENT ASSETS - LIABILITIES				31,852.97	31,706.49	59,509.16
TOTAL NET ASSETS - LIABILITIES				160,716.06	160,569.58	203,173.06
PARISH FUNDS						
	Unrestricted			17,282.99	17,136.51	56,354.49
	Designated (Unrestricted but broken out for clarity)			75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
	Restricted			29,104.70	29,104.70	28,757.74
	Endowment			39,328.37	39,328.37	43,060.84
				160,716.06	160,569.58	203,173.06
Update to the 2022 SOFA which overstated Parish worth due to minor error in end year accruals. As shown in the 2022 recalculated column in SOFA and Balance sheet And in the other sheets as appropriate. The 2022 SOFA corrections are: Interest paid in the HMRC Gift Aid £3.52. Removal of the expected LPOW payment (£200) as nature of work did not meet LPOW criteria. Removal of the £50 CMS payment liability from end 2022 as had already been paid out. This reduced the total parish worth from £160,716.06 to £160,569.58						
	Uncommitted Reserve stands at					41,354.49
	of which £26k came from legacy					26,000.00
	uncommitted reserve ignoring legacy					15,354.49
	uncommitted reserve end 2022					2,282.99
	Growth in uncommitted ignoring legacy					13,071.50
	increase due to share value growth					14,800.81
	Growth in uncommitted ignoring legacy and share value growth					(1,729.31)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities. For which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups (eg Mothers' Union) or informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose. They may also be used to support Restricted funds which are deficient. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that are allocated by the PCC to specific projects and purposes. They may only be re-allocated at the direction of the PCC.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantified. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The PCC owns the land on which the Doctor's Surgery and Church Rooms were constructed. The building is subject to a 125 year lease to the doctor. The underlease on the Church Rooms was held by the PCC but was sold to the surgery in 2019. In view of the long-term letting of the surgery, no value is given to the land containing this surgery.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no items with an accounting value at 31 December 2023.

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. The Consolidated Churchyard and the Frost and Miles funds are 'Permanent' Endowment funds. The former is an amalgamation of many individual gifts, funds and bequests. The latter is held under the terms of the bequests of the late Miss Frost and Mr Miles. The capital (and any associated capital growth) underpinning these funds remains locked into the Endowment funds, the income, in the form of dividends, being allocated to the respective restrictive revenue

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

accounts which remain restricted to the purpose of the underlying fund. The restricted Chancel fund contains the amalgamation of several obligations for the support of the chancel that were converted into lump sum payments a number of years ago. The Investment fund was created from some of the proceeds of the sale by the PCC of the house containing the village shop.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2023 using share values provided by the CCLA – the fund manager. NOTE that the CCLA report on share holdings and share value to 4 significant figures (for example a price per share of £22.6053 for Churchyard fund). The finance spreadsheet from which this report is printed does likewise but only displays to nearest penny. Hence some values (such as the growth in Churchyard funds) appear to be in error by 1 penny.

2 Terms Used in the Report

Agency payment or collection: The PCC acts as an agent - collecting fees for events and then paying them to event organisers. There is no income derived by the PCC (although the PCC may subsidise the event or persons and carries liability).

Agency collection of wedding and funeral fees: In previous years the receipt and payment of fees associated with weddings and funerals did not pass through the PCC bank accounts or appear in the SOFA. The exception being the payment of a fee to the PCC effectively for “hire” of the church. At the instruction of the DBF, the management of the fees associated with weddings and funerals are now a PCC responsibility but don’t directly represent income or expenditure by the PCC (apart from the “church hire” element that is a genuine PCC income stream). This is handled in the accounts as an agency activity with only the “church hire” element appearing under “Church Activities Receipts”.

Non physical funds: The PCC collects and distributes money associated with many individual funds (such as the Bell fund and the church re-ordering fund). These do not have their own specific bank account but are held within the PCC general Bank and CCLA accounts. In order to maintain separation and control of all the funds, they are managed in the treasury spreadsheet as distinct funds so that fund income, expenditure and fund balance are always known and can be presented in the end of year accounts. It also serves as an effective budget management approach.

Charity funds: These funds include all the charities for which the PCC collects money on behalf of a charity and makes corresponding payments. The PCC receives no income (or suffers any expenditure) from these funds and does not collect gift aid on them. These are shown in these accounts as Agency charities. They net out to Zero at end of the year. Either because they have already been paid out in year or are matched by a liability to pay (which normally happens in January of the next year). The PCC also directly supports charities which are funded from PCC general funds (such as the payments to missionaries in Uganda). They do not appear under the Agency charity heading.

Employment: During the year the PCC employed an organist and secretary (both part time). These employees equate to less than one full time employee. There were no associated social security costs but the secretary and organist are enrolled in the NEST pension scheme.

Payments to trustees: No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than to reimburse clearly identifiable expenditure incurred on specific purchases or in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocese for the payment of clergy and Licensed Lay Minister expenses.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
SOFA 2023 year ending 31 December 2023

INCOMING RESOURCES								
				Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Endowment 2023	Total funds £ 2023	Total funds £ 2022
				Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
	Category	Account Heading	Account Description					
2(a)	Voluntary Receipts	Planned giving	Gift Aid - Bank	39,433.38	-	-	39,433.38	40,117.02
			Gift Aid - Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-
			Other planned giving	-	-	-	-	-
		Collections at Services	Loose plate collections	463.50	-	-	463.50	150.69
			Special collections	-	-	-	-	-
		voluntary receipts	Gift Days	-	-	-	-	-
			Giving through church boxes	-	-	-	-	30.93
			Donations appeals etc.	8,664.24	710.00	-	9,374.24	5,400.10
			Cash received from Legacies	26,000.00	-	-	26,000.00	-
			Grants recurring	-	-	-	-	25.00
			Grants non-recurring one-off	50.00	-	-	50.00	200.00
			Jigsaw sales	-	-	-	-	-
		Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered	10,679.36	-	-	10,679.36	10,089.15
				85,290.48	710.00	-	86,000.48	56,012.89
			Activities for generating funds					
2(b)	Activities for generating funds	Fund Raising	Church fetes etc.	-	-	-	-	-
			Parish Magazine - advertising	11,692.00	-	-	11,692.00	9,090.93
				11,692.00	-	-	11,692.00	9,090.93
			Investment Income					
2(c)	Investment Income	Income from Investments	Dividends	1,124.71	1,062.24	-	2,186.95	1,694.78
			Bank and building society interest	1.13	-	-	1.13	-
			Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.	-	-	-	-	-
				1,125.84	1,062.24	-	2,188.08	1,694.78
			Church Activities Receipts					
2(d)	Church Activities Receipts	Receipts from church activities	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC	3,044.00	-	-	3,044.00	6,107.00
			Bookstall and magazine sales	544.00	-	-	544.00	-
			Church rooms lettings - objects related	-	-	-	-	-
				3,588.00	-	-	3,588.00	6,107.00
			Other Receipts					
2(e)	Other Receipts	Other receipts	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
			Sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
			Other funds generated e.g sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
				-	-	-	-	-
	Total Incoming PCC Resources			101,696.32	1,772.24	-	103,468.56	72,905.60
2(f)			Agency office collection	-	203.85	-	203.85	1,339.20
2(g)			Agency charity	-	4,522.19	-	4,522.19	2,659.81
2(h)			Agency Weddings & funerals	-	11,401.00	-	11,401.00	18,310.00
				-	16,127.04	-	16,127.04	22,309.01
	Total including Agency Incoming Resources			101,696.32	17,899.28	-	119,595.60	95,214.61
* The PCC acts as an agent: See Notes.								

RESOURCES EXPENDED												
					Unrestricted exc Designated 2023	Designated 2023	Total of Unrestricted, Designated, 2023	Restricted 2023	Endowment 2023	Cross check 2023	Total funds £ 2023	Total funds £ 2022
					£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Category	Account Heading		Account Description								
3(a)	Payments	Parish Share	Sub-Total	Parish share	30,008.69	-	30,008.69	-	-	30,008.69	30,008.69	51,999.96
				Clergy and Staffing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(b)		Clergy and Staffing		Salaries and wages of parish staff	8,857.28	-	8,857.28	-	-	8,857.28	8,857.28	9,241.64
				National Insurance of parish staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Pension Contributions of parish staff	655.94	-	655.94	-	-	655.94	655.94	667.82
				Tax on parish staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Working expenses of clergy	760.58	-	760.58	-	-	760.58	760.58	889.66
				Parsonage house expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Water rates - vicarage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Clergy telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Visiting speakers / locums	100.00	-	100.00	-	-	100.00	100.00	59.00
			Sub-Total		10,373.80	-	10,373.80	-	-	10,373.80	10,373.80	10,858.12
				Church Running Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(c)		Church Running Expenses		Parish training and mission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
				Church running - insurance	5,213.94	-	5,213.94	-	-	5,213.94	5,213.94	4,517.11
				Organ / piano tuning	180.00	-	180.00	-	-	180.00	180.00	450.00
				Church maintenance	1,608.39	-	1,608.39	836.69	-	2,445.08	2,445.08	7,230.76
				Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Upkeep of churchyard	30.00	-	30.00	1,891.00	-	1,921.00	1,921.00	5,613.60
				Church running - electric, oil & gas	6,395.64	-	6,395.64	-	-	6,395.64	6,395.64	2,232.04
				Church running - water	74.78	-	74.78	-	-	74.78	74.78	55.77
				Magazine expenses	10,359.48	-	10,359.48	-	-	10,359.48	10,359.48	9,213.62
				Other Church Running Expenses	3,384.10	-	3,384.10	688.83	-	4,072.93	4,072.93	2,396.01
			Sub-Total		27,246.33	-	27,246.33	3,416.52	-	30,662.85	30,662.85	31,758.91
				Church office Running Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(d)		Church office		Church office running - Printing, postage and stationery	997.78	-	997.78	-	-	997.78	997.78	1,270.82
				Church office running -	957.00	-	957.00	-	-	957.00	957.00	692.64
			Sub-Total		1,954.78	-	1,954.78	-	-	1,954.78	1,954.78	2,117.56
				Church rooms Running Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(f)		Church rooms		Church rooms running -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(e)		Church Repairs &		Church major repairs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,251.05
				Church major repairs - Bells	-	-	-	452.92	-	452.92	452.92	4,361.04
				Church major repairs - Installation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total	Church major repairs - Boiler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,398.00
					-	-	-	452.92	-	452.92	452.92	7,010.09

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
SOFA 2023 year ending December 2023

4.

FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible

The PCC owns the freeholds of the Doctor's Surgery (including what were the Church Rooms. The under lease on the Church Rooms having been bought out in 2019 (see Note 1). It also owns various items of furniture and equipment in the church and in church Rooms. All of these assets are deemed to be fully depreciated for accounting purposes.

(b) Investments

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. Details are in the Notes page.

	Funds	Investment Fund	Chancel	Churchyard	Frost & Miles	Total
			£	£	£	£
Market value on 1 January of SOFA year		81,372.36	8,162.36	19,810.15	19,518.22	128,863.09
Add increase in value		10,293.70	774.65	1,880.08	1,852.38	14,800.81
Market value on 31 December of SOFA year		91,666.06	8,937.01	21,690.24	21,370.60	143,663.90

Note that Churchyard growth over the year is rounded to nearest penny in printout. Hence appears to be in error by 1 penny. Underlying figure is correct.

5.

CURRENT ASSETS (DEBTORS)			2022	2023
HMRC - gift aid recovered *	Gift Aid recovered *	Accrued income	2,554.53	2,850.00
LPOW VAT reclaim	Grants non-recurring General	Accrued income	200.00	-
Oveston share of Clergy expenses	Working expenses of *	Accrued income	192.59	-
			2,947.12	2,850.00

6.

LIABILITIES				
Account Description	Fund			
Church repairs	Church major repair *	Accrued expense	-	(78.76)
Clergy expenses	Working expenses of General	Accrued expense	-	-
Church running utilities	Church running* General	Accrued expense	-	(1,072.58)
Church running services	Other Church running General	Accrued expense	-	-
Church office	Church office* General	Accrued expense	-	-
Bank expense from previous year	Investment* General	Accrued expense	-	-
Payment to Diocese	Agency payment to C Agency*	Accrued expense	-	(418.00)
			-	(1,569.34)

Outstanding from charity collections

Children's Society	Agency charity*	Agency charity Children's Society	**	(806.96)	(678.67)
Christian Aid	Agency charity*	Agency charity Christian Aid	*	-	-
CMS	Agency charity*	Agency charity CMS		-	-
Tearfund	Agency charity*	Agency charity Tearfund		-	(30.56)
The British Legion	Agency charity*	Agency charity The British Legion		-	(357.78)
Leprosy mission	Agency charity*	Agency charity Leprosy mission		(50.00)	-
Release International	Agency charity*	Agency charity Release International		(50.00)	-
Send a cow	Agency charity*	Agency charity Send a cow		-	-
Street life	Agency charity*	Agency charity Street life		-	-
St Peter's hospice	Agency charity*	Agency charity St Peter's hospice		(987.60)	(69.10)
Ordination Fund	Agency charity*	Agency charity Ordination Fund		-	(431.08)
Uganda link***	Agency charity*	Agency charity Uganda link		(155.00)	(155.00)
Bristol NW foodbank	Agency charity*	Agency charity Bristol NW foodbank		(125.00)	-
				(2,174.56)	(1,722.19)

* CMS liability shown in 2022 SOFA did not exist

** includes the £45 outstanding payment from 2022

*** Uganda link liability from 2022 not paid off until 2024

Assets - Liabilities

772.56 (441.53)

7.

FUNDS (See Notes for further explanation)

The total of parish assets (£215,039.14) at end of 2021 is distributed across PCC funds as shown below. Those marked Restricted contain money given by donors and can only be used for their declared purpose. Whereas those marked Designated hold money earmarked by the PCC for specific projects or purposes and can be re-assigned if the PCC so decides. The "Uncommitted Fund" equals the difference between total parish assets and all other funds. It represents the degree of freedom of the PCC to address new issues and opportunities.

		Fund type	2023	2023	2023	2023
			Balance b/f	Incoming	Resources	Transfers
			01-Jan-23	Resources	Expended	31-Dec-23
			£	£	£	£
Funds - non endowment	correct name					
Bells ABRP Fund	Bell ABRP Fund	Restricted	16,227.64	-	(1,289.61)	14,938.03
Bell Fund	Bell Fund	Designated	4,714.70	188.00	(20.00)	4,882.70
Building and Grounds	Building and Grounds Fund	Designated	30,000.00	-	-	30,000.00
Fabric *	Fabric	Restricted	-	672.00	-	(672.00)
Frost & Miles - Restricted	Frost & Miles Restricted	Restricted	-	436.57	-	(436.57)
Chancel Restricted	Chancel Restricted	Restricted	-	182.57	-	(182.57)
Churchyard -Restricted	Churchyard Restricted	Restricted	-	443.10	(1,891.00)	1,447.90
Uncommitted Fund **	General*	Unrestricted	2,136.51			(156.76)
short /medium term reserve	ShortTermReserve	Designated	5,000.00	-	-	-
long term reserve	longTermReserve	Designated	40,000.00	-	-	-
Share volatility reserve		Designated	15,000.00			
Total non endowment funds			113,078.85	1,922.24	(3,200.61)	-
Frost & Miles Fund		Endowment	19,518.22	1,852.38		21,370.60
Churchyard Fund		Endowment	19,810.15	1,880.08		21,690.24
Chancel Fund		Restricted	8,162.36	774.65		8,937.01
Grand Total			160,569.58			203,173.06
* Fabric fund contains donations dedicated to church fabric						

* Fabric fund contains donations dedicated to church fabric

** Note that the uncommitted fund fund sweeps up all available non committed money

8.

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted and Endowment

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Non endowment funds	41,354.49	94,882.70	14,938.03	-	151,175.22
CCLA investments Endowment: Frost and Miles , Churchyard	-	-	-	43,060.84	43,060.84
CCLA investments Restricted: Chancel fund	-	-	8,937.01	-	8,937.01
					203,173.06

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by bank accounts, deposits and Investments

Cash & short term deposits (Cash in hand, BMM, Current Accounts, General Reserve)		59,950.69
Investment fixed assets (Investment, Chancel, Churchyard, Frost & Miles)		143,663.90
Current assets	2,850.00	2,850.00
Liabilities	(1,569.34)	(3,291.53)
		203,173.06

Uncommitted Reserve stands at

41,354.49

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's, Almondsbury

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') to the extent described below.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC, examiner and Treasurer

Members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statement. They consider that given the relatively simple nature of the church accounts (and corresponding income and expenditure) the formal audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. The SOFA is examined by an independent examiner who is not a member of any of the PCC committees but who is a member of the congregation. Independently, the SOFA is checked against bank accounts and CCLA returns by members of the PCC who confirm that they are satisfied that the SOFA presents a true picture of the church assets held in these accounts. It is my responsibility as treasurer to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report by independent examiner

My examination of SOFA23 was carried out in accordance with good practice to ensure the consistency and accuracy of the figures and calculations. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from PCC trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that the SOFA contains any material inaccuracy.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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Accounts



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 14th May 2023

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

CONTENTS

Section 1

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

Section 2

Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022 incorporating:

- Summarised statement of financial activities for the year;
- Balance sheet as at the year end;
- Detailed notes to the accounts;
- Independent Examiner's Report.

St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

**Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2022.**

Correspondence address: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DT

PCC Members:

Rev Paul van Rossum (Associate Vicar)	Mike Jenkinson (Chair/Lay Minister)
Astrid Domingo Molyneux (Lay Minister)	Clare Jefferis (Deanery Synod)
David Thomson (Deanery Synod)	Nick Roach (Treasurer)
Liz Tierney (Safeguarding Officer and Data Protection Lead)	
Tim Jefferis (Churchwarden)	Dick Avery
Thelma Gibbs	Rosemary Griffiths
Mo Pearson	Rose Pullan
Sandy Thompson	Mike Tierney
Pam van Rossum	Judi Thomson (PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield, which is currently in vacancy.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

ASSOCIATE VICAR'S REPORT

This report relates primarily to the calendar year 2022. For the first half of the year Philip Rowe was in post as Vicar as we emerged from the pandemic and live streamed services were replaced by in-person services.

Unfortunately, the choir decided that it could not continue and disbanded. As a result, the previous pattern of three services was replaced by a new pattern of an 8.30am said Communion Service and a 10am All-Age Service.

Then, following Philip Rowe's retirement in August 2022, the role of 'vicar' has been carried out by Astrid Domingo Molyneux, Mike Jenkinson and myself working together. As well as leading services in Almondsbury, we have also taken services and funerals at St Peter's, Pilning.

As Philip wrote in his report last year, the role of the Vicar working with the Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. At St Mary's we have focused this on our Mission Statement of 'Connecting with God, each other and our community.'

We have continued to connect with God. As we moved through 2022 confidence grew and numbers at services have returned to pre-pandemic levels. For example, over 500 people took part in the two Christingle Services on Christmas Eve. Messy Church is meeting regularly every

month in Church and the monthly Saturday morning prayer meeting has continued in-person with healthy numbers attending.

We have also continued to connect with each other, particularly through the coffee time after the All-Age service. The house group has continued online and in 2023 a new weekly lady's group has started to meet in church. The Daily Thought email has also continued, with over 200 people receiving it each day.

We have connected with the community through various means. The weekly toddlers' group meets every week in Church in term-time. The ministry of the Church in being available for private prayer during the week has been enhanced by the new glass doors and underfloor heating. We continue to contribute to school life through an input to an assembly every two weeks by Pam Skelding and through the work of the foundation governors. We have continued to promote a 'Charity of the Month,' which both raises awareness and funds. We also support local agencies including the Sisters of the Church Food Bank in St Pauls, Bristol North West Home Bank, and the Salvation Army Christmas Toy appeal.

We are hugely grateful to all those who, often in unseen ways, have worked hard to enable us to do all of this in ever changing circumstances. It is through good teamwork and God's grace that the mission of St Mary's has continued to grow through the year.

We are currently working with the Diocese on the appointment of a new vicar to lead the South Severnside Benefice of Almondsbury, Pilning and Compton Greenfield. We will report on progress at the AGM.

Paul van Rossum, Associate Vicar

CHURCH WARDEN

Having been elected at the Extraordinary Parish Meeting on 10 July 2022 and then attended the on-line Archdeacon's Visitation in August, I am privileged to serve the church as Churchwarden.

I will leave matters concerning the fabric and furnishings of the church to the Finance and Buildings report and matters concerning worship and mission to the Worship and Mission report.

