

**PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL WITH COFFINSWELL**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL  
CHURCH MEETING REPORT  
2024**

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**29<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
at 7pm**

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

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
and  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**AGENDA**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners at 7pm**

To elect 4 Churchwardens (to serve for 1 year)

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Opening Prayers

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) To receive the Electoral Rolls
- 3) To accept the minutes of the APCM held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- 4) To receive the following Reports...
  - a) Vicar's Report
  - b) Churchwardens Reports (Inc. Fabric Report)
  - c) Health and Safety Report
  - d) Safeguarding Report
  - e) Churchyard Report
  - f) Tower Captain's Report
  - g) Choir Report
  - h) Deanery Report
  - i) Mothers Union Report
  - j) Flower Report
  - k) Social Committee Report
- 5) To receive the Treasurer's Reports
- 6) To appoint Independent Examiners for the Accounts 2025
- 7) To elect the following
  - i) Members of the PCC
  - ii) Electoral Roll Officers
- 8) To elect a Parish Clerk (to serve for one year)
- 9) To bring forward any business notified to the Secretary by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 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 nine meetings of the PCC between the APCM of April 2024 until April 2025 and one Extraordinary Meeting.

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 Treasurers provide 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 its 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**

Kingskerswell PCC paid £36,000 towards the 2024 Parochial Fees.

Coffinswell PCC paid £9141 towards the 2024 Parochial Fees.

### **Social Committee**

The Kingskerswell 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;

Liz Atkinson, Helen Howells, Kaye Hurford, Lyn Kelly, Patricia Rodriguez, Wendy Shillabeer and Sylvia Wightman, with support from Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal also.

## PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL WITH COFFINSWELL – 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 2024:

PCC Chairman: Rev Michael Wilkie

Ex-Officio Members:	Peter Thompson	Treasurer (Co-opted 2004)
	Erica Dunn	Deanery Representative

Proposed and elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Trevor Heal	Churchwarden
Sandra Dunford	Churchwarden

Continuing to serve as PCC members:

Dr Stephen Hoskins (Secretary)  
John Dunn  
Helen Rowswell  
Mike Bundy  
Stuart Devlin

Elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Helen Howells

Proposed and elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Gordon Bower	Churchwarden
Michele Berry	Churchwarden

Continuing to serve as PCC members:

Sue Bowers (Treasurer)  
Sarah Barr (Secretary)  
David Colwill  
Debbie Blatchford  
John Lewis

## **MINUTES FROM 2024 AMP AND APCM**

### **Kingskerswell Parish Church Minutes**

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**And**

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm in Kingskerswell Parish Church**

**Present:** Rev. Michael Wilkie – Chairman

Jacky Biggs, Mike Bundy, Eileen Davies, Eveline Davies, Mike Davies, Stuart Devlin, Geoff Dunford, Sandra Dunford, Erica Dunn, John Dunn, Val Gage, Peter Gage, Trevor Heal, Bernard Hill, Stephen Hoskins (PCC Secretary taking minutes), Helen Howells, Lyn Kelly, Susie Lawrence, David Moate, Sue Rider, Patricia Rodriguez, Helen Rowswell, Mark Rowswell, Wendy Shillabeer, Phil Stevens, Peter Thompson, Rachel Valentine.

Opening Prayers were led by Rev. Michael Wilkie

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

The Vicar, as Chairman, opened the meeting thanking those attending and said copies of the Annual Parochial Church Report 2023 had been circulated by e-mail and “hard copies” left in the church porch. An objection was raised that insufficient copies had been made leaving some in attendance without one. The Vicar apologised and said this would not recur. The Vicar gave a reminder that the purpose of the meeting was to agree the past year activities, any outstanding and new issues should be discussed at future PCC Meetings

Churchwardens: Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal had been nominated and there being no other candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**1.Apologies for absence:** Vernon Jefferies, Elaine Moate, Anita Osman, Jan Stainer, Jean Strong, Melanie Thorne, Gwen Whittle.

**2.To receive the Electoral Roll:** Helen Rowswell reported that there were now 83 active members down from 86 the previous year. A copy would be made available in the church porch.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Passed unanimously as accurate.

#### **4.The following reports were received:**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a) Vicar's Report           | g) Churchwarden's Report / Fabric Report |
| b) Health and Safety Report | h) Churchyard Report                     |
| c) Social Committee Report  | i) Tower Captain's Report                |
| d) Choir Report             | j) Deanery Synod Report                  |
| e) Diocese Synod Report     | k) Mother's Union Report                 |
| f) Safeguarding Report      | l) Flower Report                         |

The Vicar thanked all those for their reports presented and assistance during the past year. Only the following reports generated questions or comments:

- Vicar's report Vote of thanks offered for the Organist
- Churchyard Report: One question was asked as to why there was a barricade between the old and new churchyard this is to permit new grass seeding of paths and to stop damage from Lawson Cypress tree,

## **5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Treasurer made the following 7 points:

- The balance sheet as at 31.12.2023 improved by £50k from £168k 2022 to £218k 2023, mainly due to solar panels expenditure increasing Fixed Assets by £30k, and cash at the bank increasing to £19k.
- Income improved by £24k, mainly due to Planned Giving £9k, a special donation in the year £10k, together with increased income from the Churchyard (£3k) and the Parish Centre (£4K).
- Expenditure was reduced by £26k in the year, mainly due to the PCC decision to pay only 50% of the Parochial Share £24k due to our financial constraints.
- Although Current Liabilities remain unchanged at £16k, the Parochial Share outstanding from prior years was written off as per advice from Neil Williams Diocese of Exeter Accountant, offset by a loan to finance 50% of the Parish Centre Solar Panels £15.3k.
- Staff costs increased in the year by £4k reflecting the increase in the Church office staffing levels.
- Thanks to all account holders for providing the details to allow Annual Accounts to be prepared and also the Auditor.
- As for the current year 2024 the PCC have taken the decision to target paying 75% of the Parochial Share £36k, together with paying 10% of the Solar Panel loan £1.5k.

P. Thompson, Treasurer

## **6. To appoint Independent Examiners for the Annual Accounts 2024**

David Moate was elected.

## **7. Election of Officers**

Helen Howells was elected to the PCC.

Helen Rowswell was elected as Electoral Roll Officer for the coming year.

## **8. Election of Parish Clerk**

Helen Rowswell was elected unopposed for another year and was thanked by the Vicar on behalf of all those present for her outstanding work taking into account it includes cover for the 3 Wells Community.

## **9. AOB**

The Electoral Roll Officer would need to establish a new roll for next year. The Chair thanked Helen Rowswell for her work.

## **10. Date of next monthly PCC Meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm

## **11. The Meeting closed at 8.10 with prayers by John Dunn**



CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW COFFINSWELL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

**Present:** Michael Wilkie (Chair), Michele Berry, Gordon Bower, David Colwill, Sue Bowers, Debbie Blatchford, John Lewis, Sarah Barr (Secretary).  
Three Parishioners were present: Jenny Bower, Rob Grainger, Roger Wills

The meeting opened at 7pm with a prayer

1. The Minutes of the APC held on 23 May 2023 were approved

**2. Churchwarden report**

Gordon and Michele confirmed that they would stay on until the Merger. It was agreed to seek guidance from the Arch Deacon but Michael thought that as long as maintenance was being monitored then an Assistant Warden would suffice.

The meeting agreed unanimously that Gordon and Michele would remain in post until the merger and there was a vote of thanks to both of them for their sterling service over so many years.

**3. Report from Vicar**

Michael reconfirmed that as a Chapel of Ease there would be no visible differences to the pattern of services and that the finances would continue to be held and reported separately. He reported that Mervyn was now a resident in Sundial Lodge and it was agreed that gift and photograph of the Church should be presented to him at a suitable time in the future. With help from Michael and Jenny services are being covered and a said Eucharist is always possible. Michael confirmed that Erica Dunn is the Lead for Health and Safety and Safeguarding and it was agreed to adopt the Kingskerswell Safeguarding Policy.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

2023 receipts were 68% up due to Parish Giving which is £745 per month/£922 with Gift Aid  
The Votive had raised £622 in 11 months.

In the absence of Any Other Business the meeting closed with a Prayer at 19:25.



**(a) VICAR'S REPORT**  
**Kingskerswell 2024**

The church has made encouraging progress this past year. The monthly pattern of services can still usually be managed by the pastoral team - the vicar, our two lay ministers (Ian and John) and our retired clergy (Ruth). We are still seeking new ways of making our services more inclusive and accessible as we address the challenge of connecting to a much wider section of the local community. I would again like to thank John, Ian, and Ruth for their continued willingness to give so much of themselves to their ministries here.

Our links with the school continue to be very strong. I continue as a foundation governor and offer help with the development of monitoring and developing spirituality in the school. I lead weekly assemblies as well as taking part in other school activities.

Sandra Dunford and Heather Cooper have been very active with their "Open the Book" ministry in the classrooms this year. They are always enthusiastically welcomed and appreciated by the children.

The school's own services at Christmas, Easter and School Leavers continue to be highlights of the year. They pack out the church and are, by far, the most well attended services of the year. There is still a vacant foundation governor role for anyone interested from the church community.

I would also like to thank Heather for all she does for the worship in our church and the choir's dedication which continues to be greatly appreciated. As a congregation we are very grateful for all the hard work they put in, especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Church wouldn't be the same without them.

We are also greatly indebted to the Bell Ringers. They raise our church's presence in the village, not just in calling all to Sunday worship, but also for important family events such as weddings, funerals and important national events. Philip's whole team are an important part of our church and we are very grateful for their special contribution to our ministry.

The Social Committee is a relatively small but very dedicated and hard-working group that do such a magnificent job of organising all our social events. These include all the traditional regulars such as the Harvest Lunch and all the Christmas season celebrations. As a church we are all grateful for the huge efforts behind the success of the two big annual events, the Craft Fair before Christmas and the Springtime Plant Sale. The Light Lunches with a different guest speaker each time, continue to give extra chances to share meals together.

