

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S GILLINGHAM, DORSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1158272

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S GILLINGHAM
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2014-08-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Parish Office Queen Street Gillingham Dorset SP8 4DX
Phone	01747821598
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Website	www.gillinghamanglican.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church. Provision of public worship and administration of sacraments. Religious assemblies in schools, teaching the Christian faith to children and adults. Provision of children's worship and youth club.

Classification

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

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£204,423	£175,468	-	-
2024-12-31	£108,666	£108,666	-	-
2023-12-31	£126,116	£155,213	-	-
2022-12-31	£132,714	£144,902	-	-
2021-12-31	£129,735	£128,095	-	-

Trustees

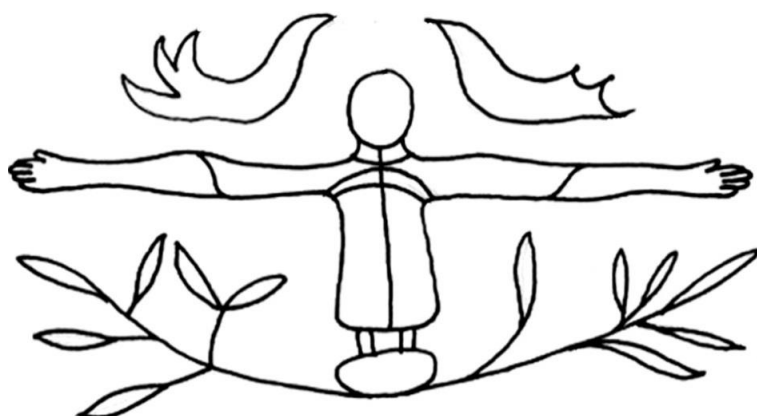
Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN WILLIAM JEFFS IRRV		2014-02-27
Anita Leigh		2025-03-25
Anne Marsh		2025-03-25
Dr Teresa Goatham		2022-02-21
Eileen Jean Piper		2025-03-25
HELEN LONG		2022-02-21
Jennifer Light		2022-02-21
MICHAEL JEREMY GIDDINGS		2022-02-22
Michael Robert John Sargent Mr		2023-02-21
Patricia Maureen Brain		2025-03-25
Richard John Arnold		2026-04-28
Robert William Light		2025-03-25
STEPHEN JOHN BUTLER		2024-04-04
Sarah Denise Snook		2017-05-02
Susan Pamela Bailey		2024-04-04
Thomas James Wickson		2024-04-04

Accounts

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Statement of Accounts
for the year ending 31st December 2025

Registered Charity Number 1158272

Overview of Finances as of 31st December 2025

Part of the accounts for 2025 may appear confusing because of the donations to the Roof Appeal and a significant donation to the Fabric Fund, so much so that the cash flow balance sheets (Receipts and Payments) create the illusion of a very significant surplus, which indeed it is in cash flow terms. However, the reality of how we manage our day-to-day finances is shown in the summary of the General Fund which is for the day to day running of the church – here can be seen that we spent more than the income received!

The 2025 accounts still show a surplus in the General Fund but only because of a review of our reserves policy and the Rural Dean negotiating a significant reduction in the Fairer Share request for 2025. This mid-year review of our General Fund Reserve, agreed by the PCC, was for a reduction to an amount equivalent to 6 weeks of payments from the General Fund rather than the previous 3 months reserve. The resultant release of *cash allowed us to pay the reduced Share to diocese in full* and still leave a reduced but healthy balance at year end, albeit because a change in energy supplier delayed the October through December gas charges into 2026.

The reserve serves two purposes, first to cover any unexpected costs (perhaps not wholly justified with a current healthy Fabric Fund) but, more importantly it covers cash flow variations throughout any given period (we can dip in and out as required and remain solvent).

Part of our overall accounts are various sub-accounts covering other aspects of church life - the Legacy Fund, the Roof Appeal Fund, the Bell Ringers Fund, etc, all of which are detailed along with the overall Fund Apportionment.

Bank statements (not published as part of the church accounts) are even further complicated because they include collections and payouts for our departing Curate and Parish Administrator, the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show church tent transactions, the Gillingham Community Cinema accounts and the Rectors welcome gift - all such items are accounted for separately but utilise our bank account.

During the year banking became more problematic, firstly with Santander's amended bank transfer mechanism and subsequently with the closure of the Shaftesbury branch. Paying by cheque has, over time, caused delays to our accounts as recipients struggle to find a branch to pay them in. Consequently, we have converted to a single signature account allowing instead bank transfers with minimal fuss but with internal controls put in place to avoid malpractice and for personal protection. Cash is paid in via the Post Office and cheques either via the Post Office or the Santander App.

At the end of September our contract for Gas and Electricity with Total Energies came to an end. Historically we have raised the energy contract through Parish Buying who claim to organise such preferential contracts for churches on a bulk buying basis. Thus, through Parish Buying we applied for a new contract with gas through Corona Energy and electricity with Ecotricity. The transfer process was tortuous, to say the least, and electricity for the church building fell at the last hurdle because the church meter is supposedly registered as a domestic meter. After 3 months of failure of Ecotricity to communicate and because we were paying an excessive out of contract rate with Total Energies, we reverted to Total Energies who not only offered a rate as good as Ecotricity but back dated the contract to reimburse 3 months of excess charges.

All our appeals were generously supported, especially the Roof Appeal which raised over £65,000, including 2 extremely generous lump sums which with Gift Aid accounted for some 70% of that total. Some of this cash, along with the Legacy Fund, has already been put to good use with the nave roof now watertight and redecoration in hand for early 2026. We also received a very generous donation to the Fabric Fund. We are blessed to have such generous benefactors.

We are also blessed by the efforts of the Eden Café which continue to provide a steady income stream along with Sunday Coffee and the Repair Cafe, so a big thank you to all those who volunteer. A thank you too for Gordon Amery with the Community Cinema that donates to the church as well as local charities. The VSR ended the year with a profit but nevertheless rental rates are to increase in 2026 because profitability is dependent on occupancy rates.

So, a satisfactory end to 2025. However, to balance future accounts and to grow our church life will require increased giving (cash, time and talents); thus, a Stewardship Campaign leading up to Passion Sunday is in hand. This is focused through our budget for 2026 for increased financial giving, increased Fund Raising, increased VSR rental charges and some judicial redirection of funds within our accounts.