Following the retirement of Philip Rowe in August 2022 the church worship has been sustained by the Associate Vicar and the Licensed Lay Ministers (Paul, Astrid and Mike) and we are profoundly grateful to them for their hard work week in and week out. We are also grateful to all of the volunteers who work hard to ensure that all the church groups, activities and processes have continued. Through the efforts of all these people we have continued to offer worship, teaching and fellowship in the church and also have reached out to touch the lives of many others.

My primary focus has been on managing the process for appointing a new vicar to the South Severnside benefice. This usually takes in excess of 12 months and sometimes much longer, so I am pleased to report that we have made good progress and a timetable has been agreed, which anticipates the new incumbent taking up their post in October or November 2023.

We are working jointly with the other churches in the benefice (St Peter's Pilning and All Saints Compton Greenfield) to ensure that we can compile an accurate and compelling picture of the benefice and the three churches. We are additionally working with Father Charles Sutton (Area

Dean) and Canon Mark Pilgrim to make sure that we capture a 'personal specification' for the new incumbent that reflects the needs and opportunities of the whole benefice.

We have agreed with the diocese that the new incumbent's sole pastoral responsibilities will be the South Severnside Benefice, which will help ensure that the churches of Almondsbury, Pilning and Compton Greenfield are able to continue to serve the parishioners.

Tim Jefferis, Church Warden

WORSHIP AND MISSION

We have continued to receive reports on various aspects of the church's spiritual life and on how the church is functioning. These are considered and recommendations made to the PCC.

A new Ministerial team format is in place, following Philip's retirement in August and is working well. Paul, Mike and Astrid are getting to know the 8.30 service attendees and it is reported that they are very appreciative.

Paul is also taking a Communion Service at Pilning on the first Sunday of the month, as Philip used to do.

It is recognised how hard the ministerial team are working, especially with the extra unseen work of managing email requests and concerns as well as funerals etc. It will be a relief when a new minister is in place.

It is also recognised how an unseen army of welcomers, AV team, cleaners, Praise group members, Banner ladies, readers, prayer folk, etc pull together.

The 10.00am service is well attended and there is good 'chatting' afterwards – always a good sign of a loving community and an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to minister to the Church 'body'. The Catering team do a great job providing drinks etc.

The wider Community Services have been well attended e.g. Remembrance, Carol, Christingle. It is often commented on how the local community or visitors pop into church for some reflection time.

The Charity of the Month focus engages the congregation in looking beyond our immediate concerns.

The Tea, Toast & Prayer continues once a month and is well attended.

2 small groups are running.

Messy Church and Toddlers continue to provide a service to the community.

The Good Friday Activity morning is very busy.

*Pam van Rossum, Chair, Worship and Mission Team
and Rose Pullan, Ex-Chair, Worship and Mission Team*

BUILDINGS

Thank you everyone who has helped so much with our Finance and Buildings this year. Revd Philip Rowe, took on many F&B duties at cost to his free time and ministry. Nick Roach's work as treasurer is excellent, and the Church would be lost without the knowledge and hard work of Dick Avery, Gerry Anniss, and Graham Jeffery. Tim Jefferis has offered PCC wise strategic guidance towards prioritising our spending. We acknowledge funding from Almondsbury Charity and the H R Stephens trust.

In terms of work, we have enjoyed a small rest from quinquennial and triennial business. The diocese is yet to announce the date of the next quinquennial review, but expect it to happen next year, 2024. We have pretty well tackled all the recommendations we intended to address. The remaining "deferred work" will demand big spending in the future. The possible costs on my list, broadly in the region of £100,000, would necessitate external funding.

Our proudest achievement must be the completed chemical treatment of the vestry ceiling. This required a morning of the contractor's time, but also a huge amount of persuading, pleading and cajoling from John Ingle, Graham Jeffery and myself to get authorisation from the DAC (their adviser has strong views against chemicals). In time ceiling panels will need to be reinstalled and possibly some form of ventilation added. The Almondsbury Charity funded the redecoration of hoppers and downpipes in September. Thanks to support from the Stephen's Trust, problems with the hearing loop have been rectified.

The treasurer's report addresses our main concern - a financial shortfall. The first warnings came at the start of this church year, and the projected accounts have forced a severe reduction in our contribution to parish share (from £64000 requested versus £30000 pledged).

The church must therefore be frugal and cautious in other spending; hence delays to several items of maintenance and repair. One example of the items on hold is the felling of the Norway Spruce in the churchyard corner (notwithstanding possible future damage to graves and walls). We are seeking to reduce the frequency and cost of churchyard maintenance and grass cutting. With regards to deferred quinquennial recommendations, PCC did reject our advice to get quotes for "touching up" the Nave paintwork (my fault - I put the case clumsily). It would be worthwhile reviewing this decision, and also considering repairs or complete refurbishment of the woodblock floor in the Nave. (Both would require funding from external charities.)

Some spending has continued for reasons of safety. The lightning conductor was repaired last April. Repairs to the lights in the choir vestry await DAC advice. We are grateful to the bellringers for financial assistance towards the forthcoming replacement of spire ladders.

The costs of heating require careful monitoring, particularly as the price of fuel oil has doubled.

Finally, the current membership of F&B is depleted and, moreover, some of us will soon stand down. I would be delighted to talk to potential new members. In particular, our treasurer will be unable to continue much longer; an understudy is required in the first instance. The vital role of safety representative remains unfilled. I am slowly moving my place of worship to within walking distance of our house in Alveston, and wish to hand over to a new Chair of F&B.

Mike Tierney, Chair, Finance and Building Committee

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the accounting year (31 December 2022) our financial position continues to deteriorate. Our investment assets now stand at £128,863 as against £175,768 a year ago. A drop of £46,905 - partly due to the fall in the stock market (our funds are invested with the CofE CCLA organisation) and partly because our expenditure exceeded income and was met by drawing down investment funds.

Our 2022 income was £68,368 against an expenditure of £103,805. A deficiency of £35,437 of which £30,205 represents an operating shortfall and the rest being unusual expenditure on church infrastructure.

All of our available reserves (i.e. those not tied up in Endowments and the like) are allocated to funds such as the Bell Fund, Building and Grounds and the Long Term Reserve. These represent a commitment to the enduring survival of a strong and healthy Church – at least over our 10 year planning window. The difference between the available reserve and the various funds to which the PCC has earmarked funds stands at £2k. This represents the PCC's ability to spend without eating in to the existing fund allocations.

The PCC has already taken a substantial step towards addressing our operating shortfall in 2023 by reducing our contribution to the Parish Share to £30k per annum. This was a very difficult decision to have to make and sadly reflects a position that many of our local churches are also having to make. We still need to find substantial savings elsewhere and have plans to significantly raise our income. We have committed to considering raising our Parish Share contribution later in the year as and when our funding position improves.

The PCC is committed to continuing all the support and services that the Church currently provides:

- Keeping the church warm for services, (including weddings and funerals) and during the week days to allow folk to continue to drop in, explore the church, enjoy coffee mornings, prayer meetings and all the religious, community and social activity that the Church supports.
- Support outreach activities.
- Support children and youth services such as Messy Church and Toddlers group.
- Support our charities such as missionary services in Uganda.

Nick Roach, Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

It is the aim of St Mary's Church to develop the spiritual and social life of the children and young people in church in a safe and secure environment and to protect them from harm whenever possible. St Mary's Church also aims to provide respectful, pastoral care for adults.

The church endeavours to follow the Safeguarding Principles of the Church of England which are:

- The care and nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

In terms of Safeguarding, it is the duty of the PCC, with the incumbent, to promote a safer church for all in the church community, and to ensure there is a plan in place to raise awareness of, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community.

Because St Mary's Church provides activities for children and young people and provides pastoral care for vulnerable adults the PCC is classed as a charity. Members of the PCC, as trustee of that charity, are eligible for DBS enhanced checks under the recommendation of the Church of England and Charity Commission. They are also expected to undergo the online Basic Awareness, Foundation and Raising Awareness to Domestic Abuse Training as recommended by the Diocese of Bristol.

St Mary's Church also continues with its requirement that all those wishing to work directly with children or to undertake pastoral visits on behalf of the church must go through our internal vetting procedure and obtain Enhanced DBS clearance.

We currently have in total 28 have also been cleared to do children's work and pastoral visiting. All PCC members have had DBS checks, as required by the Charity Commission, which is an additional 6 people. During the past year we have had 2 people who have left, 3 newly recruited workers and 7 renewals, with 3 potential new recruits.

The church office keeps an up to date record of all the DBS certificates, date of issue (renewal after 3 years), level of clearance, whether children's or adult work is undertaken and what safeguarding training has been done, which the highest level is required to be refreshed every 3 years.

The Church of England now expects that all church paid staff and volunteers to receive Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of involvement in church activities. Most Basic Awareness and Foundation training continues to be undertaken online. A zoom training programme is in place for the Leadership course. Most people who were required to, have completed their refresher training over the past year.

The Church of England have made it mandatory (as from the beginning of 2022) that all PCC members, group leaders and pastoral visitors to do the Raising Awareness to Domestic Abuse Training. This is an online module which will need to be refreshed every 3 years. There is also a new online Safer Recruitment & People Management Module which the PSO and one other need to be identified to do and refresh every 3 years.

The Church office will keep a record of all training undertaken so please notify the office and the Parish Safeguarding Officer of any C of E Safeguarding training undertaken.

We continue to use the online Safeguarding Dashboard – this allows us to be able to track all the Safeguarding Policies and Processes. The PSO is responsible for the Dashboard and has editor rights – and some PCC members have read rights to the dashboard. New in January 2023, there has been an addition to the Dashboard called the Safeguarding Hub – this will allow us to enter and keep track of all DBS records and training records, and this is work in progress.

The Safeguarding Policy and guidelines have been reviewed and updated, and approved by the PCC in March 2022. This policy can be found on the Church's website, under Safeguarding and Data Protection heading.

Thank you to those who have renewed their DBS certificate this year, also those who have undergone Safeguarding training. Their commitment to Safeguarding in our church is greatly appreciated as is the support from Philip Rowe, the Ministry Team, Group Leaders and the Safeguarding Team at Diocese of Bristol. Thank you for everyone who has supported me in my role.

Liz Tierney, Parish Safeguarding Officer

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

It is nearly 5 years since the new legislation for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. Though we have left the EU, these rules will still apply.

The following can be found on the Church's Website – The Data Privacy Policy, Data Consent Form and Data Protection Procedures Policy. There are copies of the Data Consent Form in church.

Various other data consent forms are available for other areas where personal data may be displayed in the public domain – like Noticeboards, the website or the Lich Gate.

All data, apart from the Lich Gate, is kept in the Church Office. The Associate Vicar, Data Protection Lead and Parish Administrator have access to the data. The Lich Gate data is kept by the Data Protection Lead and passed onto the Lich Gate Editor for inclusion in the Lich Gate.

We as a Church MUST with all emails relating to Church business using the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) option – many of us already do use this. We must remember that not everyone wants their email address in the public domain.

Thank you to everyone who filled these Data Consent forms over the past year.

Liz Tierney, Data Protection Lead

PRAISE GROUP REPORT

What a joy to be normal again after a time of restrictions imposed during the pandemic and its aftermath. It is great to be back in church worshipping God together in words, song and with music. My thanks go to everyone for co-operating with the various impositions and still being mindful of others, even though formal restrictions have been lifted for some time.

The praise group has played throughout the year and has comprised various combinations of Astrid, Lyn, Matthew, Sandy, Simon, Jenefer, Susan, Stephen, Sue, Helen and me. Sadly, we have lost Sue, Stephen and Susan during the year, as they have moved out of the area or joined a more local church.

I would like to thank Astrid and Sandy for planning the worship each week. I would also like to thank the AV team for honing the sound and operating the projector and screens each week, allowing the whole congregation to participate in worship more effectively.

If anyone else would like to take part in the Group, as a singer or musician, they would be very welcome to join us. This could be on a regular or occasional basis, whatever suits. We are not looking for musical excellence; just a heart to work together to lead people in worship, and draw them closer to God.

Mike Jenkinson

REPORT ON BRISTOL WEST DEANERY SYNOD

Report not yet received

DIOCESE OF BRISTOL REPORT

Report not yet received

THANKS

The PCC employs Matthew Thomas as Organist and Judi Thomson as Church Administrator. All other routine activities are undertaken by volunteers and Council places on record its appreciation of these volunteers who give their time and skills to the church and community.

ADOPTION

This report was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 21st March 2023 for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14th May 2023.



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Reports from Organisations

Distributed with the Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 14th May 2023

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Report not yet received.

Sarah Redmond, Flower Organizer

THE LICH GATE

General

Following the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions and public events and meetings recommencing, external content for the magazine returned to near pre-Covid levels at the beginning of the year. The combination of post Covid recovery and the conflict in the Ukraine has led to a global cost of living increase that is affecting both advertisers and the printers.

In particular, the printers announced a price increase in December 2022 for 2023; having kept the prices stable throughout the pandemic when they themselves experienced significant loss in business revenue. This increase is 11.5%, but they did propose that it could be reduced to moving to a slightly lower grade of paper (and also reducing the number of pages). This coupled with anticipated reductions in advertisers that always accompany the new advertising year, has led to the conclusion that there is a real risk that the magazine would operate at a loss during 2023 and that significant action would be required to prevent this (and for the magazine to continue to be even produced at all).

Editorship

I did advise over a year ago that I would be giving up the role of editor at the end of January 2023, and that the February 2023 edition would be my last. This was timed to coincide with the new advertising year which starts in March. I am delighted to advise that Mr Garth Jackson has offered his services and following a formal review process managed by the PCC that he has been confirmed in this role.

Garth is a local businessman who is very active in the community and he currently runs the Almondsbury Active centre that was previously the social club on the Almondsbury Parish Hall & Recreation ground complex. The complex itself is a registered charity (managed & run by its trustees) and since taking over in January 2019, Garth has managed the facility through the entire Covid 19 pandemic and has made significant changes and improvements to its running and operations. He has already started to take on the challenges of the Lich Gate and to head off the potential issues it faces.

Distribution

Ray Daniels who has been managing the group of volunteers who deliver the magazine announced at the end of last year that he was no longer in a position to carry out this role. Mr Steve Townsley volunteered to take this activity over – commencing with the February 2023 edition (pending confirmation of the new editor – and if the magazine was to continue at all) and has acted proactively to establish the necessary contacts with the printers and with Ray for a handover

On-Line

PDF copies of the magazine are posted to the Almondsbury Community Facebook site and to a dedicated FB magazine site (339 members and increase from 229 last year). There is a dedicated Email for the magazine: editor.lichgate@yahoo.com

Printing

All issues during 2022 / 2023 were produced on time – Motion Printers of Severn beach who print it are reliable and flexible and provide a very good service. Personally, I am very happy with them and I see no reason for any change in this area even given the project price increase as these cost issues will impact all other printers and they were by far the cheapest (and best) provider when they were selected approximately six years ago.

Thanks

My grateful thanks to everyone involved with the Lich Gate magazine and for their help and support during my time as the editor. I wish Garth, John Ingle and Steve all success for the coming year I have met with Garth and a member of his staff who will be working on the magazine, I am in the process of handing over to them and I will continue to be available to help in any way I can for as long as they can put up with me.

Edward Ranger, Editor

CHILDREN'S WORK

The children's group meets each week throughout the year during the All- Age service. There are about 5 regular attendees and sometimes more children who are visiting. There is no Youth group.

Last year's Good Friday Activity morning was very well attended with 56 children and 40 adults in addition to our helpers. People had returned after our last two Easter lockdown videos.

An Elevensies event with Treasure Hunts, was held after the service at the beginning of September to 'kick off' the term. It was quite well attended with a good buzz including younger children and Dads. It did not, however, bring in extra families to the service before.

The Toy and Gift Service with pop up Nativity, included a few extra children but numbers were lower than expected. Several bags of toys were taken to the Salvation Army hub at Staple Hill.

The Christingles were as popular as ever, especially the second one. There were about 500 attendees of which a large proportion were children and young adults. £762 was collected for the Children's Society.

Pam van Rossum

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

Toddlers is growing. We have 5 lovely new mums who have met and made friends, and sit together every week! The Glebe wheel in ladies from the home and we give them tea and coffee. They love to watch the children and shake shakers and join in with singing nursery rhymes! We have grandmas and parents, mums and some dads. The heating is a bit hit or miss though and it is often cold in the lady chapel. We are thinking maybe we need a heater to switch on in the lady chapel.

Sandy Thompson, Leader

OASIS GROUP

The group that meets after school monthly on Mondays is still on hold following Jan's operation. We fully intend to have our group start again when warmer weather comes!

The families keep in touch as friends and it would be good to meet for prayer when possible to prepare for the coming season.

Thanks for all helpers and the support of the wider church.

Jan Cooper and team (Sandy, Sue, Ro and Michael)

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church is very well attended and numbers are growing. We have between 60-70 parents and children attending each month. We have a short Introduction after the children have a drink and biscuit then a child friendly bible story on the overhead screen followed by a song. 6-7 crafts related to the story are set up on tables for the children to spend an hour doing them. Grace is sung before the children have a meal. Sessions usually run for 2 hours. Mo and I are very grateful to our dedicated team without their help it would not be possible to undertake this important mid-week ministry.

Sandy Thompson and Mo Pearson, Leaders

CATERING COMMITTEE

I took over the running of the catering committee when Alison and Philip retired last summer.

The first big event we ran without Alison was the Cream Teas for the Village Fete. This raised a considerable amount for St Peter's Hospice.

Songs of Praise 19th June held in the vicarage garden after which cake and tea / coffees were served.

Messy church has continued to thrive and the ladies who serve up meals from the kitchen are to be applauded for the sterling work that they do. However, apart from overseeing the use of the kitchen the committee does not get involved.

A Parish Lunch was held in the vicarage garden on Sunday 17th July Over fifty people were served with a ploughman's lunch plus desserts.

The church's farewell and presentation service to Philip and Alison was held on the 7th August and was followed by cake, pastries and tea / coffee.

Unfortunately we lost a valuable member of the team when Liz Tierney resigned from the committee. The number of members now stands at only four.

18th December the committee served mince pies and mulled wine after the carol service. It went very well.

The committee decided there was a need for a Policy For The Use Of The Kitchen and therefore one was drawn up and approved by the PCC.

Since a visitor to the church was observed in the kitchen it was decided for reasons of hygiene to keep the kitchen locked.

The cleaning of the kitchen was initially done by Pam Skelding's team of volunteers. However it has since been decided that as the kitchen is cleaned after every use this is no longer needed.

The coffee rota continues to be a bit of a problem but after a recent appeal we have a few new volunteers.

I would like to thank everyone, the committee members and others who willingly offer their help with various events.

Rosemary Griffiths

BELLRINGERS

Dare I say that 2022 was the year we regained a degree of "normality"? In terms of activities, the bells have been rung where possible on Sundays and for weddings and practice nights. There was a large amount of ringing for the various Christmas services and activities with the only disappointment the lack of ringers to ring at midnight on New Year's Eve 2022/ Day 2023.

Thanks must go to the following people.

- Gerry for maintenance, risk assessments, CCTV, and being able to see the bells in glorious technicolour, fly cleaning and just about everything else that wouldn't have been done without him!
- To Philip and Paul for their support of the ringers throughout the year and we wish Philip a very happy retirement
- Adam for continuing as secretary and wedding organiser and doing all the paperwork and keeping us abreast of the news and developments, locally and nationally as well as being "Statto", with all the facts and figures below.
- To our members, guests and visitors, without whom we couldn't function.
- Tim as Treasurer and Adrian as Deputy Tower Captain
- Welcome back Steve and Julia 😊

In statistics the story of 2022 is:

- Attendance on Sundays ranged from 3 to 9, with the average being 5.6 down from 5.9, the average on normal Sundays last year. We rang on all 52 Sundays and had six or more ringers on 27 of these (52%, the same as on normal Sundays last year), seven or more on 12 (23% down from 24%).
- Attendance on Mondays ranged from 0 to 12, with the average being 8.4 down from 8.8 on normal Mondays last year. We rang for 33 of 52 Mondays, 12 of the missing Mondays being due to our decision to ring once a month at Chipping Sodbury, one to the AGM, one to the death of

the Queen, three to Bank holidays, and two to lack of ringers. We had eight or more ringers on 20 or 33 Mondays (61% up from 58% on normal Mondays last year) and ten or more on 6 Mondays (18% down from 25% on normal Mondays last year).

- We have 12 resident ringers, four more than last year. Although none of the 12 are juniors, a daughter of one of the twelve has begun learning to ring.

Our ringing highlights were a touch of Primrose Minor, a touch of Kent Minor, a touch of Little Bob Minor, and a 240 of Plain Bob Doubles rung on the back six.

