

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY SHIREHAMPTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1131636

Details

Other names ST MARY'S PCC SHIREHAMPTON

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-09-15

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

Contact

Address St Mary's Church
High St
Shirehampton
Bristol
BS11 0DW

Phone 01179077026

Email stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com

Website www.stmarysshire.org

Activities

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

Activities: Church of England services & religious activities for all ages. Outreach into community including work with youth and elderly. We run a youth group, dance classes and Pop Up events, Mothers' Union branch and social activities & host a 'Goldies' singing group and Prayer Hub, Local Councillor surgery & MP surgery, Advice Service & Community Police surgery.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£128,430	£150,012	-	-
2023-12-31	£152,007	£152,826	-	-
2022-12-31	£128,625	£121,247	-	-
2021-12-31	£140,382	£155,420	-	-
2020-12-31	£125,025	£135,704	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Alison Sowton	Chair	2022-10-20
Cariad Louise Samantha Sansom		2026-05-10
Derek Sowton		2023-05-21
Florence Elizabeth Grimes		2023-05-21
James Robert Smith		2026-05-10
MR TIM FORDER ALCM		
MRS PAT DAVIDSON		2017-04-30
Rosie Victoria Smith		2026-05-10
Sharon Lesley Viney		2024-05-12

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2024

Charity number 1131636



Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2024

Contents

Parochial Church Council	1
Annual Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2024

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev Alison Sowton

Independent Reporting Accountants: David A Oakensen,
Oakensen (Bristol) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Suite 9, Westbury Court
Church Road,
Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol BS9 3EF

Bankers: HSBC
62 George White Street
Bristol
BS1 3BA

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

Charitable Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the PCC Powers Measure. The PCC was registered as a charity in 2009, with charity number 1131636, having previously been an excepted charity. The PCC members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also maintains the Tithe Barn in accordance with its aims and objectives, making it available for the purposes of St Mary's and for the use of the inhabitants of all ages with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, provides Church of England services and religious activities for all ages, gives pastoral care to people living in the parish and beyond, and provides outreach into the community via work with youth, the elderly and the vulnerable. The PCC seeks to enable as many people as possible to worship in our church and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

We run a youth group, dance classes, a Mothers' Union branch, a Bereavement Journey branch and host a 'Goldies' singing group. We are open every day for coffee mornings for the community or for worship, and provide lunches during our Welcoming Space on Fridays. In addition, we hold various social activities and Pop-Up events during the year, all open to the whole community.

As part of the Avonside Mission Area (ASMA), we work alongside the Anglican churches of Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop to provide additional support and events to the whole community, including a Mental Awareness Group branch.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, The PCC is a Registered Charity.

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	Resigned 12 th May 2024
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Pat Davidson Derek Sowton	
Elected Members:	Tim Forder Philip Fowler Solveig Gibson Colin Godfrey Florence Grimes Sarah Parry Reid Sharon Viney	Electoral Roll Officer Data Protection Officer Resigned 12 th May 2024 Secretary Appointed to PCC on 12 th May 2024 & as Safeguarding Officer (16 Jan 2025) & Health & Safety Officer (from 29 Nov '23)
Treasurer (not in PCC) Safeguarding Officer (not in PCC)	Eleanor Beddoes Claire Staynings	To 16 th January 2025

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions from the Council.

Financial Review

Income at £128,430 (2023: £152,007) was lower (2023: lower) than expenditure of £150,010 (2023: £152,826) to give net expenditure) of £21,580 (2023: £819 net expenditure). Most income streams decreased during the year, and we have worked hard to make our church known in the community and welcome all through our doors. We are grateful for all the donations received. More donors have transferred across from monthly giving to the Parish Giving Scheme, freeing up administrative time and effort in recording donations and claiming Gift Aid. We applied for grants from some Charitable Foundations and were pleased to receive £7,000 towards the salary of our Youth Worker and £3,000 towards the costs of running our Friday Welcoming Space. Returns on investments continued to bring in valuable income. Total costs decreased from last year, as the PCC made the difficult decision to reduce our charitable giving, having increased giving in the previous year. Many running costs increased in the year, with suppliers passing on cost of living increases and the greatest impact was found in our utility costs. We continually review costs to minimise the impacts of price increases where appropriate, and upgraded our broadband provision during the year at Church and Tithe Barn, leading to faster speeds at lower cost.

We are grateful to our church family and local community for your continued support.

Giving to missions/charities from general funds totalled £3,000 (2023: £10,000). The amount paid to the Diocese for parish and ministry costs was £50,000 (2023: £50,000).

Restricted income exceeded restricted expenditure by £356 (2023: £46 income exceeded expenditure) and a breakdown can be found in the notes to the accounts.

The gain on revaluation of shares held as endowment funds was £17,474 (2023: £65,723 revaluation gain).

The Charity Commission approved a scheme allowing us to sell shares to the value of £109,000 to partly fund the purchase of the Tithe Barn, on the condition these shares would be purchased back until the full number of shares were reinstated. At 31 December 2023 the total market value of the amount remaining to be paid was £55,391 (2023: £55,391). The full amount is to be repaid by 2033.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that will allow sufficient funds to be available to pay for church activities as they arise and also to ensure that support and governance costs can be met as they fall due. The balance held as unrestricted funds at the year-end was £424,553 (2023: £459,879), of which £70,186 (2023: £98,015) are regarded as free reserves after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets.

Where possible, we maintain reserves to cover, as a minimum, identifiable repair and maintenance costs relating to the fabric and furnishings of St Mary's, three months' parish share payments and 25% of the amounts required from fund raising to cover general expenditure. We have estimated quarterly net expenditure on fabric and furnishings for 2025 at £5,000, parish contributions to the Diocese for three months total £11,250 and £3,000 is required to cover any shortfall in fundraising.

Investments

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, as custodial trustees, hold CBF Ltd shares on our behalf in both the Bernard Salmon and Napier Miles Trusts. In addition, 404 CBF shares are held in respect of the Ecclesiastical and non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

PCC Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this is inappropriate.

The PCC members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Parish and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Alison Sowton

Approved by the PCC on 17th April 2025

and signed on their behalf by Rev Alison Sowton (Vicar)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Mary, Shirehampton, Bristol.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

David A Oakensen

David A Oakensen FCA
Oakensen (Bristol) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Westbury Court, Church Road
Westbury-on-Trym
BS9 3EF

Date: 17th April 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		72,163	12,242	—	84,405	87,284
Income from charitable activities		10,315	—	—	10,315	16,525
Other trading activities		6,452	—	—	6,452	8,980
Investments		22,821	—	—	22,821	21,468
Other income		4,437	—	—	4,437	17,750
Total income	2	116,188	12,242	—	128,430	152,007
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		232	—	—	232	286
Expenditure on charitable activities		129,682	12,601	—	142,283	145,043
Other expenditure		7,497	—	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	3	137,411	12,601	—	150,012	152,826
Net (expenditure) before gains and transfer		(21,223)	(359)	—	(21,582)	(819)
Transfers between funds		(14,103)	(897)	15,000	—	—
Gains on investment assets		—	—	17,474	17,474	65,723
Net movement in funds		(35,326)	(1,256)	32,474	(4,108)	64,904
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2024		459,879	14,109	748,495	1,222,483	1,157,579
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2024	10	424,553	12,853	780,969	1,218,375	1,222,483

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2024
Balance sheet

		2024 £	2023 £
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	354,367	361,864
Investments	6	780,969	763,495
		1,135,336	1,125,359
Current assets			
Debtors	7	8,418	9,378
Cash at bank and in hand		81,462	95,860
		89,880	105,238
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	(6,841)	(8,114)
Net current assets		83,039	97,124
Total Net Assets		1,218,375	1,222,483
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds	10	424,553	459,879
Restricted funds	10	12,853	14,109
Endowment funds	10	780,969	748,495
Total Funds		1,218,375	1,222,483

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th April 2025

Alison Sowton

Rev Alison Sowton
Vicar

Eleanor Beddoes

E Beddoes
Treasurer

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements use the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The valuation of investment assets are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is sterling and all figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

The PCC considers there are no material uncertainties about their ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for a specific purpose, the use of which is restricted to that area. These funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest will in future be appointed to individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and 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 legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Annual Report. All help received is greatly appreciated and we would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at a reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 with individual value below £1,000 are written off.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any residual value, over their expected useful life, as follows:

Tithe Barn	2% of construction and refurbishment cost on a straight-line basis
------------	--

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December. Investment gains and losses resulting from revaluing investments to market value are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisitions or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount at which the charity is expected to benefit in a future period. Provision is made for any amount that may prove uncollectible.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 Income

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Gift aided donations	1,565	—	1,565	3,928
Gift aided donations via envelope	3,661	—	3,661	5,601
Planned giving	37,494	—	37,494	35,874
Collections (open plate) at all services	2,171	—	2,171	2,627
Sundry donations	15,125	2,242	17,367	20,705
Donations – appeals, grants (see below)	—	10,000	10,000	6,500
Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	10,147	—	10,147	11,749
Legacies received	2,000	—	2,000	300
Donations and legacies total	72,163	12,242	84,405	87,284
Income from church activities				
Fees for weddings, funerals & interments	3,842	—	3,842	10,262
Church lettings - objectives	75	—	75	277
Tithe Barn lettings – objectives	5,762	—	5,762	4,004
Other income	636	—	636	1,982
Income from church activities total	10,315	—	10,315	16,525
Other trading activities				
Fayres and fundraising events	1,843	—	1,843	3,006
Tithe Barn lettings – other	4,609	—	4,609	5,974
Other trading activities total	6,452	—	6,452	8,980
Investments				
Interest - dividends	880	—	880	693
Bernard Salmon Trust income	13,770	—	13,770	13,258
Napier Miles Trust income	7,201	—	7,201	7,091
Bank interest	970	—	970	426
Investments total	22,821	—	22,821	21,468
Other income				
Telecommunications agreement	4,437	—	4,437	17,750
Other income total	4,437	—	4,437	17,750
Total income	116,188	12,242	128,430	152,007
Grants received:				
Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance	—	—	—	—
Temple Ecclesiastical	—	2,500	2,500	5,000
St Thomas Ecclesiastical	—	2,500	2,500	1,500
Bristol Archdeaconry Charity	—	2,000	2,000	—
Bristol Churches City Fund	—	3,000	3,000	—
Total grant income	—	10,000	10,000	6,500

We are grateful to all grant providers for their support.

3 Expenditure

Raising Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Costs of fayres and events	232	—	232	286
Raising funds total	232	—	232	286
Church Activities				
Youth Programmes	—	544	544	1,431
Food and Fellowship	290	2,131	2,421	260
Ministry Parish Share	48,720	—	48,720	50,000
Donation to St Peter's Hospice	—	—	—	3,333
Donation to Macmillan Cancer Support	—	—	—	3,334
Donation to Mary's Meals	—	—	—	3,333
Donation to St Mungo's	1,000	—	1,000	—
Donation to Marie Curie	1,000	—	1,000	—
Donation to Medecins Sans Frontieres	1,000	—	1,000	—
Church activities subtotal	52,010	2,675	54,685	61,691
Church activities – support costs				
Employment costs	36,458	7,000	43,458	38,346
Telephone and broadband costs	1,566	—	1,566	1,656
Parish training and mission	480	—	480	164
Fees paid for weddings and funerals	175	—	175	56
Additional organist fees	400	—	400	500
Verger fees	1,100	—	1,100	2,000
Church running – insurance	3,756	—	3,756	3,596
Kitchen consumables and equipment	959	—	959	992
Church and office equipment	—	—	—	2,169
Organ/piano tuning and maintenance	1,460	—	1,460	1,284
Church maintenance and replacements	717	—	717	2,177
Cleaning & hygiene	1,358	—	1,358	1,598
Altar requisites	864	390	1,254	1,761
Upkeep of churchyard	601	—	601	2,108
Security expenditure	—	527	527	—
Printing and stationery	2,739	—	2,739	3,012
Sundry expenses	204	—	204	155
Church running – utilities	10,068	2,009	12,077	9,974
Specific expenses including licences	1,803	—	1,803	1,556
Tithe Barn running – rates and utilities	5,033	—	5,033	4,802
Tithe Barn insurance	1,610	—	1,610	1,541
Tithe Barn maintenance	2,200	—	2,200	1,751
Tithe Barn broadband	556	—	556	638
Tithe Barn equipment	—	—	—	124
Governance costs – independent examination	1,320	—	1,320	900
Professional and other fees	2,245	—	2,245	492
Church activities – support costs subtotal	77,672	9,926	87,598	83,352
Church activity costs total	129,682	12,601	142,283	145,043
Other expenditure				
Depreciation	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Other expenditure total	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	137,411	12,601	150,012	152,826

4 Staff Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
The aggregate payroll costs of staff were as follows:		
Gross payroll and employer's national insurance contributions	42,505	37,509
Employer's pension contributions	953	837
	43,458	38,346
	2024 Number	2023 Number
Number of part-time staff	4	4

5 Fixed Assets for use by PCC

	Tithe Barn £	2024 £
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2024	515,000	515,000
	515,000	515,000
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	153,136	153,136
Charge for the year	7,497	7,497
At 31 December 2024	160,633	160,633
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2024	354,367	354,367
At 31 December 2023	361,864	361,864

6 Investment Assets – Endowment Funds

	Number of shares	Church £	Shire Charities £	2024 £	2023 £
Bernard Salmon Fund					
At 1 January 2023	21,944	496,076	—	496,076	443,335
Shares purchased in year	—	—	—	—	10,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	11,355	—	11,355	42,741
At 31 December 2023	21,944	507,431	—	507,431	496,076
Napier Miles Trust					
At 1 January 2023	11,475	259,402	—	259,402	237,095
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	5,937	—	5,937	22,307
At 31 December 2023	11,475	265,339	—	265,339	259,402
CBF Shares Charity Funds					
At 1 January 2023	404	—	8,017	8,017	7,342
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	—	181	181	675
At 31 December 2023	404	—	8,198	8,198	8,017
Summary					
Market value at 1 January 2024		755,478	8,017	763,495	687,772
Shares purchased in year		—	—	—	10,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation		17,293	181	17,474	65,723
Total investment assets at 31 December 2024		772,771	8,198	780,969	763,495

7 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	7,821	7,652
Other debtors	597	1,726
	8,418	9,378

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	3,126	3,091
Accruals and deferred income	3,684	4,777
Taxation and social security	31	100
Other creditors	—	146
	6,841	8,114

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	354,367	—	—	354,367
Investment fixed assets	—	—	780,969	780,969
Current assets	77,027	12,853	—	89,880
Current liabilities	(6,841)	—	—	(6,841)
	424,553	12,853	780,969	1,218,375

10 Fund movement by type

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	Closing £
Endowment Funds	748,495	—	—	15,000	17,474	780,969
Restricted Funds	14,109	12,242	(12,601)	(897)	—	12,853
Unrestricted Funds	459,879	116,188	(137,411)	(14,103)	—	424,553
Grand total	1,222,483	128,430	(150,012)	—	17,474	1,218,375

Analysis of Restricted Funds

	2024 £	2023 £
Audio Visual & Music Equipment Fund	639	639
Memorial Garden	702	1,600
Security System	2,271	2,800
Flower Fund	280	360
Roof Fund	3,667	3,667
Vestments	180	180
Fund for new church chairs	4,795	4,475
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	288	221
Youth Group Fund	31	167
Total Restricted Funds	12,853	14,109



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON



Annual PCC Report January to December 2024

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton Annual Report

Background:

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership:

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	Resigned 12 th May 2024
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Pat Davidson Derek Sowton	
Elected Members:	Tim Forder Philip Fowler Solveig Gibson Colin Godfrey Florence Grimes Sarah Parry Reid Sharon Viney	Electoral Roll Officer Data Protection Officer Resigned 12 th May 2024 Secretary Appointed to PCC on 12 th May 2024 Safeguarding Officer (<i>16 Jan 2025</i>) Health & Safety Officer (<i>29 Nov 2023</i>)
Treasurer (not in PCC) Safeguarding Officer (not in PCC)	Eleanor Beddoes Claire Staynings	To 16 th January 2025

Vicar's Report

How do you sum up a year in the life of a church?

Our very breath, in and out, inspired by the Holy Spirit, filled with the love and servanthood of its people.

My thanks to each one of you that keeps the pulse of the body of Christ beating... Anne Ford our Church Warden and all the members of our P.C.C. that carry the vision and serve with integrity and care, my thanks especially to Claire Staynings for holding the safeguarding role and to Sharon Viney for health and safety lead, then stepping in to safeguarding as Clare had to step down, important roles that keep us a healthy church...to those who keep the gallons of coffee and teas flowing throughout the year...to the welcoming space team that feeds the body and souls of our community with food and friendship...the churchyard team who clear litter, tend plants and keep the space a place of sanctuary...the events team, young and old, who move chairs, put up tables, create a world of imagination as we raise much needed funds...to the money counters, and to Phil Fowler who keeps the books balanced...the Tithe Barn team for bookings opening and closing and being the connectors between our church and our users...to Shelley Eynon for keeping our church clean and tidy and our flowers magnificent. Every one of you giving so much to the life flow of St Mary's.

And of course a church needs the beating heart of worship. My thanks to Jill Eynon our amazing vergers and her team, seamlessly bringing together all the elements necessary to make services run smoothly...thanks too to Tim Forder our musical Director and to all the members of our choir that give of their time and talents, week in week out.

If I am to keep the analogy of the body of Christ going then my gratitude goes to the skeletal system, the very bones that hold everything together, our fabulous staff team. Eleanor Beddoes who has the job of keeping all the plates spinning, especially keeping the vicar on track! Eleanor does a million different jobs with such grace, gentleness and proficiency, thanks is too small a word. We have been joined this year by Gosia Piotrowska. Gosia is a welcome new addition to our team. Her post is funded through the Priority Community Network and she is our ops manager. Gosia will be taking a lead in our grant grabbing as well as some key operational tasks.

Amy Boucher...what can I say! The boundless creativity, the passion for the care and ministry to our children, youth and across the generations and your worship leading is a constant inspiration. Read Amy's report later to see just how much life and energy there is in this church.

Once again the ASMA team have been blessed with a Ministry Experience placement student. Tristan has been a real blessing to us at St Mary's. He has been a great help on Friday welcoming space and clearly has a preaching gift which we will continue to nurture. And of course my thanks to Trevor Hearn and Duncan Jennings for their continued ministry and care for the congregation and for me! And not least to Derek for always being there and giving his all.

This year we have sadly said goodbye to some longstanding church members who have gone to glory: Tim Christie, Irene Whitfield, John Barrett, Norma Wylie, Eileen Molloy and Joan Farquhar. It is always sad to say goodbye but we have been richly blessed by their lives amongst us.

The Tithe Barn is now on the market and we are praying for a buyer soon. The global financial uncertainty may have an impact on this. We wait in hope and faith.

The vision for St Mary's and the wider Diocese to be Transforming Church Together is really seeing some green shoots flourishing. We have new congregation members and over 1000 people have been part of the life of our church this year.

Our mission to love and serve our neighbours has been at the heart of all we do. Making connections and sharing God's love is what we are called to. Over the past year I have worked closely with the Priority Community Network and we have been blessed by funding for a new Lay worker. This role is for a Youth and Community Connector. The worker will be engaging with those on the margins, beyond the walls of church. It is a wonderful opportunity to add to the ministry here and we are grateful that the funding is in place till late 2029.

A portion of this funding has also enabled us to extend Amy's ministry by 5 additional hours a week allowing a deepening of her role.

Like churches everywhere we find ourselves struggling financially. The grants to cover the expense of our welcoming space allow this mission to go on and the PCN funding above will bring new opportunities, however, the challenges of keeping buildings running and the cost of utilities continue to bite. The donations you each make regularly are so vital in keeping St Mary's alive, do please continue to be as generous as you are able.

You are the body of Christ, whether you are able to do or are able to pray. Your smile, your welcome to newcomers, your love of Jesus is what makes church church.

A year in the life of a church! Beating, bleeding, loving, serving.

A huge thank you from me. It is a privilege to minister with you. As God leads us forward I am excited by what's to come!

Blessings Alison



Churchwardens' Report

This last year has gone by so quickly and with gathering speed we are approaching another APCM. We have witnessed many things Locally, Nationally and Globally - some news items have brought us to wondering what next and others - great joy. Throughout all we have held on steadfastly with prayers and thanksgiving.

We are grateful to all who support the Church in many ways. Some folk work quietly behind the scenes, and may go unnoticed but are vital in helping to keep the Church open and welcoming throughout the year. We are blessed by all who give of their time, quietly making things happen.

Obtaining grants has enabled us to continue to support Youth work and Community Development.

The Friday Hot Drinks and Welcoming Space has flourished and numbers of folk coming are rising and some weeks have welcomed and fed 45+. We give thanks to all who help and support this in any way and to all who come and enjoy the food and fellowship All are Welcome!.

The Pop Up events have been another way of sharing hospitality and these events are really well received by the Community i.e:- on Shrove Tuesday 150 pancakes were served.

Our Choir faithfully sing each Sunday and at many other services throughout the year.

The Area Choir are also to be thanked for their time, energy and voices and especially the Christmas and Easter programmes.

To all who have helped in any way on the practical jobs during the last year we give sincere thanks.

Our Vergers, Jill, Chris and Colin assist in many ways - we appreciate all they do - often done quietly behind the scenes.

Richard and I continue to take Communion every month to the residents at Penhill Residential Home - there is always a warm welcome.



A huge thank you to all who help to keep the Churchyard tidy and empty the bins. Also to those who generously keep the flower beds and planters going.

Bristol City Council continue to cut the grass in the main Churchyard.

Our thanks to our clergy - Alison, Trevor and Duncan and for the clergy and members from the Mission Area who frequently join us for worship.

Finally, my sincere thanks to you all.

I have been grateful for your support during my time as Churchwarden.

Sincerely,
Anne.

Anne Ford, Churchwarden



Report on the Fabric of the Church Building

The Church Building

Various leaks occur during the heavy rain. Colin and Richard have made various trips to the roof to clear guttering on a regular basis. Simon Cartlidge, the church architect, continues to look into a more permanent solution.



The church heating has been working well throughout the year, following fitting of a new programmer last year that aimed to improve control of our heating system.

Church Yard

Maintenance of the church yard is the responsibility of Bristol City Council following formal closure for burials. However, we continue to maintain our memorial gardens with Norman England cutting the grass.

A local woodworking group have created new surrounds for the bins in the church yard, which also include space for placing posters for upcoming events. The intention is that these will be stronger than the bins they were replacing, hopefully deterring vandalism and allowing more space for rubbish, leading to a cleaner and tidier area.

Church Security

The church alarm system continues to work well with remote monitoring and call-out facility of a key holder.

External metal on the building is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

Anti-climb paint has been applied to drainpipes to deter anti-social behaviour and climbing onto the flat roof, and the required notices have been displayed.

The external lighting on the West End porch provides light from dusk to dawn, improving visibility during the hours of darkness.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. Lightning conductors.
2. The church heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
3. The security alarm system.

4. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. The organ humidifier.
7. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Routine Maintenance – In-house

A schedule of routine maintenance continues to operate, ensuring a regular review of the condition of the building and any actions needed. The schedule includes frequent checks of such items as roofs, gullies, drainpipes, windows, toilets, water heaters, church ladders, timber door thresholds, tea/coffee water heater de-scaling and more.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits.

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 8th April 2022. The recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next quinquennial (five yearly) church inspection was expected around the third quarter of 2024, but contact has not yet been received from the Diocese. We understand they are running behind in their diary. Preparations for a likely visit have been made and files updated as required.

Triennial Inspection

The next Archdeacons' triennial (three yearly) inspection to check church records, processes and property is due in 2025.

Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon Advice

An energy and decarbonisation survey was undertaken by Inspired Efficiency Ltd in May 2024 to offer us advice on how the church can be more energy efficient, provide a sustainable and comfortable environment, and move towards net zero carbon. This is part of the wider environment and parish support programme within the Diocese of Bristol. The target date of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon emissions is 2030.

The main recommendations were to improve draughtproofing, increase LED lighting and to change from gas boiler heating to a full electric heating system. They acknowledged that we had reduced some emissions by moving over some lighting to LED lighting and that we use some electric heating. Our gas and electricity contracts are already through renewable energy supplies.

It is estimated the cost to install an air-to-air heat pump would be in the region of £118,000.

Finally

Grateful thanks go to:-

- Colin Godfrey and Richard Powell for all their work keeping the Church and Tithe Barn up and running.
- Chris Hearn and Derek Sowton for their help in the church yard.
- Pam Crawford, Julie Smith for tending the flowers in the memorial garden and Sue Alford for her care of the planters in the churchyard.
- Jill Eynon, Sarah Parry-Reid, Doug Jennings, Derek Sowton, Richard Powell and Colin Godfrey for emptying the bins in the churchyard.
- Phil Fowler, Derek Sowton, Sarah Parry-Reid, Richard Powell, James Smith for operating the sound system and projection at our services.
- Thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard, not just on the building fabric but in so many other ways to make this church truly active, accessible and attractive for everyone. If you have not been individually named, we apologise for the omission and value your time and efforts.



Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report

It is a privilege to have recently been appointed as Safeguarding Officer (in training) at St Mary's, following Claire Staynings' resignation, and I would like to start with a huge thank you to Claire for all the work she did in the role. I hope that my extensive background in Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults through schools, nurseries, local authorities, special needs work, organisations, charities and Churches can be put to good use to continue her work.

Safeguarding is considered a vital part of any organisation's activities, including those in Churches or Communities and it is taken to be everyone's responsibility to be aware of vulnerable members and visitors and to ensure their safety at St Mary's and in the community by reporting any concerns they have or anything they feel uncomfortable about. Please speak to our Vicar, Alison Sowton, Youth and Families Minister, Amy Boucher, or Safeguarding Officer, Sharon Viney if you have anything to report, or please see contact details on our Safeguarding notice boards in the porch and church and at Tithe Barn, or on our website: www.stmarysshire.org

Thank you for your help – "See something; Say something".

St Mary's Safeguarding policies and procedures, and other associated policies have been updated in the past year to ensure we are meeting all legal and national requirements to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm as well as those set by the Diocese.

Policies and Procedures in place to promote Safeguarding at St Mary's include:

- child protection
- vulnerable adults
- domestic abuse
- safer recruitment
- handling of disclosure information
- lone workers
- fair recruitment of ex-offenders

All policies are available in the policy folder at St Mary's. A series of Risk Assessments for each activity also help promote safeguarding and wellbeing of participants – these are due to be updated this year. Safeguarding events and actions are reported on to the relevant next stage as necessary and confidential records are kept securely in the document safe at St Mary's.

Bristol Diocese provides a variety of relevant safeguarding trainings at different levels and for specific roles, for those working with or in regular contact with children and vulnerable adults. Much of this training can be undertaken online

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguardingtraining/>

as well as in person and ensures that all those who need to can develop awareness of safeguarding expectations and required processes to take competent actions in specific circumstances.

Thank you to those who have undertaken training to make our church a safer place already- 3 yearly revalidations are arranged on a rolling basis and please ask if you think some Safeguarding training would be useful to you.

All those in regular contact with children or vulnerable adults are also required to have clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as a national background check for safety and suitability to work with them. Our next update of DBS checking for volunteers is now due. Thank you to Eleanor for her work carrying out this process.

We have a Safeguarding Dashboard as an online data storage system for all our records such as DBS and training etc. Many thanks to Gosia for her rapid work updating this important information for us recently. I have now been given access to this so we can monitor current competencies and upcoming needs and arrange the required training updates on an ongoing basis, to ensure we are compliant with requirements and records and are continuing to ensure St Mary's is a safe, inclusive and happy place to be.



Sharon Viney
Safeguarding Officer



Finance Report

The year ended 31st December 2024 has been a mixed one. On the one hand, we have seen growth in areas of church life such as our Friday Welcoming Space and Monthly Pop Up Events, which has been wonderful to witness. On the other hand, this has not yet translated into an improvement in our financial position, with a drop in income not covering our expenditure for the year.

Following an appeal at last year's APCM, several donors transferred their giving to the Parish Giving Scheme, leading to administrative time savings. Our donations and gift aid receipts are similar to the previous year, and we are grateful for all donations received. We continue to look at ways of making it easier for people to give and you will notice that a new Dona machine has appeared near the kitchen hatch which enables people to give more easily via card, should they wish to do so. We continue to welcome cash if you prefer, but this gives people more choice and ensures that people who do not carry cash are able to give to St Mary's.

In line with other churches within the Church of England, we have seen a significant drop in occasional offices, meaning we have received lower income due to fewer funerals, interments and weddings taking place at St Mary's.

The biggest impact on income has been the loss of the telecommunications mast income and we have not yet found another income stream to compensate for this.

We received £10,000 grant funding in the year, £7,000 to cover our Youth Minister salary and £3,000 to cover the costs of our Welcoming Space. The grant making climate has changed of late, with several funders restricting the size of grants, or pulling out altogether. This has made fundraising even more challenging. Having said that, Gosia Piotrowska has joined our team in January as Operations Hub Manager and one of her main roles is to find grants, be they for chairs, salaries or core costs. She has already identified several potential sources and is preparing applications as we speak, so we hope to have more positive news in terms of grant income during this year.

Although costs for the year are slightly lower than for the 2023 financial year, this has mainly been as a result of paying lower donations out – Parish Share decreased from £50,000 to £48,720 whilst donations to chosen charities reduced from £10,000 to £3,000. Utility costs continued to challenge us, but were partially funded by a grant from Bristol Churches City Fund.

Employment costs rose by £5,112 or 13.3% in the year, partly due to a salary increase for all employees in April and partly due to an increase in Amy's hours worked per week from

September 2024, the increase to be grant-funded. The grant funding for that did not arrive in 2024, but can be claimed for throughout 2025.

Net expenditure for the year before investment gains was £21,582 compared with net expenditure of £819 in 2023. Investment gains for £17,474 were made in the year, compared with £65,723 in 2023. There is clearly a need to reduce the gap between income and expenditure, so grant fundraising has an important part to play going forward.

With the anticipated sale of the Tithe Barn, we will see a reduction in costs and freeing up of valuable volunteer time. This should allow funds to pay for crucial works in the church, including making preparations for the church to become net-zero by 2030. Before any other payments are made, we will need to purchase back £55,391 Bernard Salmon shares from the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance, as these funds were used to purchase the Tithe Barn. The additional shares should see an increase in investment income going forward.

We are thankful for all donations of money and time. I don't wish to name individuals in case I miss someone out unintentionally, but I should personally thank Phil Fowler for his ongoing hard work in preparing so much of the bookkeeping, payments and background work.



Eleanor Beddoes
Treasurer and Parish Administrator



Health and Safety Report

Health and Safety requirements state that everyone should be responsible for the Health and Safety of themselves and others – that it is everyone's responsibility to notice and report anything that could be a hazard or risk in their work or meeting place or organisation, so as we set out on the next year of updating and improving, I invite you all to please be a part of helping us to note any elements that we could do better with for Health and Safety and let myself or Alison know of any concerns so that we can act on them quickly. Thank you.

Following our 2024 H & S audit of policies, procedures, risk assessments and practice, when a number of recommendations as to how we could improve our practice were made, we have progressed well through the checklist of the improvements agreed and still continue to add further measures. The PCC has continued to review other policies connected to H & S throughout the year too, including Safeguarding, youth policies and Lone Working.

Several recommendations from Health and Safety review visits on the Tithe Barn and the main Church have been actioned, as noted on the policy review, to further improve our compliance to requirements and care of building users, including provision of emergency grab bags, relocation of first aid kits and better regulation of chemical products in Church and a new key hook for the rear door key at Tithe Barn to make escape quicker and safer in an emergency. Many thanks to all those who have helped to achieve these improvements.

Policy folders for the Tithe Barn and Church needed some updating at the time of last year's internal audit, so thanks go to Alison and the PCC for steadily working through a number of them, updating and improving, especially to Sarah and Eleanor for the admin work involved in this. The next task will be to update our risk assessments for all activities and situations as current ones (apart from those for youth/family activities) are generally not yet as comprehensive as we would like to make them.

Thank you to Amy for updating Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments for Youth, Family and Multi-generational church activities. Many thanks also go to all the other people who have continuously supported the implementation of Health and Safety requirements at St Mary's through various roles- Richard Powell, Colin Godfrey and Anne Ford for ongoing checks and maintenance and generally to everyone who is involved in any way in following or overseeing procedures to help keep us safe as part of their roles such as helping at events - we are grateful to you all for committing to keeping people and processes safe when volunteering.

Thank you all for your commitment to making St Mary's a safe and welcoming space for Church family of all ages and for our constantly expanding numbers of people visiting from the wider community for food, friendship, comfort, practical or emotional help and support or special events full of fun too.



Sharon Viney

Health and Safety Officer

Children's and Youth Report

Over the past year we have continued to see the model of 'multigenerational church' grow and reach into many elements of youth work and church life, as well as being able to welcome new families and individuals from a variety of different cultures who have come to settle here in Shirehampton.

