

**PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL - ST
MARY'S CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
REPORT
2022**

**25th April 2023
at 7pm**

**Held in St Mary's Church
KINGSKERSWELL**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners
and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday, 25th April 2023**

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners at 7pm

To elect 2 Churchwardens (to serve for 1 year)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Opening Prayers

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) To receive the Electoral Roll
- 3) To accept the minutes of the APCM held on 26th April 2022
- 4) To receive the following Reports ...
 - a) Vicar's Report
 - b) Churchwardens Report (inc. Fabric Report)
 - c) Health and Safety Report
 - d) Churchyard Report
 - e) Social Committee Report
 - f) Sunday Kidz Report
 - g) Tower Captain's Report
 - h) Choir Report
 - i) Deanery Report
 - j) Synod Report
 - k) Mothers Union Report
 - l) Safeguarding Report
 - m) Flower Report
- 5) To receive the Treasurer's Report
- 6) To appoint Independent Examiners for the Accounts 2023
- 7) To elect the following
 - i) Members of the PCC
 - ii) Electoral Roll Officer
 - III) Deanery Lay Representative
- 8) To elect a Parish Office Manager (to serve for one year)
- 9) To bring forward any business notified to the Secretary by 21st April 2023 and any other business brought forward at the Vicar's discretion.
- 10) To confirm the date of the next PCC meeting
- 11) Closing Prayers

COMMITTEES

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

There were 10 meetings of the PCC between the APCM of April 2022 until March 2023.

In addition to matters concerning the everyday running of the Church which are covered at each meeting, the following matters are of special importance

1. Safeguarding

This subject is on the Agenda for every PCC meeting. Any Parishioner who is aware of such an issue should discuss it with the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Erica Dunn

2. Finances

The Treasurer provides a minimum of monthly updates on the finances to the PCC in order for financial decisions to be made.

3. Charitable Giving

The PCC has been unable to financially donate due to limited funds, but has continued it's Sponsorship of a child via Plan International, which is helping to end child poverty, at a cost of £192 annually.

4. Mission Outreach

Due to the importance of engagement with the wider community the PCC discuss outreach at each meeting, particularly connecting with Kingskerswell Primary School on a regular basis.

5. Fees

The PCC has paid in full the 2022 Parochial fees and has paid part of the 2020 which is outstanding.

Social Committee

The Social Committee, chaired by our Vicar Rev'd Michael Wilkie, has the responsibility of organizing the Parish Church's social activities which the PCC have approved.

The Committee members comprise of;

Helen Abbot, Helen Howells, Kaye Hurford, Lyn Kelly, Patricia Rodriguez, and Wendy Shillabeer.

PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL - ANNUAL REPORT

Background

The Vicar, along with the St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the PCC), is responsible for the promotion within the Ecclesiastical Parish, the Mission Action Plan, covering all aspects of the Church's Mission - Pastoral, Ecumenical and Social.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of all buildings - the Church, the Parish Centre, the Coffee Room and Parish Office.

PCC Membership

The members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative Rules.

The following served as members of the PCC IN 2022:

PCC Chairman: Rev Michael Wilkie

Ex-Officio Members: Peter Thompson Treasurer (Co-opted 2004)
Hannah Dunn Deanery Lay

Representative

Proposed and elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 26TH April 2022

Erica Dunn Churchwarden
Sandra Dunford Churchwarden

Continuing to serve as PCC members:

Helen Howells

Special Note: Tony Johnson (returning when his health allows)

Elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 26th April 2022

John Dunn
Trevor Heal PCC Secretary
Helen Rowsell

MINUTES FROM 2021 AMP AND APCM

Kingskerswell Parish Church Minutes

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

26th April 2022 at 7pm in Kingskerswell Parish Church

Present:

Rev Michael Wilkie - Chairman

Jenny Benney, Jacky Biggs, Heather Cooper, Eveline Davies, Eileen Davies, Michael Davies, Sandra Dunford, Erica Dunn, Hannah Dunn, John Dunn, Margaret Force, Trevor Heal, Bernard Hill, Lyn Kelly, Sue Rider, Patricia Rodriguez, Wendy Shillabeer, Jean Strong, Peter Thompson, Melanie Thorne, Rachel Valentine, Cora Wilkie, and taking minutes Helen Rowswell.