We rang a touch of 280 changes of Plain Bob Triples on 9 September to mark the death of the Queen and we rang three quarter peals in 2022 whereas we had rung none in 2021. These were:

- On 20 February a quarter of Plain Bob Triples to celebrate the life of Don Haskins who served as our tower captain for many years.
- On 2 June a quarter of Plain Bob Triples to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- On 7 August a quarter of Plain Bob Triples to mark the retirement of Philip Rowe, our vicar of 25 years
- A visiting band from Milton in Oxfordshire rang a peal of 5040 changes of Lambda Alliance Major on 12 November.

Otherwise, we rang 23 different methods versus 17 last year. These varied from Rounds to Norwich Surprise Minor taking in Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Single Court Minimus, Reverse Bob Minimus, Double Bob Minimus, Cloisters, Nervous Breakdown, Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Minimus, Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major, St Simon's Doubles, St Martin's Doubles, St Nicholas Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, Stedman Doubles, Erin Doubles, Bob Minor, St Clements Minor, Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor, Brussels Sprout Minor, Thelwall Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor, King Edward Surprise Minor, and Norwich Surprise Minor.

We held an open day in the church and the ringing chamber for members of the church and the wider village to come and see what we do. We attracted at least 30 people of all ages into the tower and many of these braved the steep stairs into the belfry, whilst others took in the view via the CCTV cameras there. In the church 2 videos ran showing the restoration project, and we were well entertained by the fabulous handbell ringers and fed royally with tea and cake. It was a really great opportunity to show what we're about and we will look to hold another event in the Summer.

Members and friends lost were Brian and Wendy Goodliffe, and again we wish them well in their new home. And our thoughts with James Read as he continues to help nurse his partners' mother through illness.

We continue with our monthly joint practice with our friends at Chipping Sodbury. This allows us to ring Surprise Minor and Major and also give the learners a chance to have a stronger band around them as they progress.

Branch practices resumed, but not the quiz, so Almondsbury continued to be the reigning Quiz Champions until February 11th when we were the Quizmasters and yielded our title.

"A bell's not a bell 'til you ring it"

Marcus Booth, Tower Captain – Almondsbury

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

Section 2

Approved

Statement of Financial Accounts

(As approved by the 14th May 2023 AGM)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2022

[illegible]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2022

Balance Sheet						
				As per SOFA21	End 2021 figures as corrected end 2022	31-Dec-22
		Notes		2021	2021	2022
Fixed Assets						
	Tangible			-		-
	Investments	4(b)		175,768.35	175,768.35	128,863.09
				175,768.35	175,768.35	128,863.09
CURRENT ASSETS						
	previous year liabilities not yet banked			-	-	-
	Receivables and PrePayments	5		12,171.97	6,261.99	2,947.12
	Short term deposits					
	Cash at bank and in hand	8		28,196.17	28,196.17	31,130.41
	Total Current Assets			40,368.14	34,458.16	34,077.53
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
	previous year liabilities not yet paid out by PCC			-	-	
	Less Current Liabilities			(1,097.35)	(1,097.35)	(2,224.56)
	Payables falling due < 1 year	6				
	Payables should have been					
NET CURRENT ASSETS - LIABILITIES				39,270.79	33,360.81	31,852.97
TOTAL NET ASSETS - LIABILITIES				215,039.14	209,129.16	160,716.06
PARISH FUNDS						
	Unrestricted			31,850.30	25,940.31	17,282.99
	Designated (Unrestricted but broken out for clarity)			102,707.81	102,707.81	75,000.00
	Restricted			35,871.90	35,871.91	29,104.70
	Endowment			44,609.14	44,609.14	39,328.37
				215,039.15	209,129.16	160,716.06
correction for missing assets/ liabilities at end previous year						
Corrected Total						
Updates to the 2021 SOFA which overstated Parish worth due to 2 end year assets being added in twice.: As shown in the 2021 recalculated column in SOFA and Balance sheet And in the other sheets as appropriate The 2021 SOFA included the HMRC Gift Aid recovered twice. As expected from the 2021 submission and as paid by HMRC on 17Jan22. The 2021 SOFA included the VAT reclaim from DCMS twice. As expected in submission and as paid by DCMS on 10Jan22 Hence assets revalued from £12,171.97 to £6,261.99 This reduction in end year assets reduces the Parish Funds at end 2021 and equally reduces the incoming resource in SOFA22 by same amount.						

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities. For which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups (eg Mothers' Union) or informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose. They may also be used to support Restricted funds which are deficient. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that are allocated by the PCC to specific projects and purposes. They may only be re-allocated at the direction of the PCC.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantified. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The PCC owns the land on which the Doctor's Surgery and Church Rooms were constructed. The building is subject to a 125 year lease to the doctor. The underlease on the Church Rooms was held by the PCC but was sold to the surgery in 2019. In view of the long-term letting of the surgery, no value is given to the land containing this surgery.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no items with an accounting value at 31 December 2022.

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. The Consolidated Churchyard and the Frost and Miles funds are 'Permanent' Endowment funds. The former is an amalgamation of many individual gifts, funds and bequests. The latter is held under the terms of the bequests of the late Miss Frost and Mr Miles. The capital (and any associated capital growth) underpinning these funds remains locked into the Endowment funds, the income, in the form of dividends, being allocated to the respective restrictive revenue

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

accounts which remain restricted to the purpose of the underlying fund. The restricted Chancel fund contains the amalgamation of several obligations for the support of the chancel that were converted into lump sum payments a number of years ago. The Investment fund was created from some of the proceeds of the sale by the PCC of the house containing the village shop.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2022.

2 Terms Used in the Report

Agency payment or collection: The PCC acts as an agent - collecting fees for events and then paying them to event organisers. There is no income derived by the PCC (although the PCC may subsidise the event or persons and carries liability).

Agency collection of wedding and funeral fees: In previous years the receipt and payment of fees associated with weddings and funerals did not pass through the PCC bank accounts or appear in the SOFA. The exception being the payment of a fee to the PCC effectively for "hire" of the church. At the instruction of the DBF, the management of the fees associated with weddings and funerals are now a PCC responsibility but don't directly represent income or expenditure by the PCC (apart from the "church hire" element that is a genuine PCC income stream). This is handled in the accounts as an agency activity with only the "church hire" element appearing under "Church Activities Receipts".

Non physical funds: The PCC collects and distributes money associated with many individual funds (such as the Bell fund and the church re-ordering fund). These do not have their own specific bank account but are held within the PCC general Bank and CCLA accounts. In order to maintain separation and control of all the funds, they are managed in the treasury spreadsheet as distinct funds so that fund income, expenditure and fund balance are always known and can be presented in the end of year accounts. It also serves as an effective budget management approach.

Charity funds: These funds include all the charities for which the PCC collects money on behalf of a charity and makes corresponding payments. The PCC receives no income (or suffers any expenditure) from these funds and does not collect gift aid on them. These are shown in these accounts as Agency charities. They net out to Zero at end of the year. Either because they have already been paid out in year or are matched by a liability to pay (which normally happens in January of the next year). The PCC also directly supports charities which are funded from PCC general funds (such as the payments to missionaries in Uganda). They do not appear under the Agency charity heading.

Employment: During the year the PCC employed an organist and secretary (both part time). These employees equate to less than one full time employee. There were no associated social security costs but the secretary and organist are enrolled in the NEST pension scheme.

Payments to trustees: No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than to reimburse clearly identifiable expenditure incurred on specific purchases or in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocese for the payment of clergy and Licensed Lay Minister expenses.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2022

2	INCOMING RESOURCES											
				31 January 2023				Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds £ 2022	Total funds £
							2022	2022	2022			2021
	Category	Account Heading	Account Description	Account description	Account description for formulae	fund						
				Voluntary receipts								
2(a)	Voluntary Receipts	Planned giving	Gift Aid - Bank	Gift Aid - Bank	Gift Aid - Bank			40,117.02	-	-	40,117.02	43,202.50
			Gift Aid - Envelopes	Gift Aid - Envelopes	Gift Aid - Envelopes			-	-	-	-	850.00
			Other planned giving	Other planned giving	Other planned giving			-	-	-	-	-
		Collections at Services	Loose plate collections	Loose plate collections	Loose plate collections			150.69	-	-	150.69	-
			Special collections	Special collections	Special collections			-	-	-	-	-
		voluntary receipts	Gift Days	Gift Days	Gift Days			-	-	-	-	-
			Giving through church boxes	Giving through church boxes	Giving through church boxes			30.93	-	-	30.93	22.20
			Donations appeals etc.	Donations appeals etc.	Donations appeals etc.			4,310.44	1,089.66	-	5,400.10	6,855.92
			Cash received from Legacies	Cash received from Legacies	Cash received from Legacies			-	-	-	-	-
			Grants recurring	Grants recurring	Grants recurring			-	25.00	-	25.00	930.20
			Grants non-recurring one-off	Grants non-recurring one-off	Grants non-recurring one-off			200.00	-	-	200.00	2,890.67
			Jigsaw sales	Jigsaw sales	Jigsaw sales			-	-	-	-	-
		Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered			10,089.15	-	-	10,089.15	10,788.74
						Sub-Total		54,898.23	1,114.66	-	56,012.89	65,540.23
2(b)	Activities for generating funds	Fund Raising	Church fetes etc.	Church fetes etc.	Church fetes etc.			-	-	-	-	-
			Parish Magazine - advertising	Parish Magazine - advertising	Parish Magazine - advertising			9,090.93	-	-	9,090.93	9,760.00
						Sub-Total		9,090.93	-	-	9,090.93	9,760.00
2(c)	Investment Income	Income from Investments	Dividends	Dividends	Dividends			281.31	1,413.47	-	1,694.78	1,389.11
			Bank and building society interest	Bank and building society interest	Bank and building society interest			-	-	-	-	-
			Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.	Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.	Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.			-	-	-	-	-
						Sub-Total		281.31	1,413.47	-	1,694.78	1,389.11
2(d)	Church Activities Receipts	Receipts from church activities	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC			5,707.00	400.00	-	6,107.00	5,501.00
			Bookstall and magazine sales	Bookstall and magazine sales	Bookstall and magazine sales			-	-	-	-	-
			Church rooms lettings - objects related	Church rooms lettings - objects related	Church rooms lettings - objects related			-	-	-	-	-
						Sub-Total		5,707.00	400.00	-	6,107.00	5,501.00
2(e)	Other Receipts	Other receipts	Insurance claims	Insurance claims	Insurance claims			-	-	-	-	-
			Sales of fixed assets	Sales of fixed assets	Sales of fixed assets			-	-	-	-	-
			Other funds generated e.g sale of investments	Other funds generated e.g sale of investments	Other funds generated e.g sale of investments			-	-	-	-	2.90
						Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	2.90
	Total Incoming PCC Resources							69,977.47	2,928.13	-	72,905.60	82,193.24
2(f)			Agency office collection	Agency collection	<Agency Wedding*			-	1,339.20	-	1,339.20	242.00
2(g)			Agency charity	Agency charity col	Agency charity*			-	2,659.81	-	2,659.81	884.30
2(h)			Agency Weddings & fu	Agency collection	Agency Wedding*			-	18,310.00	-	18,310.00	18,866.00
						Sub-Total		-	22,309.01	-	22,309.01	19,992.30
	Total including Agency Incoming Resources							69,977.47	25,237.14	-	95,214.61	102,185.54
* The PCC acts as an agent: See Notes.												

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2022

5	RESOURCES EXPENDED										
				Unrestricted exc Designated	Designated	Total of Unrestricted, Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds £ 2022	Total funds £ 2021	
				£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
	Category	Account Heading	Account Description								
3(a)	Payments	Parish Share	Sub-Total	Parish share	51,999.96	-	51,999.96	-	-	51,999.96	51,999.96
3(b)		Clergy and Staffing		Salaries and wages of parish staff	10,155.00	-	10,155.00	-	-	10,155.00	9,241.64
				National Insurance of parish staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Pension Contributions of parish staff	749.63	-	749.63	-	-	749.63	667.82
				Tax on parish staff	5.80	-	5.80	-	-	5.80	-
				Working expenses of clergy	1,134.26	-	1,134.26	-	-	1,134.26	889.66
				Parsonage house expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Water rates - vicarage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Clergy telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Visiting speakers / locums	-	-	-	-	-	-	59.00
			Sub-Total		12,044.69	-	12,044.69	-	-	12,044.69	10,858.12
				Church Running Expenses							
				Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(c)		Church Running Expenses		Parish training and mission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church running - insurance	4,869.21	-	4,869.21	-	-	4,869.21	4,517.11
				Organ / piano tuning	168.00	-	168.00	-	-	168.00	450.00
				Church maintenance	3,138.06	-	3,138.06	801.60	-	3,939.66	7,230.76
				Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	-	2,130.00	-	2,130.00	5,613.60
				Church running - electric, oil & gas	6,179.89	-	6,179.89	-	-	6,179.89	2,232.04
				Church running - water	85.00	-	85.00	-	-	85.00	55.77
				Magazine expenses	9,460.00	-	9,460.00	-	-	9,460.00	9,213.62
				Other Church Running Expenses	2,794.93	-	2,794.93	981.72	-	3,776.65	2,396.01
			Sub-Total		26,695.09	-	26,695.09	3,913.32	-	30,608.41	31,758.91
				Church office Running Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(d)		Church office		Church office running - Printing, postage and stationery	1,492.40	-	1,492.40	-	-	1,492.40	1,270.82
				Church office running -	892.26	-	892.26	-	-	892.26	692.64
			Sub-Total		2,384.66	-	2,384.66	-	-	2,384.66	2,117.56
				Church rooms Running Costs							
3(f)		Church rooms		Church rooms running - oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church Repairs & Maintenance							
3(e)		Church Repairs &		Church major repairs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,251.05
				Church major repairs - Bells	-	-	-	5,655.00	-	5,655.00	4,361.04
				Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church major repairs - Boiler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,398.00
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	5,655.00	-	5,655.00	7,010.09
3(e)		Church rooms		Church rooms + major repairs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
				Church rooms + major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
				Church rooms + interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(g)		Mission Giving and		Mission Giving and Donations	150.00	-	150.00	1,050.00	-	1,200.00	1,200.00
				Giving to missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.00
				Giving - relief and	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Other donations to support wider mission work outside the Parish.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		150.00	-	150.00	1,050.00	-	1,200.00	1,205.00
3(h)		Fund Raising Activities		Fees paid to fund raisers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(i)		Cost of generating funds		Cost of generating funds							
				Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of stewardship campaign	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of fetes & other events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(j)		Governance Costs		Governance Costs							
				Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.90
				Independent Examination Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of trustee training/Pcc meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	9.90
3(m)		All Other payments		All Other payments							
				Purchase of Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Purchase of new staff housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(k)				Church Re_ordering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(l)				Church Audio_Visual	-	-	-	-	-	-	792.19
				Bank charges	84.02	-	84.02	-	-	84.02	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	84.02	792.19
				Total Outgoing PCC Resources	93,274.40	-	93,274.40	10,618.32	-	103,976.74	105,751.73
3(n)				Agency payment excluding Weddings, funerals, charities	-	-	-	1,421.90	-	1,421.90	302.85
3(o)				Agency payments for Wedding & funerals	-	-	-	18,664.00	-	18,664.00	18,888.47
3(p)				Agency payment to charities	-	-	-	2,659.81	-	2,659.81	879.31
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	22,745.71	-	22,745.71	20,070.63
				Total 9 including Agency Outgoing Resources	93,274.40	-	93,274.40	33,364.03	-	126,722.45	125,822.36
	See Notes for declaration on PCC employees and no expenses paid to trustees										

See Notes for declaration on PCC employees and no expenses paid to trustees

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending December 2022

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Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's, Almondsbury

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') to the extent described below.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC, examiner and Treasurer

Members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statement. They consider that given the relatively simple nature of the church accounts (and corresponding income and expenditure) the formal audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. The SOFA is examined by an independent examiner who is not a member of any of the PCC committees but who is a member of the congregation. Independently, the SOFA is checked against bank accounts and CCLA returns by members of the PCC who confirm that they are satisfied that the SOFA presents a true picture of the church assets held in these accounts. It is my responsibility as treasurer to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

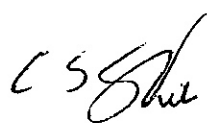
Basis of this Report by independent examiner

My examination of SOFA22 was carried out in accordance with good practice to ensure the consistency and accuracy of the figures and calculations. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from PCC trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

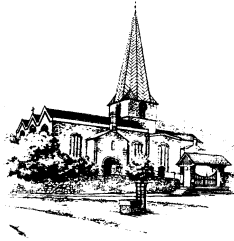
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that the SOFA contains any material inaccuracy.
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


A S G kite
2/5/23

*All looks in order and
ready to sign*

Accounts



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 8th May 2022

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

CONTENTS

Section 1

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

Section 2

Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2021 incorporating:

- Summarised statement of financial activities for the year;
- Balance sheet as at the year end;
- Detailed notes to the accounts;
- Independent Examiner's Report.

St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

**Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2021.**

Correspondence address: The Vicarage, 3 Sundays Hill, Almondsbury, BS32 4DS

PCC Members:

Rev Philip Rowe (Vicar)	Rev Paul van Rossum (Associate Vicar)
Nick Roach (Treasurer)	Mike Jenkinson (Chair/Lay Minister)
Astrid Domingo Molyneux (Lay Minister)	Alison Rowe (Deanery Synod)
David Thomson (Deanery Synod)	Clare Jefferis (Deanery Synod)
Liz Tierney (Safeguarding Officer and Data Protection Lead)	
Mike Tierney	Dick Avery
Rose Pullan	Rosemary Griffiths
Tim Jefferis	Sandy Thompson
Judi Thomson (PCC Secretary)	

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield, of which the Reverend Philip W Rowe is Incumbent.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

VICAR'S REPORT

The role of the Vicar together with the PCC is defined as the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. At St Mary's we have focused this with our Mission Statement of 'Connecting with God, each other and our community.'

2021 was largely dominated by the covid pandemic. My first reflection is to thank God for his faithfulness in bringing St Mary's through this challenging time. At the very beginning of the first lock down I prayed in the Church building, which was built over 850 years ago, that our Heavenly Father would bring us through the pandemic to come as he did through other plagues the building had witnessed such as the black death. This he has done.

We have continued to connect with God. This year public worship continued in the Church building every Sunday and we finished 2021 with about 60% of the congregation we had in 2019. We have also continued to live stream a service each Sunday. Sadly the 9.15am choral service did not restart so we finished the year with the 8.30am said Holy Communion Service and 10am All-age Service. It has been good to see some children returning to the All-age service. Our monthly Saturday morning prayer meeting continued online and has now returned to being in person.

We have connected with each other as covid restrictions have permitted. The coffee time after the All-age service has seemed particularly precious. We have also restarted Messy Church in the Church building and the Oasis team has continued to keep contact with families online. The house group has continued online and we resumed our nurture programme with the 'Discipleship Explored' course. The Daily Thought on email has brought spiritual food and a sense of belonging to St Mary's.

We have connected with the community through various means. The weekly toddlers group has restarted in the Church. The ministry of the Church being used for private prayer during the week has been enhanced by the new glass doors, the hard work invested in cleaning the Church and the new under floor heating. The Archdeacon of Bristol said he felt the welcome of God. We continue with our contribution to school life including an assembly each week and the faithful work of the foundation governors. We continue to support a cause each month and to practically contribute to local agencies including the Sisters' of the Church Food Bank, Bristol North Home Bank, and the Salvation Army Christmas Toy appeal.

I am so grateful to all those who, often in unseen ways, have worked hard to enable us to do all this in ever changing circumstances. It is through good teamwork and God's grace the mission of St Mary's has continued over this year. Someone commented that St Mary's is a happy ship. Thank you.

With a heavy heart I announced that I would be retiring from stipendiary ministry in August 2022 to serve in re-tire-ment. I thank God for over 25 good years in Almondsbury and the fellowship I have enjoyed with so many. The time is right for a fresh start for St Mary's. It is my prayer that God will guide the right person to you as your new Vicar and also you continue to make these connections in the normal with the reordered building.

With my gratitude and prayers,

Philip Rowe

WORSHIP AND MISSION

The Worship and Mission Team of the PCC acts as a focal point for consideration of how we, as a church and as individuals, can grow as Christians and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the report last year, I said that, 'in 2020 Worship and Mission will be considering how best we can use the newly reordered building towards this end.' As we know, the restrictions which started in 2020 continued through 2021, albeit with varying levels of severity. This continued to delay new initiatives. Hopefully, these can now be progressed.

As an experiment and to test their viability, we planned to return to having three services from 12 September: 8am Said Holy Communion, 9.15am Sung Holy Communion with the Choir, and 10.45am All-age Service with the Praise Group. This enabled us to ascertain how many people wished to resume attending these services and if there was someone to organise each service in the absence of a churchwarden. In the light of the results the PCC decided that, from Sunday 3 October, we would have two regular services each Sunday, at 8am Said Holy Communion (livestreamed) and 10am All-Age Service. From 7 November the 8am service moved to 8.30am. This pattern continues.