These events are not just social, they have also raised some important funds for the church. After all their hard work, the Social Committee were in a position to pay for an expensive new circuit-board and new floor-tiles in the church, and a large donation for the new kitchen hob in the Parish Centre kitchen.

The House Group continues to meet fortnightly at the vicarage. It offers an informal and friendly space where all are welcome to share stories, ask questions, study the Bible and pray together. We also have shared some good biscuits and other goodies, both home-made and luxury shop-bought – the aim being that at the end of each evening together we can go home feeling fed both physically and spiritually.

The most challenging aspect of the church's life is the continuing crisis with the church's finances. We are indebted to the dedication of a number of people, especially our treasurer Peter, who have enabled us to make steady progress towards being financially stable.

However, it must be clearly highlighted and recognised that even though we are now some three years after the financial crisis provoked by the Covid epidemic, we still have not reached our most basic target of being able to fully pay our monthly "Share" to the Diocese.

To ensure the long-term continuity of our church life here, the wardens and PCC are trying to identify further ways to increase and stabilize our regular monthly income. We will not be able to rely on the charity of the Diocese for very much longer.

We have been able to make good savings in the day-to-day running of the church. The solar panels on the roof of the Parish Centre have greatly reduced the costs of the Parish Centre,

Coffee Room and Office. The installation of under-pew heaters and new lights in the church have greatly reduced the amount of electricity used. These changes have not just saved us money but have helped towards the longer-term Church of England goal to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

In all the work done on the church a special mention must again be given to Geoff Dunford (and his trusty assistant Trevor!) for his enormous generosity of time and energy in his tireless work and dedication to the church fabric. We are all extremely grateful. None of the progress made would have been achievable without him.

I would also like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Sandra and Trevor for their tireless dedication and work as Church Wardens this year.

Yet again they have been behind all that has been achieved this year. I would also like to thank all the members of the PCC for all their dedication and support of our church community. The ongoing life of our church could not happen without them.

We also all owe a huge debt of gratitude for the indispensable work of the Church Office. The hard work and dedication shown by Helen and Mercy is absolutely invaluable as it allows the church's ministry and activities to continue and to grow. With all that they do and the people they come into contact with, the work of the office is most certainly an important ministry.

Thanks and appreciation is also due to those many people who quietly, and often behind the scenes, do so much of the hard work needed to keep our church running. From the hard work of cleaning and producing beautiful flower arrangements, to keeping the grass cut and the churchyard tidy – we could not get by without them.

Together as a church family may we work together to keep our Church as a living, active expression of God's love and compassion within the wider community of Kingskerswell.

#### **Coffinswell 2024**

We have managed to maintain the rota of services the same pattern of 9am every Sunday morning. Although the congregation has remained modest, it remains a viable and encouraging. This is the year when St Bartholomew's finally became a Chapel of Ease and the single parish became Kingskerswell with Coffinswell. This change was made after a number of years careful consideration. It's aim is to simplify the practical running of the church and give St Bartholomew's the potential to continue on as a quiet, sacred space that offers Christian public worship to Coffinswell and surrounding areas.

Sadly this year also saw the loss of long-serving St Bartholomew's organist Mervyn Gwinnell. Mervyn played at all kinds of services for over 40 years and even composed some of the music for the liturgy. A talented artist, Mervyn's designs are still being used for the covers of the "Well, Well, Well" magazine.

I would particularly like to express my sincere thanks to Gordon and Michele for being willing to stay on a little longer as wardens, and for Sue Bower for continuing as treasurer.

The appeal to Coffinswell village has greatly eased the financial side of keeping St Bartholomew's open and it's ministry alive, as well as the discovery that, due to it's historic nature, the Church Commissioners are responsible for a great deal of the upkeep of the church fabric. There does still remain the very real challenge of identifying people willing to help with practical side of running the church.

Both Kingskerswell and Coffinswell churches face the challenge of fully engaging with a village community that has largely demonstrated little inclination to attend church with any regularity. As churches we aim not to merely to serve the community as a useful resource, but also to preach the gospel by who we are and what we do.

**Revd. Michael Wilkie**

## **(b) CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORTS (INCLUDING FABRIC REPORT)**

### **St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell**

"In co-operation with the Vicar-in-Charge, Churchwardens are responsible for the day to day functioning of the Parish Church. 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 Annual Archdeacon's Visitation held at All Saints' Church, Torquay. the Ven. Douglas James Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes, we were again reminded of our duties including connecting to our local school and community by way of making the most of our building and church grounds. To this, we continue to hope to be seen as making strides this past year in making the most of our facilities.

Activities include the regular "open book" sessions at our local Primary school. We again included the school in the various services prior to the Easter. The church held the school's Leavers Service in July at which gifts from the Church were presented. Other services included the Christingle and the Annual Christmas Carol service after which we opened the Parish Hall for refreshments.

The Social Committee have been active in organising regular "after service" lunches to promote community inclusion. In addition, the Church has taken part in external events such as the South West Awake in the early Summer and the Devon Historic Churches Day held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. There has also been a number of visiting bellringers during the year.

In October, we met with the Teignbridge "Green Spaces" contract Manager, responsible for the "closed" churchyard, to highlight areas needing attention. With volunteers from the congregation in the Autumn we began clearing parts of the far end of the church meadow which it is hoped to create a "wet land" environment once the dense over grown vegetation is further cleared, so this will be an ongoing project.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 we had the Quinquennial (5 year) Inspection by LePage Architects, the purpose of the review being to ensure all Health & Safety records are being maintained and identify state of repairs requiring attention. Whilst it accepted, at the time of the inspection, electrical works was ongoing (namely replacement of church lighting and heating to meet our Church commitment to Net Zero carbon usage) the report gave recommendations to the buildings' fabric. The report lists works of repair in Order of Priority over next five years. Anyone wishing to see a copy of the full 36-page report please contact either of the Churchwardens. With the ongoing works on the church identified we arranged in October an "open" meeting with the Trustees of the "Friends of Kingskerswell Church" if funds could be released to help towards completion of works resulting from Phase 1.

During the year we have been able to replace the old lighting and heaters with new LED lights and the move to "under" pew heating units. Alongside this was new electrical circuit boards and switch panel. Replacement of the radiators and upgrading of the gas boiler and pipework. Towards the end of the year work commenced of making good the pipe trench and the covering with matching tiles.

Cost savings to the church of moving to the more energy efficient lighting and heaters is shown by the following figures:

Prior to 2023 Electricity used in church was 19,800 kwh per year

2023 - 8149 kwh used, compared to 2024 – 7567 kwh used

2023 cost was £2724 without the changes it would have cost £5963

2024 cost was £2119 without the changes it would have cost £5046

In the two years cost saving from £11,027 down to £4,843

We are extremely grateful to Geoff Dunford for the time and effort he has taken in the undertaking of these alterations, works which were carried out under the full supervision of a qualified electrician at each stage and duly signed off by that same electrician.

In November, water damage to the South Transept roof required a roofing contractor to be employed to make good the external rendering and slates. The cost of £2688 was met by funds from the Social Committee, which we pass on our grateful thanks.

A summary of the works carried in church during 2024 is as follows;

11/01/24	Temporary heater installed by vestry/choir
15/01/24	Motor in organ failed, Electrician called
21/01/24	Organ failed to start
06/02/24	Electrician repaired organ
19/02/24	G Dunford had installed half of new heaters
22/02/24	Electrician – south aisle heaters connected
24/02/24	Fixing of heaters to north side
11/03/24	Fixing of heaters to side pews
15/03/24	Completion of works in electric box
29/04/24	Meeting with Diocese (Head of Building) to discuss and agree cable trunking
21/05/24	G Dunford started work on floor pathway for cables to pews
23/05/24	Organ failed; H Cooper managed to re-start
28/05/24	Cables to pews complete, Electrician connected
21/07/24 - 26/07/24	New LED lights in place
07/08/24	Electrician puts in new light switches
19/08/24 – 20/08/24	Electrician - installation of new circuit board
21/08/24	G Dunford re-laid missing floor tiles over cable ducts in aisles
31/08/24	G Dunford replaced slipped slate over porch roof
13/10/24	First Choir heater installed
23/10/24	Church toilet out of action, required replacement of new pipework.
29/10/24	Roofing contractor completes external repairs to South Transept roof
04/11/24	Re-alignment of new gas central heating radiators
07/11/24	Gas plumber working to 7pm
14/11/24	Gas plumber continues install of new radiators
27/11/24	Work by gas plumber completed install to radiators and pipework
18/12/24	G Dunford cutting slabs for covering pipe trench
21/12/24	G Dunford completed install of choir heaters

We would like to take the opportunity in this report to express our thanks to everyone for all their time and support to help us towards the running of our church .. it is very much appreciated.

**Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal – Kingskerswell Churchwardens**

#### **ST Bartholomew's Church (now Chapel of Ease) Coffinswell.**

The Churchwardens can report that having completed our Annual Audit of the contents, valuables and fabrics, we are satisfied that everything is in good order. A new purchase of a microwave for the Vestry, has been made to replace the old heating oven.

St Bartholomew's is now officially a chapel of ease, the dissolution from the status of Parish church having been completed in August 2024. As a PCC we are now amalgamated with the Kingskerswell PCC and have been attending joint PCC meetings. All our services at St Bartholomew's continue as before, and all our finances are ring fenced. The Parish Share is also calculated separately from that of Kingskerswell. We hope to pay in full, the Coffinswell portion (£8640) of the joint Coffinswell/Kingskerswell Parish Share. We are now in a more satisfactory financial position due to the Parish Giving Scheme and to the contactless giving in the church, which continue to work well, with also, the significant and generous monthly donations made with the votive candle holder situated by the Font. We are extremely grateful for these contributions and hope that there will be more parishioners joining the Parish Giving Scheme. The smallest donations in the church help towards the ever present need of maintenance of our beautiful building.

The work required to complete the 37 recommendations of the 2024 Quinquennial, has started with the main requirement of repairs to the roof which have now been completed. We are grateful to the Church

Commissioners who have contributed significantly to the cost of the roof repairs in the Chancel area, our funds contributing £1860. We now have to work through the other recommendations in order of priority.