Opening Prayers led by Rev Michael Wilkie

Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Erica Dunn and Anthony Johnson had been nominated however with Anthony Johnson's recent illness. Sandra Dunford kindly offered to step in until Anthony Johnson has recovered from his present illness. All were in favour with one exception, and there being no other candidates were duly elected as Church Wardens for the year 2022/23.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Helen Howells, Tony Johnson, Elaine Moate and David Moate

2. To receive the Electoral Role.

Helen Rowswell reported that there were now 101 active members on the Parish's Electoral Role down from 106 the previous year.

3. Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 20th April 2021.

Passed unanimously as accurate.

4. The following reports were received:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Vicars Report | h. Tower Captain's Report |
| b. Churchwardens Report | i. Choir Report |
| c. Fabric Report | j. Deanery Report |
| d. Health and Safety Report | k. Synod Report |
| e. Churchyard Report | l. Mothers Union Report |
| f. Social Committee Report | m. Safeguarding Report |
| g. Sunday Kidz Report | n. Flower Report |

The Vicar reported that Teignbridge District Council would be cutting the grass and maintaining the old churchyard, including removing the red vermillion and rendering the walls thanks to Mike Howards input. The Cedar Tree is also awaiting inspection by a tree surgeon. The Vicar also reported how Geoff Dunford had done an excellent job at keeping the new churchyard area tidy.

The Robing of the choir was discussed with comments that the Choir looked too informal without them whilst others thought that uniforms can

put people off with the formality. It was decided that Robes be worn on formal services.

The Vicar informed all that Patrick Parkes had stood down as Rural Dean and that Nick Debney had taken over as Acting Rural Dean.

It was requested that the monthly Parish magazine also mention that the cost of the flowers could be donated as well as the bread and wine each week, the magazine will be amended to reflect this. It was stated that the flowers are self-funded by growing them in summer and fund raising during the winter. The Vicar thanked all those for their reports.

5. Treasurer's report and Accounts for 2021

It was reported that there has been a slight improvement with regard to income due to an increase in legacies and voluntary donations however charitable donations by the PCC have vastly reduced.

Savings having been made in the Parish Centre and Parish Office and investments have improved. However, we must be mindful of shocks and scares. Currently £3.5k is being paid each month by standing order towards the Parochial Share. This helps to fund the Diocese, who have themselves made redundancies and cutbacks, who in turn pays for our Vicar.

Peter Thompson was thanked for keeping excellent accounts who in return thanked those who assist him.

The accounts have now been verified by an Independent Auditor.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Erica Dunn and was seconded by Sandra Dunford. The meeting was all in favour.

6. To appoint Independent Examiners for the annual accounts 2022

Peter Thompson thanked David Moate for stepping in at short notice, David donated his £50 fee to Rowcroft.

7. Election of Officers

- i) John Dunn, Trevor Heal and Helen Rowswell were elected to the PCC.

No nominations were made for the other vacancies on the PCC which remain unfilled.

- ii) Helen Rowswell was elected as Electoral Roll Officer for another year.

- iii) Trevor Heal was elected as PCC Secretary.

Sides people - The following were appointed:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| • Hannah Dunn | • Patricia Rodriguez |
| • Trevor Heal | • Mark Rowswell |
| • Anita Osman | • Wendy Shillabeer |
| • Gerri Rees | • Cora Wilkie |

8. Election of Parish Clerk

Helen Rowswell was elected unopposed.

9. AOB.

The Vicar reminded all the need to support the village school as these children are the future congregation. He thanked Jenny Benny for her continued work at the school bringing proper Christian values and ethos.

It was noted that some of the congregation were unaware of who the PCC members were. It was suggested photos be placed on notice boards.

10. Date of next PCC meeting

24th May 2022

11. The Meeting closed at 8pm with prayers.

(a) VICAR'S REPORT - KINGSKERSWELL - 2022-23

This has been a mixed year for the church. It was the first year that the full effect of the prolonged Covid crisis was properly felt. There have been difficulties to be faced in some areas as well as modest progress in others.

A modified monthly pattern of services was re-established, with an emphasis on moving forward. Regular services of Morning Prayer were included as well as a monthly Family Worship, where the aim is to be more accessible to those people unused to church culture. This will be an ongoing process as our church evolves to attract and evangelise a much wider section of the local community.

Links with the school have been re-established and strengthened. Jenny Benney and I continue as governors. I lead weekly assemblies and take part in other school activities. Sandra Dunford and Heather Cooper have returned to the classrooms with the "Open the Book" ministry.

