



**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**  
**2025**

to be presented at

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

on Sunday 25th May 2025 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](mailto:office@bathwickparishes.org.uk) [www.bathwickparishes.org.uk](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

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

# Until APCM 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, ^From APCM 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, \* Until 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### 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.

### **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.

I write this report as I prepare for a three-month sabbatical break covering February, March and April 2025; may I take this opportunity to thank the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Churchwardens and PCC members of our two churches for their support and encouragement to take this period of rest and renewal. I pray that I shall be renewed for the next months and years of ministry in our parishes on my return. Thanks too to our assistant clergy and others who will be leading worship and providing pastoral support during this period of extended absence.

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 Nicky Parker and Clare Goodhart, to our PCC members, to the assistant clergy and Readers of our Benefice, 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.

As I end this short report, may I commend to your prayers all those from our congregation (or known to members of the congregation) who died in 2024, or whose funeral services were held in the church, and especially Kenneth Bailey, Helen Earle, Anton Fluck, William Gosling, Jacky Medlock, Nigel Perrin, Gladys Powell, William Seal and William Stockley. 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 (January 2025)

**Revd Peter Edwards Rector of Bathwick**

## **HON SECRETARY'S REPORT YEAR 2024-25**

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 138 members on the Electoral Roll as reported at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024. In addition, we have a number of regular attendees who are not on the Roll.

At the time of writing, this report 8 PCC meetings had been held, with two further meetings scheduled before the APCM. The first on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 being to discuss general business, and to approve the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and the second on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at which Annual Reports will be presented prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

The First PCC Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 followed immediately after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Fr Peter welcomed members to the first meeting of the new PCC.

The following Officers were elected: Hon. Treasurer Nick Lennard, Hon. Secretary Marilyn Kirby, Vice Chairman Stephen 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 Nicola Parker), the Secretary (Marilyn Kirby), the Treasurer (Nick Lennard).

There were no co-options to the PCC. The Parish Return was submitted to the Diocese following this meeting.

The Second PCC Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 The convenors and members of the Committees and Working Groups of the PCC were appointed. These included a new Website Review Group covering both St Mary's and St John's. Also, following Marion Stoneham (August 2023) and Molly Wedge (May 2024) deciding to formally resign from doing the Church Flowers, Julia Brownbridge agreed to oversee flowers with additional people as required.

The Third Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 The terms of reference for the use of money in the Endowment Reserve Fund were discussed and the meeting resolved to request the Finance Committee to consider this further and report back to the PCC. Stephen Howard gave a detailed report of the meeting of Deanery Synod held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which covered a range of activities being run by parishes across Bath.

The Fourth Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 The main item was discussion of the proposed loan or purchase of a Steinway Grand Piano from the University of Bath. (At the time of writing this report the matter is still in process) Nicky Parker informed the meeting that none of the present parents were willing to take on the running of the Babies and Toddler Group. The meeting considered how best to ensure this much valued activity could continue.

The Fifth Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 This was a Joint Meeting with St John's PCC, together with Fr Gary Ecclestone, to review progress with the Healthy Churches Initiative. The meeting agreed to carry out a second questionnaire survey early in 2025.

The Sixth Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 This was a long evening, as the PCC had to consider the minutes from three meetings! We began by considering in depth a report from Nick Lennard, together with papers submitted prior to the meeting by Stephen Howard regarding the terms of reference for the use of the Endowment Reserve Fund. Following this the PCC resolved to accept the proposed terms of reference.

Nicky Parker provided an update on the Toddler group. She explained that although she received one response to her advert at Bathwick School, for a leader, they had since withdrawn. However, recently two mothers had expressed interest in possibly becoming involved in the running of the group.

Other matters considered ranged from future plans to review the Healthy Churches Initiative to noting that the Quinquennial Survey had been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The Seventh Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The main item at this meeting was the proposed Budget for 2025. Nick Lennard tabled the Finance Committee's proposed Budget for 2024 which was accepted by the meeting.

The Eighth Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 At this meeting Clare Goodhart and Nicky Parker outlined the arrangements for services, pastoral care and administration during Fr Peter's sabbatical. Other matters discussed included noting that £1,050 had been sent to our LINK parish St James Buchi in Zambia.

The Ninth Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

The Tenth Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 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**

We have been pleased to improve our kitchen facilities with a significant upgrade. This has been a big project, but we have new flooring, cupboards and lighting, a better hot water supply and had a full redecoration, which has been of benefit both to our Church community and also to commercial hirers.

Our heating system is now more easily operated with new HIVE heating controls. We have an energy contract with British Gas under their Zero Carbon Energy contract scheme.

A review of our building for RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) has been undertaken and none has been found. The annual roof inspection and clearing of gutters took place in December but there have also been occasional call outs during the year due to water ingress.

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

Maintenance work has continued, and Fabric Committee has met regularly to review and manage projects. The Quinquennial Review was conducted in December, and we await the Report at the time of writing.

We would 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 Julia Brownbridge for her help with flowers.

**Clare Goodhart and Nicola Parker, 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 continued 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 will pursue our ministries with enthusiasm and diligence during the period of Fr Peter's absence, happy to serve the Church and the congregation of St Mary's.

**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. Fr Richard and Jo Hunt and also Julia Brownbridge, have stepped back from their involvement as intercessors, due to their other roles at Church, but Ashton Price has joined the rota as a lesson reader and Naomi Heffer is now also an intercessor. There are currently 27 on this rota for 2025-26:

Maggie and Trevor Blackshaw, Julia Brownbridge, Sarah and Robin Davies, Clare Edwards,

Jan and Stephen Howard, Naomi Heffer, Alex Howe, Gerald and Margaret Hull, Jenny Jones, Marilyn Kirby, Nick Lennard, Helen and John Lees, Carla Maddocks, Ross Manaton, Helen Moss, Nicky and Andy Parker, John Porteous, Ashton Price, John Price, Caroline Redfern, and Marcus Wedge.

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

**Clare Goodhart and Nicola Parker**

### **SERVERS**

I am always 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. There can never be too many lady and gentlemen servers on the roll, and I always welcome enquiries from anyone interested in taking part in this ministry. It is recognised that servers have private lives as well and there is plenty of flexibility built into our way of working. Please ring me on 01225 466590 if you are interested or speak to me on a Sunday morning.

**Stephen Howard**

### **SIDESPEOPLE**

The group of Sidespeople remains a committed group of parishioners. There are 13 sidespeople on the rota for 2025-26 but we really need a few more:

Julia Brownbridge, Paul Chilvers, Robin and Sarah Davies, Alex Howe, 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 be willing to go on the rota for an occasional duty and are on the Electoral Roll, please talk to the Churchwardens.

