

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1136606

Details

Other names	THE PCC OF ST MARY'S OLD BASING & LYCHPIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2010-06-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Vicarage Church Lane Old Basing Basingstoke
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Activities

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

Activities: A ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£149,128	£123,613	-	-
2023-12-31	£131,692	£154,912	-	-
2022-12-31	£117,672	£127,093	-	-
2021-12-31	£105,170	£111,936	-	-
2020-12-31	£86,458	£156,303	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREE DIANE McLEAN		2018-04-22
Alan Matthew Kean		2026-04-26
DEBBIE FILER		2015-04-19
David Lucas Stevens		2023-03-05
JOANNA WISH JARRETT-KERR		
Janet Mary Scott		2026-04-26
Jeanette Edwards		2017-09-28
MICHAEL WILLIAM LEAMING		2020-10-18
Mark Holley		2025-04-06
NICOLA MARIE JACKSON		2022-11-17
PAUL RICHARD SKINNER		2018-04-22
Penelope Ann Potter		2023-03-05
REBECCA ALDRIDGE		2019-04-28
Rev Helen Jane Holley		2024-06-30
Robert James Jackson		2018-04-22
Tyler David John Cherry		2026-04-26

Accounts



(Photos by kind permission of Michael Wright)

Incumbent: The Reverend Jo Mulliner

Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7DJ

Large print copies available on request

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2010 this PCC became an independent charity number 1136606

Membership of the PCC during the 12 months January-December 2024 was

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Rev Jo Mulliner (Chair)
<i>Curate</i>	The Rev Helen Holley (<i>from July 2024</i>)
<i>Churchwardens & Vice Chairs</i>	Mark Holley (<i>until April 2024</i>) Robert Jackson Jeanette Edwards (<i>from April 2024</i>)
<i>Representatives on Deanery Synod</i>	Joanna Jarrett-Kerr Paul Skinner Rebecca Aldridge
<i>Elected members</i>	Jeanette Edwards (<i>until April 2024</i>) Debbie Filer (Secretary) Janet Jackson (<i>until April 2024</i>) Nicky Jackson (Treasurer) Mike Leaming Andree McLean Penny Potter Sue Smith David Stevens Julia Wright (<i>until April 2024</i>)

Bank:

The National Westminster Bank plc, 3 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Independent Examiner:

Mr Colin Bezant

3 Up Fallow, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a charity established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules. Its activities are to provide a ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality.

a) Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of New Members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The new regulations now apply, as stated in the Annual Report 2012.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

b) Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Members

The Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator are offered formal training through the Diocese and elsewhere. Courses in general church governance are also held that are recommended to all PCC members and other in-house steps are taken to ensure PCC members understand fully their role and responsibilities on the Council. Additionally, mandatory training in safeguarding also takes place (see below).

c) Organisational Structure

In 2024 the PCC met in February, March, May, July, September and November. These meetings were in person with some members joining via Zoom if unable to attend upon occasion.

d) Committees:

The following report to the PCC:

*di) During 2024 the **Standing and Finance Committee** met in person in January, March, May, July, September and November and comprised:*

Vicar - The Rev'd Jo Mulliner, Churchwardens: Mark Holley (*until April 2024*), Robert Jackson, Jeanette Edwards (*from April 2024*), PCC Secretary: Debbie Filer, PCC Treasurer: Nicky Jackson; PCC Elected Members: Andree McLean and Penny Potter (*from April 2024*).

*dii) The **Building Group** (Fabric Group)*

The Vicar, Mark Holley (*until April 2024*), Jeanette Edwards (*from April 2024*), Robert Jackson, Mike Leaming and David Stevens comprise this group, which meets according to need to discuss matters concerning the Church Building and Fabric.

e) Risk Management

The major risks to which the Church is exposed relate to financial instability, fraud, failure to comply with legal obligations and commitments in relation to the church building.

The reserves in our General Fund are £107,906.97 which is an increase of £36,248.74 across the year. Overall funds are £212,482.37, an increase of £25,547.45 across the year.

For the first time in many years our income has been greater than our expenses and it is the objective of the PCC for all expenses to be covered by the General Fund in 2025. Income and expenditure is closely monitored and the use of the computerised accounting system assists in this.

The PCC ensures that any minor, non-routine, expenditure has to be approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC. The Treasurer monitors payments requested and any payments made require the approval of two signatories authorised by the PCC. All expenditure is assigned to a cost code and budgets are set and agreed for each of these. These budgets are regularly monitored.

The PCC considers carefully its legal obligations and has policies in force to ensure they are met.

The Churchwardens and David Stevens, the PCC appointed Health and Safety Officer, monitor and manage fire and health and safety matters connected with the use of the church premises and report back to the PCC. A Health and Safety Policy, a Lone Workers' Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Vulnerable Adult Policy are in place and updated annually.

The Parish is registered for the purposes of the Data Protection Act with the Administrator as the Data Controller. All information is held and used in a manner which complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). GDPR is a standing agenda item and PCC members, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete and review training.

We are fortunate in having such a beautiful church building but this does impose considerable obligations. The condition of the building is monitored regularly by the Churchwardens and the PCC appointed architect. Reports of concerns are made to the PCC who determine what action should be taken and how any expenditure should be financed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The chief role of the Parochial Church Council is, together with the Incumbent and clergy, to promote the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC represents parishioners and, on their behalf, considers and agrees appropriate action on matters relating to St Mary's Church, its fabric, finances, daily life and future direction. The Incumbent is the Chair of the PCC and Jeanette Edwards and Robert Jackson (Churchwardens) are joint Vice Chairs. The business of the PCC is conducted through discussion, review and liaison with other interested groups and individuals, any of whom may, in this way, raise concerns or topics for consideration.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Old Basing and Lychpit follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their work for and in the Parish. The Council Members believe that promoting the work of the Church of England in this Parish helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively in the Parish as a whole and so provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who wish to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and by service by members of the Church in and to their communities and for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

In 2024 there were 3 weddings; 33 funerals (18 in the Church, 15 at the Crematorium) and 20 baptisms;
There were 136 Christmas communicants.

ELECTORAL ROLL

On 31st December 2024 the Electoral Roll stood at 127 of whom 100 were resident in the Parish and 27 non-resident.

VICAR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024

As those reading this report will be aware, our beloved Vicar, Rev'd Jo, has been away from St Mary's at the beginning of 2025 following the death of her mother Cindy. It thereby falls to the Churchwardens to look back at 2024 to recall where God has been especially present with us over the last year.

The first few months of the year are met with dark mornings and dark evenings. However, St Mary's has early signs of spring with the numerous snowdrops that cover many parts of the graveyard. So that when St Valentines' Day and Ash Wednesday coincide, as they did, we can step forward in God's love into the season of penitence.

Palm Sunday was marked with a procession from The Crown, with palms being replaced by pampas grass. We then moved through Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve when Rev'd Jo managed to light the Holy Fire without setting her robes ablaze, following into the joy of Easter Sunday.

We were once again blessed to mark Ascension Day with an outdoor Communion followed by breakfast, with the joy of birdsong in our ears.

St Mary's Summer was very busy, with our Summer Festival, which also encompassed a Flower Festival and Art Display. Our team of flower arrangers never disappoint. We then had our full games and activities on the Saturday and Sunday. We thank the Festival Planning Group for their hard work.

The next weekend was busy with the Open Gardens around the Parish, and a large proportion of the congregation decanting to Winchester Cathedral to celebrate with the now Rev'd Helen Holley as she was ordained deacon.

In September we were able to celebrate Colin Bezant's licensing as our Licenced Lay Minister.

In the autumn we celebrated God's goodness to us with our Harvest Festival. As this coincides with the Festival of St Francis of Assisi we combined this with a Pet Festival and Service when we were able to bless those who provide comfort, joy and distraction in our homes.

The season of Remembrance is important with our services for All Saints and All Souls and our Remembrance Sunday services where the Old Basing Royal British Legion plays such a large part.

The lead up to Christmas is always busy at St Mary's with Carol Services, including one for St Mary's CE Junior School, our ever popular Christmas Tree Festival, and the services at Christmas. This year we also started the new Welcome Tea Room for those wanting a tea and chat on a Friday afternoon.

For us Churchwardens, we particularly need to thank all those who helped ensure that the services have been able to continue. Especially thanks need to go to Rev'd Canon Michael Kenning, Rev'd Rachel Hartland, Rev'd Helen and Colin as well as Rev'd Claire Simpson from the Methodist Church; all have played a big part.

During the year, Rev'd Jo has continued to develop the relationship with the St Mary's Junior School and Old Basing Infants School, and, at the other end of the age spectrum, with the residents of Basingfield Court and Oakfields.

Special mention must go to the Church Administrator, Debbie Filer. If there was anyone who keeps us all organised, it is she. How she manages, seemingly effortlessly, to keep as many 'balls in the air' as she does, we do not know. From arranging the many funerals, both in church and at the crematorium, and weddings and baptisms, to being on the Festivals Organising, running the Welcome Tea Room and acting as PCC Secretary. We can only say 'Thank You'.

As we thank God for all that we have in 2025, we pray that God's blessing will be on us whatever way He wishes us to follow him.

Jeanette Edwards and Robert Jackson
Churchwardens

Safeguarding at St Mary's 2024

St Mary's PCC has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church. It is fully compliant with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). No Serious Incidents occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners. The PCC has appointed Jeanette Edwards as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with Safeguarding being a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. Details of how to contact the Parish and Diocese Safeguarding Officers and the Vicar, are on display in the church.

When the Safeguarding Dashboard was first launched in 2018, it was based on the requirements found in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. An upgrade in 2024, brought the dashboard up to date with the latest safeguarding requirements. Some of the lights on the dashboard are mandatory requirements, and others are good practice. Parishes assess their safeguarding work against five standards, the upgraded dashboard shows the progress that has been made towards each of the five standards:

Standard 1 - Culture, Leadership and Capacity

Standard 2 - Prevention

Standard 3 - Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk

Standard 4 - Victims and Survivors

Standard 5 - Learning, Supervision and Support

St Mary's, Old Basing & Lychpit is completed to the highest level (Level 3) being at 100% in all standards except Prevention where it is currently 92%.

All staff and volunteers have role descriptions in place and are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance and appropriate training is completed following Church of England guidance. Training is up to date. All Disclosure and Barring checks have been carried out online with those valid for 5 years now starting to be renewed after 3 years in line with latest requirements. References are being requested for volunteers already in post commencing with priority roles including Safeguarding and PCC.

Risk Assessments have focussed on keeping people safe when visiting the church and the church buildings.

Jeanette Edwards
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Eco Church

Eco Church: A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

St Mary's has achieved both the Bronze and Silver Eco Church Award since joining in December 2022. This accomplishment is a significant milestone in our journey towards creating a more sustainable and eco-friendly community. Receiving the Silver Eco Church Award is not just a recognition of our efforts but a reflection of our shared dedication to caring for God's creation. We have all worked hard to implement eco-friendly practices within our church, from conserving energy to reducing waste and promoting environmental education.

With the help of the congregation and parishioners we continue to work towards the Gold Award focusing on the following areas.

- **Renewable Energy:** Exploring opportunities to transition to renewable energy sources such as solar power.
- **Biodiversity:** Continue to enhance the natural environment around our church and involvement with the St Mary's CoE Junior School and Old Basing Infant School.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging sustainable practices and exploring ways to reduce our carbon footprint.
- **Community Outreach:** Expanding our environmental outreach programmes and partnering with local organisations to make a broader impact.
- **Environmental Lifestyle Audit:** Continue to repeat annually
- **Lifestyle:** Continue regular bulletin articles and monthly tips

This is an ambitious goal but also a reflection of our commitment to continuous improvement in environmental stewardship.

Jeanette Edwards

Festivals

Summer

This year we again celebrated our summer with flowers with both a weekend of a church festival and the following weekend of Open Gardens. As an active Eco church the imagination and creativity of the flower arrangers were clearly demonstrated as we strive to remove items that challenge the environment such as the use of oasis. The team at St Mary's have been pro-active in seeking new ways to display flowers and have spent time researching and teaching others these practices so that we may all benefit. The magnificent displays in the church truly were a celebration of summer.

The festival weekend also allowed local artists to display their talents in an art display in the Bolton Chapel, the diversity of the works both in the artistic medium used and themes presented was magnificent and a joy to visit. Children were as ever at the forefront of the activities both in the church and in the outside areas with activities in the PIOCC area as well as teddy zip-wiring from the Tower, soaking the vicar (and others!) and welcoming the school choirs to perform during the weekend. Music was not limited to choirs though as there was a forties themed music evening on the Friday during the Art Exhibition and the British Legion band joined us as well on the Sunday.

The usual variety of stalls with fantastic barbeque treats and refreshment provided by the Men's Breakfast team helped make the Festival a joy. We were delighted to be able to help our community share their personal floral celebrations by running the Open Gardens weekend as well. A huge thank you to all who took part either by coming and taking part in the activities or providing a warm welcome to those who did attend with stalls entertainment and displays.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our Christmas Sing-along has now become a regular event in the lead up to Christmas and forms part of the Christmas Tree Festival. With a mixture of popular Christmas songs such as Jingle Bells, Must be Santa, Rudolph, White Christmas and some traditional carols it provides entertainment for all ages.

During the weekend we had a number of stalls in the Parish Room and the Men's Breakfast excelled at providing hot food during some very challenging weather conditions. Within the body of the Church visitors were able to enjoy the wonderful display of trees and everyone was invited to vote for their favourite. There were lots of activities for the children on both days including finding the many elves located around the church, we give thanks for the support of Claire and her congregation at the Methodist Chapel in providing the helpers for the craft activities in Church. Activities were both inside the church and in the Conservation Area with the PIOCC team supporting the choice of winner for the Eco-friendly Tree.

On the Saturday we were delighted in welcoming the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane who arrived in time to hear the children of St Mary's Junior School Choir and Old Basing Infant School Choir singing, while on Sunday visitors were invited to enjoy the music provided by Basing Singers while admiring the fabulous tree displays around them. They even let you sing along if you wanted.

One addition this year that was a little more remote from the Church but was prominent in its position, for the whole of the village and for those that just pass through to share in, was the fantastic Nativity art work in the disused bus shelter at Five Ways. Again, thanks to all who took time to help make this Festival a wonderful celebration of St Mary's Church and community during the annual Advent journey.

Andree McLean

St. Mary's Choir

The choir tried hard to prepare for a Choral Evensong as 2024 was an anniversary year for Stanford and for Byrd but were not able to find a suitable date. We will try again and perhaps invite other singers from the area to come and sing. Sadly we sang at funerals during the year.

We are hoping to offer a work on Good Friday as Easter is quite late this year: 2025 is also Paul Wright's Fiftieth Anniversary as our Organist: He hasn't missed one Midnight Mass in all that time.

Once again I give my grateful thanks to all who support us in many ways and look after me so well.

Jo Jarrett-Kerr
Choir Director

Flower Arranging Team

In 2024 we had 16 Arrangers on the rota for St Mary's Church. We continue to provide 5 arrangements every 2 weeks, apart from Lent.

Extra flowers were provided for Maundy Thursday this year.

On the 21st June 2024 the Church held its biennial Flower Festival, with the theme of 'A Celebration of Summer' and there were just over 30 Arrangements within the Church. There was a strong element of sustainability encouraged for all arrangements.

There were just 2 arrangements at the Altar over Christmas, (plus several foliage decorated candle pots), so as not to clash with the Christmas Tree Festival.

We continue to have 2 Duty Organisers throughout the year, and all arrangers may make a claim for costs up to £20 per arrangement.

Our AGM was held as usual in November, which was well attended. There were 2 adverts for more arrangers to join the team as we are losing 1 and possibly 2 arrangers in 2025.

Lorna Guthrie

St Mary's House Groups

The Pilgrim housegroup – formed some years ago and arising from our church's meetings that followed the study guides of that name by Stephen Cottrell - is still going strong. We are a group of seven at the moment and we meet on Friday evenings for about two hours (7-9 pm) in our homes, rotating the venue as suits us. Our discussions/ conversations are confidential to the gathering which makes the meeting a safe place to share joys, sorrows, doubts, etc.

This year we have looked at a mix of Biblical Study Guides and books with Christian themes. The former have included Tom Wright's 'Hebrews for Everyone' and the latter Paula Gooder's 'Women of the Nativity'. We have also looked at David Tomlinson's 'How to be a Bad Christian' and Desmond Tutu's 'In God's Hands', so there has been a wide range of things to talk about.

Our next book will be Basil Hume's 'Seven Last Words', which we are sure will be inspiring.

Our general approach is to try to read the relevant passage before our meeting, and then discuss it. Often books we use have questions to start us, but even when not we always something to talk about.

If you are interested in joining us, please talk to one of us.

Penny Potter and Robert Jackson

Men's Breakfast Club

Well, another year has come and gone. It certainly doesn't seem like a year ago I was writing a Breakfast Club report for 2023, but here goes.

Our numbers have remained very steady throughout the year. Our "record" for 2024 being 23 visitors at one breakfast down to 14 visitors one Saturday during the summer which is usually the case what with holidays. As in the past everyone is very happy and willing, to help out at the various functions put on by the church both inside and outside, sometimes in quite challenging conditions.

Whilst we talked about another trip out in 2024 that's as far as it got, talk, so hopefully we can put something together for this year. We are somewhat a victim of our own success. What with the open invitation to all men (and boys) making sure we have sourced enough food becomes quite a challenge at times but so far fingers crossed,

we have survived. I would at this time like to thank in particular Andy Molloy who not only does all the buying, but he makes delicious home baked bread which is still warm when he brings it in each Saturday.

As I've said in the past whilst we meet in the parish room of St Mary's Church are not a "church group" as such and all men and boys are welcome. We do now have a regular vegetarian colleague who is so catered for to his liking (please let us know in advance) so, if you've nothing to do on the first Saturday of the month and you're at a loose end, come along between 8.30 and 9am you'll be most welcome

Chris Beadle

Ploughman's Lunch Club

The Ploughman's team, a group of 8 long standing volunteers, have continued to successfully run our lunch club during the past year. We are pleased to say that it remains well supported and welcomed by the parish.

The team offer a waitressed table service for a pre-booked limited number of lunchers, who book from the 1st monthly for that month's lunch.

For our Christmas lunch we also provide a free raffle, provided by the team, and offer wine or a non alcoholic alternative courtesy of a local firm of Chartered Accountants, LMW Ltd, who have their office in Old Basing. Any donations for the wine are given to St Mary's for the advent appeal, this year £35.70.

Our price remains at £4.50 for three courses, following a marginal increase in September 2023, having been held at £4 for the previous 6 years. Lunchers still only pay for the number of courses they have. We continue to make a profit, which remains ringed fenced in the church accounts for the upkeep of the kitchen and parish room. This year I am delighted to say we added £1,035 to the balance.

