THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UFFCULME

England & Wales · Charity number 1146940

Details

Other names	UFFCULME PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2012-04-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Dobbins Uffculme Cullompton EX15 3DR
Phone	01884799708
Email	stmarytreasurer@talktalk.net
Website	www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the breaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, youth and children's work and other special needs groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£120,471	£105,895	-	-
2023-12-31	£88,131	£87,226	-	-
2022-12-31	£94,430	£105,145	-	-
2021-12-31	£78,281	£86,093	-	-
2020-12-31	£79,274	£77,892	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Benjamin Luke Maynard	Chair	2024-10-16
Alison Dorothy Milne		2024-05-22
Anthony Martin Lane		2022-04-24
David James Lewis		2023-05-14
Felicity Cowley		2025-05-06
Lucy Statton		2022-04-24
Matthew Russell Nichols		2018-04-22
Michael George Butler		2025-05-06
STEPHANIE MARILYN BURTCHAELL		2012-04-13
Susan Kidd		2023-05-14

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UF

England & Wales - Charity number 1146940

Accounts

Parish of Uffculme
Parochial Church Council
Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Loving God, discovering Jesus, serving the community

www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk
www.squarecorner.org.uk



Parish of Uffculme. Deanery of Tiverton & Cullompton, Diocese of Exeter Bank: CAF Bank Ltd; Independent Examiner: Marie Johns, Batchelor & Co Charity

Report – Reflections on the Year 2024

2024 was a year of anticipation and transition. Anticipation in the hope that a Rector would be appointed to succeed Revd. Simon Talbot sometime during 2024 and transition in the transfer of Churchwarden duties from James King and Dave Lewis to myself and Alison Milne and also the transition in October in welcoming as our new Rector of the Culm Valley Mission Community, Revd Ben Maynard and his family. James and Dave were on the interview panel for the appointment of a new Rector and thanks must go to Alison for bringing together the Parish profile that was required prior to interviews taking place. We thank James and Dave for the work they did for St Mary's and St Stephen's during their tenure.

During the 2024 interregnum cover was found for all but a small number of regular services and our thanks go to all the retired clergy and many others who led and preached at services throughout the year. That this was possible was down to Tony Kidd who, during 2024, chaired the worship committee comprising representatives from all the Mission Community Churches, organising who would take each service. A true feat of organisation. Thanks are also due to the many people who helped in 2024. The welcomers, the readers, those leading the prayers, those operating the PA system, preparing and serving at the Communion services, the after service refreshment volunteers, the bell ringers, those who helped move the pews for Mums and Toddlers,

PCC members, Deanery Synod members, vergers and musicians, rota organising, banking the cash. Special thanks are due to Theresa Maunder who worked tirelessly to keep the church and Square Corner always looking special. We continue to be very thankful to Tony Jackson whose management of the Churches finances is exemplary. Tony Lane has continued as Chairman of the Square Corner Management Group with the support of Phil Mumby, Kelly (until September) Tony Jackson, myself and Claire. Special thanks again to Phil and Tony Kidd who run the Hallmaster booking system for Square Corner.

The two home groups led by Dave Lewis and Claire continued during 2024 as did Sue Kidd's Book club.

It was with great joy in October when we were able to celebrate the licensing of Ben Maynard as the new Rector of the Cum Valley Mission Community and to welcome Sarah and their family to Uffculme. The Church was full to overflowing. The service was led by Bishop Jackie with the Archdeacon, Andrew Beane and Rural Deal, Andy Humm present. Ben's appointment marks a new beginning in the life of the Mission Community and we look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation to what God has in store for us all in 2025 under Ben's leadership.

Other events that happened during 2024 were the Lent lunches, the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday and the Christmas tree festival. The film club has continued to meet and the Church provided the venue for Wyndham Singers

and Sheldon Singers concerts. The summer fete was very successful. The community lunches continued to be as popular as ever and Coffee and Chat in Square Corner on Tuesdays and Thursdays continued to thrive. As part of the Reach project Claire's Mums and Toddlers continued to be very popular. The Christmas Shoe box appeal was a great success across the Mission Community and will be repeated in 2025. Gordon Milne was appointed Project leader of the servery upgrade project.

Encouragingly our links with Uffculme Primary School have continued to strengthen during 2024. Claire, Helen and Sue have all been involved in liaising with the school for their Bible Club and RE lessons. St Mary's hosted their Harvest and Christmas Carol services and the church was full to capacity with the children and their relatives. We look forward to welcoming them for their Easter 2025 service. We once again welcomed Uffculme Senior school for their Carol service.

Safeguarding

We want to make a special comment about safeguarding. This subject was of significant prominence for the Church of England during 2024. The St Mary's attention to safeguarding has been in a transition process in 2024. We were grateful to Kelly Williams for taking on responsibility for this, taking over from Martin Rock-Evans and to Matthew for helping with training in the first half of the year. However Kelly felt it right to pass on this responsibility which, over the summer, was

taken on by Alison who is now our Safeguarding officer. Working with Ruth Putnam the Diocese Safeguarding Officer Alison has worked tirelessly to bring us up to speed with the Diocese requirements. We are very grateful to all those in positions of responsibility and/or who do volunteer work as members of St Mary's and St Stephen's who have gone through the various training courses that are required. This has involved significant time and effort by everybody. We are able to say that we are now compliant with almost all that is required of us. We cannot underestimate the importance of being compliant with what is required and thanks are due to Alison for taking on this very important responsibility.

As regards the Church finances Tony Jackson will provide a separate report however it is true to say that we are not immune from the rise in cost of living. As James indicated last year there are signs that St Mary's and St Stephen's finances are coming under increasing pressure. As an example, through Tony Jackson's good management we were locked into favourable gas and electricity contracts until the autumn of 2024. The new contracts have inevitably seen a rise in our heating and electricity costs. We are vey grateful to all who contribute financially and would again emphasise that it would be a very big help if more people would use the Parish Giving scheme (www.parishgiving.org.uk). Not forgetting that there is the alternative to cash by using the card machine by the main door.

The Reach project continued to develop under Claire's enthusiastic leadership. Funding for this project, with contribution from the Diocese, is for a three year period which began in August2023 so the end of year two will be 31st July 2025. Please do consider If you think there is a way you can support Claire in her work be it financially or practically.

2024 was a year during which everybody pulled together and ensured continuity while we waited in anticipation for a new Rector. Thank you all.

Richard Rutty, Alison Milne (Churchwardens)

Rector's Report



Sarah, the children (Evie-Grace, Keziah, Elliana, Abia, Noah, Titus, Caleb and Hadassah) and I moved into the vicarage in Uffculme at the beginning of October and at the end of a very traumatic few months. However, despite feeling overwhelmed we were heart warmed by the warm welcome we received. We were aware that lots of people in the mission community had been praying for us and we sensed a wonderful care and concern from our new church family. This was certainly true on our first Sunday in Uffculme where we were heartily welcomed. The children commented after the service that people were really friendly.

As I have spent time in St Mary's, I have come to see that the church is a very caring community. The fellowship after the service on a Sunday morning is warm and it is good to see that people stay to converse and build friendships with each other. Bible study groups are places where people can go deeper into the Scripture as well as supporting one another in prayer. It is also good to see the heart that exists for those outside the church. Square Corner is well used and there are lots of opportunities for people to gather and share

fellowship during the week. Toddlers is a very popular group that is clearly appreciated by those who attend. The monthly lunch for seniors draws a large crowd and I very much enjoyed the food and fellowship when I attended. I am so glad we are an active church who seeks to love one another and the wider community.

In coming into this part of God's mission field, my main aim has been to begin building relationships and getting to know people, learn how the different church families operate and listen to God. This takes time and I will continue to prioritise this in various ways. One approach has been to invite people to the Vicarage for supper on a Sunday evening. We have really enjoyed these times, and there are a few left so please make sure you book in if you haven't already!

However, this isn't to say there hasn't been change, because there has. We have moved away from the lectionary and are embracing a more structured teaching programme, the centre piece of which is John's Gospel. We have changed service times to make it easier to travel from one St Mary's to another and a new House for Duty Priest has been appointed into the mission community. We have also included some more focused All-Age Worship services where we invited families from Toddlers. As yet, we haven't seen any families make it on a Sunday, but we will continue to pray, invite and see what happens.

I was heartened to receive a warm welcome from Uffculme Secondary School, and I have been able to attend the

Christian Union. This approach of intentionally looking to reach out to those we already have a link with will be a priority as we go forward. Apart from this, we will move forward slowly, looking for new opportunities, as we listen to God and try to go where He is leading.

Thank you for your warm welcome and I look forward to serving Jesus with you in this parish as we continue on through 2025.

Rev'd Ben Maynard

Thriving in Rural: REACH Project Report (Jan - Dec 2024)

The REACH project aims to creatively sustain and grow children's and young people's work in the Mission Community. The REACH management group comprises of representatives from all four churches. Joint working is helping to build and grow working relationships across the Mission Community and helping us to recognise areas which need to be developed, most notably communication and additional recruitment of volunteers. September 2024 saw us move into year two of this three year project. It has been astonishing to see what God is doing here and to be able to join in.

A key part of this project is to sustain existing work, we have been fortunate to have built and nurtured good relationships with local schools and preschools and we were keen to maintain these as well as look for opportunities to grow these links.

Schools work:
We are delighted to be able to provide resources and support volunteers from St Mary's Church to run a lunchtime Bible story club at Uffculme Primary school. We were asked to speak at Harvest and Christmas whole school Uffculme Primary services at St Mary's Church. Uffculme Top School used St Mary's Church as a venue for their carol concert and Rev Ben spoke as part of this.

St Mary's Kentisbeare has worked hard to build and strengthen links with Kentisbeare CoE Primary school in addition to hosting whole school collective worship for 140 children and adults weekly, we have also developed opportunities for the school to be involved in church services including the choir singing at the carol service. We regularly share Bible stories with the reception class at and this summer we facilitated a Whole School Visioning Day to help the whole school community to discern a new Christian vision for the school.

This year we have been able to offer RE enrichment to 370 children from Willand Primary School, Kentisbeare Primary School and Uffculme Primary School this was delivered as a mixture of RE lessons in school and visits to church.

Preschools:
Over the past seven years we have developed and adapted a series of preschool services that help our youngest explorers to find ways to engage with the church. This year we offered these services to Uffculme Preschool, Kingwood, Muddifords, Kentisbeare , Preschool and Willand Preschool. In total we welcomed 335 children and adults to preschool services. We also run a weekly Bible storyclub with Kentisbeare preschool.

Babies and Toddlers
We have two popular toddler groups within our Mission Community Uffculme, Rockers in Willand and Uffculme Baby and Toddler Group. Both groups held Christmas specials where we were able to share the Christmas story with children and adults. Uffculme have been regularly welcoming 20 families and families from both groups have come to our Christmas services.

Community Outreach
The REACH project continues to support work of Square Corner and community activities run from St Mary's Uffculme, including the shop front of Square Corner window displays which are often created by other village organisations. The summer activities in Uffculme included Uffculme Community Picnic hosted by Coldharbour Mill which attracted 90 people and was a great opportunity to partner with Warm Space and the Green Team.

This Autumn included Light and Hope at Square Corner on 31st October we increased the number of bags we made this year and our volunteers gave out 101 bags of hope to trick-or treaters, 80 people were welcomed into crafts and free refreshments. Uffculme Christmas Lights switch-on and St Mary's Christmas tree festival was a huge success despite the weather changing plans and we welcomed at least 70 children taking part in a variety of Bible themed crafts. We have also continued our outreach using social media, the Wandering Wisemen continued their joyful journey on our facebook pages from Advent Sunday to Epiphany.

In addition to sustaining existing work we are passionate about ensuring there is opportunity for work with children and families to grow.

Opportunities to explore faith

We ran a series of Bears and Prayers sessions for toddler families wanting to explore faith in Willand from February - March 24. The date and time weren't a good fit for families so we decided to pause this. In Willand we also ran a well attended Pancake session in the church hall and a Bears and Prayers Easter Egg Hunt in the park. Uffculme St Mary's hosted a Good Friday Toddlers Special

Family friendly services
We have developed All Age services in all of our villages. Particular highlights include Mothering Sunday in Kentisbeare and Pet Services in both Uffculme and Kentisbeare this year, welcoming 113 people (and their animals!)

REACH is proving that vibrant children's and families work can flourish in rural settings. With your support, we'll continue sharing God's love and building lasting connections throughout our Mission Community. We are passionate about helping our rural churches to discover that they have a hidden treasure, that thriving children's and families work is not limited to large town or city churches. (Matthew 13:44) Your support in prayer and finance enables this work to continue.

Claire Nichols (Reach Project Lead Worker)

St Stephen's Ashill 2024

During this period the following services were held:- Easter Day, Harvest Festival , Carol service. There was also a baptism.

Coffee mornings held second Thursday of the month continue to be well supported, raising £225 for church funds. The library is also open during this time and is popular with the villagers.

Rosalie Fleet

Square Corner

We love Square Corner because it continues to be a centrepiece to our community outreach in Uffculme and to the wider mission community. It is hard to believe that it is now nine years since we completed the refurbishment of the building to create new opportunities for St Mary's to serve the community and spread the love of Christ – so yes NEXT YEAR is a celebration year.

It has been another good year and we are keeping our head above water but in terms of keeping Square Corner functioning and financially. The money is tight and don't have any spare for big things like roof or boiler repairs which we have tackled this year. We are nevertheless very very grateful for a grant from Uffculme Trust and also

Conversation Space continued to use the Office room which remains a key element of our income together with various other commercial hires over the year to include Uffculme School, Cambian and Aggregate Industries.

Coffee and Chat remains a cornerstone of our support to our older community and the occasional young family. This is all down to the dedication of those who volunteer to help and ensure its success, and we are eternally grateful.

CHAT returned and so did Warm Spaces and we also continue to host the repair shop. A massive part of what we

do is support local organisations and also loads of church related stuff too.

The loft area is frequently used for one to one counselling and continues serves as an office base for Claire and the excellent Reach Project.

There are clouds ahead though!… two stalwart members of the SC team are Phil Mumby and Tony Kidd, who handle the online booking system called Hallmaster between them, are both leaving to take up other roles at the end of the year. We are therefore really keen to find someone or two who can take on the role – both Phil and Tony assure me it is really simple and doesn't take up much time. Can you help? Well let me know. We also need to have someone keep an eye on our marketing, social media and website – again nothing hugely onerous or complex but important so if you can help or know someone who might we would like to hear from you.

There are plenty of challenges ahead in terms of the building fabric which is beginning to wear after 9 years of use but we are on them. We are hugely indebted to Theresa who keeps the place immaculate – a critical ministry in cleaning.

Our focus for the SCMG going forward will be to keep this space as a place of welcome, hospitality, and joy, applying the Gospel in faith and practice. We need to cover our costs and a little surplus would be great to cover improvements but it is about bringing the light of Christ into the midst of our

community. If you think you can help or have an idea then come and speak to one of our group.