A significant cost (£900) to our funds was incurred in the felling of the Oak tree in the churchyard, which was fatally damaged in one of our many recent gales. We still have a pile of logs from the felling, which are available for a contribution to the church fabric fund.

Since our last report, our organist, Mervyn, who had retired last year due to ill health, has sadly died. A plaque in remembrance of his great service to the church has been affixed to the organ. Jenny Bower continues to play the organ regularly for us as does Michael Roberts, to whom and for which we are so appreciative in the enhancement of our weekly services.

Our congregation remains small although it fluctuates. We so value the valiant small group of volunteers, who continue to clean, and to decorate the church beautifully with graceful and delicate displays, so appropriate to our simple, small 12<sup>th</sup> century church.

We are always grateful to Helen and Mercy in the office for their valued support.

For our regular services, we are grateful to our Parish priest, Michael Wilkie, also to the Reverend Canon Ruth Oates, John Dunn and Ian Firth, who volunteer their time when possible.

**Michèle Berry and Gordon Bower, Churchwardens.**

### **(c) HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible and accountable for the Health and Safety for St.Mary's Church Kingskerswell. We have a H&S strategy which is underpinned with a regularly reviewed H&S Policy with it being included in monthly PCC meetings for any issues arising. We continue not having a duly elected Health & Safety Advisor, whilst the Vicar and Churchwardens are responsible for the day-to-day management and review of H&S and will continue to monitor and Health & Safety related matters along with the PCC. Irrespective of any delegation, the PCC remains accountable for Health and Safety. Emergency and First Aid procedures are documented and equipment subject to regular checks during the year. All service records of equipment (PAT tests) checks made during the year are available for inspection in the Parish Office together with all Public Liability insurance policies.

**Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal - Churchwardens**

### **(d) SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

In May 2024 parishes within Exeter Diocese participated in an independent external safeguarding audit. The purpose of the audit was to ensure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected and was completed nationally.

Following publication of the Makin report in November 2024 the Church of England lead bishop for safeguarding described the requirements for a Safer Church.

1. Being attentive to the needs of victims and survivors.
2. Responding well to any disclosure
3. Familiarising ourselves with how to report and following policies
4. Ensuring DBS checks are up to date, undertake training willingly and wholeheartedly

Safeguarding training is renewed 3 yearly and for some members of the PCCS/congregation will be due again this year. I will be contacting those who are required to renew their training which can be completed online. I will also support with face-to-face sessions as required. This ensures people have the knowledge and understanding of our safeguarding responsibilities to report any safeguarding concern.

On Sunday 17 November we again supported Safeguarding Sunday this is a yearly event held every November to raise awareness of safeguarding.

The safeguarding dashboard has been updated to a safeguarding hub and includes 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.

The diocese has a very supportive Safeguarding team and our PCC's are committed, through our church community, to the support, nurture and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable and will

continue the focus on updating the safeguarding hub, further training and DBS checks over the next 12 months.

**Erica Dunn Parish Safeguarding Representative**

### **(e) CHURCHYARD REPORT**

For the year 2024 the Churchyard Maintenance Account income was £2,489.96 and the expenditure was £3,116.36 which gave an overall loss for the year of £586.40.

The income from donations for 2024 amounted to £2330 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 healthy credit balance. The Service for All Soul's Day raised £159.95.

The expenditure for 2024 amounted to £3,116.36. Unfortunately, a dead sycamore tree had to be removed and this cost £1080. The remaining expenditure included the cost of lawn mowing, hedge trimming, fuel for the mower, the annual charge for the green recycling bin and for generally keeping the churchyards tidy. A self-set holly tree was removed from the old churchyard and this was carried out by Teignbridge District Council at no cost.

In March 2024 it was decided to start using the Churchyard Extension for Cremation plots. This was due to the fact that in the Old Churchyard it was becoming very wet underfoot due to the grass not thriving under the trees and the New Churchyard Cremation Plot area was becoming rather full.

The low cost of maintenance in the New Churchyard and Churchyard Extension is due to Geoffrey Dunford. Mike Howard maintains the Old Churchyard and has always looked after the Memorial Garden which is situated between the churchyard and the stream. As always my sincere thanks go to Geoffrey and Mike for giving freely of their time to keep the churchyards looking neat and tidy.

As always the sole purpose of a Churchyard Maintenance Fund is to provide a tidy and well-cared for Churchyard where people are able to come and sit peacefully in beautiful surroundings to reflect their memories of those they have loved and lost.

If anyone would like more information regarding the running of the churchyard or wish to make a contribution towards its upkeep, either by cash, cheque or Banker's Order please contact the Parish Church Office (01803) 873006 for further details.

**Wendy Hinchcliffe, Churchyard Treasurer**

### **(f) TOWER CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

We rang for all the main services at both Kingskerswell and Coffinswell, the only exception being one of the Christmas carol services as both were at the same time. Practices were normally at Kingskerswell, but two were at Coffinswell, We rang for 4 weddings at Kingskerswell and 5 funerals. This included Mervyn Gwinnell, organist at Coffinswell, Mike Davies, who was a keen supporter of the ringers, and Barbara Elliot. The highest attendance at practices was 16 on 3 occasions. Progress is being made with method ringing, but so often we are unable to do more than plain hunting. James, Mia and Alesha can plain hunt, with Alesha doing particularly well. We rang in the New Year at Kingskerswell as usual, and gathered at Philip and Mo's house beforehand.

Sue Hinds has been unable to return on a regular basis, but we have regularly kept in touch during the year. Malcolm continues to come to practices, and at the beginning of the year was joined by Kate Marsh, also from Berry Pomeroy, and she is progressing well. Steve and Sue Robinson very enthusiastically started to learn in June, but had to give up after a month when Sue found that ringing was affecting her health. They would love to return, but that would seem to be unlikely at the moment.

6<sup>th</sup> of June was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and we rang out for peace at Kingskerswell at 6.30pm as part of the national commemoration. We had our half day outing and annual dinner on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We rang at Buckland in the Moor, Holne and Kingsteignton. Our dinner was at the Ten Tors in Kingsteignton. This year we were able to hire the Kingscare minibus for our annual outing on 14<sup>th</sup> September. We had a very successful day going to Somerset, and ringing at Langford Budville, Nynehead, Hillfarrance, Bishop's Hull and West Buckland.

We had another tower open day in September as part of the Devon Historic Churches Day. We demonstrated ringing and took people to the top of the tower. All had the opportunity to have a go, but we were unsuccessful in recruiting any ringers. We also welcomed the Heart of the West Oddfellows at Kingskerswell in November and several people had a go at ringing and ascended to the top of the tower.

We had 5 visiting bands (2 were at Coffinswell) and we hosted a Mid Devon Branch 'Meet the Branch Day' in April at Kingskerswell and Coffinswell. 4 peals and 2 quarter peals were rung at Kingskerswell. The peal in April was rung to celebrate Mo and Pauline's 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays and also Philip's birthday, all on the same day.

I thank everyone for their support during the year and also to Mike Mears for his continued support at Coffinswell.

Although we have 21 members on our books, and generally have enough for our service ringing and practices at the moment, I am very aware that we have an aging band (13 of us are over 70, including 4 over 80), and it is so difficult to recruit new ringers. It can take a considerable time for learners to become proficient ringers and I am concerned that unless we can attract new people soon, there is an increasing danger that our band will become very depleted. With this in mind, I have started to publicise the need for new ringers in the magazine, the weekly sheet, and on Facebook, but so far, no response.

**Philip Stevens, Tower Captain**

### **(g) CHOIR REPORT**

We are opening this years report by paying tribute to our much beloved Doreen (Perryman) who passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June last year. She is missed very much by the choir and congregation. Doreen was a loyal and caring member of St. Mary's church and played a very active role in all church activities during her life.

It is with much gratitude to our inspirational organist, Heather, that we have maintained a full and enjoyable program of music for all aspects of worship. We also would like to thank Sandra for her excellent choice of hymns for our services.

The 'Big Sing' in January proved to be very popular and enjoyed by all who participated.

We continue to maintain a strong spiritual fellowship within our choir and find our weekly practice on Thursday evening to be very uplifting. Unfortunately, due to long-term health problems, Wendy Wilson has had to step down from the choir. We wish her well and thank her for a contribution to me to our services.

We would like to thank reverent, Michael, the lay readers church wardens and congregation for their continuing support.

We are looking forward to the coming year with much enthusiasm under Heathers excellent direction and leadership.

**Helen Howells, Choir Representative**

### **(h) DEANERY REPORT**

In the last 12 months there have been three deanery meetings which were held in June, October and February in Churches across the deanery including here at St Marys Kingskerswell. The meetings are chaired by the Rural Dean Andrew Down and begin with a presentation. The presentations included;

- Jeremy Putnam Mission Enabler – 'what is mission – vision, provision and mission'
- Ian Bussell Director of mission and ministry - Strategy for Church growth
- Brigit Kiyaga Mission Resources Advisor – Generosity and Giving

The presentations encouraged discussion and support with ideas for Church growth and increased giving. Brigit offered to attend Church services/PCC meetings to support discussion and understanding around generosity and giving. I have suggested to the PCC this is an offer we should accept.

Finance reports are presented, in October the report indicated that our Deanery in the Totnes Archdeaconry had paid 84% of the common fund to date. There was no finance report presented in February.

A report from the February General Synod meeting was provided. Safeguarding, Church governance and clergy discipline were discussed at synod. There was agreement to move to an independent safeguarding scrutiny body.



Limited time was given to moving forward with living in love and faith proposals.  
The next deanery meeting will be held on 10 June 2025.

**Erica Dunn Deanery Representative**

#### **(i) MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

The few members of the Mothers Union continue to meet on the second Monday of each month throughout the year the Coffee Room, Parish Centre at 2:00 PM.

We held our AGM in January enjoyed a chat discussing an outline of meetings for the following year. February was taken up with the many updates from Mary Sumner House head office in London, and ended with tea and biscuits and knitting patterns for MU projects for babies.