Mike Sargent
Hon. Treasurer

GENERAL FUND		
FINANCIAL SUMMARY as at		31/12/2025
Excluding transfers IN and Fabric funded capital items		
General Funds 01/01/25		25170.11
Strategic Reserves 01/01/25		24537.50
Available Reserves 01/01/25		632.61
Receipts to date (Gen Fund)		123019.72
Total receipts less Misc Account receipts plus Legacies		
Payments to date (Gen Fund)		131134.08
Total payments less Misc Account Payments		
Receipts minus Payments to date		-8114.36
General Funds	31/12/2025	17055.75
Inc legacies		
Strategic Reserves		15130.86
Usable Funds	31/12/2025	1924.89

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GILLINGHAM
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO DATE
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Budget	Budget to	Actual	Whole Year	
	2025	31/12.2025	31/12.2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
PAYMENTS					
Home charities & misc charges, etc.	1800 00	1800 00	518 33	1853 22	1853 22
Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Diocesan parish share	43855 00	43855 00	66798 26	50670 00	
Church running expenses	14200 00	14200 00	12707 05	14146 55	
VSR running expenses	8000 00	8000 00	6917 60	10229 53	
Clergy expenses	1000 00	1000 00	572 93	842 68	
Cost of services	800 00	800 00	421 97	597 49	
Cost of fundraising	600 00	600 00	328 59	606 64	
Church capital expenses	0 00	0 00	42061 14	1554 00	
VSR capital expenses	0 00	0 00	444 00	0 00	
Salaries and honoraria	15450 00	15450 00	15856 25	14890 83	
Mission and evangelism	1500 00	1500 00	1403 63	1550 89	
		85405 00	147511 42		95088 61
Church management and administration					
Office costs	3800 00	3800 00	4095 73	3822 75	
Assigned fees	7145 00	7145 00	6008 33	7811 10	
Bank charges	0 00	0 00	14 97	0 00	
		10945 00	10119 03		11633 85
Transfers to restricted funds	0 00	0 00	17318 75	90 00	90 00
		0 00			
Total Payments	98150 00	98150 00	175467 53		108665 68
Excess - Gross Receipts minus Gross Payments	0 00	0 00	28955 83		0 56
Total opening funds held			41326 91		41326 35
Total closing funds held			70282 74	Note 1	41326 91
Opening General Fund			Checksum	70282 74	
					25170 11

Note 1 53226 99 is currently held for singular purposes (includes Misc, Legacy and Roof Appeal Funds)

BANK RECONCILIATION

DATE: 31/12/2025

LEDGER	C/F from 31.12.24	41326	91
	Plus Receipts YTD	204423	36
	Minus Payments YTD	175467	53
	SO's in bank but outstanding to Ledger	0	00
	Total	70282	74
BANK	Santander current amount	36839	63
	CCLA deposit	33504	73
	Plus cash	23	54
	Flower cash	329	17
	Plus Cheques to be paid in	85	00
	Plus uncleared credits	593	39
	Minus uncashed cheques	357	13
	Minus uncleared debits	0	00
	Minus Gill/ Shaft Show Accts	0	00
		0	00
		0	00
		0	00
	Minus Community Cinema Accts	735	59
	Total	70282	74
Difference		0	00

VSR profitability

Receipts	Payments	Profit/	P/L %
to date	to date	Loss	
7915 00	6917 60	997 40	12 60

FUND APPORTIONMENT
@ reconciliation

		£ 2025	£ 2024 (Year end)
GENERAL FUND (unrestricted)			
Funds at 31.12.23	25170 11		
Receipts	123019 72		
Transfer ex Legacy Fund	0 00		
Payments	131134 08		
Funds YTD		17055 75	25170 11
LEGACY FUND (UNRESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	12673 01		
Receipts	2000 00		
Transfer to General Fund	0 00		
Payments	14673 01		
Funds YTD		0 00	12673 01
ROOF APPEAL FUND (RESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	0 00		
Receipts	79073 64		
Payments	27788 04		
Funds YTD		51285 60	0 00
COMMUNITY FUND (DESIGNATED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	353 42		
Receipts	0 00		
Payments	0 00		
Funds YTD		353 42	353 42
BELL RINGERS (RESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	2821 20		
Receipts	120 00		
Payments	1772 40		
Funds YTD		1168 80	2821 20
BIBLES for SCHOOLS (RESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	0 00		
Receipts	0 00		
Payments	0 00		
Funds YTD		0 00	0 00
MOTHERS UNION (RESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	90 00		
Receipts	0 00		
Payments	0 00		
Funds YTD		90 00	90 00
CHURCH FLOWERS (RESTRICTED)			
Funds at 31.12.23	219 17		
Receipts	210 00		
Payments	100 00		
Funds YTD		329 17	219 17
TOTAL		70282 74	41326 91
Of which misc funds		53226 99	16156 80
General Fund		17055 75	
Total misc receipts		81403 64	
Total misc payments		44333 45	

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR

31/12/2026

	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS				CCLA INVESTMENT FUNDS		
		Fabric Fund CCLA	Carlton Cross CCLA	Choir Fund CCLA	Pioneer Pot CCLA	Nurse Reid	Church Trust	Administered by Diocese
Monetary assets at 31.12.24	634117003D CB3034452 41326 91	63411700ID CB3034449 41545 99	634117002D CB3034451 8715 03	634117006D CB3034453 1173 62	634117007D CB3034454 34329 09	634117001S CB3034450 Bid market valuation 153187 89	134001358S CB3015378 3977 80	134001343S CB3015372 14174 22
RECEIPTS								
Net receipts	202135 23	2072 65	791 73	51 51	1564 96			
Donations		4256 58	0 00					
Interest	1450 63							
Income from other CCLA investments								
Investment gain/loss								
Transfers in	837 50	17318 75	0 00	0 00	0 00			
PAYMENTS								
Net payments	158148 78	0 00	0 00	145 00	692 50			
Transfers out	17318 75							
Monetary assets at last reconciliation	70282 74	65193 97	9506 76	1080 13	35201 55	147063 74	3818 77	13607 56



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Gillingham, Dorset

On accounts for the year ended

31/12/2025

Charity no (if any)

1158272

Set out on pages

1 to 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

18 March 2026

Name:

MR IAN JAMES WATSON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

[Empty box]

Address:

