



The Parochial Church Council of
St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick

Charity Number: 1137972



Diocese of Bath & Wells

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

ANNUAL REPORTS
2024

to be presented at

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Sunday 21st April 2024 following
Parish Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church is situated in Bathwick, Bath. It is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: -

The Parish Office, St Mary's Church, Darlington Street, Bath BA2 4EB.

Email: office@bathwickparishes.org.uk www.bathwickparishes.org.uk Phone 01225-447450

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with Charity Commission. Reg Charity No 1137972

PCC members who have served from 16th April 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Post</i>
<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd. Peter Edwards	Chairman
<i>Readers</i>	Marilyn Kirby Thomas Bunn Stephen Howard Marcus Wedge	PCC Secretary: Standing Committee, Restoration Action Group Emeritus, Deanery Synod Vice Chairman PCC and Standing Committee ^, Deanery Synod, Finance Committee, Car Park Working Group, Organ Restoration Working Group Health and Safety Officer, Fabric Committee
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Jan Howard Clare Goodhart	Standing Committee, Fabric and Finance Committees Standing Committee, Fabric and Finance Committees, Organ Restoration Working Group, Mission & Evangelism Benefice Group
<i>Diocesan Synod</i>	John Porteous	Vice Chairman PCC#, Standing Committee#; Fabric and Finance Committees
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Julia Brownbridge # Thomas Bunn ^ Stephen Howard Nicky Parker	Restoration Action Group# See above See above Safeguarding Officer, Standing Committee, Fabric, Finance, and Social Committees Restoration Action Group and Children's Church,
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Richard Andrews Julia Brownbridge ^ Nick Lennard Nicola Mathiason * Helen Moss Andrew Parker Caroline Redfern ^ Carole Stickney Dominic Taylor	Mission & Evangelism and Environmental Working Benefice Groups Social Committee, Car Park Working Group * Treasurer: Standing Committee, Finance and Fabric Committees Mission & Evangelism Benefice Working Group Social Committee, Mission and Environmental Working Benefice Groups Electoral Roll Officer, Fabric Committee, Restoration Action Group, Organ Restoration Working Group Mission & Evangelism Benefice Working Group Social and Fabric Committees Environmental Benefice Working Group
<i>Co-opted Members:</i>	None	

Until APCM 16th April 2023, ^ From APCM 16th April 2023, * Resigned September 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the advancement of religion.

The aim of the PCC is to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. In addition it also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and its associated property. The PCC sees the Church's mission as witnessing steadfastly to the Christian faith and proclaiming the gospel through prayer and preaching and the celebration of the sacraments through service to the people of Bathwick and further afield and to those in need. The Church Hall provides a safe haven for young people in the local area.

MISSION STATEMENT

By God's grace and mindful of our heritage
we aim to extend the Community of Faith
where God is glorified
and the Good News of Jesus Christ
is proclaimed and lived

THE "WORSHIP" ETHOS

St Mary's has been "Anglo Catholic" since "Oxford Movement" times, when the Church of England was re-affirmed as Catholic, in worship and practice. That revered tradition, as demonstrated by the Sunday Morning Sung Eucharist, has been influenced by subsequent developments in Catholic teaching and practice of liturgy. Music, (generally traditional classical and Anglican), is valued, with statues, art, incense and vestments adding to the sense of the numinous. Celebration of the Sacraments with awe and wonder at the mystery of the love of God is a priority. Two key texts are 1 Cor. 14:40 and Hebrews 12:22-24.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear brothers and sisters,

May I begin this report with a thank you to all members of the St Mary's church family – not only for me and Clare and our family, but – more importantly – for your faithful prayers and worship of God, and the work that you do to support the vulnerable in our own society and across the world through financial support and time spent supporting a wide variety of charities and aid agencies.

In February 2023 we sought to survey the various strengths and weaknesses of our parish and church life using the Healthy Churches Initiative. We have been helped in this process by the Bishop of Oswestry's Healthy Churches Mentor, Fr Gary Ecclestone to whom we are grateful. This process is designed to measure our relative strengths against eight measures which are characteristics of growing faith communities – empowering leadership, gift-based ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented outreach, and loving relationships. Results of the survey suggested that the St Mary's congregation felt that the area where the church was most successful was in the area of inspiring worship, with the next strongest measure being that of using people's

individual gift-based ministry. Areas that we might look to improve include some of the sub-categories in the outreach, structures and leadership areas.

Fr Gary encouraged us to celebrate our strengths, and we duly held a special service on the Feast of Christ the King in November 2023 when many of the different groups that make up our church and community life came together in worship, and presented a series of decorated jigsaw pieces which fitted together to symbolise how all these different groups together make up the life of the church. Many thanks to those who organised and took part in this special event.

Following the survey in the Summer, a Working Group of the PCC was established to consider Mission and Evangelism to seek to make recommendations in these areas; we have sought to be improve our external advertising (e.g. a series of banners advertising events and services), availability of teaching leaflets and prayer cards for visitors; [anything else?].....

The other particular highlight of the year – more details contained elsewhere in this Annual Report – was the work to restore our beautiful Father Willis pipe organ. We said a farewell to the instrument at Easter 2023 when most of its components were transported to Harrison & Harrison's workshop in Durham for a long-overdue major maintenance. After several months of work, the pipework and other components were restored to the church in the Autumn and revoicing took place in January 2024. Further 'snagging' work is still to take place before the organ is fully operational, most likely at Easter 2024. We look forward to the formal opening recital, to be given on 7 June by Peter King, the former Director of Music of Bath Abbey who has been so supportive of this restoration project from the fundraising stage to its completion. Thanks must also be extended to Neil Cocking who generously lent us his electronic instrument for use in the church over these past months.

Other events celebrated during the course of the year at St Mary's included special services to mark the King's coronation in May 2023. We also commemorated Fr Richard Hunt's 50th anniversary of priesting, and in September I celebrated the tenth anniversary of being the parish priest of Bathwick – it remains a great privilege to minister in our two benefice churches of St Mary the Virgin and St John the Baptist, giving a distinctive Anglo-Catholic flavour of worship and theological understanding within the surrounding Deanery and Diocese. Elsewhere in this report, you will find details of the various activities that have taken place during the past year in the life of St Mary's church included in this Annual Report and Accounts, a range of activities that characterizes all that we do in this place to worship God, to serve him in this community, and to provide a place for community groups and individuals to meet in safety.

Thanks are due from me personally to our Churchwardens Jan Howard and Clare Goodhart, to our PCC members, our assistant clergy and Readers, to our Parish Administrator Kerry Hughes, and to all those who have maintained the life of our church as well as supporting me personally over these past months. Thanks too to Nick Lennard and those who have supported him for their continued careful stewardship of our financial resources.

As I end this short report, may I commend to your prayers all those from our congregation who

died in 2023 or for whom funeral or memorial services took place in St Mary's church (or held elsewhere but conducted by a minister from St Mary's church) during the course of the year: Joan Wall, Queenie Maddox, Rosemary Beesley, Margaret Crow and Elizabeth Wilson. We continue to pray for those who mourn their passing. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May God continue to bless this place and all that we seek to do in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Revd Peter Edwards Rector of Bathwick

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT YEAR 2023-24

The aim of the following report is to provide certain information as well as noting significant PCC decisions not otherwise covered in the separate Committee and other Church Group reports. The Secretary apologises for any overlaps or omissions that may have occurred. The Standing Committee comprises the Chairman, the two Churchwardens, Vice Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and the Treasurer.

There were 136 members on the Electoral Roll as reported at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 16th April 2023. In addition, we have a number of regular attendees who are not on the Roll.