Denise Lane

The Village Café & The Welcome Tea Room

The Village cafe continued to operate successfully until July 2024, at which time a number of volunteers decided that they would like to set up an independent venture focusing on fundraising for the community. With the agreement of the PCC, it was therefore agreed to formally close The Village Café as a church group.

Fortunately, several volunteers wished to continue to support St Mary's and given the success of the Café, it was clear that there was a need within the community for people to come together in a socially relaxed atmosphere and the idea of The Welcome Tea Room was formed. This is a joint venture between St Mary's and the Methodist Church and is run by volunteers from both churches and the parish. The Tea Room's initial opening was in December 2024 and going forward it will be open on the first and third Friday of each month, on a "pay what you can afford" basis. All profits are shared equally between St Mary's and Old Basing Methodist Chapel to fund church initiatives.

Debbie Filer

Churchyard Conservation Group (PIOCC)

2024 started with the Big Garden Birdwatch in January. We had a good turn out, we counted 12 different bird species (Wood Pigeons, Great Tits, Robins, Jackdaws, Blue Tits, Blackbirds, Magpies, Goldcrests, a Wren, a Coal Tit, a Treecreeper) plus Grey Squirrels in our allotted hour.

Our conservation working parties continued as usual through the winter months, this is when we do the heavy structural work in the churchyard before the birds start to nest. This year we were continuing our work of removing dead and dying elms with the hope of encouraging the hazel to spread through the churchyard, which seems to be working.

In April we switch to our maintenance working parties where the focus is more on grass mowing to encourage wild flowers, weeding to keep the paths clear and discouraging vigorous weeds which might otherwise out-compete the flowers we are trying to encourage. It must be remembered that a weed is only a flower in the wrong place! We lost a couple of working parties for various reasons, but when those lost fell on a Saturday, we continued to meet to enjoy coffee and a catch up in St Mary's Parish Room.

In February funding came through from the Borough Councillor Community Grant Scheme for the purchase of a battery chainsaw. This is a tool that we have long needed as previously the Chairman provided his petrol chainsaw to do all the felling of dead and dying trees within the Conservation Area and for coppicing the hazels that are prospering. The battery chainsaw is lighter, quieter and also more environmentally friendly. This chainsaw has already been put to good use.

April was our AGM where those who came were treated to a lovely presentation and talk by Margaret and Tim Carr on Arosa in Switzerland, “Snow and Flowers”.

In June we created a Nature Trail for St Mary’s Summer Festival based on the flowers found in the Churchyard using photographs taken by Margaret Carr. The trail was left in place until the end of the school term for the children to enjoy. This raised £250.82 for St Mary’s.

At the end of September we had our kick off meeting with an excellent talk by Barbara Evans on “Wildlife Highlights from the Hebrides and Hampshire”.

In December we created a Nature Trail for St Mary’s Christmas Tree Festival covering the tracks of animals that might be found in the Churchyard. Unfortunately, the weather was not conducive to spending time outside, remarkably £38 was still raised for St Mary’s.

Tim Carr

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Old Basing & Lychpit

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out hereafter, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

The PCC, which is responsible for the preparation of the accounts, considers that the audit requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those accounting records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the view given by the accounts.

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
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr Colin Bezant
March 2025

PCC HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024

This has been my first year 'flying solo' as PCC Treasurer. There have been challenges and frustrations along the way, but I have come through relatively unscathed. Thanks to Julia for remaining available for advice, even after her term on the PCC came to an end, and to Colin for being available when needed for more specialist advice.

So, what about the 2024 accounts?

This has been a really good year for St Mary's. If you look at the headline figures we had a surplus of just over £25,000. This is the first time that we have been in this position for many years and huge thanks are due to all who generously supported us.

Our overall income for the year was £149,128, an increase of £17,436 compared to last year. Regular giving was up again, and many people are donating via the PayAz machine. We held a number of successful fund-raising activities including a wonderful flower festival, Christmas Tree festival, pet fayre and very well supported open gardens weekend. So, a big thank-you to everyone who has donated over the year and/or supported out events in various ways.

Expenditure for the year was £123,613, a reduction of £31,299 compared to last year. Much of this was due to 2023 being a very costly year in terms of big one-off expenses (notably the refurbishment of the old churchyard), but we also saw a welcome reduction in our utilities costs.

Looking ahead it is very important that we continue to support our church in whatever ways we can and encourage our friends and neighbours to do the same. Please ensure that you complete a gift aid declaration if you have not already done so, we can then claim an additional 25% any donation that you make at no cost to you.

In the past we have relied on our restricted funds to help us cover some of our expenses and these have become depleted. Next year we will be covering all of our regular expenses from our General fund. We are very fortunate to have the ongoing support of the Friends of St Mary's to help with the costs of any repairs to the fabric of the building, but they cannot help us with our general running costs. There are also some improvements to the church that we would like to make, including replacing our heating system with a more environmentally friendly one, and these will require significant fundraising efforts.

Another way that I would encourage you to consider supporting us is by using 'Easy Fundraising' and selecting St Mary's as the charity that you would like to support. This does not cost you anything but raises a small donation for the church each time you shop online with many retailers. Please contact me for further information if this is something that you are not familiar with.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Jackson', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Nicky Jackson
February 2025

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior year
	funds	funds	Funds	funds	total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	103,904.84	-	-	103,904.84	95,222.92
Activities for generating funds	12,458.05	-	-	12,458.05	7,102.84
Investment income	1,152.42	5,030.39	-	6,182.81	5,330.39
Incoming resources from charitable activities	23,302.07	-	-	23,302.07	19,586.91
Other incoming resources	3,279.79	-	-	3,279.79	4,448.86
Total income	144,097.17	5,030.39	-	149,127.56	131,691.92
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds:					-
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	30.00
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold & other costs	2,406.93	-	-	2,406.93	1,901.98
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	103,445.84	17,759.94	-	121,205.78	149,695.81
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	3,283.92
Total expenditure	105,852.77	17,759.94	-	123,612.71	154,911.71
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	38,244.40	(12,729.55)	-	25,514.85	(23,219.79)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	975.00	282.60	-	1,257.60	914.79
Gross transfers between funds - out	(282.60)	(975.00)	-	(1,257.60)	(914.79)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	32.60	-	-	32.60	122.46
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	38,969.40	(13,421.95)	-	25,547.45	(23,097.33))
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	81,689.27	105,245.65	-	188,934.92	210,032.25
Total funds carried forward	120,658.67	91,823.70	-	212,482.37	186,934.92

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2024

		As at 31/12/2024 £	As at 31/12/2023 £
Fixed assets			
	6425: Kemp Legacy Investment Fund	1,456.73	1,424.13
	6450: Church Heating System	-	-
		<u>1,456.73</u>	<u>1,424.13</u>
Current assets			
	6501: Nat West current account	20,574.08	14,486.84
	6505: Nat West Business Reserve Account	28,389.01	8,198.06
	6510: CCLA General PCC V Account	-	-
	6511: CCLA Hoare Gift Account	1,000.00	1,000.00
	6512: CCLA Bequests Account	34,124.13	32,838.74
	6530: Virgin Charity Deposit Account	65,573.12	64,494.89
	6550: CCLA RBL Bond Proceeds	67,155.68	64,626.05
	Z05 Accounts Receivable	1,525.58	2,964.71
Total Current Assets		<u>218,341.60</u>	<u>188,809.29</u>
Liabilities			
	6602: Wedding Deposits for this year's weddings	-	-
	6603: Wedding Deposits for future year's weddings	100.00	100.00
	6610: Accruals	125.00	125.00
	6611: Accruals over 1 year	-	-
	6699: Agency Collections	3,695.17	1,841.63
	Z04 Accounts Payable	3,395.79	1,231.87
Total Liabilities		<u>7,315.96</u>	<u>3,298.50</u>
Total assets			
Less current liabilities		<u>212,482.37</u>	<u>186,934.92</u>
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	25,514.85	(23,219.79)
	Z01 Starting Balances	186,934.92	210,032.25
	Z02 Other gains/(losses)	32.60	122.46
	Z03 Gains and Losses own use	-	-
Total Reserves		<u>212,482.37</u>	<u>186,934.92</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS:			
Unrestricted	General Fund	107,906.97	71,658.23
Designated		12,751.70	10,031.04
Restricted		91,823.70	105,245.65
Funds of the Church		<u>212,482.37</u>	<u>186,934.92</u>

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

The accounts are a summary of the Financial Statements which have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner. A copy of the full financial statements, including relevant notes to the accounts, is available from the Administrator, Debbie Filer.

Churchwardens' Report on The Fabric of St. Mary's Church 2024

During April 2024 the church was unfortunately the subject of a break-in. This was through one of the toilet windows, and involved some damage to the kitchen and Parish Room cupboard doors. These were repaired and paid for through an insurance claim. Since then, the main church keys have been relocated.

A Faculty application was made for a new soakaway at the east end of the church to deal with rainwater. This was granted in early 2025 and works will be taking place soon.

Generally, the church and Parish Room building is in good repair. Discussions are continuing with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Appointed Architect to find a sustainable solution to the church's heating to meet the Church of England's Net Zero commitments for 2030.

Jeanette Edwards & Robert Jackson
February 2025

Terrier & Inventory Report

In early 2024, following a donation, we were able to replace the Hydroboiler in the Parish Room kitchen. Following the break in, we disposed of two filing cabinets and replaced them with a new shelving unit in the Parish Room cupboard.

Robert Jackson & Jeanette Edwards
Churchwardens

Report on the Churchyard

We remained indebted to the PIOCC group for the maintenance of the Conservation Area and for the lawn mowing team for maintaining the churchyard. At the end of 2023 our previous contractor moved on to different challenges which meant the maintenance of the non-lawn areas around the church became something of a challenge. However, at the end of the year, we have been fortunate to engage the services of Tom Allen Gardening

Early in the 2024 we installed a bench to the memory of "The Joyces" - Hill and Neville and another in the new cremated remains area in memory of Trevor Hitchman.

Robert Jackson - Churchwarden
February 2025

REPORT FROM THE BASINGTOKE DEANERY SYNOD, 2024

In February the Deanery Synod met at Christ the King, Brighton Hill, to welcome our recently installed Bishop of Winchester, Philip Mounstephen. In conversation with Ben Kautzer (Area Dean), Bishop Philip shared his background. By means of input from +Philip and from shared group discussions, ideas were shared over the three topics: Healing, Heritage and Hope.

Healing: Reimagining the Culture of the Diocese

Asked how he wanted to be an agent of healing, +Philip wanted to acknowledge the hurt and sadness that had been experienced by some people. He did recognise that not everyone was aware of what had taken place. It is in loving God, and loving our neighbours, that healing begins.

+Philip quoted GK Chesterton who said: “The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.” How can we, in this deanery, ‘give room for good things to run wild’? Our churches should make room for those with innovation and creativity. The Holy Spirit makes good things happen. “Listen, Learn, Love, Laugh”

Heritage: Rediscovering the Mission, Ministry, and Purpose of Deaneries

In groups, we considered the questions: “What is the Deanery for?” and “What are we trying to do?”

Hope: Reaffirming the Unity of the Body of Christ in Troubled Times

Bishop Philip stated that we need unity if all God’s people are to be equipped to be agents of hope. He quoted Ephesians 4, vv 1-5: “*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*”

During long vacancies hope dwindles, and there is no mentoring or care for ministers who find themselves overworked trying to support churches in vacancy. +Philip gave his assurance that there would not be a continuation of the past re-organisation. A divided Church cannot stand; Church is called to be united in the truth. The Church should cherish unity, whilst recognising our multi-layered diversity, through better listening and increased communication.

Before the meeting closed, Ben Kautzer and Nicola Such (Assistant Area Dean) announced that Christine Watson was standing down as Deanery Secretary and thanked her for 18 years of service.

The second Deanery Synod meeting of the year took place in June at St. Mary's Church, Eastrop, and focused on mission and ministry amongst older people. The Area Dean, Ben Kautzer, spoke about the centrality of this work for the pastoral ministry of all our parishes. He gave examples of care home ministry and those coming for confirmation later in life to illustrate that the journey of faith is never finished.

Kate Powell told the story of Anna Chaplaincy in Alton. She shared her experience building a ministry amongst older people, growing her team, and working in partnership within her local community. She highlighted several key priorities: care & residential homes, community groups, home visits, street chaplaincy, and Anna Chaplaincy events.

Kate's plenary talk was followed by three twenty-minute breakout group sessions. Synod members and the many guests were invited to choose between the following workshops:

Anna Chaplaincy - Kate Powell (Anna chaplain, Parish of the Resurrection, Alton)

Being Together: Combatting the Loneliness Epidemic - Jenny Cooke (Pastoral care team, Sherborne St John's)

Holiday@Home - Revd Caroline West (Assistant minister, St Mary's Eastrop)

Hospice & End of Life Care - Revd Dominic Thornton (Chaplain, St Michael's Hospice) and Revd Karen West (Associate minister, Silchester)

Messy Vintage: Cultivating Creative Connections - Revd. Nicola Such (Vicar, Basingstoke Down)

Mission & Ministry in Care Homes - Revd Jane Leese (PTO, Basingstoke Team)

Social Prescribing: Pioneering Community Partnerships - Tracey Powell (Community connector/social prescriber, Watership Down Health)

The aim of the breakout groups was to spark creative thinking, signpost to some good resources, and encourage collaboration between pastoral teams within the Deanery.

In August the synod met again at Christ the King, Brighton Hill for our 'Summer Social'. After a few updates and items of business, we spent some time getting to know our fellow members of synod. It was confirmed that Revd Nicola Such (Basingstoke Down) was standing down as Assistant Area Dean.

The final meeting of 2024 took place at St. Mark's Church, Kempshott, in October. The focus of the meeting was Creation Care and becoming a more sustainable Church. Our guest speaker was Sam Scott, diocesan environmental officer, assisted by Lucy Howlett, project coordinator for the Net Zero Carbon campaign in the diocese.

In his talk, interspersed with group discussions, Sam showed how, starting from a place of gratitude, creation care is an opportunity for:

Discipleship - as disciples we are called to be part of the work of sustaining and renewing God's creation.

Mission - as the environment is one of the top issues for adults, and even more so for young people, there is an opportunity to find common ground and build links with schools, groups and individuals. If we are not seen as interested in this issue it becomes an obstacle to mission.

Resource Stewardship - a chance to make savings in expenditure as well as reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants.

Our next Deanery Synod meeting will be led by Richard Brand (Archdeacon of Winchester), who will be guiding us through a period of transition as Bishop David takes up his new role as Bishop of Truro, previously held by +Philip Mounstephen.

Rebecca Aldridge, Jo Jarrett-Kerr, Paul Skinner

ANNUAL REPORT



Approved by the PCC on 9th March 2025

Signed by the Chair, The Reverend Jo Mulliner

Accounts



(Photo by kind permission of Michael Wright)

Incumbent: The Reverend Jo Mulliner

Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7DJ

Large print copies available on request

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2010 this PCC became an independent charity number 1136606

Membership of the PCC during the 12 months January-December 2023 was

Incumbent The Rev Jo Mulliner (Chair)

Churchwardens & Vice Chairs Mark Holley
Robert Jackson

*Representatives
on Deanery Synod* Joanna Jarrett-Kerr
Paul Skinner
Rebecca Aldridge

Elected members Jeanette Edwards
Debbie Filer (Secretary)
Janet Jackson
Nicky Jackson (Treasurer)
Alan Jones (*resigned April 2023*)
Mike Leaming
Andree McLean
Penny Potter (*from March 2023*)
Sue Smith
David Stevens (*from March 2023*)
Julia Wright

Bank:

The National Westminster Bank plc, 3 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Independent Examiner:

Mr Colin Bezant
3 Up Fallow, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a charity established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules. Its activities are to provide a ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality.

a) Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of New Members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The new regulations now apply, as stated in the Annual Report 2012.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

b) Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Members

The Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator are offered formal training through the Diocese. Courses in general church governance are also held that are recommended to all PCC members and other in-house steps are taken to ensure PCC members understand fully their role and responsibilities on the Council.

c) Organisational Structure

In 2023 the PCC met in February, March, May, July, September and November. These meetings were in person with some members joining via Zoom if unable to attend upon occasion.

d) Committees:

The following report to the PCC:

*di) During 2023 the **Standing and Finance Committee** met in person in January, March, May, July, September and November and comprised:*

Vicar - The Rev'd Jo Mulliner, Churchwardens: Mark Holley, Robert Jackson, PCC Secretary: Debbie Filer, PCC Treasurer (*until March 2023: Julia Wright (from March 2023: Nicky Jackson*; PCC Elected Member: Andree McLean. Both Nicky Jackson & Julia Wright attended meetings throughout the year as either Treasurer or a PCC elected member.

*dii) The **Building Group** (Fabric Group)*

The Vicar, Mark Holley, Robert Jackson, Mike Leaming and David Stevens comprise this group, which meets according to need to discuss matters concerning the Church Building and Fabric.

e) Risk Management

The major risks to which the Church is exposed relate to financial instability, fraud, failure to comply with legal obligations and commitments in relation to the church building.

The reserves in our General Fund are £71,658 which is an increase of £6,949 across the year. Overall funds are £186,935, a reduction of £23,097 across the year (£19,184 of this was the old churchyard works).

The PCC is very conscious that the expenditure of the church continues to be greater than our income. We are fortunate to have additional reserves in designated and restricted funds that are available to help us in the short term. The objective of the PCC is still for all day to day expenses to be covered by the General Fund in the long term and the Generous July campaign in 2021 helped to increase our regular income. Income and expenditure is closely monitored and the use of the computerised accounting system assists in this.

The PCC ensures that any minor expenditure has to be approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC. The Treasurer monitors payments requested and any payments made require the approval of two signatories authorised by the PCC. All expenditure is assigned to a cost code and budgets are set and agreed for each of these. These budgets are regularly monitored.

The PCC considers carefully its legal obligations and has policies in force to ensure they are met.

The Churchwardens and David Stevens, the PCC appointed Health and Safety Officer, monitor and manage fire and health and safety matters connected with the use of the church premises and report back to the PCC. A Health and Safety Policy, a Lone Workers' Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Vulnerable Adult Policy are in place and updated annually.

The Parish is registered for the purposes of the Data Protection Act with the Administrator as the Data Controller. All information is held and used in a manner which complies with the General Data Protection Regulations. GDPR is a standing

agenda item and PCC members, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete and review training.