27 Shreen Way

GILLINGHAM

DORSET


SP8 4EL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

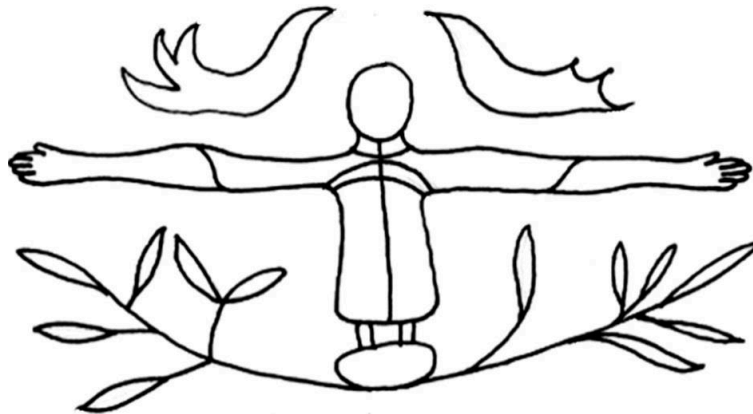
		Report to the trustees member of the Charity
Charity no (if any)	2112/2022	On accounts for the year ended
	1-1-8	Set out on pages
		As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).
		I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 142 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Disclosure Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 142(5) of the Act.
		I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention that I have disclosed below. In circumstances where the examination which gives rise to this report is not a full examination under section 142(5) of the Act, I have not examined the accounts in accordance with section 142 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
Date: 15-11-2022		Signed:
	Mr. James Smith	Name:
		Professional qualification(s) or body (if any):
	10, Church Lane	Address:

Accounts

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Agenda for the Annual Meetings
and Annual Reports for the year ending 31 December 2024

Registered Charity Number 1158272

The Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Accounts for St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham.

Data Protection Notice

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) came into force in May 2018. As with all organisations, whether large businesses or small charities like ourselves, we must conform. We can advise that the only data we hold in confidence on any person within the parish is: -

- contact details that we use solely for communications with yourselves
- planned giving details that you choose to provide and held in total confidence on encrypted, password protected systems shared only with HMRC.
- contact and other details for baptisms, marriages and funerals for contact purposes and as required in law for the registers.

We do NOT share this information with any other outside bodies.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham
'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Agenda for the Annual Meetings to be held on
Tuesday, 25 March 2025, at 7:00pm in the Vicarage School Room

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Close of Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last meeting – Thursday 4 April 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. Address - Revd Canon Tim Heaton
4. Elections
 - Parochial Church Council Members - 12 places, 8 to be elected
 - Deanery Synod - 3 places, 1 casual vacancy to be filled
5. Appointments
 - a. Independent Examiner
6. Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. Presentation of the Annual Report
 - c. Presentation of the Financial Report
 - d. Fabric Report
 - e. Presentation of the Inventory
 - f. Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Safeguarding Report
 - h. Reports of Church Groups
7. Any Other Business

First PCC Meeting

1. Appointment of Officers
2. Date of next PCC meeting

Closing Prayer

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham
'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Thursday, 4 April, 2023 at 7:30pm in St Mary's Church

Present: Revd Canon Tim Heaton (**Chair**), Susan Bailey, Steve Butler, Meriol Cottrell, Michael Giddings, Teresa Goatham, Diane Harvey, Robert Harvey, Alan Jeffs, Linda Jeffs, Jennifer Light, Miriam Light, Helen Long, Jeremy Long, Anne Marsh, Colin Marsh, Eileen Piper, Mary Sargent, Mike Sargent, Revd Philippa Sargent, Sarah Snook, David Wardle, Lois Wardle, Ian Watson, Karen Watson, Kate Wickson and Tom Wickson

1. Canon Tim opened the meeting with a welcome, a reading from the Gospel of St Luke and a prayer.
2. Apologies were received from Maureen Atkinson, Frieda Attwood, Margaret Grant, Gillian Harding and Revd Angus Mayhew. *NB: (After the meeting) Apologies were also received from Carol Hall and Revd Jeffrey Hall.*

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens

Helen Long (proposed by Val Stevens and seconded by Tom Wickson) and Tom Wickson (proposed by Richard Arnold and seconded by Helen Long) were elected as Churchwardens.

Helen and Tom will be sworn in on 17th June by the Archdeacon in Sherborne Abbey.

2. The Meeting closed. It was followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2023

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. One correction was made - in 6. Any Other Business, Appointment of Sidespeople - Teresa Goatham was added. Kate Wickson then proposed the acceptance of the minutes, and Susan Bailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair then signed the minutes.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

From 6. Any Other Business, 1st Sunday in the Month Services - These stopped during the Covid outbreak and have not started again. The School is still planning the use of their Hall. Teresa Goatham asked if there was an update.

The update was that there is no update, and this may be something discussed with a future incumbent. In the meantime, Revd Angus does collective worship with both SMTV and Milton schools. Kate Wickson, as a governor, is keeping well informed and closely connected. She always feels welcome; and Open the Book is going very well. Canon Tim also reiterated that we have a good relationship with SMTV school.

3. Address by Canon Tim

I'd like to take this opportunity, first and foremost, to congratulate the parish on the way it has navigated this vacancy over the past six months and kept the ship on a steady and even keel. The maritime metaphor is, I hope, appropriate, because as you know the image of a sailing boat with a cross for its mast was a very early symbol of the Christian church, depicting it as a ship being tossed about on the rough seas of the world, subject to many perils and dangers. One of those hazards, of course, is that the captain might jump ship, leaving the crew leaderless and alone.

So, I congratulate each and every one of you, in all of the valuable roles that you play in the life of this church, both in our worship and in our outreach. Particularly I want to applaud the members of the PCC, who have had to get on with the day-to-day business and decision-making here at St Mary's, something that they have done most efficiently and effectively. Among them it would not be improper to single out the churchwardens, Helen and Tom, to whom we all owe a huge debt of gratitude.

In this Easter Week, as we continue to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, we look forward to his Ascension and the time when he will no longer be with his disciples on earth.

During these in-between days we know that Jesus continued to appear to his frightened and dispirited band of followers, fearful of what the future might hold for them. He convinced them of his victory over death, but more than that his words and actions were to shape them for what lay ahead, the time when he would be leaving them for good to make way for the coming of the Holy Spirit who would give them the power to continue God's mission that Jesus had begun.

Perhaps that is rather like where we are now: waiting, eagerly and prayerfully waiting, for the arrival of a new Rector to take us forward with a new energy and vision – though I'm always rather cautious of using that word, remembering the late West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, who once said, "Anyone having visions should see a doctor."

Today, as you know, is the closing date for applications for the Rector's post. I have no advance information and I suspect that we – that is the members of the Appointment Panel – shall be hearing something from the Sherborne Area Office in the next couple of days. The shortlisting meeting is set for 9 April, with candidates visiting on 23 April and interviews on 24 April.