**Clare Goodhart**

### **SACRISTY**

Another busy year and the coming months will be a challenge with different priests covering Fr. Peter's sabbatical!

With the amazing support from Helen and Sarah we have coped with all the many jobs the Sacristy demands. Many grateful thanks to you both – we make an excellent team but always open to any offers of help. To our faithful Friday morning helpers – Jan for all her brass cleaning and many other jobs including keeping the Lady Chapel up together. Jayne Chorley who is such a willing helper with dusting the sanctuary and general tidying up!.

Many thanks to Marion Stoneham who has stepped down from her role – she is greatly missed particularly with all her flowering arranging skills. Also to Neville Mason for keeping all the candles lit and many repair jobs. To Paul Chilvers an enormous thank you. He is always willing to help with moving the Nave Altar and many other jobs. All this work is done to the Glory of God

**Molly Wedge**

### **BELLRINGERS**

2024 has been a steady year for the ringers at St Mary's. We have rung for nearly every Sunday morning service, and continued to practice on a Wednesday evening. The bells have also been well used by visiting ringers from around the country. The summer months were particularly busy, with bands from London, Hertfordshire, Worcestershire and even Windsor Castle enjoying outings in Bath.

In May several of the band took part in a striking competition – a contest for teams around the Bath area to see who can ring the best! The event was won by the team from St Matthew's Widcombe, but the bands representing the city and including Bathwick ringers were placed second and third – we were delighted.

June saw the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, and we were proud to take part in a national Ring Out for Peace commemoration of this historic event. Among the team on the day were our youngest ringer, 8 year old Ivy, and our newest recruit, Simon, who was taking part in his first published ringing. In September we had our own outing, a brilliant day out in London, where we were privileged to be able to ring on the famous Bow Bells and St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square. Getting home was a challenge, as it was the day when Paddington station was closed for several hours. Most of us got home well after midnight, after a magical mystery tour around the rail network west of London, but this didn't stop us being back at St Mary's the next morning for Sunday service ringing!

It's always lovely to be able to ring for the Christmas services, and 2024 was no exception. To make it extra special, Simon was able to ring in his first quarter peal for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This is a non-stop piece of ringing lasting around 45 minutes, and requiring a considerable amount of concentration, and is a significant milestone for anyone in their ringing career. Anyone can learn to ring, so if you fancy giving it a go, come and see us on a Wednesday evening, or get in touch to arrange a lesson.

**Molly Waterson, Tower Secretary**

### **FLOWERS**

A year ago it was reported that, following the retirements of several wonderful ladies, the Friday team of regular flower arrangers had ceased to exist and that sadly no new volunteers had come forward. This has continued to be the case in respect of finding volunteers to do the flowers every week as has been the tradition in the past.



However, although I can't commit to every week, I am now trying to ensure that at least we have fresh flowers for the special festivals throughout the year.

Last Autumn, I began to assemble a list of people who would be prepared to help me, when they can, to achieve this. So far I have about 10 on the list, including a few of the former team, who may be able to offer guidance to those of us who are novices, even though they can no longer do the physical work themselves. The drawback with this arrangement is that we may reach a festival and find hardly any of the people on the list are available, which is what happened at Christmas!

Still, I shall persevere, and I invite anyone who would like to join my list, to please get in touch with me on 01225 463594. No previous experience is necessary and it is really a lovely and satisfying thing to help make our Church look beautiful.

**Julia Brownbridge**

#### **GARDEN**

The garden at St Mary's continues to flourish whatever the weather.

Weeds keep on growing which keeps both of us very busy.

We are very fortunate to have assistance from Stu to do the heavy work, which is more necessary than ever as neither of us are exactly in the first flush of youth. During the winter months he has spent time reducing the buddleias and some overgrowth in the bed where the Bishop's hazel is starting to grow.

After another wet winter, we are hoping the coming season will be gardening friendly as the garden is used and enjoyed for so many varied activities and appreciated for its quiet tranquillity and peace.

**Dawn Lennard and Jenny Jones**

#### **MUSIC**

The preparation of this report has highlighted for me exactly how much music happens in St Mary's over the course of twelve months and also the fact that it is impossible to attend all of it! The building – and its acoustic – continues to attract many outside organisations who hold their concerts here and long may this remain the case.

The first main event of the year was the Gala Organ Concert given by Peter King on June 7<sup>th</sup> celebrating the restoration of our Willis instrument. This was the culmination of many years of hard fund-raising by many people and also thanks to the remarkable generosity of our two principal donors, so it was quite amazing to see almost two hundred people in the audience, including the invited dignitaries, and to experience the wonderful performances given by Peter who has been a long-standing supporter of the project. It is the intention to establish an annual 'celebrity' recital to commemorate the restoration, beginning this year on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm.

Attendances at our six Lunchtime Concerts have been variable to say the least, leading us to consider if a Thursday at 12:30pm is the best time to hold them. Discussion resulted in the feeling that we should maintain the status quo at the moment and continue to strive to

give these concerts as much publicity as possible, both locally and further afield. Financially, £1,090.80 was raised with £753.90 going to the Student Choral Bursary Fund and £336.90 from the September concert which was donated to Cancer UK in memory of Tony Cooper, the photographer of the organ restoration project.

I am sure that the Advent and Christmas carol services of 2024 will remain in our minds for some considerable time as both were such enjoyable and moving occasions. That our choir was willing to learn and sing a number of challenging pieces in each service is a tribute to their talents and it was a privilege to be a part of those services with them.

As I write, we are all very much looking forward to our visit to Salisbury Cathedral in early March to sing Choral Evensong and we hope to continue and expand these visits in future years. In mentioning this, it should be recorded that we are very pleased to have George Bevan with us currently as organist for our monthly Choral Evensongs at St Mary's.

Our weekly service music continues to benefit hugely from the contributions made by our five student members and I am delighted that each of them has been willing to sing an occasional solo during the past year. In September, we also welcomed Justin Vyvyan Jones as an additional tenor who has quickly settled in and become a valuable asset.

In conclusion, I think it safe to say that 2024 was a memorable musical year at St Mary's and there is much to look forward to in 2025. When I look at it, we have a wonderful choir, a supportive Rector and an appreciative congregation – oh, and I have a virtually 'new' organ to play. What more could a Director of Music require?!

**Gary Desmond**

#### **HALL AND CHURCH HIRE**

We continue to maintain our regular bookings with U3A art group, WI, Pilates, Camerata, HBRG, Vocal Works Gospel Choir and Simi's Cookery Class. Again, 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 etc. In 2024 the U3A art group ran a summer term again, as well as their usual autumn and spring term so hopefully they will run a summer term in 2025.

Unfortunately, the Yoga class on a Tuesday morning haven't returned since the summer due to not enough people.