Providing opportunities for people to mix across generations, cultures and life experiences has been really enriching to experience at St. Mary's. The welcoming Space on Fridays sees many people from a large cross section of the community join together to share friendship and food. As a result, we are seeing a new wave of individuals receiving support from the St. Mary's community and in return are finding that more people are showing an interest in volunteering with the day to day tasks of church life- from kitchen help and setting up for events, donating handmade items for fayres and spreading the word of what goes on here, to new volunteers on our youth and events team, it's all really appreciated and wonderful to see people unite to use their gifts and skills to play a vital role in God's welcome for all. I also look forward to being able to expand God's outreach and welcome even deeper when we appoint a Youth and Community Connector, who's work will complement the things already in place but also reach further to the vulnerable members of our community.

Many of the children's and youth provision outlined below now includes elements of whole family ministry, allowing for faith conversations with both adults and children, encouraging a faith filled family life and being able to provide support, advice and guidance in the forms of food bank help, mental health signposting, school support and providing several families with Bibles who have requested to learn more of the Christian faith:

STOMP Dance Clubs:

Our dancers range from age 3-17 and they have been working hard on a variety of routines and confidence building activities. Break time topics have been used to help with team building whilst looking at various faith topics. The groups have enjoyed a range of performance opportunities such as dancing at a variety of All Age and Celebration services, as well as being able to participate in Bristol STAGES dance weekend in a professional theatre setting – this year's dance theme was 'Creation' where the dancers looked at the story in depth and were able to retell it through music and dance. The family room that is open whilst the dancers are in classes continues to function as its own thriving community- we see extended families of all ages use this area as a warm space, homework club, crèche area and social hub.

Youth @ The Barn:

Our sessions include young people aged 9-17 where we have a great core group of around 18 young people and each year we have a new intake from the year 5 classes in the area, as well as a few new older teens this year too. We have had a few new leaders join our volunteer team and it's great to have them with us each week, getting stuck in to all the activities,

themes and talks. The young people have been really keen to join their Youth Events Team and so far have helped to plan, prep, set up, pack up and lead a variety of events including The Glow Party, food serving at Pop Ups, The Noise Community Fayre, Pop Up play village, Pentecost, Easter and Christmas services and set designing for the Wonka Land Fayre!

Pop Ups Outreach Events:

The Pop Ups have been in full swing throughout this year and continue to be one of the most powerful tools of multigenerational outreach for us with well over 1000 people attending throughout the year who span a large range of ages, cultures and faith beliefs. Families have expressed their thanks for a welcoming space with free activities and many have opened up with lots of soul searching questions. Some highlights have been a massive Pancake Party attended by 128 people, lighting up the High Street with Carols by Disco Light, hosting a Global Feast with many bring and share dishes from all over the world and a Summer Holiday Pop Up Play Village that filled the Church and brought in over 250 visitors, plus many Dads who said they really appreciated some Saturday sessions so that they weren't at work and could make memories with their children too.

GLOW:

We have a core group of 12 Young People who have been attending Glow sessions to ask bigger faith questions. The group has engaged well with the sessions and have looked at global events and news topics through a faith lens. This year our young people formed part of a pioneer focus group to explore the future of the Church of England and how our communities can best become safe, inclusive and nurturing to teens and young adults as they explore their faith. They even won a £50 Pizza Party for all of their hard work and insight!

Schools Work:

I continue to regularly attend Shire Primary School for monthly assemblies to both KS1 and KS2, as well as the Church being able to host the school Easter and Christmas assemblies. There have been quite a few exciting school developments over this year – the new RE lead at Shire Primary is keen to bring classes of Children to visit St. Mary's each term as part of their RE curriculum. So far we have welcomed 130 5-7 year olds to explore the Palm Sunday events and next term hope to welcome a similar number of 7-9 year olds to learn about Pentecost. We have also got some fantastic new links with Nova Primary School, who have so far brought their 8-9 year olds to learn about the Trinity and their 5-6 year olds to learn about Palm Sunday. They are keen to continue to visit St. Mary's to help with their RE studies. We have also had contact from Kingsweston Special School where we will be accepting teenage students on work experience in our Café and coffee mornings in the Summer. These students hope to gain experience so that they can get a job in catering when they leave school. Finally, we hope with the appointment of the Youth and Community Connector, we are able to explore links into Oasis Academy Brightstowe to further engage with teenagers across Shirehampton.

Sunday Services:

Rise and Shine has moved to a new Season of providing a varied programme on a monthly cycle that allows families and individuals to engage with faith on different levels depending on where they are in their own journey:

Mary's Munchies – held over Breakfast in a relaxed environment, with a monthly Christian theme to explore through a variety of faith based activities/ Questions/ Prayers laid out in the Café area. A perfect starting place for very young children and new families that might be at the beginning of their faith journey who can build friendships with our longer standing families in attendance.

Rooted Life Group – A relaxed informal exploring of the Bible around the sofas with Breakfast pastries, deepening the faith journey of the children and adults who want to know more and potentially explore if confirmation/ further faith commitments may be of interest in the future.

Refresh- a family 'at home' programme containing Bible verses and matching activities aimed at exploring themes of social justice as a family unit or to meet up with friends to complete. The activities allow for plenty of opportunities to explore God's creation, to build faith patterns into daily life and grow together as a family in whatever capacity fits with busy family life and routines.

Worship for All Services – Offering a wide range of worship and learning styles for our community to engage with both on communal and personal levels, creating a balance of Sunday Services across the month from Traditional Sung Eucharists, standard Communion Services and All Age Services exploring Modern Worship. This also allows for our youngest members who would normally attend the Rise and Shine programme to have the opportunity to meet with wider members of the congregation, begin to learn the rhythms and patterns of Church life in a full service from those with a mature Christian faith and allow their families the ability to participate in monthly communion.

We have also had a successful year of special celebration services, with a broad range of Church family and community families of all ages coming together for Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, Mother's Day Cafe Church, Easter Services and the Pentecost Birthday Party. It was also great to see some of our uniformed organisations at our Remembrance Day parade.

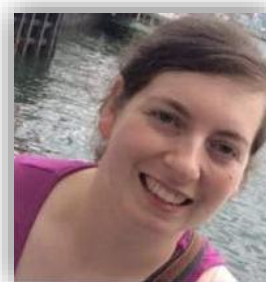


Rooted Monthly Service:

In response to recognising the missing age gap of many 15-30's in our worshipping community, we have launched a new monthly week day service, held in the evening to allow working individuals and those who have family commitments on weekends to attend. This is an informal and relaxed service featuring modern and creative worship with home group style exploration of themes and rhythms of Christian life as we move throughout the seasons of the year. It is designed as a safe space for exploring, learning and growing in faith through a variety of expressions that are inclusive for all ages. This Service shares its name with the Rooted life group as they are intended to complement each other and help with 'rooting' faith throughout the month. It is early days but has already gained interest with people from age 15+ and we hope as our young people get older and start to outgrow the youth programmes, this Service will become a space that they can make their own as they become young adults.

A huge thank you to all leaders, volunteers, young people and congregation members for helping on various teams and being present to share God's love in our community - you have made such a valuable difference to our local children, young people and their families, and we look forward to continuing to do this through many more all age opportunities!

Amy Boucher
Youth Minister



Mothers' Union



Mothers' Union was first established in the Diocese of Bristol in 1898.

Diocese Of Bristol Projects

Members support our diocesan projects either by volunteering or by raising funds and giving donations.

Mothers' Union members started the Friends for Parents scheme at Bristol Children's Hospital more than 30 years ago, providing a friendly face, supplies of tea and coffee and practical help for parents who arrive from all over the Country. One of our own members, Shirley is now a member of Friends for Parents.

In the summer we send coaches with families to Weston-Super-Mare for the day, under the Away From It All (AFIA) scheme.

We have recently gone into partnership with Gympanzees helping to fund transport to pop ups to enable transport for all.

Every Christmas we purchase over three thousand Christmas Story books from the Bible Society and distribute them in pre-school play groups, primary schools and children's centres, reaching out to the families who have little knowledge of the real message of Christmas.

We are in partnership with the Clewer Initiative, raising awareness across the Diocese of the plight of modern-day slaves, those who are 'Hidden in Plain Sight'. We also participated in the 16 Days highlighting Domestic Abuse.

We value our link with Bristol Cathedral and the Mothers' Union prayers are part of the 12.30 pm Eucharist in the Cathedral on the first Thursday of every month. Supporting the 'Blonde Angels Street Team' working to bring homeless people into accommodation.

Shirehampton Branch

Rachel and Darren Giltrow gave an amazing talk with pictures of their 2024 holiday in Chile and Easter Island.

Julia and friends knitted twenty teddy bears which were given to our local fire station who give them to children who have been traumatised by fire.

The Deanery Festival which some of us attended was at Henbury.

We hosted the Deanery lunch at Tithe Barn in July. I received many grateful comments at our Deanery meeting.

Jenny Gore talked to us about 'Cats I have known' which was another amazing talk. We had a collection for her as she supports wild cats in Cyprus.

Ian Caskie's talk about the SS Great Britain was also interesting as was the talk which Denise gave about the Avon Wildlife Trust.

Our last meeting in 2024 was our Christmas Bring and Share lunch. There was a variety of food to choose from which went down very well with everyone. We played a couple of games, then Santa joined us and gave out all the presents. (Thank you Colin).

When asked what shall we do this year, it was a unanimous decision to repeat the Bring and Share lunch.

Throughout the year we gave donations to various events, also to the Mothering Sunday appeal and Summer of Hope.

Thank you to all the Committee and to all our members for their support and generosity.

Julie Smith
Branch Leader



Community

Coffee mornings have taken place throughout the year in the church and are well attended by a range of people of all ages.

Fridays are particularly busy, with bacon butties being served during the Coffee Morning, followed by our Welcoming Space from midday to 2pm (1pm in the warmer months). Lunches are generally prepared by Rev Alison, ably assisted by a wonderful team who have served it up to all who come along. This has proved to be a very popular and vibrant session, with piano music provided by Sarah, lots of chat and a vibrant atmosphere. We have received grant-funding in the year to help pay for food and heating, and the grant-funders were delighted to come along and see what we were doing each week.

Despite standing down as Coffee Mornings Co-ordinator last year, Jill Eynon continues to help out at some mornings and keeps an eye on all supplies of coffee, tea, milk and biscuits.

We are so grateful to all our volunteers who regularly help, those who are happy to help at short notice and anyone who helps temporarily. The coffee mornings are such an important space for the community to meet and connect, and is widely appreciated by many. We could not continue to provide this space without the help of all of you.

It would be wonderful if we could find more volunteers who are able to help, as our team is now quite small and some would like to reduce their time volunteering. If you are interested in serving refreshments for the two hours between 10am and 12 noon, please let us know. Anyone could potentially help, so if you are aware of somebody who lives locally and would like to help, please point them in our direction.

Our church building has been used for various community events during the year. West Bristol Concert Band and Shelley Cox have held concerts that have been well attended and appreciated.

In August, we held a cream tea and flower festival as part of our Patronal Festival Celebrations. Many thanks to Morgan Williams for playing the harp during this event, and also for playing at our Longest Night Service.

Unfortunately, our Christmas Fayre had to be cancelled at very short notice due to a red weather warning being in operation on Storm Darragh's arrival. We were able to sell a lot of items over the following days and weeks during our Coffee Mornings, but Willy Wonka's arrival was postponed until the Easter Fayre in 2025.

Thanks to all who help at these events in any way, we couldn't welcome so many into our space without you.



Building Co-ordinators Report on the Fabric of the Tithe Barn

This is the fabric report for the Tithe Barn.

Roofs

The Tithe Barn roof and the Orangery roof are in good order. There is a small leak in the Orangery roof that becomes apparent in very wet and windy conditions.

Walls, Windows and Doors

External walls of both parts of the building are in good order.

All windows are double glazed and have required routine maintenance during the year. They are all in good working order. The kitchen window has been cracked on the outside and a temporary solution is being sought.

There is a small area of peeling paintwork on the pillar to the left of the door leading from the main hall into the extension. This requires attention.

Rain Water Goods

Gutters and downpipes of the original barn and the orangery are working and are routinely cleared of debris.

Interior

The kitchen and toilets are in good working order.

The heating programmer installed in the main hall last year is working well and has improved control of the heating system

Exterior

The exterior fence, gates and party wall are in good order.

The garden is maintained by Norman England.

Security

The building is secured with modern dead locks.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 11th April 2022 the recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. The barn heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.

2. The fire/smoke alarm system. (6 Monthly tests to BS 5839)

3. Fire Extinguishers.

5. Radio microphones licences.

6. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Thanks to:-

Philip Fowler and Eleanor Beddoes for managing the lettings and accounts of the Tithe Barn.

Colin Godfrey, Philip Fowler, Monica and Tony Symons for the opening and closing of the Barn, dealing with the routine maintenance and operational actions required including setting up and clearing away after each letting.



Tithe Barn Report

All the activities that took place at the barn, including lettings and charity work are controlled directly by the PCC and the roles of caretaker/ manager, building fabric co-ordinator and health and safety officer were undertaken by Colin Godfrey, Richard Powell and Sharon Viney. Eleanor Beddoes and Philip Fowler provided administrative support.

St Mary's regularly used the facilities at the barn for Church activities, including STOMP dance groups, Youth Group and GLOW.

Our Mindfulness Group also met there on a regular basis, throughout the year as did Mothers' Union and our Art Group.

The barn was let for private hire with three regular monthly users and further lets taking place throughout the year.

Members of the PCC and the church family have supported the work of the barn and their contributions are much appreciated.

Whilst the barn provides the opportunity to raise much needed income to help offset the cost of the running the building, there is a significant reliance on volunteers to undertake the tasks involved.

Having considered the benefits afforded by the availability of the barn, the PCC concluded last year that church-led activities can all be accommodated without using the barn building and the disposal of this asset would release much needed cash resources.

The Tithe Barn is now being marketed for sale. Any net proceeds from the potential sale can be used to further enhance the facilities at St Mary's, and it is hoped that there will also be scope to carry out further works to help us to achieve our net zero carbon goal by 2030.



Philip Fowler



Church Music Report

St Mary's enjoys a traditional style of music in worship with traditional hymns and a worship song downloaded and shown on the screen. We have a sung communion with a musical setting by David Ogden on the first Sunday of each month and other special occasions. The second and third Sundays are said communion services with hymns and songs. The fourth Sunday is an all age service. We have a small but enthusiastic choir of seven mostly senior adults at the present time, but new members would be warmly welcomed. We aim to sing an anthem or hymn during the communion administration. The choir do not robe up for the all age service. The music is accompanied by our manual organ or grand piano and the organist regularly plays voluntaries before and after each service.

There is also a Shirehampton community choir run by our present musical Director which regularly practices in the church and produces performances in St Mary's during Holy week and at Christmas. Some members of the community choir are always very willing to supplement the church choir for special occasions such as the Annual Carol Service. The Area choir is also diminishing in numbers and would warmly welcome new members.

Music has always featured as an important part of our worship and fellowship at St Mary's and we have enjoyed over the years a good number of concerts in the church both by the Community choir and other invited parties. This will continue in May this year with a visit from the Avon and Somerset Police choir on Saturday 17th May 2025.



Tim Forder
Organist and Director of Music

Electoral Roll Report

The current status of St Mary's Shirehampton Electoral roll at the time of producing this report stood at 99 members, 39 of which live outside the parish. 7 Members have passed away during the last year. This year we are required to produce a new Electoral roll so all those wishing to remain on the roll have had to re-apply. Members of the Church will only be permitted to take part in any election of Officers and PCC members if they are on the Electoral Roll.



Tim Forder
Electoral Roll Officer

Avonside Mission Area (ASMA)

It's been a joy for me to be part of the ASMA family of churches for another year. We have continued to support one another through prayer, volunteering and shared worship and learning.

Lent saw the continuity of the tradition of coming together on Wednesday evenings to meet for worship and study in each of the churches. We started with an Ash Wednesday service then followed a course produced by the Church Urban Fund (CUF): *Growing Good: Growth, Social Action and Discipleship in the Church of England*. This was a helpful opportunity to learn about the different communities in the Mission Area and how the church can bless them and help them to grow for good in every sense.

In June and October we shared celebration events, worshiping together at St Mary's Shirehampton and St Mary's Stoke Bishop for prayer and encouragement. In June we welcomed Rev Nicola (Nic) Harris and her family to the ASMA team and she started her role as Associate Minister in Lawrence Weston and Avonmouth which has further released Rev Andy Murray into his additional role as Dean of Priority Communities for Bristol Diocese. In October we also welcomed a new Ministry Experience Scheme worker, Tristan Haggard. Tristan quickly got stuck in serving on ministry teams across the mission area and has been a great blessing.

We continue to share in running courses that bless the community wherever possible. Courses this year have included two Bereavement Journey courses, an Alpha Course and the Kintsugi Hope wellbeing groups.

Prayer continues to be a vital part of our connection. The seasonal prayer newsletter helps us to pray for one another. In May we launched the ASMA Prayer Hub to offer prayer ministry to anyone across the Mission Area. The team is gathered from across the churches and pair of people base themselves in the side chapel at St Mary's Shirehampton on a Wednesday morning and anyone can pop in for prayer. This can allow for a more extended prayer time which Sunday mornings may not allow. We use the time between praying for others to pray for the Mission Area and needs we are aware of within it. Please do come along anytime you feel in need of prayer. The café in St Mary's Shirehampton is open at the same time so it is a nice environment to be in before and after prayer also.

The monthly informal Sunday evening service 'Deeper' continues to be another point of prayer worship and connection open to all. The clergy also appreciate opportunities to connect and pray for one another at their regular breakfast meetings.

Rev Julie Summers and I have continued to serve across the Mission Area, albeit focusing more at St Mary's Stoke Bishop during Rev Simon Potter's Extended Ministerial Development Leave (Sabbatical) from August-November. The year closed with a shared service held at St Edyth's and led by Rev Duncan Jennings, a retired priest living and serving in the Mission Area.

Rev Sonia Home, Curate for the Avonside Mission Area

Bristol West Deanery Synod Report



Diocese of Bristol

Introduction

Three Deanery Synods took place during 2024.

In 2024 and the key themes were:

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

March Deanery Synod:

Serving Others – Focus on Volunteers

Deanery Synod on 12 March 2024 focused upon the issues of 'Volunteers'. The Meeting was held in person at All Saints Clifton.

The Main Theme: Serving Others – Focus on Volunteers

Volunteers are key to our Parishes', communities and mission areas' ability to operate and flourish. Due to societal changes and the 'covid effect' we have seen volunteer numbers reduce significantly. As a Diocese, we are creating a resource framework that will support ministry and parishes/communities to attract diverse and committed volunteers, who in return find their support and service enriching.

In close partnership with the Releasing Ministers to Flourish workstream, **Transforming Church. Together** is doing everything it can to lift burdens from the people who make such good things happen across our Diocese, allowing us to concentrate on bringing God's light to those around us.

Two Questions for Group Reflection:

1. When we talk about volunteers within our worshipping communities what do we mean? (Is volunteering shaped by ideas of 'discipleship', or 'service', or 'calling' – or is it simply *'using unpaid time to benefit others'?*)

2. Do we have different 'types' of volunteer?

Worshipping Community members serving the church (PCC to coffee/tea making)

Worshipping Community members supporting other charitable organizations

Local Community members supporting church activities (church foodbank)

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Hill and Sarah Thomas updated Synod on the Kitgum Clinic and the Nebbi Girlchild Project.

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 neighborhood. 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)

St Mary's Church Shirehampton
Annual Parochial Meeting and Election of PCC
Sunday 12th May 2024, 12-noon

Chaired by Rev. Alison Sowton; Approx. 40 attendees
Agenda as attached

1	Opening Prayer Rev. Alison Sowton
2	Apologies for absence Apologies: none
3	Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 21st May 2023 Approved by the meeting.
4	Any matters arising None noted.
5	The Reports All reports were published in the Annual PCC Report Booklet (January to December 2023), and circulated prior to APCM. Reports published were: - Vicar's Report - Electoral Roll - Annual Fabric Report of the Church and Tithe Barn - Churchwarden's Report - Children and Youth Report - Safeguarding Report - Health & Safety Report - Mothers' Union Report - Tithe Barn Report - Church Music Report - Social Events and Coffee Mornings - Deanery Synod Report - Avonside Mission Area (ASMA) Report. Tim Forder [TF], Electoral Roll Officer, noted one correction point for the Electoral Roll Report: the current Electoral Roll includes 106 members (and not 105 members as in the Report). Questions invited from the floor to any of the published reports. No questions or comments were raised. Rev. Alison Sowton noted thanks to all involved in writing and collating the individual reports and the Annual Report Booklet. All reports received by the meeting and accepted as provided.
6	Finance Report 2023 See Annual Report Booklet for full report from Eleanor Beddoes [EB] and Phil Fowler [PF], circulated prior to APCM. EB reported briefly to the meeting, to note that she took on the role of Treasurer in June 2023, and noted particular thanks to PF for all his continuing help.

A video from Bishop Viv was also played, noting Parish Share.

General finance points noted were:

- Two main costs in 2023
 - i. Payroll: for 4 members of staff (part-time)
 - ii. Parish Share: Diocese request for 2023 was £64k, but following discussion at PCC meetings (and noted in APCM 2023), St Mary's pledged £45k and actually paid £50k, with the additional £5k relating to 2022 Parish Share.
- Parish Share 2024: Diocese request for 2024 is £48k. PCC expect to pay full amount.
- Major expenditure planned for the coming year includes:
 - i. New chairs at church (approx. £4.5k raised to date towards new chairs)
 - ii. New Memorial Stone for the Garden of Remembrance
 - iii. Energy audit towards net zero / new heating system
- Noted that the Cellnex mast income will likely continue this coming year.
- Noted St Mary's will need to raise money: plans include the Parish Giving Scheme (See St Mary's website), standing orders, one-off online donations, accepting cheques, introduced a more user-friendly card reader for coffees, fayres, etc (credit/debit cards), Gift Aiding, legacies.

Gifts and Giving

Anne Ford [AF] noted several bequests in the last year, to a total of £5,600. All gifts and bequests are recorded in the Gifts Book, kept in the Memorial Chapel.

Discussion and Questions:

- Noted thanks to EB and PF for all their work on accounts and weekly input.
- Noted the date on the Accounts states 2022, but confirmed that this is a typo, and should read 2023. EB will correct date to 2023 before the Accounts are sent to the Charity Commission. *[see Addendum below]*
- Comment / queries from floor: noted the Parish Giving Scheme is a simple system to set up and becomes a useful option for giving as many local bank branches are now closed. The Parish Giving Scheme is a national CofE designed and administered scheme.
- Question about cheque payment – noted banks charge for both cash and cheque payments.
- General request for those currently making direct debit / standing order payments to change to the Parish Giving Scheme, as it is simpler for St Mary's team to use, has zero cost to the church, includes the Gift aid, and can be set to include an inflationary uplift.

Finance Report received by the meeting and accepted as provided.

Addendum from EB, 15 May 2024: *Some of the pages in the Annual Report booklet included the wrong date (i.e. 31 December 2022). There were some problems copying across from the signed set of accounts into the booklet, as the headings weren't copying across correctly. For this part of the booklet, the headings had to be created manually, and the last section was missed in error.*

The Treasurer (EB) has checked the original Accounts documentation following the APCM, and confirmed that the Accounts that were signed by Rev. Alison Sowton, EB and the Independent Examiner were correct and did not contain this error. The correct documentation will be filed with the Diocese of Bristol and the Charity Commission.

7	Elections and Appointments a. Election of Church Wardens Anne Ford [AF] and Richard Powell [RP] have served multiple years as Church Wardens, and both have now stepped down from these roles. We thank Anne and Richard for all their service. Noted the key role of the Church Wardens in church life. There was an open request to the meeting for any person in the meeting to stand as Church Wardens. No one has come forward to date. We pray for others to come forward as new wardens or deputy wardens over the coming months. b. Election of PCC members Anne Ford, Tim Forder, Philip Fowler, Colin Godfrey, Florence Grimes, Sarah Parry-Reid, Richard Powell and Sharon Viney had submitted signed applications (proposed and seconded) to stand for election to the PCC. Noted that the PCC will also include Church Wardens (if anyone comes forward) and the current Deanery Synod Members Pat Davidson and Derek Sowton. Noted that Solveig Gibson has taken a short break from the PCC whilst she recovers from surgery, and hopes to re-join the PCC in the coming year. No other person has come forward to stand for election to PCC. Proposal: To elect those named above to the PCC. Approved by the meeting. c. Appointment of Independent Examiner The Independent Examiner for Annual PCC report April 2023 to March 2024 was David Oakensen FCA, of William Price & Co Ltd, Westbury-on-Trym. Eleanor Beddoes noted St Mary's church has worked with William Price & Co Ltd for the previous 4 years, but there has been a significant increase in costs for the last year. No questions from the floor. Proposal: To not appoint an Independent Examiner during the APCM, but rather to allow the PCC to discuss the increase in cost and alternatives, at a meeting shortly after this APCM. Approved by meeting.
13	Vicar's Summary See Annual Report Booklet for Vicar's Report (Rev. Alison Sowton), circulated prior to APCM. Rev. Alison also spoke at the meeting, commenting: • Noted she is approximately 18 months into her ministry here at St Mary's. • Talked to the idea of laying firm foundations - that the road ahead may have times of challenge, but also of hope - and her hope that we as a church family are ready to 'bring it on' to be a flourishing church in the year to come. • Thanks to the whole church family for sharing their world, and thanks to everyone who has done anything for the church, to make it the place it is. • Particular thanks to Amy Boucher, Trevor Hearn and Duncan Jennings for their ongoing ministry, to Anne Ford and Richard Powell for all their work as Church Wardens, to Jill Eynon and to the Choir and music makers. • Noted progress of regular times of coming together for fellowship and faith, such as Friday warm space, coffee mornings, the new Prayer Hub (with Rev Sonia Home), Bereavement Journey course and continued work with ASMA.

	• Pray that St Mary's will be at the very heart of the village, by physical presence and through visible pastoral care. Noted that more than 1000 people have come into church for the pop-ups and events. Our role in going into our community, to invite people in to share in Christ. • Noted that in our community work, we are building towards the Diocese goal of Transforming Church Together; Diocese has asked that churches build stronger relationships within church and within community. • Spoke to some of the changes to come, such as a new worker, perhaps a new curate, new seating, sale of Tithe Barn, and a Buildings Energy Audit; hope that sale of Tithe Barn will help to fund some of these changes, such as more sustainable power and heating systems, and will also take pressure off the volunteers who currently manage and operate the Tithe Barn. In future, groups using the Tithe Barn will move into church building, e.g. youth groups, building a clearer, direct relationship with St Marys. Will choose seating, lay-outs and storage that are moveable and can accommodate larger groups of people or space needs. • Spoke to the need for open communication, and open hearts to accept these coming changes. Hope to continue the journey forward, with prayer, love and grace, gifting to the future. Alison Harding noted thanks to Rev Alison Sowton and Derek Sowton, to the PCC and retiring church wardens.
15	Closing Prayer Rev. Alison Sowton

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton
Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Election of PCC
Sunday 12th May 2024 at 12pm



1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 21st May 2023 – Approval of minutes
4. Any matters arising
5. The Reports
 - a. Vicar's Report
 - b. Electoral Roll
 - c. Annual Fabric Report of the Church and Tithe Barn
 - d. Churchwardens' Report
 - e. Children and Youth Report
 - f. Safeguarding Report
 - g. Health & Safety Report
 - h. Mothers' Union Report
 - i. Tithe Barn Report
 - j. Church Music Report
 - k. Social Events and Coffee Mornings
 - l. Deanery Synod Report
 - m. Avonside Mission Area Report
6. Financial Report
7. Elections and appointments
 - a. Election of Churchwardens
 - b. Election of PCC Members
 - c. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Vicar's Summary
9. Closing Prayer

First meeting of the new PCC – further dates to be agreed



ST MARY'S

SHIREHAMPTON

Come: as you are
Be: renewed
Go: share God's love

www.stmarysshire.org



When you have finished with this
document please recycle it or
better still, pass it on to a friend.

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2023

Charity number 1131636



Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023

Contents

Parochial Church Council	1
Annual Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev Alison Sowton

Independent Reporting Accountants: David Oakensen,
William Price & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
Suite 9, Westbury Court,
Church Road,
Bristol
BS9 3EF

Bankers: HSBC
62 George White Street
Bristol
BS1 3BA

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Parochial Church Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

Charitable Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the PCC Powers Measure. The PCC was registered as a charity in 2009, with charity number 1131636, having previously been an excepted charity. The PCC members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also maintains the Tithe Barn in accordance with its aims and objectives, making it available for the purposes of St Mary's and for the use of the inhabitants of all ages with the object of improving the conditions of life for the Inhabitants.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, provides Church of England services and religious activities for all ages, including outreach into the community via work with youth and the elderly. We run a youth group, dance classes, a Mothers' Union branch, a Bereavement Journey branch and host a 'Goldies' singing group. In addition we hold various social activities and Pop Up events during the year, all open to the whole community.

As part of the Avonside Mission Area (ASMA), we work alongside the Anglican churches of Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop to provide additional support and events to the whole community, including a Mental Awareness Group branch.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Shemma Laws Pat Davidson Derek Sowton	Resigned 7 th September 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023
Elected Members:	Tim Forder Philip Fowler Solveig Gibson Colin Godfrey Florence Grimes Doug Jennings Sarah Parry Reid Claire Staynings Tony Symons	Electoral Roll Officer Treasurer (to 7 th June 2023) & Data Protection Officer Appointed 21 st May 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023 Resigned 21 st May 2023 Secretary Appointed 21 st May 2023 Safeguarding Officer (<i>from 1st March 2022</i>) Resigned 21 st May 2023
Treasurer (not in PCC)	Eleanor Beddoes	From 7 th June 2023
Health & Safety Officer (not in PCC)	Sharon Viney	From 29 th November 2023

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions from the Council.

Financial Review

Income at £152,007 (2022: £128,625) was lower (2022: higher) than expenditure of £152,826 (2022: £121,247) to give net expenditure) of £819 (2022: £7,378 net income). Most income streams increased during the year and we have worked hard to make our church known in the community and welcome all through our doors. We are grateful for all the donations received. We applied for grants from some Charitable Foundations and were pleased to receive £6,000 towards the salary of our Youth Worker. Returns on investments continued to bring in valuable income. Costs increased significantly in the year. Some of this relates to an increase in our charitable giving to Bristol Diocese and our chosen charities for the year, which accounted for a £21,000 increase in giving. Many running costs increased in the year, with suppliers passing on cost of living increases and the greatest impact was found in our utility costs where our various fixed rate contracts expired and we were tied into higher rates. We continually review costs to minimise impacts of price increases where appropriate.

We are grateful to our church family and local community for your continued support.

Giving to missions/charities from general funds totalled £10,000 (2022: £3,300). Consultation with the church family resulted in 3 new charities being supported in the year, 1 local, 1 national and 1 international and it was agreed that the level of giving would increase. The amount paid to the Diocese for parish and ministry costs was £50,000 (2022: £35,575).

Restricted income exceeded restricted expenditure by £46 (2022: £745 income exceeded expenditure and a breakdown can be found in the notes to the accounts).

The gain on revaluation of shares held as endowment funds was £65,723 (2022: £91,750 revaluation loss).

The Charity Commission approved a scheme allowing us to sell shares to the value of £109,000 to partly fund the purchase of the Tithe Barn, on the condition these shares would be purchased back until the full number of shares were reinstated. At 31 December 2023 the total market value of the amount remaining to be paid was £55,391, following repurchase of shares to the value of £10,000 in 2023. The full amount is to be repaid by 2033.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that will allow sufficient funds to be available to pay for charitable activities as they arise and also to ensure that support and governance costs can be met as they fall due. The balance held as unrestricted funds at the year-end was £459,879 (2022: £460,145), of which £98,015 (2022: £90,784) are regarded as free reserves after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets.

Where possible, we maintain reserves to cover, as a minimum, identifiable repair and maintenance costs relating to the fabric and furnishings of St Mary's, three months' parish share payments and 25% of the amounts required from fund raising to cover general expenditure. We have estimated quarterly net expenditure on fabric and furnishings for 2024 at £3,000, parish contributions to the Diocese for three months total £12,180 and £3,000 is required to cover any shortfall in fundraising.

Investments

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, as custodial trustees, hold CBF Ltd shares on our behalf in both the Bernard Salmon and Napier Miles Trusts. In addition, 404 CBF shares are held in respect of the Ecclesiastical and non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

PCC Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this is inappropriate.