We had two birthday parties, one in April and one in October, and in July and August we were invited to the home and garden of Liz who lives in Ogwell, for afternoon tea. We prayed for Ursula, our former Hospitality Correspondent, who was in hospital and unable to be present.

Our speakers included Reverend Michael Wilke who described the early years of his ministry in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He showed us interesting slides of his place of worship, the Anglican Cathedral dedicated to St John the Baptist, and the area where he lived. He ministered there for 15 years before coming to Kingskerswell in 2020. Our member Margaret gave us a talk about her journey to becoming a vet's wife, and in September James, another member, continued his life story after he left the Royal Navy to becoming a Rank Xerox photocopier engineer and expert. In November we had a talk by Audrey's daughter Deborah as she described her 10 days visit to Nigeria, meeting the local people and visiting the Amucha Maternity Hospital in the dioceses of Orla. Deborah had some very interesting slides and we enjoyed her talk very much. We are very grateful to all our speakers and hosts and we thank them very much for their time and talks.

At Christmas we went once again to the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay, for our Christmas lunch together with members of the church congregation, and in all 18 sat down to lunch. This had been arranged by Jean, but because of her illness, sadly she was unable to join us.

The Mothers Union is a worldwide organisation which raises funds to help families and communities in both Britain and across the world, especially in Africa where the lives of women and girls in particular are improved by education with help from the Mother's Union. If you would like to know what work the MU does at home and overseas, please come along to a meeting for a chat, tea or coffee, cake or biscuits, and fellowship. All are welcome, including gentlemen and those who are not mothers. Come and discover what this huge worldwide charity does in 84 countries across the world. For more information, please contact me on 01803 404779 or email [gandsdunford@outlook.com](mailto:gandsdunford@outlook.com)

**Sandra Dunford, Branch Leader**

#### **(j) FLOWER REPORT**

Flowers were provided and arranged in the Parish Church throughout 2024, apart from during Lent, greenery was used during advent.

Additional arrangements were provided for the major religious festivals i.e. Christmas and Easter. Several members of the regular congregation made donations for flowers dedicated to the memories of loved ones.

In April, the Church Social Committee elected to support the flower fund by donating 25% of the profit for their events which has proven to be invaluable and without which I would be unable to provide flora decorations throughout the year in our beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century (almost!) church.

Thank you Social Committee!

**Jenny Benney, Church Florist**

## **(I) SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Social Committee for 2024.

We continued to meet in the Parish Rooms, although during the year the meeting time was changed to 1700. We meet monthly and this year we did not have a break.

Rev. Michael Wilkie continued to chair the meeting, the Treasurer is Helen Rowsell to whom monies collected are paid and Peter Thomson includes Social Committee finances in his Annual Report. There is no need for a secretary as Helen Rowsell deals with correspondence. Patricia Rodriguez continues to take and distribute notes of the meetings and distribute copies of the agenda at each meeting.

During the year Jackie Mellor joined the Social Committee and our churchwardens, Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal continued to attend meeting. After the outdoor Carol Service in 2023 a donation was made to the Scouts for the loan of their Gazebo. The Social Committee finances were seen to be in a healthy state and at our March meeting it was agreed to give 25% of the profits from the events organised by the Social Committee to the Flower Fund. This has continued to the present time. We have also contributed funds to the work carried out in the Church, for both the Circuit Board and repairs to the South Transept Roof. One of our Committee members, Sylvia Wightman, made 11 lovely tablecloths for use at the different meals. We expressed our thanks to Sylvia. Committee members have been involved in organising and also providing catering/refreshments for the following events:

Easter services

Plant Sale	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Light Lunch	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Harvest Lunch	29th September 2024
Parish Light Lunch	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Craft Fair	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024
Christmas Lunch	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Inside Carol Concert	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Additionally in January 2024 we began hosting and arranging a light lunch after church on a Sunday, every two months, with a break during the summer months. There is also a speaker on each of these occasions. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1700 (5pm) in the coffee rooms. We would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, including church members, volunteers and the wider community. We look forward to a successful 2025.

**Patricia Rodriguez, Committee member.**

**Treasurer's Reports on separate attachment**

**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
Year ended 31 December 2024

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## **Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Kingskerswell**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 3 to 16.

#### **Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiners**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2006 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Charities Act 2006, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the regulations, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### **Independent examiner's recommendation**

I recommend that none of the charities bank accounts be held in individual names and that they all be registered in the name of the charity.

Signed



(DJ Moate)

Date

12 March 2025

Address

26 Boundary Close  
Kingskerswell  
TQ12 5BP

### **Statement of the Responsibilities of the Members of the Parochial Church Council**

The members are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the council and of the surplus or deficit of the council for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

The members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the council. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the council and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell

## Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2024

	Notes	Un- restricted £	Restricted £	2024	2023
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	1	143,012	0	143,012	146,059
Investments	2	0	21,550	21,550	21,068
		<u>143,012</u>	<u>21,550</u>	<u>164,562</u>	<u>167,127</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	4	1,759	0	1,759	0
Stock		0	0	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand	3	30,744	9,100	39,843	66,921
		<u>32,503</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>41,602</u>	<u>66,921</u>
<b>Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	5	-14,510	-91	-14,601	-15,661
<b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>		<u>17,993</u>	<u>9,009</u>	<u>27,002</u>	<u>51,260</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>161,005</u>	<u>30,559</u>	<u>191,564</u>	<u>218,389</u>
<b>Funds</b>	6	<u>161,005</u>	<u>30,559</u>	<u>191,564</u>	<u>218,389</u>

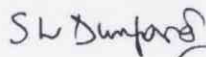
Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf:

Rev. M Wilkie



- Vicar

S Dunford



- Churchwarden

S P Thompson



- Treasurer

Date 25 February 2025

**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Planned Giving					
- Covenanted and non covenanted		32,502	0	32,502	30,740
- Tax recoverable		6,970	0	6,970	7,505
General collection		3,676	0	3,676	6,113
Special collection		0	0	0	0
		<u>43,148</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>43,148</u>	<u>44,358</u>
<b>Voluntary income</b>					
<b>Other voluntary income</b>					
Donations - Special gift		7,894	0	7,894	10,000
- Other		6,418	0	6,418	7,915
Legacies		0	0	0	375
Other voluntary income		0	0	0	0
		<u>14,312</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,312</u>	<u>18,290</u>
<b>Gross income from events and activities</b>					
Income from Churchyard	8	21,609	2,698	24,307	21,900
Income from Social Committee	12	3,506	0	3,506	3,293
Income from Parish Centre	9	27,444	0	27,444	24,580
Sale of goods	10	0	0	0	151
Income from Church Magazine	11	1,661	0	1,661	1,348
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - VAT refund		0	0	0	0
House Communion		0	0	0	0
Bell-Ringers Fund Income		1,506	0	1,506	1,141
Hire of Parish Church		641	0	641	914
Sunday Kidz Account		0	0	0	0
Flower Altar Fund income		1,735	0	1,735	960
		<u>58,100</u>	<u>2,698</u>	<u>60,799</u>	<u>54,287</u>
<b>Other income</b>					
		0	0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Income from investment	13	638	0	638	464
<b>Total incoming resources c/fwd</b>		<u>116,199</u>	<u>2,698</u>	<u>118,897</u>	<u>117,400</u>



Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell  
Statement of Financial Activities (continued)  
Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Notes	£	£	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Total incoming resources b/fwd	116,199	2,698	118,897	117,400
Total resources used (Page 6)	143,094	3,116	146,210	69,749
	-26,895	-418	-27,313	47,651
Net incoming resources				
Gains and losses on investments:				
- realised	0	7	7	0
-unrealised	0	482	482	1,826
Movement in funds	-26,895	71	-26,824	49,477
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024	187,900	30,488	218,388	168,909
Transfer	0	0	0	0
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024	161,005	30,559	191,564	218,389



**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Resources Used**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Notes	£	£	2024	2023
				£	£
<b>Grants</b>					
Charitable Donations		894	0	894	1,157
<b>Directly relating to the work of the church</b>					
Clergy:					
Parochial share		36,000	0	36,000	7,536
Vicar's office expenses		2,653	0	2,653	1,355
Church Clerk	15	11,148	0	11,148	11,712
Fees	8	7,101	0	7,101	3,820
Churchyard expenses	8	0	3,116	3,116	2,197
Light, heat and water		5,439	0	5,439	6,628
Repairs - general		31,782	0	31,782	2,173
Insurance		3,913	0	3,913	7,371
Altar goods		273	0	273	508
Depreciation		3,048	0	3,048	3,048
Organist and choir		1,698	0	1,698	1,095
Flower Altar Fund expenditure		1,891	0	1,891	1827
Sunday Kidz Account		0	0	0	0
Bell-Ringers Fund expenses		1,066	0	1,066	1396
Other Parochial expenses	7	0	0	0	0
Parish Centre /site expenses	9	27,093	0	27,093	15,891
Magazine costs	11	828	0	828	0
		<u>133,933</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>137,049</u>	<u>66,559</u>
<b>Fund raising and publicity</b>					
Social committee costs/donations	12	5,814	0	5,814	349
<b>Church management and administration</b>					
Printing, stationery, photocopying, postage.		2,403	0	2,403	1,634
Examiners fees		50	0	50	50
		<u>2,453</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,453</u>	<u>1,684</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>					
(transferred to page 5)		<u>143,094</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>146,210</u>	<u>69,749</u>

## **Accounting Policies**

Year Ended 31 December 2024

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention (except for the revaluation of investment assets).

### **Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

### **Incoming Resources**

*Voluntary income and capital resources*

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenantor.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for net.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

### **Other ordinary income**

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when receivable.

Parochial fees due to the Parochial Church Council for weddings, funerals etc. are accounted for on an event by event basis.

### **Income from investment**

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

### **Application of Resources**

#### **Grants**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

The Parochial share is accounted when payable and any quota unpaid at 31 December is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(c) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year in consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

#### **Other land and buildings**

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is shown at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off as incurred.

#### **Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment**

Equipment used is written off at the rate of 10% per annum using the reduced balancing method.

#### **Investments**

Investments are valued at market value.