I trust that all our prayers will have been heard and patiently we must wait.

4. Elections

Parochial Church Council Members

Steve Butler (proposed by Richard Arnold and seconded by R. Stevens) and Anita Leigh (proposed by Helen Long and seconded by Jeremy Long) were both elected to the PCC to serve a three year term of office.

This brings the elected members of the PCC up to 9 out of a possible 12. It was noted by the Chair that casual vacancies can be filled during the year. It was also noted that the Chair of this meeting, Canon Tim, should have been added to those who have served on the PCC as an ex-officio member in 2023 on page 9 of this year's booklet.

Deanery Synod

1 place available, but there were no volunteers at this meeting.

The Chair noted that this casual vacancy can be filled anytime up to 2026, as the Deanery Synod elections are every 3 years (the last one being held in 2023). Sarah Snook spoke about what being a Representative entails, and Revd Philippa Sargent said that it should be

made known that being a Deanery Synod Rep means you are also an ex-officio member of the PCC.

5. Appointments

a. Independent Examiner for Accounts

John Barlett examined the accounts for 2023. It was proposed by Mike Sargent, seconded by Tom Wickson and agreed by all that John examine the accounts for 2024.

6. Reports

a. Electoral Roll Report

As of 31 December 2023 the number on the roll is 139. For more details, see this year's APCM booklet, page 9. A prayer was said for those who have passed on.

b. Presentation of the Annual Report

The Chair, Canon Tim, presented the report. The Annual Report for 2023 begins on page 9 of this year's APCM booklet, which was circulated prior to the meeting. The Annual Report was covered in more depth as this meeting progressed.

c. Presentation of the Financial Report

The Financial Report was circulated prior to the meeting, and was presented by the Treasurer, Mike Sargent. The accounts for 2023 have been adopted by the PCC. **For the full report, see the booklet entitled 'Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023'**

- Additionally, Mike reported that although energy bills and cleaning costs have gone up, the VSR is overall running in profit. This is mainly due to: 1. the hire has been raised from £30 to £35/session and 2. picking up some of the Methodist hall bookings. One of such bookings is the Community Cinema, which had its first film in the VSR last month. How profits are distributed is to be determined.

- To date, the fundraising target for 2024, which has been raised to £8000, is on track.

- Whilst The Rectory is empty, Mike has been paying the energy bills - currently around £650. We will be reimbursed by the Diocese for this, and Mike will put in a claim soon.

- Mike also talked about the new Diocesan Share scheme, which will be coming into operation in 2025. Previously based on just numbers, this new scheme will be 60% paying for our own clergy & 40% numbers. From Mike's report: "it is envisaged that the system will be phased in over 4 years in order to keep the increases for those whose Share will rise to reasonable amounts. Those whose Share will decrease will be pegged at the 2024 share ask for a further 2 years and this will fund the phasing in of the increases' ie we will be kept at the same level for 2 years even if we only have 1 rector. Mike has made it clear to Diocese that we want transparency as to how the Share is made up.

The floor was then opened for questions.

Colin Marsh asked how the films for the Community Cinema are chosen. Gordon Amery has been running the cinema for 10 years. The films chosen cannot be shown in the cinema currently and Gordon, Helen Long thinks, also talks to the volunteers involved in the Cinema before deciding on a film. Tom Wickson suggested talking to Gordon if you have an idea.

The next films to be shown in the VSR are A Haunting In Venice on Thursday 18th April and One Life on Thursday 16th May.

Anne Marsh asked if the booklet next year could be done in bigger print. Teresa Goatham suggested it could be emailed to people, and Revd Philppa Sargent let everyone know that the whole booklet is on the Church Near You website.

Canon Tim thanked Mike for all his hard work.

d. Fabric Report

The full report by Helen Long and Tom Wickson being on pages 12/13 of this year's booklet, Tom opened the floor for questions.

In response to a question from Susan Bailey about whether a leak had been fixed, Tom replied that that leak has been fixed, but there are other places where rain might come in. There is a meeting next month with the architect where a plan can be devised for the roof.

Following this, there was discussion about the bells and clock chime complaints that have been received over the past year. For the clock chimes to be turned off at night, a mechanism would need to be installed (see booklet page 12 for details). As has been seen in the press, a church in Devon had a similar thing installed. Teresa Goatham commented that in the Devon case, the council paid for this and not the church. Tom agreed that this was a good point and that it has not yet been fully explored.

In the last few weeks, Tom has been working with the council to talk about a faculty with a view to repairing the wall opposite Spring Corner and paths. He has also been in touch with the Archdeacon to see how much faculty is needed.

Tom has also read in the Church Times that there was a change in the law recently that permits parish councils to make grants to churches. Alan Jeffs commented that the town council does have statutory authority to make a contribution towards the church clock if it's determined to be the parish community clock. As is the case with St Mary's, the council does pay the annual maintenance fee for the clock.

e. Presentation of the Inventory

Tom Wickson reported that there have been no additions or removals from the inventory or terrier this year. Subsequently, both the log book and the terrier were signed by Canon Tim, Tom Wickson and Helen Long.

f. Deanery Synod Report

The full report by Kate Wickson is on page 13 of this year's booklet. Nothing else was added at the meeting.

g. Safeguarding Report

The full report by Sarah Snook is on page 13 of this year's booklet. Sarah Snook joined as PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) alongside Carol Hall in the middle of last year to help pick up what was missing. Anybody who is on the PCC must have a DBS through the Church, and do the Basic Awareness course online. Once you have a certificate, show it or send it to

Sarah. A Domestic Abuse course must also be done, but Salisbury Safeguarding do not have it online yet. Sarah is regularly in touch with Salisbury Safeguarding. If anyone needs any help or advice, Sarah's number is on the safeguarding posters.

Susan Bailey expressed frustration that DBSes, safeguarding training and certificates obtained in other contexts are not transferable. Whilst Sarah understood this, the above rules are ones that we all must follow.

The PSO and Chair said the following roles need safeguarding training as follows:

- x Communion Helper/Server - Basic Awareness,
- x Messy Church Helper - Basic Awareness and Foundation,
- x Welcome Team - Basic Awareness.

If you have not already done so, please use the following link to do your safeguarding training: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

h. Reports of Church Groups

x Messy Church

The full report by Kate Wickson is on page 13/14 of this year's booklet. Kate currently has a rotating group of helpers.

x School Report

The full report by Kate Wickson is on page 14 of this year's booklet. There is a lot of change going on at the top of SAST (Sherborne Area Schools' Trust) at the minute. It was noted that other primary schools in the area have joined a different academy trust. The Chair said our benefice profile made it known how important our schools are to us, and Kate again said how well Open the Book is going. Kate thinks SAST has around 20 schools under them.