The PCC members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Parish and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Alison Sowton

Approved by the PCC on 16th April 2024

and signed on their behalf by Rev Alison Sowton (Vicar)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Mary, Shirehampton, Bristol.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

David Oakensen

David Oakensen FCA
William Price & Co Ltd
Westbury Court, Church Road
Westbury-on-Trym
BS9 3EF

Date: 16th April 2024

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		75,255	12,029	—	87,284	77,201
Income from charitable activities		16,525	—	—	16,525	11,647
Other trading activities		8,980	—	—	8,980	10,031
Investments		21,468	—	—	21,468	20,546
Other income		17,750	—	—	17,750	9,200
Total income	2	139,978	12,029	—	152,007	128,625
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		286	—	—	286	316
Expenditure on charitable activities		133,060	11,983	—	145,043	113,434
Other expenditure		7,497	—	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	3	140,843	11,983	—	152,826	121,247
Net (expenditure) /income before gains and transfer		(865)	46	—	(819)	7,378
Transfers between funds		599	(599)	—	—	—
Gains on investment assets		—	—	65,723	65,723	(91,750)
Net movement in funds		(266)	(553)	65,723	64,904	(84,372)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		460,145	14,662	682,772	1,157,579	1,241,951
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2023	10	459,879	14,109	748,495	1,222,483	1,157,579

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023
Balance sheet

		2023 £	2022 £
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	361,864	369,361
Investments	6	763,495	687,772
		1,125,359	1,057,133
Current assets			
Debtors	7	9,378	10,342
Cash at bank and in hand		95,860	96,936
		105,238	107,278
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	(8,114)	(6,832)
Net current assets less current liabilities		97,124	100,446
Total net assets less liabilities		1,222,483	1,157,579
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds	10	459,879	460,145
Restricted funds	10	14,109	14,662
Endowment funds	10	748,495	682,772
Total Funds		1,222,483	1,157,579

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16th April 2024

Alison Sowton

Rev Alison Sowton
Vicar

Eleanor Beddoes

E Beddoes
Treasurer

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements use the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The valuation of investment assets are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is sterling and all figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

The PCC considers there are no material uncertainties about their ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for a specific purpose, the use of which is restricted to that area. These funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest will in future be appointed to individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and 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 legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Annual Report. All help received is greatly appreciated.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at a reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 with individual value below £1,000 are written off.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any residual value, over their expected useful life, as follows:

Tithe Barn	2% of construction and refurbishment cost on a straight line basis
------------	--

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December. Investment gains and losses resulting from revaluing investments to market value are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as it has no taxable activities. Irrecoverable VAT borne by the charity is included in the cost of the item to which it relates.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisitions or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount at which the charity is expected to benefit in a future period. Provision is made for any amount that may prove uncollectible.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 Income

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Gift aided donations	3,928	—	3,928	3,368
Gift aided donations via envelope	5,601	—	5,601	4,865
Planned giving	35,874	—	35,874	32,505
Collections (open plate) at all services	2,627	—	2,627	3,143
Sundry donations	15,176	5,529	20,705	15,719
Donations – appeals, grants (see below)	—	6,500	6,500	7,494
Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	11,749	—	11,749	9,987
Floodlighting	—	—	—	120
Legacies received	300	—	300	—
Donations and legacies total	75,255	12,029	87,284	77,201
Income from charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,262	—	10,262	7,393
Church lettings - objectives	277	—	277	237
Tithe Barn lettings – objectives	4,004	—	4,004	2,751
Other income	1,982	—	1,982	1,266
Income from charitable activities total	16,525	—	16,525	11,647
Other trading activities				
Fayres and events	3,006	—	3,006	3,828
Tithe Barn lettings – other	5,974	—	5,974	6,203
Other trading activities total	8,980	—	8,980	10,031
Investments				
Interest - dividends	693	—	693	309
Bernard Salmon Trust income	13,258	—	13,258	13,185
Napier Miles Trust income	7,091	—	7,091	7,052
Bank interest	426	—	426	—
Investments total	21,468	—	21,468	20,546
Other income				
Telecommunications agreement	17,750	—	17,750	9,200
Other income total	17,750	—	17,750	9,200
Total income	139,978	12,029	152,007	128,625
Grants received:				
Garfield Weston Foundation	—	—	—	5,000
Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance	—	—	—	2,494
Temple Ecclesiastical	—	5,000	5,000	—
St Thomas Ecclesiastical	—	1,500	1,500	—
Total grant income	—	6,500	6,500	7,494

We are grateful to all grant providers for their support.

3 Expenditure

Raising Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Costs of fayres and events	286	—	286	316
Raising funds total	286	—	286	316
Charitable Activities				
Grants and donations – missions:				
African Pastors Fellowship	—	—	—	500
Compassion	—	—	—	1,200
Corymeela	—	—	—	100
In Hope (Crisis Centres Ministries)	—	—	—	500
Open Doors	—	—	—	500
Mercy Ships	—	—	—	250
Water Aid	—	—	—	250
Youth Programmes	1,084	347	1,431	793
Food and Fellowship	260	—	260	300
Ministry Parish Share	50,000	—	50,000	35,575
St Peter's Hospice	3,333	—	3,333	—
Macmillan Cancer Support	3,334	—	3,334	—
Mary's Meals	3,333	—	3,333	—
Charitable activities subtotal	61,344	347	61,691	39,968
Charitable activities – support costs				
Employment costs	31,846	6,500	38,346	35,401
Telephone and broadband costs	1,656	—	1,656	1,008
Parish training and mission	164	—	164	287
Fees paid for weddings and funerals	56	—	56	125
Additional organist fees	500	—	500	560
Verger fees	2,000	—	2,000	1,505
Church running – insurance	3,596	—	3,596	3,363
Kitchen consumables and equipment	992	—	992	616
Church and office equipment	295	1,874	2,169	684
Organ/piano tuning and maintenance	1,284	—	1,284	2,094
Church maintenance and replacements	2,177	—	2,177	2,836
Cleaning & hygiene	1,598	—	1,598	1,370
Altar requisites	993	768	1,761	661
Upkeep of churchyard	2,108	—	2,108	736
Printing and stationery	3,012	—	3,012	2,354
Sundry expenses	155	—	155	157
Church running – utilities	7,480	2,494	9,974	6,763
Specific expenses	1,556	—	1,556	2,559
Tithe Barn running – rates and utilities	4,802	—	4,802	2,934
Tithe Barn insurance	1,541	—	1,541	1,441
Tithe Barn maintenance	1,751	—	1,751	3,736
Tithe Barn broadband	638	—	638	546
Tithe Barn equipment	124	—	124	240
Governance costs – independent examination	900	—	900	780
Professional and other fees	492	—	492	710
Charitable activities – support costs subtotal	71,716	11,636	83,352	73,466
Charitable costs total	133,060	11,983	145,043	113,434
Other expenditure				
Depreciation	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Other expenditure total	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	140,843	11,983	152,826	121,247

4 Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
The aggregate payroll costs of staff were as follows:		
Gross payroll and employer's national insurance contributions	37,509	34,635
Employer's pension contributions	837	766
	38,346	35,401
	2023 Number	2022 Number
Number of part-time staff	4	4

5 Fixed Assets for use by PCC

	Tithe Barn £	2023 £
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2023	515,000	515,000
	515,000	515,000
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	145,639	145,639
Charge for the year	7,497	7,497
At 31 December 2023	153,136	153,136
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2023	361,864	361,864
At 31 December 2022	369,361	369,361

6 Investment Assets – Endowment Funds

	Number of shares	Church £	Shire Charities £	2023 £	2022 £
Bernard Salmon Fund					
At 1 January 2023	21,456	443,335	—	443,335	502,485
Shares purchased in year	488	10,000	—	10,000	—
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	42,741	—	42,741	(59,150)
At 31 December 2023	21,944	496,076	—	496,076	443,335
Napier Miles Trust					
At 1 January 2023	11,475	237,095	—	237,095	268,729
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	22,307	—	22,307	(31,634)
At 31 December 2023	11,475	259,402	—	259,402	237,095
CBF Shares Charity Funds					
At 1 January 2023	404	—	7,342	7,342	8,308
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	—	675	675	(966)
At 31 December 2023	404	—	8,017	8,017	7,342
Summary					
Market value at 1 January 2023		680,430	7,342	687,772	779,522
Shares purchased in year		10,000	—	10,000	—
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation		65,048	675	65,723	(91,750)
Total investment assets at 31 December 2023		755,478	8,017	763,495	687,772

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	7,652	7,358
Other debtors	1,726	2,984
	9,378	10,342

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	3,091	2,913
Accruals and deferred income	4,777	3,592
Taxation and social security	100	151
Other creditors	146	176
	8,114	6,832

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	361,864	—	—	361,864
Investment fixed assets	—	—	763,495	763,495
Current assets	91,129	14,109	—	105,238
Current liabilities	(8,114)	—	—	(8,114)
	444,879	14,109	763,495	1,222,483

10 Fund movement by type

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	Closing £
Endowment Funds	682,772	—	—	—	65,723	748,495
Restricted Funds	14,662	12,029	(11,983)	(599)	—	14,109
Unrestricted Funds	460,145	139,978	(140,843)	599	—	459,879
Grand total	1,157,579	152,007	(152,826)	—	65,723	1,222,483

Analysis of Restricted Funds

	2023 £	2022 £
Audio Visual & Music Equipment Fund	639	3,112
Memorial Garden	1,600	1,600
Security System	2,800	2,800
Flower Fund	360	489
Roof Fund	3,667	3,667
Vestments	180	500
Grant towards energy costs	—	2,494
Fund for new church chairs	4,475	—
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	221	—
Youth Group Fund	167	—
Total Restricted Funds	14,109	14,662



Annual PCC Report January to December 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton Annual Report

Background:

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership:

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Shemma Laws Pat Davidson Derek Sowton	Resigned 7 th September 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023
Elected Members:	Tim Forder Philip Fowler Solveig Gibson Colin Godfrey Florence Grimes Doug Jennings Sarah Parry Reid Claire Staynings Tony Symons	Electoral Roll Officer Treasurer (to 7 th June 2023) & Data Protection Officer Appointed 21 st May 2023 Appointed 21 st May 2023 Resigned 21 st May 2023 Secretary Appointed 21 st May 2023 Safeguarding Officer (<i>from 1st March 2022</i>) Resigned 21 st May 2023
Treasurer (not in PCC) Health & Safety Officer (not in PCC)	Eleanor Beddoes Sharon Viney	From 7 th June 2023 From 29 th November 2023





Vicar's Report

Church offers a place of sanctuary – a still point in an ever-turning world. We appreciate the solidity of church buildings; their history, which reminds us that people have prayed and worshipped in this place for longer than we have been alive; that there have been many before us who have been baptised, married, and funerals held in this building, and future generations who will do the same. There are many important ways in which St Mary's will be at the heart of our community.

An important question that we must continue to ask ourselves though is "What does it mean to be church?" I'm sure you all know the answer:

It is the people, not the building. That is very true. What makes St Mary's is the rich variety of people who come together week by week to worship together, to share, to learn, to receive and to grow.

Here in Shirehampton there is much to be grateful for. Despite gloomy news items on national decline in church attendance, we hold our own and have even seen signs of growth. I would like to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to each other – in no particular order:-

to those who enrich our worship – our vergers Jill Eynon for her quiet and efficient care for all our services, those who read, those who lead intercessions, both young and older, our servers and of course Tim Forder for his beautiful music as he leads our lovely choir, bringing another dimension to our worship,

to the assistant vergers, Chris Eynon and Colin Godfrey for their assistance in the smooth running of occasional offices

to the welcome team, for their smiles and warmth, offering that first moment of care to those who join us.

to the cake bakers, the chatterers and carers, the coffee morning crew too large to mention by name...you do an amazing ministry.

to Shelley, our flower arranger and church and Barn cleaner, thanks for keeping us gleaming and fragrant,

to our brass cleaners, sound desk team, to those who sort our books, buy our biscuits and clean our churchyard.

to all who take photos to help share our story.

Thanks to Mary Powell as she gathers us together to bake, serve, create, and inspire our fundraising activities; to our youth events team whose creativity and energy are a blessing and a joy at our pop ups and our fayres.

Thanks too to Sharon Viney who has taken on the task of health and safety officer, an important role to ensure all our care.

to our Parish Church Council who share decision-making on behalf of St Mary's and bring insight and questions, being good critical friends. For Sarah Parry Reid, our P.C.C. secretary, who keeps our records and correspondence beautifully and keeps the vicar in order! Thanks for your skill and grace.

to Eleanor Beddoes, our amazing administrator and treasurer, for all her hard work, care and creativity, always delivered with a smile and a positive outlook.

to Claire Staynings, our safeguarding officer, for her constant vigilance and insight.

to Phil Fowler, our deputy treasurer, for his efficiency, encouragement, wisdom and hard work and with his other hat on, for his care of all the bookings at the Barn and along with Colin Godfrey, and Richard Powell give so much their care and attention to our Tithe Barn and all its hirers, opening closing and dealing with any complications that arise. Thanks too to Tony Symons for helping with the Barn.

The mission of the church is shared with all of you, but our Churchwardens share more than most of the statutory business.

Richard Powell and Anne Ford have given generously of themselves over many years. Often their work is unseen and behind the scenes (do you know who checks the roof or loos?). Usually their work is tedious and unexciting – like wrestling with internet companies, grant applications and booking in professionals to keep all our utilities safe. St Mary's could not exist without the work they do. We are so fortunate that they have served this church for over 7 years, providing continuity and lots of wisdom and love. They have both made my life so much easier, relying on their knowledge and good humour as I settled in. It is hard to find sufficient words to express my gratitude as both Rich and Anne step down. I know they will still be very much at the heart of this church and available to offer support and wisdom to whomever might follow in their footsteps. My love and thanks go with them as they step back from this role

All of these people are disciples giving in love and faith. They deserve our thanks for all they give to the Parish and community. Each one of us, the body of Christ...Church in action.

My work as Vicar and Priest is made all the richer for being part of St Mary's team and ASMA.

My thanks to Amy Boucher for her ministry, friendship, prayer, endless creativity and energy, thanks for all your optimism and faith which keeps me energised! We share a vision of a fully inclusive, intergenerational church. The community pop up events have been a place of serving, sharing and growing relationships, not to mention fun! They are truly precious. Rise and Shine and the All Age services, alongside STOMP, Glow and our Youth at the Barn mean that we have a vibrant youth community here at St Mary's. Amy continues to disciple the young people and their families through her authentic and creative ministry which is a blessing to us all.

To Trevor Hearn and Duncan Jennings, my deep thanks for their continued ministry in our midst. I know that their, prayer, knowledge, support and care are valued by us all.

To all my colleagues across the ASMA area: We continue to witness together, praying and worshipping and supporting each other's communities. The Bereavement Journey course, which helps those experiencing loss, will be offered across ASMA on a rolling basis.

My special thanks to Derek for the endless work of loading and unloading stuff from church to vicarage and beyond, and a million other things. Derek's, patience, humour and constant love is my great blessing.

MOVING FORWARD

Here at St Mary's we continue to live out our call, inviting all to "Come as you are, Be renewed, Go share God's love". Our focus on inclusivity, trusting in God's love to transform us, and the impetus to move out of church and into our community all set us on the path to work together with the Bristol Diocese's strategy "Transforming church. Together." A vision that will see churches resourced, through mentoring and administrative support, to share the love of God through evangelism, discipleship and social action. There is much pain and stress in our world and in our community but together we can make a difference. We are already on the journey and it is my prayer that we might embrace all that God has in store for us.

We know there is much to be done to achieve carbon neutral by 2030 - a tough but necessary challenge. As a P.C.C. we have agreed that we might move more easily towards this by the sale of the Tithe Barn. This will free up monies to ensure an appropriate heating source, updated kitchen and repairs that are needed around the church to take us into the future.

I believe this is a time of renewal and regeneration for St Mary's. As I was preparing this report a passage from John's Gospel came to mind.

Jesus is the gate (John 10) - Jesus opens our way into healing, being set free from old behaviours and rejuvenated, so that we can encourage others by our own story. Together we can continue the vision, mission, and values of our being church in our community.

Together we step forward into bold servanthood, radical loving and courageous discipleship, knowing we do this in the power of Jesus.

With love and prayers and heartfelt thanks for each of you.

Rev Alison
Vicar



Churchwardens' Report

Time flies when you are busy and this last year has flown by. It's also true that time doesn't stand still and this is demonstrated in all the significant things that have happened since our last APCM.

Many new initiatives have been added to make our Church open and active to all. We are free to come and go without masks, one way systems and constant hand-sanitising which became the norm when we were battling Covid. However, as we know from first hand experience...it still lurks.

We have enjoyed and experienced a rich variety of Worship Services during the year, always enhanced by the message and the music and often carefully constructed props. In some services, we saw our young children, youth and young families taking a leading role with Amy leading the service. The outstanding Easter Journey through the Maze evoked many emotions and brought large numbers of people and our local school children to experience it. Easter 2024 has been a very special time. On Holy Saturday, the Area Choir sang 'Penitence, Pardon and Peace'. It was a particularly lovely precursor to Easter (which by the way, began at 6:30am on Easter morning in the Churchyard on the day the clocks went forward an hour, led by Alison and ably assisted by Derek).

There have been many significant and historical occasions during the last year. In May 2023, it was the Coronation of King Charles which called for us to have a shared buffet lunch in the Churchyard and all were welcome to join us.



In fact, 2023-24 has been full of opportunities for sharing hospitality and God's love, via Buffets, Big Breakfast, Pop Up Events, Cream Teas and warm meals during the Friday Warm Space in Church.



On the practical aspect of caring for our building, Richard and Colin have continued to keep the Church buildings and grounds in good shape and engaging the necessary folk for heating/lighting jobs. We thank them for their time, knowledge and energy!

During our recent Spring Clean of the Church, there has been a small change made to the space in the Lady Chapel – the whole area was cleaned and the chairs re-arranged to make them more inviting as a space for prayer.

The PCC meets monthly and the Strategy team usually more regularly. The PCC and Strategy team work well together. Eleanor and Philip work hard on all things financial and are very accomplished and generous with the time spent on this task.

Our vergers, Jill, Chris and Colin, continue to work quietly and are diligent in all they are called to do and we are grateful to them. Shelley continues to keep the Church and Barn clean.

The Church Library holds many books and is ably managed by Alison Harding, who keeps the shelves stocked with fresh items. Alison and Ian also are our link with the Foodbank. Thanks to them both for ferrying your generous donations of foodstuffs to the Foodbank.

Thanks to all who work quietly behind the scenes and generously give their time and energy in the myriad of jobs which keep our doors open for the Church Family and the Community. Also to those who keep the Churchyard tidy, and those who generously keep the flower beds and planters going, The list of thanks is endless. I liaise with Bristol City Council regarding the Churchyard trees and grass cutting, and with the City Archives and the Archivists ensuring that documents we need to keep but are no longer in use, are stored safely in The Bristol Archive Centre.

We give thanks for our Clergy – for Alison, Trevor and Duncan and all those members of the Clergy from the Mission Area who frequently join us for Worship. Richard and I have been grateful for your support during the last year.

I leave you with a quote from the Church Wardens and Church Council from 1963/64.

“It is our humble belief that your Council and Wardens have devoted, under God, their utmost prayer, time and earnest attention to the year’s work, and the resulting visible achievements are, in part, the fruit of their labours – the spiritual advances making up another part which, though intangible and immeasurable, represent, we believe a living and forward-moving faith, which under God, can accomplish great things in the furtherance of the Christian Gospel during the year ahead”.



Anne Ford - Churchwarden

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric of the Church Building

The Church Building.

With heavy rain during the winter months the church sprang a few leaks. We had rain water ingress from the flat roofs into the church kitchen and the electrical cupboard in the south porch. Temporary fixes have been applied and Simon Cartlidge, the church architect, is working on a more permanent solution.

LED lighting has been installed in the kitchen and office, with LED light bulbs installed in the low level Nave lights.

The church heating has had a new programmer fitted with the aim of improving control of our heating system

Church Yard

Maintenance of the church yard is the responsibility of Bristol City Council following formal closure for burials. However, we continue to maintain our memorial gardens.

Two benches have been installed, one at the west end close to the High Street and the other at the far end of the memorial garden.

Church Security

The church alarm system continues to work well with remote monitoring and call-out facility of a key holder.

External metal on the building is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

External lighting has been installed on the West End porch from dusk to dawn to improve visibility during the hours of darkness.

The external lighting above the south door has been replaced.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. Lightning conductors.
2. The church heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
3. The security alarm system.

4. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. The organ humidifier.
7. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Routine Maintenance – In-house

A schedule of routine maintenance continues to operate, ensuring a regular review of the condition of the building and any actions needed. The schedule includes frequent checks of such items as roofs, gullies, drainpipes, windows, toilets, water heaters, church ladders, timber door thresholds, tea/coffee water heater de-scaling and more.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits.

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 8th April 2022. The recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next quinquennial (five yearly) church inspection is due in the third quarter of 2024.

Triennial Inspection

The next Archdeacons' triennial (three yearly) inspection to check church records, processes and property is due in 2025.

Finally

Grateful thanks go to:-

- Colin Godfrey for all his work keeping the Church and Tithe Barn up and running.
- Chris Hearn and Derek Sowton for their help in the church yard.
- Jill Eynon, Sarah Parry-Reid, Doug Jennings, Derek Sowton and Colin Godfrey for emptying the bins in the churchyard.
- Gem & Lee Widdowfield, Doug & Alice Jennings, Mark Baxter, Phil Fowler, Derek Sowton, Noah Laws & Dylan Bushell for operating the sound system and projection at our services.
- Thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard, not just on the building fabric but in so many other ways to make this church truly active, accessible and attractive for everyone.

Richard Powell
Churchwarden



Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report

Introduction

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Whilst Claire Staynings, Alison Sowton, Amy Boucher and our church wardens may be the first points of contact, or first notice a safeguarding concern, it is up to everyone to be mindful and vigilant in order to safeguard those around us.

Safeguarding plays an important part in our lives, and church lives. Robust policies and procedures are required to be in place to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. The central church embodies national safeguarding laws into policies and passes them down to each diocese that, in turn, produce their own policies, guidance material and training for parishes. Parishes are required to develop their own policies, procedures, training plans and records for all safeguarding actions/events and have in place named safeguarding officers.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, still in training, for children and adults of the parish of St Mary's Shirehampton is Claire Staynings who began the role in February 2022. Claire has completed five out of the seven training programmes: Basic Awareness, Foundations, Domestic Abuse, Safer Recruitment and Modern Slavery.

Details of how to contact Claire if required for advice or to report an incident can be found on the church noticeboard in the porch or on the church website www.stmarysshire.org.

Policies

Those in place at St Mary's are for:

- child protection
- vulnerable adults
- domestic abuse
- safer recruitment
- handling of disclosure information
- fair recruitment of ex-offenders
- lone workers

Policies are up to date and are reviewed annually by the PCC.

There is an area in the porch of our church where safeguarding information is displayed. The policies are also be kept here and on display boards in the church so, as long as the church is open, they will be accessible to all. Safeguarding information is also available on a notice board in the Tithe Barn, in the toilets of both the church and the Tithe Barn and comprehensive safeguarding information is available on our website www.stmarysshire.org.

Training

Bristol Diocese provides all types of training at different levels and for specific roles in safeguarding. Much of this training can be undertaken online.

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguardingtraining/>

Safeguarding training is an ongoing requirement and in-person training is arranged as required. Courses include Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse training.

Thank you to those who have undertaken training and make our church a safer place.

Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau – CRB)

This is referred to as DBS and is a national service for checking the background of new employees and leaders of children's and vulnerable adult activities. The system can bar anyone whose record shows them to be unsuitable. We are up to date with our DBS checking for volunteers and thank all those who have taken the time to complete these. DBS checks at St Mary's are carried out by Eleanor Beddoes.

Records

It is important that any records containing personal details, such as notes written during the investigation of a safeguarding event, are kept confidential and secure. Our vicar and the safeguarding officer of St Mary's have access to a document safe and encrypted memory stick used specifically for this purpose. The new Dashboard offers an online system to store all the information on DBS and training needs. We can use this to monitor whose DBS and training is in date and can see when DBS or training is due for renewal.

Claire Staynings
Safeguarding Officer



Finance Report

I took over the Treasurer's role from Phil Fowler in June 2023 and am grateful that Phil is continuing with the background work around finances, as there's a lot of it! We have worked closely together over 6 years to ensure the accounts are as transparent as they can be and comply with all regulations, so you won't notice much difference in the day-to-day running of the finances. I am grateful to Phil for all his hard and diligent work, as it does take up a lot of time and much of it is unseen.

2023 saw a welcome increase in income after much effort, led by Alison, in making the church known in the wider community and accessible to all, meaning we welcome even more people through our doors – as we often say, all are welcome. Donations and legacies from church members and the wider community accounted for 53% of our total income in 2023 and we are grateful for all the donations we receive. The Art Group, Chair Aerobics and Mothers' Union all made donations for the use of the Tithe Barn for their activities. We also received donations collected at several funerals held at St Mary's or at Canford Crematorium and are grateful to those families for their support. The Youth Group had great fun raising funds for us via their stalls at our various Fayres. We were pleased to receive a £6,500 grant towards the salary of our Youth Worker and are awaiting news of whether further grant applications made are successful. Tithe Barn bookings brought in just under £10,000 income during 2023. Many kindly donate their time or items, which is not accounted for in the figures, but is just as valuable nevertheless.

There is a gradual increase in investment income each year as we repurchase shares in accordance with the agreed scheme whereby we sold shares to purchase the Tithe Barn. We repurchased £10,000 of shares in 2023, so the amount due to be repurchased by 2033 is reduced to £55,391.

Cost rises were a fact of life for all in 2023. Utility costs at St Mary's and Tithe Barn saw large increases when fixed rate contracts ended, and renewal prices were high. We ensured we compared quotes to obtain the best prices we could and a heating grant of £2,494 received in December 2022 helped dampen the full impact of the cost increase.

Our model of charitable giving changed in 2023 when Alison gave all the opportunity to choose different charities to support each year, one local, one national and one international. The community engaged well with this idea and the 3 chosen charities were St Peter's Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Mary's Meals – they all received an equal share of £10,000, so just over £3,333 each. The timing of the payments meant it was made during Mary's Meals 'Double The Love' appeal, meaning the donation was in fact doubled as a group of generous donors to that charity matched donations received. All the charities were extremely pleased to receive their donations and wished to express their thanks to you all.

Parish Share paid in 2023 totalled £50,000, with £5,000 of this relating to 2022 Parish Share. This money is used by Bristol Diocese for mission and ministry, specifically for clergy stipends and housing, including training provision.

The Church Family generously supported other organisations during the year, including the following. A total sum of £374.11 was raised for the DEC Earthquake Turkey/Syria appeal; a total of £1,027.02 was raised for Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week (including the Big Brekkie) and via carol singing in December 2023; the Christingle 2023 service raised £52.10 for The Children's Society and the Dance Explosion event raised £256 split between Confidance and the Alzheimer's Society. Other donations include food items to the Foodbank and warm hats, scarves and gloves to The Community of the Sisters of the Church.

Whilst our bank account looks relatively stable at the year end, we need to look at building additional reserves for future costs we know are coming. All charities require reserves in order to both manage uncertainty and to enable planning for future developments. We have several areas where major expenditure is planned: the purchase of new chairs at church; the purchase of an additional Memorial Stone in the Garden of Remembrance, with associated groundworks; a new heating system at church requiring replacement of the old gas boiler, enabling us to become more sustainable and to move towards net zero aspirations by the end of the decade; and the repurchase of shares as indicated above. This means we need to look at ways in which we can increase our income and control our costs, no easy feat by any means.

The closure of another local bank branch has made the banking of takings an even more laborious task and I thank Chris and Jill Eynon and Phil for undertaking this task, along with continuing with the cash count. I would encourage all who have access to the internet to make donations via the Parish Giving Scheme which is administered by the Church of England – not only does this decrease the work required in counting cash, but it also means the administration of claiming Gift Aid is reduced too. Donating via the Parish Giving Scheme can be set up following the link on our website – www.stmarysshire.org. If any of you would like help in setting this up, I would be happy to help, so please let me know if this is something you would like to explore.

Finally, in addition to the thanks already given, I would like to thank Alison, Anne and Richard for all their support, and to all those I ask for help when needed to fulfil my dual role of Treasurer and Parish Administrator – I can only do this with support from all of you.

Eleanor Beddoes
Treasurer



Health and Safety Report

Hello Everyone,

Just a quick introduction from me as I have recently taken on the role of Health and Safety Officer for St Mary's. I grew up as part of St Mary's where I worshipped for many years until moving away from Shirehampton, but have maintained contact over many more years through family. I am happy to be back as part of the congregation on a more regular basis again and am keen to use my experience to help support church life. My background is firstly in teaching, so I still love being involved in activities with children, young people and families as well as multi-generational and community events, so I am enjoying lots of opportunities at St Mary's. Secondly, I am IOSH and NEBOSH qualified for Health and Safety and manage a team for St John Ambulance as well as training first aid, care, fire marshal, moving and handling and risk assessment so am pleased to be able to use this experience to support St Mary's Health and Safety needs.

As an initial audit of where we stand currently with our policies, procedures, risk assessments and practice, I was involved with a major review of the main Health and Safety policy and made a number of recommendations as to how we can improve our practice. These have been reviewed and accepted by the PCC, the policy has been updated (along with several others) and we are now working our way through a checklist of the improvements agreed. The PCC is continuing to review several other policies each time they meet too.

I also carried out Health and Safety review visits on the Tithe Barn and the main Church and although both buildings are already good, several recommendations are in the process of being actioned, as noted on the policy review, just to further improve our compliance to requirements and care of building users.

Policy folders for the Tithe Barn and Church need some updating and there are very few comprehensive, current risk assessments available so this will be one of our next tasks.

Thank you to Amy Boucher for ensuring that all the Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments for Youth, Family and Multi-generational church activities have all been updated regularly to meet current standards and are effective for the activities carried out at St Mary's. Many thanks also go to all the other people who have continuously supported the implementation of Health and Safety requirements at St Mary's - Richard Powell, Colin Godfrey and Anne Ford for ongoing maintenance work and Fire Marshal arrangements, Tony Symons for continued building fire checks, our new team of Fire Marshals and Wardens, Shemma Laws for previous work in the Health and Safety role, Sarah Parry-Reid and Eleanor Beddoes for administrative work on policies and Alison Sowton and the PCC and Leadership Team for ongoing review of policies and procedures. Thank you also to everyone who was involved in the recent clean-up day which is starting to have a positive impact, particularly with reduction of clutter and trip hazards and the move towards the recommended safer

storage of chemicals. Also, thank you generally to everyone who is involved in any way in following or overseeing procedures to help keep us safe as part of their role. All team organiser and helper roles at events have elements of Health and Safety embodied into them so we are very grateful to you all for committing to keeping people and processes safe when volunteering at events etc.

Health and Safety requirements are that everyone should be responsible for the Health and Safety of themselves and others – that it is everyone's responsibility to notice and report anything that could be a hazard or risk in their work or meeting place or organisation, so as we set out on the next year of updating and improving, I invite you all to please be a part of helping us to note any elements that we could do better with Health and Safety and let myself or Alison know of any concerns so that we can act on them quickly.

Thank you all for your commitment to making St Mary's a safe and welcoming space for Church family of all ages and for our constantly expanding numbers of people visiting from the wider community for food, friendship, comfort, practical or emotional help and support or special events full of fun too.

Sharon Viney
Health and Safety Officer



Children's and Youth Report

Over the past year we have seen the model of 'multigenerational church' grow and reach into many elements of youth work and church life. I have been invited to take part in several focus and research groups for the Church of England this year and the multigenerational method of Church is a recurring theme - both in terms of outreach and discipleship success and in terms of a national shift in the church developing towards these methods of engagement due to their success in spiritually caring for the whole family.

Providing opportunities for people to mix across generations, cultures and life experiences has been really enriching to experience at St. Mary's. One of the places I see this in action is at our Friday morning Café - a real blend of people from all walks of life, it's great to see children playing and having fun, bringing conversation and joy to those who have come along to beat the loneliness. Hot food being served to those who need it, whilst not being singled out since everyone is welcome to eat. The smell attracting curious shoppers from the high street, unofficial toddler groups forming, child minder gatherings alongside those who have retired and are enjoying a cuppa, the relaxed atmosphere allowing the ins and outs of everyday life to be shared, advice and questions asked, quiet times and prayer, faith explored and Bibles handed out – a real hub of activity!

Many of the children's and youth provision outlined below now include elements of whole family ministry:

STOMP Dance Clubs:

Our dancers range from age 3-17 and they have been working hard on a variety of routines and confidence building activities. Break time topics have been used to help with team building whilst looking at various faith topics. The groups have enjoyed a range of performance opportunities such as dancing at a variety of All Age and Celebration services, as well as being able to participate in Bristol STAGES dance weekend in a professional theatre setting. The family room that is open whilst the dancers are in classes has also developed into its own thriving community - we see families of all ages use this area as a warm space, homework club, crèche area and social hub.