#### **Current assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for the amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit with the Central Board of Finance at the bank.

Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell  
Notes on the Accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2024

1. Fixed Assets

	Parish Centre	Improven Parish	Fixtures Centre	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost at 1 January 2024	63,313	85,794	46,521	195,629
Additions in Year	0	0	0	0
At 31 December 2024	63,313	85,794	46,521	195,629

Depreciation

At 1 January 2024	0	3,048	46,521	49,569
Charge for year	0	3,048	0	3,048
At 31 December 2024	0	6,096	46,521	52,617

Net book amounts

At 31 December 2024	63,313	79,698	0	143,012
At 31 December 2023	63,313	82,745	0	146,059



**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Notes on the Accounts**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>2. Investments</b>		
<b>At market value</b>		
932 Shares Central Board of Finance	21,550	21,068
	<u>21,550</u>	<u>21,068</u>
<b>At cost</b>		
932 Shares Central Board of Finance	244	244
	<u>244</u>	<u>244</u>
<b>3. Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
National Westminster Bank 2 Reserve account	29	28
Cash at National Westminster Bank	7,116	30,820
Cash at National Westminster Bank - Organ Fund *	0	0
Church Fund Cash at CCLA Account	895	850
Cash at National Westminster Bank - Churchyard maintenance *	4,031	4,646
Churchyard Maintenance Cash at CCLA Account *	4,392	4,223
Cash in hand (Flower Altar fund)	657	535
Cash at National Westminster Bank - Club's/Society reserve No 1 account	559	551
Cash at National Westminster Bank - Sunday and Wednesday Coffee Mornings - Cash Social account	0	0
Bell-Ringers	4,834	7,140
Sunday Kidz Accounts	2,319	1,880
	0	0
Kingskerswell Relief in Sickness Charity (first included 2012) *	677	665
Parish Centre Cash at CCLA Account	8,791	3,607
Parish Centre Fund	5,543	11,976
	<u>39,843</u>	<u>66,921</u>

\* = Restrictive Funds

**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Notes on the Accounts**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**4. Debtors**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid Claim	1,759	0
	<u>1,759</u>	<u>0</u>

**5. Current Liabilities**

Church electricity bill outstanding	700	0
Parish Centre Solar Panel Loan	13,810	15,310
Churchyard Maintenance	91	110
Other - Sunday Kidz	0	241
	<u>14,601</u>	<u>15,661</u>

**6. Funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds held on trust for specific purposes as follows

	Balance 1 January 2024	Incoming resources £	Unrealised gain £	Outgoing resources £	Balance 31st Dec 2024
Investments for Churchyard maintenance	21,068	0	482	0	21,550
Churchyard maintenance fund	8,751	2,698	0	-3,116	8,333
Parish site	0	0	0	0	0
Kingskerswell Relief in Sickness Charity (first included 2012)	670	7	0	0	677
	<u>30,489</u>	<u>2,705</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>-3,116</u>	<u>30,559</u>

**6. Funds (continued)**

The transfer between funds relates to:

The restricted funds comprise:

- (a) The Organ Fund is for the maintenance of the organ and choir expenses.
- (b) The Churchyard Investment and Maintenance Funds are for the maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard.
- (c) Parish Site Fund which is income specifically raised to finance the new parish site.
- (d) Tower Fund is income received for the repair of the church tower.
- (e) Special gifts are donations received for special events.

Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell  
Notes on the Accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2024

7. Other Parochial Expenses

Transfer to Churchyard Maintenance Fund  
Other

2024	2023
£	£
0	0
0	0
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>



	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>8. Churchyard Account</b>		
<b>Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell</b>		
<b>Year ended 31 December 2024</b>		
Fees, Weddings and funerals	19,205	15,400
Deduct fees	-7,101	-3,820
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>12,104</b>	<b>11,580</b>
<b>Churchyard income</b>		
Monument fees	2,404	1,799
CCLA Interest	169	174
Donations	2,530	4,527
	<b>5,102</b>	<b>6,500</b>
Deduct expenses:		
General	-3,116	-2,197
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>4,303</b>
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>14,090</b>	<b>15,883</b>

**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Notes on the Accounts**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**2,024                      2023**

**£                              £**

**9. Parish Centre Account**

Rents received	24,408	24,471
Donations	2,851	0
CCLA Investment interest	184	110
	<u>27,444</u>	<u>24,580</u>
Deduct expenses		
Maintenance	9,794	2,499
Cleaning costs	4,819	4,707
Electricity, gas, telephone	1,638	3,747
Repairs	172	306
Other	1,083	70
Insurance	0	0
Water	1,262	1,362
Administration	3325	3200
Donation to Church	5000	0
Total expenditure	<u>27,093</u>	<u>15,891</u>
<b>Surplus/ (loss)</b>	<u>351</u>	<u>8,689</u>

**10. Goods for resale**

Porch sales	0	151
Tradecraft Sales	0	0
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>151</u>

**11. Parish News**

Sales / Advertising	1,661	1,348
	<u>1,661</u>	<u>1,348</u>
Deduct expenses		
Printing and Stationery	-828	0
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>833</u>	<u>1,348</u>

**12. Social Committee Account**

Income	3,506	3,293
	<u>3,506</u>	<u>3,293</u>
Less Costs/Donation	5,814	349
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>-2,309</u>	<u>2,944</u>

Note : Donation includes donation for Church repairs £4700

**Parish of St Mary's Kingskerswell**  
**Notes on the Accounts**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
£	£

**13. Income from investment**

Bank interest	638	464
Dividends	0	0
	<u>638</u>	<u>464</u>

**14. Other voluntary income**

0	0
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

**15. Staff costs and Council expenses**

Other than reimbursement of costs,

Church Clerks	11,148	11,712
	<u>11,148</u>	<u>11,712</u>

**16. Donations from Trustees (PCC members) during the Year**

During 2024 ST Mary's PCC received £7,374.88 donations from trustees (PCC members) and their close relatives. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gifts which required the charity (PCC) to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

The £7,374.88 is included in on Page 4 - Incoming Resources - Planned Giving - Covenanted and non covenanted £32,502.



**PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL WITH COFFINSWELL**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL  
CHURCH MEETING REPORT  
2024**

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**29<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
at 7pm**

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

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
and  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**AGENDA**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners at 7pm**

To elect 4 Churchwardens (to serve for 1 year)

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Opening Prayers

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) To receive the Electoral Rolls
- 3) To accept the minutes of the APCM held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- 4) To receive the following Reports...
  - a) Vicar's Report
  - b) Churchwardens Reports (Inc. Fabric Report)
  - c) Health and Safety Report
  - d) Safeguarding Report
  - e) Churchyard Report
  - f) Tower Captain's Report
  - g) Choir Report
  - h) Deanery Report
  - i) Mothers Union Report
  - j) Flower Report
  - k) Social Committee Report
- 5) To receive the Treasurer's Reports
- 6) To appoint Independent Examiners for the Accounts 2025
- 7) To elect the following
  - i) Members of the PCC
  - ii) Electoral Roll Officers
- 8) To elect a Parish Clerk (to serve for one year)
- 9) To bring forward any business notified to the Secretary by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 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 nine meetings of the PCC between the APCM of April 2024 until April 2025 and one Extraordinary Meeting.

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 Treasurers provide 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 its 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**

Kingskerswell PCC paid £36,000 towards the 2024 Parochial Fees.

Coffinswell PCC paid £9141 towards the 2024 Parochial Fees.

### **Social Committee**

The Kingskerswell 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;

Liz Atkinson, Helen Howells, Kaye Hurford, Lyn Kelly, Patricia Rodriguez, Wendy Shillabeer and Sylvia Wightman, with support from Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal also.

## PARISH OF KINGSKERSWELL WITH COFFINSWELL – 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 2024:

PCC Chairman: Rev Michael Wilkie

Ex-Officio Members:	Peter Thompson	Treasurer (Co-opted 2004)
	Erica Dunn	Deanery Representative

Proposed and elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Trevor Heal	Churchwarden
Sandra Dunford	Churchwarden

Continuing to serve as PCC members:

Dr Stephen Hoskins (Secretary)  
John Dunn  
Helen Rowswell  
Mike Bundy  
Stuart Devlin

Elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Helen Howells

Proposed and elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Gordon Bower	Churchwarden
Michele Berry	Churchwarden

Continuing to serve as PCC members:

Sue Bowers (Treasurer)  
Sarah Barr (Secretary)  
David Colwill  
Debbie Blatchford  
John Lewis



## **MINUTES FROM 2024 AMP AND APCM**

Kingskerswell Parish Church Minutes

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

And

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm in Kingskerswell Parish Church

**Present:** Rev. Michael Wilkie – Chairman

Jacky Biggs, Mike Bundy, Eileen Davies, Eveline Davies, Mike Davies, Stuart Devlin, Geoff Dunford, Sandra Dunford, Erica Dunn, John Dunn, Val Gage, Peter Gage, Trevor Heal, Bernard Hill, Stephen Hoskins (PCC Secretary taking minutes), Helen Howells, Lyn Kelly, Susie Lawrence, David Moate, Sue Rider, Patricia Rodriguez, Helen Rowswell, Mark Rowswell, Wendy Shillabeer, Phil Stevens, Peter Thompson, Rachel Valentine.

Opening Prayers were led by Rev. Michael Wilkie

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

The Vicar, as Chairman, opened the meeting thanking those attending and said copies of the Annual Parochial Church Report 2023 had been circulated by e-mail and “hard copies” left in the church porch. An objection was raised that insufficient copies had been made leaving some in attendance without one. The Vicar apologised and said this would not recur. The Vicar gave a reminder that the purpose of the meeting was to agree the past year activities, any outstanding and new issues should be discussed at future PCC Meetings

Churchwardens: Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal had been nominated and there being no other candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**1.Apologies for absence:** Vernon Jefferies, Elaine Moate, Anita Osman, Jan Stainer, Jean Strong, Melanie Thorne, Gwen Whittle.

**2.To receive the Electoral Roll:** Helen Rowswell reported that there were now 83 active members down from 86 the previous year. A copy would be made available in the church porch.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Passed unanimously as accurate.