At the time of writing, this report 6 PCC meetings had been held, with two further meetings scheduled before the APCM. The first on 21st February 2024 being to discuss general business, including proposals from the Mission and Evangelism Working Group, and to approve the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023, and the second on 20th March 2024 at which Annual Reports will be presented prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 21st April 2024.

The First PCC Meeting 16th April 2023 followed immediately after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Fr Peter welcomed Caroline Redfern to her first meeting of the PCC.

The following Officers were elected: Hon. Treasurer Nick Lennard, Hon. Secretary Marilyn Kirby, Vice Chairman Steven Howard, and Electoral Roll Officer Andy Parker. The Meeting then elected the Standing Committee: Fr Peter Edwards, the Vice Chairman of the PCC (Stephen Howard), the Churchwardens (Clare Goodhart and Jan Howard), the Secretary (Marilyn Kirby), the Treasurer (Nick Lennard) and the Safeguarding Officer Nicky Parker. There were no co-options to the PCC. The Parish Return was submitted to the Diocese following this meeting.

The Second PCC Meeting 2nd May 2023 The convenors and members of the Committees and Working Groups of the PCC were appointed. Matters relating to use of the car park were also discussed.

The Third Meeting 14th June 2023 Fr Gary Ecclestone was invited to attend the meeting, at which the main item considered was the results from the Healthy Churches Initiative Survey carried out in February 2023. The meeting agreed to consider at a future meeting Fr Gary's suggestion to plan an event to celebrate one of our key strengths. The meeting also agreed to Helen Moss's suggestion that Green Journey carry out an energy advice survey.

The Fourth Meeting 9th August 2023 Fr Gary Ecclestone also attended this special meeting which focussed on the planning of a special service on 26th November 2023 to give thanks for

the life and ministry of the Church. A report from the Car Park Working Group was also considered and the meeting agreed to trial an online booking system using the Your Parking Space platform.

The Fifth Meeting 6th September 2023 As requested by the Area Dean (Revd. Stephen Girling), the meeting discussed the Deanery "Proposals for Pastoral Organisation" which calls for a reduction in full time incumbents from 22 to 19. Following discussion, the meeting asked Marilyn Kirby to inform Revd. Stephen Girling that they noted the proposals and were concerned with the impact of the overall strategy to reduced stipendiary clergy numbers. The meeting considered two reports from the Fabric Committee. Nick Lennard presented the Half-Year Accounts. Discussion of the carpark again featured at this meeting.

The Sixth Meeting 1st November 2023. This was held at Bathwick St Mary's school and began with a welcome from the Headmaster Kevin Purkiss, in which he spoke about the highlights and also the challenges they faced due to pupils coming from very diverse backgrounds, for example 21 languages are spoken as many of the children have parents working or studying at the University (for further details see Kevin Purkiss's report). Nick Lennard tabled the Finance Committee's proposed Budget for 2024 which was accepted by the meeting.

The Seventh Meeting 21st February 2024 was still due to take place at the time of writing this report. It is scheduled as a normal business meeting of the council with the addition of approving the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022.

The Eighth Meeting 20th March 2024 is scheduled to be the final meeting before the APCM and is when the Annual Reports will be presented in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Marilyn Kirby, Hon PCC Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The high point of the year has, of course, been the repair and re-installation of our Father Willis organ. This has been a huge project and we are very excited to have achieved completion. The organ pipes have been regilded and the organ stool replaced, so we look forward to celebrating.

Our sound system has also been repaired and the loop system is now working.

Further work was undertaken on the roof as the annual clearing of gutters and drains revealed some water ingress and damage. This has been addressed.

The Church inventory has been updated and the terrier remains unchanged.

Maintenance work has continued and will include a kitchen upgrade in the coming months.

Marcus Wedge, to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude, has gradually been withdrawing from fabric responsibilities. Fabric Committee has met regularly to review and manage projects. We would also like to acknowledge the work of others in caring for our Church: Jenny Jones and Dawn Lennard for their gardening work; Molly Wedge, Sarah Davies and Helen Lees for their dedicated sacristy work; the Friday cleaning team and Marion Stoneham for her help with flowers.

Jan Howard and Clare Goodhart, Churchwardens

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety issues relating to the Church and Hall have been monitored during the year.

Marcus Wedge

READERS

As always Marilyn Kirby, Marcus Wedge and I continue to offer our support to Fr Peter in the execution of his role as Rector, in our various practical and advisory capacities both “as Readers” and in a variety of other ways. We are very conscious that these are privileged ministries and if you have anything on your mind or thoughts that you would like to share, please do let us know.

Stephen Howard

LESSON READERS AND INTERCESSORS

We would like to record our thanks to all those who support our services by reading a lesson or leading our prayers. Beryl Llewellyn has paused her involvement as a lesson reader but John Price, Gerald and Margaret Hull have joined the rota. There are currently 28 on this rota for 2024-25:

Maggie and Trevor Blackshaw, Julia Brownbridge, Sarah and Robin Davies, Clare Edwards, Jan and Stephen Howard, Naomi Heffer, Gerald and Margaret Hull, Fr Richard and Jo Hunt, Jenny Jones, Marilyn Kirby, Nick Lennard, Helen and John Lees, Carla Maddocks, Ross Manaton, Helen and Keith Moss, Nicky and Andy Parker, John Porteous, John Price, Caroline Redfern and Marcus Wedge.

If you would like to read a lesson or lead the intercessions, please let the Churchwardens know.

Jan Howard and Clare Goodhart

SERVERS

I am very proud to celebrate the work done by our skilful team of servers who continue to dedicate themselves to these important ministries which enhance so much our worship at St Mary's, and the commitment required to carry them out at the appointed time. But servers do have private lives as well, and I always make it clear that if anything “comes up” it's always possible to arrange for cover from another member of the team. I say this because if there are others in the congregation who are at all interested in joining the team, but are worried about being on a rota, please do let me know. Training is offered and in the case of an acolyte, partnership with an experienced acolyte. So all you have to do in the first instance is follow them!

My thanks to Richard Andrews, who is taking a break for a while on account of other commitments pressing on his time, but am very pleased to welcome to our ranks a new recruit Ashton Price whom we look forward to seeing in action shortly.

SIDESPEOPLE**Stephen Howard**

The group of Sidespeople remains a committed group of parishioners. Beryl Llewellyn has stepped down; we are very grateful for her past support.

There are 13 Sidespeople on the rota for 2024-25 but we really need a few more:

Julia Brownbridge, Paul Chilvers, Robin and Sarah Davies, Roy Hatch, Helen Lees, Nick and Dawn Lennard, Carla Maddocks, Keith and Helen Moss, Nicky Parker, and Marion Stoneham.

The role involves welcoming people to Church, assisting with seating and any specific needs, and taking round the collection pouches. If you would like to become a Sidesperson and are on the Electoral Roll, please talk to me.

Clare Goodhart**SACRISTY**

The Sacristy Team have worked hard for another year preparing for all our services. This includes many duties, i.e. cleaning/washing silver, laying vestments, changing all the liturgical colours as we move into the various seasons. Keeping on top of all the laundry. Also making sure on Sunday morning that everything is ready before Fr. Peter arrives from St. Johns. Then on course clearing up afterwards!!!

Enormous thanks to Helen and Sarah for such wonderful support! Also, behind the scenes thank you to Jan for cleaning the Lady Chapel and for all her brass cleaning, to Marion and Jane who keep the chancel dusted. Many thanks to Neville who makes sure all the candles stay alight each week and for all his wonderful handiwork – if something needs repair it is Neville who is at hand!! A special thank you to Nicky and Andy who are amazing at erecting the crib at Christmas and the Easter Garden and of course taking it all down !! It is a joy to behold!!! Also, may I say thank you to Helen and Keith who make sure all the recycling is put out each week.!! All this is done in love an service to our Lord - a great privilege by all of us.