Youth @ The Barn:

Our sessions include young people aged 9-15 where we have a great core group of around 14 young people and each year we have a new intake from the year 5 classes in the area. Our young leaders have now both turned 18 and are going to go through the training process to become full leaders with us, which is wonderful to see. In addition to the weekly activities and talk slots, the young people have been keen to sign up to create a 'Youth events team' this is a group of our young people who want to help with other areas of church life. For example, with fayres, fun days, pop ups, All Age and celebration services and setting up special events such as the maze and creating decorations/ props/ scenery for plays and seasonal activities.

Pop Ups Outreach Events:

The Pop Ups have been in full swing throughout this year and have quickly become one of the most powerful tools of multigenerational outreach for us. We have had over 1,000 local people come to our pop ups spanning a large range of ages, cultures and faith beliefs. Families have expressed their thanks for a welcoming space with free activities and many have opened up with lots of soul-searching questions. A few of our young people have also signed up to be junior leaders at these events whilst developing their acts of service for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are very keen to blend church and community across the generations to share God's love to all who come – if you are able to attend or help in any way we would love for you to join us!

GLOW:

We have a core group of 14 Young People who have been attending Glow sessions to ask bigger faith questions. The group has engaged well with the sessions and have looked at global events and news topics through a faith lens. A few of our members are potentially interested in doing a youth Alpha course over the next year to take their faith deeper, opening new opportunities to speak with their families too about their thoughts on faith.

Schools Work:

We are able to regularly attend Shire Primary School for monthly assemblies to both KS1 and KS2. We have also been able to support the school this summer by running a stall at their summer fayre and providing cakes for their fundraising. We were able to hold their Christmas Assembly at the Church and accommodate the visiting families to watch too – this also provides a good opportunity to advertise our Pop Ups and celebration services on a wider scale and to extend a warm welcome to more families in our community. This year we invited the whole school, nursery, support unit and all teaching staff to come and explore the Easter maze- a real highlight to see over 500 people interact and engage with the Gospel story!

Summer Sessions:

In August 2023, we held 4 summer sessions in the churchyard called 'The Wonder Zone'. The sessions were open to all ages of the community and ran on a drop in basis, meaning anyone who stumbled across our events whilst shopping in the village were welcomed to join us. We had 4 themes - animals, flowers, food and our world. These included free play, ice creams, craft, picnic, quizzes and scavenger hunt. Roughly 100 attended across the 4 sessions so we are keen to provide them again this year.

Sunday Services:

Rise and Shine has continued to run as a cafe style service with breakfast and a programme that follows the Lectionary content. Our regular families have been attending for some time now and their children are now becoming old enough to join the Youth activities held in the

week. Our next season of Rise and Shine will focus on development in 3 areas – deepening the faith journey of the children who are now in the top end of primary school to explore if confirmation may be of interest in the future, extending a welcome to the families who regularly engage in pop up events to give them a space to explore faith for themselves too and finally, to provide a safe and relaxed atmosphere for all adults to also explore and deepen their faith alongside the children.

All Age Worship Services continue to offer a wide range of worship and learning styles for our community to engage with both on communal and personal levels. It has been great to see our Children and Young People at Rise and Shine, STOMP and Youth Clubs get involved with these services throughout the year, both upfront and behind the scenes, as well as welcoming visitors, baptism families and seasonal attendees to engage with a variety of faith expressions.

We have also had a successful year of special celebration services, with a broad range of Church family and community families of all ages coming together for Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, Mother's Day Cafe Church, Easter Services and the Pentecost Birthday Party. It was also great to see some of our uniformed organisations at our Remembrance Day parade and we hope to invite them to future events to strengthen our links.

A huge thank you to all leaders, volunteers, young people and congregation members for helping on various teams and being present to share God's love in our community - you have made such a valuable difference to our local children, young people and their families, and we look forward to continuing to do this through many more all age opportunities.



Amy Boucher
Youth Worker







Mothers' Union

Deanery

Our Deanery, which is Bristol West, comprises of only four branches now which are St Peter's Filton, St Mary's Henbury, Holy Trinity Horfield and ourselves. Unfortunately, St Peter's Henleaze closed at the end of last year due to lack of Leadership. We met throughout the year for a Deanery Festival, which was at St Peter's Filton. The Deanery Lunch was at Horfield and the Deanery Advent Service was at St Peter's Henleaze which was a lovely start to Advent. A few of us attended the lunchtime services at the Cathedral.



Branch

We took part in the President's Challenge. We were given a bag with £23 in and were asked to use our gifts and talents to make the amount grow. We raised £512.00 and were the fourth highest group.



A talk from Lynn Crew about the Gympanzees which is *'A world of fun and fitness for disabled children'* was very interesting as was The Clewer Initiative (*raising awareness of the plight of Modern-day slaves*) by Aurea Hart.

We had a Show and Tell afternoon when everyone brought a treasured possession and talked about it.

We held a potluck tombola stall in October and Christmas food tombola stall in December for St Mary's Church.



We were given 100 Bible Society books by Mothers' Union which were given to St Mary's children and Shirehampton primary school.

We enjoyed the Christmas meal at Shirehampton Golf Club again.

February saw us watching my family's trip to Lapland which was very entertaining. As it was Valentine's day, we all had a chocolate heart.

At our next meeting we all took a photograph of our Mums and then talked about them. It was a lovely and interesting time. We sent a Mothering Sunday gift to Mothers' Union which will help families support each other and develop their relationships.

At our April meeting Rebecca Cross and Gaye Senior-Smith talked to us about their trips to Uganda which was very moving. Rebecca was given a scarf and banner with the Mothers' Union badge on, which she kindly gave to us. I have put this on our notice board with some pictures – which is in Church.

Thank you to all the Committee and to all our members for their support and generosity. Also many thanks to Phil Fowler for auditing our yearly accounts.

Julie Smith
Branch Leader



Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings resumed in the church on Wednesday 3rd May 2023, following the Winter sessions being partly held in the Tithe Barn. The resumption of Coffee Mornings in the church was met with much enthusiasm by those patrons who were unhappy with the winter venue in the Tithe Barn.

Since that date all Coffee Mornings have been held in the church right up to the present time.

During the colder months Fridays has been considered 'a warm place' with Tea & Coffee served from 10am until 12 noon and free hot food thereafter until 2pm. This hot food has been prepared by Rev Alison, ably assisted by Pat Davidson and team who have served it up to the needy. There is an appetite within the community for this Friday set-up to continue as the provision of hot food is welcome by many, and we will look into how viable this is to provide all year round.

Since we returned to the church income from the provision of Tea and Coffee has much improved, though the church space is more costly to heat than the Tithe Barn.

This will be my last report, as earlier in the year I stood down as the Coffee Mornings Co-ordinator and I would also like to record my grateful thanks to Dot Mead who has had to stand down from her regular morning duties due to ill health. My thanks too for all the volunteers who regularly help and those who are happy to help at short notice.

At this point I would like to appeal for any person who would be interested in serving refreshments for the two hours between 10am and 12 noon to put their names forward. You will still see me about, as I stand in for volunteers who are absent for any reason - so I have not disappeared off the scene completely.

Jill Eynon.



Building Co-ordinators Report on the Fabric of the Tithe Barn

This is the fabric report for the Tithe Barn, prepared by the churchwardens of St Mary's Church Shirehampton.



Roofs

The Tithe Barn roof and the Orangery roof are in good order.

Walls, Windows and Doors

External walls of both parts of the building are in good order.

All windows are double glazed and have required routine maintenance during the year. They are all in good working order.

There is a small area of peeling paintwork on the pillar to the left of the door leading from the main hall into the extension. This requires attention.

Rain Water Goods

Gutters and downpipes of the original barn and the orangery are working and are routinely cleared of debris.

Interior

The kitchen and toilets are in good working order.

A new programmer has been fitted in the main hall with the aim of improving control of the heating system

Exterior

The exterior fence, gates and party wall are in good order.
The garden is maintained by Norman England.

Security

The building is secured with modern dead locks.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 11th April 2022 the recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. The barn heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
2. The fire/smoke alarm system. (6 Monthly tests to BS 5839)
3. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Thanks to:-

Philip Fowler and Eleanor Beddoes for managing the lettings and accounts of the Tithe Barn.

Colin Godfrey, Philip Fowler, Monica and Tony Symons for the opening and closing of the Barn, dealing with the routine maintenance and operational actions required including setting up and clearing away after each letting.

Richard Powell



Tithe Barn Report

All the activities that took place at the barn, including lettings and charity work are controlled directly by the PCC and the roles of caretaker/ manager, building fabric co-ordinator and health and safety officer were undertaken by Colin Godfrey, Richard Powell and Sharon Viney. Eleanor Beddoes and Philip Fowler provided administrative support.

St Mary's regularly used the facilities at the barn for Church activities, including STOMP dance groups, Youth Group and GLOW,

Our Mindfulness Group also met there on a regular basis, throughout the year as did Mothers' Union and our Art Group.

The barn was let for private hire with three regular monthly users and further lets taking place throughout the year.

Members of the PCC and the church family have supported the work of the barn and their contributions are much appreciated.

Whilst the barn provides the opportunity to raise much needed income to help offset the cost of the running the building, there is a significant reliance on volunteers to undertake the tasks involved.

Having considered the benefits afforded by the availability of the barn, the PCC has concluded that church led activities can all be accommodated without using the barn building and the disposal of this asset would release much needed cash resources.

Any net proceeds from the potential sale can be used to further enhance the facilities at St Mary's, and it is hoped that there will also be scope to carry out further works to help us to achieve our net zero carbon goal by 2030.

Philip Fowler



Church Music Report

The church choir has continued to lead the singing at services during the last year and they have sung the hymns, provided communion anthems and have been able to sing the communion setting at the first service of the month. Numbers in the choir are low, and we really would appreciate any volunteers coming forward to swell our ranks. Despite this they produce a good sound and lead the singing well.

The Shirehampton area choir were able to perform a Christmas concert in 2023 and a presentation of Pardon, Penitence and Peace by Maunder on Easter Saturday this year (2024). Numbers in the choir are also rather low and again new voices would be welcomed. Any willing volunteers should contact me either in person or by email at fordorgano@gmail.com.

The organ has been used regularly during the last year and is in reasonable order. The instrument has been tuned twice since our last APCM by Harrison & Harrison Organ Builders. The piano is used regularly for Communion anthems on a Sunday and occasionally at the Thursday morning Eucharist, subject to my availability.

We have started having a joint service with Rise and Shine members on the last Sunday of the month. The choir does not robe at those services and join the main congregation. The keyboard or piano is used at those services together with songs through our sound system.



Tim Forder
Organist and Director of Music

Electoral Roll Report

The current status of St Mary's Shirehampton Electoral roll at the time of producing this report stood at 106 members. 1 Member has passed away during the last year. There has been one new member, added to the roll. Out of the 106 members 41 live outside of this parish. Members of the Church will only be permitted to take part in any election of Officers and PCC members if they are on the Electoral Roll.



Tim Forder
Electoral Roll Officer

Social Events Team Update

We kicked off 2023 with an afternoon cream tea event for the St Mary's Patronal Festival.

On a very hot and sunny Sunday afternoon in August, we welcomed many lovely people into the cool of the church and to a feast for the eyes of beautiful flower displays, colourful quilts, a history of St Mary's in photographs and models (very nostalgic for some...) and flower crafts for the youngsters, all accompanied by Morgan Williams who played beautiful music in the background on his harp.



We were able to serve over a hundred cream teas – up by 42 on 2022, raising £308.50. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen with particular thanks to Elizabeth Harvey who helped bake the delicious scones, Amy Boucher for the brilliant photographic display and Christine Porter for the beautiful quilts. It was a great success.

This was followed by an Autumn Fair at the end of September. We were blessed with dry weather, allowing us to have a variety of stalls outside as well as inside the church. Once again, we were able to accommodate several independent sellers. There was a lovely buzz inside and out with lots on sale from cakes to hot dogs, sweets to crafts and a variety of games. All topped off with a super dance display by Stomp. We raised £1,262.38. Finally, we held a Christmas Fair at the beginning of December when the weather wasn't so kind. And rather than have gazebos blowing around the village due to a forecast of very strong winds we squeezed everyone inside.

It was amazing how we all fitted in, as we welcomed quite a few more artisan sellers as well as there being more St Mary's stall holders. Santa welcomed younger visitors to his Grotto with help from Mrs Christmas and a little band of elves. The atmosphere was just great. Our guests were able to get just about everything they needed to make Christmas special from beautiful knitting and handmade crafts, cakes and preserves, books and toys, paintings, creative metal crafts, gifts that could be personalised while they waited and the children were even able make their own reindeer food.

Everyone really got into the Christmas Spirit and while enjoying the refreshments on offer, STOMP gave us a spectacular dance performance and Rev Alison rallied everyone to sing carols accompanied by Tim Forder. Once again this was a great success and we raised over £1,500.



It can never be said enough but not one of these events could happen without the commitment of all those who gave their up their time to help.

So, whether you rearranged the heavy chairs and set up the church, manned a stall, baked a cake, knitted or sewed, served refreshments, came along to support us, cleared away and prepared the church for the Sunday service, you all know who you are. Thank you. You are stars every one of you.

Together we have been very successful in bringing our church family and our wider community together.



Mary Powell





Avonside Mission Area (ASMA)

The Avonside Mission Area is a covenanted partnership of five churches in North West Bristol which includes Lawrence Weston, Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Avonmouth and Stoke Bishop. Whilst the churches run separately, there is a strong sense of family and sharing of resources and ideas.

2023 saw more change in the clergy team across ASMA. Rev Andy Murray, Vicar of Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston returned from a period of Extended Ministerial Development Leave, and later in the year was made Dean of Priority Communities. He will continue to be Vicar part time alongside this new role, with plans in 2024 to appoint an Associate Minister.



In September we welcomed Rev Sally Thomas as vicar of St Edyth's Sea Mills. The team at St Edyth's navigated the vacancy amazingly and Sally landed in a church ready to welcome her but in great health. ASMA clergy were pleased to be able to offer continuing support throughout the period of vacancy in 2023 and then to serve alongside Sally as she settled quickly into her role. Her husband Neil has already led worship at several ASMA events.

Sonia and Julie, our ASMA curates, were ordained as priests in July, enabling them to serve in new ways across the mission area. They have enjoyed learning the different eucharistic traditions and presiding across the Mission Area.

Llewelyn Lawton, Churchwarden at St Peter's Lawrence



Weston, also joined the ASMA team as Ministry Experience Scheme worker. He has helped serve in a variety of ways across the Mission Area including the student ministry in Stoke Bishop, toddler groups, and listening cafes.

Alison Sowton, Vicar of Shirehampton, is already a much-loved member of the community there. As part of her role as ASMA Life Events Missioner she has led two Bereavement Course groups in 2023. These were offered to those recently bereaved from across the Mission Area and greatly appreciated by those who attended.

In Lent we gathered together across the Mission Area, firstly on Ash Wednesday at St Andrew's Avonmouth, and then weekly throughout Lent to worship and reflect together on the topic of forgiveness. Approximately 60 gathered each week, moving around the Mission Area churches, and enjoyed the chance for connection and learning. July and October saw Prayer and Praise gatherings bring the churches together again, something that will be continued termly. Gathering together also happened monthly at the informal prayer and worship event now rebranded as 'Deeper'. This is a great chance to worship together and listen to God.

As members of the youth and children's team across ASMA have had periods away from work, the teams have been able to support one another, drawing in volunteers able to serve in this area too. This continues to be an area of need it would be great to have additional team members for.

Providing cover is one core way the Mission Area provides mutual support. This happens across the church for life events, preaching and leading Sunday services and mid-week communions. Support can also be provided for new initiatives such as the More@4 service that started at St Peter's Lawrence Weston this year, which gives families who have attended Messy Church the opportunity to attend a weekly service more similar to that creative format. Ideas have been shared from St Mary's Stoke Bishop Explore@4, and the service has grown through the year with a regular group of local families now attending. Other new initiatives include bacon butties and prayer for the community that gather in the churchyard at St Mary's Shirehampton.

The Ukrainian Hub and North West Bristol Foodbank continue to be places where volunteers from across the Mission Area serve, meeting vital needs. Wellbeing groups have also continued to serve the area. In 2023, three groups took place across Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills, serving 18 people in a variety of locations including local schools. There are two small follow-on groups that continue to meet regularly, and ad-hoc meet ups too. The partnership with Kintsugi Hope, who provide the materials for these courses, is funded and administered by St Mary's Stoke Bishop.

The ASMA clergy continue to value their breakfast meetings as an opportunity to pray for one another, share needs and updates. Prayer needs have also continued to go out across the Mission Area by way of the seasonal praise and prayer newsletter. This has been supplemented by the occasional video update.

Bristol West Deanery Synod Report



Diocese of Bristol

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.

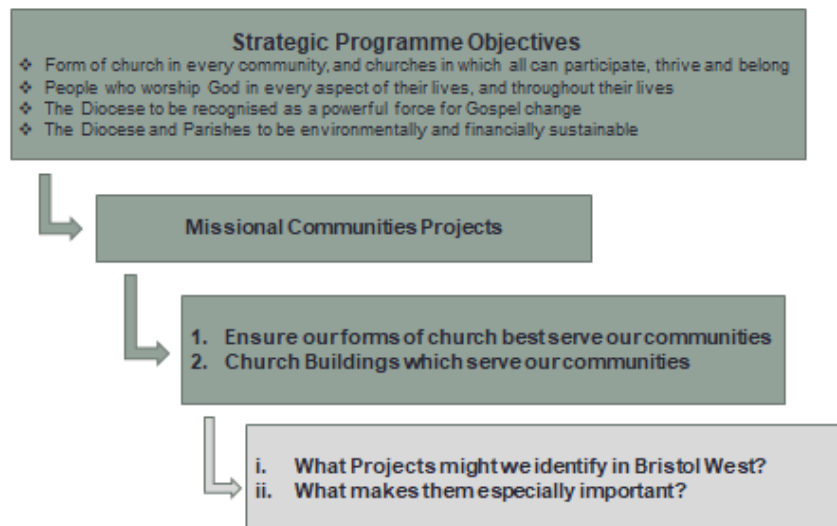


Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report 2023

Synod Output following Key Theme Discussions

- Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T
- Understanding the TC.T Value - Generosity
- Understanding the TC.T Value - Creativity

Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T Deanery Synod 14 March 2023



Discussion Groups – on Missional Communities Projects

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 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 has been grouped for ease of reading.

Activities and Events

Missional Ministries – these were seen as contextually dependent opportunities to align resource to respond to specific needs where there was energy.

- Ministry to the mature (older age groups) and those living with dementia
- Young people and young family's ministries
- Outreach through the arts (exhibitions and concerts)
- Local business networks, business breakfasts and meeting venues
- Education Centres – educational hubs on racial justice or deprivation or industrial change
- Foodbanks and Community Support (Bristol NW Foodbank and 'Loaves and Fishes')

Regular Programmed Events – Activities offered by local churches (in partnership) that focus on specific groups within the local community.

- Lunch Clubs and Café – such as: Friends on Friday (Dementia Café), Community Café, Listening Café, Table Talk, Drop-In Centres, Community Lunch
- Open Church Buildings for - AA, Art Group, Bereavement support, well-being (Kintsugi course), Ukrainian Hub, English Conversation, After School homework or pick-up points
- Special Events, such as 'Open Mike Night', Barn Dance, Beer and Prayer
- Community Venue for meetings, concerts, talks

There was some discussion as to the extent to which these events should be stand alone or be connected to a more open sharing of faith, or should the relationship be built first and then faith is shared.

Additionally, there were question as to how the church can make contact with 'users' and 'visitors' in those churches with open-door policies.

Worship and Teaching

Many focused upon worship and teaching as key activities for local church contexts. There was recognition of what some churches do well and the opportunity to share or spread this across boundaries.

- Growth in children's work, messy church
- Opportunities for family worship
- Mission to the more mature generations
- Worship – evening services and the offer of other times in the week (not just Sunday)
- Community located – not necessarily in 'church' buildings

Also, opportunities to have local teaching and lectures to gather people from across different boundaries. Such as '*Christians in Science*' or the Churches Together Lent Course, '*Faith and Art Today*', based upon the Methodist art collection.

Crossing Boundaries

Though challenging to think more broadly than 'parish', the discussions did recognise the importance of stepping across the usual boundaries. In particular current activities include:

- School work and support in education and training (for example - Spear Bristol)
- Combination of response to people's needs (foodbank, café, lunch clubs)
- Training and equipping leaders - for ministry to families, children and the older age groups; or in specific contexts - work and community
- Work across ecumenical boundaries (Churches Together) and inter-faith
- Collaboration with other social and community organizations

Culture Shift

How do we enable ourselves to think differently? How do we cross the various boundaries emphasise our collective tendency to 'bounded thinking' – geography, denomination, parish, community, ethnic, and so forth? How do we enable churches to look outwards – from drains and chairs to community?

Various activities emerged:

- Keep churches open all day ensure they are part of the community
- Engaging in a community audit will focus the missional lens and also demonstrate active listening to our people and communities
- Post-Covid has reduced numbers of volunteers, giving and worshippers – but also provided opportunity for active engagement within the community
- Must look out from church – mission is community focussed, meet people where they live/work/connect
- Enthuse and encourage each other with clear, defined projects (and easy wins to raise expectations)
- Provide 'specialists' to work with churches and groups of churches to identify opportunities for parishes, church communities and groups and plan for action
- Make use of the vacancy period to help parishes think differently – provide facilitation during this period (South Severnside and Henbury)
- Support parishes in the creation of strategic approach (Mission Action Plan)
- Keep 'an eye out' for and join in with what's 'bubbling up'

Resourcing

Recognition that many of the Missional Community Projects can be identified and driven locally – however, many parishes do not have the resources. Also, many stipendiary clergy are more than fully occupied in maintain things as they are now – the idea of adding to this is hard to contemplate. Ministry teams (lay and ordained) often have issues of capacity, many parishes do not have volunteers to fulfil existing roles, let alone new projects.

Ideas to address these issues might include:

- Provision of Resource Hubs in local patches – this might be a whole range of offerings, including (for example) lay/ordained ministers or administration services
- Deanery located bookkeepers, Safeguarding Officers, H&S, etc; some parishes have to pay a treasurer (is cash available for support staff?)
- Deanery specialists to work on opportunities to build resource for outreach to address the big missional ministries
- How do we address the questions like ‘what to do with a medieval church with no toilets?’
- Recognise the suites of skills within parishes and Deanery and communities and make these more widely available

The ‘Transforming Church. Together’ Value ‘Generosity’ Deanery Synod 17 May 2023

The four values of the diocese: ***Openness, Creativity, Generosity and Bravery.***
We reflected in pairs and groups on the diocesan definition: **Generosity**

‘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.’

In different table 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 to the stories of others.

Table group output has been categorised below:

Provision – Showing Generosity now

- Keep the food baskets topped up
- Maintain local food banks
- Offer warm spaces
- Provide choir and concerts for the community
- Provide a community hub – for personal use and small businesses
- Food banks and home banks, warm spaces, work with homeless. Offer prayer
- Welcome all – fully inclusive
- Be generous in our support to those who provide support
- Provide Dementia Friendly church
- Working with gardens and growing things
- listening opportunities in cafes and prayer on the street
- Publicise our food banks and homebanks
- Not only young people – also older people
- Develop mental health first aiders
- Boost school and youth work

Understanding – listening and learning

- Serving practical needs in the community
- Listen to people's practical needs and desires
- Training for discerning the needs of the community would help
- Engage in serious outreach:
 - messy vintage church
 - messy church
 - School prayer space
 - Youthwork
 - Musical opportunities
- Research the needs of the community (ask)
- Identify deprivation and determine ways to respond
- Recognise issues of cost of living, food, fuel, housing
- Find out what people need rather than what we think they might need
- Need to find ways to approach our local communities to find out how we can help to build relationships. Hopefully to bring people to the church family
- Ask people questions to learn about their needs – we could benefit in training to know how to do this most effectively

Social Centre – Church as community

Offer church as a social centre

Ukrainian response – hubs

Refugee response – hubs

Outreach – Recognizing the missional significance

Be generous in spirit and find time to listen to one another

Support with missional ministries across the parish boundaries

Engage in the current cultural conversations in a distinctly Jesus shaped way (creation, Identity, economics, Poverty)

Build people's confidence in sharing their stories about the transformation Jesus brings to lives

Working Across Boundaries and Parish Hubs

Give practical support to neighbour parishes

Share resource – people and physical

Are there ways in which better-off areas in the Deanery could support poor areas? For example a Deanery hardship fund. Individuals could contribute and those in need could apply. Church to administer process

Are there parishes with needs that could be met by people from other parishes? For example provide homework clubs, career guidance

Share resources across churches – especially in the mission area

Sharing hubs around the Deanery – admin and finance and safeguarding

Share human resources (skills, ideas, money)

Share resources across churches – especially in the mission area

Sharing hubs around the Deanery – admin and finance and safeguarding

Share tips and practical ways of doing things – look for good practice

Equipping and enabling

Develop community action skills – some are more experienced than others

Provide training for community engagement and development.

Share resources and skills

Provide training

for equipping befrienders

listeners and story tellers

listening

Change Culture – changing our Thinking

Relationship we have in Diocese and Deanery and church seen to be generous – in times of struggle be seen to be supportive

Be more 'snake' – church not a butterfly but snake, shedding skin, adapting and moving around the community

Work ecumenically – share with partners in social prescribing and warm spaces
Actively discuss at PCC
Avoid parochialism
Do with and not to
Aspirational values require the development of a new culture. How do we recognise and reward behaviour which fits with ‘generosity’
Look after interests of others, show interest, offer support, provide friendship
Risk of burden by becoming over generous

The ‘Transforming Church. Together’ Value ‘Creativity’ Deanery Synod 5 October 2023

The four values of the diocese: ***Openness, Creativity, Generosity and Bravery.***

We reflected in groups on the diocesan definition: **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.’*

How do we understand this value?

If we were to see it in the Deanery, what would it look like?

Alternative Ideas

Tell the stories of contested heritage
Booklet on each value with theological reflections
Deanery wide creative calendar
Provide welcome packs for housing estates and people who have moved in

Significance of Music and the Arts

Music – school, children.
Music as encouragement
Music for relationships and to give context
Dance groups
book group
Pop Up events
Open doors and arts trails – join in with these events
Open doors for environment day
Artisans Market
Carol singing in pubs

Christmas tree display
Film evenings – especially films that teach
Taylor Swift music played by string quartet
Wine tasting evening

Schools, Children and Youth Groups

Access to youth workers
Charing in the community – cafes
Access to youth workers help and inspire
Link across secondary schools and

Worship Style

Have variety of worship styles in each parish and benefice
Regular services like harvest and remembrance in different styles
Open air carol service in the streets (Almondsbury)
Do services and events on key national days
Blue Christmas events – grows from grief services
Advent easter trail
Advent calendar display in windows of parish
Offer wider variety of activities for community – messy church, Christmas market easter trail
Saturday afternoon events for families with food, creativity, prayer and music
Church@4 instead of Messy Church <https://www.avonriverteam.org.uk/church4.htm>

Cross Boundary

Mission area – Henleaze, Westbury Park Westbury on Trym – growth chaplain
Encourage churches to work together across the boundaries
Take church outside to get over the barrier of the building
Share knowledge and information across churches and parishes

Church Building

Church is a focal building in the community – encourage people into the building in creative ways

Research

Ask people if they'd like to be prayed with/for – have activities to engage with them
Ask people in the community what they would like and what they believe

Café Church and Events

Weekly café
Café create – music, story telling, - relaxed and inclusive
Listening café with still point
Listening Café where people can chat and talk about problems
Café with bible and prayer slot



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON

Come: as you are
Be: renewed
Go: share God's love

www.stmarysshire.org



When you have finished with this
document please recycle it or
better still, pass it on to a friend.

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2022

Charity number 1131636



Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2022

Contents

Parochial Church Council	1
Annual Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2022

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev Alison Sowton (from 20th October 2022)

Independent Reporting Accountants: David Oakensen,
William Price & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
Suite 9, Westbury Court,
Church Road,
Bristol
BS9 3EF

Bankers: HSBC
11 Canford Lane
Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol
BS9 3DE

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2022

The Parochial Church Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

Charitable Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the PCC Powers Measure. The PCC was registered as a charity in 2009, with charity number 1131636, having previously been an excepted charity. The PCC members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also maintains the Tithe Barn in accordance with its aims and objectives, making it available for the purposes of St Mary's and for the use of the inhabitants of all ages with the object of improving the conditions of life for the Inhabitants.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, provides Church of England services and religious activities for all ages, including outreach into the community via work with youth and the elderly. We run a youth group, dance classes, a Mothers' Union branch, a Mental Awareness Group branch and host a 'Goldies' singing group. In addition we hold various social activities during the year.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	Appointed 20 th October 2022
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Shemma Laws Kathryn Mwakijungu	Health & Safety Officer – Church
Elected Members:	Pat Davidson Tim Forder Philip Fowler Colin Godfrey Richard Griffiths Doug Jennings Sarah Parry Reid Tony Symons	Electoral Roll Officer Treasurer & Data Protection Officer Appointed 15 th May 2022 Resigned 15 th May 2022 Secretary Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding Officer (not in PCC)	Claire Staynings	From 1 st March 2022

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions from the Council.

Financial Review

Income at £128,625 (2021: £140,382) was higher (2021: lower) than expenditure of £121,247 (2021: £155,420) to give net income of £7,378 (2021: £15,038 net expenditure). Conditions eased in 2022 where we were able to bring back more of our events and reintroduced open plate collections at our services. Some coffee mornings were transferred to the Tithe Barn during the winter months, due to lower energy consumption at the smaller space, a decision made in the face of significantly increased energy costs. Although donations decreased compared to 2021, we were able to open the Tithe Barn for events and parties throughout the year, and we opened for coffee mornings all year. Returns on investments continued to bring in valuable income. We continually review costs to minimise impacts of price increases where appropriate.

We are grateful to our church family and local community for your continued support.

Giving to missions/charities from general funds totalled £3,300 (2021: £3,300). The amount paid to the Diocese for parish and ministry costs was £35,575 (2021: £59,660).

Restricted income exceeded restricted expenditure by £745 (2021: £10,732 expenditure exceeded income), partly due to receipt of a £2,494 grant towards increased energy costs having been received in December 2022, which will be spent during 2023.

The loss on revaluation of shares held as endowment funds was £91,750 (2021: £92,254 revaluation gain).

The Charity Commission approved a scheme allowing us to sell shares to the value of £109,000 to partly fund the purchase of the Tithe Barn, on the condition these shares would be purchased back until the full number of shares were reinstated. At 31 December 2022 the total market value of the amount remaining to be paid was £65,391. The full amount is to be repaid by 2033.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that will allow sufficient funds to be available to pay for charitable activities as they arise and also to ensure that support and governance costs can be met as they fall due. The balance held as unrestricted funds at the year-end was £460,145 (2021: £453,512).

Where possible, we maintain reserves to cover, as a minimum, identifiable repair and maintenance costs relating to the fabric and furnishings of St Mary's, three months' parish share payments and 25% of the amounts required from fund raising to cover general expenditure. We have estimated net expenditure on fabric and furnishings for 2023 at £3,000, parish contributions to the Diocese for three months total £11,250 and £2,000 is required to cover any shortfall in fundraising.

Investments

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, as custodial trustees, hold CBF Ltd shares on our behalf in both the Bernard Salmon and Napier Miles Trusts. In addition, 404 CBF shares are held in respect of the Ecclesiastical and non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

PCC Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this is inappropriate.