### **4.The following reports were received:**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a) Vicar's Report           | g) Churchwarden's Report / Fabric Report |
| b) Health and Safety Report | h) Churchyard Report                     |
| c) Social Committee Report  | i) Tower Captain's Report                |
| d) Choir Report             | j) Deanery Synod Report                  |
| e) Diocese Synod Report     | k) Mother's Union Report                 |
| f) Safeguarding Report      | l) Flower Report                         |

The Vicar thanked all those for their reports presented and assistance during the past year. Only the following reports generated questions or comments:

- Vicar's report Vote of thanks offered for the Organist
- Churchyard Report: One question was asked as to why there was a barricade between the old and new churchyard this is to permit new grass seeding of paths and to stop damage from Lawson Cypress tree,

## **5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Treasurer made the following 7 points:

- The balance sheet as at 31.12.2023 improved by £50k from £168k 2022 to £218k 2023, mainly due to solar panels expenditure increasing Fixed Assets by £30k, and cash at the bank increasing to £19k.
- Income improved by £24k, mainly due to Planned Giving £9k, a special donation in the year £10k, together with increased income from the Churchyard (£3k) and the Parish Centre (£4K).
- Expenditure was reduced by £26k in the year, mainly due to the PCC decision to pay only 50% of the Parochial Share £24k due to our financial constraints.
- Although Current Liabilities remain unchanged at £16k, the Parochial Share outstanding from prior years was written off as per advice from Neil Williams Diocese of Exeter Accountant, offset by a loan to finance 50% of the Parish Centre Solar Panels £15.3k.
- Staff costs increased in the year by £4k reflecting the increase in the Church office staffing levels.
- Thanks to all account holders for providing the details to allow Annual Accounts to be prepared and also the Auditor.
- As for the current year 2024 the PCC have taken the decision to target paying 75% of the Parochial Share £36k, together with paying 10% of the Solar Panel loan £1.5k.

P. Thompson, Treasurer

## **6. To appoint Independent Examiners for the Annual Accounts 2024**

David Moate was elected.

## **7. Election of Officers**

Helen Howells was elected to the PCC.

Helen Rowswell was elected as Electoral Roll Officer for the coming year.

## **8. Election of Parish Clerk**

Helen Rowswell was elected unopposed for another year and was thanked by the Vicar on behalf of all those present for her outstanding work taking into account it includes cover for the 3 Wells Community.

## **9. AOB**

The Electoral Roll Officer would need to establish a new roll for next year. The Chair thanked Helen Rowswell for her work.

## **10. Date of next monthly PCC Meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm

## **11. The Meeting closed at 8.10 with prayers by John Dunn**



CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW COFFINSWELL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

**Present:** Michael Wilkie (Chair), Michele Berry, Gordon Bower, David Colwill, Sue Bowers, Debbie Blatchford, John Lewis, Sarah Barr (Secretary).  
Three Parishioners were present: Jenny Bower, Rob Grainger, Roger Wills

The meeting opened at 7pm with a prayer

1. The Minutes of the APC held on 23 May 2023 were approved

**2. Churchwarden report**

Gordon and Michele confirmed that they would stay on until the Merger. It was agreed to seek guidance from the Arch Deacon but Michael thought that as long as maintenance was being monitored then an Assistant Warden would suffice.

The meeting agreed unanimously that Gordon and Michele would remain in post until the merger and there was a vote of thanks to both of them for their sterling service over so many years.

**3. Report from Vicar**

Michael reconfirmed that as a Chapel of Ease there would be no visible differences to the pattern of services and that the finances would continue to be held and reported separately. He reported that Mervyn was now a resident in Sundial Lodge and it was agreed that gift and photograph of the Church should be presented to him at a suitable time in the future. With help from Michael and Jenny services are being covered and a said Eucharist is always possible. Michael confirmed that Erica Dunn is the Lead for Health and Safety and Safeguarding and it was agreed to adopt the Kingskerswell Safeguarding Policy.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

2023 receipts were 68% up due to Parish Giving which is £745 per month/£922 with Gift Aid  
The Votive had raised £622 in 11 months.

In the absence of Any Other Business the meeting closed with a Prayer at 19:25.

**(a) VICAR'S REPORT**  
**Kingskerswell 2024**

The church has made encouraging progress this past year. The monthly pattern of services can still usually be managed by the pastoral team - the vicar, our two lay ministers (Ian and John) and our retired clergy (Ruth). We are still seeking new ways of making our services more inclusive and accessible as we address the challenge of connecting to a much wider section of the local community. I would again like to thank John, Ian, and Ruth for their continued willingness to give so much of themselves to their ministries here.

Our links with the school continue to be very strong. I continue as a foundation governor and offer help with the development of monitoring and developing spirituality in the school. I lead weekly assemblies as well as taking part in other school activities.

Sandra Dunford and Heather Cooper have been very active with their "Open the Book" ministry in the classrooms this year. They are always enthusiastically welcomed and appreciated by the children.

The school's own services at Christmas, Easter and School Leavers continue to be highlights of the year. They pack out the church and are, by far, the most well attended services of the year. There is still a vacant foundation governor role for anyone interested from the church community.

I would also like to thank Heather for all she does for the worship in our church and the choir's dedication which continues to be greatly appreciated. As a congregation we are very grateful for all the hard work they put in, especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Church wouldn't be the same without them.

We are also greatly indebted to the Bell Ringers. They raise our church's presence in the village, not just in calling all to Sunday worship, but also for important family events such as weddings, funerals and important national events. Philip's whole team are an important part of our church and we are very grateful for their special contribution to our ministry.

The Social Committee is a relatively small but very dedicated and hard-working group that do such a magnificent job of organising all our social events. These include all the traditional regulars such as the Harvest Lunch and all the Christmas season celebrations. As a church we are all grateful for the huge efforts behind the success of the two big annual events, the Craft Fair before Christmas and the Springtime Plant Sale. The Light Lunches with a different guest speaker each time, continue to give extra chances to share meals together.

These events are not just social, they have also raised some important funds for the church. After all their hard work, the Social Committee were in a position to pay for an expensive new circuit-board and new floor-tiles in the church, and a large donation for the new kitchen hob in the Parish Centre kitchen.

The House Group continues to meet fortnightly at the vicarage. It offers an informal and friendly space where all are welcome to share stories, ask questions, study the Bible and pray together. We also have shared some good biscuits and other goodies, both home-made and luxury shop-bought – the aim being that at the end of each evening together we can go home feeling fed both physically and spiritually.

The most challenging aspect of the church's life is the continuing crisis with the church's finances. We are indebted to the dedication of a number of people, especially our treasurer Peter, who have enabled us to make steady progress towards being financially stable.

However, it must be clearly highlighted and recognised that even though we are now some three years after the financial crisis provoked by the Covid epidemic, we still have not reached our most basic target of being able to fully pay our monthly "Share" to the Diocese.

To ensure the long-term continuity of our church life here, the wardens and PCC are trying to identify further ways to increase and stabilize our regular monthly income. We will not be able to rely on the charity of the Diocese for very much longer.

We have been able to make good savings in the day-to-day running of the church. The solar panels on the roof of the Parish Centre have greatly reduced the costs of the Parish Centre,

Coffee Room and Office. The installation of under-pew heaters and new lights in the church have greatly reduced the amount of electricity used. These changes have not just saved us money but have helped towards the longer-term Church of England goal to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

In all the work done on the church a special mention must again be given to Geoff Dunford (and his trusty assistant Trevor!) for his enormous generosity of time and energy in his tireless work and dedication to the church fabric. We are all extremely grateful. None of the progress made would have been achievable without him.

I would also like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Sandra and Trevor for their tireless dedication and work as Church Wardens this year.

Yet again they have been behind all that has been achieved this year. I would also like to thank all the members of the PCC for all their dedication and support of our church community. The ongoing life of our church could not happen without them.

We also all owe a huge debt of gratitude for the indispensable work of the Church Office. The hard work and dedication shown by Helen and Mercy is absolutely invaluable as it allows the church's ministry and activities to continue and to grow. With all that they do and the people they come into contact with, the work of the office is most certainly an important ministry.

Thanks and appreciation is also due to those many people who quietly, and often behind the scenes, do so much of the hard work needed to keep our church running. From the hard work of cleaning and producing beautiful flower arrangements, to keeping the grass cut and the churchyard tidy – we could not get by without them.

Together as a church family may we work together to keep our Church as a living, active expression of God's love and compassion within the wider community of Kingskerswell.

#### **Coffinswell 2024**

We have managed to maintain the rota of services the same pattern of 9am every Sunday morning. Although the congregation has remained modest, it remains a viable and encouraging. This is the year when St Bartholomew's finally became a Chapel of Ease and the single parish became Kingskerswell with Coffinswell. This change was made after a number of years careful consideration. It's aim is to simplify the practical running of the church and give St Bartholomew's the potential to continue on as a quiet, sacred space that offers Christian public worship to Coffinswell and surrounding areas.

Sadly this year also saw the loss of long-serving St Bartholomew's organist Mervyn Gwinnell. Mervyn played at all kinds of services for over 40 years and even composed some of the music for the liturgy. A talented artist, Mervyn's designs are still being used for the covers of the "Well, Well, Well" magazine.

I would particularly like to express my sincere thanks to Gordon and Michele for being willing to stay on a little longer as wardens, and for Sue Bower for continuing as treasurer.

The appeal to Coffinswell village has greatly eased the financial side of keeping St Bartholomew's open and it's ministry alive, as well as the discovery that, due to it's historic nature, the Church Commissioners are responsible for a great deal of the upkeep of the church fabric. There does still remain the very real challenge of identifying people willing to help with practical side of running the church.

Both Kingskerswell and Coffinswell churches face the challenge of fully engaging with a village community that has largely demonstrated little inclination to attend church with any regularity. As churches we aim not to merely to serve the community as a useful resource, but also to preach the gospel by who we are and what we do.