We are fortunate in having such a beautiful church building but this does impose considerable obligations. The condition of the building is monitored regularly by the Churchwardens and the PCC appointed architect. Reports of concerns are made to the PCC who determine what action should be taken and how any expenditure should be financed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The chief role of the Parochial Church Council is, together with the Incumbent and clergy, to promote the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC represents parishioners and, on their behalf, considers and agrees appropriate action on matters relating to St Mary's Church, its fabric, finances, daily life and future direction. The Incumbent is the Chair of the PCC and Mark Holley and Robert Jackson (Churchwardens) are joint Vice Chairs. The business of the PCC is conducted through discussion, review and liaison with other interested groups and individuals, any of whom may, in this way, raise concerns or topics for consideration.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Old Basing and Lychpit follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their work for and in the Parish. The Council Members believe that promoting the work of the Church of England in this Parish helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively in the Parish as a whole and so provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who wish to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and by service by members of the Church in and to their communities and for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

In 2023 there were 4 weddings; 18 funerals (8 in the Church, 6 at the Crematorium and 4 at the Graveside) and 8 baptisms;
There were 139 Christmas communicants.

ELECTORAL ROLL

On 31st December 2023 the Electoral Roll stood at 126 of whom 104 were resident in the Parish and 22 non-resident.

VICAR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023

Much has happened in the world of St. Mary's over the last year so I'm going to get in early with a disclaimer – I am bound to have forgotten something! Please do not be offended by this – each moment is precious and valuable and wonderful, but trying to hold all things at all times and then present them in a coherent fashion is not an exact science. Indeed, life is not an exact science so there is indeed something real and living about this report!

April strode in with a generous offering of the Palm Sunday procession from the Infant School (sadly no donkey – but I still live in hope!) Holy Week itself saw a diversity of Stations of The Cross offering differing perspectives; Maundy Thursday foot washing and altar stripping with Watch; a Good Friday three hours before the cross with enough of a mix of reflection, quiet, readings, music and tradition to meet the needs of many. On Easter Eve we eventually managed to kindle the first light of Easter (an eternal wind tunnel issue!) and enjoy Oliver's singing of the Exsultet. Normal service timings followed on Easter day with a joyous preaching of us all being known personally by name (our own names, regardless of the strictures of a cruel and controlling world) – and in our own names recognising the calling of Christ.

Early summer saw the pattern of life in baptism and wedding prep, funerals and social visits/activities including the Phoenix Concert.

June began with Trinity Sunday used as a celebration of our planet to celebrate/give thanks for our commitment to Eco Church. It is intended that this be a regular marking/reminder of the importance of our stewardship and its integrity with our faith and witness.

Drawing towards the end of the Yr.6's time in Junior School was marked with a memorable trip for us to the Cathedral – marked amongst other things by a classic +David active preach, chocolate brownies and much liturgical drumming! A great day was had by all.

This was also the time when the Vicar braved a Yr2 outing to the Titanic Exhibition in Southampton. This was (in equal measures) both fun and exhausting!

And who could forget the joys of the summer festival – ‘All Things Bright & Beautiful, All Creatures Great & Small’? A bold combination of traditional stalls, loads of food courtesy of the Men’s Breakfast team, teddy bears risking life and limb on a zip wire staffed by amazing humans, the revival of ‘soak the vicar’...all wrapped up with a Pet Blessing service which was blessed with eight dogs, three cat photos (very wise!), a tortoise and a snake..... This was a joy-filled event which it is hoped to make a tradition of on Harvest weekend in future years.

July marked Junior Head Caroline Welch’s leaving service and pilgrimage and leavers’ days for the outgoing Yr.6s.

I also accepted an invitation to talk to the GCSE RE groups at Richard Aldworth School – the links from this are still growing.

August is traditionally a quieter month....although Debbie and I would contest this! Much to prepare and arrange for weddings and baptisms – as well as ongoing funeral ministry.

Helen Holley preached at the Patronal Festival – a richly creative imagining of Mary.

I further enhanced our linkage with our Methodist friends by sharing worship at St. Mary’s and my visiting Chapel to preach. The now not so new Reverend Claire Simpson (Methodist Minister) and I are working on more opportunities for sharing in future including the creation of an ‘Open Table’ here in Old Basing in the not too distant future. <https://opentable.lgbt>

Late summer and into October was a relatively quiet time – as both Debbie and myself took annual leave. We still managed to pack baptism prep, wedding prep, burial of ashes, school visits and planning for Remembrance into this time.

November began with the treat of a rather beautiful autumnal wedding. Remembrance Sunday brought about a strong rendition of “The Farmer’s Boy” as part of the musical offering from the men of the village and a nearly precisely timed Chinook flyover from RAF Odiham.

I am indebted to so many for the smooth running of the Christmas Festival (with elves!), most of Advent and the whole of Christmas as I was out of action thanks to the combination of a cold and Covid in one dose. We have an amazing community and this was felt and experienced even by those of us who were trapped inside by frailty or illness. Thank you.

The first quarter of the year has been marked by an inordinate number of funerals which have kept myself and a number of other clergy and laity fully occupied. Debbie has been stunning in the ongoing organisation of these – handling multiple burials/cremations at once.

Ash Wednesday arrived early, coinciding with Valentine's Day and Andree and Penny J. bedecked the church with love hearts which have been a beautiful blessing to many – including today as the Juniors were waved off in winning love for Easter.

Early Easter is a challenge that we have risen to and we look forward to journeying together to the point of resurrection where love always wins.

Throughout the year there has been a great deal of interaction with both the Junior and Infant Schools, Oakfields and Basingfield Court. This includes visits, worship, teaching, prayers and generally being present. I am indebted to all those who work so hard to make this possible – Helen Holley, Rosemary Kershaw and Patricia Stanley. I am also very grateful to the Infant School for a real open heart towards contact beyond assemblies; and to Gemma Lillywhite for her effortless weaving of church/school/fait h in a way which is open, inclusive and welcoming to those of all faiths and none.

This has been an exciting year for both Helen Holley and Colin Bezant as they finalise their training and begin to be more conscious of their developing roles and what might be possible in future.

I am indebted to a strong team which works tirelessly to keep all things flowing beautifully for us in church and community. This is a blessing and nothing short of a miracle.

NB We are always in need of more hands on deck – so please, do not be shy if you wish to volunteer!

Safeguarding at St Mary's 2023

St Mary's PCC has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church. It is fully compliant with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). No Serious Incident occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners. The PCC has appointed Jeanette Edwards as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with Safeguarding being a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. Details

of how to contact the Parish and Diocese Safeguarding Officers and the Vicar, are on display in the church.

Risk Assessments have focussed on keeping people safe when visiting the church and the church buildings.

All staff and volunteers have role descriptions in place and are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance and appropriate training is completed following Church of England guidance. Training is up to date. All Disclosure and Barring checks have been carried out online with those valid for 5 years now starting to be renewed after 3 years in line with latest requirements. References are being requested for volunteers already in post commencing with priority roles including Safeguarding and PCC.

The electronic Safeguarding Dashboard is completed to Level 3.

Jeanette Edwards
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Eco Church

Eco Church: A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

A free online survey and supporting resources designed to equip churches to express our care for God's world in our worship and teaching; in how we look after our church and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation. The vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. Eco Church works through 5 key areas of church life:

St Mary's Key Area Leaders

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • <u>Worship and teaching</u> | Rev Jo |
| • Management of church <u>buildings</u> | Robert Jackson |
| • Management of church <u>land</u> | Rebecca Aldridge & Tim Carr |
| • <u>Community and global engagement</u> | Mark Holley |
| • <u>Lifestyle</u> | Jeanette Edwards |

St Mary's achieved both the Bronze and Silver Eco Church Award since joining in Dec22. This accomplishment is a significant milestone in our journey towards creating a more sustainable and eco-friendly community. Receiving the Silver Eco

Church Award is not just a recognition of our efforts but a reflection of our shared dedication to caring for God's creation. We have all worked hard to implement eco-friendly practices within our church, from conserving energy to reducing waste and promoting environmental education.

Some of the key initiatives that contributed to our Silver Eco Church Award include:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Continuing reduction of our energy consumption by education, moving to energy-efficient bulbs, and optimising our heating systems.
- **Waste Reduction:** Our recycling and composting programs have reduced landfill waste.
- **Conservation:** We are very fortunate to have the PIOCC Team and the continued hard work they put into the Conservation Area.
- **Community Engagement:** We have actively engaged with our community promoting eco-awareness including having the Green Team attending the Christmas Festival.
- **Eco-friendly Worship:** Our worship services increasingly incorporate themes of environmental stewardship, reminding us of our responsibility to care for God's creation.
-

We are now setting our sights on the Gold Eco Church Award. This is not only an ambitious goal but also a reflection of our commitment to continuous improvement in environmental stewardship. As we embark on this journey towards the Gold Eco Church Award, we will focus on the following areas:

- **Renewable Energy:** Exploring opportunities to transition to renewable energy sources such as solar power.
- **Biodiversity:** Continue to enhance the natural environment around our church and involvement with the St Mary's CoE Jnr School and Basing Infant School.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging sustainable practices and exploring ways to reduce our carbon footprint further including the installation of bicycle racks.
- **Community Outreach:** Expanding our environmental outreach programmes and partnering with local organisations to make a broader impact.
- **Environmental Lifestyle Audit:** Repeat annually
- **Lifestyle:** Continue regular bulletin articles and monthly tips

Jeanette Edwards

Festivals

During June 'All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small' were celebrated over the festival weekend which started with an enjoyable family evening at the Beetle Drive and ended with what will become an annual Pet Service. 12 displays surrounded St Mary's alongside a variety of stalls and Children's Activities. Highlights were definitely Soaking the Vicar, Teddies flights on the Zip-wire and an interactive Nature Trail of animal prints within the Conservation Area. Men's Breakfast provided a BBQ with refreshments and cream teas also available.

The very popular Church and Tower Tours returned in August with visitors able to learn the church history from the talented tour guides and those able to climb the tower to see wonderful views across the village,

In December we held 'The Holly and the Ivy' Eco friendly Christmas Tree Festival and an enjoyable Christmas Sing-A-Long played by Paul Wright and compared by Jo Jarrett-Kerr. 25 trees lit up St Mary's throughout Christmas until Epiphany with the Madame Le Houx Du Lierre by Aude Jarrett voted as the visitors favourite. Tim and Margaret Carr, on behalf of PIOCC chose Holly and Ivy by St Mary's CE Junior School as the most eco-friendly tree. A Fayre was also held over both days, Men's Breakfast supplied hot food which was warmly welcomed and the children enjoyed finding elves in the church and the 'Who's Poo' Trail in the Conservation area .

During both festivals the School Choirs and RBL Band of Corps entertained during the afternoon. Besides raising almost £5000 in funds these events were an opportunity for outreach and fellowship with the parish. The PCC is very grateful to parishioners for their support at both well attended events. It was lovely seeing the children and adults from the local community and beyond enjoying themselves in and around our church.

Preparations for future events are already underway including The Summer Flower Festival over the weekend of 21-23 June with the annual Christmas Tree Festival 6-8 December.

Jeanette Edwards

St. Mary's Choir

Since last year, activity in the Choir has been quiet. As Director, I am most grateful to the faithful ten who are able to attend regularly and to our good friends able to come on special occasions amongst which we sang at 1 wedding and 3 funerals in 2023.

We have been very pleased to welcome Jeanette to our number and send love and best wishes to those who cannot come as often as they would like.

The Choir year follows that of the Church and we are currently looking forward to singing “The Cross of Christ” on Good Friday.

Jo Jarrett-Kerr
Choir Director

Flower Arranging Team

Our year began as usual in April 2023, with 16 volunteer arrangers.

Sadly 2 arrangers left in October and November and another stands down at the end of this years rota. There has been an article in the Parish magazine requesting more volunteers.

We continued to arrange 5 vases of flowers every two weeks, from April to February the following year.

This year we had 8 arrangements for the Easter services and Harvest Festival, but at Christmas, due to the Tree Festival, there were 4 arrangements and an Advent wreath. We also arrange two Christmas Trees in both the Lobby and on the Chancel steps.

We continue to have two Duty Organisers in place for approximately 3 month periods who can liaise with Debbie Filer, Church Administrator, who will advise on both wedding and funeral dates.

Arrangers may claim expenses up to £25 per arrangement but I believe few arrangers do this.

We strive to use as little floral foam as possible now, in keeping with sustainable practices as recommended by The Church of England.

Our A.G.M is held in November and this year the 2024 Flower Festival was discussed and all arrangers participate in this.

Lorna Guthrie

St Mary's House Groups

The Pilgrim housegroup – formed some years ago and arising from our church's meetings that followed the study guides of that name by Stephen Cottrell - is still going strong. We are a group of eight at the moment and we meet on Friday evenings for about two hours (7-9 pm) in our homes, rotating the venue as suits us.

Our purpose is to read and discuss Bible passages – our last being 1 Thessalonians using the study guide by Tom Wright – and a variety of books with Christian themes. This year we greatly enjoyed the book “Lydia” by Paula Gooder. In this book the author has woven a fictional history concerning the life and times of Lydia, the dealer in purple cloth mentioned briefly in the Book of Acts. We felt we had learned a great deal about the early church in Philippi, about its troubles under Roman rule and its triumphs of inclusion and loving fellowship.

We continued in Advent with Paula Gooder, reading her book “Journey to the Manger”. This presented us with some challenges, but we had good discussions and felt we had gained some new insights.

This new year we are starting “How to be a Bad Christian“ by David Tomlinson which will, we feel, present a very different challenge and learning experience ! We shall break off this book in Lent and turn to “In God's Hands” by Desmond Tutu and then return to David Tomlinson.

Please speak to us if you are interested in joining us.

Penny Potter and Robert Jackson.

Men's Breakfast Club

Our getting together as a group (we are now in our 17th year) was brought about at the request of the then churchwarden Myrna Lewis who thought it was about time we men had a chance to meet together as a group. She approached a couple of the congregation with the idea and the Men's Breakfast group was born. Whilst the group meets in the parish room on the 1st Saturday of each month under the auspices of St Mary's Church, we are not a “church group” as such, any man or boy (yes, some have at times brought their children with them) is welcome to attend. There are no fees just a small charge to cover the cost of food. We have at times been able to make donations to the church from our fund, more particularly to the kitchen to replenish stocks etc., but in January 2024 the group were able to give £200 to St Mary's Church.

As a group we continue to flourish, we have a number of “regular” attendees, around 12/14, with a similar number of colleagues who turn up on an ad hoc basis. We had a maximum of 19 on one occasion last year with several servings to 18 men but typically servings of 14 or more are the norm. I know we are a “men’s group” but we did have a first last year, we entertained a lady, Rev’d Jo, to our breakfast group in the latter part of last year.

During the summer we organised a visit to the Hogs Back brewery for 12 of us (maximum party size allowed). One of our number arranged and drove a minibus and a great time was had by all!

As in past years we had a team running a BBQ for the church summer fayre as well as this year, a BBQ for the 2023 Christmas tree festival (for all of which the breakfast group bears the cost of the gas) as well as managing refreshments at the latter and a first (in 2023) we were asked to run the BBQ at the Old Basing Carnival. As in previous years we again supplied and made the posies for Mother’s Day and last but not least we have at times been able to supply some “muscle” when called upon, even helping Rev’d Jo in moving her furniture on a couple of occasions.

The invitation to come along for breakfast (we can also entertain vegetarians if notified beforehand) is open to all men and we try to serve breakfast by 9am (and most times we do!) so if you are at a loose end on the first Saturday of each month come along and join us and enjoy a full English breakfast, you would be most welcome.

Chris Beadle

Ploughman’s Lunch Club

The Ploughman’s team, a group of 8 predominantly long standing volunteers, have continued to successfully run our lunch club during the past year. We are pleased to say that it remains well supported and welcomed by the parish.

The team offer a waitressed table service for a pre booked limited number of lunchers, who book from the 1st monthly for that month’s lunch.

For our Christmas lunch we also provide a free raffle, provided by the team, and offer wine or a non alcoholic alternative courtesy of a local firm of Chartered Accountants, LMW Ltd, who have their office in Old Basing. Any donations for the wine is given to St Mary’s for the advent appeal.

Our prices finally increased from September to £4.50 from £4.00 for three courses, our first increase since February 2017 despite the significant rise in food costs. Lunchers still only pay for the number of courses they have. We continue to make a profit, which remains ringed fenced in the church accounts for the upkeep of the kitchen and parish room. This year in the first 11 months I am delighted to say we added £655 to the balance.

Finally, sadly one of our long serving volunteers who was known by many in the village, Pam Loxton, passed away earlier this year. Her long term contribution to ploughman's lunches is testament to her community spirit and she continued to help us despite her illness. We still miss her.

Denise Lane

The Village Café

The Village cafe has continued to operate successfully during 2023.

The cafe has amended its opening hours during the winter months to be the first Friday of the month, and we return to regular weekly openings in March. This has proved to be much more manageable for volunteers.

We have struggled a little throughout 2023 with a lack of volunteers, meaning we could not open in September but we have recruited a number of new members to our team who have made a great difference and should prevent this from happening again in future.

We have continued our fundraising through the year and made donations to local causes including St Michael's Hospice, the Village Hall nursery, and most recently, St Mary's Junior school, to find a sensory room for children who need space when they are feeling heightened or going through a bad time.

We were delighted to be asked by the Parish council to provide bakes for their first Carol evening in December, and we successfully manage almost 400 pieces which went down a storm. It was a very community based evening and could well become an annual event.

Our takings from January - December 2023 were -

Total taken £3428

Rent - £689, which equates to 20.1% of our takings

Profit - £2739.

Deb Thorne

Churchyard Conservation Group (PIOCC)

2023 started with the Big Garden Birdwatch in January. We had a small turn out but still managed to count 11 different birds in our allotted hour. Our working parties continued as usual through the year although we lost several to bad weather, but when those lost fell on a Saturday, we met to enjoy coffee and a catch up in St Mary's Parish Room.

In February one cold morning Stephen Edwards came and gave a well attended bird ringing demonstration where 16 birds from a variety of species were caught and ringed. Stephen provided a fascinating and informative commentary. Following the Big Garden Birdwatch and this ringing we decided to feed the birds December to March. The Bluetits and Robins especially seem pleased.

Once again in June a team lead by Rebecca Aldridge created a wonderful Nature Trail round the Conservation Area for St Mary's Summer Festival. We hope you all saw her wonderful Giraffe. This year's trail was around animals and their relative size. The trail was left in place until the end of the school term for the children to enjoy. In December the Conservation Area was decorated for the Christmas Tree Festival on the theme of the "The holly and the ivy". Aude created some wonderful clay decorations that are still in place on the tree trunks. It was hoped that the trail's theme "Whose Poo" would especially appeal to the children. Again, it was popular with visitors of all ages.

In the autumn we lost an ivy-covered tree that was providing a route for ivy into the nearby Maritime Pine. It was brought down by one of the storms. Fortunately, it was already scheduled for removal as the tree, an old Cupressus, was dead.