Molly Wedge**BELLRINGERS**

The big event in the calendar in 2023 was, of course, the coronation of their majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Twelve of the band rang on May 6th, including our youngest ringer, 8 year old Ivy, and both her parents. In years to come this will be a big part of her bellringing journey, and something she will be very proud to have done.

We've continued to ring for Sunday services and other special services, including half-muffled ringing on Remembrance Day. Several visiting bands from around the country have enjoyed ringing at St Mary's throughout the year, including a band of Bath University students, plus tours from Yeovil and Essex.

After almost 20 years our bellropes finally had to be replaced, and we're delighted to have a brand new set of ten ropes. The top part of these is made from Dyneema, a very strong, light material that is used for climbing and sailing ropes. The same material is also used for bullet proof vests! The new ropes are quiet and smooth to ring, and will last for years.

The year ended with the highlight of the St Mary's community jigsaw. We loved creating our jigsaw piece and presenting it at the morning service. We discovered creative talents among our ringers that we didn't know they had, and the finished article perfectly summed up bellringing and the Bathwick ringing team – colourful, entertaining, and a little bit different!

If you would like to have a go at ringing, please get in touch – we always welcome new ringers of all ages.

Molly Waterson Tower Secretary

FLOWERS

We are experiencing a very difficult situation - despite making pleas for help no one comes forward! Since last year Julie Brown has tried to help, but due to health problems is unable to continue at the moment. We are indebted to Marion who is in most Fridays to keep the silk flowers looking good and excellent at arranging fresh flowers for the major festivals, but as we go to press Marion has informed the churchwardens that as from the end of August she will be retiring - words cannot express how grateful we are to her since Carol retired she and I have done our best to keep flowers in church!! Also, thank you to Felicity and Carol who have helped at Easter and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who kindly donates cash for fresh flowers when requested. Much appreciated. Serious thought needs to see how to move forward - I cannot bear to think of no flowers in church!!!! Please pray about this and come forward with ideas how to proceed.

Molly Wedge

GARDEN

There is little to report this time around as the garden continues to flourish whatever the weather. Last summer was basically warm but wet with weeds having a field day – we know they are really plants growing where they are not wanted but, unfortunately, they have the happy knack of crowding out what is intended. However, despite the rain, Dawn and Jenny won in the end.

We are very fortunate to have Stu to do the heavy work which is immensely helpful as neither of us are exactly in the first flush of youth. Sometimes, even though the spirit is willing, the flesh, (though not weak) does complain a little if too much is undertaken in any one afternoon.

After a wet summer and very wet winter, we are hoping the coming season will be gardening friendly as so many people enjoy the tranquillity and peace found in St Mary's Garden.

Dawn Lennard and Jenny Jones

MUSIC

Twenty four hours after the last APCM, the team from Harrison & Harrison (Organ Builders) arrived from Durham to begin the two-week process of dismantling the organ for its long-awaited restoration, thus beginning a momentous period in the history of St Mary's.

In August, four of us, including Fr Peter, visited the company's premises to see work in progress on various parts of the instrument. As I write, the organ is now fully re-installed and back in use for a two-month 'settling in' period, which will take us to Easter Day when the rededication will take place. Periodically throughout the work, Tony Cooper (a neighbour of Fr Peter) has been photographing the project with the view of producing a book for posterity - ie church records! I am keen to record our very grateful thanks to Fr Neil Cocking for the free loan of his Viscount electronic instrument for the period of the restoration, thus saving us a substantial amount of money over the ten-month period of the work.

We enjoyed a varied and successful monthly series of Lunchtime Concerts from May to October with the retiring collections adding a pleasing £1,006 to our Student Choral Bursary Fund. As reported before, this scheme is proving to be a great success and we are grateful for the contribution that each of our students makes to the choir. Funding the scheme is always in the forefront of our minds and we continue to seek new ideas for maintaining a comfortable level in the account. We have seven students in total at the moment although two are currently on work placements as part of their course. Since the last APCM, we have welcomed Helena Taylor (soprano), Anna Lark (alto) and Ben Watson (bass) as student members and Mark Harrison as an occasional bass.

In October we again had the privilege of singing Choral Evensong in Wells Cathedral, this time on Tuesday, 31st for the Eve of All Saints and it is a great credit to the choir that we are now established on the Cathedral's list of potential visiting choirs.

The calendar year ended with the traditional services of Advent Carols and Readings at St John's and Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's. There is always a wealth of wonderful music to choose from for these occasions and we try to look for the new whilst, of course, making sure that the favourites are not overlooked.

The pleasing comments we received after each service in 2023 seemed to indicate that we had achieved our aim!

St Mary's continues to be a popular concert venue in the city, with many outside groups wanting to hold their events in the building, not least the annual Bachfest and Mozartfest programmes. We also continue to enjoy our association with the University of Bath Chamber Choir and their conductor, Dr Michael Painting.

Long may all this music making in St Mary's continue and there is much to look forward to in 2024. My huge thanks as always to Fr Peter for his continued support throughout each year and to our wonderful choir, without whom little of all this would be possible.

Gary Desmond

HALL AND CHURCH HIRE

We continue to maintain our regular bookings with U3A art group, WI, Pilates, Camerata, HBRG and Vocal Works Gospel Choir. We now have a Yoga class who use the hall on a Tuesday morning by arrangement, usually they run a block of weekly sessions during the term time. We have recently started to hire the kitchen to a lady for a cookery class by arrangement usually on a Saturday, sometimes in the morning or possibly afternoon or all day or she may be interested in a Sunday afternoon in the future. We have had a couple enquiries for new regular hall hire but this continues to be difficult due to some groups meeting once a month such as the 2nd Monday in the month and 1st Wednesday of the month etc. Also, with some of our regular groups only meeting during certain times of the year such as the art group. In 2023 the art group ran a summer term as well as their usual autumn and spring term so hopefully they will run a summer term in 2024.

The hall continues to be under-used during the day in the week on Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons, all day Thursday and Friday afternoons. The Yoga class use the day-time discounted rate for regular bookings for having the booking on a Tuesday morning, but this hasn't encouraged any other new groups. Pilates are the only other group which have the discounted rate for having the booking on a Wednesday lunchtime.

The hall continues to be used for occasional bookings and has been popular with the residents' groups such as meetings, AGMs, socials etc. Hall bookings for children's birthday parties are particularly popular during the weekend. A lot of the bookings are from our toddler group who have the discounted rate, children at Bathwick St Mary School and people who have been to a child's party at St Mary's hall before.

Unfortunately, ABRSM were unable to hold their music exam days with us after spring 2023 due to the organ works being carried out. The exams are usually held across four days, twice a year. Also, ABRSM had a few complaints from parents due to their child being upset about the piano. ABRSM found another venue in Bath and they say their piano is better but they prefer St Mary's for being on one level, location, parking etc. ABRSM have booked their spring exams at the other venue, and I said I would keep them updated if our piano changes. Hopefully they may come back in the future.

During 2023 we had various choir workshops and concerts by Bath Bach Choir, Bath Bachfest, Bath Festivals, The Handful, Lucis and Cappella Nova. In March Mid-Somerset Festivals held their choral day with us and in December we had carol services for King Edward's junior school and Bathwick St Mary School.

The diary for 2024 is getting booked up with various bookings for concerts, workshops, rehearsals, children's birthday parties, residents' association meetings and regular bookings. Again, we even have a couple of bookings already for 2025!!!

Kerry Hughes—Parish Administrator

RESTORATION ACTION GROUP

During the year RAG ran a range of fundraising activities including the very successful Summer Fete on 10th June. Two new events were a Music and Dance Evening in early September and a Coffee Morning Plus in early November, which included craft and cake stalls. The illustrated travel lectures continue to be popular and during the year included Northeast Scotland focusing on Aberdeen and the Cairngorms, while further afield we went "Down Under" to explore the State of Victoria.