On Remembrance Sunday a short service was held in church before we processed to the war memorial where the Bidding, Act of Remembrance and two-minute silence were held. At the end of November, we resumed the Toy and Gift Service, including a pop-up nativity. The toys and gifts received were distributed to needy family through the Salvation Army. On Christmas Eve, an outdoor Christingle Service was held in the vicarage garden. Over 100 people braved the increasingly heavy rain!

Resuming in-person activities such as coffee after services, an Alpha Group, the monthly prayer meeting, and other business meetings, has helped to strengthen personal relationships. Some other activities and meetings, such as the House Group, have continued on Zoom.

Normally, each month a different charity is the focus for the church's outward giving. Unfortunately, during 2021 these arrangements continued to be curtailed as a result of the various restrictions required by the pandemic.

The church supports the Diocese's current Creating Connections vision: Connecting with God, Connecting with each other, and Connecting with our communities. Within this vision there is a focus on the four priorities of Making Disciples, Growing Leaders, Engaging Younger Generations, and Encouraging Generosity.

During 2021 the Diocese, in consultation with parishes, has been developing a new vision. As the diocese puts it: 'Transforming Church Together is a process to discern and develop the next vision and strategy for the Diocese of Bristol, and was started in January 2021. We want to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and create a positive way forward together.'

'Vision, Purpose, Values and Outcomes have been discerned as follows:

Our vision

Humanity reconciled, creation restored.

Our purpose

To follow Jesus. To serve others. To transform communities.

Our values

- Openness: we value openness and are loving and open to all
- Generosity: we value generosity and receive and give sincerely
- Creativity: we value creativity and we cooperate with the work of the Spirit
- Bravery: we value bravery – we are courageous with our voices and our actions

Outcomes

These four key outcomes express where we believe God is calling us in our mission in the coming years.

1. To have a form of church in every community, and one church to which all can belong
2. To have people who worship God in every aspect of their lives, and throughout their whole lives
3. For the diocese to be recognised as a powerful force for gospel change
4. For the diocese to have sustainable finances'

In 2022 the Diocese will be working on how to achieve these four outcomes.

Living in Love and Faith is a national church initiative which encourages the whole church to think more deeply about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage in the bigger context of being human. This work will be progressing during 2022.

Finally, I am grateful to Rose Pullan for taking over as Chair of the Worship and Mission Team from January 2022.

Paul van Rossum, Chair, Worship and Mission Team

BUILDINGS

There follows a summary report on the more significant items of work that have been carried out in and around the church. I acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of my friends on the F&B team, and funding from the Almondsbury Charity and the H. Stevens Trust.

Quinquennial Report

A final and revised report was issued in August 2020. Most recommendations categorised as "immediate attention" and "completion within 12 months" have been dealt with, with the exception of work on the Vestry roof. There has been good progress with recommendations "for completion within the quinquennial" - that is, before 2025. The PCC has agreed to defer some of these items until after 2025, along with longer term items identified by the Church's architect.

In 2021 passers-by would have witnessed the completion of three projects. A team of steeplejacks renovated the spire downpipes and box gutters, and new box gutters now serve the North Porch. The window opening in the North Vestry has been overhauled with new lead lining and the casement part now opens smoothly. There have also been conservation repairs to the base of the porch and repair to the door to the tower. Two church gates have been replaced (evident minor problems with staining will be tackled in Spring). Other work relating to frost damaged walls, electrical repairs and miscellaneous repairs and redecoration has been completed.

The vestry roof has caused some concern. Woodworm has been evident for the last three or so years. Our architect investigated further in April and suggests that rainwater was trapped in the truss volume after work to replace the lead roof in 2009. The Diocesan Advisors had for some time been reluctant to accept chemical treatment of the rafters. I am now hopeful that they are persuaded, but we need to find a means of ventilating and drying the affected zone. The construction of the ceiling truss makes ventilation less than straightforward.

The important work to be completed before 2025 includes maintenance of the church's remaining downpipes and gutters, a satisfactory solution to the Vestry problem, and patch pointing on lower parts of the nave.

The PCC agreed to postpone some items until after the next Quinquennial inspection in 2025. These include: refurbishment of wood-block flooring in the Nave, redecoration of areas of faded paintwork in the nave, investigations in the Lady Chapel and on the Chester-Master monument, options to improve lighting in the Nave and Aisles (at Architect's estimated cost of £20,000), resurfacing the upper section of the tarmac path. The architect's suggestions of items for longer-term attention include reroofing the North Transept.

Triennial Visit

On 8th June we had a positive meeting with Michael Johnson, Associate Archdeacon, and Rachel Stewart. Their report identifies only one action: it would be helpful to take new photos of the hallmarks of the silverware and add them to the terrier as well as storing them digitally.

Other Items

Limited finances and the urgency of the Quinquennial works have delayed several items of work. Following completion of some of the larger Quinquennial works F&B will, throughout 2022, prioritise other repairs and future projects for the attention of PCC. Accordingly, the treasurer has now renamed the Quinquennial Fund as the "Fabric Fund". Proposed items include: repairs and cleaning of the organ; repairs to the sundial and processional cross; installation of solar panels; cleaning of stained glass windows; repainting the interior of the church; repairs and polishing of the nave floor; replacement pew ends; modification to drainage at the West Door; long term reserved fund for installation of heat pump. A new bench was purchased with a donation.

PCC approved changes to working procedures, partly intended to improve our liaison with external charities. PCC will nominate a person to manage each substantial piece of work (obtaining quotes, drafting applications to DAC, drafting applications to charities), and signing off its satisfactory completion. To ease communication all applications to Almondsbury Charity are to be made through the F&B Chair. Likewise, all invoices for building work should be passed to the F&B chair in the first instance.

A number of minor tasks arise regularly throughout the year, akin to minor repairs and modifications in our own homes. To ensure these are delegated widely a list of tasks will be made available to volunteers. F&B and PCC should discuss setting up work parties.

Mike Tierney, Chair, Finance and Building Committee

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the financial year (31 December 2021) our financial position has again deteriorated on account of the covid pandemic. We still have considerable reserves but need to think about what action to take to address our day to day operating loss of just under £10k over the course of the year. Not as bad as the £18,500 loss last year but has been substantially helped out by the considerable rise in our investment fund rather than by increased church income. As I wrote last year, I would hope our position will further improve as we emerge from the covid threat but I would still expect us to make a substantial operating loss over this current year and perhaps for a year or so afterwards. That's always assuming that inflation does not take off or the international situation does not deteriorate further.

Our end year reserve stands at just over £215k but over £200k of this is tied up in existing commitments and endowment investments (where we can only access the dividends). This includes funds that the PCC has designated for specific projects such as a long term commitment to move to a green source of heating and funds that have been provided through grants and donations and can only be used for the purpose for which they were raised. An example being the over £20k that remains in the Bell restoration fund and will remain indefinitely as a Bell fund to complete the bell restoration project and provide long term support for the health of our church bells.

Our uncommitted funds (those not earmarked by the PCC for a specific purpose) stand at £15k. By comparison, at the end of 2019 uncommitted funds stood at £43k. Although the PCC is not aware of any specific spending obligation for which we haven't earmarked funds our experience is that new demands and problems can and do emerge at very short notice. Just as importantly, the large reduction in uncommitted funds greatly restricts our ability to respond rapidly in respect of mission and charity relief. Of course we can conduct fund raising for such purposes but, although we know that our church and community members are very generous, this takes time to organise and desperate humanitarian need can arise almost overnight.

Nick Roach, Treasurer

CHURCH REORDERING

The report last year included information on the completion of all of the reordering work in December 2020.

The only thing to report for 2021 is that the reordering has been given an award by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (more normally referred to as the DAC). The DAC wrote as follows:

'Each year the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) recognises a number of projects via its awards scheme. DAC awards are made where a parish has completed a project to an exceptional standard of workmanship, or where a project has been key to that parish's growth and mission. In light of this, I am delighted to inform you that your reordering project has been granted an award in acknowledgement of your hard work.'

Normally the award would have been presented in 2021 but, because of COVID, was deferred to 2022. It will now be presented at a joint DAC Awards Evening on 9 June 2022, at Christ Church, Downend to celebrate churches that have won DAC Awards in years 2020-2022.

Paul van Rossum, Associate Vicar

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

It is the aim of St Mary's Church to develop the spiritual and social life of the children and young people in church in a safe and secure environment and to protect them from harm whenever possible. St Mary's Church also aims to provide respectful, pastoral care for adults.

The church endeavours to follow the Safeguarding Principles of the Church of England which are:

- ☐ The care and nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and adults.
- ☐ The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

□ The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

In terms of Safeguarding, it is the duty of the PCC, with the incumbent, to promote a safer church for all in the church community, and to ensure there is a plan in place to raise awareness of, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community.

Because St Mary's Church provides activities for children and young people and provides pastoral care for vulnerable adults the PCC is classed as a charity. Members of the PCC, as trustee of that charity, are eligible for DBS enhanced checks under the recommendation of the Church of England and Charity Commission. They are also expected to undergo the online Basic and taught Foundation Training as recommended by the Diocese of Bristol. All PCC members have completed the DBS clearance and completed the required training.

St Mary's Church also continues with its requirement that all those wishing to work directly with children or to undertake pastoral visits on behalf of the church must go through our internal vetting procedure and obtain Enhanced DBS clearance.

We currently have in total 28 have also been cleared to do children's work and pastoral visiting. All PCC members have had DBS checks, as required by the Charity Commission, which is an additional 6 people. During the past year we have had 2 people who have come off the list, 2 newly recruited workers and 15 renewals. The main change was that the Church of England require for DBS checks to be renewed after 3 years, not every 5 years as from 5th January 2022.

The church office keeps an up to date record of all the DBS certificates, date of issue (renewal after 3 years), level of clearance, whether children's or adult work is undertaken and what safeguarding training has been done, which the highest level is required to be refreshed every 3 years.

The Church of England now expects that all church paid staff and volunteers receive Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of involvement in church activities. The Church of England and the Diocese of Bristol have changed the way training is carried out due to the pandemic. Most Basic Awareness and Foundation training continues to be undertaken online. A zoom training programme has been created for the Leadership course. Most people who were required to, have completed their refresher training over the past year.

The Church of England have made it mandatory (as from the beginning of 2022) that all PCC members, group leaders and pastoral visitors to do the Domestic Abuse Training. This is an online module which will need to be refreshed every 3 years. There is also a new online Safer Recruitment & People Management Module which the PSO and one other need to be identified to do and refresh every 3 years.

The Church office will keep a record of all training undertaken so please notify the office and the Parish Safeguarding Officer of any C of E Safeguarding training undertaken.

We continue to use the online Safeguarding Dashboard – this allows us to be able to track all the Safeguarding Policies and Processes. The PSO is responsible for the Dashboard and has editor rights – and some PCC members have read rights to the dashboard.

The Safeguarding Policy and guidelines have been reviewed and updated, and approved by the PCC in September 2021. This policy can be found on the Church's website, under Safeguarding and Data Protection.

Thank you to those who have renewed their DBS certificate this year, also those who have undergone Safeguarding training. Their commitment to Safeguarding in our church is greatly appreciated as is the support from Philip Rowe, the Ministry Team, Group Leaders, and the Safeguarding Team at Diocese of Bristol. Thank you for everyone who have supported me in my role.

Liz Tierney, Parish Safeguarding Officer

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

It is nearly 4 years since the new legislation for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. Though we have left the EU, these rules will still apply.

The following can be found on the Church's Website – The Data Privacy Policy, Data Consent Form and Data Protection Procedures Policy. There are copies of the Data Consent Form in church.

Various other data consent forms are available for other areas where personal data may be displayed in the public domain – like Noticeboards, the website, or the Lich Gate. These include the Lich Gate.

All data, apart from the Lich Gate, is kept in the Church Office. The Incumbent, Data Protection Lead and Parish Administrator have access to the data. The Lich Gate data is kept by the Data Protection Lead and passed onto the Lich Gate Editor for inclusion in the Lich Gate.

We as a Church **MUST** ensure all emails relating to Church business are using the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) option – many of us already do use this. We must remember that not everyone wants their email address in the public domain.

As part of the Livestreaming services, we continue to ensure that anyone who in front of the camera, had given their permission to be recorded using a separate consent form.

Thank you to everyone who filled these Data Consent forms over the past year.

Liz Tierney, Data Protection Lead

ALMONDSBURY CHOIR REPORT

It is now almost two years since the coronavirus pandemic started. In that time much has changed; many shops have closed, many businesses have stopped trading, and many clubs and societies have had to suspend their activities. One ensemble which has succumbed was, sadly, our choir. Although until last year it was up to strength, our numbers were greatly reduced in the summer; the departure of Chris Coltham, who with her husband Barry had been a mainstay of St. Mary's for many years, was a blow, and two other members left to worship at a church within walking distance. The retirement of members who have stopped driving or have been reluctant to drive at night has been a major factor in the choir's contraction and closure.

Inevitably, also, during the lengthy lockdowns people have fallen out of their weekly routines and have not always resumed them. When the restrictions eased last autumn the 9.15 service was reinstated but attendance was very modest. In fact, returning to the three-service format proved unmanageable due to the non-availability of churchwardens, and the decision was taken to suspend the 9.15 service and bring the All-Age service forward to ten o'clock.

As a substitute, two Sunday choral evensongs were held in November and December; it was hoped the very modest attendance would improve with time, but the choir numbers were insufficient to run the service, and the experiment was discontinued, the evensong on Sunday 12th December being the choir's final service.

It is very regrettable that the choir has had to be disbanded after centuries of choral services; it also means that we can no longer offer a choir for weddings or funerals, although we are able to offer a professional soloist in place of the choir. Of course, St. Mary's is by no means alone; choral music in many places of worship has followed a similar trajectory, and many other churches have lost their choirs over the last few years.

I hope it may be possible in future years, when everything has settled down, to restart a choral venture at St. Mary's. My warmest thanks go to all the choir members for their long service and commitment over the years.

Matthew Thomas, Organist and Choir Master

PRAISE GROUP REPORT

The Coronavirus pandemic continued to impact our worship during 2021, but we were at least able to meet regularly in church for most of the year, albeit with strict social distancing in place together with masks. Gradually, restrictions were eased and we were able to sing in church without masks. Having been deprived of live worship for such a long period, it was a real joy for the whole congregation to be back in church worshipping God together.

During the course of the year, we have continued to discover new songs as well as enjoy singing the ones with which we are more familiar. I want to thank Astrid, in particular, who selected songs appropriate to the theme for each week, and then distributed the lyrics and music in advance so that the service sheet could be printed, and the Group could practise at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the Praise Group this past year including: Astrid, Chris, Lyn, Matthew, Sandy, Sue, Susan, and Stephen. Can I also thank the AV team for their work, in the background, honing the sound and operating the projector and screens each week, allowing us to lead worship more effectively?

If anyone else would like to take part in the Group, as a singer or musician, you would be very welcome to join us on a regular or occasional basis, whatever suits. We are not looking for musical excellence; just a heart to work together to lead people in worship and draw them closer to God.

Mike Jenkinson

REPORT ON BRISTOL WEST DEANERY SYNOD

Introduction

This has been a second year of continuing disruption and unforeseen changes within our local communities, across society and experienced on a global platform.

As with last year, and before reflecting upon this Deanery, Bristol West, we must mark our awareness of, and our heartfelt prayers for, all who have been impacted upon by the global pandemic. Those who have lost their lives, those who have died alone and those whose livelihoods have been irreparably taken away; those who have been bereaved, especially when unable to be with and alongside loved ones; those who have fallen ill to the virus and the many who suffer from the long-term health impact; those many whose mental health, sense of wellbeing and spiritual strength has been damaged; and our brothers and sisters in other parts of our world who, in their millions, are suffering now – without the benefit of the support we have had. Recognizing that in many parts of the world they are entering the first phase of Covid now and without our levels of support and care.

We are also aware of the work of health and social care professionals; researchers and scientists and teachers; key workers and all who maintain the fabric of society. For them we give thanks and offer our prayers. As we do for those whose responsibility it is to make decisions on behalf of communities, nations and humanity.

We should also remind ourselves that this year has, once again, continued to shine a spotlight upon local and global issues:

- ★ Racism and minority ethnic groupings
- ★ Relationship between wealth and health
- ★ Disjoints between health work and social care
- ★ Pandemics don't recognize national borders
- ★ Human impact on climate change
- ★ Fundamental importance of social interaction in human wellbeing

Each of us could add to this lengthy list. And in our moments of reflection, this does lead us to contemplate our response to Jesus' answer to the question "Which commandment is the most important of all?" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Key Covid changes during this year:

To remind ourselves of the context:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| ■ 8 March '21 | Schools reopen |
| ■ 12 April | Non-Essential Retail reopens |
| ■ 29 March | Outdoor Gatherings allowed |
| ■ 17 May | Outdoor Gatherings up to 30 people |
| ■ 19 July | Most legal limits on social gathering removed (Step 4) |
| ■ 8 December | Move to Plan B Measures |
| ■ 27 January '22 | Plan B Restrictions removed |

"We must learn to live with Covid" Government Statement

Over the course of the year the changes in the restrictions and the advice provided by the Church of England allowed parishes and churches to continue to adapt the way we all 'do church'. This includes the acts of worship and prayer, the way we keep our buildings open and in use and reshaping our place within community and communities.

There was a good deal of learning from the disruptions of the pandemic (see the Synod report 2020 – 2021) which continues to be put into practice. However, there were also a number of negative impacts that we are slowly coming to terms with – these are in addition to the unfortunate health consequences and increased deaths in relation to Covid.

These other impacts include reduced numbers attending church, a continuing sense of anxiety and reluctance to engage, reduced levels of income (both giving and rental/fee), reluctance to volunteer and feelings of impatience and frustration as the duration of impact lengthens.

‘Stop, Start and Continue’

However unfortunate, periods of significant disruption enable opportunities for reflection. Many parishes and groups have engaged in exercises to allow them to reflect on priorities and areas for attention and change. Many have used a method of looking to the future and asking questions about what has been and what needs to be – for the church to continue to live the Gospel and be a relevant agent within community.

The method of questioning what we need to ‘stop’ doing or new things that we need to ‘start’ doing, or indeed what we need to ‘continue’ to do (possibly in a different style) has provided a useful tool for many.

Deanery Synods in 2021 – 2022:

Inclusion and Representation

Deanery Synod on 18 May 2021 focused upon the issues associated with ‘Inclusion and Representation’

The Meeting was held by Zoom

The Main Theme:

The Area Dean introduced the main topic for reflection and consideration during Synod. This was the exploration of the extent to which we are truly ‘inclusive’ or are open to others with the expectation that, over time, they increasingly conform to established norms.

- The extent to which specific issues such as racism, ethnic minorities, gender and sexuality, poverty and wealth, and political perspectives have, over the last months, drawn our attention to difference.
- Coronavirus has, for many, significantly increased the sense and reality of isolation. All of us have had some experience of the impact of human separation and many have suffered as a consequence.
- Transforming Church has identified a theme relating to the tension between inclusivity and the socialization of newcomers (making them one of us).
- Within parishes we are inclined to see group categorizations and not take an inclusive perspective:

- We can see differences between those who attend different services (the early morning 8.00am Vs the Parish act of worship for example). These differences also show in multiple benefices where we might attend something at 'our' church but not 'theirs'.
- To what extent do we see the 'users' of our facilities as part of 'us'. Does the understanding of the church community extend across the worshipping communities to recognise other groups (such as those who hire our space and plant).
- How much is the community in which the church building is located seen as part of what we are and actively engaged in our thinking about mission?
- To what extent do we enable our voice to be heard within the community, Deanery, Diocese and more widely?

Transforming Church Together

Deanery Synod on 20 October 2021 focused upon the issues associated with the values associated with the developing Diocesan Strategy.

The Meeting was held in person at Christ Church Clifton

The Main Theme: Introducing the Diocesan Values

Archdeacon Neil Warwick explained that Transforming Church. Together is the process by which the Diocese has recently developed its vision, including desk research, an online questionnaire, and workshops held on Zoom. There were over 1,200 responses to the questionnaire, and around 2,000 people attended the workshops. Particular effort had been made to listen to those not normally heard, including disabled people, BAME people, LGTBI+ people and young people. An external consultancy assisted in examining the results of this engagement.