The Rev Jo has been a great support and has joined us at our Saturday working parties and our committee meetings providing valuable input on the Church view on some of the issues we face. We have re-introduced our winter Thursday afternoon working parties to help Rev Jo tidy up some of the wilder areas in the vicarage garden and once again to encourage the wildflowers and help the wildlife. Thanks to all the volunteers who enthusiastically turn out at our working parties to help.

Tim Carr

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Old Basing & Lychpit

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out hereafter, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those accounting records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the view given by the accounts.

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
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr Colin Bezant
March 2024

PCC HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023

This is my first year in the role, with Julia gradually loosening her hold on the leading rein. It has been a challenge; at times frustrating, but ultimately rewarding. I am hugely grateful to Julia for all of her help, and always being at the end of a text or email with words of calm and encouragement. I am flying solo next year, so Julia can finally enjoy a well-earned 'retirement', although I am hoping that she will remain at the end of a text or email in a consultancy role.

So, what about the 2023 accounts?

If you look at the headline figures, we have made a large 'loss' this year. However, the picture is not that bleak. This was the year that we finally realised our dream to re-open the old churchyard (to the South of Church Lane) as a cremated remains area, thus providing an additional 417 plots for the interment of ashes of parishioners and members of the church. The works for this cost just under £20,000, which made a large dent in our finances for 2023. However, we will receive income from the interment of ashes in this area which in time will more than cover these costs. Perhaps more importantly, we are able to meet the needs of those who want their ashes interred in consecrated ground.

Our overall income for the year was £131,692, an increase of £14,020 compared to last year. Regular giving was up, and investment income was significantly increased due to the comparatively high interest rates. We also held a number of successful fund-raising activities including the very popular church & tower tours, and the most successful Christmas Tree festival to date. So, a big thank-you to everyone who has donated over the year and/or supported out events in various ways.

Expenditure for the year was £154,912, an increase of £27,819 compared to last year. Much of this was one-off cost, but we are still seeing very high utility bills and this looks set to continue for some time.

So overall we made a loss of £23,220, compared to £9421 last year. Looking just at the General Fund (the one that is used for all day-to-day expenses except the administrator's salary), this grew by £6948 through 2023.

We are very fortunate to have a few funds at our disposal that can be used to meet specific expenses, and the Friends of St Mary's who kindly help us cover the cost of work to the fabric of the church. However, the simple fact remains that we are spending more than we are being given or raising through fundraising activities and this cannot go on indefinitely. We need to encourage our friends and neighbours to attend events and donate to our funds in whatever ways they can. The whole parish loves our church building, and we need to encourage them to help us to secure its long term future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Jackson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicky Jackson
February 2024

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	95,222.92		-	95,222.92	87,261.09
Activities for generating funds	7,102.84	-	-	7,102.84	9,843.88
Investment income	899.58	4,430.81		5,330.39	1,644.46
Incoming resources from charitable activities	19,586.91	-		19,586.91	18,304.48
Other incoming resources	4,448.86	-		4,448.86	618.12
Total income	127,261.11	4,430.81		131,691.92	117,672.03
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds:					
Cost of generating voluntary income	30.00			30.00	
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold & other costs	1,901.98			1,901.98	3,009.63
Investment management costs	-				
Charitable activities	113,562.43	36,133.38		149,695.81	120,799.77
Governance costs	-		-	-	-
Other resources used	3,283.92	-	-	3,283.92	3,283.92
Total expenditure	118,778.33	36,133.38		154,911.71	127,093.32
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	8,482.78	(31,702.57)		(23,219.79)	(9,421.29)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds – in	21.56	893.23	-	914.79	351.81
Gross transfers between funds - out	(893.23)	(21.56)		(914.79)	(351.81)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	122.46		122.46	(173.67)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	7,611.11	(30,708.44)	-	(23,097.33)	(9,594.96)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	74,078.16	135,954.09		210,032.25	219,627.21
Total funds carried forward	81,689.27	105,245.65		186,934.92	210,032.25

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2023

		As at 31/12/2023 £	As at 31/12/2022 £
Fixed assets			
	6425: Kemp Legacy Investment Fund	1,424.13	1,301.67
	6450: Church Heating System	-	3,283.92
		<u>1,424.13</u>	<u>4,585.59</u>
Current assets			
	6501: Nat West current account	14,486.84	12,944.31
	6505: Nat West Business Reserve Account	8,198.06	27,933.63
	6510: CCLA General PCC V Account	-	10,800.00
	6511: CCLA Hoare Gift Account	1,000.00	1,000.00
	6512: CCLA Bequests Account	32,838.74	31,397.90
	6530: Virgin Charity Deposit Account	64,694.89	64,331.61
	6550: CCLA RBL Bond Proceeds	64,626.05	61,790.50
	Z05 Accounts Receivable	2,964.71	2,005.38
		<u>188,809.29</u>	<u>212,203.33</u>
Liabilities			
	6602: Wedding Deposits for this year's weddings	-	-
	6603: Wedding Deposits for future year's weddings	100.00	200.00
	6610: Accruals	125.00	165.04
	6611: Accruals over 1 year	-	-
	6699: Agency Collections	1,841.63	1,629.06
	Z04 Accounts Payable	1,231.87	4,762.57
		<u>3,298.50</u>	<u>6,756.67</u>
Total assets			
Less current liabilities		186,934.92	210,032.25
Represented by Funds			
Unrestricted	General Fund	71,658.23	64,709.52
Designated	Children's Corner	18.99	18.99
	Noticeboard Fund	58.00	-
	Ploughmen's Lunch	9,438.34	8,629.85
	Special Projects 3	250.00	250.00
	Surplices for Choir	206.68	197.80
	Tesco Technology	59.03	272.00
Restricted	Agency Collection	627.05	627.05
	Dorothy Iris Silver	33,461.22	48,363.43
	Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	28,480.43	22,827.99
	Hoare Gift Account	1,090.31	1,043.45
	Investment Bond – Warden & Vicar Discretion	45,162.51	61,790.50
	Kemp Legacy Fund	1,424.13	1,301.67
Funds of the Church		186,934.92	210,032.25

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

The accounts are a summary of the Financial Statements which have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner. A copy of the full financial statements, including relevant notes to the accounts, is available from the Administrator, Debbie Filer.

Churchwardens' Report on The Fabric of St. Mary's Church 2023

In 2023, the biggest undertaking was the replacement of the soakaway to the northeast corner of the church. The blockage of the downpipe had been identified in the 2022 Quinquennial Report, but the cause was unknown. Working with the Appointed Architect, the Chancellor of the Diocese and the Diocesan Advisory Committee we were allowed to undertake investigatory works.

Having discovered that the issue was a failed soakaway, we then applied for a "List B" approval. The failed soakaway this was then replaced in the summer and the ground reinstated.

We are grateful to the Friends of St Mary's who provided a grant for these works.

The rest of the Fabric remains in generally good repair, although there will always be matters to ensure that remains the situation. We are also looking at ways to reduce our energy footprint, in line with our Eco Church credentials and the Church of England's aim to meet Net Zero by 2030.

Mark Holley & Robert Jackson
February 2024

Terrier & Inventory Report

Towards the end of 2023 we installed WIFI within the church and Parish Room. This is provided with a wireless router up the church tower, with the signal sent by a Powerline adaptor to a sub-router by the north door. The signal is then taken by a series of extenders in the lobby and Parish Room. This was paid for by the remainder of a grant from Tesco Stores we received a couple of years; the main part had been used for the system used for 'broadcasting' of services.

A new Sum Up machine with the St. Mary's Logo was provided by the diocese and has been placed by the North door to facilitate easier donations.

A Home Communion Set was kindly donated by Rev. Heather which will assist in home visits.

Mark Holley- Churchwarden
February 2024

Report on the Churchyard

During early 2023 we received grants from both Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council which allowed us to replace the two wooden noticeboards at the northeast and southwest corners of the churchyard with new metal ones. These allow notices to be protected from the weather and should be robust.

As announced at last year's APCM the PCC applied for a Faculty to allow us to use part of the 'closed' churchyard to the south of Church Lane for the interment of cremated remains. Following discussions with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, who looked after the area, works to provide paths were installed in the autumn of 2023 and the first internments took place before the end of the year. This was paid for by a restricted fund held for religious purposes.

At the end of the year, permission was granted for a new bench to be installed on the area to the west of the church. This is dedicated to the two Joyces – Hill and Neville – who lived in the Parish for their whole lives. The bench has been installed at the beginning of 2024.

We remain indebted to the work of both the PIOCC group and the lawn mower team for maintaining the majority of the main churchyard. The lawn mower team have kindly agreed to keep the new cremated remains area under maintenance when this is required.

The rest of the main churchyard area has been maintained professionally, by Dickinson's Garden and Tree Maintenance, although this contract has now completed as Mr Dickinson has moved on to other ventures, and we are now looking to find a new contractor.

Robert Jackson - Churchwarden
February 2024

REPORT FROM THE BASINGTOKE DEANERY SYNOD, 2023

A new triennium (three-year term) of the Deanery Synod began in July, following APCMs in the parishes. However, all three lay representatives from St. Mary's were re-elected at our APCM. The main posts in the Synod also continued with the same holders, namely Area Dean, Revd. Dr. Ben Kautzer; Assistant Area Dean, Revd. Nicola Such; Lay Chair, Dr. Philip Hiorns.

The first Deanery Synod meeting of 2023 was held in February at St. Mary's Church, Eastrop. The focus for the evening was community engagement. We welcomed Kate Seagrave, Church Planting Missioner for the Winchester School of Mission, who led an interactive discussion on the approach to welcoming new people to our churches. She advised us to think about the gifts already present within our church communities and how new initiatives could spring out of these.

Our second visitor was Martin Graham, representing 'As One' in Hampshire. This is an alliance of community organisations, faith organisations, local authorities, businesses, schools and residents, united in the belief that community spirit and supportive community are vital. The aim is to encourage and facilitate the creation of vibrant communities street-by-street. In the deanery, Christ Church Chineham, St. Andrew's Church Sherborne St. John and many churches in Tadley have joined this initiative, alongside the borough council, Chineham Scouts, Great Binfields Primary School and Basingstoke Voluntary Action.

The second meeting was held at St Michael's Church Basingstoke in May. The focus at this meeting was mission and ministry in our local schools. We welcomed Julia Jones and Fiona Monger from REinspired, representing 25 years of experience of church and school working together. They explained the interactive ways in which Bible truths can be taught, avoiding the use of jargon. 'Non-faith' schools particularly welcome this support towards achieving their RE Ofsted targets. Potentially, each child may have a spiritual encounter and grow in Biblical and spiritual literacy.

In small groups the children are equipped with the tools to be open, and given the opportunity to be heard. Often complex emotions and circumstances (for example, relationship breakdown, death, loss) are shared. Visual, audio and kinaesthetic (tactile learning involving physical activity) methods of interaction may all be involved. The children are not learning about relationship but learning through relationship.

Synod Members then attended workshops of their choice from REinspired, Mental Health & Wellbeing (Sochi Ezeanowai), Open the Book + Beyond (Kim Robins), PrayerSpace (Helen Miller).

The third and final meeting of 2023 took place at Christ Church Chineham in October. The main agenda item was how we can equip our congregations to bear witness to the love of Christ in their lives and workplaces outside church, where we spend the majority of our time. Speakers from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), Sam Brown and Jules Gadsby, had been invited. We considered how our attitudes to work and to our colleagues might differ because we were Christians. Jules related how his attitude changed when he considered his time (within and outside the workplace) as an opportunity to learn about people and evangelise where and when possible. Viewing any activity as important to God, it becomes time to be used well, do a good job and bless others.

Rebecca Aldridge, Jo Jarrett-Kerr, Paul Skinner

ANNUAL REPORT

Approved by the PCC on 21st March 2024

Signed by the Chair, The Reverend Jo Mulliner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jo Mulliner', is written over a light blue grid background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first part being more stylized and overlapping.

Accounts



(Photo by kind permission of Michael Wright)

Incumbent: The Reverend Heather Leppard/The Reverend Jo Mulliner

Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7DJ

Large print copies available on request

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2010 this PCC became an independent charity number 1136606

Membership of the PCC during the 12 months January-December 2022 was

Incumbent The Rev Heather Leppard (Chair) *until 14 August 2022*
The Rev Jo Mulliner (Chair) *from 22 November 2022*

Churchwardens & Vice Chairs Mark Holley
Robert Jackson

*Representatives
on Deanery Synod* Joanna Jarrett-Kerr
Paul Skinner
Rebecca Aldridge

Elected members Jeanette Edwards
Debbie Filer (Secretary)
Katharine Harding (*until 6 March 2022*)
Mike Jackson (*until 6 March 2022*)
Janet Jackson
Alan Jones
Mike Leaming
Andree McLean
Sue Smith
David Stevens
Julia Wright (Treasurer)

Co-Opted member Nicky Jackson (*from 17 November 2022*)

Bank:

The National Westminster Bank plc, 3 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Independent Examiner:

Mr Colin Bezant
3 Up Fallow, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a charity established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules. Its activities are to provide a ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality.

a) Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of New Members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The new regulations now apply, as stated in the Annual Report 2012.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

b) Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Members

The Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator are offered formal training through the Diocese. Courses in general church governance are also held that are recommended to all PCC members and other in-house steps are taken to ensure PCC members understand fully their role and responsibilities on the Council.

c) Organisational Structure

In 2022 the PCC met in February, March, May, July, September and November. These meetings were in person with some members joining via Zoom if unable to attend upon occasion.

d) Committees:

The following report to the PCC:

*di) During 2022 the **Standing and Finance Committee** met in person in January, March, May, July, September and November and comprised:*

Vicar - The Rev'd Heather Leppard (*January, March, May & July*), Churchwardens: Mark Holley, Robert Jackson, PCC Secretary: Debbie Filer, PCC Treasurer: Julia Wright, PCC elected member: Andree McLean.

dii) The Building Group (Fabric Group)

The Vicar, Mark Holley, Robert Jackson, Mike Leaming and David Stevens (co-opted) comprise this group, which meets according to need to discuss matters concerning the Church Building and Fabric.

This year they met to assess the Quinquennial Report prepared by the then Church Architect, Sarah Harlow of Seymour and Bainbridge Architects. This practice ceased trading in May and the group was involved in the interview process for the new Church Architect who was appointed in September. This is Libby Watts of Liberty Rose Architects.

e) Risk Management

The major risks to which the Church is exposed relate to financial instability, fraud, failure to comply with legal obligations and commitments in relation to the church building.

The reserves in our General Fund are £64,709 which is an increase of over £6,300 in 2022. However, when you take the total funds into account, reserves have decreased by £9,421.

The PCC is very conscious that the expenditure of the church continues to be greater than our income. We are fortunate to have additional reserves in designated and restricted funds that are available to help us in the short term. The objective of the PCC is still for all day to day expenses to be covered by the General Fund in the long term and the Generous July campaign in 2021 helped to increase our regular income. Income and expenditure is closely monitored and the use of the computerised accounting system assists in this.

The PCC ensures that any minor expenditure has to be approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC. The Treasurer monitors payments requested and any payments made require the approval of two signatories authorised by the PCC. All expenditure is assigned to a cost code and budgets are set and agreed for each of these. These budgets are regularly monitored.

The PCC considers carefully its legal obligations and has policies in force to ensure they are met.

The Churchwardens and David Stevens, the PCC appointed Health and Safety Officer, monitor and manage fire and health and safety matters connected with the use of the church premises and report back to the PCC. A Health and Safety Policy, a Lone Workers' Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Vulnerable Adult Policy are in place and updated annually.

The Parish is registered for the purposes of the Data Protection Act with the Administrator as the Data Controller. All information is held and used in a manner which complies with the General Data Protection Regulations. GDPR is a standing agenda item and PCC members, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete and review training.

We are fortunate in having such a beautiful church building but this does impose considerable obligations. The condition of the building is monitored regularly by the Churchwardens and the PCC appointed architect. Reports of concerns are made to the PCC who determine what action should be taken and how any expenditure should be financed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The chief role of the Parochial Church Council is, together with the Incumbent and clergy, to promote the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC represents parishioners and, on their behalf, considers and agrees appropriate action on matters relating to St Mary's Church, its fabric, finances, daily life and future direction. The Incumbent is the Chair of the PCC and Mark Holley and Robert Jackson (Churchwardens) are joint Vice Chairs. The business of the PCC is conducted through discussion, review and liaison with other interested groups and individuals, any of whom may, in this way, raise concerns or topics for consideration.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Old Basing and Lychpit follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their work for and in the Parish. The Council Members believe that promoting the work of the Church of England in this Parish helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively in the Parish as a whole and so provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who wish to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and by service by members of the Church in and to their communities and for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

In 2022 there were 5 weddings; 23 funerals (11 in the Church, 11 at the Crematorium and 1 at the Graveside); 16 baptisms; and 1 renewal of marriage vows. There were 116 Christmas communicants.

ELECTORAL ROLL

On 31st December 2022 the Electoral Roll stood at 124 of whom 105 were resident in the Parish and 19 non-resident.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

2022 has been a busy year for St Mary's, made the more 'interesting' by a vacancy.

The year started with repairs being undertaken to the East Window which had been the subject of 'impact damage'. Now restored, we have this to remind us of our faith when we are in church.

A potential rise in Covid-19 cases, did not stop us having our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in early March, when a new Parochial Church Council was elected. This was a somewhat muted affair due to the potential restrictions.

For these reasons, Lent was also restrained. However, there were the full set of services to mark the season, but with the Rev'd Heather unwell we must thank those who stepped into the breach.

Just after Easter Rev'd Heather announced that she had been appointed as Anglican Chaplain to Oxford Brookes University, meaning that she would be leaving us in the summer.

Her final three months with us were busy with a range of events, including the wonderful Flower Festival and Open Gardens. We must thank everyone who put in so much hard work.

In late July we wished Rev'd Heather, Dominic and the children all the best for their future.

We were fortunately able to advertise for a new incumbent more or less immediately, and we should thank all those who were involved in pulling together the Parish Profile, the advertisement and then involved over the two days of the interview.

We would like to place on record our thanks to all who helped in the vacancy, to the clergy, particularly to Very Rev'd John Morley and Rev Ken Batt who led the majority of the services. We were also blessed to have visits from Bishop David and Archdeacon Richard. Thanks must also be recorded to Debbie, our Parish Administrator, whose tasks increased significantly during this period.

In November, we welcomed Rev'd Jo Mulliner as our new Vicar. She has already settled into the vicarage with her mother, Cindy, and has led a full Advent and Christmas season for us. May your time with us be blessed.

It would not be right to look back at the year without looking at the church finances. Matters had improved significantly due to the generosity of our worshippers, but geo-political events, -have put our finances under strain, like everyone's, due to the rising cost of fuel. This is unsustainable, and therefore the PCC will be looking at ways in which we can, hopefully, reduce our month-on-month outlay, but this may involve significant capital expenditure.