In response to Ian Watson's question about the connection between the Church of England and the school, Kate reported that SMTV School maintains a strong Christian ethos, and she imagines that the new incumbent would do as Revd Canon Peter Greenwood and Revd Eve Pegler did, which was regular collective worship.

x Christian Action

The full report by Teresa Goatham is on page 14 of this year's booklet. Christian Action currently has 2 members and more would be welcome. The Chair thanked Teresa.

x Bell Ringers

The full report by Alan Jeffs is on page 15 of this year's booklet. An appeal for more recruits will go out at some point, and there is no age limit. Teresa Goatham commented that we have 8 bells but are rarely able to ring them all on Sunday.

7. Any Other Business

x Thank Yous

Tom Wickson thanked all the clergy - Tim Heaton, Angus Mayhew, Nigel Done and the Archdeacon, Penny Sayer - and retired clergy - David Botterill, Jean Coates, Jeffrey Hall,

Anne Heywood, Bernard Joy, Philippa Sargent, Allen Walker. They all offer us outstanding spiritual guidance and friendship.

Tom also thanked Miriam Light (PCC Minutes Secretary), Alan Jeffs (Lay Vice-Chair of the PCC, Bell Ringer and Tower Coordinator), Mike Sargent (Treasurer), Dr Daniel Cummins (Organist), the choir, the bell ringers, and all the unsung heroes who keep the show on the road - in no special order: LPA, dusters, brass cleaners, church and VSR cleaner, Fair Linen launderer, the Sacristan, Sunday morning coffee rota, readers and intercessors and, of course, all who help with the worship and the outreach of the church – especially those who keep Friday Breakfast and Eden Café going.

Finally, Tom thanked Carole Blackmore, the Parish Administrator who makes the parish tick. As a thank you to Carole, Tom proposed a letter and bunch of flowers from us all, organised by the PCC secretary or her line manager, the Hon Treasurer. This was unanimously agreed to. *NB: Post meeting, it was agreed that Mike Sargent would do this.*

x Appointment of Welcomers

It was agreed to appoint the following welcomers: Meriol Cottrell, Richard and Margaret Cowell, Teresa Goatham, Christine and Katherine Joy, Jeremy Long, Bob and Val Stevens, David and Lois Wardle, Karen Watson, and John and Pam Trout (subject to both going on the electoral roll).

x Congregation and New Rector

Anne Marsh asked whether the congregation would get a say on the new Rector. The Chair replied that whilst ultimately 9 people would decide (the 6 parish reps, Canon Tim, the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Sherborne), there are plans to invite the congregation to the VSR on Tuesday 23rd April at 4pm to meet the candidates. The details for this day have not been published yet, as currently we do not know if there are any candidates. More information will follow when possible.

The meeting was closed at 9pm by saying the Grace. It was followed immediately by the First PCC Meeting.

Minutes of the First PCC Meeting

This meeting was chaired by Lay Vice-Chair of the PCC Alan Jeffs.

1. Appointment of Officers

It was proposed, seconded and then agreed by all that the people listed below retain their positions:-

x (Minutes) Secretary: Miriam Light - proposed by Kate Wickson, seconded by Helen Long

x Treasurer: Mike Sargent - proposed by Tom Wickson, seconded by Helen Long

x Lay Vice-Chair: Alan Jeffs - proposed by Steve Butler, seconded by Susan Bailey

The PCC was also happy with the Standing Committee, which currently consists of Helen Long, Tom Wickson, Mike Sargent, Alan Jeffs and Kate Wickson.

2. Date of next PCC meeting - To be decided at a later date.

The meeting was closed at 9:05pm.

Statement of Accounts year ending 31 December 2024
Please see separate booklet

Reports and Information for the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Electoral Roll Report for APCM to be held on 25 March 2025

The number on the Roll as at 31 December 2024 totalled 136.

Names added during 2024

John Trout, Pamela Trout and Lavinia Skevington

Names removed during 2024

June DeSouches (RIP), Linley Venters (RIP) Margaret Grant (RIP), Michael Smith (RIP), John and Shirley Davies (moved)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

Saint Mary the Virgin Church is situated in Queen Street, Gillingham, Dorset. It is part of the Benefice of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Queen Street, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4DX.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC, Church Representation Rules 2020) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members that have served since 4 April 2024 until the date this report was approved are: -

Incumbent (Chairman): Vacant

Benefice Curate half time: Revd Angus Mayhew (ex-officio) (until January 2025)

Rural Dean/Associate Priest: Revd Canon Tim Heaton (ex-officio)

Churchwardens: Mrs Helen Long (elected APCM 2024)

Mr Tom Wickson (elected APCM 2024)

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Sarah Snook (to APCM 2026)

Mrs Kate Wickson (to APCM 2026)

Lay Vice Chair: Mr Alan Jeffs (to APCM 2025)

Treasurer: Mr Michael Sargent (to APCM 2025)

Secretary: (Minutes) Miss Miriam Light (co-opted member July 2023)

Elected Members: Mrs Susan Bailey (to APCM 2026)

Mr Steve Butler (to APCM 2027)

Mr Richard Cowell (resigned 30th June 2024)

Mr Michael Giddings (to APCM 2025)
Dr Teresa Goatham (to APCM 2026)
Mrs Anita Leigh (to APCM 2027)
Miss Jennifer Light (to APCM 2025)

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Carole Blackmore
Gillingham Churches Together Representatives: Vacant
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Sarah Snook

Aims and Purposes

Every Church of England Church has the same aim: "To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or act ex officio. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Mary's PCC as trustees have the responsibility of co-operating and working with the incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish of Gillingham, sharing in the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Vicarage School Room in Queen Street, Gillingham.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

St Mary's Church was open for public worship throughout 2024 always in accordance with the guidance given by the Church of England. The average attendance for the 8am monthly service was 6. The weekly 10am Sunday attendance averaged 64 with larger congregations at festivals such as Easter and Christmas and other special occasions. The midweek communion service regularly numbers 10.

We participated fully in the civic ceremonies held in our town. We celebrated the major festivals including Advent Carol Service, Burning of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, School Leavers Service, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Crib Service, Christmas Eve Service and Christmas Day.