The PCC members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Parish and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Alison Sowton

Approved by the PCC on 24th April 2023

and signed on their behalf by Rev Alison Sowton (Vicar)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Mary, Shirehampton, Bristol.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

David Oakensen

David Oakensen FCA
William Price & Co Ltd
Westbury Court, Church Road
Westbury-on-Trym
BS9 3EF

Date: 24th April 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		74,332	2,869	—	77,201	95,014
Income from charitable activities		11,647	—	—	11,647	9,135
Other trading activities		10,031	—	—	10,031	6,099
Investments		20,546	—	—	20,546	19,697
Other income		9,200	—	—	9,200	10,437
Total income	2	125,756	2,869	—	128,625	140,382
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		316	—	—	316	9
Expenditure on charitable activities		111,310	2,124	—	113,434	147,914
Other expenditure		7,497	—	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	3	119,123	2,124	—	121,247	155,420
Net (expenditure) /income before gains and transfer		6,633	745	—	7,378	(15,038)
Gains on investment assets		—	—	(91,750)	(91,750)	92,254
Net movement in funds		6,633	745	(91,750)	(84,372)	77,216
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2022		453,512	13,917	774,522	1,241,951	1,164,735
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2022	10	460,145	14,662	682,772	1,157,579	1,241,951

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2022
Balance sheet

		2022 £	2021 £
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	369,361	376,858
Investments	6	687,772	779,522
		1,057,133	1,156,380
Current assets			
Debtors	7	10,342	7,533
Cash at bank and in hand		96,936	82,603
		107,278	90,136
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	(6,832)	(4,565)
Net current assets less current liabilities		100,446	85,571
Total net assets less liabilities		1,157,579	1,241,951
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds	10	460,145	453,512
Restricted funds	10	14,662	13,917
Endowment funds	10	682,772	774,522
Total Funds		1,157,579	1,241,951

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th April 2023

Alison Sowton

P M C Fowler

Rev Alison Sowton
Vicar

P Fowler
Treasurer

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements use the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The valuation of investment assets are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is sterling and all figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

The PCC considers there are no material uncertainties about their ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for a specific purpose, the use of which is restricted to that area. These funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest will in future be appointed to individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and 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 legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Annual Report. All help received is greatly appreciated.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at a reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 with individual value below £1,000 are written off.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any residual value, over their expected useful life, as follows:

Tithe Barn	2% of construction and refurbishment cost on a straight line basis
------------	--

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December. Investment gains and losses resulting from revaluing investments to market value are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as it has no taxable activities. Irrecoverable VAT borne by the charity is included in the cost of the item to which it relates.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisitions or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount at which the charity is expected to benefit in a future period. Provision is made for any amount that may prove uncollectible.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 Income

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Gift aided donations	3,368	—	3,368	1,992
Gift aided donations via envelope	4,865	—	4,865	7,042
Planned giving	32,505	—	32,505	36,017
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,143	—	3,143	1,746
Sundry donations	15,344	375	15,719	8,686
Donations – appeals, grants (see below)	5,000	2,494	7,494	25,048
Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	9,987	—	9,987	10,723
Floodlighting	120	—	120	260
Legacies received	—	—	—	3,500
Donations and legacies total	74,332	2,869	77,201	95,014
Income from charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,393	—	7,393	7,111
Church lettings - objectives	237	—	237	—
Tithe Barn lettings – objectives	2,751	—	2,751	88
Other income	1,266	—	1,266	1,936
Income from charitable activities total	11,647	—	11,647	9,135
Other trading activities				
Fayres and events	3,828	—	3,828	3,673
Tithe Barn lettings – other	6,203	—	6,203	2,426
Other trading activities total	10,031	—	10,031	6,099
Investments				
Interest - dividends	309	—	309	190
Bernard Salmon Trust income	13,185	—	13,185	12,687
Napier Miles Trust income	7,052	—	7,052	6,820
Investments total	20,546	—	20,546	19,697
Other income				
Telecommunications agreement	9,200	—	9,200	10,437
Other income total	9,200	—	9,200	10,437
Total income	125,756	2,869	128,625	140,382
Grants received:				
Garfield Weston Foundation	5,000	—	5,000	—
Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance	—	2,494	2,494	—
Historic England	—	—	—	3,500
Listed Place of Worship Scheme	—	—	—	2,829
HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	—	—	—	2,622
Bristol City Council – lockdown grants	—	—	—	16,097
Total grant income	5,000	2,494	7,494	25,048

We are grateful to all grant providers for their support.

3 Expenditure

Raising Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Costs of fayres and events	316	—	316	9
Raising funds total	316	—	316	9
Charitable Activities				
Grants and donations – missions:				
African Pastors Fellowship	500	—	500	500
Compassion	1,200	—	1,200	1,200
Corymeela	100	—	100	100
In Hope (Crisis Centres Ministries)	500	—	500	500
Open Doors	500	—	500	500
Mercy Ships	250	—	250	250
Water Aid	250	—	250	250
Youth Programmes	793	—	793	752
Food and Fellowship	300	—	300	—
Ministry Parish Share	35,575	—	35,575	59,660
Charitable activities subtotal	39,968	—	39,968	63,712
Charitable activities – support costs				
Employment costs	35,401	—	35,401	33,497
Telephone and broadband costs	1,008	—	1,008	1,167
Parish training and mission	287	—	287	361
Fees paid for weddings and funerals	125	—	125	218
Additional organist fees	560	—	560	400
Verger fees	1,505	—	1,505	295
Church running – insurance	3,363	—	3,363	3,228
Kitchen consumables and equipment	616	—	616	753
Church and office equipment	684	—	684	556
Organ/piano tuning and maintenance	2,094	—	2,094	1,632
Church maintenance and replacements	1,427	1,409	2,836	17,638
Cleaning & hygiene	1,370	—	1,370	602
Altar requisites	661	—	661	1,032
Upkeep of churchyard	736	—	736	1,253
Printing and stationery	2,354	—	2,354	2,895
Sundry expenses	157	—	157	57
Church running – utilities	6,763	—	6,763	7,065
Specific expenses	2,185	374	2,559	1,128
Tithe Barn running – rates and utilities	2,934	—	2,934	1,384
Tithe Barn insurance	1,441	—	1,441	1,383
Tithe Barn maintenance	3,395	341	3,736	3,137
Tithe Barn broadband	546	—	546	510
Tithe Barn equipment	240	—	240	—
Governance costs – independent examination	780	—	780	780
Professional and other fees	710	—	710	3,231
Charitable activities – support costs subtotal	71,342	2,124	73,466	84,202
Charitable costs total	111,310	2,124	113,434	147,914
Other expenditure				
Depreciation	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Other expenditure total	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	119,123	2,124	121,247	155,420

4 Staff Costs

	2022 £	2021 £
The aggregate payroll costs of staff were as follows:		
Gross payroll and employer's national insurance contributions	34,635	32,771
Employer's pension contributions	766	726
	35,401	33,497
	2022 Number	2021 Number
Number of part-time staff	4	4

5 Fixed Assets for use by PCC

	Tithe Barn £	2022 £
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2022	515,000	515,000
	515,000	515,000
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	138,142	138,142
Charge for the year	7,497	7,497
At 31 December 2022	145,639	145,639
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2022	369,361	369,361
At 31 December 2021	376,858	376,858

6 Investment Assets – Endowment Funds

	Number of shares	Church £	Shire Charities £	2022 £	2021 £
Bernard Salmon Fund					
At 1 January 2022	21,456	502,485	—	502,485	439,979
Shares purchased in year	—	—	—	—	5,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	(59,150)	—	(59,150)	57,506
At 31 December 2022	21,456	443,335	—	443,335	502,485
Napier Miles Trust					
At 1 January 2022	11,475	268,729	—	268,729	235,098
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	(31,634)	—	(31,634)	33,631
At 31 December 2022	11,475	237,095	—	237,095	268,729
CBF Shares Charity Funds					
At 1 January 2022	404	—	8,308	8,308	7,191
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	—	(966)	(966)	1,117
At 31 December 2022	404	—	7,342	7,342	8,308
Summary					
Market value at 1 January 2022		771,214	8,308	779,522	682,268
Shares purchased in year		—	—	—	5,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation		(90,784)	(966)	(91,750)	92,254
Total investment assets at 31 December 2022		680,430	7,342	687,772	779,522

7 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	7,358	5,352
Other debtors	2,984	2,181
	10,342	7,533

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	2,913	829
Accruals and deferred income	3,592	3,334
Taxation and social security	151	142
Other creditors	176	260
	6,832	4,565

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2022 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	369,361	—	—	369,361
Investment fixed assets	—	—	687,772	687,772
Current assets	97,616	14,662	(5,000)	107,278
Current liabilities	(6,832)	—	—	(6,832)
	460,145	14,662	682,772	1,157,579

10 Fund movement by type

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	Closing £
Endowment Funds	774,522	—	—	—	(91,750)	682,772
Restricted Funds	13,917	2,869	(2,124)	—	—	14,662
Unrestricted Funds	453,512	125,756	(119,123)	—	—	460,145
Grand total	1,241,951	128,625	(121,247)	—	(91,750)	1,157,579

Analysis of Restricted Funds

	2022 £	2021 £
Audio Visual & Music Equipment Fund	3,112	3,112
Memorial Garden	1,600	1,600
Gift Day - Lighting	—	1,750
Security System	2,800	2,800
Flower Fund	489	488
Roof Fund	3,667	3,667
Vestry Window Repair	—	—
Vestments	500	500
Grant towards energy costs	2,494	—
Total Restricted Funds	14,662	13,917



Annual PCC Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton Annual Report

Background:

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

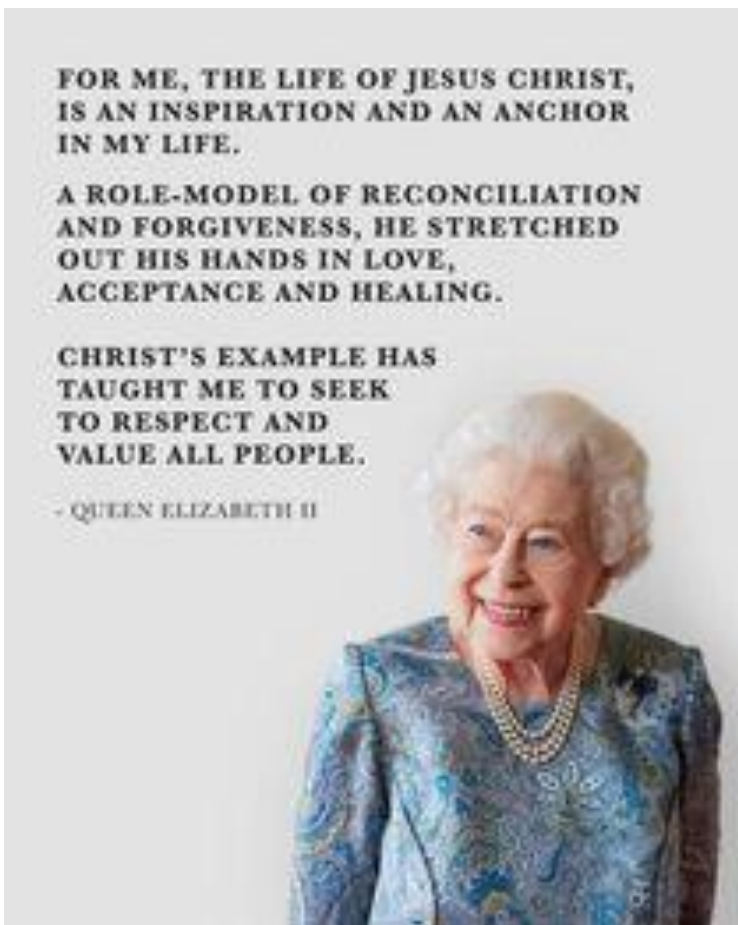
Membership:

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members:

Vicar:	Rev Alison Sowton	Appointed 20 th October 2022
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	Vice-Chair
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Shemma Laws Kathryn Mwakijungu	Health & Safety Officer - Church
Secretary:	Sarah Parry Reid	
Treasurer:	Philip Fowler	Also Data Protection Officer
Elected Members:	Pat Davidson Tim Forder Colin Godfrey Richard Griffiths Doug Jennings Tony Symons	Electoral Roll Officer Appointed 15 th May 2022 Resigned 15 th May 2022 Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding:	Claire Staynings	(not on PCC): From 1 st March 2022





Vicar's Report

Anticipation Loss and Life

As your new Vicar I am thankful for the way in which you held together as community, serving each other and your neighbours during your vacancy. I know that you faced many challenges and by your grace, when I arrived it was to a well-run church with a sense of anticipation. I am thankful too for the prayers and discernment process which brought me to your door!

My entrance into the life of St Mary's came slightly earlier than expected by the loss of our sovereign Queen Elizabeth. This was a time of great sadness across our nation and it was good to be able to provide a place where people could come to express their love and sense of loss, writing in the Book of Condolence and praying.

Out of this loss, and with all the strong foundation built over 70 years, we stepped into a new era, King Charles III became our new Monarch. As one of the first acts of my time in Shirehampton, I swore allegiance to him, his heirs and successors. A new beginning for our nation and a new beginning here in St Mary's. The warmth of welcome both Derek and myself found helped us to feel we were where God wants us.

My passion for the Gospel message is lived out through the desire to provide an authentic welcome and inclusivity in all that we do, both aspects of church life that bring flourishing, hope and life. As a church we have stepped forward together seeking new ways of connecting with our community beyond church and there has been so much to feel truly blessed by.

It has been a delight to work together with Amy Boucher. Her creativity and energy are a blessing to this church. The young people of our church are discipled, learning the good news of Jesus, in ways that are bearing much fruit. The relationship between the young people, Rise and Shine families and our 10.30 congregation members have deepened as we get to know one another better and the combined service on the 4th Sunday of the month. Life is intergenerational, each bringing something to enliven the lives of the other. A church that can share wisdom, laughter and life across the generations and respond to God's call to love one another becomes as living water to the whole community. Amy and I share a vision for this, knowing that it takes a willingness to change and adapt for all of us, but already seeing such fruit that we are excited by what is to come.

I am so grateful to all those who bring St Mary's to life -:

Eleanor Beddoes – Administrator, who has so many skills that keep us organised in communication with each other and all those who come into contact with our church. Thank you for your warmth and smile that makes even the most daunting aspects of church administration seem a breeze!

For our Wardens, Anne Ford and Richard Powell as they quietly and efficiently care for all aspects of this church. Their wisdom, good humour, service and the ability to give the vicar a hug when she needs it is much appreciated.

Phil Fowler our Treasurer – for his skills and dedication to keeping our finances in good order coupled with an understanding of mission and the need for generosity which leads to abundance for all.

Sarah Parry Reid - Secretary and the wonderfully efficient way you navigate the chatter of PCC's and make everything so clear and keep us all to task.

The PCC who bring wisdom and provide a critical friend's gaze on all that we do. For Claire Staynings in her safeguarding role and both Shemma Laws and Tony Symons as our health and safety officers at church and the Tithe Barn, helping us to make this a safe place for all.

Jill and Chris Eynon and Colin Godfrey for their care and sensitivity at our services, especially for Jill and all she does towards the smooth running of our communion.

Tim Forder and all he does, both leading the choir and providing us week by week with his organ playing, helping us to praise God. Thank you Tim for moving with me as we seek ways of worship to touch young and old, those who know church and those who are new to worship, blending the traditional with the new.

All the choir members as they lead us and share their gifts of voice week by week.

Shelley as she keeps our church looking spick and span, and our flowers reminding us of the glory of creation.

To the coffee and tea makers, the cake bakers, the chatterers and carers, the coffee morning crew too large to mention by name...you do an amazing ministry.

Those on sound systems and breakfast rotas and social/fundraising teams...those that turn up and do the million jobs that need to be done.

For those who keep our grounds looking beautiful, come rain or shine, a place of sanctuary for our whole community.

For Derek Sowton and all the cups of teas, for being my rock and my challenger!

For ASMA, the team and the church congregations as we seek to draw closer God across our community, serving, sharing and inspiring one another to know God and share his love more fully.

To those who come just as you are, willing to be transformed by God's love and to share the Good News ...

You are all valued...you are the life of this church...you are the body of Christ.

As we journey on my prayer is that the life, the joy, the servanthood that is present week by week continues to grow and deepen. That together we will transform our church and our community into places of love, welcome and inclusion.

We never know the plans God has for us so with open hearts, open minds and open arms we wait in anticipation of the gifts and challenges ahead knowing we do not face them alone but in the strength of our loving God.

Rev Alison Sowton
Vicar



Churchwardens' Report

Whilst I was contemplating all that has happened since the last APCM in 2022, two songs came to mind.

“What A Difference A Day Makes”

and

“What’s Love Got To Do With It”.

As you read through my report all will become clear. So many adjustments to all aspects of life were thrust upon us again with the return of the Pandemic... the way we lived, worked and worshipped to name but a few - there were huge changes for all of us.

Added to this we were in Vacancy (we were without a Vicar/ Priest-in-Charge) and having to prepare more Risk Assessments, Action Plans regarding Health and Safety issues in order to keep the Church doors open and people safe.

However unsettling, we all coped as best we could, keeping an eye on people unable to leave their homes to come to Church/ go shopping etc. Thanks to everyone’s cooperation, the restrictions have gradually been relaxed somewhat.

Members of the PCC worked together in various sub-groups to compile a very comprehensive and in-depth Profile of the Parish, the Mission Area and our Church before we could advertise for a new incumbent. Once this was compiled it all had to be assessed by the Archdeacons and the Diocese. We finally got to the stage of writing the advert for the position of a new vicar. We invited you to give us your thoughts and many folk responded to this request. Gradually, by working together, we completed the required process. However, you are all aware of the outcome. Rev Alison and her husband Derek joined us in Shirehampton in late Summer. Alison’s first Sunday service with us was on Sunday 18th September followed soon after by a Welcome and Collation for Alison. It was a joyous and memorable occasion with much cake!

The smooth running of the Church involves much work and effort by many people and we are blessed by all who work behind the scenes making things happen.

Richard and I are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive throughout the year. The various tasks and roles are undertaken by many who help to keep our doors open and things running smoothly- sincere thanks to you all. Special thanks to Eleanor and Philip who each do a grand job of keeping all things financial/clerical in excellent order.

We have held some social events and fayres again and have enjoyed welcoming and meeting with the Community. This brought back glimmers of normality to us all. The events that we have held have been well attended and enjoyed by all. It’s always good to see the support of the community at these events. Thanks to all who work hard to make these occasions happen.

Folk enjoy and support the Coffee mornings which happen on 6 days of the week - three of these held in the Tithe Barn over the winter months. The Monday Warm Space session is at the Barn and covers the lunch time when hot soup is also served and table top activities such as Jigsaws and board games are available. As the weather improves these sessions are reviewed.

Our Children and Youth Leader, Amy Boucher, continues to work hard and has had a wonderful response to all the exciting and innovative things she has introduced to us all. The Easter Maze was remarkable and very moving for all who came to experience it. Our joint services once a month bring both parts of the Church Family together and it is a delight to see, hear and learn from our youngest members of the Church Family. Thanks to a grant from 3 charities we are able to keep Amy in post for another year - long may that continue. Members of the clergy from the Mission Area and Trevor, Ian and Duncan are sometimes back with us to cover various services. We enjoy seeing them and appreciate all they do. During Lent this year we had the opportunity to attend the Lent courses. Each of the Mission Area churches hosted an evening. It worked well and brought us together.

Richard and I enjoy taking Communion to the residents at Penhill each month. There is always a warm welcome from both residents and the staff.

A small group from our Mothers' Union visit the residents at Glanville Lodge and that too is very much appreciated by them all.

Our Choir faithfully sing each Sunday and at many other services – if you enjoy singing, have you thought of joining them? If so, have a word with Tim.

Our Vergers, Jill, Chris and Colin work hard assisting in many ways. We appreciate all they do for us - it is often done quietly and behind the scenes.

If you can't find Richard and/or Colin they are either down a hole looking at drains or up a ladder inspecting the roof and drainpipes. I am often invited to join them, which I usually decline! The Churchyard covers a very large area and I liaise with Bristol City Council who are responsible for cutting the grass and tree work in the main Churchyard. This area seems to be a magnet for litter. Thanks to all who keep the bins emptied and the area clean. If you could help in some way please have a word with Richard or myself.

Finally, thanks must go to Alison and Derek for joining us in everything we do, for the way they lead by example and demonstrate a real warmth for everyone.

What A Difference A Day Makes - well we can all make a difference and how rapidly things can and have changed.

What's Love Got to Do With It - well, God's Love for us has everything to do with it. We must share it with others.

Anne Ford
Churchwarden



Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric of the Church Building

A year of wear and tear on the church building.

With extreme heavy rain in January the church sprang a few leaks. We had rain water ingress from the flat roofs into the church kitchen and the electrical cupboard in the south porch. Also, rain water ingress from the church roof into the nave at the west end and by the fount at the east end. Temporary fixes have been applied and Simon Cartlidge the church architect is working on a more permanent solution.

During another period of heavy rain the west end cellar was also flooded to a depth of 15cm (6ins). A big thank you to Colin Godfrey for helping with the bailing out.

The church heating has also been a problem during February and March but with the persistence of Craig Franklin (gas engineer) it's now back to full working order.

Church Yard

Maintenance of the church yard is the responsibility of Bristol City Council following formal closure for burials. However, we continue to maintain our memorial gardens

Church Security

The church alarm system continues to work well with remote monitoring and call-out facility of a key holder.

External metal on the building is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. Lightning conductors.
2. The church heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
3. The security alarm system.
4. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. The organ humidifier.
7. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Routine Maintenance – In-house

A schedule of routine maintenance continues to operate ensuring a regular review of the condition of the building and any actions needed. The schedule includes frequent checks of such items as roofs, gullies, drainpipes, windows, toilets, water heaters, church ladders, timber door thresholds, tea/coffee water heater de-scaling and more.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits.

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 8th April 2022 the recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Cellnex Telecoms Equipment.

Work commenced on 6th June 2022 to remove the Cellnex Telecoms equipment including the mast. Removal of all Cellnex equipment was completed on 7th June 2022.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next quinquennial (five yearly) church inspection is due in 2024.

Triennial Inspection

The next Archdeacons' triennial (three yearly) inspection to check church records, processes and property is due in 2025.

Finally Grateful thanks go to:-

- Colin Godfrey for all his work keeping the Church and Tithe Barn up and running.
- Chris Hearn and Derek Sowton for their help in the church yard.
- Jill Eynon, Sarah Parry-Reid, Doug Jennings, Derek Sowton and Colin Godfrey for emptying the bins in the churchyard.
- Gem & Lee Widdowfield, Doug Jennings, Mark Baxter, Phil Fowler & Derek Sowton for operating the sound system and projection at our services.
- Thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard, not just on the building fabric but in so many other ways to make this church truly active, accessible and attractive for everyone.



Richard Powell
Churchwarden

Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report

Introduction

Safeguarding is important. It plays an important part in our church lives; robust policies and procedures are required to be in place to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. The central church embodies national safeguarding laws into policies and passes them down to each diocese that, in turn, produce their own policies, guidance material and training for parishes. Parishes are required to develop their own policies, procedures, training plans and records for all safeguarding actions/events and have in place named safeguarding officers.

The previous safeguarding officer, Emma Jennings, stood down as Safeguarding Officer in June 2021. Then Lucy Swithinbank of St Mary's Stoke Bishop stepped in until January 2022. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, still in training, for children and adults of the parish of St Mary's Shirehampton is Claire Staynings who began the role in February 2022.

Details of how to contact Claire if required for advice or to report an incident can be found on the church noticeboard in the porch or on the church website www.stmarysshire.org.

Policies

Those in place at St Mary's are for:

- child protection
- vulnerable adults
- domestic abuse
- safer recruitment
- handling of disclosure information
- fair recruitment of ex-offenders
- lone workers

Policies are up to date and are reviewed annually by the PCC.

There is an area in the porch of our church where safeguarding information is displayed. The policies are also kept here and on display boards in the church so, as long as the church is open, they will be accessible to all. Safeguarding information is also available on a notice board in the Tithe Barn. This information is also in the toilets of both the church and the Tithe Barn and on our website.

Training

Bristol Diocese provides all types of training at different levels and for specific roles in safeguarding. Much of this training can be undertaken online.

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguardingtraining/>

According to our records, out of the 68 people of our register, 62 people have done the Basic Awareness training in the past. Some of these, however, are due for renewal. 4 people have done the Foundation training and 1 person has undertaken the Domestic Abuse training. We need to arrange for renewal of the training to take place in the near future, this can be done as a group as in previous years.

Thank you to all who have given their time to undertake training and make our church a safer place.

Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau – CRB)

This is referred to as DBS and is a national service for checking the background of new employees and leaders of children's and vulnerable adult activities. The system can bar anyone whose record shows them to be unsuitable. We are up to date with our DBS checking for volunteers. We thank the 38 people who have their enhanced DBS and remind some that renewal is due as soon as possible. Thank you for taking the time to complete these. DBS checks at St Mary's are carried out by Eleanor Beddoes.

It is important that any records containing personal details, such as notes written during the investigation of a safeguarding event, are kept confidential and secure. Our vicar and the safeguarding officer of St Mary's have access to a document safe and encrypted memory stick used specifically for this purpose. The new Dashboard offers an online system to store all the information on DBS and training needs. We can use this to monitor whose DBS and training is in date and can see when DBS or training is due for renewal.

Claire Staynings
Safeguarding Officer



Finance Report

Throughout the year the PCC's objective has been to honour our pledges and mission support, as far as possible. Unfortunately, this became very challenging and by the end of the second quarter, we reluctantly advised Bristol Diocese that we would not be able to pay the full amount of our promised Parish Share for the year. By the fourth quarter, net income did improve sufficiently for some additional funds to be used for this purpose and the final amount given was £35,575 as shown in the financial accounts.

Giving to missions/charities remained broadly unchanged.

Other donations of food for the Harvest Appeal were made by members of the congregation to the Bristol North West Foodbank. We also continued to sponsor two children via Compassion UK, partially paid for by the families at the Rise and Shine Service, and we gave to The Children's Society via collecting boxes and at the Christingle service collection.

Church members and supporters gave £37,370 in 2022 in planned giving.

Further information can be found within the financial accounts, including the Financial Review and the Reserves Policy.

Finally, I should like to thank all those who have continued to count the cash and, Chris and Jill Eynon, for undertaking the banking on a weekly basis.

Summary Financial Information:

	2022	2021	change
Total income	128,625	140,382	(11,757)
Total expenditure	121,247	155,420	34,173
Net (expenditure)/income	7,378	(15,038)	22,416
Gains on investment assets	(91,750)	92,254	(184,004)
Fixed assets	1,057,133	1,156,380	(99,247)
Current assets	107,278	90,136	17,142
Current liabilities	(6,832)	(4,565)	(2,267)
Net current assets	100,446	85,571	14,875
Total funds	1,157,579	1,241,951	(84,372)

Phil Fowler
Treasurer



Health and Safety Report

After three very difficult years of different government and internal COVID restrictions that have been put into place, I would like to thank every single one of you for your ongoing and continued support with the changes. The PCC have put into place measures to keep you all safe over these testing times. Now all restrictions have been eased a sense of normality has returned to us. Rise and Shine is now fully immersive with “open tables” so everyone is welcome to sit and converse with other families and enjoy delicious hot food.



At this time of writing, the wardens and the PCC agree that Eucharist will continue to be an open choice with both the receiving of the wine and communion wafer. Masks are a personal choice and there is no legal requirement to wear them, all church activities can be enjoyed. Thanks to Shelley and all those who have kept up the wonderful high standards of cleaning in the church and we have all certainly noticed. An additional thank you goes to Richard Powell, Colin Godfrey and Anne Ford for your assistive support with the upkeep and maintenance duties. Health and Safety Risk assessments are all up to date and actions have been taken to ensure continued upkeep of the Church, including a new Kitchen Risk assessments to allow easing of use.

Thank you all for your support and commitment to making St Mary's a safe and welcoming space for everyone and look forward to reporting to you all next year.

Shemma Laws
Health and Safety Officer



Children's and Youth Report

Over the past year we have been delighted to welcome our new Vicar, Rev Alison Sowton, to our Church and I personally have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her and working together in many ways.

STOMP Dance Clubs

Our dancers range from age 3-17 and they have been working hard on a variety of routines and confidence building activities. Break time topics have been used to help with team building whilst looking at various faith topics. The groups have enjoyed a range of performance opportunities such as being invited to dance at Alison's Licensing Service, dancing at a variety of All Age and Celebration services, as well as being able to participate in Bristol STAGES dance weekend in a professional theatre setting.

Youth @ The Barn

Our sessions are now fully up and running with 14 regular attendees and 2 young leaders who have now joined the team. In addition to the weekly activities and talk slots, the young people have really taken an interest in helping to develop church for their age group. We had a Youth Forum to discuss their views of Church and ideas for services and their answers were profound! The results can be summed up as Church needing to be a 'SOUL HOSPITAL' - a place of safety and inclusion for all whilst meeting needs, helping heal hearts and engaging all ages through a variety of activities and services.

Outreach Activities

This year, Messy Church has come to a natural end due to the current group of families either moving away, having other commitments or the children outgrowing the sessions. This has led to myself and Alison teaming up to provide a range of pop-up events that can be attended by all ages across a broader spectrum of the community than Messy Church was reaching. So far the pop ups have been a great success – we have had a Glow Party, Pancake Party and an interactive Easter Maze to enable young and old to explore the Easter story. There have been between 90-175 people engaged at each of these events, many of which we have met for the first time. We plan to do some outdoor pop ups throughout the summer.

GLOW

We have a core group of 8 Young People who have been attending Glow sessions to ask bigger faith questions. The group has helped to plan what topics they would like covered - this year with emphasis on taking care of the Earth – what the Bible has to say on caring for the planet and alongside this have developed a community garden at the Tithe Barn.

Schools Work

We are able to regularly attend Shire Primary School for monthly assemblies to both KS1 and KS2. We have also been able to hold their Christmas and Easter Assemblies at the Church and welcome in the visiting families to watch too – this also provides a good opportunity to advertise outreach events on a wider scale.

Summer Sessions

In August 2022, we held 4 summer sessions at the Tithe Barn with a Pirate theme. Each session started off with a Pirate themed worship song and looking at God being our Anchor, Jesus being our lighthouse and us being God's treasure. These sessions were attended by adult family members, which gave a wonderful opportunity to catch up with the whole family. Activities included garden games, obstacle courses, quizzes, craft, banana split making, bring and share buffet and a family 'beetle drive' night. We look forward to running some summer sessions again this year.

Sunday Services

Rise and Shine has developed to form a cafe style service with breakfast and a programme that follows the lectionary to provide continuity between both services. The lectionary topics are explored through a variety of interactive activities, both on Church premises and also out in nature.

It has been wonderful to see the development of monthly All Age Worship Services, offering a wide range of worship styles across our monthly service rotas. This is important not only for our regular church attendees but also as a vital outreach link to visiting families through Baptisms and those who may come as a result of attending our future pop-up events. It has been great to see our Children and Young people at Rise and Shine, STOMP and Youth Clubs get involved with these services through performing dance routines, learning the Gloria as a drumming piece, writing prayers, reading Bible verses and joining in with the talks and service preparations.

We have also had a successful year of special celebration services, with a broad range of Church family and community families of all ages coming together for Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, Mother's Day Cafe Church and Easter Services. It was also great to see some of our uniformed organisations at our Remembrance Day parade.

A huge thank you to all leaders and volunteers for helping on various teams - you have made such a valuable difference to our local children and young people and we look forward to continuing to do this as we head towards the Summer. This includes our Church family and PCC too – you have welcomed in the young families and helped greatly behind the scenes with encouragement, resources and practical help.

A special mention also to our teens, who come along to many of our events to help serve food, run activities, man the sound system and help to set up and clear up. Finally, a huge thank you to Alison who has invested a lot of care and support in developing and expanding my skills as a Children's and Youth Minister – Thank you, it's much appreciated!



Amy Boucher
Youth Worker





Mothers' Union



DIOCESE

Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian Charity of women and men. We support families in need locally and worldwide through prayer and action in 84 countries. We welcome everybody both female and male, single and divorced, parents, non-parents and grandparents. We belong to Bristol Diocese which is run by a President and trustees. The Diocese have various projects which we support when we can. There is a list on the notice board here and in The Tithe Barn.

DEANERY

There are 5 branches in our Deanery which is Bristol West which comprise of St Peter's Henleaze, St Peter's Filton, St Mary's Henbury, Holy Trinity Horfield and ourselves. We meet throughout the year for a Deanery Festival which was at Holy Trinity Horfield. St Mary's Henbury put on a splendid Deanery lunch in July. We hosted the Advent Service in December 2022. It was hugely different to previous advent services but was very successful. The collection, £132.95 was given to St Mary's Church. We followed this with tea and mince pies.

BRANCH

Thankfully Covid did not stop us meeting each month. We had a good response to the request from Friends for Parents for Tea, Coffee and dried milk. We also had a collection for Mothering Sunday which was sent to Mary Sumner House. We assisted in making posies for Mothering Sunday. At our March meeting we all enjoyed answering the questions that Vivien Holcombe's family put together for us. It certainly made us think! My son gave a talk in April about Firefighting during Covid. Our May meeting was a talk from Portishead Lifeboat. Three of us went to the commissioning of our new President at Yate. We re-started the monthly service for dementia patients at Granville Lodge. August – We had a cream teas afternoon and invited everyone to 'bring a friend'. Before we ate, we had a short talk reminding everyone about our Founder, Mary Sumner, and that we were supporting Summer of Hope which was followed by prayers for families and communities everywhere. We collected £100 for Summer of Hope. September – we had a speaker from the Barnabus Fund talking about Persecuted Christians. We held our November meeting in church and gave an open invitation to everyone to watch "A musical Nativity story" by Lewis and Furneaux, I didn't know what to expect but it was terrific, and I can say that everyone really enjoyed it. We once again had a chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fayre. We ended the year with our usual Christmas lunch at Shirehampton Golf Club.

Our first meeting in 2023 was our Annual General Meeting, this clashed with the day of heavy rain, thunderstorm, and hailstones. Thankfully twenty people turned up and all went well. Louise Lyddon, our Deanery leader joined us in February and enrolled four of our seven new members which included Revd. Alison Sowton. We welcome them all and hope they will enjoy our very friendly group.

I would like to thank all the Committee and everyone for their support and generosity.

Grateful thanks also to Mary Powell who has taken on the Treasurer's post and Phil Fowler for auditing our yearly accounts.