The hall continues to be under-used during the day in the week on Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings and afternoons, all day Thursday and Friday afternoons. The day-time discounted rate hasn't encouraged any other new groups. Pilates are the only 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 residents' groups such as meetings, AGMs, socials etc. Hall bookings for children's birthday parties continue to be popular during the weekend. A lot of the bookings are from our toddler group, children at Bathwick St Mary School and people who have been to a child's party at St Mary's hall before.

During 2024 we had various choir workshops and concerts by Bath Bachfest, Lucis Choir, The Handful, Bath Cantata Group, University of Bath Choral and Orchestral Society, Bath Festivals, St Mary's Choir and Horizons Choir choral event, Bath Choral Society, Bath Camerata (two concerts), Bath Bach Choir, Bath Mozartfest, a number of concerts by Musicke in the Ayre and two concerts by the University Chamber Choir. During Lent we had

The Façade Ensemble concert. We had Bromley Junior School morning coffee concert, and we had our opening Gala Organ Recital by Dr Peter King. In December we had carol services for King Edward's Junior School and Bathwick St Mary School.

The diary for 2025 is getting booked up with various bookings for residents' association meetings, concerts, workshops, children's birthday parties, rehearsals and regular bookings. In November Mozartfest have a concert booking each day for eight days!! Again, we already have a booking for 2026!!

**Kerry Hughes, Parish Administrator**

#### **RESTORATION ACTION GROUP**

During the year RAG ran a range of fundraising activities including the very successful Summer Fete on 1st June and a Coffee Morning Plus 23<sup>rd</sup> November which included craft and cake stalls. The illustrated travel lectures continue to be popular and focussed on Australia. Linked to these was a special "Pictorial Celebration of Australia Evening" on 29<sup>th</sup> June, which gave me the opportunity to showcase some of my best Aussie photos, especially wildlife.

The Spring/Summer Travel Lectures restart at the beginning of March where the focus will be on Orkney. The Summer Fete will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June this year.

We really need some new people, with fresh ideas to join us. So, please speak to Andy or Nicky Parker or me, if you would be interested. It doesn't involve many meetings.

Also, although these are usually held during the afternoon, if evenings would suit you better, we can fit round that.

**Marilyn Kirby**

#### **SOCIAL**

Social events have followed the usual pattern this year. We had two Bring & Share lunches, one to celebrate Pentecost and one on All Saints Sunday. As always these were most enjoyable. We were pleased to welcome Bishop Michael, Bath & Wells, to choral evensong on our Patronal Festival in September and this was followed by drinks and canapés. This was Bishop Michael's first visit to Bathwick and it was good to meet him personally.

It was St Mary's turn to host the harvest supper in October and this once again proved to be a lovely evening. Fr Chris Kinch was our special guest, along with his family, and we used this occasion to thank him for his ministry to us in Bathwick over the past 10 years.

As always 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. Finally we started our Christmas celebrations with mulled wine and mince pies after the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, which is always well attended.

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**

## ALMSGIVING

During 2024 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 donated to 27 charities – 11 local charities based in Bath of which 7 had three collections during the year, 2 charities with local connections (Goa Anglican Centre and Redearth Village Schools in Uganda whose founder lives in Bath), 11 national charities and 3 inhouse ones for Emergency Aid (4 a year), the Pastoral Fund (4 a year) and Bathwick honorary/assistant clergy (one collection at Pentecost). The resulting amounts collected meant that local charities received an average of £200-300 and one, Genesis, almost £1,000. There was one special collection for the DEC Middle East Appeal which raised £227.

At a joint meeting of St Mary's and St John's PCCs in September 2024 to discuss Mission and Evangelism a decision was made to look at supporting local charities more by not only giving them money but building up a relationship with them. As a result, St Mary's will be supporting one local charity a month in 2025 and three national charities in those months where there are 5 Sundays, as outlined in both the January and February editions of the Bathwick News.

**Robin and Sarah Davies**

## ZAMBIA REPORT

St James Buchi seems to go from strength to strength with a strong Mother's Union, youth groups and a men's group. Fr Freddie has sent me emails throughout the year with pictures and video clips of services and these groups and I have responded and sent him a video clip from the carol service.

They were very excited to receive a visit from Bishop Michael earlier in the year when he toured Zambia. He saw the houses that the church is building, and they told Bishop that we had helped by sending money with Fr Alfred. It was a great joy to hear that we have at last managed to transfer the money St Mary's had raised to St James, Buchi. This is an extract from 2 WhatsApp messages I received from Fr Freddie thanking St Mary's.

*"I am writing on behalf of St James Anglican Church, Buchi to express our heartfelt gratitude for the financial assistance you sent to our Church through Nick Lennard. Your generous support will make a significant impact on the building project that the church of St James has embarked on..*

*We are deeply grateful for the link between our two churches and your willingness to support the self-sustenance mission of our Church. We have bought some iron sheets for our housing projects at the St James church. Part of the money will go to assist our elderly and vulnerable people in the church by buying them Xmas hampers which will include our staple food of meal mealie. Over the years our aging sound system at St James, especially the Amplifier, have become outdated and difficult to use for our church services and community events. As a result, part of your financial support has been used to acquire the Amplifier-mixer for the church to help in our evangelism. I shall continue updating you on our happenings and progress at our church"*

I feel that, on my own, I do not do enough to make this link a reality within St Mary's and would appreciate it if we had a small group that could rejuvenate the link from our end and make it more visible in the life of St Mary's. We could learn a lot from our brothers and sisters in Zambia as well as helping support their mission.

**Joanna Hunt**

### **WALSINGHAM**

Fourteen pilgrims (including 10-year-old Iona) went to Walsingham on the 28<sup>th</sup> July for 5 wonderful days.

We had our normal services of Morning Prayer, Mass, the Liturgy of Sprinkling, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Healing, and the procession of Our Lady and Benediction. Plus, on Monday, a visit to Holkham Hall Gardens, on one of the hottest days of the week. Tuesday, a walk to the Slipper Chapel, where, inspired by Iona, who wanted to do what pilgrims of old did, seven pilgrims walked back along the roadway bare footed! Wednesday a small number of Pilgrims went to Wells-Next-To-Sea, whilst others enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of the Shrine gardens and the Shrine itself. After the evening service, we gathered for drinks and nibbles and a happy hour or so getting to know one another a little more (there is always something new to learn about a person you think you know quite well).

It was my great pleasure to have three of our Pilgrims become members of The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham and to become a member of the Bathwick Cell. This small service was led by Fr Peter, who welcomed Di at Mass on Tuesday morning; and on Thursday, after our final visit to The Shrine, Wynn and Iona were welcomed, and this small service was led by the Shrine Priest himself, Fr Edward Gunn

Our journey home from Walsingham was slightly longer than usual due to road accidents and the sheer volume of traffic. We arrived back tired but elated from a wonderful, happy Pilgrimage.