Plans are now being made to offer a monthly Sunday afternoon activity which might appeal to young families.

The choir has continued its ministry not only in leading and developing the musical aspects of our worship but also in offering events such as the much appreciated Big Sing. Their hard work and dedication, especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons, is greatly appreciated.

The Bell Ringers continue their ministry, not just for Sunday worship but also for weddings, funerals and other important national events. They are an important part of our church and we thank them for their unique contribution to our Christian witness.

Despite reduced numbers, the Social Committee has done a magnificent job of organising social events that have not only proved popular but have raised much needed funds for the church. Highlights in the past year include regulars such as the Harvest and Christmas celebrations as well as new ideas such as the Quiz Night. They were also invaluable in organising the practical side of many celebrations, not least of which was the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

A House Group was established which meets fortnightly at the vicarage. It provides an opportunity to be together, share stories and study the Bible in a friendly and informal atmosphere and has built up a loyal following.

Maybe the most challenging aspect of the church's life this year has been the sharp decline in regular income compared to the pre-covid years. The income from the Summer Moon beer festival is a significant loss. The other two areas that have seen a sharp decrease in income have been legacies and the number of weddings in the church.

The church urgently needs to increase and stabilize its regular monthly income if it is to continue in its present form.

In connection with our reduced finances and the cost of heating crisis, the PCC has been investigating the installation of solar panels. The church building itself presents some difficulties which will take time to resolve. The Parish Centre is not so restricted by legalities and so solar panels were installed and even in the winter months have already made a significant reduction in costs. We hope with time to do the same with the church.

This also fits in to the Eco Church initiative and helps us towards the Church of England's nation target of being carbon-neutral by 2030. A special mention and thanks should be given to Geoff Dunford for his tireless work in this initiative.

Mention should also be made of the invaluable work of the Church Office. As a church we could not get by without all the hard work and dedication shown both by Helen and Mercy.

Thanks and appreciation is also due to those many people who, behind the scenes, do so much of the hard work needed to keep our church running. Together as a church family may we continue to imaginatively spread the gospel, through actions as well as words, as we endeavour to keep our Church as a living, active presence within the wider community of Kingskerswell.

Revd Michael Wilkie, Vicar

(b) CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT (INCLUDING FABRIC REPORT)

"In co-operation with the priest in charge Churchwardens are generally responsible for the day to day functioning of the Parish. These responsibilities include various aspects of administration, building operation and personnel. Their work is not just the maintenance of the Church building but helping the smooth running of the Church" (Taken from Exeter Diocese information).

At the Archdeacon's visitation in May 2022, we were provided with the book "How Village Churches Thrive" within this book there are suggested areas for the Church to focus on to enable them to thrive. These include making the most of Festivals, connecting to schools and Community especially the elderly, making the most of our building and church yard. We have started to look at these suggestions and will be looking to expand these further over the next 12 months.

Activities we have started include recommencing the 'Open Book' sessions at the school and gifts from the Church to the school leavers at their leavers service. Prior to Christingle in December we opened the hall and provided hot chocolate and information about the Children's Society to the school choir, their families and supporters.

Members of the congregation have helped develop the Childrens and Prayer areas within the Church building and restarted regular tea and coffee after the Sunday service.

The Church has taken part in external events such as South West Awake in June and Devon Historic Churches Day in September.

The day to day maintenance of the fabric of the Church building has continued and insurance policies have been renewed.

Following a prolonged spell of wet weather there was significant water ingress into the west side of the tower leaking into the mezzanine ringing chamber. This has now been resolved with work to improve the channelling of the water on the roof.

The Church office also suffered from rain water damage through the window frames into the internal cavities of the office. These have also been repaired.

Potholes in the car park have again been repaired.

We are very grateful to John Rees, Geoff Dunford and Trevor Heal for their help and support in managing these problems so promptly.

Solar panels have been fitted to the Parish Centre, these will reduce energy costs and carbon footprint of the Church buildings.

The office continues to be very busy supporting our three Churches and responding to calls from our communities. This year we have recruited Mercy who is working part-time supporting Helen the Office Manager.

We would like to thank everyone for all their continued hard work and support, it is very much appreciated.