Julie Smith
Branch Leader



Some of the Deanery Banners at the Advent Service December 2022

Coffee Mornings

On Monday 3rd July 2022 we resumed Refreshments of Tea and Coffee on Sunday mornings after the service. This means we are back to supplying Tea and Coffee every day of the week, with the exception of Thursday when we have a Holy Communion service.

In an effort to control ever-increasing energy costs, it was decided that we would move some of our Coffee Mornings to the Tithe Barn from 14th November, as it is a smaller area to heat and has a more efficient gas boiler.

As the colder weather progressed, the Tithe Barn was considered to be a “warm place” and tea and coffee was served there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Mondays the opening time was changed to 12.00 noon until 2.00 pm as in addition to serving tea and coffee, hot soup and a bread roll was also served. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, tea and coffee are served in the church, which meant that some heat was provided to maintain the fabric of the building during the Winter weather.

The footfall to the Tithe Barn has been less than originally anticipated on some days. On Mondays very often we have only served 7 or 8 people, though we have also seen some new people coming along. Wednesdays have proved slightly better and Friday is the best day of the week.

Patrons of the Tithe Barn have said they much prefer the Coffee Mornings at the Church and look forward to its return when the weather permits.

Financially, the money taken at the Tithe Barn is less than we take when in the Church, though this is balanced with the lower energy bills incurred.

Many thanks have to be given to all the Volunteer Helpers and also to those people who have generously donated packets of biscuits etc.

Jill Eynon



Building Co-ordinators Report on the Fabric of the Tithe Barn



This is the fabric report for the Tithe Barn, prepared by the churchwardens of St Mary's Church Shirehampton.

Roofs

The Tithe Barn roof and the Orangery roof are in good order.

Walls, Windows and Doors

External walls of both parts of the building are in good order.

All windows are double glazed and have required routine maintenance during the year. They are all in good working order.

There is a small area of peeling paintwork on the pillar to the left of the door leading from the main hall into the extension. This requires attention.

Rain Water Goods

Gutters and downpipes of the original barn and the orangery are working and are routinely cleared of debris.

Interior

The kitchen and toilets are in good working order.

Exterior

The exterior fence, gates and party wall are in good order.

The garden is maintained by Norman England.

Security

The building is secured with modern dead locks.

There was an attempted break in through the orangery patio doors during the Christmas/New Year break, this was reported to the police. A crime scene investigator came and took photos of the boot prints on the patio doors. We've not had any further attempted break ins.

Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits.

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 11th April 2022 the recommendations from the report have been carried out which included improving emergency lighting.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. The barn heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
2. The fire/smoke alarm system. (6 Monthly tests to BS 5839)
3. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Thanks to:-

Philip Fowler and Eleanor Beddoes for managing the lettings and accounts of the Tithe Barn.

Colin Godfrey, Philip Fowler, Monica and Tony Symons for the opening and closing of the barn, dealing with the routine maintenance and operational actions required including setting up and clearing away after each letting.

Richard Powell



Tithe Barn Report

All the activities that take place at the barn, including lettings and charity work are controlled directly by the PCC and the roles of caretaker/ manager, building fabric co-ordinator and health and safety officer were undertaken by Colin Godfrey, Richard Powell and Tony Symons. Eleanor Beddoes and Philip Fowler provided administrative support.

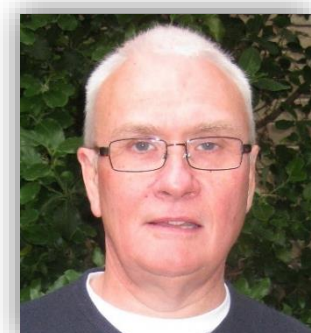
St Mary's regularly used the facilities at the barn for Church activities, including STOMP dance groups, Youth Group and GLOW,

Our Mindfulness Group also met there on a regular basis, throughout the year as did Mothers' Union and our Art Group.

Members of the PCC and the church family have supported the work of the barn and their contributions are much appreciated.

Finally, the barn was let for private hire, with enquiries remaining relatively stable throughout the year.

Philip Fowler



Tithe Barn Health and Safety

In addition to Health and Safety and Tithe Barn reports already received, I report as follows.

As all covid restrictions have been lifted I have little to report.

Earlier in the year an unsuccessful attempt was made to force entry at the rear of the Orangery.

The Police took boot prints from the doors but to date the culprit/s have not been traced.

The following checks are carried out on a weekly basis:

Emergency lighting, fire extinguishers and fire blanket checks are recorded.

Plastic chairs are regularly checked for damage and loose securing screws are tightened when necessary.

Wall plugs are checked and ensured they are covered.

Recycling and bins put out for collection weekly.



Tony Symons

Electoral Roll Report

The current status of St Mary's Shirehampton Electoral roll at the time of producing this report stood at 106 members. 4 Members have passed away during the last year and one has moved away. There has been three new members, added to the roll. Out of the 106 members 42 live outside of this parish. Members of the Church will only be permitted to take part in any election of Officers and PCC members if they are on the Electoral Roll.



Tim Forder - Electoral Roll Officer

Church Music Report

The church choir has continued to lead the singing at services during the last year and they have sung the hymns, provided communion anthems and have been able to sing the communion setting at the first service of the month. Numbers in the choir are low and we have unfortunately lost the voices of two younger singers. We really would appreciate any volunteers coming forward to swell our ranks.

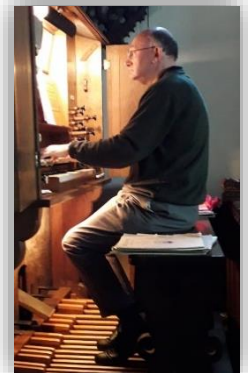
The Shirehampton area choir were able to perform a Christmas concert in 2022 and will be performing a seasonal presentation on Easter Saturday this year (2023). Numbers in the choir are also rather low and again new voices would be welcomed.

Any willing volunteers should contact me either in person or by E mail at timboford@hotmail.com.

The organ has been used regularly during the last year and is in reasonable order. The instrument has been tuned twice since our last AGM by Harrison & Harrison organ Builders. The piano is used regularly for Communion anthems on a Sunday and occasionally at the Thursday morning Eucharist, subject to my availability.

We have started having a joint service with Rise and Shine members on the last Sunday of the month. The choir does not robe at those services and join the main congregation. The keyboard is used at those services together with songs through our sound system.

Tim Forder
Organist and Director of Music



Social Events Team Update

How lovely it was to be able to organise events without the anxiety of social distancing and mask wearing. And I think it's true to say, that we all had a really good time, as the whole church family reached out to our wider community for some well needed fun and fellowship, whilst at the same time raising some much needed funds for St Mary's.

Behind the scenes planning was carried out by the super resourceful Emma Jennings, Rebecca Carroll and Vicki Bushell. They all stepped up to the plate, recruiting extended members of the family to help out as well as borrowing gazebos and other equipment to make our events go with a swing.

Following the success of arranging stalls outside the church because of Covid rules, we did the same for the Spring and Christmas Fayres.

At the Spring Fayre a BBQ, Coconut Shy, and a well-stocked Nannies Knits stall outside, as well as the lovely weather, drew many into the church for refreshments and a good catchup whilst they supported the many other fabulous stalls and games we had inside. We raised £1,136.60 at this event.



The Christmas Fayre was held at the beginning of December and raised £1,800. Again, we had stalls outside serving hot soup and a roll and hot chocolate. Both of which were much needed as it was a dry (thankfully) but very cold day. The church was full to bursting with lovely people supporting all the well-stocked stalls and games that were on offer.



We were very happy to have our beloved Santa (aka Colin Godfrey) back. He was kept very busy and we must thank Sarah Parry-Reid and Evie Carroll who acted as Santa's helpers.

Mother's Day cream teas had been a great success so we served the same at our Patronal festival in August. The event was well attended and raised £208.50.

None of these events could happen without the commitment of all those who gave their help whether it was baking a cake, serving on a stall or coming along and supporting us on the day. A big thank you to you all. With your help we have been very successful in bringing our church family and our wider community together.



Mary Powell

Bristol West Deanery Synod Report

Following two years of continuing disruption and unforeseen changes within our local communities, across society and experienced on a global platform due to the pandemic it was with increasing relief that some aspects of life were returning. All parishes reported significant impact over the last two years in terms of decreased income, attendance, volunteering; and increased caution and anxiety.

Three Deanery Synods took place in 2022 and the key themes were:

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. Agreement of the Net-Zero Motion to take to Diocesan Synod: Rev Dr Andy Murray: that this Synod recognizes 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. This Net-Zero Motion was proposed, by the Rev Dr Andy Murray, and unanimously carried and accepted at Diocesan Synod on 11 June 2022.

May 2022 – focused upon how we, as a Deanery, continue to shape the developing Diocesan Strategy to deliver across the Diocese.

The Ven Neil Warwick, Archdeacon of Bristol, introduced this update on the development of the diocesan strategy. In developing the strategy, the Diocese has been keen to listen to less-heard groups, such as minorities and the disabled. A draft of the strategy was presented to Diocesan Synod in March; the strategy was developed further in response to feedback; and a bold bid for funds would shortly be submitted to the national church. Key parts of the strategy include the following:

Investing in people – sustaining the same level of stipendiary ministry as at present.

Investing in people's wellbeing – especially the wellbeing of stipendiary clergy.

Investing in volunteers – enabling all to serve as well as they can. While the church is still present in every community, we are not representative: we need more under-18s and minorities, and people are critical of the church's treatment of women, the Windrush generation and LGBTQI+ people. A key objective of the strategy is ensuring everything is sustainable.

October 2022 – focused upon the impacts of the cost of living and the energy crisis. The Rev Chris Dobson was welcomed as the facilitator for the evening's discussion. Chris highlighted recent decisions by the Government led by Prime Minister Liz Truss and Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng that benefitted the rich and had a negative impact on the poorer and more vulnerable members of our society. He invited the Synod to explore and discuss:

How might churches respond to the cost of living/energy crisis?

What are the challenges for us as we make our response?

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.

Fr Charles Sutton

Area Dean for Bristol West Deanery



ST MARY'S

SHIREHAMPTON

Come: as you are
Be: renewed
Go: share God's love

www.stmarysshire.org



When you have finished with this
document please recycle it or
better still pass it on to a friend.

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2021

Charity number 1131636



Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021

Contents

Parochial Church Council	1
Annual Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021

Parochial Church Council

Priest-in-charge: In vacancy

Revd. Helen Johnson (to 31st July 2021)

Independent Reporting Accountants: David Oakensen,
William Price & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
Suite 9, Westbury Court,
Church Road,
Bristol
BS9 3EF

Bankers: HSBC
11 Canford Lane
Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol
BS9 3DE

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021

The Parochial Church Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

Charitable Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the PCC Powers Measure. The PCC was registered as a charity in 2009, with charity number 1131636, having previously been an excepted charity. The PCC members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also maintains the Tithe Barn in accordance with its aims and objectives, making it available for the purposes of St Mary's and for the use of the inhabitants of all ages with the object of improving the conditions of life for the Inhabitants.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, provides Church of England services and religious activities for all ages, including outreach into the community via work with youth and the elderly. We run a toddler group, youth group, dance classes, a Mothers' Union branch, a Mental Awareness Group branch and host a 'Goldies' singing group. In addition we hold various social activities during the year.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members:

Priest-in-charge:	Revd Helen Johnson	Resigned 31 st July 2021
Assistant Curate:	Revd Simon Leighton	To 15 th February 2022
Wardens:	Anne Ford	
	Richard Powell	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Pat Davidson	
	Shemma Laws	
	Kathryn Mwakijungu	
Elected Members:	Tim Forder	Electoral Roll Officer
	Philip Fowler	Treasurer & Data Protection Officer
	Colin Godfrey	Resigned 9 th May 2021
	Richard Griffiths	Health & Safety Officer – Church
	Diana Hemmings	Resigned 25 th April 2021
	Doug Jennings	
	Sarah Parry Reid	Secretary
	Tony Symons	Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding Officer (not in PCC)	Emma Jennings	Resigned June 2021
	Lucy Swithinbank	Resigned 31 st January 2022

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions from the Council.

Financial Review

Income at £140,382 (2020: £125,025) was lower than expenditure of £155,420 (2020: £135,704) to give net expenditure of £15,038 (2020: £10,679 net expenditure). Conditions continued to be challenging in 2021, though we opened our doors again for services and most of our coffee mornings restarted to the delight of our local community. The continued generosity of our church family and returns on investments have limited the decrease in income. We have continued keeping a careful control over costs.

Giving to missions/charities from general funds totalled £3,300 (2020: £3,750). The amount paid to the Diocese for parish and ministry costs was £59,660 (2020: £59,660).

Restricted expenditure exceeded restricted income by £10,732 (2020: £7,402 expenditure exceeded income), mainly due to planned repairs undertaken in 2021 being funded by income received and restricted in previous years, especially a restricted grant of £10,500 that was received in December 2020 for the repair of vestry windows.

The gain on revaluation of shares held as endowment funds was £92,254 (2020: £48,352).

The Charity Commission approved a scheme allowing us to sell shares to the value of £109,000 to partly fund the purchase of the Tithe Barn, on the condition these shares would be purchased back until the full number of shares were reinstated. At 31 December 2021, the total market value of the amount remaining to be paid was £65,391, after £5,000 of shares were repurchased in 2021. The full amount is to be repaid by 2033.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that will allow sufficient funds to be available to pay for charitable activities as they arise and also to ensure that support and governance costs can be met as they fall due. The balance held as unrestricted funds at the year-end was £453,512 (2020: £457,818).

Where possible, we maintain reserves to cover, as a minimum, identifiable repair and maintenance costs relating to the fabric and furnishings of St Mary's, three months' parish share payments and 25% of the amounts required from fund raising to cover general expenditure. We have identified net expenditure on fabric and furnishings for 2022 at £3,000, parish contributions to the Diocese for three months total £15,000 and £2,000 is required to cover any shortfall in fundraising.

Investments

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, as custodial trustees, hold CBF Ltd shares on our behalf in both the Bernard Salmon and Napier Miles Trusts. In addition, 404 CBF shares are held in respect of the Ecclesiastical and non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

PCC Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this is inappropriate.

The PCC members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Parish and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC on 29th April 2022

and signed on their behalf by Richard Powell (Church Warden & PCC Vice-Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Mary, Shirehampton, Bristol.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

David Oakensen FCA
William Price & Co Ltd
Westbury Court, Church Road
Westbury-on-Trym
BS9 3EF

Date: 29th April 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2021 £	2020 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		90,653	4,361	—	95,014	92,296
Income from charitable activities		9,135	—	—	9,135	3,179
Other trading activities		6,099	—	—	6,099	1,964
Investments		19,697	—	—	19,697	19,030
Other income		10,437	—	—	10,437	8,556
Total income	2	136,021	4,361	—	140,382	125,025
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		9	—	—	9	468
Expenditure on charitable activities		132,821	15,093	—	147,914	127,739
Other expenditure		7,497	—	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	3	140,327	15,093	—	155,420	135,704
Net (expenditure) /income before gains and transfer		(4,306)	(10,732)	—	(15,038)	(10,679)
Gains on investment assets		—	—	92,254	92,254	48,352
Net movement in funds		(4,306)	(10,732)	92,254	77,216	37,673
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		457,818	24,649	682,268	1,164,735	1,127,062
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2021	10	453,512	13,917	774,522	1,241,951	1,164,735

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021
Balance sheet

		2021 £	2020 £
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	376,858	384,355
Investments	6	779,522	682,268
		1,156,380	1,066,623
Current assets			
Debtors	7	7,533	6,505
Cash at bank and in hand		82,603	98,254
		90,136	104,759
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	(4,565)	(6,647)
Net current assets		85,571	98,112
Total net assets less liabilities		1,241,951	1,164,735
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds	10	453,512	457,818
Restricted funds	10	13,917	24,649
Endowment funds	10	774,522	682,268
Total Funds		1,241,951	1,164,735

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29th April 2022

Richard Powell
Church Warden & PCC Vice-Chair

P Fowler
Treasurer

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements use the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The valuation of investment assets are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is sterling and all figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

The PCC considers there are no material uncertainties about their ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for a specific purpose, the use of which is restricted to that area. These funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest will in future be appointed to individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and 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 legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Annual Report. All help received is greatly appreciated.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at a reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 with individual value below £1,000 are written off.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any residual value, over their expected useful life, as follows:

Tithe Barn	2% of construction and refurbishment cost on a straight line basis
------------	--

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December. Investment gains and losses resulting from revaluing investments to market value are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as it has no taxable activities. Irrecoverable VAT borne by the charity is included in the cost of the item to which it relates.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisitions or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount at which the charity is expected to benefit in a future period. Provision is made for any amount that may prove uncollectible.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 Income

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Gift aided donations	1,992	—	1,992	2,521
Gift aided donations via envelope	7,042	—	7,042	6,796
Planned giving	36,017	—	36,017	35,312
Collections (open plate) at all services	1,746	—	1,746	1,268
Sundry donations	8,325	361	8,686	7,350
Donations – appeals, grants etc.	21,548	3,500	25,048	28,287
Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	10,723	—	10,723	10,492
Floodlighting	260	—	260	270
Legacies received	3,000	500	3,500	—
Donations and legacies total	90,653	4,361	95,014	92,296
Income from charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,111	—	7,111	1,953
Tithe Barn lettings – objectives	88	—	88	804
Other income	1,936	—	1,936	422
Income from charitable activities total	9,135	—	9,135	3,179
Other trading activities				
Fayres	3,673	—	3,673	1,367
Tithe Barn lettings – other	2,426	—	2,426	597
Other trading activities total	6,099	—	6,099	1,964
Investments				
Interest - dividends	190	—	190	294
Bernard Salmon Trust income	12,687	—	12,687	12,150
Napier Miles Trust income	6,820	—	6,820	6,586
Investments total	19,697	—	19,697	19,030
Other income				
Telecommunications agreement	10,437	—	10,437	8,556
Other income total	10,437	—	10,437	8,556
Total income	136,021	4,361	140,382	125,025

3 Expenditure

Raising Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Costs of fayres and events	9	—	9	468
Raising funds total	9	—	9	468
Charitable Activities				
Grants and donations – missions:				
African Pastors Fellowship	500	—	500	500
Compassion	1,200	—	1,200	1,200
Corymeela	100	—	100	100
In Hope (Crisis Centres Ministries)	500	—	500	500
Open Doors	500	—	500	500
Mercy Ships	250	—	250	250
Water Aid	250	—	250	250
Youth with a Mission Harpenden	—	—	—	100
Bristol West Deanery	—	—	—	350
Youth Programmes	752	—	752	593
Food and Fellowship	—	—	—	13
Ministry Parish Share	59,660	—	59,660	59,660
Charitable activities subtotal	63,712	—	63,712	64,016
Charitable activities – support costs				
Employment costs	33,497	—	33,497	32,243
Telephone and broadband costs	1,167	—	1,167	993
Parish training and mission	361	—	361	(20)
Fees paid for weddings and funerals	218	—	218	—
Additional organist fees	400	—	400	80
Verger fees	295	—	295	330
Church running – insurance	3,228	—	3,228	3,318
Kitchen consumables and equipment	753	—	753	370
Church and office equipment	363	193	556	1,006
Organ/piano tuning	1,632	—	1,632	903
Church maintenance and replacements	4,922	12,716	17,638	4,949
Cleaning & hygiene	602	—	602	639
Altar requisites	686	346	1,032	182
Upkeep of churchyard	1,253	—	1,253	1,301
Printing and stationery	2,895	—	2,895	2,597
Sundry expenses	57	—	57	196
Church running – utilities	7,065	—	7,065	6,397
Specific expenses	1,128	—	1,128	1,539
Tithe Barn running – caretaking	—	—	—	(400)
Tithe Barn running – rates and utilities	1,384	—	1,384	1,854
Tithe Barn insurance	1,383	—	1,383	1,438
Tithe Barn maintenance	2,583	554	3,137	1,988
Tithe Barn broadband	510	—	510	680
Governance costs – independent examination	780	—	780	780
Professional and other fees	1,947	1,284	3,231	360
Charitable activities – support costs subtotal	69,109	15,093	84,202	63,723
Charitable costs total	132,821	15,093	147,914	127,739
Other expenditure				
Depreciation	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Other expenditure total	7,497	—	7,497	7,497
Total expenditure	140,327	15,093	155,420	135,704

4 Staff Costs

	2021 £	2020 £
The aggregate payroll costs of staff were as follows:		
Gross payroll and employer's national insurance contributions	32,771	31,533
Employer's pension contributions	726	710
	33,497	32,243
	2021 Number	2020 Number
Number of part-time staff	4	4

5 Fixed Assets for use by PCC

	Tithe Barn £	2021 £
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2021	515,000	515,000
	515,000	515,000
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2021	130,645	130,645
Charge for the year	7,497	7,497
At 31 December 2021	138,142	138,142
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2021	376,858	376,858
At 31 December 2020	384,355	384,355

6 Investment Assets – Endowment Funds

	Number of shares	Church £	Shire Charities £	2021 £	2020 £
Bernard Salmon Fund					
At 1 January 2021	20,976	439,979	—	439,979	407,106
Shares purchased in year	480	5,000	—	5,000	—
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	57,506	—	57,506	32,873
At 31 December 2021	21,456	502,485	—	502,485	439,979
Napier Miles Trust					
At 1 January 2021	11,475	235,098	—	235,098	219,971
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	33,631	—	33,631	15,127
At 31 December 2021	11,475	268,729	—	268,729	235,098
CBF Shares Charity Funds					
At 1 January 2021	404	—	7,191	7,191	6,839
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	—	1,117	1,117	352
At 31 December 2021	404	—	8,308	8,308	7,191
Summary					
Market value at 1 January 2021		675,077	7,191	682,268	633,916
Shares purchased in year		5,000	—	5,000	—
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation		91,137	1,117	92,254	48,352
Total investment assets at 31 December 2021		771,214	8,308	779,522	682,268

7 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	5,352	4,186
Other debtors	2,181	2,319
	7,533	6,505

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	829	164
Accruals and deferred income	3,334	5,677
Taxation and social security	142	139
Other creditors	260	667
	4,565	6,647

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2021 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	376,858	—	—	376,858
Investment fixed assets	—	—	779,522	779,522
Current assets	81,219	13,917	(5,000)	90,136
Current liabilities	(4,565)	—	—	(4,565)
	453,512	13,917	774,522	1,241,951

10 Fund movement by type

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	Closing £
Endowment Funds	682,268	—	—	—	92,254	774,522
Restricted Funds	24,649	4,361	(15,093)	—	—	13,917
Unrestricted Funds	457,818	136,021	(140,327)	—	—	453,512
Grand total	1,164,735	140,382	(155,420)	—	92,254	1,241,951

Analysis of Restricted Funds

	2021 £	2020 £
Audio Visual & Music Equipment Fund	3,112	3,305
Memorial Garden	1,600	1,600
Gift Day - Lighting	1,750	1,750
Security System	2,800	2,800
Flower Fund	488	473
Roof Fund	3,667	4,221
Vestry Window Repair	—	10,500
Vestments	500	—
Total Restricted Funds	13,917	24,649

Space for Notes



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON

Come: as you are
Be: renewed
Go: share God's love

www.stmarysshire.org



When you have finished with this
document please recycle it or
better still pass it on to a friend.



ST MARY'S

SHIREHAMPTON



Annual PCC Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton Annual Report

Background:

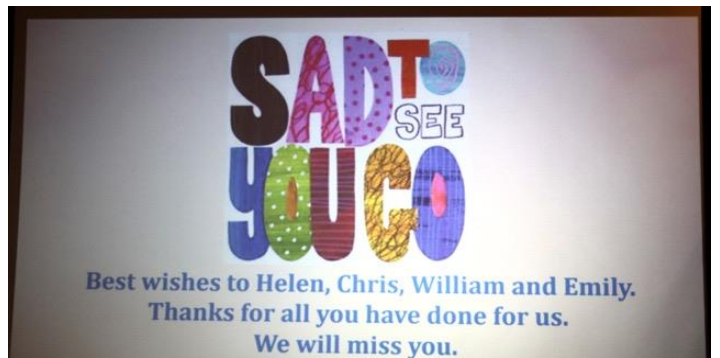
St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership:

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members:

Priest-in-Charge:	Revd Helen Johnson	Resigned 31 st July 2021
Curate:	Revd Simon Leighton	To 15 th February 2022
Wardens:	Anne Ford Richard Powell	Vice-Chair
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Pat Davidson Shemma Laws Kathryn Mwakijungu	
Secretary:	Sarah Parry Reid	
Treasurer:	Philip Fowler	Also Data Protection Officer
Elected Members:	Tim Forder Colin Godfrey Richard Griffiths Doug Jennings Tony Symons	Electoral Roll Officer Resigned 9 th May 2021 Health & Safety Officer – Church Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding	Emma Jennings Lucy Swithinbank Claire Staynings	(not on PCC): Resigned June 2021 (not on PCC): Resigned 31 st January 2022 (not on PCC): In training





Churchwardens Report

Well what a year we have had when the nature of things once again turned the normal patterns of life and worship inside out and upside down! However, we have kept going albeit by telephone, email, hand delivered Links and Zoom, particularly during the third Lockdown of January to March 2021. Up until recent years the verb zoom generally meant 'to move fast' or it has been the name of a popular ice-lolly. However, it became an important means to keep meetings happening and for the strategic planning for dealing with all matters of the Church-especially keeping up to date with the ever changing Health and Safety requirements for the Church building and worship.

Many of the traditional services throughout the Church calendar had to be adapted – but we kept going! Prayer has underpinned everything we have had to face and we look to the future and what the Lord will do for each of us, our church, the parish and the world.

Hopefully the outcome of many meetings with the Diocese will be fruitful and lead to a welcome appointment of a new vicar - to replace Helen who is now safely installed in her new home and her role at Trinity College.

During this vacancy we were supported by Simon who served us well and brought many aspects in to our worship. His technical ability also helped us enormously to fine tune aspects of the Sound system and saved the Church much money. During lockdown Simon was instrumental in setting up ways for the parish to access 'Worship from St. Mary's' in our homes via various ways - using media links, the telephone and hand delivered newsletters. We wish him and his family well for the future.

Reverends Trevor, Ian and Peter have been able to help keep some of our services covered. The Mission area, mainly from St. Mary's Stoke Bishop, have also been amazing in covering many of our Sunday Services and occasional offices (weddings, funerals and baptisms). Some Sunday services were covered by Archdeacons Neil and Michael and the Area Dean, Father Charles Sutton. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Lee to the 10.30 service on Sunday 15th May (the APCM directly follows this service). We also welcomed Bishop Viv here last May. We are grateful to each of them for making our worship possible and keeping our Church doors open.

All of the churches in the Mission Area hosted a Lent evening throughout Lent.

There was also a combined service of Communion on Good Friday morning at Shirehampton Baptist Church - some of us from St. Mary's attended this beautiful service. This was followed by an open invitation to all to come to our church in the afternoon to hear Stainer's Crucifixion sung by our Area Choir. We thank Tim, Duncan (who played the organ) and the Choir for their many hours of practice. The Church choir have faithfully kept things going and eventually brought music back into our worship when singing was again permitted in Church. We thank Tim and the choir.

January 2021 saw us enter a third Lockdown, meaning our Services could not take place within the Church building. It was wonderful to be able to open our doors again on Easter Sunday, though we were not able to have Holy Communion that day. Despite all the enforced measures during the last year we managed to hold our traditional services: Harvest, Remembrance, Memorial, Advent and the Tree of Light, Christingle, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter, although some of these had to be adapted accordingly. In general, attendance has been affected but hopefully this will recover gradually as the local situation improves.

Our teas and coffee mornings have been reinstated on three weekday mornings and on a Saturday. The Community is delighted at this and come in to enjoy the welcome, the hot drinks and the fellowship. A huge thank you to Jill, Mary and their teams of willing helpers.

Similarly, the community have shown their support at our fayres we managed to hold this past year. It was a welcome glimpse of normality to see so many folk in the Churchyard at our outdoor fayre (and the sun shone which helped lift our spirits). Further fayres have been held in Church and have brought in the community and the much appreciated and needed funds generated have helped finances. In addition to the donations made by many of our church family, we are grateful for all craft donations made by a talented team of crafters who regularly donate items for sale during our events.

It's a joy to see Rise and Shine in action here every Sunday, ably planned and led by Amy Boucher and her small team of helpers (8.30-9.30am). Amy also leads all the Youth activities at the Barn. We pray that some of these young people and their parents will feel welcome at becoming full members of the Church family. Amy also visits our local schools to lead assemblies. It is a joy to welcome our local schools to services especially at Easter and Christmas.

Much team work and many meetings form the means for keeping the Church Building sound and a safe environment for all. Various Committees oversee the smooth running of things.

Ultimately, we work together and as Churchwardens, Richard and I take very active roles -this is especially apparent since we have been in Vacancy. The recent Visitation and Triennial inspection was carried out by Archdeacon Michael and Rachel Stewart recently. The Church Building and the churchyard was inspected along with all the important records we have to keep and items checked against the Property register. Finance documentation was checked and all was found to be in good order.

Richard, assisted by Colin, work hard behind the scenes at Tithe Barn and in the Church or should I say above the Church - they both have a penchant for climbing ladders in order to maintain the guttering and flat roofs. They also help to maintain the fabric in good order of the interior in the Church and at the Barn.

I liaise with both Bristol City Council Parks department and with Canford Cemetery with regard to the main Churchyard. The Parks department is now responsible for the trees, grass-cutting and general upkeep of the monuments.

Recently a large branch fell from one of the tall Fir trees alongside the path. I contacted the appropriate department and between them and two very kind parishioners the problem was solved. I have asked for a full survey of all the trees in the churchyard and work has already begun on removing the ivy and creepers from the trunks of the trees. We are responsible for maintaining the Gardens of Remembrance.

Our vergers, Jill, Chris and Colin do a variety of jobs (usually behind the scenes) and give generously of their time. Shelley keeps the Church and Tithe Barn premises clean and of course, delights us with her flower arrangements throughout the year. Jill and Shelley are always grateful for donations to the flower fund.



Lastly, but not least, both Philip and Eleanor maintain all things financial/clerical in excellent order. We are grateful for their expertise, dedication and hard work.

Richard and I value your support and encouragement. We thank you all for whatever part you play to enhance the worship and fellowship in our Church.

Together as a Church family we look forward to the future together at St. Mary's and we thank God for His many blessings and that we can **come as we are, to be renewed and to share God's love.**

Keep well and Keep safe,

Anne Ford



Churchwardens Report on the Fabric of the Church Building

Urgent Work Highlighted by The Quinquennial Inspection of May 2019.

The most urgent condition that required attention was the expansion of corroding metal window frames in the Choir and Vicars Vestry and the West end windows. Faculty application ref 2021-058599 was approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the refurbishment of the windows has been completed.

Other work highlighted by the Quinquennial Inspection will be addressed when finances allow. This includes the repointing of damaged mortar on external walls.

Church Yard

Maintenance of the church yard is the responsibility of Bristol City Council following formal closure for burials. However, we continue to maintain our memorial gardens

Church Security

The church alarm system continues to work well with remote monitoring and call-out facility of a key holder.

External metal on the building is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

All low level drainpipes have been treated with anti-climb paint above 2M from the ground and the required notices displayed.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. Lightning conductors.
2. The church heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
3. The security alarm system.
4. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. The organ humidifier.
7. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Routine Maintenance – In-house

A schedule of routine maintenance continues to operate ensuring a regular review of the condition of the building and any actions needed. The schedule includes frequent checks of such items as roofs, gullies, drainpipes, windows, toilets, water heaters, church ladders, timber door thresholds, tea/coffee water heater de-scaling and more.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 8th April 2022 and we are waiting for the report and recommendations required to bring the church up to standard.

Cellnex Telecoms Equipment

A Faculty to remove the telecoms equipment and mast has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee ref 2021-068188. We now wait to hear from Cellnex to understand when work will commence to remove their equipment.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next quinquennial (five yearly) church inspection is due in 2024.

Triennial Inspection

The Archdeacons' triennial (three yearly) inspection to check church records, processes and property was carried out on 31st March 2022.

Finally

Grateful thanks go to:-

- Colin Godfrey for all his work keeping the Church and Tithe Barn up and running.
- Chris Hearn for his help in the church yard.
- Ray Smith for his advice on church maintenance.
- Sarah Parry-Reid, Richard Griffiths, Doug Jennings and Jill Eynon for being on the churchyard bin rota.
- Simon Leighton for his work on the Church laptop computer, sound system and projection screen.
- Thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard, not just on the building fabric but in so many other ways to make this church truly active, accessible and attractive for everyone.

Richard Powell



Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report

Emma Jennings stood down as Safeguarding Officer in June 2021 and this vacancy was difficult to fill, so we were grateful to Lucy Swithinbank of St Mary's Stoke Bishop for stepping in until January 2022. We thank them both for all they have done to ensure our policies and procedures remained robust in order to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

The central church embodies national safeguarding laws into policies and passes them down to each diocese that, in turn, produce their own policies, guidance material and training for parishes. Parishes are required to develop their own policies, procedures, training plans and records for all safeguarding actions/events and have in place named safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting and Leadership Team meeting.