The Cell meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at St John's, plus we honour the Marian festivals as well and go to the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. We have fourteen members but are always happy to welcome non-members to our services. Please come and join us if you would like to. The services are advertised in the weekly news sheets.

**Chris Plummer**

### **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 BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

The Babies & Toddler group meet twice a week on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am. Both sessions are well attended, with Fridays being particularly busy. The group is an important outreach into the community and is much appreciated by the mums/dads/carers who attend; one recently describing it as 'a lifeline'.

When the group was first set up it was run by a committee of parents with help from church volunteers. However, this summer no one was prepared to take on the committee positions,

so, in order to keep the group going, it is now run purely by church volunteers and the finances have been taken over by the PCC.

Our problem now is finding enough volunteers – 2 each session – one ‘on the door’ to welcome the mums/dads/carers and one in the kitchen making refreshments. We have considered paying for a Play Group Leader, but, despite advertising, no-one came forward. Thank you to Jo Hunt, Jan Howard, Clare Edwards, Clare Goodhart, Amy Mills and Rosemary Cumming for your help and enthusiasm and if anyone else is interested in helping, particularly on a Friday, please speak to either Jo Hunt or Nicky Parker

**Nicola Parker**

### **MISSION REPORT**

Of course, everything we do as a Church is witness to our faith and this set of annual reports sets out many activities through which we do this. This particular group meets occasionally and explores ideas. We are a floating membership and those who have joined in over the year include Nicky Parker, Dominic Taylor, Sarah Davis, Julia Brownbridge, Fr Peter and Fr Richard. We will set up another meeting once the survey results are in – and if you would like to join us, please make yourself known.

The Church of England has provided central funding to enable all churches to explore how they might flourish and grow. We have been working through the Natural Church Development model, facilitated by Fr Gary Ecclestone who has attended a number of meetings and who was our visiting preacher in January 2025. The key principles of this model are that :

- God brings health and growth to the Church
- Each church and its congregation have gifts which it can release and nurture
- Each church has limiting issues and obstacles
- If we build on our God-given gifts and strengths we will flourish and maybe we will grow as a Christian community

The surveys helps this group understand what the whole church sees as its strengths and to open up conversations as to what we might build on. We look forward to the output of the current survey later in the year.

The two outstanding issues of the last survey were that people felt they could use their gifts within church life and that the worship we experience on a Sunday is inspiring and enjoyable. We also know that we are a Church which is hospitable and welcoming, with many members of the congregation active in their local communities and in places of need across Bath and with a core of people who welcome opportunities to explore their faith more deeply. The challenge is how we can all share this so more people might join us!

One reason we like this model is because it is about building on who we are and what we already do. It is about doing new things because they emerge from who we are, not for the sake of some different. As an example, the Charity Breakfasts set up by Clare Edwards which have been a great success. If you have any thoughts, please share them with any one of us.

**Caroline Redfern**

#### **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 2024.

Over the course of 2024, 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. Our Education Sunday service was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January where children from every class in school presented some of their learning in the service. It was a joy to be part of the service and also wish Fr. Peter a restful and beneficial sabbatical. We will miss his presence at school but are grateful to other members of our congregation, including Stephen Howard, who will kindly help maintain the wonderful links between school and church in Fr. Peter's absence.

Over the past year there was much to celebrate. Firstly, staff have been busy updating the Bathwick Curriculum to ensure that it fits our diverse school community. There are some exciting new topics and themes that children will learn about this year as well as many of the same topics staying in place with just smaller changes. Underpinning all of this is the word ACE. This stands for... AMBITIOUS, CREATIVE and ETHICAL ...three words that represent Bathwick St. Mary as a Church school, our Bathwick curriculum and what we hope all our children aspire to be. Children were involved in this work and went on to develop ideas for how to represent these words as pictures or logos.

We have worked hard on further developing our extended 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. This includes our fabulous choir who performed at the Bath Abbey Carol service and our end of term Christmas Carol service at St Mary's church in December, 2024.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raised around £20,000 last year, which we, this year, we are using to refurbish and enhance our Library in school. Over the next few months, we will be moving the library to a bigger space downstairs in order to continue to promote a love of reading and books in our pupils. Mrs Turner, our school Librarian, has been instrumental in pushing this forward and we hope to open the new 'Wheatley Room Library' after Easter. There are many opportunities for us to continue working closely together. Please do come to our Easter Service on 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30 p.m. and the Leavers' Service on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 wish him well for his forthcoming sabbatical. We look forward to continuing to build on our close partnership with all at St. Mary's and St. John's throughout this year.

With warmest regards,

**Kevin Purkiss, Headteacher**

### **CAR PARKING**

The car park continues to be a good source of income for the church, but it is important to remember that church activities always have priority.

In the past we benefited considerably from a local hotel with no parking of its own which used the church car park for its guests. However, in the summer this hotel changed hands and the new owners send their guests elsewhere to park. Several other hotels and B&Bs use us but not to the same extent at the moment. In the summer we have additional income from the Narrowboat Centre and in the winter from Rugby matches and we also have a couple of regular weekly bookings.

**Nicola Parker**

### **SAFEGUARDING**

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 in the Church of England has, unfortunately, been in the news this year and it has highlighted the need to be vigilant within our own church community. As I have said before it is not just a legal requirement, it should be part of our ongoing pastoral care looking out for each other.

All PCC members are 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 on line by going to: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

These online courses are available to anyone and help to highlight and recognise vulnerabilities that we may not have thought of before.

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 which is active in 83 countries round the world. Their present programme is "one more step", working with women in Burundi (in East Africa). Sabina joined her local MU Literacy Group and since then she has started a small business selling bananas, cabbage, potatoes and more, with the profit enabling her to send her children to school.

**Shelia Sims**

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday of March and is written by Christian women of countries around the world. Churches in Bath take part each year.

**Shelia Sims**



## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Your active Deanery Reps are Nicky Parker, Fr Peter (who attends in his own right) Thomas Bunn and myself. I have had a couple of clashes of events this time around and so this summary is a little patchy in relation to the later part of last year. The direction of travel on the plans and policies remains the same.

Bath Deanery has 43 parish-based and Deanery-based Anglican worshipping communities and chaplaincies. 32 are parishes, under the oversight of a reducing number of full-time stipendiary clergy, self-supporting clergy (including house duty) and 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.