Tony Lane TSSF (Chair & Premises, Square Corner Management Group)

Treasurer's Report

Unrestricted Funds income of for 2024 was £73,617 (2023 £71,711). The increase in income from 2023 to 2024 of £1.9k can be explained by a pleasing increase in Planned Giving (£1.7k), donations and collections (£1.6k), Square Corner's encouraging increased room hire income (£3.0k). 2023 income figures included Mission Outreach income of £4.5k (* see below).

* From 1 September 2023 the REACH project commenced with income and expenditure being accounted for through a Restricted fund. Previously Mission Outreach income & expenditure were treated as Unrestricted funds. Regular contributions towards the REACH project are received from Willand and Kentisbeare PCCs. Funding from individual regular donations from Parishioners across the Mission Community is significant, without whose generosity the project could not continue.

Restricted fund income of £46,854 is significantly higher than in 2023 (£16,420). This increase is due to a full year of REACH programme income together with generous grants received from Exeter Diocese of £12,000, £3,000 from The Posbury Trust, £350 from Uffculme United Charities, £750

from the Uffculme Trust. Square Corner also benefited from grants totalling £2,100 (Uffculme Trust £1,250; Uffculme United Charities £350; Uffculme Parish Council £500).

Expenditure from unrestricted funds was £71,172 for 2024 (2023 £75,970). On the face of it there appears little difference between 2022 and 2023 expenditure. However, when the impact of Mission Outreach expenditure (£12,893 2023) is adjusted to both years there is an underlying increase in expenditure in 2024 of £4.8k. This is mainly due to an increase in the Common Fund of £3.6k and general overhead increases of £1,2k (e.g. insurance, Spotlight printing costs, etc).

It is worth noting that Square Corner operated at a small deficit for the year; Income projections for 2025 are encouraging. Spotlight magazine continues to be valued by our community and generated a small operating surplus of £310 in 2024, with grateful thanks to those who advertise in the magazine.

Restricted fund expenditure in 2024 was £34,723 (£11,256 2023), on the face of it a significant increase. However, if both years are adjusted to exclude the REACH project expenditure the difference between 2023 and 2024 is approximately £0.5k. This increase was due mainly to increased maintenance costs.

2024 was the first full year of income and expenditure of the REACH project. A small surplus of £455 was generated for

the year. (Further information regarding the activities of the REACH project can be found elsewhere in the report).

There was an encouraging increase in Planned Giving during 2024 (£1,697). Planned Giving income is so vital as it contributes 32% of our unrestricted income and when Gift Aided this rises to around 42.5%.

We urge you to consider how you might support our mission through either regular giving or one-off donations. Whenever possible making donations and regular giving Gift Aided means the value of the gift is increased by 25%.

As in previous years, in our mission giving we have supported CHAT and Karen Action Group together with the usual November collection for the Royal British legion.

Tony Jackson (Treasurer)

Safeguarding Report

I took responsibility for the Safeguarding Role within St Mary's, Uffculme and St Stephen's, Ashill from Kelly Williams in late summer 2024. I would like to thank Kelly for all the work she carried out to ensure we were and are compliant with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016, to have due regard to The House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

This work has continued with all PCC members and volunteers within St Mary's having had the appropriate safeguarding training and disclosure checks; some of these have come up for renewal and all are in the process of going through the necessary validation. Training continues into the new year for those eligible at St Stephens.

The Exeter Dioscese have added new checks and balances within their Parish Dashboard reports and Hub. We are now working through these as a collective PCC. I am confident that we will complete all the requirements in the coming months. Safeguarding is on every agenda for each PCC Meeting, complying with Safeguarding guidelines.

I have met and collaborated with the Safeguarding Officers for Willand and Kentisbeare on a regular basis and will continue to do so going forward.

It should be noted that Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone involved in the Parish. We have been extremely fortunate not to have had any issues regarding safeguarding in the past year and we will continue to be vigilant to continue this going forward.

Should you have any concerns and need to make contact with someone; in the first instance please contact:

alison.culmvalleychurches@gmail.com

Safeguarding mobile telephone number at St Mary's and St Stephens: 07704 716061

Alternatively contact the Diocese Safeguarding Team or the DBS coordinators please contact the group email address: dsa@exeter.anaglican.org

Alison Milne – Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety Report

The Gospel message of 'Loving your neighbour as yourself' Mark 12:31 is at the heart of Health and Safety and it is an essential expression of Loving God. To make sure we meet this objective we have health and safety policy and risk assessment which was updated in 2025. A copy of the policy is available on our website.

St Mary's, St Stephen's and Square Corner have all maintained the necessary compliance requirements regarding risk assessment and fire protection as well as

legionella. I am as always Richard Rutty's debt for his conscientious maintenance of the fire and general upkeep Square Corner, St Mary's and St Stephen's, meeting contractors at odd times and being on hand.

Claire very ably provides risk assessments for the many events we as a church and the REACH project provide. Always good to think these things through and check we are doing everything as safely and joyfully as we can.

PCC members will continue to be briefed on their collective responsibilities in respect of the policies and procedures as required. We all however have a role to play to make sure we and others remain safe.

I have not had any reported accidents reported to me since the last APCM. This rather suggests that we are under reporting that said we have taken steps to improve on safety issues before they become an accident but we need to remain vigilant.

Tony Lane TSSF, SFIIRSM (Health & Safety Officer)

Bell Tower Report

Training of new and existing bellringers has continued at our regular Thursday practice night throughout the year.

At the end of 2023 we aimed to ring for two Sunday services a month and during 2024 increased this to every Sunday when a service was held. Due to absence we have not

always been able to ring all eight bells for Sunday service and would welcome new learners to our friendly and sociable band; we try to keep the tin of chocolates topped up for offering round at half-time during our practice.

Three of our ringers achieved Learning the Ropes awards at various levels and two ringers achieved their first quarter peal, a continuous piece of ringing about 45 minutes long. This is a significant step requiring both resilience and concentration and both rang very well.

We took part in the national “Ringing Out for Peace” initiative marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day, for the switching on of the Christmas lights and start of the Christmas tree festival. Bells have long been rung to celebrate national and local events and we would be pleased to dedicate a short piece of ringing to a wedding anniversary or significant birthday - please do get in touch!

We were also able to take part in a friendly bellringing competition at Crwys Morchard in September and fielded three teams at the Feniton novice competition in October; we were pleased to be awarded the 2nd place certificate at that event.

We hosted teams from across the county taking part in a striking competition in April and welcomed a team from the Ancient Society of College Youths to ring a full peal in July. Additionally, we also welcomed visiting ringing bands who were touring in the area.

The ringing room has benefitted from some tidying up and the partial repair made to the damaged clock weight chute to provide a more welcoming environment for potential recruits. Two bellropes are showing some signs of wear and are likely to need repair in the next year or so.

We would like to explore the possibility of installing simulator equipment to assist with the training and development of our ringers.

John Martin Tower Captain (01884 840966 / jrm.ringaholic@gmail.com

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

2024 was a busy year during which various fabric matters were undertaken. However, the most significant of these, the repairs to the vestry roof and the replacement of a roof vent, was not completed. A new roofing company was contracted to finish the work and this will be completed in 2025. On a more positive note our electrician put in a new electrical relay in the South West part of the church to enable a more efficient turning on of Christmas tree lights. This work included the installation of a socket to enable the Sumup machine to function without the need for a dedicated wire looping across the main door. The electrician also put in a plug socket on the outside of the church near the Bell tower door to enable the outside Christmas lights to have a cable run from the outside of the church. Our thanks to Uffculme lights which paid for this. Our thanks also to James King for

organising this. A replacement bulb was required for the South aisle which was replaced but unfortunately failed soon after installation – a new bulb will be fitted in 2025 under warranty. Staying with things electrical, overdue PAT testing was carried out with a couple of minor faults identified which have been rectified. Other maintenance work was carried out as necessary. We have experienced some difficulties with the AV equipment through the year. A new lectern mic was installed but proved not to be the answer to that problem. The handheld mic is no longer functioning and there have been some issues with the lapel mics. All this will be reviewed in detail in 2025. The church laptop was replaced as a matter of necessity. The 2023 quinquennial for St Steven's highlighted a number of issues that needed to be resolved. Whilst some of these were dealt with in 2024 there are still matters needing attention in 2025. An important step in moving forward the upgrade of the serving area was made with the appointment of Gordon Milne to lead the upgrade project. Following Ben's arrival the project team (including Ben) met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and work was begun to consider the best location for the servery area and also other possible improvements to St Mary's.

Bringing this report to a close we must express our thanks to Theresa. Theresa is such an important and integral part in keeping St Mary's (and Square Corner) in tip top condition. From clearing up after Mums and Toddlers to ensuring the church is clean after the various school services at

Christmas, Easter and Harvest on top of the usual week by week cleaning her contribution cannot be underestimated.

Richard Rutty/Alison Milne (Churchwardens)

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met three times since the APCM in 2024, June, September & February. It was chaired by Revd Andy Humm as Rural Dean with Keith Rushforth as Lay Chairman.

Tony Lane and I have completed our 2nd year as Deanery Reps.

In June, we heard from Andrea Corrie, who had lost her son in a drowning accident, she has since gone on to write two books about the grieving process as part of her faith. We also had news in this meeting that the King had appointed The Right Reverend Mike Harrison as Bishop of Exeter.

In September, we heard from Colin Smallcombe from the Farming Community Network (FCN). Colin spoke of the work FCN does in supporting farmers and families through difficult times, they supported over 10,000 people in a year.

In February of this year, we heard from Rev Jeremy Putnam, Mission Enabler for the Exeter Diocese. Jeremy described the work he and his team do in developing Mission and Ministry, particularly among children and young people. We also heard from a team in Tiverton who ran the LifePath initiative for year 4 school children from the parishes in and

around Tiverton last year, bringing to life the Wesley Family through arts and crafts, they plan to hold a similar event again this year. Finally, we had a short update from the recent General Synod and the safeguarding actions the Church is taking following the publication of the Makin report.

Tony Lane & Matthew Nichols continue to be parochial lay representatives on Deanery Synod and therefore ex-officio members of Uffculme PCC.

Matthew Nichols (Deanery Synod Representative)

Parochial Church Council 2024 – Chair's Report

The Uffculme PCC met six times over the course of the year on, 6th February, 25th, March, 22nd, May, 22nd July, 24th September and 11th November. The role of Chair was shared amongst PCC members with Richard taking the Chair for the July and October meetings and the November meeting Chaired by the newly installed Rector, Revd. Ben Maynard.

Each meeting has followed a similar agenda, including the key priorities of safeguarding, health and safety, the Reach project, buildings maintenance, finances, clergy recruitment (until November), church services and cover during the interregnum. Key policies have been reviewed to ensure we keep abreast of legislative requirements and best practice.

Full minutes of the meetings are available by contacting our PCC Secretary Soozie Discombe. We also endeavour to provide a summary of each meeting for distribution amongst church members.

James King (Churchwarden until May) Richard Rutty (Churchwarden from May) on behalf of the PCC.

PCC Membership

The following served as members of the PCC:
Rector of Uffculme/Chair: Revd Ben Maynard (from October 16th)
Churchwardens: Alison Milne & Richard Rutty (from APCM), James King & Dave Lewis (to APCM)
Deanery Synod Representatives: Tony Lane & Matthew Nichols

Elected members:
Sue Kidd was elected as a member of the PCC.
Other PCC members during 2024 were Dave Lewis, Tony Lane, Stephanie Burchaell, Rosalie Fleet, Kelly Willams (until August), Matthew Nichols

Supporting roles:
Treasurer: Tony Jackson
Electoral Roll Officer: Alison Milne
PCC Secretary: Soozie Discombe
Health & Safety Officer: Tony Lane
Safeguarding Officer: Alison Milne from August , Kelly Williams (to August).

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Facts and figures

During 2024 there were 2 weddings at St Mary's. There were 8 funerals in St Mary's, and 1 funeral at the crematorium only. There were no weddings or funerals in St Stephen's. There were also 4 baptisms for children at St Mary's, and 1 baptism at St Stephen's.

Electoral Roll Report for 2024 for Uffculme Parish:
The electoral roll stands at: 88 (2023 88), with 19 living outside the parish.

Loving God, discovering Jesus, serving the community

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www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk
www.squarecorner.org.uk

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Uffculme with St Stephen's Ashill and All Saints' Bradfield

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2024

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2023
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Planned Giving		23608		23608	21934
Collections		6224		6224	6913
Special Giving			464	464	1126
Donations		3912		3912	1588
Tax Recovered		7711		7711	8069
REACH	2,4		31697	31697	5467
Church Fundraising		1510		1510	1935
Interest & Dividends	1	2428	14693	17121	11521
Spotlight Magazine		8459		8459	8837
Churchyard Rents		255		255	255
Grants	2			0	600
Church Fees (net)		2587		2587	1942
Square Corner	2,3	8255		8255	5294
Church Hire		230		230	694
NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
Christmas Tree Festival		1369		1369	717
Uffculme Bellringers		350		350	65
Mission Outreach		0		0	4474
Sundry income		19		19	0
Total Receipts		73617	46854	120471	88131
Payments					
Common Fund		34157		34157	30552
Clergy Expenses		278		278	593
Maintenance		1868	2345	4213	3886
Insurance		7267		7267	6837
Upkeep of Services		628	0	628	477
Heat & Light		4657		4657	3573
Square Corner		8696		8696	7033
Spotlight Magazine		8149		8149	7954
Music			647	647	659
REACH	5		31242	31242	8307
Fundraising Costs		214		214	257
Church Tithe/Giving	6	3686	489	4175	2826
Print, post, Stationery		91		91	72
Independent Examiner		288		288	278
Bank Charges		64		64	61
Christmas Tree Festival		854		854	771
Sundries		275		275	197
Mission Outreach		0	0	0	12893
Total payments		71172	34723	105895	87226
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.24		54735	28283	83016	82111
Transfer between funds		-4680	4680	0	0
(Deficit)/Surplus		2445	12131	14576	905
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.24		52500	45094	97592	83016

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As At 31 December 2024
(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	**£**
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	9,840
COIF Deposit Funds	85,568
CAF Deposit Account	2,184
	97,592
Permanent Endowments *(see note 8)*	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	327,972
CBF Investment Fund (371.18 units)	8,583
M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	4,816
M & G Charifund (1223 units)	18,007
	359,378

Represented by:

	Note	Bal @ 1.1.24 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal @ 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted						
General fund		41435	62716	56124	-6206	41821
Designated						
Church Mission Fund	6	2268	0	3686	1433	15
Square Corner		2789	8255	8696	0	2348
Ashill		-579	927	1812	0	-1464
Christmas Tree Festival	9	1118	1369	854	0	1633
Uffculme Bellringers		696	350	0	0	1046
Restricted						0
Fabric		32108	14076	2345	0	43839
Music		1586	617	647	0	1556
REACH		-100	31697	31242	4680	5035
Special Giving	6	1103	464	489	0	1,078
St Stephen's Ashill		685	0	0	0	685
Church Flower Fund		-93	0	0	93	0
Sub-Total		83016	120471	105895	0	97592

Permanent Endowments	**Bal @ 1.1.24 £**	**Change in Value (£)**	**Bal @ 31.12.24 £**
E Brice Endowment	320634	7,338	327972
T Brice Endowment	30620	786	31406
Sub-Total	351254	8,124	359378
Total	434270		456970

Notes:	£
1. Bank interest	
Fabric Fund	14076
Music Fund	617
General Fund	2428
	17121
2. Grants	
Exeter Diocese - (REACH)	12000
Uffculme United CharitiesCouncil (REACH)	350
Posbury Trust (REACH)	3000
Uffculme Trust (REACH)	750
Uffculme Parish Council (Square Corner)	500
Uffculme United Charities (Square Corner)	350
Uffculme Trust (Square Corner)	1250
	18200
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	5297
Coffee mornings	638
Grants (see note 2)	2100
Donations	220
	8255
4. REACH Project - Income	
Donations	5422
PCC Contributions	8180
Programme Income	1075
Grants (see note 2)	16100
Bank interest	184
Tax recovered (Gift Aid)	736
	31697
5. REACH Project - Expenditure	
Staff costs	26649
Programme costs	4284
Office costs	309
	31242
6. Special/Mission giving	
Karen Action Group	1510
CHAT	2396
Royal British Legion	269
	4175

7. Christmas Tree Festival

As at 31st December an invoice for £614 had not been received.
Had the invoice been received by the year-end the total expenditure would have been £1,468. The balance on the designated Chrismas Tree Fund would be £1,019.