Erica Dunn, Churchwarden, and Sandra Dunford, Deputy Churchwarden. St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell

(c) HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The PCC is responsible and accountable for Health and Safety (H&S). We have a H&S strategy, underpinned with a regularly reviewed H&S Policy. Tony Johnson has stepped down from his role as our qualified H&S Advisor to the PCC, which included responsibility for Risk Assessments. The Vicar and Churchwardens are responsible for the day to day management and review of H&S and will continue to monitor all Health and Safety related matters along with the PCC.

Erica Dunn, Churchwarden, and Sandra Dunford, Deputy Churchwarden. St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell

(d) SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Tony Johnson, Safeguarding Representative, has formally stepped down from this role as the named Deputy I have agreed with the PCC to take on this responsibility. I have booked on to the Additional Leadership Level training required for this position on the next available date in April. The Diocese Safeguarding Team have been made aware of this change.

The Diocese have introduced a Safeguarding Dashboard for each Parish Church, with a detailed action plan to ensure we all meet our Safeguarding responsibilities. This includes policies, raising awareness, training, safer recruitment, risk assessments and appropriate DBS checks for those involved in work with vulnerable adults and children.

We all have responsibility to report any Safeguarding concerns, the Diocese has a very supportive Safeguarding Team led by Cosat Nassaris, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

Our PCC is committed, through our Church community, to the support, nurture and Safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable and will be focusing on updating the Dashboard, Training and DBS checks over the next 12 months.

Erica Dunn, Parish Safeguarding Representative

(e) CHURCHYARD REPORT

For the year 2022 the Churchyard Maintenance Account income was £4,829.00 and the expenditure was £3,534.37 which gave an overall profit for the year of £1,294.63.

The income from donations for 2022 amounted to £2,597.00 and our sincere thanks go to all of you who regularly and generously donate to the Churchyard Fund. Without these donations, we would really struggle to maintain a credit balance. If anyone would like more information regarding the running of the churchyard or wish to make a contribution, either by cash, cheque or banker's order please contact the Kingskerswell Parish Office (01803) 873006 for further details.

In the Autumn of 2022 Teignbridge Contractors cleared a lot of vegetation and saplings from the old churchyard that had self-seeded, making the area easier to maintain and to protect existing graves. It also made more of the graves accessible and the area of the cremation plots in the new churchyard brighter.

During 2022 Geoff Dunford has maintained the new churchyard and the churchyard extension with regular grass cutting and general maintenance including cutting of the hedge between the churchyard extension and the Allotments.

Mike Howard has maintained the Old Churchyard with regular grass cutting and general maintenance. He has also, with the help of Mr Bloxham, cleared the area to the left before entering the South Lynch Gate entrance and sown grass seed and planted flower. He has also repaired the gate post.

Our sincere thanks go to Geoff and Mike for the giving of their time and maintaining the churchyards to a high standard.

Wendy Hinchcliffe, Treasurer for St Mary's Kingskerswell Churchyard

(f) SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Social Committee for 2022.

We continued to meet in the Parish Rooms at 19.00. Tony Johnson chaired the last meeting on the 1st February 2022 and until election of Officers took place on 5th April Erica Dunn chaired the meeting until then. We all wish Tony well in his recovery.

Rev. Michael Wilkie was elected as Chair of the meeting, Treasurer Helen Rowswell to whom monies collected are paid, but Peter Thomson includes Social Committee finances in his Annual Report.

There is no need for a Secretary as Helen Rowswell deals with correspondence. Patricia Rodriguez is to take notes of the meetings.

Two Committee members resigned due to family commitments, but both expressed willingness to help at events. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank them both for their input.

Committee members have been involved in providing, organising, providing catering/refreshments for the following events:

Easter Services

Plant Sale

7th May

Queen's Platinum Jubilee events

2nd - 5th June

August Summer Feast and BBQ

28th August

Historic Churches Day

10th September

Harvest Lunch

18th September

Fun Quiz

8th October

Craft Fair

5th November

Christmas Lunch

11th December

Outside Carol Concert

21st December

Each member of the Committee is valued for their individuality and contribution to the success of the events in which we have either helped or organised. We would welcome new members to the Social Committee, currently we meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 17.00 (5pm) in the Coffee Room.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, including church members, volunteers and the wider community.

Patricia Rodriguez, Social Committee Member. St Mary's Church Kingskerswell

(g) SUNDAY KIDZ REPORT

Our lovely families usually meet every Sunday during term time and on special holidays for fun, food and friendship with a focus on how to live a good Christian life.