The Rev Charles Peer has become the new Archdeacon of Bath following the retirement of The Rev Dr Adrian Youings from this role. The Rev Stephen Girling has taken up a post in another diocese and The Rev Roger Driver (of St Michaels Without) is the new Area Dean in his place.

The current focus is on pan-city ministries. We are urged to share with PCCs the movement for partnership between parishes and pioneering. Likewise student, youth and young adult ministries, new worshipping communities, and evangelism and pastoral care across the city. There are opportunities open for people interested in lay pastoral work or care.

The chaplains of both universities are passionate about building links with the churches and indeed Rev Nigel Rawlinson is becoming a regular visitor to St Mary's during Fr Peter's absence.

There is a new(ish) contemplative prayer group, open to non-Christians run by Rev Philip Hawthorn of St Stephens Lansdown.

Methodologies for calculating Parish Share are being considered

**Stephen Howard**

### **Green Report**

Energy Year	CO2 Tonnes	Gas kWh	Electricity kWh
2021/22	33.2	109,649	10,896
2022/23	38.9	128,680	12,835
2023/24	43.68	144,492	12,797

The Church of England requires all Churches to be carbon neutral by 2030.  
When are we going to make some progress?

**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 2024**

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.

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

The financial results for the year have been poor.

The income from giving by the congregation (includes Gift Aid tax reclaimed ) was £57,453 (2023: £61,410) which was an decrease of £3,957.

Income from the car park was only £14,770 which was a decrease of £10,044

Income from investments amounted to £12,808, and the church maintenance trust, (which is a separate fund which does not appear in our accounts) gave us £13,170,

Total Expenditure was £135,738 (2023: £128,436)  
of which the largest component was our quota to the Diocese of £58,668 (2023: £51,015).

Church maintenance of £13,023 exceeded the budget, following roof repairs and a RAAC inspection of the hall.

The Unrestricted Funds Deficit for the year was £8,314 (2023: Deficit £987)

The value of Investments increased by £3,078 (2023: increase of £11,565)

The Unrestricted Reserves are now £77,236 (2023: £85,549)

### Restricted funds

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

**The Emergency Fund** has collections and is then disbursed to specific appeals such as natural disasters.

**The Pastoral Fund** is at the disposal of the parish priest. Collections produced £387

**The Choristers Bursary Fund** received gifts of £4,649 and was used for bursaries. The remaining funds £7,226 will support choristers in forthcoming years.

**The Restoration Fund** benefits from fund-raising activities and was used to pay for replacement of the kitchen floor and cupboards. Also repointing the flagstones in the parking areas.

The balance remaining is now £42,380.

**The Organ Restoration Fund** benefitted from a Grant of £6,808 equivalent to the VAT on the final instalment.

Laura and Rando Howard elected (by Deed of Variation) to assign £40,000 of their gifts within the Organ Fund to the Endowment Reserve Fund, so the balance of the Organ Fund is now £25,044

and will be used to finance the maintenance of the organ in the future.

**The Music Endowment Fund** contains £10,000. The interest on this fund is given for music at the church.

**Endowment Reserve Fund.** This fund of £190,665 was created from the gifts from Laura and Rando Howard. Income from the fund supports the church. The Capital may only be spent subject to prior resolution of the PCC and the donors.

### RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Alms	4,426
Liturgical Display	477
Emergency Fund	766
Pastoral	330
Zambia	2,759
Flowers	254
Chorsiter Bursary	7,226
Restoraion Appeal	42,380
	<hr/>
	58,618
Organ Restoration	25,044
Music Endowment	10,000
Endowment Reserve Fund	190,665
	<hr/>
	284,327

### Assets

The Total Net Assets as at 31 December 2024 were £361.563 (2023: £416,324). which include Investments with the CCLA amounting to £314,303

### **The Unrestricted Funds Budget for 2025**

**Income:** £119,027. (2024 £125,961)

Income from parishioners is falling.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure: We are budgeting for a total of £136,055 (2024: Expenditure was £137,353).

The main item which is difficult to budget is church\_maintenance  
and we have allocated £14,000.

The Diocesan Common Fund payment has been increased to £58,974 from £58,668 in 2024

The Unrestricted Reserves on 1st January 2025 are £77,236

In the past we have agreed that it is prudent to maintain reserves of around 6 months of  
budgeted expenditure which amounts to around £68,000.

The budgeted Deficit of £17,027 for 2025 will reduce the Unrestricted Reserves to £60,209

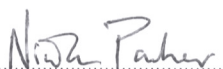

**Nick Lennard**  
**Treasurer**

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
Year ended 31 December 2024  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Organ Fund	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income</b>							
Voluntary Income							
Direct Giving	2(a)	57,453	11,739	135		69,327	229,599
Other	2(b)	13,170				13,170	12,760
Events & Activities Gross	2(c)	41,751	5,251	112		47,113	54,294
Other Ordinary Income	2(d)	778		6,808		7,586	72,912
Income from Investment	2(e)	12,808	2,036			14,844	20,286
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>125,961</b>	<b>19,026</b>	<b>7,055</b>		<b>152,042</b>	<b>389,851</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Grants	3(a)	4,995	7,993			12,988	7,078
Support Costs	3(b)	132				132	171
Directly relating to the Work of the Church	3(c)	113,439	22,010	41,759		177,208	549,939
Fundraising and Publicity	3(d)	147	766			914	180
Church Administration	3(e)	17,025				17,025	15,006
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>135,738</b>	<b>30,770</b>	<b>41,759</b>		<b>208,267</b>	<b>572,374</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	4	<b>(1,615)</b>				<b>(1,615)</b>	<b>(1,707)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(11,392)</b>	<b>(11,744)</b>	<b>(34,704)</b>		<b>(57,840)</b>	<b>(184,230)</b>
<b>GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>3,078 -</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>3,078</b>	<b>13,958</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(8,314)</b>	<b>(11,744)</b>	<b>(34,704)</b>		<b>(54,762)</b>	<b>(170,272)</b>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2024		85,550	70,362	99,748	160,665	416,325	586,596
Transfer between Funds				(40,000)	40,000		
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 December 2024</b>		<b>77,236</b>	<b>58,618</b>	<b>25,044</b>	<b>200,665</b>	<b>361,563</b>	<b>416,324</b>
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 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	4	1,408	3,023
Investments	5	<u>314,303</u>	<u>134,471</u>
		315,711	137,494
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	17,818	32,789
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>38,389</u>	<u>254,754</u>
		<u>56,207</u>	<u>287,543</u>
<b>LIABILITIES; Amounts falling due within one year</b>			
	8	(10,355)	(8,712)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>45,852</u>	<u>278,831</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>361,563</u>	<u>416,324</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
	9		
Unrestricted		77,236	85,550
Restricted		58,618	70,362
Organ Fund		25,044	99,748
Endowment		200,665	160,665
		<u>361,563</u>	<u>416,325</u>
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               Nicola Parker         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               Clare Goodhart         </div> </div>			
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 2024