8. Endowment Funds

The endowment funds represent capital invested arising from bequests.
We are not allowed to use this capital but can spend the interest that arises from it.

9. Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed a reserves policy which identifies a need for a reserve of £16,500 for use in the event of the Church losing one or more of its key donors, seeing a drop in individual levels of giving or the unexpected expenditure.
If you would like to see a full copy of this policy, please contact one of the Churchwardens.

10. It is our policy to invest short-term General Fund, Fabric Fund, and Music Fund balances in CCLA deposit funds.

Independent Examiner.....

Chairman of the PCC.....

Treasurer.....

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MJohns

Batchelor + Company

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company Accountants Ltd

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1AE

5th March 2025

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2024

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2023
Receipts		£	£	£	£
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NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
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Mission Outreach		0		0	4474
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Common Fund		34157		34157	30552
Clergy Expenses		278		278	593
Maintenance		1868	2345	4213	3886
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Music			647	647	659
REACH	5		31242	31242	8307
Fundraising Costs		214		214	257
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Total payments		71172	34723	105895	87226
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.24		54735	28283	83016	82111
Transfer between funds		-4680	4680	0	0
(Deficit)/Surplus		2445	12131	14576	905
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.24		52500	45094	97592	83016

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME
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As At 31 December 2024
(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	**£**
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	9,840
COIF Deposit Funds	85,568
CAF Deposit Account	2,184
	97,592
Permanent Endowments *(see note 8)*	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	327,972
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M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	4,816
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	Note	Bal @ 1.1.24 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal @ 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted						
General fund		41435	62716	56124	-6206	41821
Designated						
Church Mission Fund	6	2268	0	3686	1433	15
Square Corner		2789	8255	8696	0	2348
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Christmas Tree Festival	9	1118	1369	854	0	1633
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REACH		-100	31697	31242	4680	5035
Special Giving	6	1103	464	489	0	1,078
St Stephen's Ashill		685	0	0	0	685
Church Flower Fund		-93	0	0	93	0
Sub-Total		83016	120471	105895	0	97592

Permanent Endowments	**Bal @ 1.1.24 £**	**Change in Value (£)**	**Bal @ 31.12.24 £**
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Sub-Total	351254	8,124	359378
Total	434270		456970

Notes:	£
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Fabric Fund	14076
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General Fund	2428
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2. Grants	
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Uffculme Trust (Square Corner)	1250
	18200
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	5297
Coffee mornings	638
Grants (see note 2)	2100
Donations	220
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4. REACH Project - Income	
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Programme Income	1075
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Tax recovered (Gift Aid)	736
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5. REACH Project - Expenditure	
Staff costs	26649
Programme costs	4284
Office costs	309
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6. Special/Mission giving	
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CHAT	2396
Royal British Legion	269
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Independent Examiner.....

Chairman of the PCC.....

Treasurer.....

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

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MJohns

Batchelor + Company

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company Accountants Ltd

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1AE

5th March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UF

England & Wales - Charity number 1146940

Accounts

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2023

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2022
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Planned Giving		21934		21934	22853
Collections		6913		6913	5861
Special Giving			1126	1126	1644
Donations		1588		1588	4712
Tax Recovered		8069		8069	8727
REACH	4		5467	5467	0
Church Fundraising		1935		1935	1597
Interest & Dividends	1	2094	9427	11521	11013
Spotlight Magazine		8837		8837	7816
Churchyard Rents		255		255	255
Grants	2	200	400	600	4438
Church Fees (net)		1942		1942	2503
Square Corner	3	5294		5294	7838
Church Hire		694		694	225
NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
Christmas Tree Festival		717		717	0
Uffculme Bellringers		65		65	83
Mission Outreach		4474		4474	8165
Total Receipts		71711	16420	88131	94430
Payments					
Common Fund		30552		30552	26543
Clergy Expenses		593		593	1218
Maintenance		2059	1827	3886	24144
Insurance		6837		6837	6345
Upkeep of Services		257	220	477	625
Heat & Light		3573		3573	4076
Square Corner		7033		7033	6105
Spotlight Magazine		7954		7954	7518
Music			659	659	5805
REACH	5		8307	8307	0
Fundraising Costs		257		257	98
Church Tithe/Giving	6	2583	243	2826	3346
Print, post, Stationery		72		72	230
Uffculme Bellringers				0	474
Independent Examiner		278		278	261
Bank Charges		61		61	82
Christmas Tree Festival		771		771	0
Sundries		197		197	291
Mission Outreach		12893	0	12893	17984
Total payments		75970	11256	87226	105145
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.23		57820	24291	82111	92816
Transfer between funds		1172	-1172	0	10
(Deficit)/Surplus		-4257	5,164	905	-10715
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.23		54735	28283	83016	82111

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 31 December 2023

(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	**£**
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	7,938
COIF Deposit Funds	75,046
CAF Deposit Account	32
	83,016
Permanent Endowments *(see note 8)*	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	320,634
CBF Investment Fund (371.18 units)	8,391
M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	4,679
M & G Charifund (1223 units)	17,550
	351,254

Represented by:

	Note	Bal @ 1.1.23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal @ 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted						
General fund		46779	64432	63996	-5780	41435
Designated						
Church Mission Fund		1411	0	2583	3440	2268
Square Corner		4528	5294	7033	0	2789
Ashill		-195	1203	1587	0	-579
Christmas Tree Festival		0	717	771	1172	1118
Uffculme Bellringers		631	65	0	0	696
Restricted						0
Fabric		25186	8749	1827	0	32108
Music		1567	678	659	0	1586
REACH		0	5867	8307	2340	-100
Special Giving		1392	1126	243	-1172	1,103
St Stephen's Ashill		685	0	0	0	685
Church Flower Fund		127	0	220	0	-93
Sub-Total		82111	88131	87226	0	83016

Permanent Endowments	**Bal @ 1.1.23 £**	**Change in Value (£)**	**Bal @ 31.12.23 £**
E Brice Endowment	292841	27,793	320634
T Brice Endowment	30581	39	30620
Sub-Total	323422	27,832	351254
Total	405533		434270

Notes:	£
1. Bank interest	
Fabric Fund	8749
Music Fund	678
General Fund	2094
	11521
2. Grants	
Exeter Diocese - Mustard Seed (REACH)	400
Uffculme Parish Council	200
	600
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	3397
Coffee mornings	1000
Donations	897
	5294
4. REACH Project - Income	
Donations	2625
PCC Contributions	2350
Programme Income	443
Tax recovered (Gift Aid)	49
	5467
5. REACH Project - Expenditure	
Staff costs	7513
Programme costs	444
Office costs	350
	8307
Mission Outreach concluded on 31.8.2023 with the introduction of the REACH Project (ref. note 7)	
6. Special/Mission giving	
Karen Action Group	1022
CHAT	1556
Royal British Legion	248
	2826

7. REACH Project

This is a 3 year project that started on 1.9.2023. Exeter Diocese awarded the project a grant in year 1 of £6,000 which was received after the year end date of these accounts. Had the Exeter Diocese grant been received before 31st December 2023 the closing balance on the REACH restricted account would have been £5,900

8. Endowment Funds

The endowment funds represent capital invested arising from bequests.
We are not allowed to use this capital but can spend the interest that arises from it.

9. Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed a reserves policy which identifies a need for a reserve of £25,000 for use in the event of the Church losing one or more of its key donors, seeing a drop in individual levels of giving or the consequential capital expense due to property repair or renewal.
If you would like to see a full copy of this policy, please contact one of the Churchwardens.

10. It is our policy to invest short-term General Fund, Fabric Fund, and Music Fund balances in CCLA deposit funds.

Independent Examiner.....

Chairman of the PCC..... DAVID LEWIS CHURCH WARDEN

Treasurer..... ANTHONY JACKSON

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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Marie Johns FCCA
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27th February 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UF

England & Wales - Charity number 1146940

Accounts

Parish of Uffculme

Parochial Church Council Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2022

Loving God, discovering Jesus, serving the community

www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk

www.squarecorner.org.uk



Parish of Uffculme. Deanery of Tiverton & Cullompton, Diocese of Exeter
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd; Independent Examiner: Marie Johns, Batchelor & Co
Charity Commission No 1146940

Parochial Church Council 2022 – Chair's Report

PCC met six times over the course of the year on 11 January, 15 March, 17 May, 12 July, 13 September, and 15 November.

Each meeting has reviewed our current situation with Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and young people and has discussed the implementation of our health and safety responsibilities. This has included risk assessments undertaken in response to the risk of spreading & contracting the COVID virus.

The PCC has also discussed various items of business including the safe use of Square Corner and church as regulations changed, the financial situation, our Mission Community wide review of our outreach ministry, our Community Outreach Worker's role and ministry, church services and general maintenance issues. Full minutes of the meetings are available by contacting our PCC Secretary Tony Kidd.

Rev Simon Talbot (PCC Chair)

The following served as members of the PCC:

Mission Community Leader/Rector of Uffculme/Chair: Revd Simon Talbot
Curate: Revd Gudrun Thomas
Associate Minister: Revd Michelle Parton (to September)
Churchwardens: Alison Milne, Richard Rutty
Deanery Synod Representatives: Tony Kidd, Phil Mumby

Elected members:

Stephanie Burtchaell, Rosalie Fleet (from April), Tony Lane (from April), Matthew Nichols, Lucy Statton (from April)

Supporting roles:

Treasurer: Tony Jackson
Electoral Roll Officer: Alison Milne
PCC Secretary: Tony Kidd
Health & Safety Officer: Tony Lane
Safeguarding Officer: Martin Rock-Evans

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Rector's Report

If I have to sum up 2022 in a metaphor I think I would say that it had the feeling of a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. Obviously, as with all metaphors, it can't be stretched too far as I'm not saying that St Mary's pre-covid was like a hairy caterpillar!

Over the course of the year we endeavoured to re-start ministries that had stopped or changed, as we could. This included Coffee and Chat, Community Lunch, Film Club, our baby and toddler group to name a few. Alongside these regular features we were able to hold a lovely service and serve teas to mark Her Majesty the late Queen's Jubilee, as well as events over the summer as part of our "Holiday at Home" sessions.

All these events, groups and ministries emerging from the difficult period over covid, alongside steady growth in attendance of our regular Sunday services and festival or special services throughout the year have been a joy to see and I hope we can look back with immense gratitude, primarily to God, but also to the people he used in his service to enable this to all happen. It has been particularly lovely to welcome several new people into our church family, some who used to be part of other churches, some who haven't been part of a church for a while. As I mentioned above it feels like a butterfly is emerging from the more dormant days of covid.

For me personally it was an unusual year as I was finally able to take a sabbatical (only 5 years late!). I am very grateful for both the time it gave me to reflect on my own ministry and for those, both lay and ordained, who enabled me to have the time away.

One of the sadnesses of the year was saying goodbye to Rev Michelle as she decided to take some time out of stipendiary ministry. Her gifts and skills are very much missed, and I'm sure you will be joining me in continuing to pray for her and her family. Michelle's ministry will particularly be missed in Ashill where she had the responsibility to oversee our work. Alongside pastoral care of the congregation, Michelle had run some sessions for mums and babies to encourage how they think about their spirituality, established a monthly service of Morning Prayer and a coffee morning on a Thursday, and changed our Sunday services to be focused on festivals at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

This sadly was also the last full year of Rev Gudrun's curacy. It seems such a long time ago I was introducing her to the parish and explaining her role as a curate-in-training. Whilst more will be said about Gudrun in 2023's report it was lovely to be able to give thanks for her ministry and I'm sure we will all miss her personality and positivity. I think we can be hugely thankful for the privilege it has been to be part of helping her "fan her gifts into flame" to use the apostle Paul's phrase.

As always there are so many people to thank for their dedication, love and service they have shown over the last year. Particular mention should go to Richard Rutty and Alison Milne our churchwardens. As they both step back from office I am sure we will all agree Richard and Alison have been a real blessing to our church family, so thank you both!

It is also such a blessing to have Claire Nichols as part of our team. Whilst she also spends some of her time in Kentisbeare we benefit from her love, enthusiasm and creativity as she runs our thriving

baby's and toddler group, seasonal special events for children and families, social media posts and has been able to re-establish links with the village pre-schools by running sessions for them to mark Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We were delighted on her behalf when she received the St Boniface Award from the Diocese of Exeter 'honouring lay people who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the Church in Devon'.

There is always a wonderful network of people who help and support our worship and ministry, this includes those who help with our church services, help with home groups, refreshments, support our families ministry, Tony Jackson who oversees our finances, Tony Kidd our PCC secretary, as well as those who support our friends within the church family. Thank you to you all, we would all be the poorer without your support.

As we reflect back on the last year, I hope you can see some of the many ways we can give thanks to God for His blessing. I also hope that as we continue to move forward we will all be praying for God's guidance as we continue to understand how each of us is "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do."

Rev Simon Talbot (Rector)

Curate's Report

Services and ministry in 2022

Well, 2022 flew by as we settled back into Church life and things began to return more to as normal as it could be after covid. In February 2022 I was away from the parish for a month as I had a short placement with the Sid Valley Mission community in the Sidmouth area. It was great to look at the contrast between seaside ministry and rural ministry although I was surprised how close to more rural areas Sidmouth is. I gained valuable experience of what it is like to work as part of a larger Clergy team.