Unfortunately, the Annual Palm Sunday walk was cancelled due to illness, but the Sunday Kidz took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the creation of the Easter Garden. In August four families had an enjoyable day at Paignton Zoo for our Annual Summer Fun Day, which we had been unable to do since 2019. In November I proudly witnessed three of the children get confirmed at Exeter Cathedral. It was a wonderful occasion led by Bishop James Grier who met the children beforehand.

Sunday Kidz is currently no longer meeting weekly in the Parish Centre but engaging the children to be involved with the main Sunday service in church. We very much hope to have Tony Johnson join us when he is able and wish him all the very best as he is deeply missed as the leader of the fun !

***Helen Rowswell, Parish Office Manager. St Mary's Church,
Kingskerswell***

(h) TOWER CAPTAIN'S REPORT

2022 was the 1st year since the COVID Pandemic that there were no restrictions. We rang for all the main services during the year and were able to ring all 8 bells on the majority of Sundays. With some outside help, we were able to cover all the Christmas ringing the year. We continued to ring at Coffinswell on most Sundays. All our practices were at Kingskerswell, apart from 3 at Coffinswell. They have generally been well attended with as many as 20 on 1 occasion. We rang for 6 weddings at Kingskerswell, and 1 at Coffinswell. We also rang for 4 funerals /memorial services.

We welcomed Robert and Katie Law to our practices in November 2021, and they became tower members at the start of the year. Their help with our method ringing has been invaluable. As their main tower is Bovey Tracey, they are unable to attend on Sundays. Mia Rowsell and Alesha Leggett made good progress, and Mia's younger sister Megan came back to ringing in May, and she is slowing improving. Sarah Williams started to learn in February and was able to ring rounds with a bit of help, but she has now moved away.

We rang for the Queen 's Platinum Jubilee in June.

On Friday 3rd, we rang before the Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral. The ringers were: James Abbott, Jo Coldrick, Trevor Heal, Gill Keites, Pauline Lawrence, Alesha Leggett, Peter Lister, David Moate, John Rees, Janet Ritterman, Helen Rowsell, Megan Rowsell, Mia Rowsell, Liz Smyth-Osbourne, Mo Stevens, Philip Stevens and Mike Wright.

On Sunday 5th, a Peal of 5066 Jubilee Surprise Major was rung in 2 hours 48 minutes was rung by: Philip Stevens, Charlotte Boyce, Roger King, Jill Hansford, Michael Hansford, Peter Ellis, John Martin and Michael Mears.

A quarter Peal was also rung at Coffinswell on 2nd June.

After the service on the 31st July 2022 we rang a quarter Peal which was specially arranged to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Eveline Davies, who is a strong supporter of ringing at Kingskerswell. She was thrilled with the surprise.

We were, of course, saddened by the death of the Queen in September.

On the day of her death on 8th Sept, the tenor bell was tolled for 1 hour in the evening by Philip Stevens.

On 9th Sept, at 12 noon, the bells were rung half-muffled in her memory by: Gill Keites, Pauline Lawrence, David Moate, John Rees, Mo Stevens, Philip Stevens, Phil Turner.

On 10th Sept, at the end of the Tower Open Day, a quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples was rung open (without muffles) to celebrate the Accession of King Charles. The ringers were:

John Rees, Philip Stevens, Robert Law, Patricia Slade, Michael Canon, Don Roberts, Martin Mansley and Tim King.

On 19th Sept, Call Changes were rung half-muffled before the Queen's funeral by:

James Abbott, Jo Coldrick, Gill Keites, David Moate, Pauline Lawrence, John Rees, Janet Ritterman, Liz Stentiford, Mo Stevens, Philip Stevens, Sarah Williams, and Mike Wright.

We came 2nd out of 4 teams in the Gilbert Shield competition in February 2022, and last of 3 teams in the Deanery Festival in October. We held another successful Tower Open Day in September as part of the Devon Historic Churches Day. We had lots of interest but no new recruits were

enlisted. We rang in the New Year in the usual way and met in church beforehand for refreshments.

A further 2 Peals were rung by visiting bands.

Philip Stevens, Tower Captain. St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell

(i) CHOIR REPORT

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our brilliant organist Heater Cooper for maintaining a full enjoyable programme, of both traditional and contemporary music, for our choir and congregation throughout the church's liturgical year.

We also would want to give Sandra Dunford a big thank for her excellent choice of splendid hymns for all the church services.