**Revd. Michael Wilkie**

## **(b) CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORTS (INCLUDING FABRIC REPORT)**

### **St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell**

"In co-operation with the Vicar-in-Charge, Churchwardens are responsible for the day to day functioning of the Parish Church. 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 Annual Archdeacon's Visitation held at All Saints' Church, Torquay. the Ven. Douglas James Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes, we were again reminded of our duties including connecting to our local school and community by way of making the most of our building and church grounds. To this, we continue to hope to be seen as making strides this past year in making the most of our facilities.

Activities include the regular "open book" sessions at our local Primary school. We again included the school in the various services prior to the Easter. The church held the school's Leavers Service in July at which gifts from the Church were presented. Other services included the Christingle and the Annual Christmas Carol service after which we opened the Parish Hall for refreshments.

The Social Committee have been active in organising regular "after service" lunches to promote community inclusion. In addition, the Church has taken part in external events such as the South West Awake in the early Summer and the Devon Historic Churches Day held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. There has also been a number of visiting bellringers during the year.

In October, we met with the Teignbridge "Green Spaces" contract Manager, responsible for the "closed" churchyard, to highlight areas needing attention. With volunteers from the congregation in the Autumn we began clearing parts of the far end of the church meadow which it is hoped to create a "wet land" environment once the dense over grown vegetation is further cleared, so this will be an ongoing project.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 we had the Quinquennial (5 year) Inspection by LePage Architects, the purpose of the review being to ensure all Health & Safety records are being maintained and identify state of repairs requiring attention. Whilst it accepted, at the time of the inspection, electrical works was ongoing (namely replacement of church lighting and heating to meet our Church commitment to Net Zero carbon usage) the report gave recommendations to the buildings' fabric. The report lists works of repair in Order of Priority over next five years. Anyone wishing to see a copy of the full 36-page report please contact either of the Churchwardens. With the ongoing works on the church identified we arranged in October an "open" meeting with the Trustees of the "Friends of Kingskerswell Church" if funds could be released to help towards completion of works resulting from Phase 1.

During the year we have been able to replace the old lighting and heaters with new LED lights and the move to "under" pew heating units. Alongside this was new electrical circuit boards and switch panel. Replacement of the radiators and upgrading of the gas boiler and pipework. Towards the end of the year work commenced of making good the pipe trench and the covering with matching tiles.

Cost savings to the church of moving to the more energy efficient lighting and heaters is shown by the following figures:

Prior to 2023 Electricity used in church was 19,800 kwh per year

2023 - 8149 kwh used, compared to 2024 – 7567 kwh used

2023 cost was £2724 without the changes it would have cost £5963

2024 cost was £2119 without the changes it would have cost £5046

In the two years cost saving from £11,027 down to £4,843

We are extremely grateful to Geoff Dunford for the time and effort he has taken in the undertaking of these alterations, works which were carried out under the full supervision of a qualified electrician at each stage and duly signed off by that same electrician.

In November, water damage to the South Transept roof required a roofing contractor to be employed to make good the external rendering and slates. The cost of £2688 was met by funds from the Social Committee, which we pass on our grateful thanks.

A summary of the works carried in church during 2024 is as follows;

11/01/24	Temporary heater installed by vestry/choir
15/01/24	Motor in organ failed, Electrician called
21/01/24	Organ failed to start
06/02/24	Electrician repaired organ
19/02/24	G Dunford had installed half of new heaters
22/02/24	Electrician – south aisle heaters connected
24/02/24	Fixing of heaters to north side
11/03/24	Fixing of heaters to side pews
15/03/24	Completion of works in electric box
29/04/24	Meeting with Diocese (Head of Building) to discuss and agree cable trunking
21/05/24	G Dunford started work on floor pathway for cables to pews
23/05/24	Organ failed; H Cooper managed to re-start
28/05/24	Cables to pews complete, Electrician connected
21/07/24 - 26/07/24	New LED lights in place
07/08/24	Electrician puts in new light switches
19/08/24 – 20/08/24	Electrician - installation of new circuit board
21/08/24	G Dunford re-laid missing floor tiles over cable ducts in aisles
31/08/24	G Dunford replaced slipped slate over porch roof
13/10/24	First Choir heater installed
23/10/24	Church toilet out of action, required replacement of new pipework.
29/10/24	Roofing contractor completes external repairs to South Transept roof
04/11/24	Re-alignment of new gas central heating radiators
07/11/24	Gas plumber working to 7pm
14/11/24	Gas plumber continues install of new radiators
27/11/24	Work by gas plumber completed install to radiators and pipework
18/12/24	G Dunford cutting slabs for covering pipe trench
21/12/24	G Dunford completed install of choir heaters

We would like to take the opportunity in this report to express our thanks to everyone for all their time and support to help us towards the running of our church .. it is very much appreciated.

**Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal – Kingskerswell Churchwardens**

#### **ST Bartholomew's Church (now Chapel of Ease) Coffinswell.**

The Churchwardens can report that having completed our Annual Audit of the contents, valuables and fabrics, we are satisfied that everything is in good order. A new purchase of a microwave for the Vestry, has been made to replace the old heating oven.

St Bartholomew's is now officially a chapel of ease, the dissolution from the status of Parish church having been completed in August 2024. As a PCC we are now amalgamated with the Kingskerswell PCC and have been attending joint PCC meetings. All our services at St Bartholomew's continue as before, and all our finances are ring fenced. The Parish Share is also calculated separately from that of Kingskerswell. We hope to pay in full, the Coffinswell portion (£8640) of the joint Coffinswell/Kingskerswell Parish Share. We are now in a more satisfactory financial position due to the Parish Giving Scheme and to the contactless giving in the church, which continue to work well, with also, the significant and generous monthly donations made with the votive candle holder situated by the Font. We are extremely grateful for these contributions and hope that there will be more parishioners joining the Parish Giving Scheme. The smallest donations in the church help towards the ever present need of maintenance of our beautiful building.

The work required to complete the 37 recommendations of the 2024 Quinquennial, has started with the main requirement of repairs to the roof which have now been completed. We are grateful to the Church



Commissioners who have contributed significantly to the cost of the roof repairs in the Chancel area, our funds contributing £1860. We now have to work through the other recommendations in order of priority.

A significant cost (£900) to our funds was incurred in the felling of the Oak tree in the churchyard, which was fatally damaged in one of our many recent gales. We still have a pile of logs from the felling, which are available for a contribution to the church fabric fund.

Since our last report, our organist, Mervyn, who had retired last year due to ill health, has sadly died. A plaque in remembrance of his great service to the church has been affixed to the organ. Jenny Bower continues to play the organ regularly for us as does Michael Roberts, to whom and for which we are so appreciative in the enhancement of our weekly services.

Our congregation remains small although it fluctuates. We so value the valiant small group of volunteers, who continue to clean, and to decorate the church beautifully with graceful and delicate displays, so appropriate to our simple, small 12<sup>th</sup> century church.

We are always grateful to Helen and Mercy in the office for their valued support.

For our regular services, we are grateful to our Parish priest, Michael Wilkie, also to the Reverend Canon Ruth Oates, John Dunn and Ian Firth, who volunteer their time when possible.

**Michèle Berry and Gordon Bower, Churchwardens.**

### **(c) HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible and accountable for the Health and Safety for St.Mary's Church Kingskerswell. We have a H&S strategy which is underpinned with a regularly reviewed H&S Policy with it being included in monthly PCC meetings for any issues arising. We continue not having a duly elected Health & Safety Advisor, whilst the Vicar and Churchwardens are responsible for the day-to-day management and review of H&S and will continue to monitor and Health & Safety related matters along with the PCC. Irrespective of any delegation, the PCC remains accountable for Health and Safety. Emergency and First Aid procedures are documented and equipment subject to regular checks during the year. All service records of equipment (PAT tests) checks made during the year are available for inspection in the Parish Office together with all Public Liability insurance policies.

**Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal - Churchwardens**

### **(d) SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

In May 2024 parishes within Exeter Diocese participated in an independent external safeguarding audit. The purpose of the audit was to ensure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected and was completed nationally.

Following publication of the Makin report in November 2024 the Church of England lead bishop for safeguarding described the requirements for a Safer Church.

1. Being attentive to the needs of victims and survivors.
2. Responding well to any disclosure
3. Familiarising ourselves with how to report and following policies
4. Ensuring DBS checks are up to date, undertake training willingly and wholeheartedly

Safeguarding training is renewed 3 yearly and for some members of the PCCS/congregation will be due again this year. I will be contacting those who are required to renew their training which can be completed online. I will also support with face-to-face sessions as required. This ensures people have the knowledge and understanding of our safeguarding responsibilities to report any safeguarding concern.

On Sunday 17 November we again supported Safeguarding Sunday this is a yearly event held every November to raise awareness of safeguarding.

The safeguarding dashboard has been updated to a safeguarding hub and includes 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.

The diocese has a very supportive Safeguarding team and our PCC's are committed, through our church community, to the support, nurture and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable and will

continue the focus on updating the safeguarding hub, further training and DBS checks over the next 12 months.

**Erica Dunn Parish Safeguarding Representative**

### **(e) CHURCHYARD REPORT**

For the year 2024 the Churchyard Maintenance Account income was £2,489.96 and the expenditure was £3,116.36 which gave an overall loss for the year of £586.40.

The income from donations for 2024 amounted to £2330 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 healthy credit balance. The Service for All Soul's Day raised £159.95.

The expenditure for 2024 amounted to £3,116.36. Unfortunately, a dead sycamore tree had to be removed and this cost £1080. The remaining expenditure included the cost of lawn mowing, hedge trimming, fuel for the mower, the annual charge for the green recycling bin and for generally keeping the churchyards tidy. A self-set holly tree was removed from the old churchyard and this was carried out by Teignbridge District Council at no cost.

In March 2024 it was decided to start using the Churchyard Extension for Cremation plots. This was due to the fact that in the Old Churchyard it was becoming very wet underfoot due to the grass not thriving under the trees and the New Churchyard Cremation Plot area was becoming rather full.