I finally led Easter services after none in 2020 and my falling accident in 2021. I had my first experience of leading the Maundy Thursday meal which was very well attended.

In the May we had a special celebration of marriage service as we celebrated with David and Beryl Lewis. Simon went off on sabbatical in May 2022 and I was pleased that he trusted me enough to work alongside Reverend Michelle to oversee the parishes of Willand and Uffculme.

In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a wonderful service and then unfortunately the weather beat us and we couldn't have the afternoon tea in the vicarage garden. However, in the usual Uffculme style we decamped to the village hall and an amazing number of people still came… over 80 people throughout the afternoon.

We had several Baptisms throughout the year, some coming from the connection with the Uffculme toddler group.

We held a Candles to Remember service in November which was very well received and attended by people from across the mission community.

Christmas service numbers seemed to have returned to similar numbers to the pre Covid years and the church looked fabulous with all the decorated Christmas trees.

Community engagement

The **film club** has continued, and numbers have remained consistent with donations still gratefully received. The **community lunches** re-started officially in February 2022 and have been very well attended ever since. The food is fab, and our thanks go to Sally Hickmott for her culinary skills and her team of volunteers for their hard work on the day. The Christmas dinner was excellent and the hall was packed with happy diners.

Holiday at Home returned but on a slimmed down scale. The two main events were the family community picnic which was held at Magelake. it was a very hot day and the attendance was more than Claire or I had dreamed it would be. The rock and roll afternoon tea was once again very well supported.

Despite the cancellation of the Uffculme lights we went ahead with opening the church for the launch of the **Christmas trees** and lots of people still came out and joined us. It was a wonderful evening of community engagement.

I am sad that my time in Uffculme has come to an end (as I write this report in April 2023), and I thank you all for the support you have given in order to grow the more confident minster I am now as I go where God is calling me next.

Rev Gudrun Thomas (Curate)

Community Outreach report

"Constant through the trial and the change, one thing remains…your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me…" (lyrics by Jesus Culture) Looking back through another year of varied ministry, we can see the constant golden thread of God's abundant love and grace that has woven through all we have done with Community Outreach. This is a precis of this ministry due to limitations of space…

2022 marked our eighth year of offering Bible Storyclub at Kentisbeare Primary school and supporting the team in Uffculme Primary School. It is incredible to look back and to see how God has offered us wonderful opportunities to share the Good News over so many years. I am very grateful to Sue Apps and Helen Steele who run the club in Uffculme Primary School.

Rev Michelle created a one-off Starting Rite session in June which ran in St Mary's Uffculme. It was great to be part of this and we welcomed nine families with babies under a year old. In November we celebrated Uffculme Baby and Toddler Group's first birthday with cake, songs and friendship and 60 adults and children. It has been a hugely valued community group, is full of love and hope and life and has shown us what a resource we have in St Mary's Church building and in our wonderful refreshments volunteers.

We used a different format for Holiday at Home this year, spreading sessions throughout the month of August. Toddler group ran each week along with an art workshop, family walk, beetle drive, film club, afternoon tea and dance, intergenerational storytelling session and ended with a fantastically attended picnic in the park.

A range of window displays in Square Corner were created in partnership with Uffculme Primary School, Memory Café, Uffculme Preschool and Rainbows. On 31st October Square Corner became a

beacon of light proclaiming “The Light has come”. Rev Gudrun and I met trick-or-treaters who were out on the streets and offered them hospitality as well as giving away 96 goodie bags! Square Corner provided a warm, dry space with simple crafts and refreshments, we welcomed approximately 35 people into the building. Many thanks to our volunteers and to Rev Gudrun for her energy and enthusiasm for this project.

Listening to families at Toddler Group it became clear that there are many who are deeply fearful of the future. As a result of this the PCC agreed to allow CHAT to use Square Corner each Wednesday and to host the Green Team/ Uffculme Community Fridge's first "Uffculme Warm Space" in mid-November - a warm welcome, warm food and warm drinks all free of charge.

We welcomed Uffculme Preschool, Kentisbeare Preschool, Kingwood Uffculme and Kingwood Muddiford to share seasonal special preschool services at St Mary's Uffculme and Kentisbeare. Outreach also included weekly Coffee and Chat, monthly Film Club, Bears and Prayers Easter egg hunt in Kentisbeare, Good Friday Explorers, a team providing children’s activities at the Christmas tree festival, Christingle services, and Rachel led the ever popular Scratch Nativity on Christmas Eve.

The Wandering Wisemen returned to our social media feeds from Advent Sunday to Epiphany. Sue Leach organised and refreshed the Angel Trail in Willand, Sarah and Gerry Leyman helped with Journey to Bethlehem in Kentisbeare and Lucy Statton used her creative talents to make a new trail - The Animals' Christmas – in Uffculme. All three gave us the opportunity to explore more about the Christmas story, be visible in the community and stretch our legs too.

Claire Nichols (Community Outreach Worker)

St Stephen's Ashill

This year we have had one baptism and one wedding.

Apart from the monthly morning prayer, which with the departure of Michelle and now Gudrun, has now ceased, the following services were held:-

140th Anniversary in July, celebrant the Bishop of Crediton, this was followed by refreshments.

Harvest, Carols, and Easter.

The monthly coffee morning continues to be well supported.

A concert by local singer Alex Hart was held in March this year with support from another local singer. Donation made.

Rosalie Fleet

Square Corner

In my final year as Chairman of the Square Corner Management Group I am very pleased to report that Square Corner had a very successful year not only in being able to return a surplus of income over expenditure but also the additional use that has been made of Square Corner by various entities both Community based and corporate. 2022 was the year when we could finally say goodbye to the strictures caused by the pandemic and we saw very encouraging developments for Square Corner in 2022.

Conversation Space continued to use the Office room as a branch of their main headquarters. We were pleased that Cambian returned to use Square Corner for training as well as other commercial enterprises occasionally hiring SC.

Coffee and Chat on a Monday and Thursday continued to be popular and thanks go to those who volunteer to help ensure its success.

In these days of economic hardship we were particularly pleased to be able to offer SC as a place where CHAT could start to operate locally giving financial, housing and other advice.

Later in the year, recognising the problems caused by very high energy costs, the Green team approached us with a request to use SC as a 'Warm Space'. Working with the Green Team leadership we were pleased to work out how best SC could be used as a place where people could have a warm place to go to as well as have a meal, companionship and things to do.

The Green Team, the repair shop and the lights committee have held meeting in SC and SC remains the hub for Spotlight collation.

The loft area has occasionally been used as an area for one to one counselling.

Rather than have a fixed hiring rate for Community users it was agreed that we would ask Community users for donations to use Square Corner rooms. A donations box was put into the café area. This system seems to be working well.

PAT testing, fire alarm testing, boiler servicing and other minor repairs were carried out during the year (thank you Tony Lane).

Richard Rutty (Chair, Square Corner Management Group)

Treasurer's Report

Unrestricted Funds income of £76,848 for 2022 compares favourably to the income for 2021 (£57,102). Planned Giving has increased slightly with a significant increase in collections during the year. However, the income for the year includes a generous donation from Crossways Chapel (£2,500) and a welcome grant from Exeter Diocese towards energy costs for St Mary's, St Stephen's and Square Corner (£1,900).

Restricted fund income of £17,582 is higher than in 2021 (£21,179) after adjusting for a generous £8,000 included in the 2021 accounts. We applied for, and were successful, in gaining a 'Listed Places of Worship' grant of £3,046 for the VAT paid on invoices relating to the significant fabric work carried out in St Mary's during the year.

Expenditure from unrestricted funds was £76,264 for 2022 (2021 £65,353). It is important to note that the 2022 figures include a full year of costs relating to the Community Outreach work (£17,984). Expenditure in 2022 compares favourably with 2021 when both years exclude the Outreach costs (2022 £58,280; 2021 £60,211).

Significant work identified through the last quinquennial review was undertaken during the year (£21,612) and funded from the Fabric Fund. We also upgraded the audio-visual equipment in St Mary's via the Music Fund (£5,000).

It is encouraging that Planned Giving has remained stable. This is so important as Planned Giving contributes almost 30% of our unrestricted income.

We urge you to consider how you might support our mission through either regular giving or one-off donations. Whenever possible making

donations and regular giving Gift Aided means the value of the gift is increased by 25%.

Several other key areas of activity are worth commentary.: -

Spotlight magazine – the magazine generated a small surplus (£298) despite more challenging expenditure commitments during the year and which are likely to continue into 2023. We are very grateful for the wonderful support of our advertisers, the Parish Council and those who were able to make either a one-off donation or commit to a regular donation. There is no doubt the magazine is welcomed by so many in our community.

Square Corner – enjoyed a successful year generating a surplus of £1,733 (£508 of which came from the Exeter Diocese Energy support grant). It was encouraging to note a wide range of community groups making use of the facility which helps to bring together those of all ages from within the community.

Overall, there was a small surplus in unrestricted funds (£584) and a net reduction in Restricted funds of £11,299.

As in previous years, in our mission giving we have supported CHAT and Karen Action Group. We await further clarity regarding Thika Diocese (linked to the diocese of Exeter). Pending the outcome of discussions the PCC agreed to carry into 2023 the donation earmarked for Thika.

Tony Jackson (Treasurer)

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding has been very quiet this year with routine renewal of disclosures, and two trivial safeguarding queries and not much else.

Disclosures
At the time of writing, I have completed 5 disclosures since the last PCC Safeguarding Report in March 2022. Disclosures should be renewed every 3 years.

Safeguarding Training
The Diocese recommend that people refresh their safeguarding training every 3 years – covid has meant that refresher course reminders have slipped over the past couple of years.

Most of the required safeguarding training is available online including the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses, as well as the Safer Recruitment and People Management course and a new course on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse:
https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub
New in 2020, the diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, launched in 2020, is being given additional functionality in 2023 to become a Safeguard Hub.

Contacts
Should you need to contact the diocese safeguarding team or DBS co-ordinators directly, please try the group email address: dsa@exeter.anglican.org. Alternatively, thirtyone:eight are commissioned by the diocese to provide support and their advice line is on 0845 120 4550: mention that we are part of the Exeter diocese.

Martin Rock-Evans is the safeguarding officer for the Uffculme Parish - all DBS requests and queries should go to him in the first instance.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of each PCC meeting, complying with safeguarding guidance. **Martin Rock-Evans (Safeguarding Officer)**

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

The Quinquennial work identified as being required in the 2018 review continued through much of 2022 with particular attention being given to repairs to the spire and the weather vane. We are grateful to the Uffculme Trust for their contribution to the repair of the weather vane. Repair work was also identified as being necessary to the North Tower window but this will not be carried out until 2023. Whilst the scaffolding was in place for the work on the spire repair work was also undertaken to the lightening conductor.

Work finally began on repairs to the clock. The repairs will continue into 2023. In addition to the repairs a self winding mechanism has been commissioned.

During the course of the year approval was given to remove the Memorial Book from the North vestry by the organ to the Walrond Chapel. The resultant space in the North vestry is now used by the flower ladies and we are grateful to them for the flowers that adorn the church Sunday by Sunday.

During 2022 a meeting was held in St Mary's with representatives of the DAC to discuss with them our proposals for a new café area. Their advice was helpful and we were given a positive response. Following this, in addition to the plans already received from one builder we commissioned an architect to produce drawings of what is required. The biggest issue is how to deal with foul water from the café area as there are no drains we can easily tap into.

Towards the end of the year we had the unfortunate experience of water leaking into the vestry area. On inspection it became apparent that this was caused by a clogged rain drainage hopper overflowing onto the vestry roof. On inspection of the roof it became apparent

that repairs to the roof were needed. This work will be carried out in 2023.

It was necessary to replace the Church's projector equipment as the existing equipment was becoming unreliable. With most of our services now using the projector for power point presentation and regular use for the film club a replacement was needed.

Various regular services of equipment (boiler, fire extinguishers, PAT testing, NET servicing of the mobile phone equipment, bells) took place and a new timer was installed for the heat blowers at the back of the church.

We are very grateful to Theresa Maunder who not only cleans Square Corner but also took on the regular cleaning of St Mary's.

We are grateful to those who helped with work in the churchyard during the year, cleaning ivy off the church walls, pruning back overgrown shrubs and removal of previously accumulated debris. The churchyard now looks much tidier. Also to Tony and Janet Jackson for looking after the Memorial Garden.

Finally, work at St Stephen's originally started in 2021 was completed.

Richard Rutty/Alison Milne (Churchwardens)

Health and Safety Report

Our approach to safety and health continues to embody the Gospel message of 'Loving your neighbour as yourself' *Mark 12:31*. Our health and safety policy was updated in 2022 to include two additional sections covering Non-ionizing radiation and construction health and safety. This arose following works to St Mary's tower and reflects the increasingly complex, and necessarily so, world of ensuring we keep people safe from harm. We are planning work on in the vestry this year and these sections recognise our responsibility to ensure building works are carried out safely.

St Mary's, St Stephen's and Square Corner have all maintained the necessary compliance requirements regarding risk assessment and fire protection as well as legionella. I continue to be in Claire Nichol's and Richard Rutty's debt for their conscientious maintenance of the fire and general safety checks in Square Corner, St Mary's and St Stephen's.

The H&S Policy, Risk Assessments and Fire Controls will be reviewed in 2023 and PCC members will be briefed on their collective responsibilities in respect of these as required.

We have had four reported accidents or incidents reported to me since the last APCM. All four have been reviewed and where required practical changes made to avoid re-occurrence. None of the accidents were reportable to the HSE.

Tony Lane (Health & Safety Officer)

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met three times in 2022, March, June and September, chaired by Rev Andy Humm as Rural Dean.

In March, the Synod revisited the Deanery Action Plan, put on hold during covid, and pondered lessons to be learnt from our covid experiences, as well as reviewing support for Ukrainians in the Deanery. The June meeting considered the financial situation, and shared local Jubilee celebrations. In September, Deanery hosted Andy Flannagan, Executive Director of Christians in Politics, who encouraged us with stories from those involved with politics.

Phil Mumby and Tony Kidd continue to be parochial lay representatives on Deanery Synod.

Tony Kidd (Deanery Synod Representative)

Facts and figures

During 2022 there were 2 weddings at St Mary's, plus 1 at St Stephen's and 1 at Bradfield Chapel. There were 8 funerals in St Mary's, and 5 funerals at the crematorium only. There were also 8 baptisms and 1 thanksgiving service for children at St Mary's, and 1 baptism at St Stephen's and 1 at Bradfield Chapel.

Electoral Roll Report for 2022 for Uffculme Parish

81 *(2021 85)*, with 18 living outside the parish.