We welcome Claire Staynings as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer for children and adults and she is currently undergoing training.

Claire can be contacted for advice or to report an incident via a dedicated email address, safeguarding@stmarysshire.org. These details can be found on the church noticeboard in the porch or on the church website, www.stmarysshire.org.

Policies

Those in place at St Mary's are for:

- child protection
- vulnerable adults
- domestic abuse
- safer recruitment
- handling of disclosure information
- fair recruitment of ex-offenders
- lone workers

Policies are reviewed appropriately by the PCC and updated as required.

We have displayed safeguarding information near the main church entrance and also in the toilets of both the church and the Tithe Barn. The policies will also be kept available at the church and will be accessible to all when the church is open.

Training

Bristol Diocese provides all types of training at different levels and for specific roles in safeguarding. A rolling programme of training is made available to all workers and volunteers when required.

Thank you to all who have given their time to undertake training and make our church a safer place.

Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau – CRB)

This is referred to as DBS and is a national service for checking the background of new employees and leaders of children's and vulnerable adult activities. The system can bar anyone whose record shows them to be unsuitable. We are required to update our DBS checks on volunteers on a rolling basis and another round of checks is in process. We thank all those who have taken time to have theirs completed. DBS checks at St Mary's are carried out by Eleanor Beddoes.

Records

It is important that any records containing personal details, such as notes written during the investigation of a safeguarding event, are kept confidential and secure. Our safeguarding officer of St Mary's has access to a document safe and encrypted memory stick used specifically for this purpose.

Finance Report

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to adversely affect St Mary's financial activities, while gradually returning to normal towards the end of the year. The PCC's objective has been to honour our pledges and mission support as far as possible, and as a result, we have fulfilled our Parish Share to Bristol Diocese in the sum of £59,660 and giving to missions/charities remained broadly unchanged.

Other donations of food for the Harvest Appeal were made by members of the congregation to the North Bristol Foodbank. We also continue to sponsor two children via Compassion UK, partially paid for by the families at the Rise and Shine Service, and we gave to The Children's Society via collecting boxes and at the Christingle service collection.

Church members and supporters gave £36,017 in 2021 in planned giving.

We purchased £5,000 worth of Bernard Salmon shares during the year, in line with the Charity Commission requirements to repurchase shares as shown in the notes to our financial accounts.

We have introduced new methods of giving in the past year, enabling donations to be made more easily online if that is preferred. We also have a card reader that enables contactless payment and payment by card, which has proven useful at our fairs in particular.

I should like to thank all those who have continued to count the cash, and Chris and Jill Eynon, for undertaking the banking on a weekly basis.

Summary Financial Information:

	2021	2020	change
Total income	140,382	125,025	15,357
Total expenditure	155,420	135,704	(19,716)
Net (expenditure)/income	(15,038)	(10,679)	(4,359)
Gains on investment assets	92,254	48,352	43,902
Fixed assets	1,156,380	1,066,623	89,757
Current assets	90,136	104,759	(14,623)
Current liabilities	(4,565)	(6,647)	2,082
Net current assets	85,571	98,112	(12,541)
Total funds	1,241,951	1,164,735	77,216

Phil Fowler - Treasurer



Health and Safety Report

As we have seen the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions, we have changed the measures that we endured and now are almost back to pre-pandemic measures.

The upholstered chairs are now back in place and the tables set out at the front for Rise and Shine are once again at the back of the church so that families can decide whether to remain in their family "bubble" or share tables with other families.

At this time of writing, the wardens and PCC agreed that Eucharist should continue in the manner we have become accustomed to, with consuming the communion wafer only. The wearing of masks is only for personal preference and we are enjoying singing again, including the sung eucharist. Thanks to Shelley, and all who have also kept the church clean and sanitised.

Safety checks continue to be made throughout the building. Thanks to Richard Powell and Colin for all their help and especially all the jobs needing ladders! The electrical safety checks have been carried out and the necessary audits have been completed to ensure safety for all. Thanks to all of you for the way you have cooperated and responded to the tight measures we had to put in place and for playing your part in keeping yourself and others safe.

Richard Griffiths



Children's and Youth Report

The past year has seen constant adaptations and changes to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines throughout all of our groups. Despite this, we have engaged with lots of families through the following sessions in a Covid safe way:

STOMP Dance Clubs:

We were able to bring all of our age groups back under new Covid safe rules and regulations. All dancers adapted really well to the various guidelines and took all the restrictions in their stride. We have 45 dancers across the age groups on a regular basis who have been working hard on routines and confidence building. Break time topics have been used to help with team building whilst looking at various faith topics. We are looking forward to various performance opportunities that are steadily becoming available again.

Youth @ The Barn:

Our sessions are now fully up and running with 12 regular attendees. The young people love being back (even at periods with masks/ 2m distance etc.) and are looking forward to expanding the range of activities they are able to do. Some of our Young People are approaching the end of schooling and are now keen to help as young leaders which is great to see.

Totstop:

Unfortunately, we have been unable to bring Totstop back in person this year mainly due to a lack of volunteers.

Messy Church:

Messy Church has been able to run on a monthly basis again with the theme of this year being 'Jesus said...', where each month we look at a famous quote that Jesus said and how we can apply it to our lives. We regularly see a core group of 10-20 children, but can be as big as 60 children at Easter and Christmas when we invite STOMP to perform- it is great to be able to welcome these families into Church.

GLOW:

We have a core group of 8 Young People who have been attending Glow sessions to ask bigger faith questions. The group has helped to plan what topics they would like covered with ideas such as exploring the 'love is...' Bible passage, looking at the Easter story and archaeology of the Bible. The young people particularly enjoyed a cooking session using ingredients and recipes of Biblical times and were pleasantly surprised by their homemade flat bread, vegetable soup and hummus!

Schools Work:

We are able to regularly attend Shire Primary School for monthly assemblies to both KS1 and KS2. We have also been able to hold their Christmas and Easter Assemblies at the Church and welcome in the visiting families to watch too.

Summer Sessions:

In August 2021, we held 4 summer sessions at the Tithe Barn with multiple timeslots to ensure all age groups had a chance to attend. These sessions were attended by adult family members which gave a wonderful opportunity to catch up with the whole family after such a long time of strict Covid guidance. Activities included picnics, quizzes, craft, cake decorating, milkshake making, scavenger hunts, photo challenges and a life size Big Bible Board game. We look forward to running some summer sessions again this year.

Sunday Activities:

Rise and Shine has continued to grow and develop since launching in September 2020. Numbers can range anywhere between 20-60 people depending on the time of year and special occasions, as well as having children from a broad age range of 0-11. It has been lovely to see families from a range of areas come together and engage in creative methods of worship and teaching, catch up over breakfast together and keep fit with the worship action songs!!



In addition to the Rise and Shine Services, we held a special Glow service at the end of October to praise Jesus as light of the world and in December we held our annual Christingle and Nativity services. A huge thank you to all leaders and volunteers for helping on various teams - you have made such a valuable difference to our local children and young

people and we look forward to continuing to do this as we head towards the Summer. A special mention also to our teens, who come along to many of our events/ performances to help serve food, run craft, man the sound system and help to set up and clear up- it's much appreciated!

Amy Boucher
Youth Worker







Mothers' Union



TRANSFORMATION – NOW

As we start a new triennium, and look to the future with fresh vision, this is our theme for 2022. Through a global pandemic, Mothers' Union members have shown amazing resilience, responsiveness and adaptability and this theme gives us the impetus to transform ourselves, our churches and communities and Mothers' Union to be relevant for today.

We have a new Diocesan President, Jacky Fredrickson who will be commissioned at St Mary's Church, Yate on 15th May at 4pm. We also have a new group of trustees who will lead us all during the next 3 years.

Bristol West Deanery News

We hosted the Deanery Festival at St Mary's which was very successful and we also organised a Deanery Picnic in August for Mary Sumner's Day (who is our Founder). Everyone brought their own picnic and we supplied the drinks. The collection was sent to Mary Sumner House for the Summer of Hope Appeal. On the 3rd Thursday of each month Mothers' Union are to lead readings and intercessions at Bristol Cathedral. Our Deanery's turn was on 21st October. Four of us went and Anne read the lesson. The Anti-Slavery service in the Cathedral was well attended. The chains were carried around the Cathedral and we were given some to put in our own churches. Our own Deanery Advent Service was at St Peter's Church, Filton where some of us were given long service certificates. Amazingly we started in 2011!

Branch News

Our Wave of Prayer in September was followed by tea and cake, then a hilarious game of Bingo. After lockdown we had a talk about rebuilding hope and confidence which was interesting. We had an extremely good speaker who talked about 'Stay young and beautiful' which was also humorous!

At the St. Mary's Christmas Fayre we ran a chocolate tombola and the finale of the year was our superb Christmas lunch at Shirehampton Golf Club.

We have given twiddle muffs to our local care home; Prayer squares to those who wanted them. (*There are some pinned to the MU notice board in church if you would like one*); Cot blankets, toiletries and money were given to Friends for Parents who volunteer at the Children's Hospital.

Pam Crawford was presented with a bouquet and card in thanks for her work as Treasurer for the last 10 years. She has decided to step down from this role.

I would like to thank the Committee and all of our members for their support and generosity.

I would also like to thank Phil Fowler for auditing our yearly accounts.

We have a full and interesting programme for 2022. If you would like to join us just pop along to a meeting which is at Tithe Barn on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

Julie Smith
Branch Leader



Coffee Mornings

July 2021 saw the lifting of some of the Covid19 restrictions which meant that we could once more reintroduce Coffee Mornings in the Church. We called upon folks to volunteer to assist with the Coffee Mornings from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon and sufficient numbers stepped forward which enabled us to open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A couple of former volunteers decided to retire due to increasing age or mobility problems. To them we offer our grateful thanks for their sterling service. Since the New Year, further volunteers have come forward, meaning we were delighted to announce that Tea and Coffee was once more be available on Saturday mornings. To these additional volunteers, we are again deeply indebted for their services.

We have now reluctantly had to make a charge for Tea & Coffee whereas before we relied on donations in the Donation Box. Tea & Coffee plus a biscuit of your choice will now cost the sum of £1.50, which seems reasonable compared to local establishments. Our Treasurer is pleased to see the Coffee Mornings back as it gives us a boost in paying for our Gas and Electricity Bills which are increasingly expensive. St Mary's is a large church to heat!

Thank you for your support as we enjoy your custom and company.

Jill Eynon



Building Co-ordinators Report on the Fabric of the Tithe Barn



This is the fabric report for the Tithe Barn, prepared by the churchwardens of St Mary's Church Shirehampton.

Roofs

We experienced water ingress from the tiled roof (main hall) High Street side. After examination by Hone Construction Ltd it was found that an area of damaged felt needed to be replaced as well as 24 Pan Tiles. This work was completed in November 2021.

The roof of the orangery is in good order.

Walls, Windows and Doors

External walls of both parts of the building are in good order.

All windows are double glazed and have required routine maintenance during the year. They are all in good working order.

There is a small area of peeling paintwork on the pillar to the left of the door leading from the main hall into the extension. This requires attention.

Rain Water Goods

Gutters and downpipes of the original barn and the orangery are working and are routinely cleared of debris.

Interior

The A/V system and TV screen in the orangery are working well. Thanks go to Simon Leighton for his work on the A/V system, keeping it in good working order.

The kitchen and toilets are in good working order.

Exterior

Part of the boundary fence between the Tithe Barn and Tithe Barn Cottage was blown down during the storms in November 2021. Thanks go to Norman England for his work in replacing the missing fence. The garden is maintained by Norman England.

Security

The building is secured with modern dead locks.

External metal is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

Gas Boiler

The Gas Boiler has required attention during the year. The Printed Circuit Board was replaced by Sam Smythe and the Thermal Fuse to the Heat Exchanger was replaced by Craig Franklin. The boiler is now back to working order.

5 Yearly Inspection of Electrical Circuits.

This was carried out by Daley Electrical on 11th April 2022; we are waiting for the report and recommendations required to bring the Tithe Barn up to standard.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. The barn heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
2. The fire/smoke alarm system. (6 Monthly tests to BS 5839)
3. Fire Extinguishers.

5. Radio microphones licences.

6. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Thanks to:-

Philip Fowler and Eleanor Beddoes for managing the lettings and accounts of the Tithe Barn.

Colin Godfrey, Monica and Tony Symons for the opening and closing of the barn, dealing with the routine maintenance and operational actions required including setting up and clearing away after each letting.

Richard Powell



Tithe Barn Report

The Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns continued to significantly impact on the activities that usually take place, at the barn, until August when lettings gradually returned to normal.

St Mary's regularly use these facilities for STOMP, Youth Group and GLOW, all of which have been affected by the pandemic, although their meetings gradually returned to normal during the latter part of the year.

Our Mindfulness and Kintsugi Hope Groups did take place when permitted and are now meeting weekly.

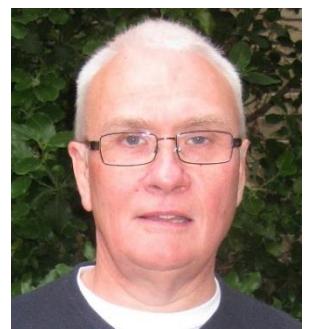
Similarly, Mothers' Union monthly meetings have now returned to normal.

All the activities that took place at the barn, including lettings and charity work are controlled directly by the PCC and the roles of caretaker/ manager, building fabric co-ordinator and health and safety officer were undertaken by Colin Godfrey, Richard Powell and Tony Symons. Eleanor Beddoes and Philip Fowler provided administrative support.

Members of the PCC and the church family have supported the work of the barn and their contributions are much appreciated.

Finally, the barn was let for private hire during the latter part of the year in accordance with Government restrictions.

Philip Fowler



Tithe Barn Health and Safety

In addition to the Health & Safety reports and Tithe Barn reports earlier in this document, I report as follows:

All covid procedures are being followed.

Hand sanitisers and antiseptic sprays are placed at the entrance to the main hall and orangery together with paper towel rolls. Notices requesting their use are clearly posted. Covid sprays were available in toilets with instruction notices.

Floor distancing crosses are checked and wall plug sockets are protected.

Plastic chairs are regularly checked for damage and loose screws and any broken chairs are discarded.

Bins and recycling boxes are put out/brought in.

Tony Symons



Electoral Roll Report

The current status of St Mary's Shirehampton Electoral roll at the time of producing this report stood at 108 members. 3 Members have passed away during the last year and one has moved away. There have been no new members added to the roll, this is not surprising in view of the pandemic we have suffered. Out of the 108 members 41 live outside of this parish. Members of the Church will only be permitted to take part in any election of Officers and PCC members if they are on the Electoral Roll.

Tim Forder - Electoral Roll Officer



Church Music Report

The church choir has been able to get back to full numbers at services during the last year and they have sung the hymns, provided communion anthems and more recently been able to sing the communion setting at the first service of the month. We have welcomed one new member, Shelley, to the choir and she is capable of singing both a soprano and alto line.

The Shirehampton area choir were able to perform a Christmas concert this year and performed Stainer's crucifixion on Good Friday this year (2022). Numbers in the choir are down on pre Covid times.

New members to both the Church choir and the Area choir would be welcome, anyone interested should contact me either in person or by E mail at timboford@hotmail.com. Admission to the Church choir would be subject to safeguarding checks being made.

The organ has been used regularly during the last year and is in reasonable order. The instrument has been tuned twice since our last APCM by Harrison & Harrison organ Builders. It is due another tuning at present.

Tim Forder
Organist and Director of Music



Social Events Team Update

Well, what can we say about the last two years apart from what a challenge it has been to us all?

Following the enforced lengthy break from all our normal social activities, the original social team felt it was time to retire. We thank Christine Porter, Barbara Hopkins, Alison Harding, Norma Wyllie, Sally Coulstring and Natasha Stokes for all the hard work they have done.

I am grateful to Vicki Bushell, Rebecca Carroll and Emma Jennings who all came forward to form the new team.

Our first event was the Spring Fayre which took place at the end of April 2021 when we were able to meet outdoors wearing masks but still being mindful of social distancing.

A variety of stalls were arranged along the church side of the walkway with borrowed gazebos in place for protection from bad weather. We were however, blessed with a warm, sunny day. Tables and chairs were arranged on the Co-op side of the walkway so that refreshments served from the porch could be enjoyed in the sunshine.

It was a truly splendid day and a pleasure to hear the lovely buzz of a community coming together again, making connections and catching up after so long being apart. The event raised £957.

The Summer Fayre in August was our first indoor event. Forced inside because of the weather we were again mindful of social distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitising. With the help of extended family and friends the fayre was a great success. The event raised £1,006.

The Christmas Fayre was held at the end of November. Once again it was very pleasing to see our church family and wider community come together. There was a joyful, excited hum throughout the church as people participated in the various games and bought goods from a variety of stalls. Income raised at this event totalled £1,485.

We also had the sale of Christmas trees and Santa's Grotto at the beginning of December. Here we must thank Dave Stephens for standing in as Santa at the very last minute as our usual beloved Santa (aka Colin Godfrey) was taken ill and unable to do it. The event raised income of £224 before cost of Trees.

In January we got together a rota of volunteers (a huge thank you to them all) to serve teas and coffees on Saturday mornings. As the weeks have gone by more and more of our pre-pandemic regulars have returned and the numbers of people popping in is increasing.

In February we held a pancake event and in March served cream teas, sold crafts and helped children make cards for Mother's Day. Both these events were well attended and raised much needed funds - £137 (pancakes) and £420 (Mother's Day Cream teas).

We thank everyone for their help whether it was baking a cake, donating items, serving on a stall or coming along and supporting us on the day. Together we've been very successful in bring our church family and our wider community together for some well needed fun and togetherness.

We look forward to our Spring Fayre on 7 May 2022 and welcome suggestions for other social events later in the year.

Mary Powell



Deanery Synod Report

A Deanery Synod report has been prepared and is distributed separately for your information.

Accounts



ST MARY'S

SHIREHAMPTON



Annual PCC Report

April 2020 – March 2021

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report

Background:

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership:

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members:

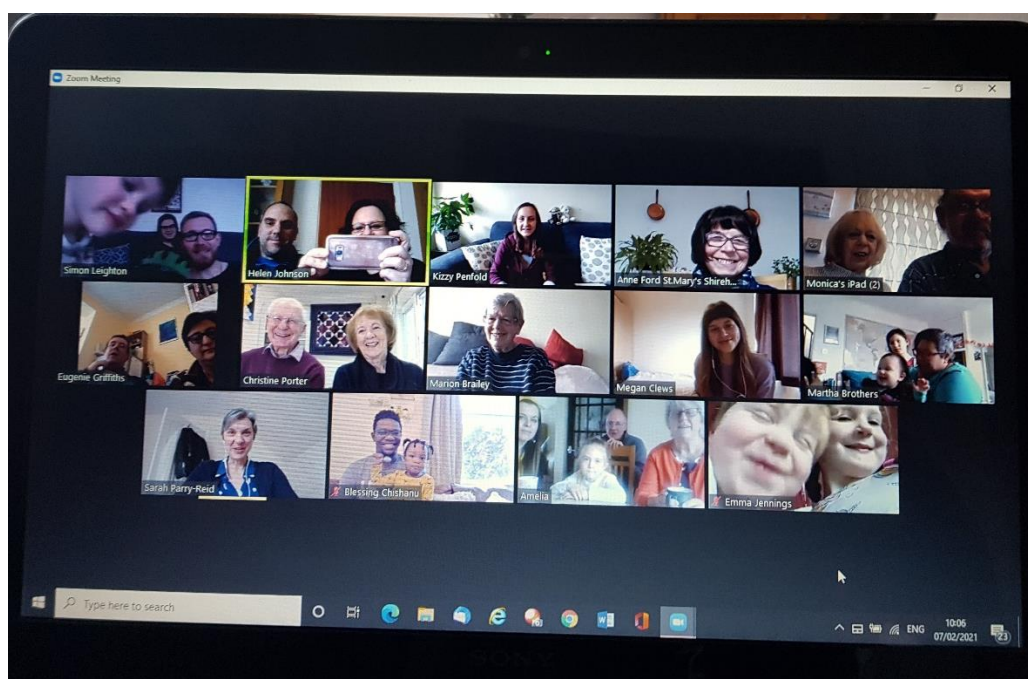
Priest-in-Charge:	Revd Helen Johnson	
Curate:	Revd Simon Leighton	
Secretary:	Pat Davidson	
Wardens:	Anne Ford	
	Richard Powell	
Representatives on	Pat Davidson	Secretary
The Deanery Synod:	Alison Harding	
	Diana Hemmings	(To 15 th March 2020)
Treasurer:	Philip Fowler	
Elected Members:	Pam Crawford	Resigned 15th March 2020
	Mary Derrick	Resigned 15th March 2020
	Roger Derrick	Resigned 15th March 2020
	Tim Forder	Electoral Roll Officer
	Philip Fowler	Data Protection Officer
	Colin Godfrey	
	Richard Griffiths	Appointed 15 th March 2020
	Doug Jennings	
	Shemma Laws	
	Kathryn Mwakijungu	
	Sarah Parry-Reid	Appointed 15 th March 2020
	Julie Smith	Resigned 15th March 2020
	Tony Symons	Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding	Emma Jennings	Officer (not on PCC):
Health & Safety	Lee Widdowfield	Officer (not on PCC):

Priestly ponderings...in a time of Covid-19

Trying to sum up 2020 in as many words is like trying to squeeze the ocean into a swimming pool, no matter how hard you try it's not going to happen! So I will reflect instead on where we find ourselves one year on, using one word at a time to sum up various experiences throughout the year.

Zoom

We quickly had to find a way to adapt to online meetings, and eventually online gatherings for PCC and Sunday mornings. Our VAST (Vision and Strategy Team) meeting moved from fortnightly to weekly meetings in order to accommodate all the many, changing guidelines that we received on a weekly basis from the Government and Church of England. Special thanks to Anne, Rich, Eleanor and Phil for their tenacity and commitment during this time.



Coffee on Zoom during lockdowns 2 & 3 was a lifeline for many, and such a blessing to those who could engage in this way. We were particularly blessed by all the lovely students from Trinity who joined us halfway through the year and encouraged us to keep going.

Newsletters

It was clear that we needed to have a multi-faceted approach to communicate with everyone from our church family, especially those who weren't online. So a weekly feature during lockdowns has been newsletters. Sometimes it was hard to dig deep within my own soul to find encouragement enough for everyone else, but God is faithful and frequently

provided a word or two of hope for us all. Grateful thanks to those who kindly delivered these newsletters each week.

Dial-a-sermon

So strictly speaking that's three words, however it was great to have options for our recorded sermons to be heard both online and on the telephone, meaning that anyone who couldn't watch online could opt for a more familiar way of tuning in.

I want to say a special thanks to Simon, who joined us with his family in September, for bringing different perspectives, insight and energy to a tired team. I, for one, was so grateful to hear someone else's voice preaching other than my own!

Postponed

Postponed life events were one of the most difficult things to deal with last year. To reduce funeral attendance to just a handful of people when folk were already grieving; to tell brides-to-be that their wedding had to be cancelled yet again (some for the third time), and for baptisms to be postponed, felt very unfair. However, I was so inspired by the way in which folk so graciously accepted the situation, especially those who were already grieving the loss of loved ones, showing such courage and kindness to others in the face of their own deep pain.

Thanks

Worship services were also postponed, and many of us will have missed the connection, community and support that we find amongst our church family, and yet somehow we still managed to keep in touch with one another, in some shape or form, through telephone calls, bumping into folk on our daily walks, and lifting one another up in prayer. I want to offer my thanks to each and every one of you that have been there for someone else during this time. Thank you for your continued support of this church and its family, thank you for your love and care for each other, and thank you most of all to our incredible, awesome God, who never for one moment left us to face this alone.

With love, as always,

Helen

(Revd Helen Johnson, Priest in charge).



Curate's Report

It has been a strange time to join a church as a curate, but it has still been an enjoyable and formative one. Whilst I would have loved to have got to know you all over a cuppa without masks, or visiting in your own homes, sadly this has not been possible. Zoom, despite its limitations, has proven to be a place where encouragement can be shared, relationships can be built and God's presence can be experienced. I have loved spending time with some of you at morning prayer, Thursday prayer and Sunday coffee via zoom. I look forward to getting to know more of you better as restrictions begin to ease. To hear your stories and the journey God has taken you on.

So what does a curate do during lockdown? Some things are the same, others different, others similar but also different at the same time! Let me share some of my highlights.



I'm sure it was a real disappointment for many, both inside and outside the church, that we couldn't be open for Remembrance Sunday. Jo had the wonderful idea of chalking a poppy trail outside the church, and it was wonderful to see people making use of this. I saw on facebook that one family even created their own outside their own home! This past year has forced us to think outside the box about how to engage with God and with our community in new ways within the restrictions. Fortunately, we serve a creative God who has put that same spark of creativity in each of us!

I am in the early stages of going back into Oasis Academy Brightstowe to help with the 'Brightzone'. This is a space for pupils who need some additional support and I am looking forward to seeing how this develops and how I can support pupils who are most in need.

Something else I am looking forward to is running a Kintsugi Hope group. This past year has had many challenges for us all, and I am aware that our overall health and wellbeing may have taken a knock. Kintsugi Hope is a group to explore tools for promoting our own wellbeing, looking at things like shame, anxiety and anger. If this is something you would like to be part of do be in touch!



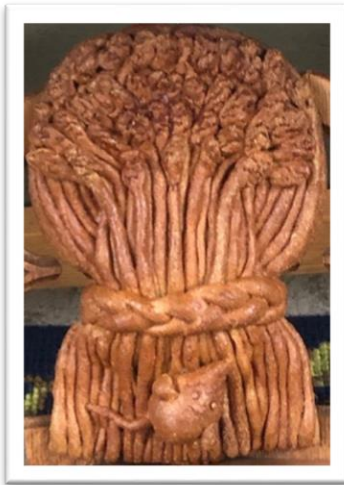
Many things have continued as before, but yet also differently. Sermons have been pre-recorded as I have got to grips with youtube, video editing and more! Funerals have continued but with the additional challenges of social distancing, limited numbers and no singing. Being able to be present to these families, to support them, pray for them and share God's love has been a really important and valuable thing these past few months.

We are now on a 'roadmap' towards 'normal'? Or is it 'new normal'? My hope is that as we begin to gather again, we can share what God has been teaching us this past year and what we have learned. I'm sure there is a rich collection of learning and experience amongst us all that will serve to enrich our lives and worship. I'm excited as, together, we walk into the future, with God, our faithful consistent hope and anchor. I am excited about what it might mean to be St Mary's post-Covid and what God still has in store for all of us.

Simon

(Revd Simon Leighton, Curate)





Churchwardens Report

For all of us in this last 12 months life has been topsy-turvy and with many restrictions and disruptions, including our church life and worship.

However, we have been fortunate in the creative ways adopted to access worship via Zoom, Facebook, online and by telephone. Thanks to Helen, Simon, the Trinity Students and to Amy, Kathryn and Eugenie who have faithfully kept Rise and Shine going electronically for the children and their families.

Even though all our activities we usually enjoy throughout the year have been curtailed, there has been a heightened sense of reaching out to one another by the Church family and within the community. It has been so important to keep in touch and the weekly online Newsletter has been much appreciated (hand delivered for some who haven't an online facility).

Behind the scenes we have had to keep the Church building secure and maintained. The PCC meetings have continued monthly via Zoom and the Leadership team have met mostly on a weekly basis- again via Zoom.

Richard and I have had some on-site meetings with the church architect and contractors (all socially distanced and with masks worn). The maintenance of the Church and Churchyard have been a priority and in order to keep things going, as in our homes, the bills and paperwork keep coming in.

We were fortunate in securing a grant from Historic England which will go a long way in paying for the repairs urgently needed to the windows in both of the vestries. The necessary permissions have been sought and granted including the faculty from the Diocese. We are hoping the work will begin soon.

Bristol City Council have continued to cut the grass in the main churchyard and have responded to my requests, although we are still awaiting an up to date survey of the trees in the Churchyard.

Many more people have enjoyed sitting on the benches in the Churchyard during lockdown and in the main, have treated the area with respect. Our thanks go to those members of the Church family who faithfully empty the bins throughout the week.

Also, grateful thanks to all who help in many different ways and for the help and encouragement you generously offer.

My permitted daily walk has prompted me to pray for our parish and for the homes and gardens and people I pass on route and the welcome signs of Spring. We all long for normality to return and being able to continue to:-

Come as we are, to be renewed and to go share God's love.

In the meantime, keep well, keep safe and prayerfully, SEE YOU SOON!

Anne Ford.



Churchwardens Report on the Fabric of the Church Building

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out on Friday 10 May 2019 by the church architect Simon Cartlidge.

It is a legal requirement that all churches within the Diocese of Bristol are inspected every five years.

Urgent Work

The most urgent condition that requires attention is the expansion of corroding metal window frames in the Choir and Vicar's Vestry. Faculty application ref 2021-058599 is with the Diocesan Advisory Committee. When this is approved work will commence on repairing the windows.

Church Yard

Maintenance of the church yard is the responsibility of Bristol City Council following formal closure for burials. However, we continue to maintain our memorial gardens.

Church Security

The church alarm system continues to work well with remote monitoring and call-out facility of a key holder.

External metal on the building is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

All low level drainpipes have been treated with anti-climb paint above 2M from the ground and the required notices displayed.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. Lightning conductors.
2. The church heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
3. The security alarm system.
4. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.
6. The organ humidifier.
7. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Routine Maintenance – In-house

A schedule of routine maintenance continues to operate ensuring a regular review of the condition of the building and any actions needed. The schedule includes frequent checks of such items as roofs, gullies, drainpipes, windows, toilets, water heaters, church ladders, timber door thresholds, tea/coffee water heater de-scaling and more.

Maintenance Carried out During Lockdown.

During the first lockdown Alex Carr plastered the internal walls of the Memorial Chapel, Store Room, West End Toilets and Kitchen. After allowing time for the plaster to dry Polly Millard painted all the walls and ceilings in each location with a specialist Keim paint which allows the walls to breathe.

During the last lockdown Colin Godfrey has worked with me cleaning the church. We have done a high level clean using the church ladder and have worked our way around the church interior cleaning the lights, window ledges and battens. Colin has also cleaned the glass of the memorial chapel and office.

Cellnex Telecoms Equipment.

Discussions are under way with agents of Cellnex to remove their telecoms equipment, antenna and mast. This looks likely to happen during this year.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next quinquennial (five yearly) church inspection is due in 2024.

Triennial Inspection

The next Archdeacons' triennial (three yearly) inspection to check church records processes and property is due in 2021.

Finally

Grateful thanks go to:-

- Colin Godfrey for all his work keeping the Church and Tithe Barn up and running.
- Ray Smith for his advice on church maintenance.
- Chris Hearn for his help in the church yard.
- Sarah Parry-Reid, Richard Griffiths, Doug Jennings and Colin Godfrey for being on the churchyard bin rota during lockdown.
- Simon Leighton for organising the purchase of a new church laptop and fixing the problem with the interference on the projection screen.
- Thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard, not just on the building fabric but in so many other ways to make this church truly active, accessible and attractive for everyone.



Richard Powell

Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report

Introduction

Today, safeguarding plays a major part in our church lives; robust policies and procedures are required to be in place to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. The central church embodies national safeguarding laws into policies and passes them down to each diocese that, in turn, produce their own policies, guidance material and training for parishes. Parishes are required to develop their own policies, procedures, training plans and records for all safeguarding actions/events and have in place named safeguarding officers.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for children and adults of the parish of St Mary's Shirehampton is Emma Stratton.

Emma can be contacted for advice or to report an incident via a dedicated email address, safeguarding@stmarysshire.org. These details can be found on the church noticeboard in the porch or on the church website, www.stmarysshire.org.

Policies

Those in place at St Mary's are for:

- child protection
- vulnerable adults
- domestic abuse
- safer recruitment
- handling of disclosure information
- fair recruitment of ex-offenders
- lone workers

Policies are up to date and are reviewed annually by the PCC.

We have displayed safeguarding information near the main church entrance and also in the toilets of both the church and the Tithe Barn. The policies will also be kept available at the church and will be accessible to all when the church is open.

Training

Bristol Diocese provides all types of training at different levels and for specific roles in safeguarding. A rolling programme of training is made available to all workers and volunteers when required.

Thank you to all who have given their time to undertake training and make our church a safer place.

Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau – CRB)

This is referred to as DBS and is a national service for checking the background of new employees and leaders of children's and vulnerable adult activities. The system can bar anyone whose record shows them to be unsuitable. We are up to date with our DBS checking for volunteers. We thank all those who have taken time to have theirs completed. DBS at St Mary's are carried out by Emma Stratton and Eleanor Beddoes.