The BIG Sing, an innovation by Heather in 2021, proved to be very popular in October 2022. Hopefully this will become an established feature of St Mary's programme of events.

As a choir, we have a strong fellowship, and are extremely grateful for the support we receive from our Rev'd Michael Wilkie, the Lay Readers, Churchwardens and congregation.

We anticipate we will have another fulfilling forthcoming year under Heather's direction and guidance.

Helen Howells, Choir Representative. St Mary's Church, Kingskwell

(j) DEANERY REPORT

At Deanery Synod, Clergy and Laity representatives from all parishes within the Deanery usually meet approximately three or four times a year to discuss parish matters and communications from the wider Diocese. At each meeting a guest speaker is often invited to speak to new projects or work within the church and wider community. At our most recent Deanery meeting, in January 2023, we were joined by Annie Jefferies, the Lay Chair for Exeter Diocesan Synod, who gave a presentation on Anna Chaplaincy Network in Devon (www.annachaplaincy.org.uk). Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends are male and female volunteers that offer a few hours every month to offer spiritual care to those in later life, often visiting on a one-to-one basis within their homes or facilitating joint acts of worship within care homes. If you are interested in training to become an Anna Chaplain or Anna Friend, or would like to find out more about the different roles, please let me know or contact Annie directly on: annie.jefferies@btinternet.com

We currently have a vacancy for our lay representation at Deanery Synod, if you would like to stand for election, or find out more, please speak to either myself or one of our churchwardens.

Hannah Dunn (Lay Representative)

(k) DIOCEASAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod is the main policy making body of Exeter Diocese and is where diocesan issues are discussed. The Synod consists of Lay and Clergy representatives from each Deanery, along with several ex-officio members and the House of Bishops. The Synod usually meets two or three times throughout the year.

Over the past year the Diocesan Synod has alternated between in person and virtual settings and has been a platform for discussion of several important topics.

Finance

The continued decline in participant numbers across the Diocese has had an increasingly negative effect on the dioceses financial position. In 2022 there was a shortfall of 6% in Common Fund contributions, more than was

budgeted for, and as it stands it is projected that a similar, if not greater shortfall, will be seen in 2023.

Each year parishes are asked to make a financial contribution to the Common Fund that meets the cost of the Church's mission and ministry in Devon. Approximately 70% of this is used to cover the stipends and housing for parish clergy. A shortfall in contributions will therefore unfortunately see a reduction in the number of clergy.

Christians are called to be generous people, and stewardship is an important part of the discipleship journey. When the Common Fund request is calculated it is based on the assumption that donations from congregation and local community will therefore be the main source of parish income. Estimating that each active participant will be able to support their church with a donation of approximately £663.66 per year, £12.76 per week, this number is adjusted to account for local deprivation levels where appropriate.

Where parishes have struggled to encourage regular giving from its participants the Parish Giving Scheme has been a proven solution, allowing churches to budget and raise funds more effectively. Donors can set up regular gift giving through Direct Debit by filling on a paper form, calling the PGS Team on 0333 002 1260 or using the online service: www.parishgiving.org.uk Please speak to one of our Churchwardens if you would like support to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

In Kingskerswell, it should be noted that we have been unable to pay our Common Fund request in full for 2 years and will not be able to do so in 2023. Reflecting that we are more reliant than ever on the generosity of our congregation and community.

Carbon Net Zero

At the March 2022 Meeting Synod declared that:

“ As Christians, we believe that God calls us to safeguard the integrity of creation and to renew the life of the Earth and its peoples. The Diocese of Exeter recognises that the global climate emergency is not only a crisis for God's creation but is causing fundamental injustices across the globe. With the national Church of England, we commit ourselves to work with all available resources towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030. To this end, we will draw up and implement a feasible programme of action with a clear time frame, based on the route map to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. We will review our action plan regularly and report publicly on progress. “

By 2030 the Diocese aims to have measured the carbon emissions from all churches, (schools where appropriate), Theological Education Institutions, the Cathedral, clergy housing, diocesan offices, and work-related travel. For the areas under their own control the Diocese aims to reduce the energy consumption of its building, plans to invest in renewable energy generation and switch to approved green tariffs. Hoping to make substantial progress towards Net Zero Carbon.