Can we thank everyone who plays a part in the life of St Mary's. This may be the big things, such as Julia who is stepping down as our Treasurer after 9 years, or it may be in the countless unseen ways. All are important as we seek to grow together.

Robert and Mark - Churchwardens

Safeguarding at St Mary's 2022

St Mary's PCC has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church. It is fully compliant with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). No Serious Incident occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners. The PCC has appointed Jeanette Edwards as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with Safeguarding being a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. Details

of how to contact the Parish and Diocese Safeguarding Officers and the Vicar, are on display in the church.

Risk Assessments have focussed on keeping people safe when visiting the church and the church buildings.

All staff and volunteers have role descriptions (48 roles) in place and are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance and appropriate training is completed following Church of England guidance. 95% of training is up to date. All Disclosure and Barring checks have been carried out online with those valid for 5 years now starting to be renewed after 3 years in line with latest requirements.

The new electronic Safeguarding Dashboard is completed to Level 3.

2022 Festivals

During June the successful Flower Festival was held which included an Art Exhibition, Open Gardens and a Preview Evening for an opportunity to preview the Festival and to buy art whilst listening to Jo Jarrett-Kerr playing the organ and a performance of Durante's Magnificat by The BSC Chorale. 27 sponsored Floral Arrangements filled the church with scent whilst displays, won by the Old Basing Rainbows and Brownies (Portraits of Ones Self) surrounded St Mary's alongside a variety of stalls and Children's Activities. An interactive Nature Trail was created within the Conservation Area, Men's Breakfast provided a BBQ with refreshments and cream teas were also available.

In December we held the '12 Day's of Christmas' Tree Festival and an enjoyable Christmas Sing-A-Long played by Paul Wright and compared by Jo Jarrett-Kerr. 27 trees lit up St Mary's throughout Christmas until Epiphany with the Rainbows and Brownies plus The WI being voted as favourites. The Fayre was extended to both days over the weekend and Men's Breakfast supplied hot food over both days which was warmly welcomed.

During both festivals the School Choirs and RBL Band of Corps entertained during the afternoon. Besides raising almost £7000 in funds these events were an opportunity for outreach and fellowship with the parish. The PCC is very grateful to parishioners for their support at both well attended events. It was lovely seeing the children and adults from the local community and beyond enjoying themselves in and around our church.

Preparations for future events are already underway including The Summer Festival for June with the annual Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Jeanette Edwards

Children & Youth

Children and families activities have continued to be undertaken however uptake of the Sunday services has been limited since the lifting/reduction of COVID restrictions. In order to ensure a continuity of care for this group, Junior Church has been prepared each week using the Roots resources, allowing St Mary's to provide worship based on the scripture, being read in Church at the same time, as well as providing curiosity and follow on activities for use through the week at home.

During Lent children of late Primary/early Secondary School age (10+) were invited to attend a 'Pilots' afternoon with craft activities based on the Stations of the Cross and pizza treats at the end. It was lovely to see some children that are familiar with the Church, but who don't regularly attend on a Sunday, join the activities. The plan had been for this age group to be invited to decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival but unfortunately due to the loss of our dear friend Caroline and limited Children's leaders availability ahead of the Festival this activity was not subsequently advertised.

Following on from the 'take home' activity bags launched during COVID, during Lent in 2023 families will again be given the opportunity to undertake a selection of activities focusing on Lent themes and Holy Week activities, it is planned to run alongside and work in union with the reinvigoration of the Messy Church, starting with a Holy Week focus.

A Summer Festival celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee offered families and children opportunities to take part in the activities during the weekend and produce displays for the whole community to enjoy.

Sadly Rev'd Heather left St Mary's during the summer and we returned to vacancy. During this time Rev'd John Morley kindly supported St Mary's as a consistent caretaker and encouraged family attendance through several services including the Bag Blessing service, Harvest and remembrance.

Helen Holley took up the reins of Diddy Disciples, on a Friday morning for children aged 0-4 with their grown ups. The services continued in the format of beginning with the lighting of candles and singing of songs and celebrating Jesus' presence with

us. We then hear a Bible Story, which is followed by craft, play and refreshments time. Afterwards we come back together for prayers and closing songs.

Fortunately, St Mary's was blessed with the early filling of the vacancy with our new minister Rev'd Jo Mulliner joining us at Advent. Under her guidance and inclusive approach we are currently considering how best St Mary's can encourage and establish a more regular family and children's attendance at our Church. So as 2023 commences we look forward in hope and with some change. Sadly we are suspending both Junior Church and Diddy Disciples due to the lack of attendance. Junior Church will run until Easter after which members that have continue to attend Church will be provided each week with Roots resources to encourage them to continue to be curious about their faith and expand further meaning into the readings that they will hear during the church service in a format appropriate to their age and understanding.

We will of course be reinvigorating Messy Church during Lent/Easter and have several other activities planned throughout the year to endeavour to reach out to those in our community to enlighten and encourage to join us in our Christian journey.

Andrée McLean
Children and Families Leader

St. Mary's Choir

I think the highlight of the year was the Carol Service where the Choir performed, very well, several items that, unknown to me, were in the programme from Kings College, Cambridge.

A big thank you to Paul Wright and by extension, Marilyn, without whom we couldn't do nearly so well. Also to the members of the Choir who continue to support music in the Church as often as they can and to Myrna who keeps me in order. I am very grateful to them all.

Jo Jarrett-Kerr
Choir Director

Flower Arranging Team

We currently have 16 volunteers on the Flower Arrangers Rota. This year we have one member of the team standing down and one new recruit. We are awaiting response from an advert for new volunteers in the Parish Magazine.

Every two weeks 4 Arrangements are placed within the Church, but at Christmas, Easter and Harvest this number is increased to 8 arrangements.

Throughout the year one arranger will do up to 7 arrangements and we may claim £20 per arrangement from the Church although I believe many do not claim funds.

This year we hope to use as little floral foam as possible within guidelines set out by most professional florists and floristry institutions such as the RHS.

Two Duty Organisers oversee the care of the arrangements over approximately three months, and informal coffee mornings are held throughout the year.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in November.

Lorna Guthrie

St Mary's House Groups

At present there is one active house group meeting regularly and that is the PILGRIM group. We take our name from the Church of England *Pilgrim Course for the Christian Journey* written by Stephen Cottrell et al. and run by Fr Alec a few years ago. Indeed this group arose from those attending this course.

We meet every Friday evening in the house of one of our members, rotating around those able to host us. We gather at about 7.15 pm for coffee, tea, cake ! and chat and our meeting starts at 7.30 pm with prayer and ends with prayer around 9.00 pm.

This year we have been able to meet regularly and since I last reported we finished our study of the Gospel of Luke and have read and discussed “Phoebe, A Story” by Paula Gooder. We really enjoyed this book, learning more about the early Christian Church in Rome through the author’s imaginative recreations which are all based on sound research. Our reading also opened up several themes contained in the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Currently we are studying the second book of Luke, that is the Acts of the Apostles, again using a Bible Study guide written by Tom Wright. Some of the questions he sets are straightforward and others have proved quite challenging and lead to longer discussions – for example “ what do people today find puzzling in the scriptures ? Think of particular people you know and what you have heard them ask”. Note that we are bound to keep our discussions confidential.

In the future we plan to read and discuss Pauls Gooder's new book "Lydia" which will include careful study of the letter of St Paul to the Philippians. A start date will depend on any planned Lent studies

We have been together as a group for some time now and are comfortable with being open with each other. However, we are happy to welcome new members. If the group were to grow too large for comfort in private houses we would split into two groups. Please chat to me or another member of the group - Jeanette Edwards, Robert Jackson Jo Jarrett Kerr, Alan Jones Paul Skinner and Sue Smith.

Penny Potter

Men's Breakfast Club

So, another year has gone by since my last report and fortunately this year we have been able to get back to a regular 1st Saturday get-together. Numbers have been good with a regular twelve to fifteen men turning up but remember any men/boys are more than welcome to just turn up, no need to pre-book.

We've been fortunate over the years providing enough food for all who come along, though in the early days I recall there was one occasion when the supplies didn't turn up (no names, no pack drill) there were only six of us on that particular day so we went to the Bolton Arms for bacon rolls.

As with previous years we have been able to offer our services at the various functions put on by the church (bbq's, mulled wine etc.) even helping our new incumbent set up her personal gym when she moved in.

The "clubbers" come and go and we had several new members during the past year but sadly one of our original breakfast clubbers Michael Moore, passed away during the past year.

So remember, men/boy's come along to the parish room on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:45 for a full English breakfast at just £4 per head. Just one proviso if you are vegetarian please let us know before-hand so we can be prepared.

Chris Beadle

Ploughman's Lunch Club

The Ploughman's team, a group of 8 mainly long standing volunteers, have continued to successfully run our lunch club throughout the past year. We are pleased to say that it remains well supported and welcomed by the parish.

Following the covid pandemic we now operate a waitressed table service for a pre booked limited number of lunchers, who book from the 1st monthly for that month's lunch. The new system worked so well for both helpers and lunchers that we have continued permanently with this even though covid restrictions were significantly eased during the year.

For our Christmas lunch we also provide a free raffle and offer wine or a non alcoholic alternative courtesy of a local firm of Chartered Accountants, LMW Ltd, who have their office in Old Basing. Any donation for the wine is given to St Mary's for the advent appeal.

Our prices remain unchanged despite the significant increase in food costs and we continue to make a profit, which is ringed fenced in the church accounts, for the upkeep of the kitchen and parish room. This year we added £580 to the balance and are happy to support the replacement of the radiators in the toilets, at an estimated cost of £500.

Denise Lane

The Village Café

The Village cafe reopened its doors, following closure due to Covid restrictions, on 4th March 2022. During the year, we have held 22 afternoon sessions, weekly from March to September, moving to monthly sessions for the winter.

Of the sessions we provided, 21 were held in the Parish room and we ran one cafe from the Pavillion room at the Recreation Ground due to a Wedding at the church which clashed with cafe opening times. Thanks to the Pavillion room as they allowed us to use the facilities free of charge, which meant the £176 taken went directly to cafe funds. In September the cafe closed for 2 weeks out of respect, following the death of the Queen.

We have continued with our pre ordering "cakeaway" option which enables customers to pre order and pick up from the cafe. This is still very popular.

We have also started another initiative, “baking you smile”, where members of our community can be nominated to receive a cake for a special reason and we deliver a “smile” to their doorstep. This is incredibly successful and we have met some lovely people on our deliveries and will continue with this initiative for the coming

The cafe continues to be well supported, so much so that we have been able to fund another AED, which has been installed at the local Co Op store , thanks to the owners who have always been huge supporters of our community, Mary Salmon and Bob Pyle. We have also made a donation to the local Infants school to enable them to buy new sports equipment for the children following the installation of an all weather play area.

A breakdown of our takings since reopening on 24th September -
Total takings between 4th March and 31st December - £3,360.00

We also had donations from Alison’s Wonderland, Flamingo, Daiva Florist and from the AED training of £420.00. This made our overall total £3784.00 of which 21.35% was paid in rent for the Parish room, a total of £680.00 This leaves a grand total of £3184.00

We do struggle with volunteers to serve on Friday afternoons sometimes and are always looking to welcome new members to our team, both to bake and help with barista duties.

N.B. The cafe has made a donation to St Mary’s Junior school, which is being used to purchase new sports equipment following a refurbishment of the play area.

Deb Thorne

PIOCC (Churchyard Conservation Group)

2022 was a much improved year we returned to normal working parties with coffee breaks in the Parish Room on Saturdays. Winter conservation working parties, where the heavy work is done, were impacted when Tim Carr, Conservation Working Party leader had a knee replacement in November 2021. However Adrian Stanley kindly stepped into the breach in the new year and felled a number of dead and dying trees for us. He also supplied a load of wood chippings to resurface the path round the central glade.

Once again in June a team lead by Rebecca Aldridge and Aude Cholet created a wonderful Nature Trail round the Conservation Area for St Mary’s Summer Festival.

This trail generated a huge amount of interest and the main structure was left in place until the end of the school term for the children to enjoy. In December a lesser display was organised for the Christmas Tree Festival on the theme of the “Twelve days of Christmas” and again it was popular with visitors of all ages.

Also in June the battery hedge trimmer purchased with funding from the Borough Councillors finally arrived after a long wait. It has proved immensely useful. In July the Parish Council awarded us a grant of a £1000 towards our work in the Churchyard. This has been spent on a battery strimmer, to match our hedge trimmer and 150 hedging plants. The hedge trimmer and strimmer are not only quieter and more environmentally friendly but also lighter so more volunteers can use them. The hedging plants were used to fill in gaps in the Church Lane hedge and strengthen the hedge between the Conservation Area and the Church. They were mostly planted at the end of November and the rest at the December working party.

In July the group built a Bug Hotel for Old Basing Infants School and installed it on the inside of the hedge near the silver birch. The children populated it in October.

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Jo to our December working party, and hope her lead will encourage more to join us. Thanks to all the volunteers who enthusiastically turn out every working party to help.

Tim Carr

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Old Basing & Lychpit

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out hereafter, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those accounting records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the view given by the accounts.

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
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr Colin Bezant
February 2023

PCC HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022

Well after 9 years in the role of treasurer, it's time for me to take a step back and handover the reigns to a new team. I will still be supporting them for as long as I'm needed and I'll finally have time to finish off the tasks at the bottom of my Treasurer's "to do" list. No excuses now!

So, onto the 2022 accounts:

Each year has its challenges and 2022 has been no exception. We have lost a vicar but we have been very fortunate to gain a new vicar promptly and this has helped to reduce our vacancy costs. And like all of you, the church has seen a rapid increase in the price we pay for gas and electricity. This will continue into 2023 so please wrap up warm and use the blankets. The PCC is looking at alternative forms of heating, but this will be a long term solution.

Overall income in 2022 was £117,672, an increase of £12,501 compared to last year. Some of this was due to the opening up following COVID which allowed the parish room to be used more (increasing rental income) and we had some weddings. Fundraising was up, thanks to a wonderful flower and art festival and open gardens plus our Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to everyone who helped in these massive events. Regular donations are also up, which is building on the good work we did for the Generous July campaign in 2021.

Expenditure in 2022 was £127,093, an increase of £15,156 compared to last year. Some of these are one off costs such as vacancy costs and the costs of fundraising and putting on the flower festival. Some will continue into 2023, such as the much higher utility costs.

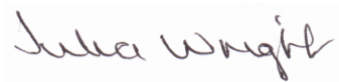
So over 2022 we have recorded a loss of £9,421.

With such an old church there are always going to be challenges we encounter. We are lucky to have a few funds at our disposal that can be used to meet certain specific expenses and we have Friends of St Mary's Church which help with expenses to the fabric of the church.

Looking just at the General Fund (the one that is used for all day to day expenses except for the administrator's salary) this grew by £6,729 in 2022. This would have looked better if we hadn't incurred the vacancy costs or higher utility bills, but we still aren't generating enough income to cover our day to day expenses and this is

something that needs to be addressed in the next few years. We need to determine how we can encourage more of our friends to attend church events and donate. The whole parish loves St Mary's Church and we need the whole parish to support the church and its activities to secure its long term future.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Julia Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Julia Wright
February 2023

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	86,431.09	830	-	87,261.09	84,388.21
Activities for generating funds	9,843.88	-	-	9,843.88	7,651.81
Investment income	111.49	109.94	1,423.03	1,644.46	167.61
Incoming resources from charitable activities	18,159.48	-	145	18,304.48	11,159.05
Other incoming resources	-	-	618.12	618.12	1,804.00
Total income	114,545.94	939.94	2,186.15	117,672.03	105,170.68
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	3,009.63	-	-	3,009.63	1,431.43
Charitable activities	101,522.86	113	19,163.91	120,799.77	107,221.41
Other resources used	3,283.92	-	-	3,283.92	3,283.92
Total expenditure	107,816.41	113	19,163.91	127,093.32	111,936.76
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	6,729.53	826.94	-17,151.43	-9,594.96	-6,222.61
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	351.81	351.81	2,000.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	-351.81	-	-	-351.81	-2,000.00
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-173.67	-173.67	543.47
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	6,377.72	826.94	-16,799.62	-9,594.96	-6,222.61
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	58,331.80	8,541.70	152,753.71	219,627.21	225,849.82
Total funds carried forward	64,709.52	9,368.64	135,954.09	210,032.25	219,627.21
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	64,911.85	-	-	64,911.85	58,534.13
Designated					
Children's Corner	-	18.99	-	18.99	58.99
Ploughmans' Lunch	-	8,629.85	-	8,629.85	7,942.92
Special Projects 3	-	250	-	250	-
Surplices for Choir	-	197.8	-	197.8	267.79
Tesco Technology	-	272	-	272	272
Restricted					
Agency collection	-	-	424.72	424.72	279.72
Dorothy Iris Silver	-	-	48,363.43	48,363.43	65,281.98
Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	-	-	22,827.99	22,827.99	23,495.93
Hoare Gift Account	-	-	1,043.45	1,043.45	1,030.07
Investment Bond - Warden and Vicar Discretion	-	-	61,790.50	61,790.50	60,988.34
Kemp Legacy Fund	-	-	1,301.67	1,301.67	1,475.34

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2022

	As at 31/12/2022 £	As at 31/12/2021 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	3,283.92	6,567.84
Investments	1,301.67	1,475.34
	<u>4,585.59</u>	<u>8,043.18</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	2,005.38	1,920.01
Cash at bank and in hand	210,197.95	222,246.90
	<u>212,203.33</u>	<u>224,166.91</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6,556.67	12,282.88
Provisions for liabilities and charges due within one year	200	300.00
	<u>6,756.67</u>	<u>12,582.88</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	205,446.66	211,584.03
Total assets less current liabilities	210,032.25	219,627.21
Liabilities		
Total net assets less liabilities	210,032.25	219,627.21
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	64,709.52	58,331.80
Designated		
Designated – Children's Corner	18.99	58.99
Designated – Ploughman's Lunch	8,629.85	7,942.92
Designated – Special Projects 3	250.00	-
Designated – Surplices for Choir	197.80	267.79
Designated – Tesco Technology	272.00	272.00
Restricted		
Restricted – Agency Collection	627.05	482.05
Restricted – Dorothy Iris Silver	48,363.43	65,281.98
Restricted – Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	22,827.99	23,495.93
Restricted – Hoare Gift Account	1,043.45	1,030.07
Restricted – Investment Bond – Warden and Vicar Discretion	61,790.50	60,988.34
Restricted – Kemp Legacy Fund	1,301.67	1,475.34
Funds of the church	210,032.25	219,627.21

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

The accounts are a summary of the Financial Statements which have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner. A copy of the full financial statements, including relevant notes to the accounts, is available from the Administrator, Debbie Filer.