Travel Lectures restart at the end of February and the Summer Fete will be held on 1st June this year.

Marilyn Kirby

ALMSGIVING

During 2023 we continued our practice of giving away our weekly collections in the blue envelopes to local and national charities, and we are grateful that members of the congregation continue to support a wide range of charities in this way. In total we supported 30 charities with 5 international ones including Goa Anglican Centre and our Zambian Link Parishes, 14 national ones and 11 local charities. As in 2022 the PCC made the decision to focus more on some of our local charities and therefore a number benefitted with three collections during the year. This has resulted in those charities getting on average, £250-300 for the year, as opposed to others having a single collection which is often less than £100. We also had four collections for emergency aid and three for the pastoral fund which the Rector uses to help individuals, in complete confidence, who need financial support in some way. There was a special collection for the earthquake in Pakistan which came to £2,384.

The PCC has been asked to advise on three international charities which were supported in 2023 but there are potential difficulties in sending the money directly to them due to the countries where they are based. The PCC has also been asked to decide about the just under £600 profit from Sunday and Wednesday coffees, and almost £900 had been accumulated over the last three years, from Gift Aid Tax on charitable donations. Formerly this money was sent to our local Church of England Schools, but the rules have changed, and this can no longer be done. The Annual Meeting will be updated about these three issues.

Robin and Sarah Davies

SOCIAL

Every Sunday morning is a social event at St Mary's as we meet after the service for coffee (or tea) and fellowship. This has to be one of the most important times to welcome visitors and newcomers to our church family and I would encourage everyone to ensure that no one is left without someone to talk to.

During the year we have had Bring & Share lunches, for our Dedication Festival in February, to celebrate the King's Coronation in May and for our Patronal Festival in September. These lunches are always very successful thanks to everyone coming together and helping out. For our special Thanksgiving service, on the Feast of Christ the King, we celebrated with champagne and canapés as we thought there might be too many people for a lunch – another very happy occasion.

In October the benefice harvest supper was held at St John's and once again proved to be a lovely evening. Thank you to everyone from St Mary's who provided the apple crumbles for pudding. On the morning of our Harvest Festival service we tried to entice students in by supplying doughnuts with coffee after the service. A few students arrived but most of the doughnuts were enjoyed by our regular congregation. Perhaps we should do this more often. The summer fete in June and the coffee morning in November were organised primarily as fund raising events but the social side of these occasions are just as important. Would we like to have more regular coffee mornings? Let me know.

As always the year ended with mulled wine and mince pies after the Nine Lessons and Carols Service. A fine way to start our Christmas celebrations.

Many thanks to the members of the Social Committee and to everyone else who lends a hand. We are always in need of new people on the committee so please don't wait to be asked.

Nicola Parker

WALSINGHAM

Every year in July, the two churches of Bathwick have made pilgrimage to Norfolk, to stay at the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Ralph and I had been going with our previous churches for 20 plus years and so it was wonderful to be able to come to Bathwick and find a Cell of OLV. The Shrine is a wonderful place of peace and tranquility where one can be assured of renewal in mind, body and spirit. The rooms are comfortable, meals are good and plentiful, and the gardens are lovely to wander through or sit in. There is an excellent café (the Norton Room).

The Bathwick pilgrimage is usually from Sunday (after Mass at St John's) until Thursday morning. We go half board. We hire a coach, whose driver stays at the Shrine. He is available to take us out for afternoon trips of our choice. We also visit the Catholic Shrine just a mile away.

Our days are as busy as one chooses. There are Shrine services consisting of a Mass, Liturgy of Reconciliation & Anointing, Procession & Benediction, Shrine Prayers and Evening Prayer; and our own group services as well. There are plenty of opportunities for quiet solitude and nothing is obligatory. Walsingham village itself is interesting to wander around, with a thriving Anglican church of its own.

This year, we have booked to go Sunday 28 July to Thursday 1st August. We would love to welcome not only seasoned pilgrims but also those who have yet to sample the joys of Walsingham. We promise any newcomers that they will be well looked after both by our own group and by all at the Shrine. If you would like to check out the website, please go to www.walsinghamanglicanshrine.org.uk If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Chris Plummer at St John's or telephone 01249 712894 or e-mail christine.a.plummer@gmail.com

Chris Plummer

ZAMBIA LINK

The St Mary Zambia link seems to have gone into hibernation. This is for 2 reasons firstly there is an ongoing issue with the diocesan office over money that was given for Zambia some time ago now. Nick has tried to trace it and is still in contact with the diocesan office over the problem. This issue will be raised with the PCC in the near future as St Mary's is sitting on money that should be used for the Zambia link. Secondly, a viable link needs a group of people to oversee it. That has not been forthcoming despite requests. In the meantime, the church in Buchi is thriving under the leadership of Father Freddie. If you remember Fr Alfred, who visited the UK and St Mary's a few years ago is now in another parish. It would be really good and beneficial to both churches if this link could be re-energised. It would enable St Mary's to feel part of the Anglican Communion in a mutual exchange of ideas and support.

Please contact me, Jo Hunt, if you could be part of a small group.

Joanna Hunt

BATHWICK BABY & TODDLER GROUP

It's been another bumper year of fun and activity at our Baby & Toddler Group.

In February we held a cake and bake sale to raise money for the Turkey and Syria earthquake appeal. At Easter the tots loved doing a chick 'treasure' hunt inside the church and in the garden. In November we held a pre-loved toy and book sale and raised a whopping £148 for Children in Need. Blink and you might have missed it but there was footage of us on BBC Points West that evening, so impressed were they with our babies and tots' efforts. We enjoyed a sunny and very windy summer party in the garden, with hot dogs, ice-cream and cocktails. We loved seeing lots of extended families coming along to join in the fun. The raffle was a big hit thanks to all the local businesses who generously donated prizes. And a big shout out to Green Street butchers who gave us loads of delicious sausages!

Most of all, we're so proud that for another year running we have been able to open our doors twice a week – Wednesday and Friday mornings– even through half terms and the summer holidays.

It's only possible thanks to mums, dads and grandparents volunteering each week to set up and tidy away after playtime. And we are so grateful to Nicky Parker, Jo Hunt and Jane Tukmachi, our regular angels, who come week-in week-out to make tea and coffee and snacks for all.

We ended the year with a wonderful telling of the nativity story in church and a visit from Father Christmas. Our sold-out Christmas party on 22 December was the hottest toddler ticket in town!

We're always looking for more people who would like to volunteer their time to help out so don't be shy to get in touch.

Siobhan Lambertsen

JUNIOR CHURCH

This past year there have been very few young people in church and consequently there have been very few actual Junior church sessions. However, I always have something prepared just in case.

Nicola Parker

BATHWICK ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray this report finds you all well and having had a blessed Christmas and 2023. Over the course of 2023, our children continued to thrive as part of our Church school, where the six core Christian Values of Love, Joyfulness, Respect, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Fairness permeate every aspect of all we do. We are looking forward to Education Sunday on Sunday 4th February where we will joyfully celebrate the close relationship between school and church as children share a little of their learning over the last few months.