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

See Appendix to Accounts

**2 Income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Organ Fund	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	£	2,024 £	2,023 £
<b>2(a) Voluntary Income (direct giving)</b>						
Planned Giving:						
Gift Aided Giving	38,828				38,828	40,346
Income Tax recoverable	10,250	2,127			12,377	120,387
Uncovenanted	4,056	40			4,096	4,715
Collections		7,242			7,242	6,390
Sundry Donations	4,319	2,331	135		6,785	57,761
	57,453	11,739	135		69,327	229,599
<b>2(b) Other Voluntary Income</b>						
Maintenance Trust	13,170				13,170	12,760
	13,170				13,170	12,760
<b>2(c) Events &amp; Activities Gross Income</b>						
Fetes, FairTrade etc	128	2,147			2,275	2,618
Magazines	836				836	855
Hall Hire	10,115				10,115	10,075
Church Use	10,963	3,104	112		14,178	12,149
PCC Fees	2,740				2,740	1,783
Car Park	14,770				14,770	24,814
St John's Contribution	2,200				2,200	2,000
Miscellaneous						
	41,751	5,251	112		47,113	54,294
<b>2(d) Other Ordinary Income</b>						
Grant - VAT Recovered	778		6,808		7,586	72,912
	778		6,808		7,586	72,912
<b>2(e) Income from Investment</b>						
Interest (Gross)	12,808	2,036			14,844	20,286
	12,808	2,036			14,844	20,286
<b>Total Income</b>	125,961	19,026	7,055		152,042	389,851



ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2024

**3 Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Organ Fund	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	£	2,024 £	2,023 £
<b>3(a) Grants</b>						
Missionary and Charitable Giving:						
Church Overseas - Missions		356			356	477
Church Overseas - Aid		1,877			1,877	2,957
Home missions and Church societies		178			178	159
Other Charities	4,995	5,582			10,577	3,485
	4,995	7,993			12,988	7,078
<b>3(b) Support Costs</b>						
Publications	132				132	171
<b>3(c) Directly relating to the work of Church</b>						
Ministry:						
Diocesan Common Fund	58,668				58,668	51,015
Clergy Expenses	3,634				3,634	3,664
Church Running Costs						
Heating and Lighting	5,034				5,034	4,376
Cleaning	7,609				7,609	6,194
Insurance:Buildings, Plate etc	4,620				4,620	4,532
Sacristy, Cassocks & Votive candles	1,188				1,188	968
Church Maintenance	13,023	1,650			14,673	25,991
Major Projects		12,974	41,358		54,332	430,827
Parish Magazine expenditure						50
Hall Running Costs:						
Heating and Lighting	3,357				3,357	2,918
Organ and Choir:						
Organist	10,773	475			11,248	9,053
Music and Choir	833	6,295			7,128	6,760
Organ/Piano Maintenance	2,072		401		2,473	740
Miscellaneous	2,072	120			2,192	2,354
Bank Charges	556				556	
Flowers		496			496	497
	113,439	22,010	41,759		177,208	549,939
<b>3(d) Fundraising and Publicity</b>						
Costs of Events etc	147	766			914	180
<b>3(e) Church Administration</b>						
Independent Examiners Fees	900				900	750
Printing and Copying	3,004				3,004	4,147
Staff Costs	12,617				12,617	9,488
Office Telephone	504				504	621
	17,025				17,025	15,006
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	135,738	30,770	41,759		208,267	572,374

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2024

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC		Freehold Land and Buildings	Equipment	Total
		£	£	£
<b>Gross Book Value</b>	At Cost 1 January 2024	69,094	13,735	82,829
	Additions			
	At 31 December 2024	69,094	13,735	82,829
<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1 January 2024	69,094	10,713	79,807
	Charge for year		1,615	1,615
	At 31 December 2024	69,094	12,327	81,421
<b>Net Book Value</b>	At 31 December 2024		1,408	1,408
	At 31 December 2023		3,023	3,023

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

5 INVESTMENTS		
Investments at 1 January 2024		134,471
Additions		176,754
Net gain on revaluation at 31 December 2024		3,078
At 31 December 2024		314,303
At 31 December 2023		134,471

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND					
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Organ Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
	£	£		£	£
Fixed Assets	1,408				1,408
Investments	55,019	58,618		200,665	314,303
Current Assets	31,163		25,044		56,207
Current Liabilities	(10,355)				(10,355)
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>77,236</b>	<b>58,618</b>	<b>25,044</b>	<b>200,665</b>	<b>361,563</b>

7 DEBTORS		2024	2023
		£	£
Income Tax Recoverable		11,471	15,850
VAT Recoverable		778	
Prepayments		5,448	16,799
Floats		120	140
		17,818	32,789

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2024

**8 LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	4,608	1,750
Creditors for goods and services	5,747	6,962
	<u>10,355</u>	<u>8,712</u>

**9 Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	Balance at 01-01-24	Received	Paid	Transfer	Balance at 31-12-24
Alms	3,507	7,947	7,027		4,426
Pastoral	427	387	484		330
Emergency Fund	499	268			767
Zambia	3,596	163	1,000		2,759
Liturgical Display	477				477
Restoration Fund	52,063	5,075	14,757		42,380
Flowers	332	537	616		254
Choir Bursary Fund	9,461	4,649	6,885		7,226
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<u>70,362</u>	<u>19,026</u>	<u>30,770</u>		<u>58,619</u>
<b>Organ Fund</b>	99,748	247	34,951	(40,000)	25,044
<b>Endowment fund</b>	160,665			40,000	200,665
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	85,550	125,961	134,275		77,236
	<u>416,325</u>	<u>145,234</u>	<u>199,996</u>		<u>361,563</u>

The restricted funds are comprised of the alms collected for church and other charities at home and abroad.  
and the Church Restoration Fund (£42,380)

The Organ Fund was used to pay the final instalment of its restoration.

Laura and Rando Howard elected (by a Deed of Variation) to assign £40,000 of their gifts from the Organ Fund  
to the Endowment Reserve Fund.

The income arising on the Endowment Reserve Fund will be assigned to Unrestricted Funds.