Churchwardens' Report on The Fabric of St. Mary's Church 2022

Every five years the Diocese requires, and pays for, an Inspection of the Fabric of the Church., a Quinquennial Inspection. This was undertaken in March 2022 by Sarah Harlow of Seymour and Bainbridge Architects. This report noted the major works of repair that had taken place in 2019 and 2020 following the last Quinquennial inspection, and that generally the Church and Parish Room are in a good state of repair.

However, the report did indicate that there was a blocked drain in the northeast corner which is causing backing up of the downpipe from the roof. We were therefore advised to have this repaired as soon as possible.

Surveys could not definitively identify the cause of the blockage, so following discussions between the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the newly appointed Architect, Libby Watts of Liberty Rose Architects, a specification was drawn up to allow for physical works to try to identify the problem and then allow a repair. This was put to the Chancellor of the Diocese, who sanctioned the works.

Currently quotes are being obtained for the works with a view to actioning them as soon as possible

We would like to thank the Friends of St Mary's for their financial contribution to the costs to date (the architect's fees associated with drawing up the specification and getting it agreed), and hope that they will be able to be as generous when the quotations are received.

Early in 2022 there were significant problems with the heating system failing to start leading to the church being particularly cold (inevitably this happened when frost was on the ground). This was remedied by a dismantling and rebuilding of the main fan. The problem was caused by a large spider that had got into the fan, with its web shorting the electrical system. The system now appears to be functioning normally.

We also had an audit by the Church Insurers, Ecclesiastical Insurance, over the building. No significant issues were identified, although we were asked to ensure that the electrical systems were tested. They have now been so tested.

There were no other major faults identified in 2022, although with a building, parts of which are nearly 1000 years old, there will always be things that will need to be done.

Thank you to those who have come to the 'Friends in High Places' cleaning which happened twice this year. The first was particularly necessary as a through clean had not been undertaken since before the pandemic.

We would also like to thank our cleaner, Tina Kean, for all her hard work in ensuring that church and Parish Room are maintained on a week-by-week basis.

Mark Holley & Robert Jackson
February 2023

Terrier & Inventory Report

During the year no additional items were either purchased or disposed of. However, as members of the congregation will be aware, we have purchased rugs. These have been used both to keep warm on top, but also to sit on, providing a double benefit of a warmer derrière and a more comfortable seat.

Mark Holley- Churchwarden
February 2023

Report on the Churchyard

There is little to report as to matters relating to the Churchyard, as opposed to the Conservation Area, in 2022. I would like to thank those who maintain the flowerbeds around the church and the grass mowing team for all their hard work in ensuring the churchyard is in good order.

The PCC continues to employ Graeme Dickinson of Dickinson's Garden and Tree Maintenance for maintenance of the boundary foliage.

During the year, it was noted that the compost heap in the northeast corner of the churchyard was overflowing. It was decided to clear this, and I would like to thank the Men's Breakfast Team for this. The church has purchased a brown compost wheelie bin from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with the aim of ensuring that garden waste is disposed of via this method, rather than on site to ensure that the previous situation does not re-occur.

Robert Jackson - Churchwarden
February 2023

REPORT FROM THE BASINGTOKE DEANERY SYNOD, 2022

The first Deanery Synod meeting in February was led by St Gabriel's, Popley. Dr Zoe Tebbs gave an outline of mental health from a Christian point of view and the ways in which churches could support people with low or moderate mental health difficulties.

Richard Harlow recommended the Sanctuary Course for people wanting to improve their understanding of mental health (<https://www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org/sanctuary-course/>). He also introduced The Happiness Lab based on the book 'The 8 Secrets of Happiness' (Paul Griffiths and Martin Robinson). The initiative started as a follow-on to the 'Who Cares?' campaign held in 2017. It is a 6-week session, using a video presentation followed by discussion in small groups. The course has been held 8 times in various venues in Tadley.

Rev Jonathan Clark spoke about Wellbeing Spaces or Cafés which can provide a welcoming and friendly space to meet people, share interests and grow in happiness and wellbeing. Christ Church Chineham (CCC) has set up 'The Well', not a café, but a place to meet safely with company and activities and the knowledge that it is "OK not to be OK". It is underpinned with prayer, and seeks to be in partnership with the local health providers.

Rev Sue Colman & Barbara Irving, Director of Cedar Tree Counselling, spoke about the success of meetings held by the Oakley parish to explain and discuss issues around mental health, with the aim of taking-away the shame or stigma that is sometimes associated with mental health issues. 'Blue Christmas' and quiet days gave space for solitude and lament in community.

Dr Philip Hiorns spoke about Care for the Family parenting courses that have been run at St Mary's, Eastrop and elsewhere locally. These courses were not set up just to deal with problems but to give support to parents of early years, primary and teenage children.

The second Deanery Synod meeting was held in May at St Leonard's Church, Oakley. The special guests were: Rt Rev David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke; Rt Rev Dr Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington and National Lead Bishop for Church Planting; Rev John Hudson, Rector Designate of Basingstoke. They gave a talk about the forthcoming Resource Church at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke.

Bishop David explained that Basingstoke won funding from the Church Commissioners to launch a Resource Church. As an area of large population, low church attendance and some local deprivation, it was able to bid for strategic development funding. St Michael's was chosen to spearhead revitalisation.

Rt Rev Dr Ric Thorpe described historic methods of church growth, followed by an explanation of the characteristics of a Resource Church:

- 1 Nominated by a Bishop to revitalise other churches
- 2 Joins in with the strategy of the Diocese
- 3 Some of its members will be called to leave and go elsewhere to plant and revitalise.
- 4 It will be successful in developing leaders.
- 5 Members from all backgrounds will develop expertise to use within the church and to give to others.

He encouraged the churches of Basingstoke to work collaboratively with the aim that surrounding churches will be revitalised to reach the diverse population so evident in and around Basingstoke.

Rev John Hudson said that 65 people from the team churches; St Michael's, St Peter's, All Saints and Christ the King, had shared in a recent meeting in St Leonard's Centre to pray for vision for what God will do and how to be part of that. A launch would take place in September / October, around St Michael's Day (29th September).

The third Deanery Synod meeting was held in October at St Mark's, Kempshott. Following the appointment of Richard Harlow as an Archdeacon in the Diocese of Ely, Ben Kautzer had been newly appointed as Area Dean, and he announced that Nicola Such had accepted the role of Assistant Area Dean.

There was a theme of change, not just the change of seasons that we could see in nature but also in the parishes of the Deanery. Several parishes were in vacancy (including ourselves), St. Mark's and Immanuel had joined to form the Parish of Basingstoke Down, the new team in Basingstoke centre was in place and had a successful launch event at St. Peter's with a continuing good attendance there.

Philip Hiorns, Deanery Lay Chair, gave a Diocesan Synod update, noting a more positive and collaborative mood. In setting the next Common Mission Fund, the Bishops Council had lowered the proposed budget from £9.67 million to £9.37 million. It had been stated that Clergy posts will not be cut to save costs.

There are proposals to link Basingstoke and Bournemouth Deaneries with the Province of Chile. At the end of July, four representatives from Basingstoke Deanery

met with several church members from Bournemouth together with Canon Mark Collinson, Principal of the School of Mission and Bishop David, Assistant Bishop Alf Cooper and his wife from Santiago, Chile to talk about the life of the Anglican Church in Chile. It remains to be seen how realistic forming the link will be going forward.

Julie Maxwell gave a report on the Vacancy in See Committee's preparations for the appointment of a new Bishop. Julie, from St Mary's Eastrop, is one of the four elected Lay members of General Synod from the Diocese and is thus an *ex officio* member of the Vacancy in See Committee.

Jonathan Clark, CCC, discussed the launch of a new initiative - The Warm Welcome Campaign - which is the community response to the Cost of Living Crisis: free, warm, and welcoming spaces in communities across the UK. This was expected to involve around 30 places, including churches, libraries and community centres, in Basingstoke and Tadley. Information is available from: www.warmwelcome.uk.

Debbie Veel, Basingstoke Down, gave an enthusiastic account of 'Mossy Church' which was held in the church grounds of St Mark's for 6 weeks. It is a nationwide programme based around a Bible passage each week and learning about insects, plants and trees, the food chain and other aspects of the environment. The science equipment, such as microscopes, is available to borrow from the Science Centre at Queen Mary's College.

Rebecca Aldridge, Jo Jarrett-Kerr, Paul Skinner
January 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Approved by the PCC on 19th February 2023

Signed by the Chair, The Reverend Jo Mulliner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jo Mulliner', is written over a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Accounts



(Photo by kind permission of Michael Wright)

Incumbent: The Reverend Heather Leppard

Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7DJ

Large print copies available on request

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2010 this PCC became an independent charity number 1136606

Membership of the PCC during the 12 months January-December 2021 was

Incumbent The Rev Heather Leppard (Chair)

Churchwardens & Vice Chairs Mark Holley
Robert Jackson

*Representatives
on Deanery Synod* Joanna Jarrett-Kerr
Paul Skinner
Rebecca Aldridge

Elected members Jeanette Edwards
Debbie Filer (Secretary)
Katharine Harding
Mike Jackson
Janet Jackson *from 23 May 2021*
Alan Jones
Mike Leaming
Andree McLean
Sue Smith
David Stevens
Julia Wright (Treasurer)

*Environmental/ Ecological
Representative* Andy Molloy

Bank:

The National Westminster Bank plc, 3 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Independent Examiner:

Mr Colin Bezant
3 Up Fallow, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a charity established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules. Its activities are to provide a ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality.

a) Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of New Members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The new regulations now apply, as stated in the Annual Report 2012.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

b) Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Members

The Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator are offered formal training through the Diocese. Courses in general church governance are also held that are recommended to all PCC members and other in-house steps are taken to ensure PCC members understand fully their role and responsibilities on the Council.

c) Organisational Structure

In 2021 the PCC met online via Zoom in February, March, May and July and in person in September and November. All approvals for online meetings were ratified by M29 Measure in line with the Church Representation Rules relating to Parish Governance.

d) Committees:

The following report to the PCC:

*di) During 2021 the **Standing and Finance Committee** met via Zoom in January, March, May and July and in person in September and November and comprised:*

Vicar - 'The Rev'd Heather Leppard, Churchwardens: Mark Holley, Robert Jackson, PCC Secretary: Debbie Filer, PCC Treasurer: Julia Wright, PCC elected member: Andree McLean.

*dii) The **Building Group** (Fabric Group)*

The Vicar, Mark Holley, Mike Jackson, Robert Jackson, Ian Kershaw, Mike Leaming and David Stevens (*co-opted*) comprise this group, which meets according to need to discuss matters concerning the Church Building and Fabric.

e) Risk Management

The major risks to which the Church is exposed relate to financial instability, fraud, failure to comply with legal obligations and commitments in relation to the church building.

The reserves in our General Fund are £58,331. This is an increase of over £8,000 from 2021. The PCC is very conscious that the expenditure of the church continues to be greater than our income, with expenditure exceeding income by £6,766 across all funds this year. We are fortunate to have additional reserves in designated funds that are available to help us in the short term. The objective of the PCC is still for all day to day expenses to be covered by the General Fund in the long term and the Generous July campaign in 2021 helped to increase our regular income. Income and expenditure is closely monitored and the use of the computerised accounting system assists in this.

The PCC ensures that any minor expenditure has to be approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC. The Treasurer monitors payments requested and any cheques drawn require the approval of two signatories authorised by the PCC. All expenditure is assigned to a cost code and budgets are set and agreed for each of these. These budgets are regularly monitored. The PCC considers carefully its legal obligations and has policies in force to ensure they are met.

The Churchwardens and David Stevens, the PCC appointed Health and Safety Officer, monitor and manage fire and health and safety matters connected with the use of the church premises and report back to the PCC. A Health and Safety Policy, a Lone Workers' Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Vulnerable Adult Policy are in place and updated annually.

The Parish is registered for the purposes of the Data Protection Act with the Administrator as the Data Controller. All information is held and used in a manner which complies with the General Data Protection Regulations. GDPR is a standing agenda item and PCC members, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete and review training.

We are fortunate in having such a beautiful church building but this does impose considerable obligations. The condition of the building is monitored regularly by the Churchwardens and the PCC appointed architect. Reports of concerns are made to the PCC who determine what action should be taken and how any expenditure should be financed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The chief role of the Parochial Church Council is, together with the Incumbent and clergy, to promote the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC represents parishioners and, on their behalf, considers and agrees appropriate action on matters relating to St Mary's Church, its fabric, finances, daily life and future direction. The Incumbent is the Chair of the PCC and Mark Holley and Robert Jackson (Churchwardens) are joint Vice Chairs. The business of the PCC is conducted through discussion, review and liaison with other interested groups and individuals, any of whom may, in this way, raise concerns or topics for consideration.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Old Basing and Lychpit follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their work for and in the Parish. The Council Members believe that promoting the work of the Church of England in this Parish helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively in the Parish as a whole and so provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who wish to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and by service by members of the Church in and to their communities and for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

In 2021 there were 6 weddings; 23 funerals (5 in the Church, 15 at the Crematorium and 3 at the Graveside); 14 baptisms; and 1 renewal of marriage vows.

There were 85 Christmas communicants.

ELECTORAL ROLL

On 31st December 2021 the Electoral Roll stood at 125 of whom 102 were resident in the Parish and 23 non-resident.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021

Few of us imagined that 2021 would be a second year dominated by the impact of the pandemic. For some this year has been difficult and exhausting, for others it has given space to rest and relax; yet through it all we continue to give thanks for God's faithfulness and presence with us.

As I look back on this past year, there is much to be thankful for. Thank you to Mark and Robert for all their support as Church Wardens, to Debbie for all her support as administrator. Thank you everyone who serves on the PCC and to all who help day to day in the parish. As I begin to list you all in my head, I am struck by just how much time so many of you give to the church both visibly and behind the scenes. Your love and your commitment help make St Mary's the great community that it is today.

Our worship this year began once again online from the Vicarage, moving back into the Church building in Holy Week. We continue to offer a hybrid pattern of online worship and worship in the church building. It has been great to have Helen Holley and Colin Bezant share in preaching, as Helen begins training as a Licenced Lay Minister, and Colin embarks on the Bishop's Permission to Preach course. Alongside our Sunday Worship and Daily Prayer at the church, this year we also held a couple of opportunities for contemplative prayer. 'One Thing' was a time of corporate silent prayer that ran for five weeks in the summer, and we had a series of four Taize Prayer services in Advent. In the autumn, we began a new service for young families on a Friday Morning, Diddy Disciples, which will continue into 2022.

Our links with St Mary's Junior School remain strong, and throughout the year I have been leading Acts of Worship online, and in school when restrictions have been relaxed. We congratulate St Mary's Junior School on achieving an 'Outstanding' OFSTED inspection this year, and thank all who serve as Foundation Governors from the church community for their support. We once again welcomed Great Binfields Primary School to the Church for Harvest, and I have been to lead assemblies at Old Basing Infant School.

This year, our Treasurer Julia Wright, along with Mike Leaming (Stewardship Officer) and Gary Taylor supported me in running 'Generous July.' It was an opportunity for

us to reflect on the generosity of God together through a sermon series, and we invited each member of the church to review their giving. We had a positive response, and thank you all very much for your generosity. As you will see in this report we have recorded our smallest annual budget deficit for many years across all funds. The increase in regular giving gives us renewed hope as we head into 2022.

As you will see in the updates that follow, throughout 2021 different groups within the church community have adapted and found ways to thrive in sometimes difficult circumstances. Thank you to each of you for being part of the church community here at St Mary's and for your prayers, your commitment, and for the ways in which you serve and live out your faith.

Reverend Heather Leppard
February 2021

Safeguarding at St Mary's 2021

St Mary's PCC has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church. It is fully compliant with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). No Serious Incident occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners.

The PCC has appointed Jeanette Edwards as the Safeguarding Officer with Safeguarding being a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. Details of how to contact the Safeguarding Officer, and the Vicar, are on display in the church.

Risk Assessments have focussed on keeping people safe when visiting the church and the church buildings, and for the services we have been able to hold.

All staff and volunteers in roles are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance and appropriate training completed following Church of England guidance. Basic and Foundation Training was up to date and is now being extended following the introduction of New Leadership Pathway in Q4 2021. Any outstanding Leadership training will be completed as courses are available following suspension during the lockdowns.

All Disclosure and Barring checks have been carried out online with those valid for 5 years now starting to be renewed after 3 years in line with latest requirements

2021 Festivals

During June the successful Summer Days are Here Again Festival and Concert by our Organist Paul Wright were held. Sponsored displays won by the Rainbows and Brownies surrounded St Mary's alongside a variety of stalls and Children's Activities. An interactive Nature Trail was created within the Conservation Area, Men's Breakfast provided a BBQ with refreshments and cream teas also available.

In December we held the 'Christmas Creatures' Tree Festival which following the lifting of restrictions could return to being held both inside and out. Over 20 trees lit up St Mary's with the Rainbows and Brownies plus The Dogs Trust being voted as favourites. There was an increase in people wanting to have stalls at the event, the Nature Trail that had proved so popular was recreated with new activities and Men's Breakfast supplied hot food which was warmly welcomed.

Besides raising over £4000 in funds these events were an opportunity for outreach and fellowship with the parish. The PCC is very grateful to parishioners for their support at both well attended events. It was lovely seeing the children and adults from the local community and beyond enjoying themselves in and around our church.

Preparations for The Flower Festival are already underway for June 25/26 with the annual Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Jeanette Edwards

Children & Youth

Children and families activities have been reduced during COVID restrictions. In order to ensure a continuity of care for these groups the use of Roots resources has allowed St Mary's to provide suggested worship and follow on activities for use through the week at home. Continuing on from 'take home' activity bags launched last year, during Lent families were invited to collect a selection of activities focusing on Lent themes and Holy Week activities.

Following the return to school at the beginning of the new academic year, as restrictions were reduced, both Messy Church and Junior Church activities were re-launched. Messy Church focussed on the story of the 10 lepers. Junior Church continues during the Sunday 9:30 Eucharist service although there has been some minor changes to the format to due to on going COVID advice.

In October, we launched a new service, Diddy Disciples, on a Friday morning for children aged 0-4 with their grown ups. We begin with the lighting of candles and singing of songs and celebrating Jesus' presence with us. We then hear a Bible Story, which is followed by craft, play and refreshments time. Afterwards we come back together for prayers and closing songs.

In December the Christingle service formed part of the Christmas Tree festival celebrations. This year instead of being presented with pre-made Christingle the congregation were invited to create their own from kits provided as the service progressed. All funds raised during the service supported the Children's Society.

Andree McLean and Reverend Heather Leppard

St. Mary's Choir

This year has been a minor miracle in that the Choir is still functioning even though practice has been severely affected. We managed two carols at the Carol service where the six regular members were joined by others unable to attend regularly.