Last year there was much to celebrate. High academic standards are a key part of a brilliant primary education and the continued strong performance of our school was noted by the Chair of Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust, who wrote in July, 'The outcomes attained by your children reflect your unwavering commitment to excellence and your relentless pursuit of high standards.' and furthermore, 'It is clear that your school maintains high expectations for all learners, fostering an environment that encourages academic growth and personal development. We are delighted to witness the continued progress and success of your school, as it goes from strength to strength. This accomplishment is the result of your visionary leadership, the hard work of your staff, and the strong support of your governing committee. In January 2023, it was a joy to see children enjoying a fantastic new Play Garden which was officially opened by our School Council. We are grateful for the generosity and support of BECT and the Holburne Park team who have redeveloped the area, with only a relatively small cost coming from school funds given the scale of the works. The new surfacing, equipment and overhaul of the area has made such a difference to the play experiences for all of our children. We have worked hard on further developing our rich curriculum, with many extra curricular and carefully planned trips and visits embedded, designed to enhance the children's learning. Just a few examples of this are regular sporting events, such as the Year 4, 5 and 6 Cross Country; a Roman Day in Year 4; Reception Trips to Sydney Gardens to better understand the seasons; 'evacuating' Year 6 as part of learning about the second World War and some wonderful creative arts performances across the school.

We said farewell to some of our staff team as they moved onto new challenges and also welcomed and are benefitting from the expertise of Mrs Ally Elliott as Deputy Headteacher and Miss Vicky Bowman as Assistant Headteacher. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raised over £20,000 last year which we used predominantly to further develop and enhance our outdoor spaces and environment. We ran a 'Grow a Pound' project where every child was given a £1 coin and challenged to 'grow' it over six weeks by investing it in an activity that will make money for our school. The children managed to raise around £6,000 with creative activities such as litter picking, craft and cake sales, sponsored cycle rides and car washing! There are many opportunities for us to continue working closely together. Please do come to our Easter Service on 8th March at 1.30 p.m. and the Leavers' Service on Thursday 18th July also at 1.30 p.m. I would like to thank our staff team who work so hard to provide a brilliant education for all our children. Thank you also to Fr. Peter for his prayers and support; we look forward to continuing to build on our close partnership with him and indeed all at St. Mary's and St. John's throughout this year.

Kevin Purkiss, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Once again, I am happy to report that the PCC have complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Safeguarding of both children and vulnerable adults has become more and more important in all walks of life and within our church family we should see it not just as a legal requirement but as part of our ongoing pastoral care - looking out for each other.

All PCC members are now required to take both the Basic Safeguarding Awareness and Foundation Training and I would also commend the course on recognising Domestic Abuse. All these can be accessed online by going to:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

The Diocese would also like to encourage everyone in the congregation to complete the Basic Awareness course as it helps to highlight and recognise vulnerabilities that we may not have thought of before. Anyone can access this course from the link above, but I am hoping to offer a face-to-face course in the future to which all will be welcome.

As Safeguarding officer, I would like to remind you that our parish safeguarding policy is always available for you to read and if anyone ever has any concerns involving our young and/or vulnerable people please talk to me as soon as possible.

Nicola Parker

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union is a global Christian Movement, working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. We are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve communities and build a future where everyone thrives: ending violence, ending poverty, ending injustice. This is all underpinned with prayer.

Shelia Sims

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This was written by the Christian Women of Taiwan and entitled, "*I have heard about your faith*". In Bath services were held in various churches on 3rd March.

Shelia Sims

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Your active Deanery Reps are Nicky Parker, John Porteous (who attends by virtue of his place on Diocesan Synod) Fr Peter (who attends in his own right), and myself. This brief summary does not attempt to encompass everything that has happened in a year's worth of Synods but just highlights the main current issues.

There is currently in circulation a Deanery Plan on Church Leadership which compliments the Five Year Plan which I reported on last year.

Bath Deanery has 43 parish-based and Deanery-based Anglican worshipping communities and chaplaincies. 32 are parishes, currently under the oversight of 21 full-time stipendiary clergy, 5 self-supporting clergy (including house for duty) and 18 Readers. There are ancillary projects including Pioneers in Magnificat Parishes. The Five Year Plan for the Deanery is to reduce stipendiary clergy to 17 by 2027. This excludes chaplaincies.

Under the Leadership Plan there is to be a Lay Ministry Pathway in order to develop and release the gifts of all people as (for example) Lay Worship Assistants (LWA) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA). Further information on the plan is available to anyone who is interested.

The Deanery priorities are: firstly "partnership working" between Leadership Teams, which term includes licensed ministers (Clergy and Readers) and also locally authorised persons such as LWAs and LPAs and a variety of other lay workers and administrators (including churchwardens). Secondly, "church growth" – in a mixed ecology of parishes and other areas of common interest whether of activity (e.g. sport) or space (e.g. a café).

Where benefices are not in partnership they are enthusiastically encouraged to identify existing or new partnerships to join. Initially this will be informal but are likely to be formalized in due course – perhaps most likely following a Vacancy. The seemingly powerful DMPG (Deanery Ministry and Pastoral Group), which is led by the Area Dean Stephen Girling, who has "incumbent rank" (effectively number two) at the Abbey, charged with implementation and who will make recommendations to the Bishop. Deployment Criteria: each partnership of benefices will have one or more *ordained* licensed ministers (an important St Mary's amendment at the consultation stage for the Five Year Plan), either paid or unpaid.

It is stated that the parish church remains a primary focus for mission although there is embedded enthusiasm at all levels, for lay workers with specialist skills, and also pioneering.

Going forward, in the event of a parish vacancy the Partnership will submit proposals to the DMPG, who will then make recommendations to the Bishop. No posts are to be advertised in the meantime.

On the subject of diocesan costs: the cost of a stipendiary clergyperson is estimated to be in the region of £53,000. After pressure from PCCs the Diocese is to supply more information on what else the Parish Share is funding, principally in central administration. There are proposed to be changes in the way the Parish Share is calculated, and our treasurer Nick Lennard has engaged with the consultations on that. Further papers are to be presented, further consultations with Treasurers and others (July?) and alternative methodologies for calculating parish Share are being considered.

The above plan review was approved by resolution of the synod.
There is an upcoming Eco-together course. Details awaited as at the date below.
A Parish Giving Scheme having the intention of reducing administration for Treasurers in relation to Gift Aid, was presented and recommended by the Diocese.

Stephen Howard

Green Report

Energy Year	CO2 Tonnes	Gas kWh	Electricity kWh
2020/21	27.9	128,460	9,976
2021/22	33.2	109,649	10,896
2022/23	38.9	128,680	12,835

An organisation called Green Journey works in conjunction with the Church of England offering free energy audits for its churches. St Mary's had one in 2023. The aim of the Church of England is to be carbon neutral by 2030.
Could the Church consider installing solar panels on the Church Hall roof as this could make our electricity output neutral ?

Keith Moss

GENERAL DATA PRIVACY REGULATIONS MAY 2018

The PCC's General Privacy Notice and the Electoral Roll Privacy Notice are both published on the church's website and/or are available on request

Revd Peter Edwards

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The finance committee met to receive reports on the financial situation of the church, to agree the following year's budget and to discuss and resolve any financial issues.

Overview

The financial results for the year have been satisfactory, Unrestricted Funds Deficit for the year was £987 (2022: Surplus£1,271) The value of Investments increased by £11,565 (2022: there was a fall of £14,991.

The Unrestricted Reserves are now £85,549 (2022: £74,971)

Church Maintenance of £25,991 exceeded the budget following refurbishment of the sound system and pruning the trees,.

No funds were used from the Restoration Fund and the reserves are now £52,063.

The Organ Fund benefitted from £11,529 of interest arising on the investments of around £400,000.

Investments of £104,361 were sold at a profit of £2,393 to provide funds for the cost of the organ restoration.

The Organ Fund reserves are now £99,747 and will be used to finance the final stage payment of the restoration and the maintenance of the organ in the future.

Unrestricted funds comprise the general operating expenses of the church and the other funds are for monies received and expended for certain specific purposes.

Funds given for a particular purpose are known Restricted Funds and include Alms, Restoration Appeal, Emergency, Pastoral, Choir Bursary Fund and Zambia.

The Choristers Bursary Fund received large gifts and was partially used for bursaries. The remaining funds £9,461 will support choristers in forthcoming years. The Music Endowment Fund contains money given specifically for music at the church.