**Analysis of Charitable Funds In the previous year**

	Balance at 01-01-23	Received	Paid	Balance at 31-12-23
Alms	1,324	5,958	3,774	3,507
Pastoral	762	184	520	427
Emergency Fund	1,600	1,283	2,384	498
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	9,461
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<u>56,969</u>	<u>26,505</u>	<u>13,111</u>	<u>70,361</u>
<b>Organ Fund</b>	444,656	83,525	428,434	99,748
<b>Endowment fund</b>	10,000	150,665		160,665
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	74,971	129,156	118,578	85,550
	<u>586,596</u>	<u>389,851</u>	<u>560,123</u>	<u>416,324</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN BATHWICK  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 December 2024

**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 2024

**MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING**

RedEarth Uganda	49	
Goa Anglican Centre	151	
Mercy in Action	156	
Church Overseas - Missions	<u>356</u>	356
USPG	66	
Barnabus Aid	74	
Childrens Society	510	
DEC Middle East Appeal	227	
St James Buchi Zambia LINK	1,000	
Church Overseas - Aid	<u>1,877</u>	1,877
Bibles for Children	95	
Mission to Seafarers	83	
Home Missions and Church societies	<u>178</u>	178
Additional Curates Society	93	
Bath City Pastors	210	
Bath Welcomes Refugees	233	
Bath Women's Refuge	134	
Cancer Research	286	
Christian Aid	66	
Combat Stress	93	
Connect at Christmas	69	
DHI	154	
Dorothy House	366	
Food Bank	191	
Genesis Trust	942	
Julian House	264	
Society of Mary & Martha	57	
Society of St Francis	75	
Other Charities	<u>3,232</u>	3,232
Pastoral Fund	484	
Bathwick St Mary School	<u>1,866</u>	2,350
Cost of Events		518
		<u><u>8,512</u></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 £10,986  
There was also a surplus on the revaluation of the investments of £3,078  
The Organ Fund received a Grant of £6,808 equivalent to the VAT element of the payments for the organ restoration.

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 2024, 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  
18 Minster Way  
Bath  
BA2 6RH

24 May 2025

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall on  
Sunday 21st April 2024, following the 10:30 Eucharist.**

Fr Peter Edwards welcomed people to the Annual Vestry Meeting

Those present: Churchwardens: Clare Goodhart and Janet Howard, plus 33 people on the parish electoral roll. Also present as an observer Fr Richard Hunt.

Apologies for absence: Richard Andrews, Beryl Desmond, Gary Desmond, Marion Stoneham, Dominic Taylor, Marcus Wedge and Molly Wedge.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023: Copies were provided before the meeting.

Andrew Parker proposed, and Helen Moss seconded that they be accepted; agreed unanimously.

Matters Arising from the Vestry Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023: Andrew Parker thanked, on behalf of the church members, Fr Peter for all the work he carries out throughout the year.

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. He specially mentioned Janet Howard as she had completed six years of service as a Churchwarden. He pointed out this spanned years pre and post the Covid Pandemic, and during that time there had been a number of major restoration projects including the Organ. Fr Peter then presented her with a hydrangea, as a token of his and the congregation's appreciation and thanks for all her work and support during this time.

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

Margaret Clare Goodhart: proposed by Janet Iris Howard and seconded by Marilyn Joan Kirby  
Nicola Jane Parker: 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 Keith Moss and Dawn Lennard carry out behind the scenes as "Tuesday Bankers". Fr Peter told the meeting that Keith had carried out this work for a number of years before being joined by Dawn Lennard. He then recommended that Janet Howard be appointed as a Deputy Churchwarden so that she could step in when required.

Andrew Parker proposed, and Joanna Hunt seconded that Keith Moss, Dawn Lennard continue as Deputy Churchwardens with the role of "Tuesday Bankers" and that Janet Howard also be appointed as a Deputy Churchwarden. These appointments were agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Any other business: None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12:10.

Fr Peter Edwards  
Rector St Mary's Bathwick



**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 21st April 2024(following Annual Vestry Meeting) after the 10:30 Eucharist  
as members of the PCC.**

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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

Nicky Parker proposed, and Jean Tanser 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 138, an increase of two from 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023. During the year there had been three deaths, and five new people had joined the Electoral Roll. Fr Peter thanked Andy Parker for his work as Electoral Roll Officer. Note a full revision of the Electoral Roll is required next year.

**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.

To keep the meeting as brief as possible, rather than going through each report individually Fr Peter asked if anyone wanted to add further information or if anyone had any questions. Note a copy of the Annual Reports 2024 is filed with these Minutes and the page numbers following the reports referred to below relate to this Booklet.

**A. Almsgiving** (page 12) Sarah Davies explained PCC had considered the points raised in the final paragraph of this report, at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The first concerned the sending of funds to our link parish of Zambia. Nick Lennard explained that he and Joanna Hunt were currently in detailed negotiations with Annabel Capel, Zambia Link Co-ordinator to ensure the money (presently in the Zambia Restricted Fund) can be sent safely to Buchi. Once these issues were resolved the money will be sent. (Note there are similar issues regarding ensuring the safe sending of funds held for St John's Seminary Zambia and the House of Hope in Bethlehem).

Secondly Robin and Sarah suggested profits from Sunday and Wednesday coffee be given to the Food Bank, for use in two new initiatives for the children of those receiving assistance (giving new books to children and a gift voucher for the Entertainer Bath Toy Shop so a parent can get a toy for a child on their birthday). The PCC had previously agreed to this suggestion. The third question concerned the allocation of Gift Aid Tax on charitable donations. Previously this was given to the Bathwick Church School to meet its obligation for a capital reserve, but regulations changed when the school joined the Bath and Wells Academy Trust, meaning this capital fund is no longer required. The PCC had agreed to give the money to Bathwick School for the support of disadvantaged children to pay for such things as school trips.

**B. Flowers** (page 9) Sarah Davies wanted to re-enforce the message of the need to consider how we continue to provide flowers for the church. Sarah explained that St Mary's had benefitted from the sterling service of flower arrangers over many decades but Molly's plea last year, recorded in the Minutes, for more support had not resulted in volunteers and her Sacristy duties alongside oversight of the flowers had been exhausting at Easter

Clare Goodhart expressed her thanks to both Molly Wedge and Marion Stoneham for all their

work over many years and reiterated the need for new people to take on flower arranging; potentially in a new way so as to minimize the time commitment.

Robin Davies suggested we should consider paying for a professional florist to provide floral displays, pointing out there was £85,549 in unrestricted funds at the end of the year. Nick Lennard reminded the meeting that we aim to retain sufficient funds to cover 6 months of outgoings to cover any unforeseen expenditure, and this amounts to £63,000. He pointed out that currently there was £322 in the Flower Fund.

Note PCC considered the suggestions made by Marion Stoneham in her resignation letter to find a long-term solution to this issue at their meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

C Zambia Link (page 14) Joanna Hunt told the meeting it is vital the link is revitalised, if not then St Mary's needs to consider whether we are going to retain the link in the future. She told the meeting she needed at least one other person to work with her on this, otherwise she did not feel that she could continue.