Service of Thanksgiving

A special service being held at St Stephen's Church, Ashill
to celebrate the 140th anniversary
of the church being at the heart of the Ashill community

Sunday 10th July at 11am

A celebratory service for all the family,
led by the Rt. Revd. Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton
with representatives from the local community
and activities for children

Followed by a Free Buffet Lunch





Loving God,

discovering Jesus,

serving the community

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Uffculme

with St Stephen's Ashill and All Saints' Bradfield

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2022

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2021
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Planned Giving		22853		22853	22587
Collections		5861		5861	2561
Special Giving			1644	1644	1188
Donations		4412	300	4712	11720
Tax Recovered		6727	2000	8727	6197
Legacies				0	1000
CREATE				0	2198
Church Fundraising		1597		1597	414
Interest & Dividends	1	421	10592	11013	9800
Spotlight Magazine		7816		7816	6041
Churchyard Rents		255		255	245
Grants	2	1392	3046	4438	0
Church Fees (net)		2503		2503	1847
Square Corner	3	7838		7838	4585
Church Hire		225		225	20
NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
Uffculme Bellringers		83		83	55
Mission Outreach	4	8165		8165	1123
Total Receipts		76848	17582	94430	78281
Payments					
Common Fund		26543	0	26543	24807
Clergy Expenses		1218	0	1218	801
Maintenance		2532	21612	24144	16996
Insurance		6345	0	6345	5892
Upkeep of Services		625	0	625	248
Heat & Light		4076	0	4076	4216
Square Corner		6105	0	6105	10302
Spotlight Magazine		7518	0	7518	5824
Music		0	5805	5805	1025
CREATE		0	0	0	5806
Fundraising Costs		98		98	0
Church Tithe	6	1882	1464	3346	3957
Print, post, Stationery		230	0	230	448
Uffculme Bellringers		474		474	0
Independent Examiner		261	0	261	243
Bank Charges		82	0	82	96
Sundries		291	0	291	290
Mission Outreach	5	17984	0	17984	5142
Total payments		76264	28881	105145	86093
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.22		57226	35590	92816	100328
Transfer between funds				10	300
(Deficit)/Surplus		584	-11,299	-10715	-7812
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.22		57810	24291	82111	92816

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As At 31 December 2022
(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	£
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	3,129
COIF Deposit Funds	78,963
CAF Deposit Account	19
	82,111
Permanent Endowments *(see note 7)*	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	292,841
CBF Investment Fund (371.18 units)	7,663
M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	4,946
M & G Charifund (1223 units)	17,972
	323,422

Represented by:

	Note	Bal @ 1.1.22	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal @ 31.12.22
		£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General fund		48833	66800	65840	-3014	46779
General Fund Suspense		0	0	0		0
Designated						
Church Mission Fund		279	0	1882	3014	1411
Square Corner		2795	7838	6105	0	4528
Ashill		-358	2126	1963	0	-195
Uffculme Bellringers		1022	83	474	0	631
Restricted						0
Fabric		31385	13313	19512	0	25186
Music		6747	625	5805	0	1567
CREATE		0	0	0	0	0
Special Giving		1211	1645	1464	0	1,392
St Stephen's Ashill		785	2000	2100	0	685
Church Flower Fund		117	0	0	10	127
Sub-Total		92816	94430	105145	10	82111

Permanent Endowments	Bal @ 1.1.22	Change in Value (£)	Bal @ 31.12.22
	£		£
E Brice Endowment	331717	-38,876	292841
T Brice Endowment	32828	-2,247	30581
Sub-Total	364545	-41,123	323422
Total	422344		405533

Notes:	£
1. Bank interest	
Fabric Fund	9967
Music Fund	625
General Fund	421
	11013
2. Grants	
Fabric Fund - DCMS VAT refund	3046
General Fund - Exeter Diocese Energy grant	1392
	4438
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	5484
Coffee mornings	1300
Grants - Exeter Diocese Energy grant	508
Donations	546
	7838
4. Mission Outreach - Income	
Donations	4508
Programme Income	2864
Tax recovered (Gift Aid)	793
	8165
5. Mission Outreach - Expenditure	
Staff costs	15688
Programme costs	2174
Office costs	122
	17984
6. Special/Mission giving	
Karen Action Group	881
CHAT	1009
Ukraine support	472
Royal British Legion	618
Pastoral Care	366
	3346

7. Endowment Funds

The endowment funds represent capital invested arising from bequests.
We are not allowed to use this capital but can spend the interest that arises from it.

8. Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed a reserves policy which identifies a need for a reserve of £25,000 for use in the event of the Church losing one or more of its key donors, seeing a drop in individual levels of giving or the consequential capital expense due to property repair or renewal.
If you would like to see a full copy of this policy, please contact one of the Churchwardens.

Independent Examiner.....M.Johns.....

Chairman of the PCC.....

Treasurer.....

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MJohns

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company Accountants Ltd

Batchelor + Company

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1AE

23rd February 2023

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

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- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MJohns

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company Accountants Ltd

Batchelor + Company

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1AE

23rd February 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UF

England & Wales - Charity number 1146940

Accounts

Parish of Uffculme

Parochial Church Council Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Loving God, discovering Jesus, serving the community

www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk

www.squarecorner.org.uk



Parish of Uffculme. Deanery of Tiverton & Cullompton, Diocese of Exeter
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd; Independent Examiner: Marie Johns, Batchelor & Co
Charity Commission No 1146940

Parochial Church Council 2021

PCC met six times over the course of the year on 9 February, 23 March, 18 May (all on Zoom), 20 July, 14 September & 16 November (in person).

Each meeting has reviewed our current situation with Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and young people and has discussed the implementation of our health and safety responsibilities. This has included risk assessments undertaken in response to the risk of spreading & contracting the COVID virus.

The PCC has also discussed various items of business including the safe use of Square Corner and church as the regulations changed, the financial implications of the pandemic, our Mission Community wide review of our outreach ministry, church services and general maintenance issues. Full minutes of the meetings are available by contacting our PCC Secretary Tony Kidd.

The following served as members of the PCC:

Mission Community Leader/Rector of Uffculme/Chair: Revd Simon Talbot
Curate: Revd Gudrun Thomas
Associate Minister: Revd Michelle Parton
Churchwardens: Tony Kidd (to April), Alison Milne (from April), Richard Rutty
Deanery Synod Representatives: Tony Kidd, Phil Mumby

Elected members:

Stephanie Burtchaell, Jenny Miller (to May), Alison Milne (to April, thereafter Churchwarden), Matthew Nichols

Supporting roles:

Treasurer: Tony Jackson
Electoral Roll Officer: Alison Milne
PCC Secretary: Tony Kidd
Health & Safety Officer: Tony Lane
Safeguarding Officer: Martin Rock-Evans

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Rector's Report

As we look back on 2021 it was another year of adapting and overcoming the various challenges put our way.

As a result this year's Annual Report will be a bit different again. Rather than ask our usual contributors to write about groups that were only able to meet from September we have decided to shorten the report. That being said I would still like to highlight the many good things we have been able to do as a church family and to thank those who have helped us to keep going as we have adjusted to the situation we have lived through.

Church Services

At the beginning of the year we were required to close our buildings for services, however having the system to meet on zoom enabled us to quickly adapt to the lockdown situation.

As we gradually reopened in the spring it was good to welcome back those who were able to join us for our monthly 8am Sunday service, our 11am service as well as our Wednesday Holy Communion.

Alongside this we have kept the zoom service, although in the autumn we decided that the process of putting together service at home sheets and then delivering them was becoming too great a challenge with the other demands on time as groups, meetings and other services started to pick up again. The zoom service has been maintained with two preprinted service booklets that have been printed and delivered to all those who have asked for them.

As always we are greatly helped by a team of lay leaders and preachers. Their continued help and flexibility is very much appreciated, we are so blessed to have so many gifted people as part of our congregation.

We decided to hold our Remembrance Sunday service as normal this year and I was delighted the uniform groups and a good number from the community were able to join us.

At Christmas time we were able to hold our normal Christmas services although numbers attending were affected by the worry around the omicron variant. Rev Gudrun, Claire Nichols and Rachel Tucker helped us enjoy some wonderful services for young and old alike.

Community Engagement

As the guidance changed over the year we were very conscious of the number of people who felt isolated and missed meeting other people. To help address this Rev Gudrun and Claire Nichols devised and organised a series of events aimed at helping the older members of our community and those with younger families meet for a variety of activities during a week in August. Under the name “Holiday at Home” we welcomed people to enjoy crafts, games, refreshments, a film and an afternoon of music and dancing. This was a wonderful way to kick start our outreach into the community through face-to-face events and was thoroughly enjoyed by a wide range of people in our community.

During the autumn we were also able to restart our coffee mornings, film club as well as a new toddler group in the church building all of which have gone from strength to strength.

To help with our community engagement PCC decided to alter Claire Nichol's post to be focused on a broader range of people in our community from September. The aim of the post is to "work alongside those in our local community who have been adversely impacted by COVID lockdown restrictions and in doing so develop opportunities for individuals to rebuild and strengthen relationships within the community, experience the love of God and explore or develop their faith."

Our annual Christmas tree display was also a significant project with Sue Kidd and Alison Milne leading a team of people to help raise money for them, order, collect, decorate, oversee opening and clear them away. It was fantastic that a large amount of food and money was raised to support CHAT through this display as well as the large number of people coming into church on the light's switch on night and throughout the period. Huge thanks to Sue, Alison and all those involved in supporting this, both with time, financially or by coming to look at the display.

Our flower team has also continued to arrange beautiful, creative displays throughout the year. Thanks to Mary Tebbey for your leadership of the team and for all the members who help the church to be so beautifully decorated.

We have also been able to continue our social media engagement with a daily photo during Advent and various other posts over the year. Our Advent nativity trail of angels sent people around the village with the opportunity to scan a code on each angel helping to tell the Christmas story.

Vision for the future

Over the summer and autumn the PCC conducted a review of our Outreach. This started with some sessions for the whole mission community sharing thoughts and ideas in a Vision Evening in August. We held two sessions, one in the hall and one on zoom. The ideas have since been considered by the PCC and we have decided our focus should be on wider Community Engagement, Children and Families work, and Hospitality. Each year we will be making a plan to help us engage with each of these themes so we have flexibility and a clear focus. We hope this will also help us use the time, gifts and skills of those who can help us appropriately.

Thanks

As always I would also like to thank our churchwardens, ministry team and whole church family for all you have done. Richard and Alison have been a great support over this difficult period. Rev Gudrun Thomas, Rev Michelle Parton, and Rev Alan Dodds have all been wonderfully helpful, patient and accommodating as we have continued to adapt to the different requirements, so thank you very much indeed.

To God be the glory!

As we reflect back on the last year, I hope you can see some of the many ways we can give thanks to God for His blessing, even though it might have been a challenging and difficult year in many other ways. I also hope that as we come out of a time of unprecedented restriction we will be people who are able to share the love of God, the confidence He gives us in our eternal future, and the hope and peace that gives us in our everyday lives.

Rev Simon Talbot (Rector)

Curate's Report

I can't quite believe how quickly my time here in this Mission Community is passing.

I began 2021 as a fully ordained Minister able to preside at Communion and carryout the full duties of a priest. Sadly, the year began with the churches being required to close again and so I returned to supporting the Zoom services alongside the rest of the team.

I was very much looking forward to leading my first in person Easter services but sadly just before Mothering Sunday I had a nasty fall whilst out running resulting in a broken shoulder and 6 weeks away from church in an official capacity. My thanks go out to all from the church family and community who supported my family and me during those very difficult few weeks.

I eventually returned to leading services in May and was very grateful to Simon for leaving me lead services in St Mary's Uffculme until I was able to drive again in the July.

Once again it was great to be able to lead the Christingle service, to support Rachel Tucker with the Scratch Nativity, and to lead the main Christmas services this year.

As part of my professional development Simon has allowed me to chair the Uffculme PCC Meetings and this has been a valuable learning experience for me.

Community engagement

Once I felt more able to throw myself into events after recovering from my shoulder injury it was great to work alongside Claire Nichols

and get my teeth into a mission outreach project in the form of Holiday at Home. The events that week brought myself and other church members into contact with a wide range of people from our local community and beyond, and it is great to see that other opportunities for us as a church have come together as a result of conversations at many of those events. I loved seeing the church full of people at some point each day.

My lasting memory of that week will be Claire saying to me as we set up for the rock and roll tea that she hoped we would have enough cups as she laid out 100 cups. As she did, I said I would faint if we needed a 100 cups. I was shocked when she told me we were up to 98 people as the music began.

It has been great to be part of the team as we launched Uffculme Film Club and we enjoyed Mamma Mia 2, The Holiday and Nativity.

During the late Autumn I worked alongside a volunteer from the community to organise relaunching the community lunches which are planned to restart in early 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the church family who regularly support my work and the work of the church here in Uffculme. It is a privilege to work here as we seek to grow the Kingdom of God and to love and serve those in the community around us.

Rev Gudrun Thomas (Curate)

St Stephen's Ashill

In the past year, St Stephen's has gone from strength to strength. In August 2021 we started a monthly coffee morning in the church, which has continued to sustain a regular attendance each month. This provides the village community an opportunity to meet together socially – something which was much lacking during the period of lockdowns.

We also hold a friendly and informal Morning Prayer once a month, which has a small but consistent attendance, and provides a much-welcomed regular opportunity to pray and reflect on the Bible together.

In November 2021 we started a course called Starting Rite, which is a 5-week course for babies under 12 months and their parents/carers. This wonderful course is full of multi-sensory play activities, songs, stories, and the gentle exploration of the Christian faith. The participants who came in November gained so much from it – not least from the opportunity to meet with other parents and share tips on sleep, feeding, etc. (which they did not otherwise have the opportunity to do due to lockdown). The School Room at St Stephen's offers the perfect space to provide a warm and friendly environment to meet in, which suits this course very well. We plan to run the course twice a year, in May and November.

In September 2021 we engaged a local builder to start work on the repairs that were identified in the most recent quinquennial report. He has done an excellent job so far, and expects to complete the work in 2022. Everyone at St Stephen's is very grateful to the anonymous donor who has funded this essential work.

As our congregation is quite small, we have taken the decision to put our energies into special services for the major festivals, rather than having regular Sunday services. In 2021 we had services on Easter Day, for Harvest Festival (followed by a free buffet lunch), a short Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day, and a Carol Service in December (followed by mulled wine and mince pies).

Looking ahead to 2022, we will be celebrating the 140th anniversary of the St Stephen's Church building on the weekend of 9th-10th July. A full programme of celebrations is being planned, including a service led by Bishop Jackie.

Rev Michelle Parton (Ashill)

Facts and figures

During 2021 there were 4 weddings at St Mary's, plus 1 at St Stephen's. There were 6 funerals in St Mary's and 1 at Bradfield Chapel, and 4 funerals at the crematorium only. There were also 3 baptisms and 2 thanksgiving services for children at St Mary's, and 1 baptism at St Stephen's.

Electoral Roll Report for 2021 for Uffculme Parish

85 *(2020 84)*, with 14 living outside the parish.

CREATE (Jan-Aug) & Community Outreach report (from Sep)

Throughout all the change and turbulence in 2021 God's love remained a constant. Looking back, I am astounded by how much we were able to reach out with the Good News into our local community and further afield. Let's thank God for that!