Records

It is important that any records containing personal details, such as notes written during the investigation of a safeguarding event, are kept confidential and secure. Our priest-in-charge and the safeguarding officer of St Mary's have access to a document safe and encrypted memory stick used specifically for this purpose.



Emma Stratton

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Finance Report

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected St Mary's financial activities and most income streams have been adversely impacted. Nevertheless, the PCC has been keen to ensure that our pledges and mission support have been honoured as far as possible.

As a result we have fulfilled our Parish Share pledge to Bristol Diocese in the sum of £59,660 and have made a promise of the same amount for 2021, agreed by the PCC.

Giving to missions/charities from church funds was £3,750 and other donations of food for the Harvest Appeal were made by members of the congregation to the North Bristol Foodbank. We also continue to sponsor two children via Compassion UK, partially paid for by the families at the Rise and Shine Service, and we give to The Children's Society via collecting boxes and at the Christingle service collection.

Members of our congregation supported the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project again for Christmas 2020, either by filling their own shoebox of gifts or by building a shoebox online. We recently learned that the shoeboxes were delivered to children in Nigeria.

Church members and supporters gave £35,312 in 2020 in planned giving.

We did not purchase any Bernard Salmon fund shares during the year in order to preserve liquidity.

I should like to thank all those who have continued to count the cash and, not forgetting, Chris and Jill Eynon for undertaking the banking on a weekly basis.

Summary Financial Information:

	2020	2019	change
Total income	125,025	138,576	(13,551)
Total expenditure	135,704	132,611	(3,093)
Net (expenditure)/income	(10,679)	5,965	(16,644)
Gains of Investment Assets	48,352	98,423	(50,071)
Fixed assets	1,066,623	1,025,768	40,855
Current assets	104,759	110,440	(5,681)
Current liabilities	(6,647)	(9,146)	2,499
Net Current Assets	98,112	101,294	(3,182)
Total funds	1,164,735	1,127,062	37,673

Phil Fowler

Treasurer



Health and Safety Report

During this last year Health and Safety reached new heights and required strategic planning in accordance with the Government and Church of England directives. There was a need for me to draw up new risk assessments each time a new phase occurred and each one was shared and made available to the PCC.

All of the aspects were adopted and put in place. A very small team of us started by removing the upholstered chairs and replacing them with the wipeable plastic ones and carefully measured the permitted distances between each.

The rest you witnessed for yourselves - never before have we had to have our temperature taken on entry or be restricted in how and where we could worship within the building, following a one way system, have hand sanitizing stations and use a track and trace system on entry and wear masks. Thanks to Shelley, who also kept the areas clean and sanitised.

Even though the Church has sometimes been closed for public worship, safety checks continue to be made throughout the



building. Thanks to Richard and Colin for all their help and especially, all the jobs needing ladders!

Thanks to all of you for the way you have cooperated and responded to the tight measures we had to put in place and for playing your part in keeping yourself and others safe.

Anne Ford



Children's and Youth Report

This year has been full of unprecedented changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but despite the restrictions and periods of furlough, we have still managed to provide fellowship and outreach within our Children's and Youth community:

STOMP Dance Clubs:

The STOMP dancers have not been able to meet in person for most of the past year but they have been busy doing dance challenges through home packs delivered each month and online challenges to complete through our community Facebook pages. Each home session has had a theme and thought of the month to continue to provide outreach to the community.

We were able to bring our older dancers back temporarily for September to October 2020 under new Covid-safe rules and regulations. All dancers adapted really well to the new guidelines and took all the restrictions in their stride. The current regulations do not allow for us to return the youngest dancers due to number restrictions and safeguarding cover. We hope they can return as things become less restrictive and in the mean time we will continue to provide at home and online challenges for them to engage with.

Youth @ The Barn:

Home packs and challenges were also delivered to our young people throughout the last year. Topics covered in their packs included kindness, caring for the earth, Bible verses, love and the message of Easter. We also managed to bring back some face to face sessions for a short time last year. The young people loved being back (even with masks/ 2m distance etc.) and are looking forward to returning when it is safe to do so.

Totstop:

Unfortunately, like the youngest STOMP club, we were also unable to bring Totstop back in person this year due to social distancing restrictions. Several of our members are part of our online community and so we have been able to keep them up to date and give the opportunity to engage with our online content instead.

Messy Church:

Messy Church has not run in person over the past year but all of our regular members are a part of our other groups and services so they have been engaging with the online content and home activity packs instead.

GLOW:

Glow had the opportunity to meet for a couple of monthly sessions over the past year. This has given the young people time to reflect on the events they have experienced, pray for their worries, celebrate the heroes of 2020 and think of their hopes for the future.

Schools Work:

We have not had much chance to attend school assemblies in person, but Shirehampton Primary school has asked us to film sessions for assemblies and events such as Easter and Christmas to keep the link between the Church and School. We have also provided an online Easter Assembly for Nova Primary School.

Sunday Activities:

This is the area in which the most activity has been seen and at this point I must say a huge thank you to Kathryn and Eugenie who have provided weekly online videos throughout the whole pandemic whilst I have been on periods of furlough. It has been wonderful to see church members of all ages engage with these videos- Thank you for all of your hard work!



The biggest change this year was re-launching Kids' Klub as Rise and Shine in line with when we returned to in-person services throughout the Autumn term. It has been great to see so many families attend in that time, adapting so well to all of the new restrictions and engaging with the topics, worship and activities.

In addition to the Rise and Shine Services, we held a special Glow service at the end of October to praise Jesus as light of the world, Eugenie and Kathryn worked hard on a Zoom Christingle event, Nativity and Easter trails and lots of resources to accompany these too.

All together, there has been a year's worth of online Rise and Shine Services provided, 2 months of online challenges, 3 months' worth of home packs covering 71 of our dancers, young people and church children, 4 online celebrations for Christingle, Nativity, Easter 2020 + Lent 2021, 3 Church trails for Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and Easter, several school assemblies and 2 months of face to face services and sessions when permitted to do so!

A huge thank you to all volunteers past and present for helping on various teams - you have made such a valuable difference to our local children and young people and we look forward to continuing to do this as our activities return and evolve again to fit the next guidelines and spread God's truth.

Amy Boucher

Youth Worker





Mothers' Union

We were fortunate to have 3 meetings with speakers at the beginning of 2020 and then we had 'Lockdown' - who would have thought that we would still be in 'Lockdown' a year on?!! We were collecting Easter eggs for our tombola stall but as the Church Fayre was cancelled we gave them to the foodbank who were very grateful.

We were able to hold our Wave of prayer in Church, socially distanced of course, at the beginning of September. This is where we pray and remember all Mothers' Union members abroad and at home. The following week we had our normal meeting (in church) and had an interesting talk from Isobel Gelder explaining B.R.A.C.E and reducing the risk of dementia which was humorous in parts.

Christine Porter was busy during Lockdown making our new banner. We are most grateful to her as I am sure you will agree, it is beautiful. This was dedicated by Revd. Helen at the Sunday service on 13th September.



Unfortunately we have not met since then, although we have not been idle!

Friends for Parents, who help at the Children's Hospital asked for people to knit, booties, crib blankets and teddies for premature babies as they were very short. We had terrific support from some of our members and also from other people whom we are most grateful to.

We have also given cash donations to Mary Sumner House, The Children's Hospice at Wraxall (who spoke to us at the beginning of 2020). We paid the postage to send knitted jumpers to children in Uganda and have given money to Friends for Parents to buy coffee, tea etc. for parents in the Children's Hospital.

Unfortunately, 12 of our members decided not to renew their membership at the beginning of this year. Sadly Sheila Ross and Jean Blowen passed away which has left our total membership at 38, which is the lowest we have been since starting. Hopefully we will be able to recruit more members when we open again!

I have managed to keep in touch with everyone by email and telephone and hopefully it won't be too long before we can meet together again.

Julie Smith
Branch Leader



Coffee Mornings

Sadly, I have to report that, due to the covid-19 virus and the ensuing Government restrictions on people gathering together, we have not been able to hold our regular Tea and Coffee mornings for the past 12 months.

This has had two main effects – a loss of a regular income of around £200 per week due to donations and people kindly giving packets of biscuits, tea, jars of coffee and so on, that is normally spent on heating and lighting the church. Secondly, and more importantly, we have been unable to open to the community, a vital part of our service where people can come and speak to someone about their worries and receive a sympathetic ear. This has also restricted the ability for people to come in for private prayer.

Several of our regular helpers in the intervening period have decided to retire due to increasing age and infirmities. When we are able to reopen the church once more for our Tea and Coffee, I will be extremely grateful for anyone who could spare 2 hours from 10am to 12 noon on a morning of their choice.

Many thanks to those faithful people who have retired and our other voluntary helpers who are continuing.

We look forward to welcoming back all our regular customers who we know are anxiously awaiting the date of our reopening!

Jill Eynon



Building Co-ordinators Report on the Fabric of the Tithe Barn



This is the fabric report for the Tithe Barn, prepared by the churchwardens of St Mary's Church Shirehampton.

Roofs

The tiled roof (main hall) is essentially in good condition. There are four broken roof tiles on the High Street side of the roof which need to be replaced.

The roof of the orangery is in good order.

Walls, Windows and Doors

External walls of both parts of the building are in good order.

All windows are double glazed and have required routine maintenance during the year - they are all in good working order.

There's an area of damp on the party wall of the Orangery. The manager of the Co-op Convenience Store has been informed and is attending to this problem.

There is a small area of peeling paintwork on the pillar to the left of the door leading from the main hall into the extension. This requires attention.

Rain water Goods

Gutters and downpipes of the original barn and orangery are working and are routinely cleared of debris.

Interior

The A/V system and TV screen in the orangery are working well. Thanks to Simon Leighton for his work on the A/V system keeping it in good working order.

The kitchen and toilets are in good working order.

Exterior

The garden is maintained by Norman England.

Security

The building is secured with modern dead locks.

External metal is protected with smartwater applied to all surfaces and the required notices displayed.

Routine Maintenance and Certification by Contractors

Annual tests and certification of the following are up to date:

1. The barn heating system and operation of its gas system and supply.
2. The fire/smoke alarm system. (6 Monthly tests to BS 5839)
3. Fire Extinguishers.
5. Radio microphones licences.

6. Portable electrical appliance testing (PAT).

Thanks to:-

Philip Fowler and Eleanor Beddoes for managing the lettings and accounts of the Tithe Barn.

Colin Godfrey for the opening and closing the barn, dealing with the routine maintenance and operational actions including setting up and clearing away after each letting.

Richard Powell



Tithe Barn Report

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the activities that usually take place, at the barn, from March 2020 and throughout the rest of the year.

St Mary's normally use these facilities for Totstop, STOMP and the St Mary's Youth Group, all of which have been affected by the pandemic, although some of these groups have met on the few occasions when government restrictions allowed this to happen.

Chair aerobics and the Mindfulness groups did meet when permitted, but were stopped for much of the time.

Similarly, Mothers' Union meetings were suspended from March onwards.

The Tithe Barn has been managed by an unregistered charity with its own board of trustees and which consisted of four members of the PCC (when appointed): Revd Helen Johnson (Chair) and a member of the Anchor Society.

Together, the trustees controlled all of the activities that took place at the barn, including lettings and charity work. The trust did not employ any paid personnel in 2020 and the roles of caretaker/ manager and building fabric co-ordinator were undertaken by Colin Godfrey and Richard Powell. Eleanor Beddoes and Philip Fowler provided administrative support.

The PCC decided to review the role of the trustees when the Anchor Society confirmed that they did not wish to replace their trustee, on his retirement in 2020. This review resulted in the trust being disbanded, in accordance with the requirements of the trust deed and with the consent of the Charity Commission. The management of the barn, therefore, reverted to the PCC who already had overall control of the barn.

Members of the PCC and the church family have supported the work of the barn and their contributions are much appreciated.

Finally, the barn was let for private hire at the beginning of the year, but government restrictions prevented subsequent lettings taking place.



Philip Fowler

Electoral Roll Report

The current status of St Mary's Shirehampton Electoral roll at the time of producing this report stood at 112 members. 5 Members have sadly passed away during the last year. There have been no new members added to the roll, and this is not surprising in view of the pandemic we have suffered. Out of the 112 members, 44 live outside of this parish. Members of the Church will only be permitted to take part in any election of Officers and PCC members if they are on the Electoral Roll.

Tim Forder

Electoral Roll Officer



Church Music Report

It has been very frustrating since the 2020 AGM to have few opportunities for the church choir to sing at services. When we have been able to sing, numbers have had to be restricted to 4 choir members only, because of the social-distancing requirements. I am looking forward to being able to return to having a full choir for services and having choir practices again. I sincerely hope that the choir members will feel confident enough to return when Church services start again.

The Shirehampton Area Choir has not been able to perform since Christmas 2019 and I fear that numbers will be low if and when we can begin to restart. I am hopeful that we might be able to begin rehearsals again in September and maybe have a Carol concert in 2021.

New members to both the Church choir and the Area choir would be welcome, anyone interested should contact me either in person or by E mail at timboford@hotmail.com. Admission would be subject to safeguarding checks being made.

The organ has suffered from lack of use over the last year with several problems occurring. I have been going in to church to check it and play it for a short time and can report that most problems have righted themselves and were clearly due to less use and less regular heating being on in the church.

Tim Forder

Organist and Director of Music



Social Events Team Update

At Helen's request in 2018, we established a Social Events Team with a remit to **Creating Community** by running events, to reach out and encourage the local community to come to know Jesus and to join our church.

In order to do this, it was decided that we needed a mixture of events:

- Out-Reach
- In-house
- Fund Raising be self-supporting and to break even

The team initially consisted of Alison Harding, Barbara Hopkins, Christine Porter and Norma Wyllie, with Sally Coulstring and Natasha Stokes joining in later.

Helen attends quarterly to receive Minutes from each meeting and is kept up to date with ideas and plans. The Church Wardens also receive copies of the Minutes.

We started by carrying out a survey with a questionnaire to the congregation asking for ideas for events they would like us to put on in addition to the well-established annual Spring Craft Fayre, Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre. Lots of ideas from all generations were put forward.

In 2018 we introduced a Church Family Picnic which took place in June in the park by the Lamp Lighters. It was great fun, we all brought our picnics and folding chairs, we had a marquee and ran games for the children, enjoyed by all.

In September we had a Barbecue in the Tithe Barn Garden to encourage people in our community to come along and get to know us. Chris Johnson and Richard Powell produced delicious burgers, while the ladies in the kitchen did continuous production of the rolls and ketchup and lots of washing up.

In 2019 our biggest success was the Burns Night Party in January with Norma's husband Ian being our amazing Piper. Hot Haggis and Neeps arrived from our kitchen conjured up by the caterer, and we enjoyed a delicious meal with lots of entertainment, including a raffle and great seasonal decorations.



In February we had a lovely event to celebrate the Ownership of the Tithe Barn and in June we put on a Cream Tea in the church with hundreds of scones, raspberry jam and naughty cream. Our waitresses stole the show!

In July, once again the Church picnic took place and we agreed it should become a regular annual event as it was so good to mix the generations of the church family.

In November on a cold, autumn evening we had some speakers from the local Historic Society followed by a hearty Ploughman's Supper.

We started 2020 with a really successful Children's Fancy Dress Party in January in the Tithe Barn.

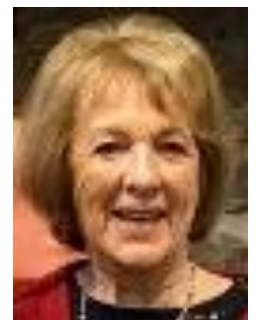
We had a super list of planned events for 2020, but as we all know, sadly they did not take place, other than an outdoor Christmas Fayre that took place in our churchyard which was organised at very short notice in between lockdowns. There was so much craft on sale and for the first time we sold Christmas trees, with home deliveries being made to those who were unable to leave their homes. Thanks to all who put so much effort into making this event a success and to all those who came along.





I have enjoyed my time steering our brilliant team and am happy to hand over to the younger generation of Mary Powell and Emma Jennings and here's hoping that more volunteers will join them as we move forward to a more normal life-style.

Christine Porter



Craft Group

Our small, friendly group has been unable to meet at church as usual during the majority of the past year. Some members were able to continue to make items for church to sell at our outdoor Spring Fair which will hopefully take place in April 2021. Some of us have also made items for the Mothers' Union appeal for St Michael's Hospital, knitting booties and pairs of small teddies. We hope to get back together as soon as possible and would welcome anyone who would like to join us, once safe to do so. We have members who make cards, crochet and do cross stitch and we are always happy to help anyone who is having problems with their knitting or other craft.

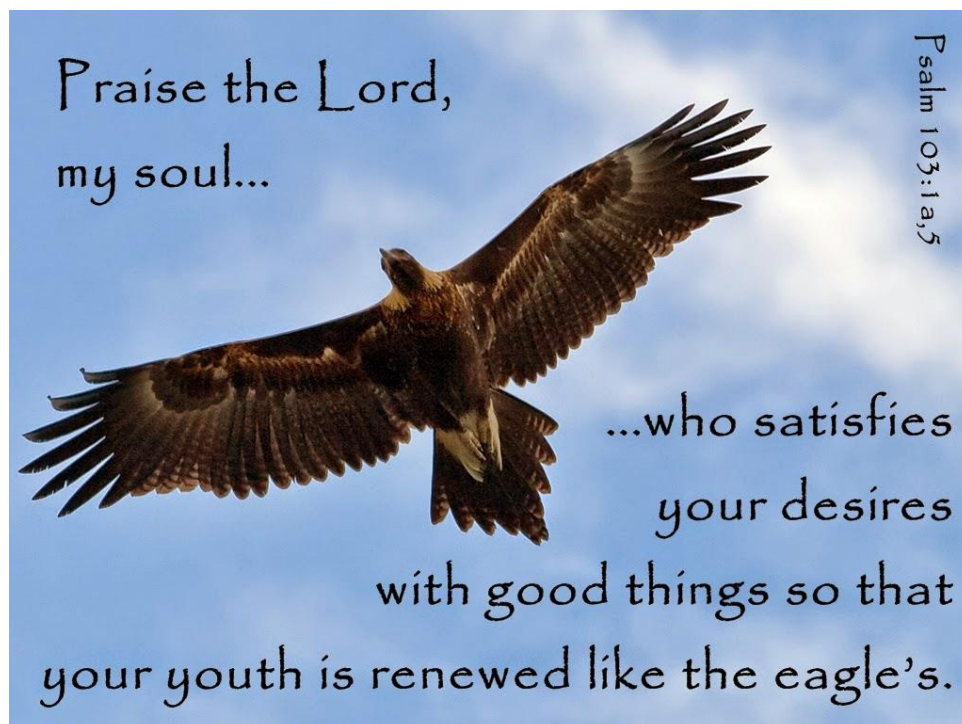
Deanery Synod Report

We are awaiting a report from the Deanery Synod which will be sent to all churches, and will make this available when it is forwarded to us.

Final Thoughts

As you can probably tell, this has been a year full of challenges for us all, and yet God has seen us through. We give thanks for God's goodness, and echo the words of the David in Psalm 103: 1 - 5:

Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
² Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



May we too know as David did God's redemptive power bring healing and peace. Amen!'

Yours in Christ,

Helen

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2020

Charity number 1131636



Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

Contents

Parochial Church Council	1
Annual Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

Parochial Church Council

Priest-in-charge: Revd. Helen Johnson
St Mary's Vicarage
8 Priory Gardens
Shirehampton
Bristol
BS11 0BZ

Independent Reporting Accountants: David Oakensen,
William Price & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
Suite 9, Westbury Court,
Church Road,
Bristol
BS9 3EF

Bankers: HSBC
11 Canford Lane
Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol
BS9 3DE

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

The Parochial Church Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

Charitable Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the PCC Powers Measure. The PCC was registered as a charity in 2009, with charity number 1131636, having previously been an excepted charity. The PCC members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Helen Johnson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also works with the Trustees of the Shirehampton Tithe Barn Trust in maintaining the Tithe Barn in accordance with its aims and objectives.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, provides Church of England services and religious activities for all ages, including outreach into the community via work with youth and the elderly. We run a toddler group, youth group, dance classes, a Mothers' Union branch, a Mental Awareness Group branch and host a 'Goldies' singing group. In addition we hold various social activities during the year.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members:

Priest-in-charge:	Revd Helen Johnson	
Assistant Curate:	Revd Simon Leighton	
Wardens:	Anne Ford	
	Richard Powell	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Pat Davidson	Secretary
	Alison Harding	
	Diana Hemmings	To 15 th March 2020
Elected Members:	Pam Crawford	Resigned 15 th March 2020
	Mary Derrick	Resigned 15 th March 2020
	Roger Derrick	Resigned 15 th March 2020
	Tim Forder	Electoral Roll Officer
	Philip Fowler	Treasurer & Data Protection Officer
	Colin Godfrey	
	Richard Griffiths	Appointed 15 th March 2020
	Diana Hemmings	
	Doug Jennings	
	Shemma Laws	
	Kathryn Mwakijungu	
	Sarah Parry Reid	Appointed 15 th March 2020
	Julie Smith	Resigned 15 th March 2020
	Tony Symons	Health & Safety Officer – Tithe Barn
Safeguarding Officer (not in PCC)	Emma Jennings	
Health & Safety Officer (not in PCC)	Lee Widdowfield	

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions from the Council.

Financial Review

Income at £125,025 (2019: £138,576) was lower than expenditure of £135,704 (2019: £132,611) to give net expenditure of £10,679 (2019: £5,965 net income). As for all businesses and charities in 2020, the year has been a challenging one and the various grants made available to us, the continued generosity of our church family and returns on investments have limited the decrease in income. We have continued keeping a careful control over costs and seen reductions with utility bills in particular, with the closure of the church building and Tithe Barn for a significant part of the year.

Giving to missions/charities from general funds totalled £3,750 (2019: £4,170). The amount paid to the Diocese for parish and ministry costs was £59,660 (2019: £52,100).

Restricted income exceeded restricted expenditure by £7,402 (2019: £6,231 expenditure exceeded income), with some planned repairs being paid from income received and restricted in previous years, and a restricted grant of £10,500 being received in December 2020.

The gain on revaluation of shares held as endowment funds was £48,352 (2019: £98,423).

The Charity Commission approved a scheme allowing us to sell shares to the value of £109,000 to partly fund the purchase of the Tithe Barn, on the condition these shares would be purchased back until the full number of shares were reinstated. At 31 December 2020, the total market value of the amount remaining to be paid was £70,391, with no shares repurchased in 2020, and this is to be repaid by 2033.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that will allow sufficient funds to be available to pay for charitable activities as they arise and also to ensure that support and governance costs can be met as they fall due. The balance held as unrestricted funds at the year-end was £457,818 (2019: £467,904).

Where possible, we maintain reserves to cover, as a minimum, identifiable repair and maintenance costs relating to the fabric and furnishings of St Mary's, three months' parish share payments and 25% of the amounts required from fund raising to cover general expenditure. We have identified net expenditure on fabric and furnishings for 2021 at £3,000, parish contributions to the Diocese for three months total £15,000 and £2,000 is required to cover any shortfall in fundraising.

Investments

The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, as custodial trustees, hold CBF Ltd shares on our behalf in both the Bernard Salmon and Napier Miles Trusts. In addition, 404 CBF shares are held in respect of the Ecclesiastical and non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

PCC Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this is inappropriate.

The PCC members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Parish and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC on 12th April 2021

and signed on their behalf by Reverend Helen Johnson (priest-in-charge & PCC Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Mary, Shirehampton, Bristol.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

David Oakensen FCA
William Price & Co Ltd
Westbury Court, Church Road
Westbury-on-Trym
BS9 3EF

Date: 12th April 2021

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2020 £	2019 £
Notes						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		81,496	10,800	—	92,296	88,404
Income from charitable activities		3,179	—	—	3,179	12,084
Other trading activities		1,964	—	—	1,964	11,462
Investments		19,030	—	—	19,030	18,249
Other income		8,556	—	—	8,556	8,377
Total income	2	114,225	10,800	—	125,025	138,576
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		468	—	—	468	916
Expenditure on charitable activities		124,341	3,398	—	127,739	124,495
Other expenditure		7,497	—	—	7,497	7,200
Total expenditure	3	132,306	3,398	—	135,704	132,611
Net (expenditure) /income before gains and transfer		(18,081)	7,402	—	(10,679)	5,965
Gains on investment assets		—	—	48,352	48,352	98,423
Net (expenditure) / income before transfer		(18,081)	7,402	48,352	37,673	104,388
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds – in/(out)		7,995	(7,995)	—	—	—
Net movement in funds		(10,086)	(593)	48,352	37,673	104,388
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2020		467,904	25,242	633,916	1,127,062	1,022,674
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2020	10	457,818	24,649	682,268	1,164,735	1,127,062

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

Balance sheet

		2019 £	2020 £
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	384,355	391,852
Investments	6	682,268	633,916
		1,066,623	1,025,768
Current assets			
Debtors	7	6,505	6,359
Cash at bank and in hand		98,254	104,081
		104,759	110,440
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	(6,647)	(9,146)
Net current assets less current liabilities		98,112	101,294
Total net assets less liabilities		1,164,735	1,127,062
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds	10	457,818	467,904
Restricted funds	10	24,649	25,242
Endowment funds	10	682,268	633,916
Total Funds		1,164,735	1,127,062

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th April 2021.

Revd H Johnson
Priest-in-charge & Chair of the PCC

P Fowler
Treasurer

Notes 1 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements use the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The valuation of investment assets are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is sterling and all figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

The PCC considers there are no material uncertainties about their ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for a specific purpose, the use of which is restricted to that area. These funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest will in future be appointed to individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and 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 legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Annual Report. All help received is greatly appreciated.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at a reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 with individual value below £1,000 are written off.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any residual value, over their expected useful life, as follows:

Tithe Barn	2% of construction and refurbishment cost on a straight line basis
------------	--

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December. Investment gains and losses resulting from revaluing investments to market value are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as it has no taxable activities. Irrecoverable VAT borne by the charity is included in the cost of the item to which it relates.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisitions or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount at which the charity is expected to benefit in a future period. Provision is made for any amount that may prove uncollectible.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 Income

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Gift aided donations	2,521	—	2,521	3,448
Gift aided donations via envelope	6,796	—	6,796	10,881
Planned giving	35,312	—	35,312	31,586
Collections (open plate) at all services	1,268	—	1,268	3,879
Sundry donations	7,200	150	7,350	12,251
Donations – appeals, grants etc.	17,637	10,650	28,287	9,572
Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	10,492	—	10,492	12,706
Floodlighting	270	—	270	460
Legacies received	—	—	—	5,000
Donations and legacies total	81,496	10,800	92,296	88,404
Income from charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,953	—	1,953	7,999
Tithe Barn lettings – objectives	804	—	804	2,045
Other income	422	—	422	2,040
Income from charitable activities total	3,179	—	3,179	12,084
Other trading activities				
Fayres	1,367	—	1,367	3,323
Events	—	—	—	1,503
Tithe Barn lettings – other	597	—	597	6,636
Other trading activities total	1,964	—	1,964	11,462
Investments				
Interest - dividends	294	—	294	1,736
Bernard Salmon Trust income	12,150	—	12,150	11,574
Napier Miles Trust income	6,586	—	6,586	4,938
Bank and building society	—	—	—	1
Investments total	19,030	—	19,030	18,249
Other income				
Telecommunications agreement	8,556	—	8,556	8,377
Other income total	8,556	—	8,556	8,623
Total income	114,225	10,800	125,025	134,404

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Shirehampton
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020
3 Expenditure

Raising Funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 £	2019 £
Costs of fayres and events	468	—	468	916
Raising funds total	469	—	469	916
Charitable Activities				
Grants and donations – missions:				
African Pastors Fellowship	500	—	500	500
Compassion	1,200	—	1,720	1,720
Corymeela	100	—	100	100
In Hope (Crisis Centres Ministries)	500	—	500	500
Open Doors	500	—	500	500
Mercy Ships	250	—	250	250
Water Aid	250	—	250	250
Youth with a Mission Harpenden	100	—	100	—
Bristol West Deanery	350	—	350	350
Youth Programmes	593	—	593	2,386
Food and Fellowship	13	—	13	204
Ministry Parish Share	59,660	—	59,660	52,100
Charitable activities subtotal	64,016	—	64,016	58,860
Charitable activities – support costs				
Employment costs	32,243	—	32,243	27,469
Telephone and broadband costs	993	—	993	896
Parish training and mission	(20)	—	(20)	—
Fees paid for weddings and funerals	—	—	—	106
Additional organist fees	80	—	80	300
Verger fees	330	—	330	1,130
Church running – insurance	3,318	—	3,318	3,291
Kitchen consumables and equipment	370	—	370	1,661
Church and office equipment	—	1,006	1,006	—
Organ/piano tuning	903	—	903	1,058
Church maintenance and replacements	3,296	1,653	4,949	6,848
Cleaning & hygiene	639	—	639	450
Altar requisites	182	—	182	1,011
Upkeep of churchyard	1,091	210	1,301	1,142
Printing and stationery	2,597	—	2,597	2,819
Sundry expenses	196	—	196	(3,490)
Church running – utilities	6,397	—	6,397	9,591
Specific expenses	1,310	229	1,539	1,375
Tithe Barn running – caretaking	(400)	—	(400)	815
Tithe Barn running – rates and utilities	1,854	—	1,854	3,387
Tithe Barn insurance	1,438	—	1,438	1,431
Tithe Barn maintenance	1,688	300	1,988	1,912
Tithe Barn broadband	680	—	680	359
Tithe Barn equipment	—	—	—	389
Governance costs – independent examination	780	—	780	720
Professional and other fees	360	—	360	965
Charitable activities – support costs subtotal	60,325	3,398	63,723	65,635
Charitable costs total	124,341	3,398	127,739	124,495
Other expenditure				
Depreciation	7,497	—	7,497	7,200
Other expenditure total	7,497	—	7,497	7,200
Total expenditure	132,306	3,398	135,704	132,611

4 Staff Costs

	2020 £	2019 £
The aggregate payroll costs of staff were as follows:		
Gross payroll and employer's national insurance contributions	31,533	26,935
Employer's pension contributions	710	534
	32,243	27,469
	2020 Number	2019 Number
Number of part-time staff	4	4

5 Fixed Assets for use by PCC

	Tithe Barn £	2020 £
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2020	515,000	515,000
	515,000	515,000
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2020	123,148	123,148
Charge for the year	7,497	7,497
At 31 December 2020	130,645	130,645
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2020	384,355	384,355
At 31 December 2019	391,852	391,852

6 Investment Assets – Endowment Funds

	Number of shares	Church £	Shire Charities £	2020 £	2019 £
Bernard Salmon Fund					
At 1 January 2020	20,976	407,106	—	407,106	334,383
Shares purchased in year	—	—	—	—	10,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	32,873	—	32,873	62,723
At 31 December 2020	20,976	439,979	—	439,979	407,106
Napier Miles Trust					
At 1 January 2020	11,475	219,971	—	219,971	185,308
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	15,127	—	15,127	34,663
At 31 December 2020	11,475	235,098	—	235,098	219,971
CBF Shares Charity Funds					
At 1 January 2020	404	—	6,839	6,839	5,802
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	—	—	352	352	1,037
At 31 December 2020	404	—	7,191	7,191	6,839
Summary					
Market value at 1 January 2020		627,077	6,839	633,916	525,493
Shares purchased in year		—	—	—	10,000
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation		48,000	352	98,423	98,423
Total investment assets at 31 December 2020		675,077	7,191	682,268	633,916

7 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Prepayments	4,186	5,083
Other debtors	2,319	1,276
	6,505	6,359

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	164	3,195
Accruals and deferred income	5,677	5,379
Taxation and social security	139	—
Other creditors	667	572
	6,647	9,146

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2020 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	384,355	—	—	384,355
Investment fixed assets	—	—	682,268	682,268
Current assets	80,089	24,670	—	104,759
Current liabilities	(6,626)	(21)	—	(6,647)
	457,818	24,649	682,268	1,164,735

10 Fund movement by type

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	Closing £
Endowment Funds	633,916	—	—	—	48,352	682,268
Restricted Funds	25,242	10,800	(3,398)	(7,995)	—	24,649
Unrestricted Funds	467,904	114,225	(132,306)	7,995	—	457,818
Grand total	1,127,062	125,025	(135,704)	—	48,352	1,164,735

Analysis of Restricted Funds	2020 £	2019 £
Audio Visual & Music Equipment Fund	3,305	4,310
Memorial Garden	1,600	1,659
Gift Day - Lighting	1,750	1,750
Napier Miles - Hall Maintenance	—	8,295
Security System	2,800	2,800
Flower Fund	473	552
Roof Fund	4,221	4,221
Kitchen/Water System	—	1,655
Vestry Window Repair	10,500	—
Total Restricted Funds	24,649	25,242



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON

Come: as you are

Be: renewed

Go: share God's love

www.stmarysshire.org



When you have finished
with this document please
recycle it or better still
pass it on to a friend.