Endowment Fund.

Further donations from Laura and Rando Howard together with Gift Aid Tax and interest thereon amounted to £150,665.

These funds will be invested to produce income to support the church in future years.

Assets

The Total Net Assets as at 31 December 2023 were £416,324 (2022: £586,596). Of these £85,549 (2022: £74,971) is for unrestricted use by the church for its general running costs. and £170,110 (2022: £511,625) is in restricted funds. The Endowment Funds were £160,665 (2022: £10,000)

Unrestricted Funds

This fund records the income and expenditure of the church. The income from giving by the congregation (including Gift Aid tax) was £61,410 (2022: £55,700) which was an increase of £5,710 compared to the previous year.

Income from Hall Hire and Church Hire increased by £2,098

Income from the car park was £24,814 which was an increase of £1,796.

The church maintenance trust, (which is a separate fund which does not appear in our accounts) gave us £12,760,

Expenditure was £128,436 (2022: £118,923) of which the largest component was our quota to the Diocese (which goes to meet the cost of the clergy) of £51,015 (2022: £50,015 and maintenance of the building of £25,991 (2022: £18,078).

The net result for the year was a deficit of £987 (2022: surplus £1,271).

Investments are revalued each year, and this year showed a increase of £11,565

The Unrestricted Funds carried forward are £85,549 (2022: £74,971).

The Restricted Funds

These balances carried forward represent the money received for specific purposes and not yet spent.

Alms	3,198
Liturgical Display	477
Restoration Appeal	52,063
Emergency	809
Pastoral	426
Zambia	3,596
Flowers	332
Choir Bursary Fund	9,462
	70,363
Organ Restoration	99,747
Music Endowment	10,000
General Endowment	150,665

Alms are collections received but not yet remitted.

Restoration Fund monies are the accumulation of fund-raising efforts less monies expended.

Emergency Fund has collections which are accumulated and disbursed to specific appeals e.g. a natural disaster.

The Pastoral Fund is at the disposal of the parish priest. Collections produced £170

Organ Restoration Fund had income of £11,906 and paid £430,827 in stage payments (one stage payment is outstanding)

We received a Grant of £71,619 to recover the VAT element.

The Unrestricted Funds Budget for 2024

Income: The Budget is £123,200. In 2023 Income totalled £127,863

Expenditure

The Diocesan Common Fund payment has been increased to £58,607 from £51,015 in 2023
We have allocated £10,000 for Church Maintenance.

The Unrestricted Reserves are £85,549

We have agreed that it is prudent to maintain reserves of around 6 months of budgeted expenditure which amounts to around £65,000.

The budgeted Deficit of £7,672 for 2024 will reduce the Unrestricted Reserves to £77,877

The church is fortunate to have significant reserves.

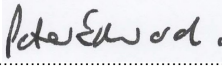
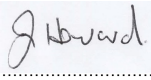
Nick Lennard
Treasurer

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Year ended 31 December 2023
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Organ Fund	TOTAL FUNDS	
						2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Voluntary Income							
Direct Giving	2(a)	61,410	21,196	146,750	243	229,599	66,337
Other	2(b)	12,760				12,760	12,932
Events & Activities Gross	2(c)	50,832	3,328		134	54,294	53,894
Other Ordinary Income	2(d)	1,293			71,619	72,912	
Income from Investment	2(e)	2,861	1,981	3,915	11,529	20,286	8,801
Total Income		129,156	26,505	150,665	83,525	389,851	141,964
Expenditure							
Grants	3(a)	314	6,764			7,078	5,741
Support Costs	3(b)	171				171	161
Directly relating to the Work of the Church	3(c)	112,765	6,347		430,827	549,939	194,355
Fundraising and Publicity	3(d)	180				180	1,720
Church Administration	3(e)	15,006				15,006	13,414
Total Expenditure		128,436	13,111		430,827	572,374	215,391
DEPRECIATION	4	(1,707)				(1,707)	(1,978)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(987)	13,394	150,665	(347,302)	(184,230)	(75,405)
GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		11,565	-	-	2,393	13,958	(30,323)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,578	13,394	150,665	(344,909)	(170,272)	(105,728)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		74,971	56,969	10,000	444,656	586,596	692,324
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 December 2023		85,549	70,363	160,665	99,747	416,324	586,596
The Notes on Pages 24 to 30 form part of these accounts							

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	4	3,022	4,729
Investments	5	<u>134,471</u>	<u>227,268</u>
		137,493	231,997
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	32,789	24,486
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>254,754</u>	<u>344,892</u>
		<u>287,543</u>	<u>369,378</u>
LIABILITIES; Amounts falling due within one year			
	8	(8,712)	(14,779)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>278,831</u>	<u>354,599</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>416,324</u>	<u>586,596</u>
FUNDS			
	9		
Unrestricted		85,549	74,971
Restricted		70,363	56,969
Endowment		160,665	10,000
Organ Fund		99,747	444,656
		<u>416,324</u>	<u>586,596</u>
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:			
			
Fr. Peter Edwards	Jan Howard		
The Notes on Pages 24 to 30 form part of these accounts			

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

See Appendix to Accounts

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Organ Fund	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	£	2,023 £	2022 £
2(a) Voluntary Income (direct giving)						
Planned Giving:						
Gift Aided Giving	40,346				40,346	40,301
Income Tax recoverable	11,172	4,262	104,750	203	120,387	12,630
Uncovenanted	4,715				4,715	1,910
Collections		6,390			6,390	5,359
Sundry Donations	5,177	10,544	42,000	40	57,761	6,137
	61,410	21,196	146,750	243	229,599	66,337
2(b) Other Voluntary Income						
Maintenance Trust	12,760				12,760	12,432
Legacies						500
	12,760				12,760	12,932
2(c) Events & Activities Gross Income						
Fetes, Fair Trade etc	459	2,159			2,618	4,468
Magazines	855				855	800
Hall Hire	10,075				10,075	7,351
Church Use	10,846	1,169		134	12,149	12,775
PCC Fees	1,783				1,783	3,482
Car Park	24,814				24,814	23,018
St John's Contribution	2,000				2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous						
	50,832	3,328		134	54,294	53,894
2(d) Other Ordinary Income						
Grant - VAT Recovered	1,293			71,619	72,912	
	1,293			71,619	72,912	
2(e) Income from Investment						
Interest (Gross)	2,861	1,981	3,915	11,529	20,286	8,801
	2,861	1,981	3,915	11,529	20,286	8,801
Total Income	129,156	26,505	150,665	83,525	389,851	141,964

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Organ Fund	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
3(a) Grants						
Missionary and Charitable Giving:						
Church Overseas - Missions		477			477	310
- Aid		2,957			2,957	2,654
Home missions and Church societies		159			159	174
Other Charities	314	3,171			3,485	2,603
	314	6,764			7,078	5,741
3(b) Support Costs						
Publications	171				171	161
3(c) Directly relating to the work of Church						
Ministry:						
Diocesan Common Fund	51,015	-			51,015	50,016
Clergy Expenses	3,664				3,664	2,823
Church Running Costs					-	
Heating and Lighting	4,376				4,376	3,805
Cleaning	6,194				6,194	6,341
Insurance:Buildings, Plate etc	4,532				4,532	3,846
Sacristy, Cassocks & Votive candles	968				968	417
Church Maintenance	25,991				25,991	18,078
Major Projects				430,827	430,827	81,178
Parish Magazine expenditure	50				50	59
Hall Running Costs:						
Heating and Lighting	2,918				2,918	2,537
Organ and Choir:						
Organist	9,053				9,053	8,021
Music and Choir	910	5,850			6,760	5,525
Organ/Piano Maintenance	740				740	2,613
Miscellaneous	2,354				2,354	2,478
Flowers		497			497	110
Icon						6,508
	112,765	6,347		430,827	549,939	194,355
3(d) Fundraising and Publicity						
Costs of Events etc	180				180	1,720
3(e) Church Administration						
Independent Examiners Fees	750				750	660
Printing and Copying	4,147				4,147	3,554
Staff Costs	9,488				9,488	8,688
Office Telephone	621				621	512
	15,006				15,006	13,414
Total Expenditure	128,436	13,111		430,827	572,374	215,391

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land and Buildings	Equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Gross Book Value	At Cost 1 January 2023	69,094	13,735	82,829
	Additions			
	At 31 December 2023	69,094	13,735	82,829
Depreciation	At 1 January 2023	69,094	9,006	78,100
	Charge for year		1,707	1,707
	At 31 December 2023	69,094	10,713	79,807
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2023		3,022	3,022
	At 31 December 2022		4,729	4,729

The church rooms are an integral part of the Church site. The equipment comprises copy printer, a computer, a CD player, and a dishwasher.