In the early part of the year as restrictions tightened, I worked on developing the Churchyard plan, reimagining how we could use the outside space as well as working on a set of Faith at Home Bags funded by a grant from Scripture Union. They provide a creative way of finding out more about faith, prayer and special services. Square Corner's window was filled with creative displays of hearts, an Easter scene, a wonderfully varied flock of sheep looked after by the Good Shepherd, Holiday at Home, Harvest, Light Party before Remembrance and our Advent display. Many thanks to Mel Hector for her creative input.

During Lent we were introduced to a family of knitted mice who helped us explore 40 acts of generosity on St Mary's Facebook page. We distributed 150 craft bags for Good Friday Explorers across three villages and shared a special family friendly service on zoom. Many thanks to Sarah Rock-Evans for all her help with this! During Lent I was also asked by the diocese to record a film explaining how to bake hot cross buns. Following on from the surprise success of this, I was asked to be part of a second baking video for stained glass window biscuits at Christmas.

As the summer term began it was a complete delight to be able to restart some face-to-face activities! As part of Thy Kingdom Come we welcomed families to a special Messy Church session in Willand and enjoyed painting prayer rocks followed by a teddy drop. There was an

enthusiastic welcome from Kentisbeare CoE School as we restarted Bible stories. A huge thank you to the Uffculme Primary School Team for their faithful work too - Sue Apps and Helen Steele.

Uffculme Holiday at Home was a wonderful week in August. The community embraced the idea and came together in a way that we couldn't have imagined when we planned it. During the week St Mary's Church offered hospitality and a practical welcome to all ages from 1-90yrs old, from sharing popcorn at film club through to crafts, games and finally the rock and roll tea, it was community at its best and provided a springboard to restart activities. Thank you SO much to all of our wonderful volunteers, the musicians and everyone who came along!

We ran a Light Party in St Mary's Uffculme on 31st October with volunteers from Willand and Uffculme Churches and welcomed 28 children. Gudrun and I then set up at Square Corner which was illuminated with the words "Light has come into the world" and we gave away party bags with sweets and a booklet to families out trick-or-treating. I bought 75 booklets but we ran out and had to make another 20 bags of just sweets, next year we'll need 100!

Two days after the Light Party we started Uffculme Baby and Toddler group in St Mary's Uffculme. Many thanks to the former toddler group, Crossways and Uffculme Trust for donations towards the new group, I am very grateful to Alison for her hard work organising storage cupboards. The group has been very popular and is steadily increasing in number

We have built on links with the Green Team Community Larder and they are now bringing ambient foods to Coffee and Chat to be distributed. Film Club has been a roaring success and is such a

wonderful use of the building once a month on a Saturday night! We ran three Nativity Trails across the Mission Community, each telling the Christmas story with a QR code of additional activities at each station. The Wandering Wisemen returned to our social media and we were delighted to be able to follow their progress in December.

Thanks for your prayers and practical support, I honestly couldn't do this without you!

Claire Nichols (Community Outreach Worker)

Treasurer's Report

Unrestricted General Fund receipts for 2021 were £57,102. Although receipts in 2020 were £67,360 these included a £10,000 UK Government Covid-19 Support Grant, when this is considered, receipts for 2021 are broadly the same as 2020.

Receipts to restricted funds in 2021 were £21,179 (£11,914 in 2020). A generous donation of £8,000, from a parishioner, requesting that it should be applied towards the cost of significant repair works to St Stephens church, Ashill was received during the year. These repairs were carried out during the year amounting to £7,950. £50 has been applied to the St Stephens Restricted Fund (i.e. £8,000-£7,950).

It is encouraging to note that Planned Giving increased by 5.4% between 2020 (£21,437) and 2021 (£22,587). This is very welcome as Planned Giving provides a significant level of stability to our income.

We urge you to consider how you might support our mission through either regular giving or one-off donations. Within the total received from Planned Giving 75% relates to giving via the Parish Giving Scheme. When taken together, Planned Giving, and associated

reclaimed Gift Aid, contribute over 50% of our total unrestricted General Fund income.

On the 31st August 2021 the CREATE (Centre for Rural and Training for Excellence) project came to an end. The PCC agreed that any costs over and above the remaining CREATE restricted fund balance would be covered from the General Fund. This amounted to £2,131.

From 1st September a new Community Outreach Worker role was created. It was agreed by the PCC that funding for this post together with associated programme costs would be funded from the General Fund. In 2021, for period 1st September to 31st December this amounted to £4,019.

We are grateful to the Uffculme Trust for their kind donation of £1,000 towards the provision of storage cupboards for St Mary's as well as their donation of £500 towards the Christmas Tree Lights Festival in the church.

The Spotlight magazine generated a small surplus of £217. We are grateful to Uffculme Parish Council for their kind donation towards the magazine. We are already aware that the costs of printing will increase early in 2022 so our thanks go out to all our advertisers and donors, whose support ensures the magazine remains available to those in our community.

Overall, there was a deficit on the general fund (unrestricted) of £8,251 and a slight surplus on restricted funds of £439.

As in previous years, in our mission giving we have supported three main causes – Karen Action Group, CHAT, Thika Diocese in Kenya (linked to the diocese of Exeter).

Tony Jackson (Treasurer)

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding has been busy with the resumption of some activities after lockdown and with a tightening up of the diocesan safer recruitment processes.

Safer Recruitment Process
This year the Diocese of Exeter has put renewed emphasis on the Safer Recruitment process, requiring that all parishes fully apply and document the safer recruitment process to all roles that involve more than incidental contact with either children or vulnerable adults. Any role that is expected to have any contact with children or vulnerable adults must be recruited using the Safer Recruitment process.

The safeguarding leads from all 3 parishes of the mission community, together with the clergy and Claire met at the beginning of the year to agree how to ensure that we are applying the Safer Recruitment process correctly within the Mission Community.

Safeguarding Training

The Diocese recommends that people refresh their safeguarding training every 3 years. As part of the renewed emphasis on Safer Recruitment and ongoing safeguarding support for volunteers I will reviewing training requirements. Basic Awareness and Foundation, as well as Safer Recruitment and People Management, courses are available online: https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/.

Contacts
Should you need to contact the diocese safeguarding team or DBS co-ordinators directly, please try the group email address: dsa@exeter.anglican.org. Alternatively, thirtyone:eight are commissioned by the diocese to provide support and their advice line is on 0845 120 4550: mention that we are part of the Exeter diocese.

Martin Rock-Evans is the safeguarding officer for the Uffculme Parish - all DBS requests and queries should go to him in the first instance.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of each PCC meeting, complying with safeguarding guidance. **Martin Rock-Evans (Safeguarding Officer)**

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

We were finally able to move ahead with the work to St Mary's identified as being necessary by the 2018 quinquennial survey. Although this work will continue through 2022 a start was made in repointing the North tower. As part of this work it has been identified that the window sill (and possibly the entire frame) on this tower will need replacing.

Sadly the restoration work on the clock is still to be done. Contact was made with the restorer who advised that he hoped his Covid backlog would be cleared by the spring of 2022 when work on the clock would begin. We are hopeful this will be the case.

Thanks to the generous contribution from the Co-op Community Fund we were able to undertake some necessary tree work in the Churchyard. This being part of our plan to develop the churchyard for more recreational purposes providing an informal seating area and developing a wild flower area.

Following a generous offer to fund repairs to St Stephen's various works to the building were carried out.

A project to enhance and upgrade the coffee area was begun and work on this will continue into 2022.

Following the start of the Baby and Toddlers group it became clear that additional storage for equipment needed was needed. Shelving and cupboards were purchased with shelves being erected in the Vestry and cupboards situated in the Brice area. This, together with a substantial throw out of unwanted material has helped create a much tidier church space.

Regular servicing of various kinds relating to St Mary's, St Stephen's and Square Corner – mains electrics inspection, boiler maintenance, fire extinguishers, asbestos survey – was undertaken during 2021.

The brass plate with details of incumbents was updated and replaced on the wall in the Walrond Chapel.

A number of regular routine inspections of the NET communications equipment in the spire were made.

We are grateful to the volunteers who help to keep Square Corner functioning ensuring that the property continues to be maintained at a high standard.

Richard Rutty/Alison Milne (Churchwardens)

Health and Safety Report

As a church family we continue to embody the Gospel message of 'Loving your neighbour as yourself' *Mark 12:31* in seeking to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of all those the work of our church affects. Simon, Gudrun and Claire, assisted by our churchwardens and many others, have navigated the challenging path through the pandemic with its changing restrictions. As we emerge from this time of challenge, we need to be mindful of supporting vulnerabilities and anxieties that remain despite the reduction in actual risk from the virus.

St Mary's, St Stephen's and Square Corner have maintained the necessary compliance requirements regarding risk assessment and fire. The asbestos re-assessments for both churches have been completed without major issue. I continue to be in Claire Nichol's debt for her conscientious maintenance of the fire and general safety check in Square Corner, particularly following her change in job role.

The H&S Policy, Risk Assessments and Fire Controls will be reviewed in 2022 and PCC members will be briefed on their collective responsibilities in respect of these as required. No reported accidents or incidents have been reported to me since the last APCM.

Tony Lane (Health & Safety Officer)

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met once in 2021, in September, following a long Covid-enforced break (the previous meeting was in March 2020). A new Rural Dean was appointed during the year, Andy Humm, vicar of St George & St Paul Tiverton, replacing our own Simon Talbot, following his period of office.

Brigit Kiyaga, Diocesan Mission Resources Adviser, talked at the September meeting on sharing and giving, and the importance of gratitude and generosity, illustrated by a video of how the churches in Mizoram, a poor part of India, are able to be self-supporting. There was also sharing of covid experiences, and plans for the future as we emerge from lockdown and restrictions.

Phil Mumby and Tony Kidd continue to be parochial lay representatives on Deanery Synod.

Tony Kidd (Deanery Synod Representative)



Painted rocks around Uffculme May 2021

Square Corner

2021 was a transitional year for Square Corner for two reasons.

Firstly, Covid restrictions meant that for much of the first part of the year Square Corner remained closed. The second part of the year saw the gradual reopening of the building to commercial and community hirers.

Secondly, in September, Claire's role as Square Corner Manager came to an end as she took up her new role as Community Outreach Worker. Working with Claire the Square Corner Management Group was able to find ways to ensure that the orderly running of Square Corner continued. An essential part of ensuring a smooth transition related to the booking of rooms and invoicing customers. Hallmaster, an online booking and invoicing facility, was purchased and, thanks to Tony Kidd and Phil Mumby, this was successfully implemented. Conversation Space continued to hire the Office room. At the end of 2021 we were encouraged to hear that Cambian indicated they would like to begin hiring Square Corner again as a training facility. Green shoots were beginning to show signs of new life for Square Corner post Covid.

I am very grateful to Claire for helping with the transition and to each member of the Management Group (and Tony Kidd) for taking on the various tasks that are needed to ensure the smooth running of Square Corner. I would also like to record the Group's thanks to Theresa Maunder who works tirelessly to keep Square Corner clean and tidy.

Richard Rutty (Chair, Square Corner Management Group)

Loving God,

discovering Jesus,

serving the community

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Uffculme

with St Stephen's Ashill and All Saints' Bradfield

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2021

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2020
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Planned Giving		22587		22587	21437
Collections		2561		2561	2784
Special Giving			1188	1188	7
Donations		3720	8000	11720	4182
Tax Recovered		6197		6197	5568
Legacies	6	1000		1000	0
CREATE	1		2198	2198	2186
Church Fundraising		414		414	0
Interest & Dividends	2	7	9793	9800	9621
Spotlight Magazine		6041		6041	6659
Churchyard Rents		245		245	235
Church Fees (net)		1847		1847	2713
Square Corner	3	4585		4585	16982
Community Lunches		0		0	0
Church Hire		20		20	200
Sundries				0	0
NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
Uffculme Bellringers		55		55	0
Mission Outreach	5	1123		1123	0
Total Receipts		57102	21179	78281	79274
Payments					
Common Fund		24807	0	24807	25772
Clergy Expenses		801	0	801	789
Maintenance		3154	13842	16996	12408
Insurance		5892	0	5892	5919
Upkeep of Services		248	0	248	344
Heat & Light		4216	0	4216	2044
Square Corner		10302	0	10302	11621
Spotlight Magazine		5824	0	5824	5660
Music		0	1025	1025	921
CREATE		0	5806	5806	8412
Church Tithe	4	3890	67	3957	3464
Print, post, Stationery		448	0	448	26
Independent Examiner		243	0	243	288
Community Lunches		0	0	0	164
Bank Charges		96	0	96	60
Sundries		290	0	290	0
Mission Outreach	5	5142	0	5142	0
Total payments		65353	20740	86093	77892
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.21		65478	35152	100328	99248
Transfer between funds				300	2698
(Deficit)/Surplus		-8251	439	-7812	1382
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.21		57227	35592	92816	100328

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 31 December 2021

(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	**£**
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	4,968
COIF Deposit Funds	87,435
CAF Deposit Account	414
	92,817
Permanent Endowments *(see note 9)*	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	331,717
CBF Investment Fund (371.18 units)	8,681
M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	5,115
M & G Charifund (1223 units)	19,032
	364,545

Represented by:

	Note	Bal @ 1.1.21	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal @ 31.12.21
		£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General fund		52972	50692	49034	-5796	48834
General Fund Suspense	8	2698	0	0	-2698	0
Designated						
Church Mission Fund		1269	0	3890	2900	279
Square Corner		8512	4585	10302	0	2795
Ashill		-612	1769	2127	612	-358
Uffculme Bellringers		967	55	0	0	1022
Restricted						0
Fabric		28220	9057	5892	0	31385
Music		7035	737	1025	0	6747
CREATE	7	1477	2198	5806	2131	0
Community lunches		-153	0	0	153	0
Special Giving		90	1188	67	0	1,211
St Stephen's Ashill		735	8000	7950	0	785
Church Flower Fund		117	0	0	0	117
Sub-Total		103327	78281	86093	0	92817

Permanent Endowments *(see note 6)*	**Bal @ 1.1.21** £	**Change in Value (£)**	**Bal @ 31.12.21** £
E Brice Endowment	290016	41,701	331717
T Brice Endowment	29001	3,827	32828
Sub-Total	319017	45,528	364545
Total	422344		457362

Notes:	£
1. CREATE Income	
Shares & donations	440
Tax recovered	272
Donations	1485
Interest	1
	2198
2. Bank interest	
Fabric Fund	9056
Music Fund	737
General Fund	7
	9800
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	2220
Coffee mornings	300
Donations	2065
	4585
4. Special/Mission giving	
Karen Action Group	930
CHAT	930
Thika Diocese	930
Pastoral Care	1100
	3890
5. Mission Outreach	
Donations	460
Programme Income	663
	1123

6. Legacies
This item refers to a single legacy given for the general purposes of the PCC.

7. CREATE
The CREATE Programme ceased on 31st August 2021. The deficit accumulated during the year has been absorbed by the General Fund, as agreed by the PCC.
From 1st September 2021 the Mission Outreach Programme was established and will be funded from the General Fund.