I offer deeply felt thanks to Myrna Lewis who keeps the Choir and me in good order and to the irregular members who help whenever they can. Thank you to all.

Jo Jarrett-Kerr

Flower Arranging Team

On the Church Flower Arranging Team there are currently 16 Volunteers. Two members have left this year after many years of loyal service, and one new member was recruited. We are hoping to encourage a few more volunteers in 2022 as currently each volunteer does approximately eight arrangements per year. Volunteers need have no formal training in floristry.

In a 'normal' year there are usually 4 arrangements placed within the Church and these are changed fortnightly. At Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, this is increased to 8 arrangements.

However, this has been another Pandemic year, and so until February 2021 just one arrangement was placed in Church until Easter when the rota continued as usual. These were done by a smaller group of 8 of the volunteers at that time.

We are advised on dates for weddings and then ensure that only white or cream flowers are used in arrangements and this year added and removed flowers to the Advent foliage arrangements for a wedding on December 18th. Two Christmas trees are also decorated by the Flower Arrangers.

One volunteer did an arrangement for the St Mary's Summer Festival on June 26th 2021 and two Volunteers helped at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Two Duty Organisers oversee the care of the arrangements over approximately a 3 month period during which time an informal coffee morning is held. We held our AGM on November 4th in the Parish Rooms.

Lorna Guthrie

St Mary's House Groups

At present there is one active house group meeting regularly and that is the PILGRIM group. We take our name from the Church of England *Pilgrim Course for the Christian Journey* written by Stephen Cottrell et al. and run by Fr Alec a few years ago. Indeed this group arose from those attending this course.

We meet every Friday evening in the houses of our members, rotating around those able to host us. We gather at about 7.15 pm for coffee, tea, cake ! and chat and our meeting starts at 7.30 pm with prayer and ends with prayer around 9.00 pm.

We were not able to meet for much of the year because of Covid restrictions but we started again in September. We enjoy many lively discussions and I think we all feel we learn a lot from each other at our meetings.

This year we finished the Bible Study guide written by Tom Wright on the Gospel of Matthew. The book covered the whole of the Gospel in 25 weeks. Each week one member of the group reads the passage once, we pause for contemplation and then another group members reads the passage again. Each reader uses the translation of the Bible which he/she prefers, which can make interesting comparisons. Then we turn to the questions set on the passage by Tom Wright which can be challenging.

For example, after reading Matthew 13:54-14:12; "How does Jesus violate expectations in his home town?" and "what Herod-like characteristics might be lurking in your own life, even in a small way?" Some of the questions call for very personal answers, and we are bound to keep our discussions confidential.

Having finished the study guide for the Gospel of Matthew, we moved on to Tom Wright's Study guide to the Gospel of Luke.

We have been together as a group for some time now and are comfortable with being open with each other. However, we are happy to welcome new members. If the group were to grow too large for comfort in private houses we would split into two groups.

Penny Potter

Study Groups

The book group began the year meeting on Zoom, and in the autumn resumed meeting in a local pub. We have enjoyed reading and discussing a variety of books.

In the autumn a group took part in the Living in Love and Faith Course (LLF), which gives an opportunity to explore identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The materials encouraged us to engage with scripture and lived experience – through both the experiences of those present on the course and LLF video clips. It was good to have the space to discuss these topics.

Reverend Heather Leppard

Men's Breakfast Club

We, of The Men's Breakfast Club have been meeting now for twelve years or more. We call ourselves a club but there is no membership fee involved men and boys, come and go as and when they choose. We get together in the parish room on the first Saturday of each month, to share with one another a hearty breakfast cooked by ourselves in the parish room kitchen, and to generally talk about anything anyone wishes to raise.

Prior to the lockdown we had occasional guest speakers joining us for breakfast and then giving a talk on their chosen subject and we also arranged some trips out for the men. As a group of willing and able men we help out at the church fete (erecting marquees, and the BBQ) and the Christmas Fayre (BBQ in December that was a first!!! and serving Mulled wine/mince pies) and other sundry jobs.

The lockdown of course put a temporary end to our breakfast get togethers but ever resourceful, a group of the men set up a fortnightly "virtual" breakfast club via

“zoom” to talk and chat over tea/coffee and perhaps a home cooked breakfast. Fortunately in September we were able to re-open the parish room and commence face to face breakfast once again (taking into account covid rules in place at the time) and I’m pleased to say that numbers are again building up to pre covid levels.

So remember men, the first Saturday of the month is Men’s Breakfast Club @ 8.45am in the parish room, look forward to seeing you there, all the best,

Chris Beadle

Ploughman’s Lunch Club

As with many social gatherings the covid 19 pandemic stopped us meeting from the outset back in March 2020. The Ploughman’s team, a group of 8 mainly long standing volunteers, continued to keep a watchful eye on the situation and over the summer of 2021 we came together to come up with a workable, safe way to resume our lunch club.

Finally, in line with strict government and church guidelines, we were able to welcome back our ‘lunchers’ in September 2021. We now operate a waitressed table service for a pre booked limited number of lunchers, who book from the 1st monthly for that month’s lunch. All helpers are asked to take a lateral flow test on the morning of the lunch and masks are worn for the duration of the lunch. Designated tasks are undertaken by individuals to minimise any the spread of the virus. Pleasingly our reopening has been well received and we have had a full booking list each month to date. The new system appears to work very well for both helpers and lunchers, many of whom have commented favourably.

We continue to make a profit, which is ringed fenced in the church accounts, for the upkeep of the kitchen and parish room.

Denise Lane

The Village Cafe

The Village cafe reopened in September 2021 after forced closure due to lockdowns and covid. Since reopening, we have started a take away service, affectionately known as “cakeaway”, which enables our customers to pre order and pre pay for cakes to be collected. This has proved extremely popular and we will continue this.

We were unsure how popular the cafe would be after being closed for such a long period but I am happy to report that our community continue to support us so much so that we have been able to fund one AED to be installed in the church grounds and are well on our way to funding another device to be installed at the A30 end of the village.

A breakdown of our takings since reopening on 24th September -
Total takings between 24th September and 3rd December - £1512.36.

We also had donations from Alison's Wonderland, Flamingo and the local W.I of £122. This made our overall total £1634.36, of which 24.7% was paid in rent for the Parish room, a total of £395.00. This leaves a grand total of £1239.36.

We are struggling a little with volunteers to serve on Friday afternoons so are currently looking to add to our existing team. We have more than enough bakers but would like to add to the team that looks after our customers during opening hours.

Deb Thorne

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Old Basing & Lychpit

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out hereafter, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those accounting records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the view given by the accounts.

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
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr Colin Bezant
February 2022

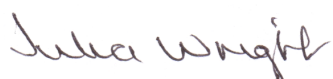
PCC HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2021

I think we were all hopeful that things would return to normal in 2021 following such a restrictive 2020, but it wasn't to be. However, financially 2021 has been a much better year for the church. Reverend Heather did marry people, our parish room was used more and we had our fund raising summer fete, Christmas Tree festival and Phoenix Choir evening.

I was delighted with the response to Generous July (when we asked you to consider why you donated to St Mary's and to review your donations). My family found many roads new to us around Lychpit and Old Basing as we cycled to deliver the envelopes and we got over half of the pledges back. Following this, people have either maintained their regular giving or increased it through the parish giving scheme, standing orders, cash, cheques or regular use of the Goodbox. Thank you all so much. This impacts our income not just for 2021 but also for future years to come. And many of these are also gift aided which increases our income further. Remember, if you haven't reviewed your giving recently, then please do so. You don't have to wait for our next campaign. Just ask Debbie Filer or me for more details.

Looking just at the General Fund (the one that is used for all day to day expenses except for the administrator's salary) this grew by £8,143 in 2021 compared to making a loss of over £8,000 in 2020. This is wonderful news and although it still won't support the Administrator salary things are certainly moving in the correct direction. Over all funds, in 2020 expenses exceeded income by £69,876 of which £45,636 was due to the cost of building repair works. In 2021, the expenses exceeded income by £6,766. Thankfully there was no further building works and the repair to the East Window is being met by insurance and the Friends of St Mary's Church.

Last year I stressed the importance of the church being able to meet its day to day expenses, otherwise the funds will diminish, as has been happening these last few years. 2022 is looking more encouraging and with the flower festival this year and other fund raising, I hope it's the start of an upward trend.



Julia Wright
February 2022

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	84,388	—	—	84,388	75,095	
Activities for generating funds	7,651	—	—	7,651	1,835	
Investment income	101	66	—	167	659	
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,159	—	—	11,159	8,866	
Other incoming resources	—	1,804	—	1,804	—	
Total incoming resources	103,300	1,870	—	105,170	86,458	
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other	1,431	—	—	1,431	544	
Charitable activities	89,735	17,486	—	107,221	152,474	
Other resources used	3,283	—	—	3,283	3,283	
Total resources used	94,450	17,486	—	111,936	156,303	
Net income / (expenditure)	8,849	(15,615)	—	(6,766)	(69,845)	
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,000	—	—	2,000	466	
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,000)	—	—	(2,000)	(466)	
Net income / (expenditure)	8,849	(15,615)	—	(6,766)	(69,845)	
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	543	—	543	1,010	
Net movement in funds	8,849	(15,072)	—	(6,222)	(68,834)	
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	58,023	167,826	—	225,849	294,684	
Total funds carried forward	66,873	152,753	—	219,627	225,849	

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021 £	As at 31/12/2020 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	6,567	9,851
Investments	1,475	61,907
	<u>8,043</u>	<u>71,759</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	1,920	2,600
Cash at bank and in hand	222,246	158,786
	<u>224,166</u>	<u>161,387</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	12,282	6,596
Provisions for liabilities and charges due within one year	300	700
Net current assets less current liabilities	211,584	154,090
Total assets less current liabilities	219,627	225,849
Liabilities		
Total net assets less liabilities	219,627	225,849
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	58,331	50,188
Designated		
Designated – Children's Corner	58	58
Designated – Friends of St Mary's Building Donation	---	--
Designated – Ploughman's Lunch	7,942	7,508
Designated – Surplices for Choir	267	267
Designated – Tesco Technology	272	--
Restricted		
Restricted - Dorothy Iris Silver	65,281	80,925
Restricted - Kemp Legacy Fund	1,475	1,290
Restricted - Investment Bond - Warden and Vicar Discretion	60,988	60,617
Restricted - Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	23,495	23,481
Restricted - Agency Collection	482	482
Restricted - Hoare Gift Account	1,030	1,029
Funds of the church	219,627	225,849

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

The accounts are a summary of the Financial Statements which have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner. A copy of the full financial statements, including relevant notes to the accounts, is available from the Administrator, Debbie Filer.

Churchwardens' Report on The Fabric of St. Mary's Church 2021

During the year the only works done to the fabric of the building were the 'snagging' repairs for the works done during the winter of 2019/20. They have been agreed by the church's appointed architect, but have not yet been signed off as the lightening conductor needs to be tested.

A Faculty has been granted by the Chancellor of the Diocese for repairs to the East Window following impact damage. The works have been delayed due to previous commitments for the specialist contractor, but should be completed early in 2022. The majority of the cost has been paid by the Church's insurers, but we are very thankful to the Friends of St Mary's who have paid the excess on this.

We have also received at the end of December List B authorisation for an Automatic External Defibrillator (generally known as an AED). This will be placed on the external north wall of the Parish Room and is being paid for by funds raised by the Village Cafe. We thank everyone who has raised funds for this.

Externally, we have reinvigorated the team that looks after the flower and shrub beds around the church building. In September we saw a busy morning when people started work on them, and the results are already impressive and we look forward to a colourful display.

Mark Holley & Robert Jackson
February 2022

Terrier & Inventory Report

There have been no significant removals over the past year.

We have received the following additions:

A memorial bench has been placed in the East side of the churchyard. It is of a Larbreck design and is in memory of Cyril James Knight. The inscription reads "Cyril James Knight, a gentle man".

An iPad Air, model number MD789B/A, serial number DMPMQFF1FK15 generously donated by Andree McLean.

An iPad (8th generation) model number MYLA2B/A, serial number F9FG09QQ1GD and a Mevo start streaming camera model number 23T94 kindly donated by Tesco Community Grant to enable us to live stream funerals.

A contactless Charity donation box has been purchased to facilitate giving by bank card- Good box- GB-CCBM-V03-WW-B05-41

Mark Holley- Churchwarden
February 2022

Report on the Churchyard

Following damage sustained by wind in December 2020, a Yew tree in the north east corner (near the bins) was felled following the necessary applications having been made.

Robert Jackson - Churchwarden
February 2022

REPORT FROM THE BASINGTOKE DEANERY SYNOD, 2021

Due to the continued disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, only two meetings of Deanery Synod were held in 2021. These took place on 13th July at St. Paul's Church, Tadley and on 5th October at St. Mary's Church, Eastrop.

At the July meeting, there was some necessary business to approve revised financial arrangements for the Deanery Synod's own funds (a small balance that is separate from the Common Mission Fund). Paul Carson, of Winklebury and Worting Parish, had agreed to take on the role of Deanery Treasurer to manage these accounts, in addition to being Finance Chair of the Deanery Synod.

The meeting received a presentation from Chris Hill, who had recently taken on the role of Diocesan Mission Trainer, on the Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) courses. Those available for the Autumn Term would be: Worship; Working with Children, Youth and Families; Prayer Champions; Creation Care.

Richard Harlow, Area Dean, outlined plans for the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative. There were expected to be courses running in many parishes and he would lead a course for any in parishes in interregnum. As the numbers were low enough, the meeting was able to continue outside with Synod members socialising.

At the October meeting the focus was on recovery from the pandemic and other support for our communities. Jonathan Clark and Peter Hay spoke about the Basingstoke Movement for Recovery (BM4R), which is part of a nationwide initiative which aims to encourage churches to work together to support people across the areas of food, housing, unemployment, and health. They shared a 'Vision Support Structure' which envisages how a network of churches can support the council in areas such as housing, business, police, health and social care, voluntary sector, and faith. We can do this by sharing best practice; building relationships; praying for each other; eliminating duplication; identifying gaps. BM4R carried out an audit of 55 churches and charities and had had initial responses from 12 churches, including St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit, and 10 charities. 596 volunteers had been involved in helping 11,507 people.

Penny Dillely talked about the 'Community Food Link' in Basingstoke. This is a new initiative that has been developed in the last 18 months, after many years of prayer. Different groups of volunteers collect food from Tesco, M & S and Lidl stores across the town that would otherwise be thrown away. This is then sorted and delivered to various hubs at churches across Basingstoke for distribution. This also provides an opportunity to support individuals informally through listening and sharing advice, including in areas such as job application.

Please speak to any of three lay representatives on the Deanery Synod or Revd. Heather if you wish to know more about any of these matters.

Rebecca Aldridge, Jo Jarrett-Kerr, Paul Skinner

February 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Approved by the PCC on 20th February 2022

Signed by the Chair, The Reverend Heather Leppard

Reverend Heather

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Accounts



(Photo by kind permission of Jeanette Edwards)

Incumbent: The Reverend Heather Leppard

Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7DJ

Large print copies available on request

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2010 this PCC became an independent charity number 1136606

Membership of the PCC during the 12 months January-December 2020 was

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Rev Heather Leppard (Chair)
<i>Churchwardens & Vice Chairs</i>	Ian Kershaw <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Tricia Renwick <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Mark Holley <i>from 18 October 2020</i> Robert Jackson <i>from 18 October 2020</i>
<i>Representatives on Deanery Synod</i>	Joanna Jarrett-Kerr Penelope Potter <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Paul Skinner Rebecca Aldridge <i>from 18 October 2020</i>
<i>Elected members</i>	Rebecca Aldridge <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Jeanette Edwards Debbie Filer (Secretary) Katharine Harding Mike Jackson Robert Jackson <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Vena Jackson <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Alan Jones Mike Leaming <i>from 18 October 2020</i> Andree McLean Sue Smith <i>from 18 October 2020</i> David Stevens Gary Taylor <i>until 18 October 2020</i> Julia Wright (Treasurer) <i>until 18 October 2020</i> <i>& then co-opted</i>
<i>Environmental/ Ecological Representative</i>	Andy Molloy

Bank:

The National Westminster Bank plc, 3 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Independent Examiner:

Mr Colin Bezant

3 Up Fallow, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**The Governing Document**

The Parochial Church Council is a charity established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules. Its activities are to provide a ministry of presence and engagement with God through sacramental worship, mission and hospitality.

a) Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of New Members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The new regulations now apply, as stated in the Annual Report 2012.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

b) Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Members

The Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator are offered formal training through the Diocese. Courses in general church governance are also held that are recommended to all PCC members and other in-house steps are taken to ensure PCC members understand fully their role and responsibilities on the Council.

c) Organisational Structure

In 2020 the PCC met in person in February and online via Zoom in June, August, October and November. All approvals were ratified by M29 Measure in line with the Church Representation Rules relating to Parish Governance.

d) Committees:

The following report to the PCC:

*di) During 2020 the **Standing and Finance Committee** met in person in January and March and online via Zoom in May (twice), July, August, September and November and comprised:*
Vicar - The Rev'd Heather Leppard, Churchwardens: Ian Kershaw, Tricia Renwick, (until October 2020), Mark Holley, Robert Jackson (from October 2020), PCC Secretary: Debbie Filer, PCC Treasurer: Julia Wright, PCC elected members: Andree McLean, Penny Potter (until October 2020).

*dii) The **Building Group** (Fabric Group)*

The Vicar, Mark Holley (from October 2020), Mike Jackson, Robert Jackson, Ian Kershaw (until October 2020), Mike Leaming (from October 2020) Tricia Renwick (until October 2020), David Stevens and Gary Taylor (until October 2020) comprise this group, which meets according to need to discuss matters concerning the Church Building and Fabric.

e) Risk Management

The major risks to which the Church is exposed relate to financial instability, fraud, failure to comply with legal obligations and commitments in relation to the church building.

The reserves in our General Fund are now at £50,157. The PCC is very conscious that the expenditure of the church continues to be greater than our income. We are fortunate to have additional reserves in designated funds that are able to help us in the short term, but we are actively looking at running a stewardship campaign to help us work towards a balanced budget. Income and expenditure is closely monitored and the use of the computerised accounting system assists in this.

The PCC ensures that any minor expenditure has to be approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC. The Treasurer monitors payments requested and any cheques drawn require the approval of two signatories authorised by the PCC.

The PCC considers carefully its legal obligations and has policies in force to ensure they are met.

The Churchwardens and David Stevens, the PCC appointed Health and Safety Officer, monitor and manage fire and health and safety matters connected with the use of the church premises and report back to the PCC.

A Health and Safety Policy, a Lone Workers' Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Vulnerable Adult Policy are in place and updated annually.

Safeguarding at St Mary's

The PCC is fully compliant with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) The PCC has appointed Jeanette Edwards as the Safeguarding Officer with Safeguarding being a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. The PCC has a plan in place to raise awareness of, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by everyone in our church community.