5 INVESTMENTS

Investments at 1 January 2023	227,268
Disposals	(104,361)
Net gain on revaluation at 31 December 2023	11,564
At 31 December 2023	134,471
At 31 December 2022	227,268

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Total
	£	£	£		£
Fixed Assets	3,022				3,022
Investments	74,471	50,000	10,000		134,471
Current Assets	16,768	20,363	150,665	99,747	287,543
Current Liabilities	(8,712)				(8,712)
Fund Balance	85,549	70,363	160,665	99,747	416,324

7 DEBTORS

	2,023	2022
	£	£
Income Tax Recoverable	15,850	12,698
Prepayments	16,799	9,708
Floats	140	140
St John's Bathwick		1,940
	32,789	24,486

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

8 LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,750	3,586
Creditors for goods and services	6,962	11,193
	<u>8,712</u>	<u>14,779</u>

9 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	Balance at 01-01-23	Received	Paid	Transfer	Balance at 31-12-23
Alms	1,014	5,958	3,774		3,198
Pastoral	762	184	520		426
Emergency Fund	1,910	1,283	2,384		809
Zambia	3,218	378			3,596
Assistant Cleary		86	86		
Liturgical Display	477				477
Restoration Fund	47,248	4,815			52,063
Flowers	103	726	497		332
Choir Bursary Fund	2,237	13,075	5,850		9,462
Restricted Funds	<u>56,969</u>	<u>26,505</u>	<u>13,111</u>		<u>70,363</u>
Organ Fund	<u>444,656</u>	<u>83,525</u>	<u>428,434</u>		<u>99,747</u>
	501,625	110,030	441,545		170,110
Endowment fund	10,000	150,665			160,665
Unrestricted funds	<u>74,971</u>	<u>129,156</u>	<u>118,578</u>		<u>85,549</u>
	<u>586,596</u>	<u>389,851</u>	<u>560,123</u>		<u>416,324</u>

The restricted funds is comprised of the alms collected for church and other charities at home and abroad (£8,506)

Church Restoration Fund (£52,063)

The Organ Fund attracted more donations and it was used to meet the cost of the restoration of the organ.

There remains just one further instalment to complete the restoration.

The Endowment Fund contained a permanent for music, and this year received £150,665 from Laura and Rando Howard.
to be used ???

Analysis of Charitable Funds in the previous year

	Balance at 01-01-22	Received	Paid		Balance at 31-12-22
Alms	380	3,685	3,051		1,014
Pastoral	1,024	175	437		762
Emergency Fund	1,042	3,040	2,172		1,910
Zambia	2,930	288			3,218
Liturgical Display	477				477
Restoration Fund	57,040	3,016	87,808	75,000	47,248
Flowers	150	63	110		103
Choir Fund	4,472	1,707	3,942		2,237
Restricted Funds	<u>67,515</u>	<u>11,974</u>	<u>97,520</u>	75,000	<u>56,969</u>
Organ Fund	<u>526,118</u>	<u>9,485</u>	<u>15,947</u>	(75,000)	<u>444,656</u>
	593,633	21,459	113,467		501,625
Endowment fund	10,000	311	311		10,000
Unrestricted funds	<u>88,691</u>	<u>120,194</u>	<u>133,914</u>		<u>74,971</u>
	<u>692,324</u>	<u>141,964</u>	<u>247,692</u>		<u>586,596</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

10 RELATED FUNDS

St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick Maintenance Trust Fund is a related fund.
Its Objects are: The maintenance of the fabric of the Parish Church of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick, Bath and the upkeep of the organ and furniture and fittings therein. If not required as above in any year, to further the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the said ecclesiastical parish.

11 RELATED PARTIES

No member of the PCC has been remunerated for services provided.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2023

MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING

Friends of St Michael's, Uganda	110	
Goa Anglican Centre	140	
Mercy in Action	132	
Oxford Mission	95	
Church Overseas - Missions		477
Earthquake - Pakistan	2,384	
USPG	55	
Barnabus Trust	137	
Childrens Society	380	
Church Overseas - Aid		2,956
Bibles for Children	57	
Mission to Seafarers	60	
Royal British Legion	42	
Home Missions and Church societies		159
Additional Curates Society	74	
Bath City Pastors	52	
Bath Welcomes Refugees	274	
Bath Women's Refuge	91	
Christian Aid	104	
Combat Stress	117	
Connect at Christmas	70	
DHI	139	
Dorothy House	299	
Genesis - Soup Run	259	
Food Bank	497	
Genesis Trust	143	
Julian House	249	
Society of Mary & Martha	52	
Society of St Francis	87	
Woodland Trust	59	
Other Charities		2,566
Pastoral Fund	520	
Assistant clergy	86	
		606
		<u>6,764</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

St Mary the Virgin Bathwick PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. Details of the funds held are provided in Note 9. Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Income recognition

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest is accounted for when receivable. Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a legal or constructive obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the financial statements over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis. Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The PCC reported an Unrestricted Funds Deficit for the year of £987. There was also a surplus on the revaluation of the investments of £11,565. The Organ Fund benefitted from donations of £71,619 and received a Grant of £11,529 equivalent to the VAT element of the payments for the organ restoration. Further gifts from Laura and Rando Howard, plus the Gift Aid Tax recovery amounted to £146,750 that has been added to the Endowment Fund to support the church in future years.

The trustees have undertaken a review of the income and expenditure for the next 12 months and are of the view that the PCC will continue to operate on a going concern basis for the next 12 months.

**Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of
St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 22 to 30.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required or this year under s.144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under s145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under s145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and,
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Graham Barber
Chartered Accountant
Graham Barber Accountancy Ltd
4 Beaufort West
Bath
BA1 6QB

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall on
Sunday 16th April 2023, following the 10:30 Eucharist.**

Fr Peter Edwards welcomed people to the Annual Vestry Meeting

Those present: Churchwardens: Clare Goodhart and Janet Howard, plus 27 people on the parish electoral roll.

Apologies for absence: Julia Brownbridge, Rosemary Cumming, Anthony Crossland, Barbara Crossland, Sheila Edwards, Nicola Mathiason, Gladys Powell, Marion Stoneham, and Dominic Taylor.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 3rd April 2022. Copies were provided before the meeting. Andrew Parker proposed, and Janet Howard seconded that they be accepted; agreed with one objection from Marcus Wedge, who cited "inaccuracies" as the reason, but was not specific about any points.

Matters Arising from the Vestry Meeting 3rd April 2022: None

Election of Churchwardens

Before proceeding to the election of churchwardens, Fr Peter Edwards thanked the churchwardens for all their support and hard work during the past year.