8. General Fund Suspense
A sum of £2,698 was paid to Uffculme PCC in error by a third party on 30th December 2020. Repayment of this sum to the third party could not be made before the end of the the financial year ended 31st December 2020. A repayment was made in January 2021 and the General Fund Suspense is now cleared.

9. Endowment Funds

The endowment funds represent capital invested arising from bequests.
We are not allowed to use this capital but can spend the interest that arises from it.

10. Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed a reserves policy which identifies a need for a reserve of £25,000 for use in the event of the Church losing one or more of its key donors, seeing a drop in individual levels of giving or the consequential capital expense due to property repair or renewal.
If you would like to see a full copy of this policy, please contact one of the Churchwardens.

Independent Examiner.....M.Johns.....

Chairman of the PCC.....

Treasurer.....

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MJohns

Batchelor + Company

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX151AE

18th February 2022

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, UF

England & Wales - Charity number 1146940

Accounts

Parish of Uffculme

Parochial Church Council Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Loving God, discovering Jesus, serving the community

www.stmarysuffculme.org.uk

www.squarecorner.org.uk



Parish of Uffculme. Deanery of Tiverton & Cullompton, Diocese of Exeter
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd; Independent Examiner: Marie Johns, Batchelor & Co
Charity Commission No 1146940

Parochial Church Council 2020

The Parish is part of the Culm Valley Mission Community with St Mary's Willand, St Mary's Kentisbeare and All Saints Blackborough. The Parochial Church Council has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Uffculme, Square Corner and St Stephen's Ashill. Covid-19 affected PCC meetings in 2020, with the last pre-covid meeting in January, although the Standing Committee remained active. Zoom enabled a resumption, with meetings in August, October and December. We realise that this is unsatisfactory for those members who cannot use Zoom, and we look forward to restarting face to face meetings as soon as possible. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was postponed from April till October.

The following served as members of the PCC:

Mission Community Leader/Rector of Uffculme: Revd Simon Talbot
Curate: Revd Gudrun Thomas
Associate Minister: Revd Michelle Parton
Churchwardens: Tony Kidd, Richard Rutty
Deanery Synod Representatives: David Hollis (to October), Tony Kidd, Phil Mumby (from October), Richard Rutty (to October)

Elected members:

Stephanie Burtchaell, Jenny Miller, Alison Milne, Matthew Nichols, Mary Quick, Martin Rock-Evans (Safeguarding Officer), Lucy Statton (to October)

Supporting roles:

Treasurer: Tony Jackson
Electoral Roll Officer: Alison Milne
PCC Secretary: Tony Kidd

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Rector's Report

It will be no surprise that a report for 2020 will be significantly different to normal! From the middle of March, 2020 became a year of innovation, embracing digital opportunities and adapting to the various changes in rules relating to meeting people and the use of church buildings.

Rather than ask all our usual contributors to write about groups that were only able to meet for three months we have decided to shorten the report. That being said I would still like to highlight the many good things we have been able to do as a church family and to thank those who have helped us to keep going as we have adjusted to the situation we have lived through.

Church Services

Following the shock news that we would not be able to meet as a church family during March 2020 we decided to produce a service sheet that could be used for a personal time of worship with the invitation to read the sheet at the time you would normally worship. The service sheet was emailed to approximately 60 people with a further 20 or so people receiving a hand delivered paper copy of the service.

The service sheet proved to be a good basis to start from and three weeks later was complemented by our first attempt at filming a service for Easter Sunday. This service was filmed, edited and posted on YouTube for people to watch. It was clear from this that having a filmed service was very much appreciated by the members of our congregation, but that it was unsustainable to film and edit this each

week (it took roughly 2 full days of work to produce a 45 minute service). This led to the decision to embrace the Zoom format of the service we have maintained. The Zoom format was chosen as it enables people to join the service via the internet on a wide range of computers, tablets and smart phones as well as the option of joining via a landline telephone for those without the necessary technology. The feedback from this has been very positive. It has been lovely to be able to worship with others in our Mission Community, to be able to see that we are worshipping together, involve a number of people in the service to maintain the sense of us being a community as well as offer the chance to talk to people at the end of the service. Whilst the technology limits the quality of the music, the nature of the service being live helps to maintain a sense of togetherness and fellowship as we meet.

Across the Mission Community approximately 60 households joined us each week during lockdown periods for this service, representing around 100 people worshipping together via Zoom. This includes a number from Uffculme Baptist Church and Crossways Chapel (URC) who I am delighted have joined us. Alongside the Zoom service there are of course a good number of people who prefer to use the service sheets for their own personal time of worship. It has been my desire to provide options that help people to worship our Lord in a way that serves them as much as possible.

As we understood the ability of the technology on offer we were able to record the service to share with those unable to join us at 11am. One of the drawbacks of worshipping on Zoom is that those who are on the periphery of the church, or have had no previous contact with St Mary's are less likely to watch the service than if it is streamed on Facebook or YouTube. To help take advantage of this missional

opportunity a recording of the service has been put on Facebook each week.

As Government restrictions allowed we adapted the set up of the pews in St Mary's building to enable socially distanced "in person" worship to recommence. We had approximately 25 people each week take up this opportunity on Sunday as well as 8-10 for our Wednesday morning service. St Stephen's Ashill and All Saints' Bradfield have remained closed for regular services since March.

Outreach in the Community

As the restrictions hit, all of our normal groups had to stop in their usual form. This led to moving as many as possible online either through Zoom or by uploading films to YouTube or Facebook.

Much of this work was undertaken by Claire Nichols in her two roles as "Children, Schools and Youth Development Worker" and "Square Corner Manager". Claire quickly adapted to the new situation and moved both "Bears and Prayers" and "Bible Story Club" online making films each week. These films proved popular for some time and were very much appreciated by those who watched them, both locally and some further afield. Later in the year the viewing of these films declined and the decision was made to reduce the regularity of making them before stopping them towards the end of the year.

Alongside this Claire and Gudrun, supported by others in the benefice, also started a Zoom based Parent and Toddler group called "Little Lambs". This was again appreciated by those who attended, but again towards the end of the year demand for the session dropped and the decision was made to stop it.

Social media provided the opportunity to also engage with our community in a different way, on the Square Corner Facebook page positive photos to "Brighten your day" have been posted and very much enjoyed. In Advent photos of a group of Wandering Wise Men helped to engage with people on our church Facebook page. These initiatives not only help to raise spirits but also raises the profile of our social media pages that in turn helps to build a larger platform for helping people to see other events, services and outreach material we produce.

Whilst social media provided a number of opportunities we were also keen to help engage with people and encourage them to be out and about in the village when they are able. This led to various displays around the village including the Community Arts Trail in October, displays in Square Corner windows including a special one around Halloween (that we had hoped would also be a larger event but the regulations at the time prevented this).

During advent our wonderful Christmas Tree display in church and "Journey to Bethlehem" walking advent trail with characters placed around the village also provided opportunities for people to engage with the Christmas story. The characters for the trail took a huge amount of time and skill to produce so thanks to Sue Leach (a member of our Willand congregation) for her help in developing them and Claire for painting them. The Christmas tree display was also a significant project with Sue Kidd and Alison Milne leading a team of people to help raise money for them, order, collect, decorate, oversee opening and clear them away. It was fantastic that a large amount of food was donated to support CHAT through this display, with thanks to Anne Trevelyan from Crossways Chapel for

taking the lead with CHAT. Huge thanks to Sue, Alison and all those involved in supporting this, both with time, financially or by coming to look at the display.

During the restrictions we have also endeavoured to do what we can to support those who are struggling as a result of the pandemic. In conversation with the Parish Council leaflets with helpful phone numbers and a simple suggestion to help people to be good neighbours were produced and delivered throughout Uffculme. Whilst safeguarding and GDPR (data protection) rules made it hard for us to formally run a scheme to help people a number of individuals in our congregation have been able to support the community efforts.

As we have looked to support people we have done all we can to keep the church building open as much as possible for private prayer and as a space to sit and be quiet which has been appreciated by many in our community. In this connection, we have also been very grateful through the year to our team of flower arrangers, who have put great efforts into maintaining lovely flower displays in the church, sometimes in the porch, as much as possible.

Significant markers and Thanks

As always I would also like to thank our churchwardens, ministry team and whole church family for all you have done. Tony and Richard have been a great support over this difficult period. Rev Gudrun Thomas, Claire Nichols, Rev Michelle Parton, Rev Paul Hockey, Rev Paul Snell, Rev Stephen Little, Rev Alan Dodds and Chris Russell have all been wonderfully helpful, patient and accommodating as we have written services each week, learnt how to

provide worship on Zoom and worked within the social distancing restrictions when we have been able to be in church, so thank you very much indeed. I would also like to thank Tony Jackson for all his work as PCC treasurer.

A particular thanks should be extended to Tony Kidd as he comes to the end of his time as churchwarden. Tony's support over the last 6 years has been hugely appreciated by me and the congregation as a whole. Tony's wisdom, thoughtfulness, and willingness to go the extra mile have been demonstrated time and time again. I am very pleased that Tony has agreed to stay on the PCC, but want to record my huge appreciation for all he has done as churchwarden.

As I have already mentioned in this report Claire's ministry both as our Schools and Family Worker and Square Corner Manager have been completely changed since March. During this time Claire has been wonderfully adaptable, embracing the challenges ministering online presents. Claire's ministry continues to be greatly valued by those she works with and I would like to add my thanks and gratitude for all she has done over the last year too.

This has also been a significant year for Rev Gudrun Thomas our curate. Having successfully completed her first year of ministry Gudrun was ordained as a priest in September. This is a significant marker in her ministry enabling her to conduct a wider range of services as she continues her training with us. Despite the restrictions Gudrun has continued to flourish in her ministry and has been a real blessing to our church family supporting people pastorally as well as through the services and events she has been able to lead. I am sure this will only continue over the coming year and look forward to

seeing how the Lord will continue to use her in his service in the future.

As we celebrate Gudrun's priesting, we also heard that Sarah Rock-Evans has been accepted to train for ordination from September 2021. Whilst it is with great sadness that this will probably mean we will see a lot less of her in St Mary's as she trains, it is clearly an exciting time for her and the family as they follow the Lord's call to serve him in this way. Sarah is clearly a very gifted lady so I am sure she will be a great blessing to whatever church she is led to be part of in their future.

Vision for the future

As we think about the many activities that have needed to stop, and the opportunities that we have discovered over the last year I am very keen that we take some time to discern how God is calling us to minister and live out our call to share the good news of the Lord Jesus with those in our community in the future.

To help this the PCCs of each of the parishes in our Mission Community have all decided to join together in reviewing our outreach ministry. This will be a big exercise to prayerfully work together to see how we can support and encourage each other as well as thinking practically about which groups to restart or if there are any new ways to reach out to people. We had hoped to begin this process in November, but the second lockdown put paid to this plan. We are now waiting for a time we can gather people together again so that we can share thoughts and ideas. Tony Jackson, our PCC treasurer, has kindly offered his services in leading this exercise. Tony has professional experience leading companies and organisations in

this kind of review and planning process so we are very blessed to have his offer of help.

As we look forward to the future I hope that we will all be looking to play our part in engaging with our missional call to share the gospel message with our friends, family and neighbours. The way we go about it might change, but we never retire from being people who are called to be part of God's mission in our community.

To God be the glory!

As we reflect back on the last year, I hope you can see some of the many ways we can give thanks to God for His blessing, even though it might have been a challenging and difficult year in many other ways. I also hope that as we come out of a time of unprecedented restriction we will be people who are able to share the love of God, the confidence He gives us in our eternal future, and the hope and peace that gives us in our everyday lives.

Rev Simon Talbot (Rector)

Facts and figures

During 2020 there were 3 weddings at St Mary's, plus 1 at Bradfield Chapel. There were 5 funerals in St Mary's and 2 at St Stephen's, and 6 funerals at the crematorium only. There was also 1 baptism, at St Stephen's.

Electoral Roll Report for 2020 for Uffculme Parish

84 *(2019 79)*, with 14 living outside the parish.

Treasurer's Report

Total receipts on the General (unrestricted) Fund were £67,360. This included a £10,000 UK government Covid-19 support grant used to sustain the Square Corner facility and community outreach work of its manager throughout the year. Payments from the General (unrestricted) Fund totalled £56,572, giving a surplus of £10,788.

It is encouraging to note that Income from Planned Giving increased by 9.4% over the figure for 2019. This increase is so welcome as regular Planned Giving provides a significant degree of stability to our income. Nearly 32% of our General (unrestricted) Fund income arises from Planned Giving and when the benefit of reclaimed Gift Aid tax is added this figure rises to 40%. However, collections and donations were significantly less than in 2019 (2019 £8,035, 2020 £6966) because of the restricted attendance at church due to Covid-19.

We urge you to consider how you might support our mission in either regular giving or one-off donations, The Parish Giving Scheme, now covering 82% of our planned giving, provides a useful method of giving and has the benefit of allowing us to reclaim gift aid monthly.

During 2020 the overhaul of the heating system was completed. The final costs of this project, less VAT we were able to reclaim, were approximately £11,300, which was funded from the Fabric Fund. It was anticipated that repairs to the church clock would be undertaken during 2020. However, this project has been delayed of the Covid-19 pandemic and will now be deferred to 2021. We are grateful to Uffculme Parish Council for a grant of £400 allocated to the clock repair.

In our mission we have once again supported three main causes – Karen Action Group, CHAT, and the work of the Thika Diocese in Kenya (linked to the diocese of Exeter).

The PCC has resolved to keep a General (unrestricted) Fund reserve of at least £25,000. At £52,972 our General Fund balance comfortably exceeds this. Significant areas of expenditure relating to the fabric of our buildings are provided by the Fabric Fund restricted reserve.

It is our policy to invest surplus funds with the CCLA, CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and their investment funds.

As in previous years, Marie Johns of Batchelor & Co in Cullompton has examined our accounts with her usual efficiency, for which we thank her.

Tony Jackson (Treasurer)

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

There is not much of consequence to report under this heading for 2020, given covid-19 restrictions. The renovation of the boiler and heating system was completed in the early part of the year, although monitoring of the boiler pressure continued through 2020.

Frustratingly, the church clock remained stopped through 2020, as we waited for our horological engineer, faced with a lengthy backlog due to covid-19, to undertake a major overhaul. We were very grateful to Uffculme Parish Council for a grant of £400 towards the cost of this overhaul.

Towards the end of the year, we started considering the work for St Mary's recommended via the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection. This will be a priority in 2021. Investigations are also beginning on the best way forward for repairing the chimney at St Stephen's.