The values which have been identified in this process – together with associated behaviours, experience principles and benefits to our community – are as follows:

- **Openness** – we are loving and open to all, welcoming to everyone, embracing diverse needs, so that we have a long-term relationship with our community, based on acceptance and love for people as God made them.
- **Generosity** – we receive and give sincerely, giving our time and resources to share what we know of Jesus' love, caring for people practically and spiritually, so that members of our community experience God's love and have the opportunity to journey into faith if they so choose.
- **Creativity** – we co-operate with the work of the Spirit, being rooted in faith and responsive to the Spirit, in bold and joyful faith, work and worship, so that we have variety in our projects and worship styles, celebrating tradition and innovation to connect with God.
- **Bravery** – we are courageous with our voices and our actions, acknowledging and learning from our past and actively effecting positive change in the world, so that we are listened to and partnered with, and the collective voices and actions of our community help to bring about transformational change.

Net-Zero Carbon Proposal

Deanery Synod on 10 March 2022 focused upon shaping a motion to bring to Diocesan Synod to give the previously agreed Climate Emergency recognition a greater sense of urgency.

The Meeting was held in person at St Mary's Almondsbury

The Main Theme: Agreement of the Net-Zero Motion to take to Diocesan Synod:

Rev Dr Andy Murray to move:

that this Synod recognises the need to take urgent and immediate action at a parish, diocese and national church level, in order to achieve the Church of England's NetZero Carbon targets by 2030. We affirm the national church and diocesan work currently underway regarding these targets. In addition, we commend the proposals outlined in the 'Bristol West Deanery NetZero Carbon (March 2022)' paper and we therefore call upon the Diocese of Bristol to formally consider the proposals and recommendations contained within the above paper with a view to identifying a programme of support targeted at parish level.

The Uganda Link

The essential platform for this is '*building relationships of wholeness across culture with Christ at the center*'. In short this is about 'relationship'; between Christians, across cultures, over geography and with, sometimes, differing views of this world. It is about learning from each other and providing mutual support. The Uganda Link is a feature of every Synod and the working life of our parishes in the Deanery.

Two key thoughts at this time:

- ★ The impact of the pandemic has been serious and challenging within the UK; in Uganda and many other parts of the world it is disastrous.
- ★ Additional impacts of the virus have been loss of education opportunity for young women (due to an increase in pregnancies) and an increase in domestic violence.

Father Charles, Deanery Synod

DIOCESE OF BRISTOL REPORT

The Diocesan Synod, which is the primary, elected representative body drawn from across the Diocese of Bristol, met four times in 2021: in March, June and then following the elections for a new Synod in September and November. As well as hearing about and discussing a wide range of areas of the Church's work, it helps formulate and approve policy and the diocesan budget and debates important local and national issues affecting the Church.

Transforming Church Together

A large part of the Synods work during 2021 was focussed on Transforming Church Together. In March the Synod took part in the consultation and engagement process that took place right across the Diocese. At its June meeting the early findings of that consultation process were shared with the Synod and members had the opportunity to reflect on these, feeding back their ideas which led into the development of the Vision, Purpose and Values. In November the Archdeacons led an activity introducing the Synod to the emerging strategic priorities.

Diocesan Finances

The Synod's role approving the financial plans of the Diocesan Board of Finance was part of both the June and November meetings. In June Andrew Lucas, Chair of the Diocesan Board of

Finance, presented the 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements and updated the Synod about the performance of the organisation in strategic as well as financial terms. In November, he presented the 2022 Budget for approval and Synod members participated in round table discussions to follow up any clarifying points and share views on the proposed budget. Andrew reflected on the impact of the pandemic on the DBF's finances, long-term issues of affordability for the Diocese, the future impact of the new strategy and the strength of the DBF's balance sheet. He also highlighted the tension between the desire to balance the budget and the need to invest in future ministry, with a large part of the projected deficit of £681k in 2022 being due our continuing commitment to investing in future ministry. With prayerful consideration, the Synod approved budgeted expenditure of £9.712m in 2022.

Other reports and discussions included:

The **Annual Safeguarding Report** in June, presented by Andy Wills, Independent Chair who spoke to synod about the considerable developments by the National Safeguarding Team following the publication of the report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), and media attention on a number of issues.

As the **Creating Connections** strategy came to the end of its active period during the year and the Synod heard reports from some of the initiatives and projects which had been started to support it.

Bishop Lee recapped that **investing in curacies** was one of the main strategic choices under Creating Connections, which committed the Diocese to growing vocations to ordained ministry by 50%. This was in line with a national Church of England initiative in the light of the gap between ordinations and retirements. A 50% increase would largely meet overall stipendiary clergy deployment plans nationwide.

The Synod heard from Liz Townend (Diocesan Director of Education), who gave a presentation on education work in the Diocese and specifically the growth of **new church schools**.

Two years after Diocesan Synod declared a **climate emergency** in November 2019, Clare Fussell (Diocesan Environmental Officer) gave an update report to Diocesan Synod members on progress.

Richard Leaman, Diocesan Secretary

THANKS

The PCC employs Matthew Thomas as Organist and Choirmaster and Judi Thomson as Church Administrator. All other routine activities are undertaken by volunteers and the Council places on record its appreciation of these volunteers who give their time and skills to the church and community.

ADOPTION

This report was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 29th March 2022 for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 8th May 2022.



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Reports from Organisations

Distributed with the Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 8th May 2022

FLOWER ARRANGERS

No report received at this time.

Sarah Redmond, Flower Organizer

THE LICH GATE

General

The early part of last year – as with virtually everything and anything else – was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the year progressed and restrictions eased, events and other social gatherings began once again. This resulted in more content for the magazine to advertise them. This had a negative effect in that the number of original articles had to be reduced. As I was writing a good deal of them myself, this was no bad thing!

On-Line

PDF copies of the magazine are posted to the Almondsbury Community Facebook site (732 members) and to a dedicated FB magazine site (229 members). There is a dedicated E Mail for the magazine: editor@lichgate@yahoo.com

Printing

All issues during 2021 / 2022 were produced on time – Motion Printers of Severn beach who print it are reliable and flexible and provide a very good service. Personally, I am very happy with them, and I see no reason for any change in this area.

Other Issues

Advertising appears to have weathered the Covid-19 storm, and we have had few advertisers decide to stop using the magazine, and some new advertisers have also joined. It is not possible to determine how this compares to the “normal” loss/gain of advertisements that would have happened without the pandemic. The New Year is the period when advertisers renew their subscriptions, and this process goes until the March edition that is the first of the new advertising year. The task of managing this falls to John Ingle who is the Advertising Manager and who does a very competent job of this difficult exercise! He tells me that at the end of January all responses have been that advertisers want to continue, but 21 of the 42 advertisers last year have actually made their payments for the year. John will actively chase up the remaining advertisers in the coming weeks to retain as many as possible as has been necessary in previous years. With the agreement of the PCC John has increased the prices of the adverts by approximately 5% and also improved the pricing structure somewhat.

Editorship

The March 2022 edition will be my third full year as editor. I informed everyone last year that I am desirous to relinquish the editorship and I have publicized this widely. To date I have had one person express any interest, and I have agreed to meet with them when preparing the next edition so they may see what is involved. If they remain interested, I will put them in direct contact with the PCC who can take things further. I am happy to provide as smooth a handover

as possible, but my last issue as editor will be February 2023 – to coincide with the end of this advertising year.

Thanks.

My grateful thanks to everyone involved with the Lich Gate magazine, particularly the PCC, Philip Daniels, and John Ingle. I would like to thank Reverend Rowe for his support (and patience & understanding), and I wish him and Alison a long and happy retirement.

Edward Ranger, Editor

CHILDREN'S WORK

The weekly All Age Service has been a focal point for our children and young adult's ministry. Unfortunately, the various lockdowns and COVID restrictions has effectively prevented us from meeting in person until October 2021.

As we could not meet in person, a special video service was published on Facebook for the Good Friday Activities Morning.

Since October, a face to face children's group has been held each week during the All-Age Service. Numbers, though, have been disappointingly low, and we look forward to them increasing during 2022.

Paul van Rossum, Associate Vicar

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

Babies and toddlers is going well. Different mums come and go each week and it really works well in church. The children whizz down the aisles on their sit and rides! We have playdoh and crafts at tables outside the lady chapel. Toys are stored well and played with in the lady chapel, but no food or drinks allowed in there. We round off a session with story books and singing with musical instruments. Mums have tea or coffee and children biscuits and squash.

Sandy Thompson, Leader

OASIS GROUP

This past year has seen a growth of faith and commitment of families who are having ONLINE OASIS meetings once a month.

The Bible story is linked with the lectionary and consists of reading, discussion, crafts sheets for cutting/sticking/colouring and prayers.

It is a catch up time with parents and children and LISTEN TO JESUS.

Sue Hewson has sent sheets which are printed off by the families for the children to be prepared.

It really is a happy time, and we have to be flexible on the day and discover what the children want to talk about.

In April we hope to be back in church and are thinking through how best to make the meeting relevant to their lives. It is good to see these families joining again in Sunday worship.

We are grateful for all prayer for this work and are delighted all the OASIS families have kept supporting each other in Covid. OASIS has a strong link with INCREDIBLE KIDS and the outreach of that group led by Jennie and Dom Prewett.

Jan Cooper and team (Sandy, Sue, Ro, and Michael)

MESSY CHURCH

We were keen to get messy church up and running after Covid. Fortunately, we were able to meet in the vicarage garden in June 2021 and again in September 2021.

We have met in church every month since then with an average of 30 to 40 children and carers.

We have a great craft team in Sandy and Mo and other helpers such as Pam, Tracey, Mary, Sarah, and Carol help to keep it all working smoothly.

It's an added bonus now having our screen and Projector to show the story on you tube as well as the singing which has led to impromptu dancing in the aisles! Tom comes straight from school to operate the technology.

Different themes each month help us to teach the children bible stories in a fun and relaxed way

As they come in from school, they are given a drink and biscuit and straight on to a variety of crafts on the tables at the front of the church. Story and singing at 4.15 followed by a cooked tea at 4.40 in our fabulous new kitchen.

We are always looking for new helpers, if you would like to be involved and are happy to do a DBS check please speak to Alison or Sandy.

Alison Rowe

CATERING COMMITTEE

Looking back at my diary I see that

Monday 24th February 2020 we opened our newly renovated cafe in the new church kitchen

Monday 2nd March 2020 South Gloucestershire council visited us and gave us a 5 * rating

Monday 9th March 2020 Lovely full cafe with many visitors

LOCKDOWN

February 2022

After 2 rocky years we are now starting to use our lovely kitchen for after church coffee and provide meals for 30 children at messy church. Sadly, the cafe has not been able to re-open.

We must pay thanks to Barry and Chris Coltham who put much energy into the cafe, and we wish them well in their new home.

Our first catering committee is due to meet this month to look at an updated risk assessment for the kitchen, a possible lent lunch and catering for the village fete in June 2020.

I appreciate the hard work done by those who make coffee each week and those who work hard behind the scenes to make sure hospitality is given in our church.

We are extremely grateful to the reordering team for the beautiful and purposeful new kitchen Rosemary Griffiths is kindly going to take over the running of this group.

Alison Rowe

BELLRINGERS

Another strange year, but at least an improvement on 2020

“Normal” ringing this year has been on and off, and we only really got going again in the latter part of the year, but I am pleased to say we’re back up to speed again with a few new faces, though a considerable reduction in members for one reason or another.

Thanks must go to the following people for keeping the metaphorical flag flying.

- The Jefferis family for ringing on Sundays and occasional events, including the death and the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh. Thank you so much for keeping the sound of the bells ringing in the village and reminding them that the ringers and the church is still there
- Gerry for maintenance, risk assessments, CCTV, and being able to see the bells in glorious technicolour, fly cleaning and just about everything else that wouldn’t have been done without him!
- To Philip for his support of the ringers through this difficult time
- Adam for continuing as secretary and wedding organiser and doing all the paperwork and keeping us abreast of the news and developments, locally and nationally as well as being “Statto”, with all the facts and figures below.
- To our guests and visitors, who are really members of the tower family and I trust they know it, because without them we couldn’t function.
- Mike as Treasurer (now retired), Adrian as Deputy Tower Captain,

So, in terms of activities, the bells have been rung where possible on Sundays and for weddings and practice nights have resumed on Mondays. There was a large amount of ringing for the various Christmas services and activities and Tim, Caleb, Andrew, Tanya and myself rang at midnight on New Year’s Eve 2021/ Day 2022, keeping the tradition of Almondsbury bells ringing out the old year and ringing in the new.

Let’s hope for a better year.

In statistics the story of 2021 is:

- No ringing between 1 January and 3 April because of government restrictions

- Sunday ringing on all sixteen Sundays between 4 April to 18 July thanks to the Jefferis family who took advantage of government rules allowing members of the same household to ring together. They rang four bells on all sixteen Sundays
- Normal Sunday ringing on 21 of the 22 Sundays between 25 July and 19 December. There was no service and thus no ringing on Sunday 24 December. Attendance on the 21 Sundays ranged from 4 to 9, with the average being 5.9, down from 6.5 last year. We had six or more ringers on 11 Sundays (52% down from 82%), seven or more on 5 (24% down from 64%).
- Normal Monday ringing on 12 of the 13 Mondays between 20 September and 20 December. Attendance ranged from 5 to 11, with the average being 8.8 down from 10.6 last year. We had eight or more ringers on 7 Mondays (58% down from 90% last year) and ten or more on 3 Mondays (25% down from 50%).
- We have 8 resident and regular ringers, nine less than last year. There are also two regular adult visitors, three junior members who ring occasionally, and two further people who may return to ringing in the future. Two of the juniors are in full time education and aged 18 or over.

Our ringing highlights were a touch of Cambridge Minor, a spliced touch of St Simon and St Martin, a plain course of Bob Major, a spliced touch of Little and Plain Bob, and a touch of Stedman Doubles, all of which show that the diminished band retains much of its former expertise, and a touch of Grandsire Doubles rung by an adult learner, demonstrating that the band can still progress and learn new methods.

Otherwise, we rang 17 different methods versus 19 last year. These varied from Rounds to Cambridge Minor taking in Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Minimus, Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major, St Simon's Doubles, St Martin's Doubles, St Clements Minor, Little Bob Minor, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, St Clements Minor, Stedman Doubles and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Members and friends lost include Mike Tierney, who retired not just from work but from us, Nigel Waters due to ill health, Mike and Elaine Purnell moved to Calne and David Smith and Dan Gearing just disappeared! But we have welcomed Pauline Butcher and Wendy Goodliffe, as well as other occasional visitors such as James Joyson and I continue to "poach" wherever possible!

In order to support both towers, we have established a monthly joint practice with our friends at Chipping Sodbury, alternating towers each month. This allows us to ring Surprise Minor and Major and also give the learners a chance to have a stronger band around them as they progress. I expect to see more of this sort of arrangement between towers due to declining numbers.

There were no Branch practices or events. So Almondsbury continue to be the reigning Quiz Champions for another year 😊

"A bell's not a bell 'til you ring it"

Marcus Booth, Tower Captain – Almondsbury

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

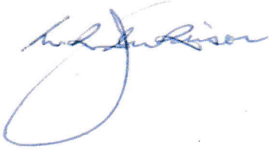
Section 2

Approved

Statement of Financial Accounts

(As approved by the 17 May 22 PCC meeting at item 6.1)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities							
	Note	TOTAL	TOTAL Note 2	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Designated
		2020	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary Receipts	2(a)	83,569.96	71,450.21	70,825.21	625.00	-	-
Activities for general purposes	2(b)	11,156.00	9,760.00	9,760.00	-	-	-
Investment Income	2(c)	1,704.44	1,389.11	22.06	1,367.05	-	-
Church Activities Receipts	2(d)	1,728.73	5,501.00	5,501.00	-	-	-
Other Receipts	2(e)	-	2.90	2.90	-	-	-
Agency collection	2(f)	(603.50)	242.00	-	242.00	-	-
Agency Charity collection	2(g)	1,500.00	884.30	-	884.30	-	-
Agency Weddings & Baptisms	2(h)	6,624.50	18,866.00	-	18,866.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		105,680.13	108,095.52	86,111.17	21,984.35	-	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Parish Share	3(a)	51,500.04	51,999.96	51,999.96	-	-	-
Clergy and Staffing	3(b)	10,688.25	10,858.12	10,858.12	-	-	-
Church Running Expenses	3(c)	32,181.53	31,758.91	29,386.91	2,372.00	-	-
Church office Running Expenses	3(d)	1,825.73	2,117.56	2,117.56	-	-	-
Church Repairs & Maintenance	3(e)	32,777.06	7,010.09	1,251.05	4,361.04	-	1,398.00
Church rooms*	3(f)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Giving and Outreach	3(g)	1,300.00	1,205.00	-	1,205.00	-	-
Fund Raising Activities	3(h)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating funds	3(i)	-	9.90	9.90	-	-	-
Governance Costs	3(j)	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building work	3(k)	8,785.87	-	-	-	-	-
New Building work	3(l)	25,012.99	792.19	-	-	-	792.19
All Other payments	3(m)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agency office payments	3(n)	(468.55)	302.85	-	302.85	-	-
Agency Weddings & Baptisms	3(o)	7,232.92	18,888.47	5,501.00	13,387.47	-	-
Agency charity payments	3(p)	1,515.00	879.31	-	879.31	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		172,350.84	125,822.36	101,124.50	22,507.67	-	2,190.19
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(66,670.71)	(17,726.84)	(15,013.33)	(523.32)	-	(2,190.19)
correction for missed liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-
GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	15,449.64	(10,891.23)	-	(4,472.92)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		(66,670.71)	(17,726.84)	436.31	(11,414.55)	-	(6,663.11)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS							
Gains on investments	4(b)	12,638.53	24,865.93	18,124.36	1,158.69	5,582.88	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(54,032.18)	7,139.09	18,560.67	(10,255.86)	5,582.88	(6,663.11)
PCC Net Assets brought forward	8	261,846.74	207,814.56	13,289.63	46,127.75	39,026.26	£ 109,371
Correction for errors in 2020 SOFA			85.49				
Calculated Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		207,814.56	215,039.14	31,850.30	35,871.90	44,609.14	102,707.81
The Revd Philip Rowe(PCC Chair) Mike Jenkinson (PCC Lay Chair) Nick Roach (PCC Treasurer)   							
I have perused these accounts and all seems fine 15/3/22							

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

year ending 31 December 2021

Balance Sheet					
					31-Dec-22
		Notes	2020	2021	
Fixed Assets					
	Tangible		-	-	
	Investments	4(b)	150,902.42	175,768.35	
			150,902.42	175,768.35	
CURRENT ASSETS					
	Receivables and PrePayments	5	2,962.66	12,171.97	
	Short term deposits				
	Cash at bank and in hand	8	80,866.57	28,196.17	
	Total Current Assets		83,829.23	40,368.14	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
	previous year liabilities not yet paid out by PCC		-		
	Less Current Liabilities				
	Payables falling due < 1 year	6	(26,917.09)	(1,097.35)	
	Payables should have been				
NET CURRENT ASSETS - LIABILITIES			56,912.14	39,270.79	
TOTAL NET ASSETS - LIABILITIES			207,814.56	215,039.14	
PARISH FUNDS					
	Unrestricted		13,289.63	31,850.30	
	Designated (Unrestricted but broken out for clarity)		109,370.92	102,707.81	
	Restricted		46,127.75	35,871.90	
	Endowment		39,026.26	44,609.14	
			207,814.56	215,039.14	
Updates to the 2020 SOFA: Assets revalued: The BMM account in SOFA 2020 was missing £135.00 Gift aid - which the bank was late in declaring. Assets should have been £0.46 larger: HRMS paid £2,523.58 rather than expected £2,523.10 Clergy expenses less £0.02 than expected Liabilities revalued					

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities. For which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups (eg Mothers' Union) or informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose. They may also be used to support Restricted funds which are deficient. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that are allocated by the PCC to specific projects and purposes. They may only be re-allocated at the direction of the PCC.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantified. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The PCC owns the land on which the Doctor's Surgery and Church Rooms were constructed. The building is subject to a 125 year lease to the doctor. The underlease on the Church Rooms was held by the PCC but was sold to the surgery in 2019. In view of the long-term letting of the surgery, no value is given to the land containing this surgery.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no items with an accounting value at 31 December 2021.

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. The Consolidated Churchyard and the Frost and Miles funds are 'Permanent' Endowment funds. The former is an amalgamation of many individual gifts, funds and bequests. The latter is held under the terms of the bequests of the late Miss Frost and Mr Miles. The capital (and any associated capital growth) underpinning these funds remains locked into the Endowment funds, the income, in the form of dividends, being allocated to the respective restrictive revenue

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

accounts which remain restricted to the purpose of the underlying fund. The restricted Chancel fund contains the amalgamation of several obligations for the support of the chancel that were converted into lump sum payments a number of years ago. The Investment fund was created from some of the proceeds of the sale by the PCC of the house containing the village shop.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021.