The Parish is registered for the purposes of the Data Protection Act with the Administrator as the Data Controller. All information is held and used in a manner which complies with the General Data Protection Regulations. GDPR is a standing agenda item and PCC members, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete and review training.

We are fortunate in having such a beautiful church building but this does impose considerable obligations. The condition of the building is monitored regularly by the Churchwardens and the PCC appointed architect. Reports of concerns are made to the PCC who determine what action should be taken and how any expenditure should be financed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The chief role of the Parochial Church Council is, together with the Incumbent and clergy, to promote the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC represents parishioners and, on their behalf, considers and agrees appropriate action on matters relating to St Mary's Church, its fabric, finances, daily life and future direction. The Incumbent is the Chair of the PCC and Mark Holley and Robert Jackson (Churchwardens) are joint Vice Chairs. The business of the PCC is conducted through discussion, review and liaison with other interested groups and individuals, any of whom may, in this way, raise concerns or topics for consideration.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Old Basing and Lychpit follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their work for and in the Parish. The Council Members believe that promoting the work of the Church of England in this Parish helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic,

social and ecumenical) more effectively in the Parish as a whole and so provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who wish to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and by service by members of the Church in and to their communities and for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

In 2020 there were 2 weddings; 27 funerals (7 in the Church and 20 at the Crematorium); 6 baptisms; no renewal of vows, wedding blessings or thanksgivings for the birth of a child;

There were 97 Christmas communicants.

ELECTORAL ROLL

On 31st December 2020 the Electoral Roll stood at 128 of whom 106 were resident in the Parish and 22 non-resident.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

What a year it has been! Few of us will forget 2020 quickly. Life at St Mary's has been through many adaptations, but two things have given great comfort throughout this year: the steadfast love of God, and the callings, both new and established, that have brought people to serve the community of the church and the parish in a huge number of different ways.

January began with a joyful all age service for the Baptism of Christ, with renewal of baptism vows. 'Find out Fridays', the Christian club at St Mary's Junior School, saw over 20 children continue to attend each week (until lockdown began). A team of four from St Mary's Church shared in the leading the sessions, further strengthening our great links with the junior school. Strong links with the schools have continued through fortnightly acts of worship for the Junior School via video, as well as assemblies for the Infant School.

January also saw a new 'Marriage Preparation Day' held at St Mary's with all eight couples due to be married in 2020 attending - lunch kindly provided by the Ploughman's lunch team. It was a day of joy, reflection, excitement and laughter.

February saw our first baptism preparation morning in the parish room with three families attending and exploring faith together. Refreshments and welcome were provided by our Baptism Preparation team. St Mary's has a high number of occasional offices, and we hope to be able to build on our welcome for those approaching the church.

Welcome was one of the main themes to come out of our Parish Vision Day held in mid-February. The day saw over twenty members of the congregation gather, along with Phil Dykes, Church Growth Missioner for Winchester Diocese, who facilitated a rich discussion. The themes that emerged from these, alongside 'Welcome', were 'Journeying Together', 'Sanctuary and Spirituality', and 'Serving the Parish'. The aim is to create a new Mission Action Plan for the parish to build on the strong base we already have, and see us grow as a community over the coming years.

Around this time a new book group was formed. Early meetings were held in The Crown, before moving online. It has been an important time of fellowship and lively discussion at its monthly meetings throughout the year, and has gone from strength to strength.

As we moved into March the church saw the completion of a large and successful building project. Thanks go to all those who enabled this to take place, from the Church Wardens and building group who planned and oversaw the project, to all who contributed financially, including the Friends of St Mary's, ensuring a building that is fit for the future of the church.

The building works were completed, providentially, just before the worsening pandemic forced the closure of all churches (and most of society). 'Worship at Home' sheets were produced for people to use in their own homes on a Sunday, and the services moved online, beginning on Mothering Sunday. Expertise in the arcane mysteries of video streaming has been built up over the ensuing year, moving from the slightly 'home-spun' services of March to the slick, multi-media presentation of online worship now. It has been so good to see the sacramental life of the church continuing. In common with most churches there have been a few 'bloopers' along the way, mostly involving the Vicarage children; but more importantly it has been wonderful to be able to include readings and intercessions from members of the worshipping community. It has also been wonderful to have sermons from Helen Holley, who completed the Bishop's Permission to Preach course last year. We were delighted to hear at the end of 2020 that she has been accepted for training to Licensed Lay Ministry.

During April the first service from the Vicarage garden was held (in bright sunshine) for Easter Sunday. As it became apparent that 'lockdown' would last for some time, the church stepped up to help the community, working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action and the Coop to be a local hub for food and prescription collection for those unable to leave their homes. We also began a weekly email bulletin which has proved a great way to keep in touch.

The Foodbank collection point was moved from the church to the Vicarage; donations have increased significantly, testament to the church and community's desire to help in these difficult times. The Church also remains committed to promoting charitable giving through its charity of the month. Fundraising has had to be more creative than ever this year – it was great fun to join together online from our gardens for the Christian Aid camp out in May. Likewise our Flower Festival couldn't take place but we are grateful to those who organized the sale of plants, which raised vital funds for the church. The introduction of a new card payment machine in church was complemented by a new 'donate' button throughout our online presence, providing a much-needed update to the ways in which people can give to St Mary's.

New opportunities opened up around morning prayer, with online services benefitting those who had previously been unable to attend in person. From this a new team came together to share in the leading of the daily service, and it has been a great joy to witness this growth of the church's praying life. The church was also able to open again for private prayer, taking appropriate precautions and providing extra cleaning; another new team formed to enable this. St Mary's wonderful flower arrangers continued to beautify the church for all those who came by bringing in displays prepared at home.

It was a great relief to be able to resume services in church at the beginning of September, with services continuing to be provided online for those unable to come to church. A newly formed Tech Team made this possible. We still have challenges with intermittent internet which we will be working on in 2021.

Harvest this year was between lockdowns and the Messy Church team brought together a splendid 'Messy Harvest', making full use of the natural bounty of the churchyard. It was also a delight to welcome the children from Old Basing Village Nursery School back to the church for a Harvest activity morning.

Later in October the delayed Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings took place with new churchwardens and new members of the PCC elected. We thanked

Tricia Renwick and Ian Kershaw for all that they have done over the past many years, and hope that they enjoy their retirements (but not too quietly). We also took the opportunity to thank Hilary May-Miller for her work as Electoral Roll Officer, and Penny Potter for the many years that she served as lead Sacristan; a role that Katharine Harding has now taken on. It was a pleasure to welcome Robert Jackson and Mark Holley to serve as churchwardens.

November's 'season of remembrance' saw a stone cross formed by the lobby with names of loved ones. Our All Souls service was able to take place in church and online – with candles and orders of service sent out in advance to those joining from home. Remembrance Sunday was carefully planned with the Royal British Legion and live-streamed from the War Memorial. We invited the Uniformed Organisations, and Old Basing Infant School, to be involved this year by decorating stones with poppies which they brought to the War Memorial through the week. Also outdoors was our Christmas Tree festival which proved a great success, blessed by fine weather and a warm atmosphere.

Christmas looked rather different to usual, but the church was able to hold additional services to enable everyone who wanted to attend to do so. In church, we held our Community Carol Service (this year including more organ pieces and less singing), Blue Christmas, and midnight and Christmas morning services. Most novel was our Christingle in a bag which enabled families to join in an online Christingle service from their own homes. It was a really beautiful service and the messages of thanks were lovely to read.

We continue to pray for those who have been most deeply affected by the events of 2020 as we also continue to hope and pray for a return to something like normal. We thank God for the calling placed upon us to welcome people in Christ's name, to journey together, to serve, and to provide sanctuary. It is impossible in this report to thank everyone individually who has contributed to make this vision possible, but the vitality and resilience shown by the people and the community of St Mary's, Old Basing and Lychpit has been a source of immense inspiration and encouragement throughout the year. Thank you all, and thanks be to God.

Reverend Heather Leppard
March 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Old Basing & Lychpit

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out hereafter, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those accounting records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the view given by the accounts.

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
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr Colin Bezant
March 2021

PCC HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2020

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for reading this.

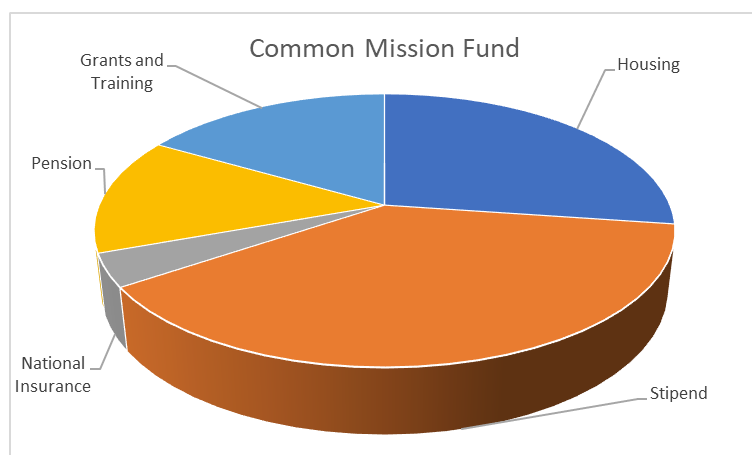
I'm very appreciative of everyone who pays regularly, whether through the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders, cheques, cash or online. This regular income has been the lifeline of the church.

As you are well aware, 2020 has been a tough year for many people and businesses and your church is no exception. We have seen our church closed for long periods, weddings cancelled, the parish room closed and the summer fete cancelled. However, during this time we have still had bills to pay. This is not just bills for the major church repairs. The church still needs to pay for insurance, the common mission fund, salaries, gas and electricity standing charges, water rates you get the picture. In fact, although the church has been closed, most of our usual expenses are fixed. Plus we have had additional expenses to stream our services online, hold meetings online and purchase additional cleaning products.

So, how has this impacted our church?

Overall expenses exceeded income by £69,876. Of this £45,636 is due to the cost of building repair works and £24,240 is from general day to day expenses.

Whilst 2020 was an exceptional year, this does follow a period of years when income received has not met our general expenditure. The budget for 2021 is predicting a loss in the region of £25,000 if income is not increased. If this situation of income not meeting expenses is not rectified, the funds of the church will be depleted. I would encourage regular givers to increase their generosity if possible. The PCC are also looking at ways to increase income in the long term.



It costs at least £70,000 to put an ordained minister in a Parish. Our contribution to the Common Mission Fund covers this and contributes to central Diocesan costs that include the training of future clergy, funding for curates, safeguarding and support to church schools.

Julia Wright

Julia Wright
February 2021

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Statement of Financial Activities For the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	75,095	—	—	—	75,095	157,584
Activities for generating funds	1,835	—	—	—	1,835	6,918
Investment income	628	—	—	—	628	1,812
Incoming resources from charitable activities	8,866	—	—	—	8,866	15,917
Total incoming resources	86,427	—	—	—	86,427	182,233
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	150	—	393	—	544	210
Charitable activities	91,359	—	61,115	—	152,474	214,426
Other resources used	3,283	—	—	—	3,283	3,283
Total resources used	94,794	—	61,509	—	156,303	217,921
Net income / (expenditure)	(8,367)	—	(61,509)	—	(69,876)	(35,688)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	32	434	—	466	531
Gross transfers between funds - out	(466)	—	—	—	(466)	(531)
Net income / (expenditure)	(8,834)	32	(61,075)	—	(69,876)	(35,688)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	1,010	—	1,010	6,738
Net movement in funds	(8,834)	32	(60,064)	—	(68,865)	(28,949)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	58,991	7,802	227,890	—	294,684	323,633
Total funds carried forward	50,157	7,835	167,826	—	225,818	294,684
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	50,157	—	—	—	50,157	58,991
Designated						
Children's Corner	—	58	—	—	58	58
Ploughmans' Lunch	—	7,508	—	—	7,508	7,477
Surplices for Choir	—	267	—	—	267	266
Restricted						
Agency collection	—	—	482	—	482	482
Dorothy Iris Silver	—	—	80,925	—	80,925	96,032
Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	—	—	23,481	—	23,481	69,059
Hoare Gift Account	—	—	1,029	—	1,029	1,025
Investment Bond - Warden and Vicar Discretion	—	—	60,617	—	60,617	59,698
Kemp Legacy Fund	—	—	1,290	—	1,290	1,198
Special Projects Fund 1	—	—	—	—	—	393

PCC of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2020

	As at 31/12/2020 £	As at 31/12/2019 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	9,851	13,135
Investments	61,907	60,897
	<u>71,759</u>	<u>74,032</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	2,600	6,910
Cash at bank and in hand	158,755	257,195
	<u>161,356</u>	<u>264,105</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6,596	38,405
Provisions for liabilities and charges due within one year	700	700
Net current assets less current liabilities	154,059	224,999
Total assets less current liabilities	225,818	299,032
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	--	4,348
Total net assets less liabilities	225,818	294,684
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	50,517	58,991
Designated		
Designated – Children's Corner	58	58
Designated – Friends of St Mary's Building Donation	---	--
Designated – Ploughman's Lunch	7,508	7,477
Designated – Surplices for Choir	267	266
Designated – Village Café Collections	---	--
Restricted		
Restricted - Dorothy Iris Silver	80,925	96,032
Restricted - Kemp Legacy Fund	1,290	1,198
Restricted - Monica Peer Fund for Church Restoration	--	--
Restricted - Investment Bond - Warden and Vicar Discretion	60,617	59,698
Restricted - Special Projects Fund 1	--	393
Restricted - Dunbar Fund for Restoration & Preservation	23,481	69,059
Restricted - Agency Collection	482	482
Restricted - Hoare Gift Account	1,029	1,025
Funds of the church	225,818	294,684

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

The accounts are a summary of the Financial Statements which have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner. A copy of the full financial statements, including relevant notes to the accounts, is available from the Administrator, Debbie Filer.

Churchwardens' Report on The Fabric of St. Mary's Church 2020

At the beginning of 2020 works of repair were continuing on the building following the last Quinquennial Report. These were completed in February 2020. While scaffolding was erected in front of the East Window impact damage was noted to a small number of the pieces of glass. However, due to the pandemic nothing further was done on this and this will be taken forward in 2021.

The Aumbry door became stuck shut in November 2020. It was subsequently found that water had leaked in and caused some corrosion of the door. This was oiled and new moisture absorbing trays were placed. The internal curtains were washed and base fabric insert replaced due to some water damage.

Terrier & Inventory Report

There have been no additions to or items removed from the inventory this year.

Mark Holley- Churchwarden
March 2021

Report on the Churchyard

Limited work could be carried out on the churchyard in 2020-2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The PIOCC team have been able to do some routine maintenance in their area and lay some metal sheets to conduct a slow worm survey.

On 26th December 2020 a Yew tree in the north east corner (near the bins) sustained some wind damage. A large branch fell from the main stem onto the compost stack, neighbours' fence and the Granary roof. David Stevens, very kindly, has been in discussions with the neighbour regarding replacing a few damaged tiles on the Granary. It has been suggested that the remaining tree be removed, and applications have been made along these lines.

There was a problem with overflow of the bins in the "closed" churchyard which can be accessed from the lower part of Church Lane. The grey and green bins were both full and there was overflow all around the area. This has been cleaned up and just the grey bin will be returned (as people were not using the green for recycling), this will

be emptied once a month. An enquiry was made as to if a permanent council black round bin could be placed but this was declined.

REPORT FROM THE BASINGTOKE DEANERY SYNOD, 2020

The first Deanery Synod meeting of 2020 was held at Christ Church Chineham in February. After our worship led by the incumbent Jonathan Clark, the Lay Chair, Philip Hiorns, outlined the plans for forthcoming meetings. As this was the final year of the triennium, new members would be elected for the new three-year term at APCMs in April. The term officially ended on 30th June, so the meeting scheduled for 12th May was open to existing members and it was planned to hold an introductory meeting on 1st July. Of course, things didn't turn out like this!

The main business of the meeting was to receive two presentations. The first of these was from Luke Maundrell, Stewardship & Resources Officer for the Diocese. Luke showed a video explaining how the Common Mission Fund pays for the £13million that it takes to run the Diocese of Winchester annually. He talked about Stewardship and the motivation behind giving of time, talents and money. Looking at figures for monetary giving, the average weekly amount per person was £14.10 for Winchester, compared with £16.05 for The Diocese of Sheffield. For Basingstoke Deanery the figure was £15.82 and he suggested a target of £17. Looking at encouraging giving, mention was made of 'digital giving' including card readers, tap-to-donate devices and online donations, all of which we now have. In closing, he told us to look out for Generous June, which was an initiative in partnership with The Diocese of Sheffield.

The second presentation was from Phil Dykes, Church Growth Missioner, on the Bishop's Commission for Mission - BCM. The aim of BCM is to equip ordinary people to find their calling. Each course, or stream, runs as six evening sessions, sandwiched by an opening day and a closing morning, so is finished in a term. Current streams are Pastoral, Worship, Evangelism, Growing Faith, Children, Youth & Families, Pioneering and Prayer Champions. Planned streams are Serving Schools, Creation Care and Chaplaincy, with more to come. Mention was also made of the Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) programme, which is a year-long academic and practical course enabling lay people to preach.

Following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, meetings of the Deanery Synod were suspended. With the delay to APCMs, new lay members were not elected until the Autumn and a meeting was then held on Zoom in early-November. This meeting consisted in large part of elections to posts and an introduction for the benefit of those new to Deanery Synod. Richard Harlow, Area Dean, gave an outline of the deanery. Philip Hiorns, having been re-elected as Lay

Chair, outlined some of the challenges and opportunities lying ahead. Covid remained the immediate challenge, with some parishes having suffered big drops in income (e.g. from hall rentals) but there were huge variations. There were also concerns about some congregation members becoming disengaged. Opportunities had been taken, and continued to be developed, to increase online presence and give practical help to parishioners. With a squeeze on resources, the diocese was stretched, particularly with clergy numbers. Although the geographical area covered by the deanery is considered affluent, there remain areas of deprivation, especially parts of Basingstoke. It is a challenge to reach those areas, the new housing developments and youth. Parishes will continue to be a primary focus of mission, but across the deanery there will be some things we can do more effectively working together. Some changes are coming. It is proposed that St. Michael's, Basingstoke, be made a 'Resource Church'. There are plans for deanery links to overseas provinces, with the proposal that Basingstoke and Bournemouth Deaneries join together in linking with Chile.

Please speak to any of three lay representatives on the Deanery Synod or Revd. Heather if you wish to know more about any of these matters.

Rebecca Aldridge, Jo Jarrett-Kerr, Paul Skinner

February 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Approved by the PCC on 18th March 2021

Signed by the Chair, The Reverend Heather Leppard

Reverend Heather

18th March 2021