Living in Love and Faith

In September 2022 the Listening in Love and Faith Report was published (<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>) ,

marking a 6 year period of listening and discernment on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage. In response to the Report the Bishops of the Church of England put forward draft proposals on how the church can learn from the process and move forward. These proposals

were subsequently voted on and supported at the February 2023 General S

The Bishops of the Church of England issued an apology to LGBTQI+ people for the “rejection, exclusion and hostility “ they have faced in churches and the impact this has had on their lives, and urged all congregations to welcome same-sex couples “unreservedly and joyfully”. Under the new proposal, same-sex couples are still unable to be married in a Church of England church, however can have a service that involves prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God’s blessing. These prayers are voluntary for clergy to use.

At Diocesan Synod we reflected that this process has resulted in a great deal of sadness and a feeling that perhaps the church is more divided than ever as these proposals either went too far for some and not nearly far enough for others. The conversation will continue, and as the church strives to live together in Love and Faith, I think it may help to use the following prayer written by Bishop Jackie: *Life-giving God, in you we live and move and have our being. Thank you that you have made each of us unique in your own image, as your children. Thank you that you call us, together, to be your people. As ‘Living in Love and Faith’ invites us to explore more deeply what it means to be human, and to look honestly at our questions and divisions, we pray for your grace. We ask that we may listen, learn and grow in love and understanding, in the name of Jesus, who came to live among us so we might live more abundantly.*

Continued

Women in Ordained Ministry

In 2018 the Diocese has taken targeted action to increase the number of women in ordained ministry and better support those that already are. Steps taken have included unconscious bias training, events to encourage the vocations of young women, improved ‘family friendly’ policies and the rewording of parish profiles to be clear where female applicants would be welcome. While progress is being seen Exeter remains a decade behind the average for stipendiary parish based female clergy. This the refore continues to be a key focus on the Diocesan agenda.

I hope this Report has helped to inform you of some of the Ministry within the church in Devon, and how this can be supported at Parish level. Please do contact me if you would like further information, or copies of the reports, for either the Deanery or Diocesan Synods.

Hannah Dunn (Bishop’s Diocesan Council & Representative)

(I) MOTHERS’ UNION REPORT

The Kingskerswell Branch of the Mothers’ Union met 11 times during 2022. We held our AGM in January 2022 with elections, and the same officers were voted in to carry on for a further three year term. We were entertained and educated by 5 speakers during the year including the Diocesan President Heather Sayle, Ian Cooper (member), Cora Wilkie, Rev’d Angela Summer and James Meakin (Associate member). We enjoyed their talks and thanked them for coming and sharing fellowship, and tea and biscuits with us. We held our Spring and Autumn Birthday Parties, celebrating members’ birthdays, including 2 milestone birthdays, an 80 year old and a 90th. Thanks to Ursula for sending birthday cards and presents to members. We also enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea, in the heat of the summer at a member’s home in Ogwell. The September meeting

was cancelled because of the very sad death of our Sovereign and Patron, Queen Elizabeth II. To end the year we gathered for a lovely Christmas lunch with members, partners, friends, including our Vicar Michael, at the Livermead House Hotel in Torquay.

Our meetings are held once a month on the 2nd Monday, starting usually at 2.00pm in the Coffee Room of the Parish Centre, Church End Road. Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings to learn more about this Worldwide Organisation with 4 million members across 83 countries. We give a warm welcome to everyone who comes and shares fellowship, friendship and a cup of tea with us.

For further information please contact: Sandra Dunford, Branch Leader, Tel 01803 404779, e-mail gandsdunford@outlook.com

Sandra Dunford, Branch Leader - Mothers' Union - St Mary's Church Kingskerswell

(m) FLOWER REPORT

Flowers were provided in St Mary's Church during 2022 every week apart from during Lent period. Special displays were arranged for the Christian celebrations i.e. Christmas and Easter. The Church was decorated with knitted poppies (made by members of the congregation) for Remembrance Day and a wreath was laid at the War Memorial from the Church. Flowers were arranged for several members of the congregation to remember the passing of loved ones. 60 Daffodil posies were distributed amongst the congregation on Mothering Sunday. On Sunday June 5th the church was decorated for the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebration and also to mark her funeral on Monday September 19th. There were 7 weddings in the church, none of whom requested special flowers. Flowers were placed on 1 grave, as per historical request. Table centres were arranged for Harvest and Christmas Lunches in the Parish Centre. The Christmas Tree Festival took place in church during 8th/9th/10th December 2022.

Jenny Benney, Church Florist - St Mary's Church Kingskerswell

Treasurer's Report on separate attachment

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