Statistics of Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Confirmations

Baptisms	5
Confirmations	6
Weddings	1
Funerals at St Mary's	20
Funerals at Crematorium	8
Burial of ashes	5

Regular Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday weekly	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday mornings	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday evenings fortnightly	7.15pm	Meditation
Friday mornings	9.30am	Prayer Group
Saturday mornings fortnightly	10.30am	Meditation
4th Sunday	3.30pm	Messy Church

Services were held for all significant festivals.

St Mary's Church is open daily between 10am and 4pm for quiet prayer and reflection. On the 5th Sunday of the month, the three churches of the Benefice come together to share Holy Communion. The service takes place at either 10am (when in St Mary's, Gillingham) or 10:30am (when in St Simon & Jude, Milton on Stour or St Nicholas, Silton).

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024

During the year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 the PCC met on six occasions with the Standing Committee meeting occasionally on a casual basis. The PCC continued using the 'Build' committee which looks after finance, housekeeping and buildings. The Grow Committee, which operates as Messy Church, also continued to meet.

The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on 4 April 2024.

The Rector position was advertised during the year but there were no applicants.

Eden Café, open twice weekly in the Vicarage School Room, enabled fellowship and service to the local community whilst at the same time contributing significantly to our fundraising. Recycling continued alongside, though there were some changes in what we were able to collect. The VSR picked up various bookings, including Gillingham Community Cinema. Films shown this year include Wonka, A Haunting in Venice and Hamlet. The VSR also had a new boiler installed in August.

The meditation group continues to thrive. Messy Church met 8 times in 2024, ending the year with a wonderful Christingle service in which the children's crafts were integrated into the service. The church's work with local schools continues through the work of governors, collective worship, and Open the Book. Friday Breakfast came to end in July.

Our annual stewardship appeal was launched as usual on Passion Sunday and again resulted with individual increases to planned giving. However, with deaths and moves out of the area we have seen a decrease in planned giving and overall income.

The PCC continues to manage the maintenance of the church. The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in May.

In May 2024, the PCC adopted in full the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy (Promoting a Safer Church, 2017). This can be found in full on our A Church Near You website.

The Key Holder List is regularly updated.

Risk Assessments are routine and various policy documents are available.

FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY

Please see separate booklet.

RESERVES POLICY

It is current PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds that equates to three months outgoings in order to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. With finances such as they are and to ensure that these reserves can be maintained into the future the PCC approved the treasurer's suggestion to cancel the Direct Debit for the Diocesan Share by the end of 2023 so that the PCC pays only what our finances allow. The PCC further agreed with the treasurer's proposal, in February 2024, that we could improve our Share contribution should we end up with a balance sheet surplus towards the end of 2024.

FABRIC REPORT

The most important event for the fabric of St Mary's this year was the Quinquennial Inspection, carried out by our architect, Tomas Griffin, in May.

This has resulted in two major initiatives for repair and restoration.

1. A bundle of smaller works, adding up to a reasonably large list, principally on the roof and associated rainwater goods. The PCC agreed to ask Mr Griffin to draw up a schedule of these to send to contractors so they could quote to carry out the repairs. At the time of writing the process of drawing up estimates of costs is being carried out by four building firms selected by the architect.

Once a price has been established and a contractor has been selected, we shall be able to move ahead with applying for a List B faculty to carry out the work and also to apply for grants to help fund it. It may well be possible to get this work carried out later in 2025.

2. The chancel roof. Mr Griffin points out that the lead roof of the chancel is in the latter stage of its life. There are cracks and splits which, though not letting in water quite yet, soon will be. This will be an expensive job – it is very hard to estimate exactly how costly, but with a complex scaffolding required, probably a six-figure sum. There are options as to how much of the total roof covering should be replaced. It is possible that the ridge and south slope only could be done with some patching on the north side giving it another twenty years of life.

A significant advantage we have is that the Church Commissioners (who control the C of E's major financial investments) have, for historical reasons, a 60% liability for costs of repairing the chancel (note: only the chancel, not any other part of the building). Your churchwarden met with Mr Ian Simpson of the Commissioners' office at the church on 17th September, 2024. He agreed the responsibility and said that he would be able to work with us on getting this job carried out.

However, we do not feel able to take forward these two initiatives simultaneously, so while we focus on part 1 of these works (above) this project is on hold. It may well be possible to take this forward in 2026.

List B faculty approval was eventually achieved to replace the floodlights in the nave and aisles of St Mary's with LED lights. This was carried out early December 2024.

The Churchyard Wall: Also following comments in successive Quinquennials, the churchyard wall is being surveyed on behalf of Gillingham Town Council who have responsibility for the up-keep of the churchyard. The area on the southwest corner (near Rutters solicitors) causes most concern and the Council has appointed our architect to supervise such works as may be necessary and by the time you read this a site meeting with a firm of structural engineers should have taken place (23rd January 2015).

Tom Wickson and Helen Long, Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

During the past year we had 3 meetings. January, May and September.

The January session looked at Rev Canon Tim Heaton's 5 Year Plan for the Blackmore Vale Deanery. We looked at what we are all already doing in our Parishes to meet the demands of this ambitious document and how to fill the gaps. The Meeting was held in our VSR.

The May meeting was at St Mary's Motcombe, looking at their churchyard and its maintenance and use as part of the Living Churchyard project. They very luckily have a dedicated team working on keeping this lovely rural space as an accessible churchyard, but also a haven for wildlife and a resource for the primary school next door.

Our September meeting in Ibberton had to be postponed as the Rev Hilary Bond, who was due to lead a discussion on eco church was unwell. I could not attend the altered date

Thank you to Tim for arranging a year of interesting meetings and for this opportunity to meet our friends across the Deanery and share our common problems.

Kate Wickson, Deanery Synod Representative

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

This year's Safeguarding work as PSO has in the main been trying to ensure all those who are involved in roles within the Church have the appropriate training and checks. This has been a huge task and I feel a real 'nag'. But, we need to safeguard ourselves as well as others.

I am pleased to announce we will be offering a face to face training session for Basic Safeguarding on either Friday 28 March or Friday 4 April from 2pm-4pm in the Vicarage School Rooms. We will run the ONE date initially that has the most booked on so please let me know your preference by 12 March and I will confirm the date soon after. I would please ask you to attend if you have not yet completed this or completed it online. We can then offer the Foundation Training and Domestic Abuse for those whose role needs it. DBS checks, where needed, will not be started until Basic Training is completed.

I have dealt with a few Safeguarding issues over the year which have all been resolved and/or logged with the Safeguarding Team for future reference.

Thank you for your vigilance and please contact me with any concerns on 01747 826844 or Salisbury Safeguarding on 01722 438651.