2 Terms Used in the Report

Agency payment or collection: The PCC acts as an agent - collecting fees for events and then paying them to event organisers. There is no income derived by the PCC (although the PCC may subsidise the event or persons and carries liability).

Agency collection of wedding and funeral fees: In previous years the receipt and payment of fees associated with weddings and funerals did not pass through the PCC bank accounts or appear in the SOFA. The exception being the payment of a fee to the PCC effectively for "hire" of the church. At the instruction of the DBF, the management of the fees associated with weddings and funerals are now a PCC responsibility but don't directly represent income or expenditure by the PCC (apart from the "church hire" element that is a genuine PCC income stream). This is handled in the accounts as an agency activity with only the "church hire" element appearing under "Church Activities Receipts".

Non physical funds: The PCC collects and distributes money associated with many individual funds (such as the Bell fund and the church re-ordering fund). These do not have their own specific bank account but are held within the PCC general Bank and CCLA accounts. In order to maintain separation and control of all the funds, they are managed in the treasury spreadsheet as distinct funds so that fund income, expenditure and fund balance are always known and can be presented in the end of year accounts. It also serves as an effective budget management approach.

Charity funds: These funds include all the charities for which the PCC either collects money or makes payments. When the PCC receives donations for a charity the money is paid into a PCC bank account and then the exact same amount (plus gift aid) is paid out to the charity with no income for the PCC. These are shown in these accounts as external charities. They net out to Zero at end of the year. Either because they have already been paid out in year or are matched by a liability to pay (which normally happens in January of the next year). The PCC also support charities which are funded from PCC general funds (such as the payments to missionaries in Uganda). These are labelled as internal charities in the accounts. These internal charities may also receive donations and are treated as Restricted – in the sense that any donated money may only be used for the declared purpose for which the donation was made. They always net out to Zero at year end by transfer of sufficient funding from the General Fund to match any liability. Note that General Fund refers to money held in bank accounts and investment funds that can be used for any church purpose at the discretion of the PCC.

Employment: During the year the PCC employed an organist and secretary (both part time). These employees equate to less than one full time employee. There were no associated social security costs but the secretary and organist are enrolled in the NEST pension scheme.

Payments to trustees: No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than to reimburse clearly identifiable expenditure incurred on specific purchases or in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocese for the payment of clergy and Licensed Lay Minister expenses.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2021

2	INCOMING RESOURCES						
				Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds £
				2021	2021	2021	2021
				Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
	Category	Account Heading	Account Description				
2(a)	Voluntary Receipts	Planned giving	Gift Aid - Bank	43,202.50	-	-	43,202.50
			Gift Aid - Envelopes	850.00	-	-	850.00
			Other planned giving	-	-	-	-
		Collections at Services	Loose plate collections	-	-	-	-
			Special collections	-	-	-	-
		voluntary receipts	Gift Days	-	-	-	-
			Giving through church boxes	22.20	-	-	22.20
			Donations appeals etc.	6,255.92	600.00	-	6,855.92
			Cash received from Legacies	-	-	-	-
			Grants recurring	905.20	25.00	-	930.20
			Grants non-recurring one-off	5,781.34	-	-	5,781.34
			Jigsaw sales	-	-	-	-
		Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered	13,808.05	-	-	13,808.05
				70,825.21	625.00	-	71,450.21
2(b)	Activities for generating funds	Fund Raising	Church fetes etc.	-	-	-	-
			Parish Magazine - advertising	9,760.00	-	-	9,760.00
				9,760.00	-	-	9,760.00
2(c)	Investment Income	Income from Investments	Dividends	22.06	1,367.05	-	1,389.11
			Bank and building society interest	-	-	-	-
			Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.	-	-	-	-
				22.06	1,367.05	-	1,389.11
2(d)	Church Activities Receipts	Receipts from church activities	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC	5,501.00	-	-	5,501.00
			Bookstall and magazine sales	-	-	-	-
			Church rooms lettings - objects related	-	-	-	-
				5,501.00	-	-	5,501.00
2(e)	Other Receipts	Other receipts	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-
			Sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
			Other funds generated e.g sale of investments	2.90	-	-	2.90
				2.90	-	-	2.90
	Total Incoming PCC Resources			86,111.17	1,992.05	-	88,103.22
2(f)			Agency office collection	-	242.00	-	242.00
2(g)			Agency charity	-	884.30	-	884.30
2(h)			Agency Weddings & funerals	-	18,866.00	-	18,866.00
				-	19,992.30	-	19,992.30
	Total including Agency Incoming Resources			86,111.17	21,984.35	-	108,095.52
* The PCC acts as an agent: See Notes.							

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2021

5	RESOURCES EXPENDED										
					Unrestricted inc. Designated 2021	Designated 2021	Total of Unrestricted, Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Endowment 2021	Total funds £ 2021 £	Total funds £ 2020 £
					£	£	£	£	£		
	Category	Account Heading		Account Description							
3(a)	Payments	Parish Share	Sub-Total	Parish share	51,999.96	-	51,999.96	-	-	51,999.96	51,500.04
3(b)		Clergy and Staffing		Salaries and wages of parish staff	9,241.64	-	9,241.64	-	-	9,241.64	8,755.48
				National Insurance of parish staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Pension Contributions of parish staff	667.82	-	667.82	-	-	667.82	667.04
				Tax on parish staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	36.80
				Working expenses of clergy	889.66	-	889.66	-	-	889.66	1,228.93
				Parsonage house expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Water rates - vicarage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Clergy telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Visiting speakers / locums	59.00	-	59.00	-	-	59.00	-
			Sub-Total		10,858.12	-	10,858.12	-	-	10,858.12	10,688.25
				Church Running Expenses							
				Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
3(c)		Church Running Expenses		Parish training and mission	50.00	-	50.00	-	-	50.00	100.00
				Church running - insurance	4,517.11	-	4,517.11	-	-	4,517.11	4,411.63
				Organ / piano tuning	450.00	-	450.00	-	-	450.00	-
				Church maintenance	7,158.76	-	7,158.76	72.00	-	7,230.76	4,569.47
				Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Upkeep of churchyard	3,333.60	-	3,333.60	2,280.00	-	5,613.60	2,172.46
				Church running - electric, oil & gas	2,232.04	-	2,232.04	-	-	2,232.04	5,707.02
				Church running - water	55.77	-	55.77	-	-	55.77	50.51
				Magazine expenses	9,213.62	-	9,213.62	-	-	9,213.62	9,290.00
				Other Church Running Expenses	2,376.01	-	2,376.01	20.00	-	2,396.01	5,830.44
			Sub-Total		29,386.91	-	29,386.91	2,372.00	-	31,758.91	32,181.53
				Church office Running Costs							
3(d)		Church office		Church office running -	154.10	-	154.10	-	-	154.10	23.99
				Printing, postage and stationery	1,270.82	-	1,270.82	-	-	1,270.82	1,295.25
				Church office running -	692.64	-	692.64	-	-	692.64	506.49
			Sub-Total		2,117.56	-	2,117.56	-	-	2,117.56	1,825.73
				Church rooms Running Costs							
				Church rooms running - oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
3(f)		Church rooms		Church rooms running -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms running - maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church Repairs & Maintenance							
3(e)		Church Repairs &		Church major repairs -	1,251.05	-	1,251.05	-	-	1,251.05	-
				Church major repairs - Bells	-	-	-	4,361.04	-	4,361.04	2,234.66
				Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church major repairs - Boiler	-	1,398.00	1,398.00	-	-	1,398.00	30,542.40
			Sub-Total		1,251.05	1,398.00	2,649.05	4,361.04	-	7,010.09	32,777.06
3(g)		Church rooms		Church rooms + major repairs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
				Church rooms + major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Church rooms + interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
				Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Mission Giving and Donations							
3(g)		Mission Giving and		Giving to missionary societies	-	-	-	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	1,300.00
				Giving - relief and	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.00	-
				Other donations to support wider mission work outside the Parish.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	1,205.00	-	1,205.00	1,300.00
3(h)		Fund Raising Activities		Fees paid to fund raisers							
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Cost of generating funds							
3(i)		Cost of generating funds		Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of stewardship campaign	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of fetes & other events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Governance Costs							
3(j)		Governance Costs		Investment management costs	9.90	-	9.90	-	-	9.90	-
				Independent Examination Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Costs of trustee training/Pcc meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-Total		9.90	-	9.90	-	-	9.90	-
3(m)		All Other payments		All Other payments							
				Purchase of Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Purchase of new staff housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(k)				Church Re_ordering	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,785.87
3(l)				Church Audio_Visual	-	792.19	792.19	-	-	792.19	25,012.99
			Sub-Total		-	792.19	792.19	-	-	792.19	33,798.86
				Total Outgoing PCC Resources							
					95,623.50	2,190.19	97,813.69	7,938.04	-	105,751.73	164,071.47
3(n)				Agency payment excluding Weddings, funerals, charities	-	-	-	302.85	-	302.85	(468.55)
3(o)				Agency payments for Wedding & funerals	-	-	-	13,387.47	-	18,888.47	7,232.92
3(p)				Agency payment to charities	-	-	-	879.31	-	879.31	1,515.00
			Sub-Total		-	-	-	14,569.63	-	20,070.63	8,279.37
				Total 9 including Agency Outgoing Resources							
					95,623.50	2,190.19	97,813.69	22,507.67	-	125,822.36	172,350.84
See Notes for declaration on PCC employees and expenses paid to trustees											

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending December 2021

4.

Tangible

The PCC owns the freeholds of the Doctor's Surgery (including what were the Church Rooms. The under lease on the Church Rooms having been bought out in 2019 (see Note 1). It also owns various items of furniture and equipment in the church and in church Rooms. All of these assets are deemed to be fully depreciated for accounting purposes.

Investments

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. Details are in the Notes page.

	Funds	Investment Fund	Chancel	Churchyard	Frost & Miles	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Market value on 1 January 2021		103,776.51	8,099.65	19,657.97	19,368.28	150,902.42
Add increase in value		18,124.36	1,158.69	2,812.16	2,770.72	24,865.93
Market value on 31 December 2021		121,900.87	9,258.35	22,470.14	22,139.00	175,768.35

5.

CURRENT ASSETS (DEBTORS)

HMRC - gift aid recovered *	Gift Aid recovered *	Accrued income		2020	2021
LPOW VAT reclaim	Grants non-recurring General	Accrued income		2,523.10	6,039.06
Furlough grant	Grants recurring General	Accrued income			5,781.34
Piling/Compton share Clergy expenses	Working expenses of *	Accrued income		112.03	-
Other		Accrued income		327.53	351.57
				-	-
				2,962.66	12,171.97

6.

LIABILITIES

Parish Magazine advertising for next	Parish Magazine - adv General	Prepaid income		(140.00)	-
Pre Paid Income - BRF I	Agency collection* Agency BRF	Prepaid income		(14.10)	-
Pre Paid Income - Weddings	Agency collection w/Agency Wedding or fun	Prepaid income	Temp Total	(3,274.00)	-
Re-ordering work on church	New Building work o Re_ordering*	Accrued expense		-	-
Church Audio_Visual	New Building work o AudioVisual*	Accrued expense		(20,184.46)	-
Church repairs	Church maintenance *	Accrued expense		(2,009.46)	-
Clergy expenses	Working expenses of General	Accrued expense		(241.17)	(202.45)
Church running utilities	Church running* General	Accrued expense		-	-
Church running services	Other Church running General	Accrued expense		(155.96)	-
Church office	Church office* General	Accrued expense		(85.94)	-
Bank expense from previous year	Investment* General	Accrued expense			(9.90)
Payment to Diocese	Agency payment to C Agency*	Accrued expense	Temp total	(812.00)	(485.00)
				(26,917.09)	(697.35)
Outstanding from charity collections					
Children's Society	Agency charity paym Agency charity Children's Society			-	(200.00)
Christian Aid	Agency charity paym Agency charity Christian Aid			-	-
Tear fund	Agency charity paym Agency charity Tearfund			-	-
The Royal British Legion	Agency charity paym Agency charity The British Legion			-	-
Release International	Agency charity paym Agency charity Release International			-	-
				-	(200.00)
				(23,954.43)	11,274.62

7.

FUNDS (See Notes for further explanation)

The total of parish assets (£215,039.14) at end of 2021 is distributed across PCC funds as shown below. Those marked Restricted contain money given by donors and can only be used for their declared purpose. Whereas those marked Designated hold money earmarked by the PCC for specific projects or purposes and can be re-assigned if the PCC so decides. The "Uncommitted Fund" equals the difference between total parish assets and all other funds. It represents the degree of freedom of the PCC to address new issues and opportunities.

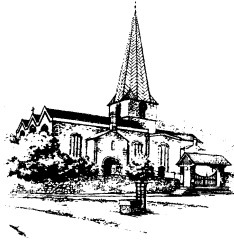
	Fund type	Balance b/f	2021 Incoming Resources	2021 Resources Expended	2021 Transfers	2021 Balance c/f
		£	£	£	£	£
		01-Jan-20				31-Dec-21
Funds - non physical	correct name					
Bells ABRP Fund	Bell ABRP Fund	26,243.68	-	(4,361.04)	-	21,882.64
Bell Fund	Bell Fund	4,354.70	-	(20.00)	-	4,334.70
Building and Grounds	Building and Grounds Fund	-	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00
Fabric	Fabric	4,612.26	600.00	(72.00)	(5,140.26)	-
Re-ordering Designated	Re_ordering_Des	5,020.92	-	-	(5,020.92)	0.00
Re-ordering Disabled Restricted	Re_ordering_Res_Dis	-	-	-	-	-
Re-ordering - Restricted	Re_ordering_Res	-	-	-	-	-
Frost & Miles - Restricted	Frost & Miles Restricted	842.60	561.84	-	(120.68)	1,283.76
Chancel Restricted	Chancel Restricted	1,579.08	234.97	-	(1,814.05)	-
Churchyard - Restricted	Churchyard Restricted	-	595.24	(2,280.00)	1,684.76	-
Boiler replacement - Designated	Boiler_Des	850.00	-	(1,398.00)	548.00	-
Boiler replacement - Reserved	Boiler_Res	-	-	-	-	-
Audio visual - Restricted	AudioVisual_Res	0	-	-	-	-
AudioVisual - Designated	AudioVisual_Des	5,000.00	-	(792.19)	-	4,207.81
Charity Funds external*	Agency charity*	-	884.30	(884.31)	-	(0.01)
Charity Funds Internal*	giving to*	-	-	(1,200.00)	-	(1,200.00)
Uncommitted Fund	General*	13,289.63	86,111.17	(95,623.50)	9,948.64	13,725.94
Wedding or funeral	Agency Wedding or funeral	421.88	18,866.00	(18,888.47)	-	399.41
Agency funds	Agency*	(26.10)	242.00	(302.85)	-	(86.95)
investment volatility reserve	InvVolRes	10,000.00	-	-	-	10,000.00
short term reserve	ShortTermReserve	18,500.00	-	-	-	18,500.00
long term reserve	longTermReserve	40,000.00	-	-	-	40,000.00
Quinquennial fund	Quinquennial	30,000.00	-	-	(30,000.00)	-
CCLA Investment fund growth			18,124.36	-	-	18,124.36
Correction for last year's error in Liabilities			85.49	-	(85.49)	-
Total non physical funds		160,688.65	126,305.37	(125,822.36)	(0.00)	161,171.66
Frost & Miles Fund	Endowment	19,368.28	2,770.72	-	-	22,139.00
Churchyard Fund	Endowment	19,657.97	2,812.16	-	-	22,470.14
Chancel Fund	Restricted	8,099.65	1,158.69	-	-	9,258.35
Investment growth	General					-
Grand Total		207,814.56				215,039.14

8.

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by bank accounts, deposits and Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021
	£		£	£	£
Cash & short term deposits (Cash in hand, BMM, Current Accounts, General Reserve)	28,186.17	-	10.00	-	28,196.17
Investment fixed assets (Investment, Chancel, Churchyard, Frost & Miles)	121,900.87	-	9,258.35	44,609.14	175,768.35
Current assets	12,171.97	-	-	-	12,171.97
Less liabilities	(212.35)	0	(885.00)	-	(1,097.35)
	162,046.66	-	8,383.35	44,609.14	215,039.14

Accounts



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 23rd May 2021

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

CONTENTS

Section 1

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

Section 2

Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 incorporating:

- Summarised statement of financial activities for the year;
- Balance sheet as at the year end;
- Detailed notes to the accounts;
- Independent Examiner's Report.

St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

**Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2020.**

Correspondence address: The Vicarage, 3 Sundays Hill, Almondsbury, BS32 4DS

PCC Members:

Rev Philip Rowe (Vicar)	Rev Paul van Rossum (Associate Vicar)
Nick Roach (Treasurer)	Mike Jenkinson (Chair/Lay Minister)
Astrid Domingo Molyneux (Lay Minister)	Alison Rowe (Deanery Synod)
David Thomson (Deanery Synod)	Clare Jefferis (Deanery Synod)
Liz Tierney (Safeguarding Officer and Data Protection Lead)	
Mike Tierney	Dick Avery
Becky Painting	Rosemary Griffiths
Judi Thomson (PCC Secretary)	

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield, of which the Reverend Philip W Rowe is Incumbent.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

VICAR'S REPORT

The role of the Vicar together with the PCC is defined as the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. At St Mary's we have focused this in our Mission Statement of 'Connecting with God, each other and our community'.

2020 was the year when everything changed as humanity grappled with a global pandemic. In the midst of this we are confident that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever. So, God's Mission to bring his salvation and our part in this remain the same.

We have continued to connect with God. Public worship has continued on line and in Church when Covid security made this possible. Our prayer group and house group have continued. The Daily Hope phone line has been publicised for those without internet. We have provided and pointed to on line resources for Children and have run an Alpha course on zoom.

We have connected with each other through the means in the previous paragraph. In addition, we contact through zoom coffee, a daily thought email and encouraging people to phone each other. The reordering, including the AV system, is now completed and we strengthen our ability to connect with each other and the community.

We have connected with our community by continuing with the Lich Gate magazine and maintaining our links on zoom with Almondsbury School. The Almondsbury Angels connecting those needing assistance with those who could assist was organised from the Vicarage. We have also continued to practically support local agencies including the Sisters' of the Church Food Bank, Bristol North Home Bank and the Salvation Army Christmas Toy appeal.

I am so grateful to all those who, often in unseen ways, have worked hard to enable us to do all this in ever changing circumstances. It is through good teamwork and mutual and God's grace the mission of St Mary's has continued over this year. Thank you.

Please continue to pray as we seek to join in with God's mission of making connections as we, by his mercy, move out of the pandemic.

With my gratitude and prayers,

Philip Rowe

CHURCH WARDEN

This period has been a very different one for the church as it has been for all.

We began 2020 with the completion of the reordering which had seen lots of change and some upheaval. Then soon after we went into lockdown because of the pandemic, we are looking forward to seeing the benefits of the reordering once restrictions are lifted.

Lock down brought a whole new level of learning and change. We very quickly had to learn how to live stream, making good use of the new Internet connection in the church. As we all know things changed very quickly sometimes daily and it was a challenge moving with the changes and trying to keep gods work going and meeting people's needs.

After 4 years as church warden, I decided to stand down at the March 2020 APCM but due to the pandemic this was delayed until September, so I continued until then.

It was a pleasure serving the church during my time as church warden and I hope to continue in other capacities (I do make a nice cup of coffee).

David Thomson

WORSHIP AND MISSION

The Worship and Mission Team of the PCC acts as a focal point for consideration of how we, as a church and as individuals, can grow as Christians and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In the report last year, I said that, 'in 2020 Worship and Mission will be considering how best we can use the newly reordered building towards this end.' The various lockdowns in 2020 have prevented this but as restrictions are eased, we will restart discussions.

Up until Sunday 15 March 2020 we held our regular Sunday Services at 8.00am, 9.15am and 10.45am. Mothering Sunday on 22 March brought our first live streamed service, with no congregation in church. For the rest of the year we continued with a single live streamed service at 10am and, for much of the summer and autumn, we were also able to join together in church in a socially distanced COVID secure way.

Virtual meetings using Zoom have helped to keep people connected. These have included After church coffee, Home Group, Oasis, Alpha Course, and prayer meetings.

Normally, each month a different charity is the focus for the church's outward giving. Unfortunately, during 2020 these arrangements had to be curtailed as a result of the various restrictions required by the pandemic.

The church supports the Diocese's Creating Connections vision: Connecting with God, Connecting with each other, and Connecting with our communities. Within this vision there is a focus on the four priorities of Making Disciples, Growing Leaders, Engaging Younger Generations, and Encouraging Generosity.