We also considered ways to enhance the churchyard environment, following a grant of almost £2000 via the Co-op Community Fund. When lockdown permitted, we held a successful churchyard clean-up morning, and significant tree maintenance work is scheduled for 2021. We also hope to develop an informal seating area, provide information boards, develop wild planting areas, and possibly replace existing benches.

Regular servicing of various kinds – lightning conductor, PAT testing, mains electrics inspection (for St Mary's and Square Corner, with St Stephen's due for 2021), boiler maintenance (for Square Corner and St Stephen's), fire extinguishers – was undertaken during 2020.

Tony Kidd/Richard Rutty (Churchwardens)

CREATE (Centre for Rural Training and Excellence)

2020 will certainly be a year that I remember for a very long time! Throughout the year, amid all the change, it is wonderful to be able to see what God has continued to do through CREATE in our village, Mission Community and further afield.

In January we restarted Bears and Prayers, Bible Storyclub and Afterschool café and made plans for Good Friday Explorers. These groups were much loved by the children and families we served, providing a great way of sharing something of the love of God. Particular thanks for the support of Sue Apps and Helen Steele who ran the Uffculme primary group.

In March as Lockdown restrictions stopped face-to-face children's groups we made the move to online working. I am very grateful for the technical help provided by Matthew and Ruth Nichols who helped me create a film studio in our living room, a youtube channel "Create From Home With St Mary's Church" and helped me to learn far more than I ever thought possible about video editing, zoom, social media and reaching out in a new way. Over the course of eight months we uploaded 58 videos to our channel creating new content each week for Bears and Prayers, Diddy Disciples, Bible Storyclub, Bible Story Walks, Teddy Horsley Bible Stories, Preschool Easter, Harvest and Christmas services, plus an online version of Good Friday Explorers. Using social media these videos were shared widely and reached a huge number of families as well as helping to keep links with the families locally.

Over the summer it became clear that children's work was going to look very different for at least the next six months. Having spent time in prayer and reflection Rev Gudrun and I decided to plan for Covid safe events that would be online or outdoors from September to

Christmas. The first of these began as a trial in the summer - a new online toddler group “Little Lambs”. Supported by story books from Uffculme library, with a social media advertising and a new facebook page we ran during the autumn term. It was great to have Clair Tancock, Rev Gudrun and Sarah Rock-Evans as part of the team which provided a way for families to interact with each other safely.

The autumn term saw the launch of Uffculme Arts Trail which helped to unite the village in creating art on the theme “Explore” to display in their windows or front gardens. There was a lot of positive feedback and learning which we used later in the year. Square Corner was transformed into a beacon of light and hope for Halloween just as the Prime Minister announced another Lockdown. The timing was incredible and the messages of love really resonated with people. We were astonished by the comments in the wider community as well as from families who had come out trick-or-treating.

We knew that Christmas would look very different in 2020 so we ran two parallel projects: a social media story online and an outdoor nativity trail. The Wandering Wisemen journeyed from Advent Sunday to Epiphany looking for the new Messiah, having quite a few adventures on the way and bringing joy and playfulness to our Facebook feeds. They were so loved that people were genuinely sad when this came to an end. Journey to Bethlehem our nativity trail really engaged the local community as well as providing an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus’ birth in a creative way. The day before the second Lockdown saw Sue Leach and I design huge wooden nativity characters and cut them out of donated plywood. She did an amazing job and I am so grateful for her help and enthusiasm. Each character was hosted by a different organisation which included Bridwell's Orangery, The Ostler, URC, Baptist Church, St Mary's and Kingwood. At each site there were two laminated

sheets which explained more about that part of the trail and gave a short Bible reading which linked to the character. There was also a QR code link at each location which took you to some super resources from Muddy Church. We moved the characters back to St Mary's on Christmas Eve to form the crib scene.

We finished the year with two zoom Christingle services, Rev Gudrun worked hard to create bags of resources for families to create their own Christingles at home during the service. Along with volunteers she made 300 kits to give away in each village! I think a particular highlight was recording the song “Show me the way to Shine for Jesus” amid much laughter, thanks to Paul Snell, Alan Dodds and Paul Hockey for their musical and tech expertise and a particular thank you to Rev Gudrun for her encouragement, support and enthusiasm this year.

Looking back we have taken risks in 2020, explored new opportunities and creative ways to reach out to our communities, but what an adventure it has been! My prayer would be that we have the courage to continue to try new things and be open to where Jesus might be leading us. **Claire Nichols (CREATE Support Worker)**

Square Corner

- **To enable us grow in faith, help grow communities and to be more effective in serving, supporting and engaging people in the local community;**
- **To be a generous gift to the local community;**
- **To create a sustainable building which is fit for purpose for the next 40 years;**
- **To leave a Christian legacy for future generations.**

Having begun the year hosting a wide variety of groups and with a new tenant in the meeting room we were beginning to explore different ways of using the building. As March arrived and forced us to close our doors we have had time and space to think about how we want to use Square Corner in the years ahead, it has helped us to develop our online provision. We have redeveloped the Square Corner website and invested in an online bookings system called Hallmaster which will be launched in 2021. Over the course of the year there has been a lot of government guidance to read and put in place, to make the building covid secure, many thanks to Tony Lane for his advice and help with this. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Theresa Maunder for all her hard work keeping the building spotless, she is an integral part of the team.

Just prior to the first Lockdown, when we decided to create a window display in March with the word HOPE, we hadn't realised how relevant that word would be to us all! The feedback from that image made us realise how visible the shopfront is and over the course of the year we developed a range of displays which engaged the community and started conversations. Prompted by a local family in the early weeks of Lockdown we took on the *#brightenyourdayUffculme* tag and created a community collaborative positive photo a day on the Square Corner Facebook page. There was a plan to have a display of the photos later in the year, due to continuing restrictions we hope to do this in 2021 instead!

Claire Nichols (Square Corner/Community Mission Development Manager)

Wednesday evening home group, Nut Tree Barn-or Zoom!

[Many groups found it difficult to meet in 2020, but we're pleased to include this report from a home group that did keep going].

2020 began quite normally for our group, looking at the Bible Society Lyfe series, and in January we welcomed Lesley Salter back after her 3 month trip to Palestine with the Eccumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

During Lent we followed a Bible study on the film Chocolat which had themes around the wisdom and acceptance of change. It was refreshing, interesting and along the way we enjoyed some delicious hot chocolate! We managed to complete the study just before the first Covid-19 lockdown in March and after Easter we started meeting online using Zoom. Our simple meetings, with just a short reflection and time to pray were a source of nourishment to the group in the uncertainty of that season.

The majority of the group continued meeting via Zoom through the Spring and into summer…and the rest of the year! We had a brief opportunity for a few of us to meet indoors in the early autumn which was great for those who did not use Zoom. We followed a variety of material including the 24-7 Pray Course, a study by Tom Wright on Romans, and a booklet produced by LICC called The One About looking at a range of testimonies from Christians in the UK. We finished the year with a four-part advent study called Unsettled Advent, focussing on the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah and written during the pandemic and our own time of being unsettled.

As many reflections on 2020 will note, it was a year like no other. But despite the incredible challenge and change it brought we noted time and again that God still met with us and nurtured us through this group. The opportunity to meet and discuss faith and share our lives with others from a variety of backgrounds perspectives in a safe and open environment continues to be a blessing. We are grateful for God's leading, grateful for one another and grateful for technology!

If you would like to come along to our group occasionally or regularly please contact Sarah Rock-Evans on 01884 840776.

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding in lockdown has thankfully been very quiet; however some safeguarding training has lapsed and some reviews of displayed information in building have not happened.

With no recruitment in the last year I have not completed any new **disclosures** since the last PCC Safeguarding Report early in 2020. As disclosures are renewed every five years, a number of roles have people who will require their disclosure to be renewed during 2021.

For the same reason – no recruitment – there has also not been any new **safeguarding training** required this year. However, as safeguarding training should be renewed every three years, several of our volunteers are now out-of-date and will need to renew their safeguarding training in 2021.

Towards the end of 2020, the Exeter Diocese rolled out a new Online **Parish Safeguarding Dashboard** to all parishes and we signed up to the dashboard in October 2020. The online tool has been designed to display a clear and simple dashboard showing the compliance state for the numerous church safeguarding requirements. The website will allow the church safeguarding officer, vicar, curate, churchwardens and other authorised users to see the current status of compliance at a glance. The dashboard has highlighted a number of areas that require attention: these will be progressed in the next few months.

Contacts

Should you need to contact the diocese safeguarding team or DBS co-ordinators directly, please try the group email address: dsa@exeter.anglican.org. Alternatively, thirtyone:eight are commissioned by the diocese to provide support and their advice line is on 0845 120 4550: mention that we are part of the Exeter diocese.

Martin Rock-Evans is the safeguarding officer for the Uffculme Parish - all DBS requests and queries should go to him in the first instance.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of each PCC meeting, complying with safeguarding guidance. **Martin Rock-Evans (Safeguarding Officer)**

Health and Safety Report

In short there are no significant issues to be addressed. I have not received any serious accident reports and the first aid kits have been kept under review. The pandemic has meant that Square Corner, St Mary's and St Stephen's have been subject to significant changes in terms of use and making all three buildings 'COVID' safe where use has been allowed. I am pleased to report that Revd Simon, Revd Gudrun and Claire Nichols together with the churchwardens and their team have implemented a range of controls as the situation has changed.

My general observations are that the controls we have in place regarding fire and building access are being observed, and remain adequate for the risk posed. The 'Risk Management Report' from our insurers has raised a number of relatively minor issues which do not require urgent redress or any further action at present.

The H&S Policy, Statement and Fire Risk Assessment are all due for review in 2021 but are currently up to date. The risk assessments for St Marys & Square Corner are up to date and in force. Checks for the fire alarms, emergency lighting and extinguishers are up to date thanks to Claire. The Square Corner risk assessment has been augmented with a Legionnaires Disease Assessment which has also been completed.

Tony Lane (Health & Safety Officer)

Loving God,

discovering Jesus,

serving the community

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Uffculme

with St Stephen's Ashill and All Saints' Bradfield

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 December 2020

(Register Charity No. 1146940)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2019 £
Receipts					
Planned Giving		21437		21437	19590
Collections		2784		2784	4798
Special Giving			7	7	1205
Donations		3782	400	4182	3237
Tax Recovered		5568		5568	6006
CREATE	1		2186	2186	2007
Church Fundraising		0	0	0	644
Interest & Dividends	2	300	9321	9621	9978
Spotlight Magazine		6659		6659	6475
Churchyard Rents		235		235	225
Grants	4	0	0	0	4500
Church Fees (net)		2713		2713	2344
Square Corner	3	16982		16982	6887
Community Lunches			0	0	449
Church Hire		200		200	0
Sundries		0	0	0	0
NET Mobile Mast		6700		6700	6700
Uffculme Bellringers		0		0	387
Total Receipts		67360	11914	79274	75432
Payments					
Common Fund		25772	0	25772	29977
Clergy Expenses		789	0	789	835
Maintenance		1049	11359	12408	26536
Insurance		5919	0	5919	5811
Upkeep of Services		344	0	344	355
Heat & Light		2044	0	2044	2567
Square Corner		11621	0	11621	10776
Spotlight Magazine		5660	0	5660	6775
Music			921	921	628
CREATE			8412	8412	8402
Church Tithe	5	3000	464	3464	3447
Uffculme Bellringers		0		0	0
Print, post, Stationery		26	0	26	54
Independent Examiner		288	0	288	285
Community Lunches			164	164	421
Bank Charges		60	0	60	60
Sundries			0	0	0
Total payments		56572	21320	77892	96929
Accumulated fund b/fwd 01.01.20		54690	44558	99248	120575
Trasfer between funds	6			2698	0
(Deficit)/Surplus		10788	-9,406	1,382	-21,327
Accumulated Fund c/fwd at 31.12.20		65478	35152	100328	99248

PARISH OF ST MARY'S, UFFCULME

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 31 December 2020

(Registered Charity No. 1146940)

Monies Held:	£
Bank Current Accounts & Cash	5,134
COIF Deposit Funds	95,029
CAF Deposit Account	3,164
	103,327
Permanent Endowments ***(see note 6)***	
CBF Investment Fund (14184 units)	290,016
CBF Investment Fund (371.18 units)	7,589
M & G Dividend Income Fund (9220 units)	4,625
M & G Charifund (1223 units)	16,787
	319,017

Represented by:

	Note	Bal @ 1.1.20	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal @ 31.12.20
		£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General fund		44380	49470	40432	-446	52972
General Fund Suspense	6	0	2698	0		2698
Designated						
Church Mission Fund	5	4269	0	3000	0	1269
Square Corner		3152	16981	11621		8512
Ashill		-446	908	1520	446	-612
Uffculme Bellringers		967	0	0		967
Restricted						0
Fabric		30188	9391	11359		28220
Music		7626	330	921		7035
CREATE		7703	2186	8412		1477
Community lunches		11	0	164		-153
Special Giving		664	7	464	-117	90
St Stephen's Ashill		735	0	0		735
Church Flower Fund		0	0	0	117	117
Sub-Total		99249	81971	77893	0	103327

Permanent Endowments *(see note 6)*	Bal @ 1.1.20 £	Change in Value (£)	Bal @ 31.12.20 £
E Brice Endowment	271283	18,733	290016
T Brice Endowment	32940	(3939)	29001
Sub-Total	304223	14,794	319017
Total	403472		422344

Notes:	£
1. CREATE Income	
Shares & donations	710
Tax recovered	367
Programme Income*	1100
Interest	9
	2186

*£1100 contribution towards Youth Worker from Kentisbeare PCC

2. Bank interest	
Fabric Fund	8990
Music Fund	330
CREATE Fund	9
General Fund	300
	9629
3. Square Corner Income	
Hire of rooms	4123
Coffee mornings	382
Tax recovered	225
UK Gov't support grant	10000
Donations	2251
	16981
4. Grants	
Uffculme Parish Council	400
5. Special/Mission giving	
Karen Action Group	1000
CHAT	1000
Thika Diocese	1000
	3000

6. General Fund Suspense

A sum of £2,698 was paid to Uffculme PCC in error by a third party on 30th Dec 2020. Repayment of this sum to the third party could not be made before the end of the the financial year ended 31st Dec 2020. A repayment will be made in Jan 2021 and the General Fund Suspense cleared.

7. Endowment Funds

The endowment funds represent capital invested arising from bequests.
We are not allowed to use this capital but can spend the interest that arises from it.

8. Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed a reserves policy which identifies a need for a reserve of £25,000 for use in the event of the Church losing one or more of its key donors, seeing a drop in individual levels of giving or the consequential capital expense due to property repair or renewal.
If you would like to see a full copy of this policy, please contact one of the Churchwardens.

Independent Examiner.....M Johns.....

Chairman of the PCC.....S. TALBOT.....

Treasurer.....

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Batchelor + Company

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor & Company

Charlton House, Cullompton, Devon EX151AE

22nd February 2021

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary's Church, Uffculme Parochial Church Council

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22nd February 2021