It remains the calling of us all to take responsibility and accountability for Safeguarding within our local communities.

Sarah Snook, (PSO) Parish Safeguarding Officer

MESSY CHURCH REPORT

This year we held 5 meetings in the first half of the year and 3 in September and December. Compared to previous years our numbers were much lower.

We have considered why this might be but I think it is a mixture of a loyal group outgrowing our offer and also several families, who were very regular attenders, moving away.

For the future we are linking our sessions to major church festivals and hoping that will attract people.

We have had some lovely sessions over the year. Easter Messy, where the children made our Easter Garden that we then brought into church, Harvest Messy with a wonderful script for worship provided by Anne Heywood. And finally a really excellent Christingle service, where we integrated crafts that the children made into the service. We finished with refreshments in church. This all worked very well but took some organising and planning. Running monthly sessions is a big commitment, with a planning meeting and session each month.

My thanks to our wonderful team of helpers, and to Anne Heywood and Allen Walker who have led the worship element Anne is always wonderfully inventive and provides material when she cannot be there in person.

We hope to carry on the tradition of Messy Church in our worship offering for families, albeit in a modified programme.

Kate Wickson

ST MARY THE VIRGIN (SMTV) SCHOOL REPORT

My connection with SMTV is as a Foundation Governor and organiser of the Open The Book team.

As a Governor I have attended Governors meetings, 4 per year, and visited the school to talk to students and staff about areas of the curriculum.

In July we visited for a review of RE teaching throughout the school. We began the morning with an Open the Book session. This is always presented as part of the school's worship programme and where we can we link the readings to topics covered by the younger children in RE and the Church Year.

We met and talked to the children and their teachers and saw examples of their work. My fellow governor and I were very impressed with how well the children talk about key aspects of Christianity and their awareness of other faiths. They were very aware of the need to understand different perspectives in our modern world.

Open The Book continues to work very well. We are using new materials this year, which we are getting used to. But as always our experienced team copes very well and sensibly adapts where needed. We have a bigger team this year which makes it all easier to manage and the school always appreciates very much the contribution these sessions make to their worship life.

Kate Wickson

GILLINGHAM TOWER REPORT

Like many other towers, we could do with some more ringers! However, weekly Sunday services are rung for, together with special occasions; although not always on the full eight.

Most method ringing is doubles on the front six bells, and plain hunt on 7. We do ring some minor methods, especially with the help of friends from other towers, and have recently rung a couple of courses of Kent TB minor. 'Rounds' and call changes are regularly rung.

During the year two quarter peals of 1,260 changes were rung by local ringers, including two 'firsts', and a 'first inside'.

There are eight regular ringers in the band, and also at present we have one keen learner.

At our weekly practice night, we often welcome friends from other towers to join us.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring, please contact me on awjeffs@btinternet.com.

Bell Ringing is good fun, and a service to the church.

Alan Jeffs, Ringing co-ordinator

FRIDAY BREAKFAST REPORT

The final session was in July 2024 just before schools closed for the summer. A number of the young people attending were moving from primary school to Gillingham Secondary so were less likely to continue attending much longer, and Angus, Jeremy and Helen all felt the sessions had run their course.

Helen Long

PARISH OFFICE REPORT

Mrs Carole Blackmore looks after the whole benefice dealing with all day to day enquiries, arranging weddings, funerals, baptisms, taking VSR bookings, liaising with all elected parish officers, organising and printing the weekly newsletters, the collating and printing of Impact until publication ceased, and keeping the administration in good order. There is also a pastoral element to her role in the office in listening to and dealing with parishioners queries and supporting the clergy.

THE VICARAGE SCHOOL ROOM (VSR) REPORT

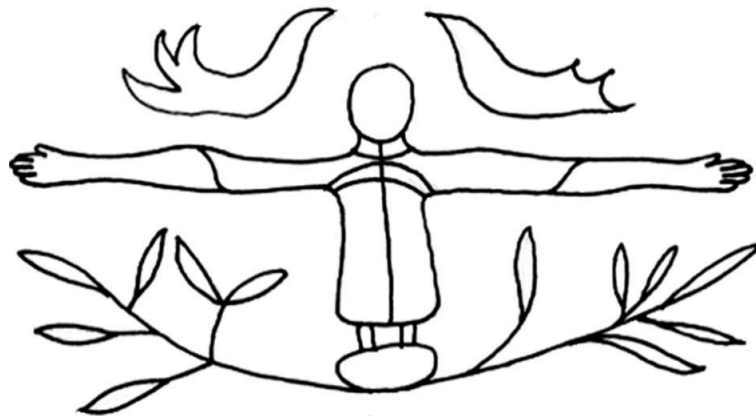
Our church hall is a community hub. Gillingham Repair Café, country dancing, pilates, the local community cinema, and our community café, Eden café, and Board Games Afternoon run from this building. Occasional events include art and craft events, Lent Lunches, various fundraising pop-ups, and it is also popular for hire for private functions when there is a free slot. A family of Syrian refugees run Syrian Cuisine, their takeaway and restaurant, from these premises on Friday evenings. It is the place where St Mary's congregation gather for coffee after Sunday morning Eucharist.

Accounts

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Agenda for the Annual Meetings and Annual Reports
for the year ending 31st December 2023
Thursday 4 April 2024

Registered Charity Number 1158272

The Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Accounts for St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham.

Data Protection Notice

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) came into force in May 2018. As with all organisations, whether large businesses or small charities like ourselves, we must conform. We can advise that the only data we hold in confidence on any person within the parish is: -

- contact details that we use solely for communications with yourselves
- planned giving details that you choose to provide and held in total confidence on encrypted, password protected systems shared only with HMRC.
- contact and other details for baptisms, marriages and funerals for contact purposes and as required in law for the registers.

We do NOT share this information with any other outside bodies.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham
'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Agenda for the Annual Meetings to be held on
Thursday, 4 April 2024, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Close of Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last meeting – Tuesday 21 February 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. Address - Revd. Canon Tim Heaton
4. Elections
 - Parochial Church Council Members - 12 places, 5 to be elected
 - Deanery Synod - 3 places, 1 to be elected
5. Appointments
 - a. Independent Examiner
6. Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. Presentation of the Annual Report
 - c. Presentation of the Financial Report
 - d. Fabric Report
 - e. Presentation of the Inventory
 - f. Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Safeguarding Report
 - h. Reports of Church Groups

First PCC Meeting

1. Appointment of Officers
2. Date of next PCC meeting

Closing Prayer

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham
‘Open to God, Open to Gillingham’

Minutes for the Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 February, 2023 at 7.30pm in the VSR

Present: Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (**Chair**), Revd Eve Pegler, Revd Angus Mayhew, Charlotte Armstrong, Martyn Sanger, Sarah Sanger, Susan Bailey, Meriol Cottrell, Richard Cowell, Teresa Goatham, Jeffrey and Carol Hall, Gillian Harding, Jean Harding, Linda and Alan Jeffs, Jennifer Light, Helen Long, Eileen Piper, Margaret Porter, Mary and Mike Sargent, Philippa Sargent, Sarah Snook, Lois and David Wardle, and Tom Wickson.