The low cost of maintenance in the New Churchyard and Churchyard Extension is due to Geoffrey Dunford. Mike Howard maintains the Old Churchyard and has always looked after the Memorial Garden which is situated between the churchyard and the stream. As always my sincere thanks go to Geoffrey and Mike for giving freely of their time to keep the churchyards looking neat and tidy.

As always the sole purpose of a Churchyard Maintenance Fund is to provide a tidy and well-cared for Churchyard where people are able to come and sit peacefully in beautiful surroundings to reflect their memories of those they have loved and lost.

If anyone would like more information regarding the running of the churchyard or wish to make a contribution towards its upkeep, either by cash, cheque or Banker's Order please contact the Parish Church Office (01803) 873006 for further details.

**Wendy Hinchcliffe, Churchyard Treasurer**

### **(f) TOWER CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

We rang for all the main services at both Kingskerswell and Coffinswell, the only exception being one of the Christmas carol services as both were at the same time. Practices were normally at Kingskerswell, but two were at Coffinswell, We rang for 4 weddings at Kingskerswell and 5 funerals. This included Mervyn Gwinnell, organist at Coffinswell, Mike Davies, who was a keen supporter of the ringers, and Barbara Elliot. The highest attendance at practices was 16 on 3 occasions. Progress is being made with method ringing, but so often we are unable to do more than plain hunting. James, Mia and Alesha can plain hunt, with Alesha doing particularly well. We rang in the New Year at Kingskerswell as usual, and gathered at Philip and Mo's house beforehand.

Sue Hinds has been unable to return on a regular basis, but we have regularly kept in touch during the year. Malcolm continues to come to practices, and at the beginning of the year was joined by Kate Marsh, also from Berry Pomeroy, and she is progressing well. Steve and Sue Robinson very enthusiastically started to learn in June, but had to give up after a month when Sue found that ringing was affecting her health. They would love to return, but that would seem to be unlikely at the moment.

6<sup>th</sup> of June was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and we rang out for peace at Kingskerswell at 6.30pm as part of the national commemoration. We had our half day outing and annual dinner on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We rang at Buckland in the Moor, Holne and Kingsteignton. Our dinner was at the Ten Tors in Kingsteignton. This year we were able to hire the Kingscare minibus for our annual outing on 14<sup>th</sup> September. We had a very successful day going to Somerset, and ringing at Langford Budville, Nyngham, Hillfarrance, Bishop's Hull and West Buckland.

We had another tower open day in September as part of the Devon Historic Churches Day. We demonstrated ringing and took people to the top of the tower. All had the opportunity to have a go, but we were unsuccessful in recruiting any ringers. We also welcomed the Heart of the West Oddfellows at Kingskerswell in November and several people had a go at ringing and ascended to the top of the tower.

We had 5 visiting bands (2 were at Coffinswell) and we hosted a Mid Devon Branch 'Meet the Branch Day' in April at Kingskerswell and Coffinswell. 4 peals and 2 quarter peals were rung at Kingskerswell. The peal in April was rung to celebrate Mo and Pauline's 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays and also Philip's birthday, all on the same day.

I thank everyone for their support during the year and also to Mike Mears for his continued support at Coffinswell.

Although we have 21 members on our books, and generally have enough for our service ringing and practices at the moment, I am very aware that we have an aging band (13 of us are over 70, including 4 over 80), and it is so difficult to recruit new ringers. It can take a considerable time for learners to become proficient ringers and I am concerned that unless we can attract new people soon, there is an increasing danger that our band will become very depleted. With this in mind, I have started to publicise the need for new ringers in the magazine, the weekly sheet, and on Facebook, but so far, no response.

**Philip Stevens, Tower Captain**

### **(g) CHOIR REPORT**

We are opening this years report by paying tribute to our much beloved Doreen (Perryman) who passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June last year. She is missed very much by the choir and congregation. Doreen was a loyal and caring member of St. Mary's church and played a very active role in all church activities during her life.

It is with much gratitude to our inspirational organist, Heather, that we have maintained a full and enjoyable program of music for all aspects of worship. We also would like to thank Sandra for her excellent choice of hymns for our services.

The 'Big Sing' in January proved to be very popular and enjoyed by all who participated.

We continue to maintain a strong spiritual fellowship within our choir and find our weekly practice on Thursday evening to be very uplifting. Unfortunately, due to long-term health problems, Wendy Wilson has had to step down from the choir. We wish her well and thank her for a contribution to me to our services.

We would like to thank reverent, Michael, the lay readers church wardens and congregation for their continuing support.

We are looking forward to the coming year with much enthusiasm under Heathers excellent direction and leadership.

**Helen Howells, Choir Representative**

### **(h) DEANERY REPORT**

In the last 12 months there have been three deanery meetings which were held in June, October and February in Churches across the deanery including here at St Marys Kingskerswell. The meetings are chaired by the Rural Dean Andrew Down and begin with a presentation. The presentations included;

- Jeremy Putnam Mission Enabler – 'what is mission – vision, provision and mission'
- Ian Bussell Director of mission and ministry - Strategy for Church growth
- Brigit Kiyaga Mission Resources Advisor – Generosity and Giving

The presentations encouraged discussion and support with ideas for Church growth and increased giving. Brigit offered to attend Church services/PCC meetings to support discussion and understanding around generosity and giving. I have suggested to the PCC this is an offer we should accept.

Finance reports are presented, in October the report indicated that our Deanery in the Totnes Archdeaconry had paid 84% of the common fund to date. There was no finance report presented in February.

A report from the February General Synod meeting was provided. Safeguarding, Church governance and clergy discipline were discussed at synod. There was agreement to move to an independent safeguarding scrutiny body.

Limited time was given to moving forward with living in love and faith proposals.  
The next deanery meeting will be held on 10 June 2025.

**Erica Dunn Deanery Representative**

#### **(i) MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

The few members of the Mothers Union continue to meet on the second Monday of each month throughout the year the Coffee Room, Parish Centre at 2:00 PM.

We held our AGM in January enjoyed a chat discussing an outline of meetings for the following year. February was taken up with the many updates from Mary Sumner House head office in London, and ended with tea and biscuits and knitting patterns for MU projects for babies.

We had two birthday parties, one in April and one in October, and in July and August we were invited to the home and garden of Liz who lives in Ogwell, for afternoon tea. We prayed for Ursula, our former Hospitality Correspondent, who was in hospital and unable to be present.

Our speakers included Reverend Michael Wilke who described the early years of his ministry in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He showed us interesting slides of his place of worship, the Anglican Cathedral dedicated to St John the Baptist, and the area where he lived. He ministered there for 15 years before coming to Kingskerswell in 2020. Our member Margaret gave us a talk about her journey to becoming a vet's wife, and in September James, another member, continued his life story after he left the Royal Navy to becoming a Rank Xerox photocopier engineer and expert. In November we had a talk by Audrey's daughter Deborah as she described her 10 days visit to Nigeria, meeting the local people and visiting the Amucha Maternity Hospital in the dioceses of Orla. Deborah had some very interesting slides and we enjoyed her talk very much. We are very grateful to all our speakers and hosts and we thank them very much for their time and talks.

At Christmas we went once again to the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay, for our Christmas lunch together with members of the church congregation, and in all 18 sat down to lunch. This had been arranged by Jean, but because of her illness, sadly she was unable to join us.

The Mothers Union is a worldwide organisation which raises funds to help families and communities in both Britain and across the world, especially in Africa where the lives of women and girls in particular are improved by education with help from the Mother's Union. If you would like to know what work the MU does at home and overseas, please come along to a meeting for a chat, tea or coffee, cake or biscuits, and fellowship. All are welcome, including gentlemen and those who are not mothers. Come and discover what this huge worldwide charity does in 84 countries across the world. For more information, please contact me on 01803 404779 or email [gandsdunford@outlook.com](mailto:gandsdunford@outlook.com)

**Sandra Dunford, Branch Leader**

#### **(j) FLOWER REPORT**

Flowers were provided and arranged in the Parish Church throughout 2024, apart from during Lent, greenery was used during advent.

Additional arrangements were provided for the major religious festivals i.e. Christmas and Easter. Several members of the regular congregation made donations for flowers dedicated to the memories of loved ones.

In April, the Church Social Committee elected to support the flower fund by donating 25% of the profit for their events which has proven to be invaluable and without which I would be unable to provide flora decorations throughout the year in our beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century (almost!) church.

Thank you Social Committee!

**Jenny Benney, Church Florist**

## **(I) SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Social Committee for 2024.

We continued to meet in the Parish Rooms, although during the year the meeting time was changed to 1700. We meet monthly and this year we did not have a break.

Rev. Michael Wilkie continued to chair the meeting, the Treasurer is Helen Rowsell to whom monies collected are paid and Peter Thomson includes Social Committee finances in his Annual Report. There is no need for a secretary as Helen Rowsell deals with correspondence. Patricia Rodriguez continues to take and distribute notes of the meetings and distribute copies of the agenda at each meeting.

During the year Jackie Mellor joined the Social Committee and our churchwardens, Sandra Dunford and Trevor Heal continued to attend meeting. After the outdoor Carol Service in 2023 a donation was made to the Scouts for the loan of their Gazebo. The Social Committee finances were seen to be in a healthy state and at our March meeting it was agreed to give 25% of the profits from the events organised by the Social Committee to the Flower Fund. This has continued to the present time. We have also contributed funds to the work carried out in the Church, for both the Circuit Board and repairs to the South Transept Roof. One of our Committee members, Sylvia Wightman, made 11 lovely tablecloths for use at the different meals. We expressed our thanks to Sylvia. Committee members have been involved in organising and also providing catering/refreshments for the following events:

Easter services

Plant Sale	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Light Lunch	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Harvest Lunch	29th September 2024
Parish Light Lunch	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Craft Fair	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024
Christmas Lunch	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Inside Carol Concert	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Additionally in January 2024 we began hosting and arranging a light lunch after church on a Sunday, every two months, with a break during the summer months. There is also a speaker on each of these occasions. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1700 (5pm) in the coffee rooms. We would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, including church members, volunteers and the wider community. We look forward to a successful 2025.

**Patricia Rodriguez, Committee member.**

**Treasurer's Reports on separate attachment**