During 2021 a new vision. 'Transforming Church. Together.' is being developed by the Diocese in discussion with parishes. We plan to take a full part in the discussions.

Paul van Rossum, Chair, Worship and Mission Team

BUILDINGS

There follows a summary report on the more significant items of work that have been (or are in the process of being) carried out in and around the church.

Woodworm in the Vestry Ceiling:

Following discussions with our architect and the DAC, local treatment has been put on hold for the moment. However, humidity in the ceiling void is being monitored and improvements in the ventilation of the vestry are being considered.

Clock Repairs:

Following protracted administrative delays in gaining approval for the work, the clock hands, the drive shafts and gears were removed for refurbishment in December and replaced in early February 2021. After further adjustments, the clock now appears to be keeping good time.

CCTV for Bellringers:

The installation of CCTV equipment, which will permit the bellringers to view and time their ringing with a wedding procession leaving the church, was completed in January 2021. The system will also permit the ringing of the bells to be shown on the new screen in the nave, and to be available on social media. Visibility of the refurbished bells to the wider community was a condition of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Projector and Screen:

Following protracted administrative delays in gaining approval for the work, the screen, which retracts into a housing above the choir arch, and the projector, which is mounted above the new west door vestibule, were installed during December 2020.

Replacement of Central Heating Boiler:

Following some delay, due to the lockdown, the new boiler was installed during June/July 2020, together with the installation of a replacement flue liner.

Lighting of the West Door Vestibule and North Door Portico:

Installation of the lighting, which was part of the re-ordering work, was delayed, but was completed in May 2020. The lights over the notice boards in the porch were also rewired, allowing them to be switched on and off in the porch.

Lighting of the West Front and the Exterior of the North Porch:

Following protracted administrative delays in gaining approval for the work, this was granted on 25th November 2020. It is planned that the work will be carried out in a matter of weeks.

‘Stepping Stones’ Path:

The path between the vestry and the turret giving access to the roof was laid at the end of September 2020. It has utilised redundant flagstones from the re-ordering, together with new surplus flagstones.

Quinquennial Inspection and Report:

The inspection was originally carried out by our architect in July 2019. However, the issue of his report was delayed, to the extent that it was deemed necessary to carry out a supplementary inspection in May 2020. A final report, with revisions, was issued in August 2020. As a result of the report, several items of repair to the church fabric are currently being progressed. The more significant and immediate of these are summarised below.

Requirement for five-yearly electrical inspection.

An initial inspection was carried out in November 2020 and, following correction of minor defects, the necessary certificate was issued on 12th February 2021.

Repair and reforming of box gutters to north porch roof.

Quotations are being solicited.

Replacement of frost-damaged coping stones to south retaining wall of nave ground gutter.

Quotations have been received and approval is being sought, together with the following three items that require repairs to stonework.

Conservation repairs to the base/plinth of arched surround to north porch.

Quotations have been received and approval is being sought.

Conservation repairs to the doorway to the ringing chamber.

Quotations have been received and approval is being sought.

Patch-pointing of the churchyard north boundary wall at five locations.

The work will be carried out at the same time as the masonry repairs described above.

Graham Jeffery

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the 2020 financial year our financial position has been substantially degraded by the covid pandemic but thanks to our considerable financial reserves we remain in an acceptable position but need to take action to address our significant day to day operating loss of £18,500. This is largely due to the loss of income arising from the pandemic exacerbated by the operating loss of £6k in the 2 previous years. I would hope that the position will improve as we come out of lockdown but would still expect to make a substantial loss over this year and perhaps for a year or so afterwards.

Although our end year reserve stands at just over £200k the large majority of this is tied up in endowment investments (where we can only access the dividends) and funds that the PCC has designated for specific projects and a longer term reserve held to address our commitments such as becoming carbon neutral.

Our uncommitted funds (those not earmarked by the PCC for a specific purpose) stand at £13k. By comparison, at the end of 2019 uncommitted funds stood at £43k. Although the PCC is not aware of any specific spending obligation for which we haven't earmarked funds our experience is that new demands and problems can and do emerge at very short notice and perhaps even more importantly, it greatly restricts our ability to respond in respect of mission and charity relief.

Nick Roach, Treasurer

CHURCH REORDERING

The principal aim of the reordering the church building has been to ensure that it best meets our current and future needs. The main work was completed at the end of January 2020.

It has included:

1. Adding two high quality matching wooden pods at the South West and North West corners of the nave. The one in the South West corner houses a Disability Discrimination Act compliant toilet facility that can be used by everyone and includes nappy changing facilities. The other pod houses a kitchen and servery.
2. Levelling the floor of the rear half of the nave by removing the wooden platform and laying a new stone floor with provision for underfloor heating.
3. Providing improved social and circulation space across the back of the church and along the north aisle.
4. Buying 40 new chairs to provide replacement seating capacity, when needed. When not needed they will be stored in a new cupboard on the south wall of the nave next to the new toilet pod.
5. Moving the font to the South East corner of the nave.
6. Improving access into and within the building by:
 - a) levelling the entrance at the West Door and Installing a glass inner porch.
 - b) moving the Portico from the West Door to the North Door.
 - c) adding handrails to the steps in the North Porch.
 - d) improving the previously temporary deep shallow steps between the choir stalls and the chancel.
7. Removing the old kitchen units and installing new cupboards.
8. Refurbishing the existing WCs.

All of the work has been completed to a high standard.

Following lengthy discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) and the Chancellor of the Diocese, a new drop-down screen and projector were installed in December 2020. The previously discussed options for placing large TV screens at the front of the side aisles have been put on the back burner, while we gain experience of using the new screen and projector.

I would like to express particular thanks to George Chedburn, the church's architect for all of his work, and to Philip Rowe, for his quiet personal support and encouragement.

Paul van Rossum, Associate Vicar

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

It is the aim of St Mary's Church to develop the spiritual and social life of the children and young people in church in a safe and secure environment and to protect them from harm whenever possible. St Mary's Church also aims to provide respectful, pastoral care for adults.

The church endeavours to follow the Safeguarding Principles of the Church of England which are:

- ☐ The care and nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and adults.
- ☐ The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- ☐ The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

In terms of Safeguarding, it is the duty of the PCC, with the incumbent, to promote a safer church for all in the church community, and to ensure there is a plan in place to raise awareness of, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community.

Because St Mary's Church provides activities for children and young people and provides pastoral care for vulnerable adults the PCC is classed as a charity. Members of the PCC, as trustee of that charity, are eligible for DBS enhanced checks under the recommendation of the Church of England and Charity Commission. They are also expected to undergo the online Basic and taught Foundation Training as recommended by the Diocese of Bristol. All PCC members have completed the DBS clearance, and completed the required training.

St Mary's Church also continues with its requirement that all those wishing to work directly with children or to undertake pastoral visits on behalf of the church must go through our internal vetting procedure and obtain Enhanced DBS clearance.

We currently have in total 37 have also been cleared to do pastoral visiting. During the past year we have had 4 people who have come off the list and 10 renewals.

The church office keeps an up-to-date record of all the DBS certificates, date of issue (renewal after 5 years), level of clearance, whether children's or adult work is undertaken and what safeguarding training has been done.

The Church of England now expects that all church paid staff and volunteers receive Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of involvement in church activities. The Church of England and the Diocese of Bristol have changed the way training is carried out due to the pandemic. Most Basic and Foundation training can be undertaken online - this is only while face to face classes are not allowed. A zoom training programme has been created for the Leadership course. Currently we are in the process of ensuring that the volunteers carry out their 3-year renewal training.

The Church office will keep a record of all training undertaken so please notify the office and the Parish Safeguarding Officer of any C of E Safeguarding training undertaken.

New for 2020, the Diocese has introduced a new online Safeguarding Dashboard which replaced the yearly Safeguarding Audit – this allows us to be able to track all the Safeguarding Policies and Processes. The PSO is responsible for the Dashboard and has editor rights – and some PCC members have read rights to the dashboard.

The Safeguarding Policy and guidelines have been reviewed and updated and approved by the PCC in January 2021. This policy can be found on the Church's website, under Safeguarding and Data Protection.

Thank you to those who have renewed their DBS certificate this year, also those who have undergone Safeguarding training. Their commitment to Safeguarding in our church is greatly appreciated as is the support from Philip Rowe, the Ministry Team, Group Leaders and the Safeguarding Team at Diocese of Bristol. Thank you for everyone who have supported me in my role.

Liz Tierney, Parish Safeguarding Officer

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

It is 18 months since the new legislation for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. Though we have left the EU, these rules will still apply.

The following can be found on the Church's Website – The Data Privacy Policy, Data Consent Form and Data Protection Procedures Policy. There are copies of the Data Consent Form in church.

Various other data consent forms are available for other areas where personal data may be displayed in the public domain – like Noticeboards, the website or the Lich Gate. These include the Cleaning Rota, Sides Rota and the Lich Gate.

All data, apart from the Lich Gate, is kept in the Church Office. The Incumbent, Data Protection Lead and Parish Administrator have access to the data. The Lich Gate data is kept by the Data Protection Lead and passed onto the Lich Gate Editor for inclusion in the Lich Gate.

We as a Church MUST all emails relating to Church business using the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) option – many of us already do use this. We must remember that not everyone wants their email address in the public domain.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had limited services and as part of the Government guidelines we have had to adhere to the Test and Trace system. In order to make this easier (by not having to ask people for their contact details when attending services) , we managed to encourage more people to fill in the Data Consent form.

Also, as part of the Livestreaming services, we have ensured that anyone who in front of the camera, had given their permission to be recorded using a separate consent form.

Thank you to everyone who filled these Data Consent forms over the past year.

Liz Tierney, Data Protection Lead

ALMONDSBURY CHOIR REPORT

I cannot write anything this year as the choir has not met since March; however, having kept in touch with the choir I am confident of a good attendance when things eventually resume.

Matthew Thomas, Organist and Choir Master

PRAISE GROUP REPORT

Praise Group report has not been received at this time.

Mike Jenkinson

REPORT ON BRISTOL WEST DEANERY SYNOD

Introduction

This has been a year of major disruption and unforeseen changes within our local communities, across society and experienced on a global platform.

Before reflecting upon this Deanery, Bristol West, we must mark our awareness of, and our heartfelt prayers for, all who have been impacted upon by the global pandemic. Those who have lost their lives, those who have died alone and those whose livelihoods have been irreparably taken away; those who have been bereaved, especially when unable to be with and alongside loved ones; those who have fallen ill to the virus and the many who suffer from the long-term health impact; those many whose mental health, sense of wellbeing and spiritual strength has been damaged; and our brothers and sisters in other parts of our world who, in their millions, are suffering now – without the benefit of the support we have had.

We are also aware of the work of health and social care professionals; researchers and scientists and teachers; key workers and all who maintain the fabric of society. For them we give thanks and offer our prayers. As we do for those whose responsibility it is to make decisions on behalf of communities, nations and humanity.

We should also remind ourselves that this year has shone a spotlight upon local and global issues:

- ☐ Racism and minority ethnic groupings
- ☐ Relationship between wealth and health
- ☐ Disjoints between health work and social care
- ☐ Pandemics don't recognize national borders
- ☐ Human impact on climate change
- ☐ Fundamental importance of social interaction in human wellbeing

Each of us could add to this lengthy list. And in our moments of reflection it does lead us to contemplate our response to Jesus' answer to the question "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

During 2020 Bristol Diocese extended the period in which parishes could hold their APCMs and also gave permission for them to take place digitally. This created a period of a number of months with parishes in different positions in terms of the election of officers and Deanery Synod Representatives. Only two, of the three, Deanery Synods took place.

Deanery Synod Themes:

First National Lock-Down

The Deanery Synod programmed for 20 May 2020 was cancelled.

To remind ourselves of the context:

- ☐ 17 March Suspension of Public Worship
- ☐ 23 March Full National Lock Down – all Churches closed
- ☐ 15 June Churches allowed to open for Private Prayer
- ☐ 5 July Churches allowed to open for Public Worship

This was a time when the church and parishes were starting to learn about the importance of digital worship and on-line communication, finding ways to become more flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances and to recognize the importance of ‘connections’ in human wellbeing.

Learning from the Covid Experience

Deanery Synod on 6 October 2020 focused on our (current) Learning from the impact of the Coronavirus on society and our churches. It was also a time to provide Synod members with the opportunity to talk about and reflect on the experience at a personal level as well as in terms of our communities.

Many topics and subjects emerged in the group discussions and were shared throughout Synod. A brief reminder of a few of the key topics (and not in order of priority) are:

- ☐ Place of the church in local community – many parish churches became the hub of community support, people turned to the church ‘organization’ to enable telephone support, delivery of provisions and medicine and as a communication conduit. Some of the Primary Care Services in Bristol West turned to the church support groups to provide help.
- ☐ Importance of connection in human society – not being able to gather as worshipping communities, families, societies, or any other grouping emphasized the significance of actual social interaction for human wellbeing. This was further heightened by the need for social distancing. Strong and clear recognition of significance of social gatherings (and touch) within worship.
- ☐ Recognition of fears and anxieties – People are different. The impact of the virus and the changes in how we live touched people in very different ways, it reinforced the need to recognize difference in our communities. This was especially so in terms of those whose levels of anxiety were heightened and (rightly) shielded themselves risking becoming isolated.
- ☐ Digital knowledge increased – the capability and capacity of churches to respond to these changes digitally increased hugely. No longer are good websites, effective digital communication, streamed (or recorded) services, social media platforms simply ‘nice to have’; they are absolutely essential for the modern church.
- ☐ Occasional Offices, especially the issue of funerals – whilst deaths increased during this time the number of funerals provided by the church decreased. The reasons for this need to be explored. However, the inability of the church to be able to provide effective funeral ministry at such a time was seen as a real loss.

- Worship of the senses – In particular music within worship was a loss. The experience of these months re-emphasized that worship is not an intellectual process of word and mind alone but is a worshipful response of the whole body and all the senses.

Transforming Church Together – The Venerable Neil Warwick

Deanery Synod on 11 February 2021 focused upon the Diocesan Agenda of ‘Transforming Church, Together’.

This is part of a year-long process to engage with and understand the perspectives of people inside the church, those who relate to it and those who may never have given it a thought. Their aim is to help understand what the diocese does well, what can be changed for the better and how to create a positive way forward, for everyone. The engagement is intended to last until April 2021.

Led by the Archdeacon, Neil, synod responded to a series of questions designed to illicit considered responses as well as creative ideas. During May 2021 we will hear the outcome of this engagement process – into which the thinking of this Synod will be introduced.

However, to give a sense of purpose the questions we addressed were concerned with our church’s response to the issues of: Supporting people; Worship; Equality and justice; Caring for the environment; Helping people follow Jesus; and Providing safe places in communities.

The output from across the Diocese will become an important part of our thinking in the coming year.

The Uganda Link

The essential platform for this is ‘building relationships of wholeness across culture with Christ at the centre’. In short this is about ‘relationship’; between Christians, across cultures, over geography and with, sometimes, differing views of this world. It is about learning from each other and providing mutual support. The Uganda Link is a feature of every Synod and the working life of our parishes in the Deanery.

Two key thoughts at this time:

- The impact of the pandemic has been serious and challenging within the UK; in Uganda and many other parts of the world it is disastrous.
- Additional impacts of the virus have been loss of education opportunity for young women (due to an increase in pregnancies) and an increase in domestic violence.

Alison Rowe, Deanery Synod member

DIOCESE OF BRISTOL REPORT

Diocesan Report has not been received at this time.

Oliver Home, Diocesan Secretary

THANKS

The PCC employs Matthew Thomas as Organist and Choirmaster and Judi Thomson as Church Administrator. All other routine activities are undertaken by volunteers and

the Council places on record its appreciation of these volunteers who give their time and skills to the church and community.

ADOPTION

This report was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 16th March 2021 for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23rd May 2021.



St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Reports from Organisations

Distributed with the Annual Parochial Church Report

Presented at a meeting held on 23rd May 2021

MOTHERS UNION

Sadly, this will be the final report to the AGM from Mothers Union, as we closed the Almondsbury branch during 2020. There has been a Mothers Union in Almondsbury for 112 years and amazingly, one of our members has been a member for 67 of those years. It has been a privilege for our branch to be part of a worldwide membership of millions, working and fundraising to encourage family life in many and varied aspects, and although we will no longer have an official Mothers Union in Almondsbury, we plan to continue to meet together informally to encourage and support each other through the changing circumstances that many members are facing.

We would like to extend our thanks to Philip and to John (Poarch) for their many years of encouragement and support.

Chris Coltham (Branch Secretary)

FRIDAY CLUB

Friday Club last met in December 2019 and due to falling numbers it was decided, with great regret, to close the club. This decision was made by the remaining members who had supported the club for many years. After consultation with the remaining members money retained in the account was given to Age Concern, The Earl Haig fund and the Children's Society. The club played a n important role in allowing people to meet together for many years. However, a similar club would need new leaders and perhaps a different format.

Margaret Roberts

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Flower Arrangers report has not been received at this time.

Sarah Redmond, Flower Organizer

THE LICH GATE

General

Last year – as with virtually everything and anything else – was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Clubs and societies either stopped meeting altogether or had limited on-line activities.
- Public events did not take place.
- Many of the advertisers' businesses were unable to continue to work.
- Door-to-Door delivery was suspended during the first national lock-down.

The lack of meetings and events meant that much of the usual content for the magazine was no longer available and obtaining content, whilst it is always a struggle to get good contributions, became much harder. I am grateful to the “usual suspects” who continued to supply articles plus those (following appeals) who had not done so previously, who made contributions.

This meant that except for one edition that had to be reduced by four pages (forty-eight instead of fifty-two) all editions were produced in full and printed. One consequence of this is that the lack of free publicity for charitable or not-for-profit events meant that there were more general interest articles that actually led (in the opinion of several people who commented to me about it) to a better quality of publication.

It has been the impact on the advertisers that is most critical as they are sole source of funding for the publication. Virtually none of them sought cancellations or refunds, but the Acid Test will be next month (March 2021) that is the start of the new advertising year and it remains to be seen how many will choose to continue to advertise. The magazine was profitable during 2020-2021, and it can only be expected to continue if it can cover its costs (and hopefully make a positive net contribution to finances). Information from Advertising Manager (Mr John Ingle) is that as of 25 January he has had 20 responses to request to renew so far out of nearly 60. Of these 18 said yes, 1 said no and 1 said not yet.

There are always other vehicles for advertising in the shape of for-profit local publications that are run on a full commercial basis with a wider circulation. The time and effort required to produce a magazine is a Fixed Cost, and the same regardless of circulation – the only Variable Cost being the printing and distribution.

On-Line

The website provider we had been using cease operation in July. To move to another provider would have meant rebuilding the website from scratch and the associated costs with this and renting the site. It was therefore decided to move the on-line presence to a dedicated public Face-Book page.

Printing

All issues during 2019 / 2020 were produced on time – Motion Printers of Severn beach who print it are reliable and flexible and provide a very good service. Personally, I am very happy with them and I see no reason for any change in this area.

Other Issues

I am aware of a number of local similar parish magazines that have scaled back their operations recently – combining two issue into one and / or going online only.

I am very much against such actions: they are easy to initiate, but then much harder to come back from (particularly if no thought has been given to how to do this before introducing them in the first place). It would also mean refunds for advertisers (with all the work THAT would involve, plus loss of funds) - and this would prompt many who had not thought to do so, to reconsider advertising at all. Additionally, many of the village residents appreciate having a printed

magazine and would not be comfortable for an on-line version only. It would also mean loss of business for the printers, and loss of goodwill with them.

Thanks

My grateful thanks to everyone involved with the Lich Gate magazine, particularly the PCC, Philip Daniels and John Ingle.

Edward Ranger, Editor

CHILDREN'S WORK

The weekly All Age Service has been a focal point for our children and young adult's ministry. Unfortunately, the various lockdowns and COVID restrictions has prevented this from the time of the first lockdown in March 2020.

As we could not meet in person, a special video service was published on Facebook for the Good Friday Activities Morning. The Christingle services were also replaced by a short video service combined with Christingle packs available for collection from the Lich Gate.

We look forward to moving to a more normal situation during 2021 which will enable the regular groups of children and Young Adults to resume meeting face to face as part of the All-Age Service.

Paul van Rossum, Associate Vicar

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

We haven't met up this last year. We have given up our slot in the old school hall and when we are able, we hope to reopen our group in church.

Sandy Thompson, Leader

OASIS GROUP

Luke 12:31 ff

"Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of GOD and these things (clothes, food and life) will be given you as well....For where your TREASURE is, there your HEART will be also."

Since March 2020 OASIS has gone online with Bible stories for those families who want to receive this.