The Secretary, Dr Marilyn Kirby, reported that there were 2 nominations for the position of Churchwardens:

Margaret Clare Goodhart: proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby and seconded by Robin Burton Davies

Janet Iris Howard: proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby and seconded by Margaret Clare Goodhart

There being no further nominations, the two people named above were duly elected to serve as Churchwardens in the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Bathwick for the ensuing year.

Deputy Churchwardens:

Fr Peter then expressed his thanks for the work that Dawn Lennard and Keith Moss carry out behind the scenes as "Tuesday Bankers".

Nicola Parker proposed, and Jenny Jones seconded that Keith Moss and Dawn Lennard continue as Deputy Churchwardens with the role of "Tuesday Bankers". These appointments were agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Any other business: None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12:05.

Fr Peter Edwards

Rector St Mary's Bathwick

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 16th April 2023(following Annual Vestry Meeting) after the 10:30 Eucharist

The list of Apologies and the Attendance was the same as for the Annual Vestry Meeting.

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the 3rd April 2022.

Richard Andrews proposed, and Helen Moss seconded that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes. None

3. To receive the New Electoral Roll. Andy Parker reported the total on the Electoral Roll was 136, a decrease of four from 3rd April 2022. Fr Peter thanked Andy Parker for his work as Electoral Roll Officer.

To receive the Annual Parish Reports. Copies of the report booklet were available before the meeting. Fr Peter began by thanking the Standing Committee and the PCC for their support during the year. He then thanked Nick Lennard and Marilyn Kirby for their work, especially in producing the Annual Reports. He concluded by thanking all those in the congregation who had contributed in so many ways to the running of St Mary's.

Fr Peter was then thanked, with acclamation, for his leadership and hard work.

To keep the meeting as brief as possible, rather than going through each report individually Fr Peter asked if any of the report writers wanted to add further information or if anyone had any questions. Note a copy of the Annual Reports 2023 is filed with these Minutes and the page numbers following the reports referred to below relate to this Booklet.

- A. Deanery Report (page 17 & 18) Stephen Howard told the meeting that since completing his report, further information regarding the Diocesan proposal to reduce clergy numbers from 22 to 17 over the next 5 years (as laid out in their Bath Deanery plan) had been published on the Bath Deanery website, and that he would pass this on to anyone who wanted additional information. Marcus questioned the effectiveness of Deanery Synod in ensuring the Diocese took notice of parish views concerning the plan to reduce clergy numbers.
- B. Safeguarding (page 16) Nicky Parker emphasised Safeguarding includes not only children but also vulnerable adults of all ages. She told the meeting that last year the Diocese Safeguarding team had received more enquires regarding adults than children. She reminded members of the PCC of the requirement to complete the first level of Safeguarding Training (online). She encouraged others in the congregation to consider also doing this.
- C. Car Parking (page 11) Fr Peter told the meeting that Marcus Wedge was in the process of handing over responsibility for running car parking. Fr Peter then presented a gift on behalf of St Mary's as a token of appreciation for all the work Marcus had put to this. Marcus told the meeting that he was still handling daily enquiries regarding bookings from hotels and other establishments.
- D. Special presentation to John Porteous. Fr Peter told the meeting that over the years John Porteous had served in many different church roles including Churchwarden, member of Diocesan and Deanery Synods, the PCC (including the Standing Committee and for the past 5 years Vice-Chair). However, he felt this was the right time to step-down from his role as Vice-Chair of the PCC, although he will be continuing as a

member of Diocesan Synod (and therefore *ex-officio* on both the Deanery Synod and PCC). Fr Peter then presented John with a couple of “special bottles” in appreciation for all that John had contributed to the life of St Mary’s over many years.

- E. Flowers (page 8) Molly made an impassioned plea for the new PCC to consider the future of flowers in the church. She told the meeting that due to health issues Marion Stoneham has had to give up. Also, Molly did not feel she could continue. Marcus pointed out that also almost no one helps with church clearing on a voluntary basis, which has increasing cost implications. In response to a question by Paul Chivers, Fr Peter told the meeting that this did not need to be on the usual Friday morning. It could be at a time to suit the person.
- F. Music (page 10) Gary Desmond told the meeting that work to dismantle the organ prior to its transport to Harrison and Harrison in Durham for its full restoration, would start on 17th April. He then expressed his thanks to Fr Neil Cocking for the free loan of his electronic organ until the restoration is completed. Gary suggested that an official letter be sent to Fr Neil expressing our thanks. This was endorsed by Fr Peter.
- G. Treasurer’s Report (page 19 and following) Nick Lennard reminded the meeting that thanks to some magnificent gifts in the past, the Organ Restoration Fund stood at £440,000, which was sufficient to cover organ restoration work and a comfort given the current rate of inflation that will be taken into consideration when the final cost of the Organ Restoration is calculated.

5. Election of Deanery Synod Members (note members are *ex-officio* members of PCC)

Marilyn Kirby announced there were **3** vacancies and **3** nominations had been received: Thomas Charles Bunn, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Molly Marie Wedge
Stephen William Charles Howard, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Sarah Ann Davies

Nicola Jane Parker, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Sarah Ann Davies

There being no further nominations Fr Peter declared the above duly elected as members of Deanery Synod.

6. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council. Marilyn Kirby announced there were **4** vacancies for three years and **4** nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

Julia Rosemary Brownbridge, proposed by Margaret Clare Goodhart, seconded by Sarah Ann Davies

Nicholas Peter Lennard, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Sarah Ann Davies

Carole Elizabeth Redfern, proposed by Julia Rosemary Brownbridge, seconded by Margaret Clare Goodhart

Carole Harriet Skepper Stickney, proposed by Helen Walker Lees, seconded by Nicholas Peter Lennard.

There being no further nominations Fr Peter declared the above3 duly elected as members pf the PCC.

7. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the Finances of the PCC.

Nick Lennard proposed, and Richard Andrews seconded that Graham Barber be re-appointed as Independent Examiner for the Finances of the PCC; agreed unanimously.

8. AOB:

Carla Maddocks reported that she it had been difficult to hear the sermon as there appeared to be a problem with the sound system. Clare Goodhart explained parts of the system were failing and some emergency work had been carried out a few weeks before. Nick Lennard reminded the meeting that the system was installed 12 years ago, being the first project funded by RAG. The system now requires upgrading. Clare Goodhart told the meeting she was obtaining a quote from the company that installed the system, but currently diagnosis of the problem was still ongoing. Marcus Wedge reminded her that we need to obtain two quotes and also the matter should be referred to the Fabric Committee for consideration.

The meeting ended at 12:30 pm, with Fr Peter leading the saying of the Grace together.

**Fr Peter Edwards
Rector of St Mary's Bathwick**

**ST MARY'S, BATHWICK, ANNUAL VESTRY & PAROCHIAL MEETINGS
ON SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024**

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING,

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Sunday 16th April 2023
3. Matters arising
4. To elect two Churchwardens to serve for the ensuing year
5. To appoint deputy Churchwarden(s) for the ensuing year
6. Any other business

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, following the Vestry Meeting

1. To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 16th April 2023
2. Matters arising
3. To receive the Electoral Roll
4. To receive the Parish Annual Reports (published in the booklet), secretary's, churchwardens' & treasurer's reports need to be formally received
6. To elect 4 members of the Parochial Church Council to serve for 3 years
7. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the Finances of the PCC
8. Matters arising there-from: "any person may ask questions about parochial matters, or bring about a discussion of such matters, by moving to give any recommendation to the PCC in relation to its duties" (Rules of Business for Annual Meetings)

AGENDA FOR THE PCC MEETING immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. To welcome newly elected members
3. To elect a Vice Chairperson
4. To effect co-options
5. To appoint an Honorary Treasurer
6. To appoint an Honorary Secretary
7. To appoint members to the Standing Committee
8. To appoint an Electoral Roll Officer
9. Dates of 2024 meetings
10. Any other business