D Toddler Group (page 14) Joanna Hunt stressed the need for extra helpers from the congregation. Otherwise, we will have to consider stopping this important area of outreach. Andy Parker reminded the meeting that recently one of the parents was confirmed and there had been several baptisms of Toddler Group children. Nicky Parker strongly supported Joanna's plea. She then told the meeting the Toddler Group (run by a parents committee) were also currently struggling to find people able to commit time to serving on their committee.

E. Rector's Report (page 3-5) Fr Peter reiterated his thanks for the support received and for all those who contribute to the working of the Church, while recognizing more we could be doing more, especially regarding inviting people to a range of different events.

F Churchwardens' Report (page 6). Jan Howard told the meeting that the refurbishment of the kitchen was being carried out at present.

G Health and Safety, Readers, Lesson Readers and Intercessors and Servers (page 7)

Fr Peter warmly thanked all those who carry out these various roles within the church.

H Sidespeople (page 8) Clare said that it would be good to have a few new Sidespeople and that the role was not onerous. As well as handing out service sheets and hymn books, an essential part is to welcome people as they come into church and also offer to take any new people through to coffee after the service.

I Garden (page 9) Fr Peter expressed thanks to Dawn Lennard and Jenny Jones for all their hard work in ensuring the garden always looked good.

J Music (page 10) Fr Peter thanked all those who have given money, time and commitment to ensuring that the major restoration of the Organ could be successfully completed. Note there is a special Gala Concert by Dr Peter King on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Caroline Redfern told the meeting that having the young choristers from the university was extremely beneficial to the choir, especially as we now have two tenors! Andy Parker also thanked Gary Desmond for all his hard work, not only with the choir but also Organ Restoration project. He told the meeting that Gary Desmond will be giving the first of the new season's Thursday Lunchtime Concerts on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

K Hall and Church Hire (page 11) Fr Peter expressed his sincere thanks for all the work that Kerry does in the parish office.

L Safeguarding (page 16) Nicky Parker emphasised that safeguarding importantly includes vulnerable adults; it is about caring for others. She asked anyone who had concerns about someone to speak to her. Fr Peter thanked her for carrying out this valuable work and suggested that if anyone was interested in shadowing Nicky and engaging in this area of work further, their interest would be warmly received.

M Deanery Synod (page 17 and 18). Fr Peter explained the Diocesan plan was to reduce stipendiary numbers by 2027 and that within the Bath Deanery the plan was for a reduction of 5 (which may now be 4). Fr Richard Hunt pointed out this was a national issue. Caroline Redfern told the meeting that the number of students at Theological Colleges had also been decreasing.

There being no further comments on the reports Julia Brownbridge proposed and Jenny Jones seconded that the reports, including those of the churchwardens' and the PCC Secretary, be accepted as a correct record: agreed unanimously.

N Treasurers Report. (pages 19-31 plus insert spreadsheet with summary of accounts) Nick Lennard focused on the spreadsheet beginning with the Unrestricted Funds, pointing out that this showed an operating deficit of £986. He pointed out that the total income from parishioners was £51,000 while our contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund was almost identical at £51,015. This will increase to £59,000 in the current year, thus resulting in a deficit of approximately £8,000. Nick pointed out that the combined Common Fund contributions for the Benefice were approximately £85,000, meaning that we are contributing to poorer parishes in the diocese, which is not inappropriate. Currently we pay between £700 and £800 for each regular worshipper.

Nick Lennard then explained the origin of the new Reserve Fund. Just before the end of December 2023 we received £110,000 as Gift Aid Tax Refund from the very generous gift from Laura and Rando Howard for the Organ Restoration Project and the south aisle roof repair. Following discussions with the Diocesan accountant this has been placed in an Endowment Reserve Fund, with the PCC able to use the income. However, some of the capital could be spent on a particular item, subject to the approval of the PCC. The Organ Restoration Fund currently has £99,747, with one final instalment of approximately £50,000 to be made for the restoration project, once any additional costs are included. It is proposed that any funds remaining after this payment is made (approximately £50,000) will remain in the Fund to cover future Organ maintenance and possibly the costs of a replacement grand piano. John Lees asked why the Budget had not been seen by general members of the church in order that they could be aware of the thinking of the PCC. Marilyn pointed out that the Budget is considered and approved by the PCC at their November Meeting. Fr Peter told the meeting that he could see no reason why this should not be subsequently published.

John Lees then expressed his concern that carparking income had dropped since Marcus Wedge handed this over to the Car Park Working Group. Nick Lennard pointed out that the income from parking in 2023 was £25,000, a small increase on the previous year. John also felt Marcus had not received sufficient thanks for all his hard work in raising approximately £250,000 over 10 years. However, as was reported in the minutes of the APCM for 2023 (item 4c), Fr Peter presented Marcus with a gift on behalf of St Mary's as a token of the appreciation for the work he had put into obtaining income from the carpark.

There being no further comments Nick Lennard proposed and Jan Howard seconded that the Treasurer's Report & Accounts be accepted, agreed unanimously

5. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council. Marilyn Kirby announced there were **4** vacancies for three years and **3** nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

Janet Iris Howard, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Margaret Clare Goodhart  
Andrew Geoffrey Alexander Parker, proposed by Marilyn Joan Kirby, seconded by Sarah Ann Davies

John Stuart Porteous, proposed by Margaret Blackshaw, seconded by Andrew Geoffrey Alexander Parker.

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

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the Finances of the PCC. Nick Lennard proposed, and Carla Maddocks seconded that Graham Barber be re-appointed as Independent Examiner for the Finances of the PCC; agreed unanimously. Nick Lennard was asked to pass on thanks to the Independent Examiner for his work.

7. AOB:

A. Green Issues Fr Richard Hunt asked how the PCC planned to proceed having received the Energy Report referred to on page 18 of the Reports Booklet. Nick Lennard explained that currently discussions were on-going with a surveyor, who had recently completed checking the kitchens, choir vestry and toilet roofs for RAAC and was satisfied that these were constructed from solid concrete. Therefore, potentially they would be sufficiently load-bearing to fit solar panels. The church architect is carrying out further work to confirm whether this is feasible. As these roofs are largely hidden from view, we are more likely to gain planning permission than was the case with the south roof. The question of storage batteries would need to be considered. Nick Lennard said that a major way of reducing our carbon footprint was to ensure we used less energy and that to aid in this, the HIVE monitoring system had recently been installed. Fr Peter also referred to the role of the Environmental Benefice Working Group, which Helen Moss said are looking at the possibility of air-source heat pump systems.

The meeting ended at 1:10 pm, with Fr Peter leading the saying of the Grace together.

**Fr Peter Edwards**