Sue Hewson has prepared CRAFT SHEETS which are sent to families beforehand and once a month Jan arranges a time and date to suit each family session and situation.

Our BIBLE STORY theme is following the regular readings and focussing on main festivals. We also have times of family PRAYERS to be THANKFUL, say SORRY if needed, and to ASK for help.

It is a learning curve but we have enjoyed greatly the games, conversations and teaching/crafts. In lockdown it has proved an important link with our homes and friends. We have learned to be flexible depending on the individual situations – with some short sessions and some more active.

Of the regular 8 families who have attended OASIS monthly meetings after school for several years, half are now regular with skype teaching. Some children are too young or parents are balancing work/school etc.

PRAISE GOD:

- that we have learnt new skills and that the children and families are growing in FAITH and LOVE and learning to become OVERCOMERS.

PLEASE PRAY:

- that we may share our faith with others and that, whatever the future, we build community life within and outside the church family for all ages.

With thanks for all prayer support,

Jan Cooper and team (Sandy, Sue, Ro and Michael)

MESSY CHURCH

Sadly, we have been unable to hold Messy church in the past year because of Lockdown.

Alison Rowe

CATERING COMMITTEE

It was with great joy that we opened our new church kitchen in March 2020.

Cafe Almondsbury opened for the first time on 2nd March and it was a real treat to be able to serve coffee and cake at the back of the church in our newly refurbished cafe area .

We had a visit that day from South Glos council who gave us a 5-star rating for the cafe .

By the end of the month Lockdown came into force and we have not opened since .

5 ladies in the church have completed the food standards safety award .

Let's hope we can one day get back in the building.

Alison Rowe

BELLRINGERS

Well, what a strange year! There has been no “normal” ringing since March 2020. However, thanks must go to the following people for keeping the metaphorical flag flying.

- The Jefferis family for ringing on Sundays and occasional events. Thank you so much for keeping the sound of the bells ringing in the village and reminding them that the ringers and the church is still there.
- Gerry Anniss for maintenance, risk assessments, our plaque, overseeing the installation of the peal board and return visits from Taylors and just about everything else that wouldn't have been done without him!
- Steve Crane and Nigel Waters for arranging the making of the peal board. A fine job and a real landmark in the tower history.



- Thanks to Alison Holliday for making this peal happen
- To Philip for his support of the ringers through this difficult time
- The Adam Mead for continuing as secretary and doing all the paperwork and keeping us abreast of the news and developments, locally and nationally
- Mike Tierney as Treasurer, Adrian Cooper as Deputy Tower Captain, Nigel Waters as project treasurer and David Smith as our technology guru.

So, in terms of activities, one other peal of Bristol Surprise Major was rung on the bells by a band from St Mary Redcliffe on 14th March, (just in time!) as well as a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on 2nd January by a visiting band. The bells have been rung where possible on Sundays and Marcus Booth rang the Ellacombes at midnight on New Year's Eve/ Day, keeping the tradition of Almondsbury bells ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. Let's hope for a better year.

Finally, I should note the passing this year of Don Haskins, tower captain for many years and rightly represented in the tower for his service and dedication to Almondsbury bells. His funeral was attended by some of the band, but his memory will live on with us all.



This was commemorated in the following.

6 December 2020
St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

360 Plain Bob Minimus

1. Madeleine R Jefferis
2. Timothy J Jefferis
3. Clare L Jefferis
4. Caleb R Jefferis

Rung for morning service by the Jefferis family in memory of Don Haskins who was for many years Tower Captain at Almondsbury.

Last year in my innocence I put "I expect the 2020 report to contain many more exciting events and "firsts". I will make no predictions for 2021!

I hope you are all well and safe and look forward to being together again when it is safe and practical to do so.

Marcus Booth, Tower Captain – Almondsbury

St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

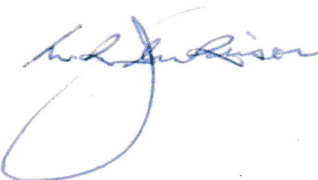
Annual Parochial Church Report

Section 2

Approved

Statement of Financial Accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities							
	Note	TOTAL	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Designated
		2019	Note 2 2020	2020	2020	2020	
		£	£	£	£	£	
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary Receipts	2(a)	87,793.33	83,569.96	63,846.96	19,723.00	-	-
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	12,743.50	11,156.00	11,156.00	-	-	-
Investment Income	2(c)	3,686.37	1,704.44	256.04	1,448.40	-	-
Church Activities Receipts	2(d)	4,270.54	1,728.73	1,728.73	-	-	-
Other Receipts	2(e)	60,178.80	-	-	-	-	-
Agency collection	2(f)	15,453.95	(603.50)	-	(603.50)	-	-
Agency Charity collection	2(g)	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	-	-
Agency Weddings & funerals	2(h)	-	6,624.50	-	6,624.50	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		184,126.49	105,680.13	76,987.73	28,692.40	-	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Parish Share	3(a)	50,004.00	51,500.04	51,500.04	-	-	-
Clergy and Staffing	3(b)	11,594.89	10,688.25	10,688.25	-	-	-
Church Running Expenses	3(c)	31,382.03	32,181.53	29,518.20	2,333.41	-	329.92
Church office Running Costs	3(d)	5,923.72	1,825.73	1,825.73	-	-	-
Church Repairs & Maintenance	3(e)	25,520.29	32,777.06	942.40	2,234.66	-	29,600.00
Church rooms*	3(f)	562.22	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Giving and Donations	3(g)	5,366.39	1,300.00	-	1,300.00	-	-
Fund Raising Activities	3(h)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating funds	3(i)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance Costs	3(j)	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building work on Church Re_ordering	3(k)	249,556.05	8,785.87	-	-	-	8,785.87
New Building work on Church Audio_Visual	3(l)	-	25,012.99	-	-	-	25,012.99
All Other payments	3(m)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agency office payment	3(n)	13,463.30	(468.55)	-	(468.55)	-	-
Agency Weddings & funerals	3(o)	-	7,232.92	-	7,232.92	-	-
Agency charity payment	3(p)	-	1,515.00	-	1,515.00	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		393,372.89	172,350.84	94,474.62	14,147.44	-	63,728.78
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS (Note 1)		(209,246.40)	(66,670.71)	(17,486.89)	14,544.96	-	(63,728.78)
correction for missed liabilities		(1,012.96)	-	-	-	-	-
GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	(23,264.96)	(8,922.81)	-	32,187.77
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED		(210,259.36)	(66,670.71)	(40,751.85)	5,622.15	-	(31,541.01)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on investment assets	4(b)	23,386.10	12,638.53	9,606.33	521.15	2,511.05	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(186,873.26)	(54,032.18)	(31,145.52)	6,143.30	2,511.05	(31,541.01)
PCC Net Assets brought forward 1 January	8	448,720.00	261,846.74	42,458.03	43,461.57	36,515.21	£ 139,412
Calculated Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		261,846.74	207,814.56	11,312.51	49,604.87	39,026.26	107,870.92
The Revd Philip Rowe (PCC Chair)  Mike Jenkinson (PCC Lay Chair)  Nick Roach (PCC Treasurer) 							
SOFA accounts reviewed and signed off by Tony Kite 30Mar21							

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

year ending 31 December 2020

Balance Sheet					
			Notes	2019	2020
Fixed Assets					
	Tangible			-	-
	Investments		4(b)	138,263.89	150,902.42
				138,263.89	150,902.42
CURRENT ASSETS					
	Receivables and PrePayments		5	3,525.31	2,962.66
	Short term deposits				
	Cash at bank and in hand		8	157,090.02	80,866.57
	Total Current Assets			160,615.33	83,829.23
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
	Less Current Liabilities				
	Payables falling due < 1 year		6	(36,019.52)	(26,917.09)
	Payables should have been			(37,032.48)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS - LIABILITIES				124,595.81	56,912.14
TOTAL NET ASSETS - LIABILITIES				262,859.70	207,814.56
PARISH FUNDS					
	Unrestricted			62,837.56	13,289.63
	Designated (Unrestricted but broken out for clarity)			122,973.95	109,370.92
	Restricted			40,532.98	46,127.75
	Endowment			36,515.21	39,026.26
				262,859.70	207,814.56
correction for missing assets/ liabilities at end previous year				-1012.96	
Corrected Total				261,846.74	
The published SOFA 2019 stated a total value for Parish Funds of £262,859.70. This has been revalued in SOFA 2020 to £261,846.74. This was a result of late payments of 2019 bills: £908 for December 2019 magazine printing £105 for village hall hire					

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities. For which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups (eg Mothers' Union) or informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose. They may also be used to support Restricted funds which are deficient. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that are allocated by the PCC to specific projects and purposes. They may only be re-allocated at the direction of the PCC.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantified. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The PCC owns the land on which the Doctor's Surgery and Church Rooms were constructed. The building is subject to a 125 year lease to the doctor. The underlease on the Church Rooms was held by the PCC but was sold to the surgery in 2019. In view of the long-term letting of the surgery, no value is given to the land containing this surgery.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no items with an accounting value at 31 December 2020.

Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. The Consolidated Churchyard and the Frost and Miles funds are 'Permanent' Endowment funds. The former is an amalgamation of many individual gifts, funds and bequests. The latter is held under the terms of the bequests of the late Miss Frost and Mr Miles. The capital (and any associated capital growth) underpinning these funds remains locked into the Endowment funds, the income, in the form of dividends, being allocated to the respective restrictive revenue

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY

accounts which remain restricted to the purpose of the underlying fund. The restricted Chancel fund contains the amalgamation of several obligations for the support of the chancel that were converted into lump sum payments a number of years ago. The Investment fund was created from some of the proceeds of the sale by the PCC of the house containing the village shop.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020.

2 Terms Used in the Report

Agency payment or collection: The PCC acts as an agent - collecting fees for events and then paying them to event organisers. There is no income derived by the PCC (although the PCC may subsidise the event or persons and carries liability).

Agency collection of wedding and funeral fees: In previous years the receipt and payment of fees associated with weddings and funerals did not pass through the PCC bank accounts or appear in the SOFA. The exception being the payment of a fee to the PCC effectively for "hire" of the church. At the instruction of the DBF, the management of the fees associated with weddings and funerals are now a PCC responsibility but don't directly represent income or expenditure by the PCC (apart from the "church hire" element that is a genuine PCC income stream). This is handled in the accounts as an agency activity with only the "church hire" element appearing under "Church Activities Receipts".

Non physical funds: The PCC collects and distributes money associated with many individual funds (such as the Bell fund and the church re-ordering fund). These do not have their own specific bank account but are held within the PCC general Bank and CCLA accounts. In order to maintain separation and control of all the funds, they are managed in the treasury spreadsheet as distinct funds so that fund income, expenditure and fund balance are always known and can be presented in the end of year accounts. It also serves as an effective budget management approach.

Charity funds: These funds include all the charities for which the PCC either collects money or makes payments. When the PCC receives donations for a charity the money is paid into a PCC bank account and then the exact same amount (plus gift aid) is paid out to the charity with no income for the PCC. These are shown in these accounts as external charities. They net out to Zero at end of the year. Either because they have already been paid out in year or are matched by a liability to pay (which normally happens in January of the next year). The PCC also support charities which are funded from PCC general funds (such as the payments to missionaries in Uganda). These are labelled as internal charities in the accounts. These internal charities may also receive donations and are treated as Restricted – in the sense that any donated money may only be used for the declared purpose for which the donation was made. They always net out to Zero at year end by transfer of sufficient funding from the General Fund to match any liability. Note that General Fund refers to money held in bank accounts and investment funds that can be used for any church purpose at the discretion of the PCC.

Employment: During the year the PCC employed an organist and secretary (both part time). These employees equate to less than one full time employee. There were no associated social security costs but the secretary and organist are enrolled in the NEST pension scheme. The organist was placed on furlough in April 2020 while the secretary remained working her normal hours.

Payments to trustees: No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than to reimburse clearly identifiable expenditure incurred on specific purchases or in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocese for the payment of clergy and Licensed Lay Minister expenses.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending 31 December 2020

2	INCOMING RESOURCES							
				Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds £	Total funds £
				2020	2020	2020	2020	2019
				Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
	Category	Account Heading	Account Description					
2(a)	Voluntary Receipts	Planned giving	Gift Aid - Bank	47,000.00	-	-	47,000.00	39,953.00
			Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,558.07	-	-	1,558.07	-
			Other planned giving	-	-	-	-	-
		Collections at Services	Loose plate collections	1,307.68	-	-	1,307.68	9,761.41
			Special collections	-	-	-	-	-
		voluntary receipts	Gift Days	-	-	-	-	-
			Giving through church boxes	208.26	-	-	208.26	31.20
			Donations appeals etc.	1,928.70	13,148.00	-	15,076.70	23,308.23
			Cash received from Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
			Grants recurring	1,102.21	6,525.00	-	7,627.21	25.00
			Grants non-recurring one-off	-	-	-	-	-
			Jigsaw sales	-	-	-	-	50.00
		Gift Aid recovered	Gift Aid recovered	10,742.04	50.00	-	10,792.04	14,664.49
				63,846.96	19,723.00	-	83,569.96	87,793.33
2(b)	Activities for generating funds	Fund Raising	Church fetes etc.	-	-	-	-	-
			Parish Magazine - advertising	11,156.00	-	-	11,156.00	12,743.50
				11,156.00	-	-	11,156.00	12,743.50
2(c)	Investment Income	Income from Investments	Dividends	227.12	1,448.40	-	1,675.52	3,686.37
			Bank and building society interest	28.92	-	-	28.92	-
			Rent from lands or buildings owned by the PCC.	-	-	-	-	-
				256.04	1,448.40	-	1,704.44	3,686.37
2(d)	Church Activities Receipts	Receipts from church activities	Fees for weddings and funerals for PCC	1,715.00	-	-	1,715.00	4,170.00
			Bookstall and magazine sales	13.73	-	-	13.73	90.54
			Church rooms lettings - objects related	-	-	-	-	10.00
				1,728.73	-	-	1,728.73	4,270.54
2(e)	Other Receipts	Other receipts	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
			Sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	59,892.80
			Other funds generated e.g sale of investments	-	-	-	-	286.00
				-	-	-	-	60,178.80
	Total Incoming PCC Resources			76,987.73	21,171.40	-	98,159.13	168,672.54
2(f)			Agency office collection	-	(603.50)	-	(603.50)	
2(g)			Agency charity	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	
2(h)			Agency Weddings & funerals	-	6,624.50	-	6,624.50	
				-	7,521.00	-	7,521.00	15,453.95
	Total including Agency Incoming Resources			76,987.73	28,692.40	-	105,680.13	184,126.49
* The PCC acts as an agent: See Notes.								

year ending 31 December 2020

	See Notes for declaration on PCC employees and no expenses paid to trustees
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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALMONDSBURY
year ending December 2020

4.

FIXED ASSETS

(a) **Tangible**
The PCC owns the freeholds of the Doctor's Surgery (including what were the Church Rooms. The under lease on the Church Rooms having been to various items of furniture and equipment in the church and in church Rooms. All of these assets are deemed to be fully depreciated for accounting purposes.

(b) **Investments**
Investments are held within accounts managed by the CCLA within the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. Details are in the Notes page.

Funds	Investment Fund	Chancel	Churchyard	Frost & Miles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Market value on 1 January 2020	94,170.18	7,578.50	18,393.13	18,122.08	138,263.89
Add increase in value	9,606.33	521.15	1,264.84	1,246.20	12,638.53
Market value on 31 December 2020	103,776.51	8,099.65	19,657.97	19,368.28	150,902.42

5. **CURRENT ASSETS (DEBTORS)**

		2019	2020
HMRC - gift aid recovered *	Accrued income	3,179.15	2,523.10
Furlough grant	Accrued income		112.03
Olveston share of Clergy expenses	Accrued income	303.50	327.53
Other	Accrued income	42.66	-
		3,525.31	2,962.66

6. **LIABILITIES**

Parish Magazine advertising for next	Prepaid income	-	(140.00)
Pre Paid Income - BRF I	Prepaid income	(14.00)	(14.10)
Pre Paid Income - Weddings	Prepaid income	-	(3,274.00)
Re-ordering work on church	Accrued expense	(32,716.84)	-
Church Audio_Visual	Accrued expense		(20,184.46)
Church repairs	Accrued expense	(257.63)	(2,009.46)
Clergy expenses	Accrued expense	(384.25)	(241.17)
Church running utilities	Accrued expense	(515.00)	-
Church running services	Accrued expense		(155.96)
Church office	Accrued expense	(195.93)	(85.94)
Payment to Diocese	Accrued expense		(812.00)
		(34,083.65)	(26,917.09)

Outstanding from charity collections			
Children's Society		(978.04)	-
Christian Aid		(56.26)	-
Tear fund		(145.94)	-
The Royal British Legion		(655.63)	-
Release International		(100.00)	-
		(1,935.87)	-

Assets - Liabilities

(32,494.21)	(23,954.43)
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7. **FUNDS** (See Notes for further explanation)

The total of parish assets (£208,511.62) at end of 2020 is distributed across PCC funds as shown below. Those marked Restricted contain money for their declared purpose. Whereas those marked Designated hold money earmarked by the PCC for specific projects or purposes and can be re-allocated. "Uncommitted Fund" equals the difference between total parish assets and all other funds. It represents the degree of freedom of the PCC to add to or subtract from the fund.

Fund type	Balance b/f	Incoming	Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	01-Jan-20	Resources	Expended		31-Dec-20
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds - non physical					
Bells ABRP Fund	11,930.34	16,548.00	(2,234.66)	-	26,243.68
Bell Fund	4,376.70	-	(22.00)	-	4,354.70
Fabric	4,321.21	650.00	(358.95)	-	4,612.26
Re-ordering Designated	53,273.95	-	(9,115.79)	(39,137.24)	5,020.92
Re-ordering Disabled Restricted	5,000.00	-	-	(5,000.00)	-
Re-ordering - Restricted	7,463.43	500.00	-	(7,963.43)	-
Frost & Miles - Restricted	300.06	542.54	-	-	842.60
Chancel Restricted	1,352.18	226.90	-	-	1,579.08
Churchyard - Restricted	-	575.67	(1,952.46)	1,376.79	-
Boiler replacement - Designated	29,700.00	-	(29,600.00)	750.00	850.00
Boiler replacement - Reserved	-	750.00	-	(750.00)	-
Audio visual - Restricted	-	1,250.00	-	(1,250.00)	-
AudioVisual - Designated	40,000.00	-	(25,012.99)	(9,987.01)	5,000.00
Charity Funds external*	-	1,500.00	(1,515.00)	15.00	-
Charity Funds Internal*	-	-	(1,300.00)	1,300.00	-
Uncommitted Fund	43,470.99	77,116.02	(94,474.62)	(12,822.76)	13,289.63
Wedding or funeral	1,030.30	6,624.50	(7,232.92)	-	421.88
Agency funds	108.85	(603.50)	468.55	-	(26.10)
investment volatility reserve	16,437.98	-	-	(6,437.98)	10,000.00
short term reserve	-	-	-	18,500.00	18,500.00
long term reserve	-	-	-	40,000.00	40,000.00
Quinquennial fund	-	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00
CCLA Investment fund growth		9,606.33		(9,606.33)	
Correction for last year's error in Liabilities	(1,012.96)			1,012.96	-
Total non physical funds	217,753.03	115,286.46	(172,350.84)	(0.00)	160,688.65
Frost & Miles Fund	18,122.08	1,246.20			19,368.28
Churchyard Fund	18,393.13	1,264.84			19,657.97
Chancel Fund	7578.5	521.15			8,099.65
Investment growth					-
Grand Total	261,846.74				207,814.56

Was £16,437.98 : moved to volatility reserve above
2020 growth of £9,606.33 now in Uncommitted Fund (See Transfers column above)

8. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by bank accounts, deposits and Investments**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2020
	£		£	£	£
Cash & short term deposits (Cash in hand, BMM, Current A	80,856.57	-	10.00	-	80,866.57
Investment fixed assets (Investment, Chancel, Churchyard,	103,776.51	-	8,099.65	39,026.26	150,902.42
Current assets	2,912.66		50.00	-	2,962.66
Less liabilities	(3,911.17)		(23,005.92)	-	(26,917.09)
	183,634.57	-	(14,846.27)	39,026.26	207,814.56

Uncommitted Reserve stands at **13,289.63**

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's, Almondsbury

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

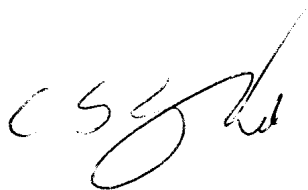
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- . to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
- . to prepare financial statement, which in accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Reviewed and agreed by A Kite on 5Apr21 but signed electronically due to COVID



A S G kite