Apologies were received from Maureen Atkinson, Margaret Cowell, Margaret Grant, Colin and Anne Marsh, Jerome Pegler, Allen Walker and Cate Wickson

Minutes of The Annual Vestry Meeting

The Rev Canon Peter Greenwood opened the meeting with a welcome, a reading from Acts 2 and the Lord’s Prayer. Peter talked about how many good things the early church celebrated, and how many good things we can celebrate looking back over the course of 2022. He reminded us that at an annual meeting it is sometimes easy to focus on the things which are lacking. Actually the picture is much more balanced there are many things to celebrate as well as things that may ask questions of us. Thus encouraged we went on with the meeting.

Election of Church Wardens

Nominations were received from Charlotte Armstrong and Martyn Sanger. There was therefore no need for an election and both were appointed as Church Wardens.

Charlotte and Martyn are both employed and are not free to devote as much time to warden duties as has been possible for past wardens who have enjoyed this post whilst being retired. It has been suggested that it might be helpful to have a group of six to eight people who might act as Warden Assistants to carry out duties such as opening the church, fulfilling warden duties on a Sunday morning, meeting builders etc. very occasionally and from time to time.

Richard Cowell, Margaret Cowell, Sarah Snook, David Wardle, Lois Wardle, and Tom Wickson volunteered to act in this capacity:

The Meeting closed and was followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 February, 2022.

The Minutes had been circulated before the meeting. There were no corrections to be made and their acceptance was proposed by Charlotte Armstrong and seconded by Sarah Snook. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

3. Elections for new PCC Members

Teresa Goatham and Meriol Cottrell both agreed to stand for another term of office and Sarah Sanger was proposed by Mary Sargent and seconded by Helen Long. She was elected to the PCC for the three year term of office.

Election of Synod Representatives

Cate Wickson and Sarah Snook agreed to continue as Representatives

4. Appointments

Independent Examiner for Accounts.

John Bartlett, a volunteer from Probus, has agreed to examine the Accounts for 2022. His acceptance was proposed by Mike Sargent and seconded by Sue Bailey. The proposal passed unanimously. Mike was thanked for his efforts to find an examiner.

5. Reports

a. Electoral Roll Report. The number on the Roll as at 21 February 2023 was 145. (For details see the pamphlet for 2023).

b. Presentation of the Annual Report by Revd Canon Peter Greenwood.

Peter spoke of all the good things that have been achieved by the church during the year. There is much to celebrate. He reminded us that the church is open every day of the year and large numbers of people come to services and for private prayer.

The church also plays an active part in the life of St Mary the Virgin School. Open the Book takes place regularly and new Foundation Governors are being appointed. Large numbers of children from the school visited the church during the year and the Christmas Service was very well attended.

The Vicarage School Room (VSR) is used for a variety of functions. Messy Church offers fun activities and worship for younger children and their parents. The weekly Friday Free Breakfast is a popular event for several families. Other members of the community can attend activities at the VSR which range from meditation to arts and crafts. The Eden Café provides a warm, comfortable and friendly meeting place twice a week.

c. Presentation of the Financial Report by the Treasurer, Michael Sargent.

Mike reported a significant deficit this year, although there had been generous legacies and donations. Planned Giving was down 3% on last year and out goings up 2%. Mike's projections suggest that our reserves will be gone by 2025. When asked for information about the Share in future years, Mike said he expected further increases as costs rise and congregations diminish.

Angus mentioned Anna Hardy's positive approach to fund raising from the wider community. Mike mentioned a possible central fund to which Dioceses could apply. **For the full report see the booklet entitled 'Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022'** Peter thanked Mike for his hard work and continuing investigations into St Mary's finances.

d. Presentation of the Inventory

Charlotte reported that there have been no additions or removals from the Inventory during the year. The Saxon Cross was on loan to a Museum but is still on St Mary's Inventory.

e. Fabric Report

It was reported that scaffolding would have to be used to investigate the leaks in the church roof. The guttering has been cleared of vegetation.

f. Deanery Synod Report by Cate Wickson

Four meetings had been scheduled for the year but one had been cancelled because of the Queen's death. The previous meeting had been an unsatisfactory Zoom one due to problems with both sound and vision systems. However, the meeting which dealt with Lay Ministry had been interesting and well presented.

g. Safeguarding Report by Carol Hall (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)

There have been changes in the Safeguarding Team at the diocese reflecting the introduction of a new computer system. This is to bring it in line with the national church.

It has not been a very busy year in the Benefice. I have been asked to verify two DBS applications, but Wendy Braithwaite from Milton has also verified several applications. Jeffrey attended a 'Safeguarding Leadership Pathway' course in March. As the PCC is a registered Charity, all its members are Trustees and therefore require DBS Certificates. On 1 December the PCC adopted the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy (Promoting a Safer Church). One issue concerning safeguarding arose and was dealt with by the clergy. No other issues have been brought to my attention.

h. Reports of Church Groups

Mothers' Union Report by Revd Jeffrey Hall

The MU is part of the world-wide fellowship within the Anglican Communion with more than three million members. We are but a small group, known as a Prayer and Fellowship group, one of only two in the Blackmore Vale Deanery.

We meet in the Vicarage School Room on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of January and August. We plan our own programme which ranges from friendly social events to Bible studies, with speakers usually from within our own members. Our current membership is 10, but this is often boosted by others from the congregation.

In September we had a birthday celebration as Janet Botterill was 80 in August and I was 80 on September 6th. The following day I was admitted to Salisbury Hospital for 6 days and I had to take a 'back seat' for that part of the year.

Our meetings always begin with prayer and hymn singing with music, usually provided by David and Janet Botterill, for which we are very grateful. Anyone is always welcome to join us, whether as a member or just when the programme is of interest.

In April, Anne Kings will be speaking on Dementia Awareness.

Bell Ringers' Report by Alan Jeffs

There are 9 regular ringers, with several more registered. Usually, all 8 bells are rung but sometimes only the lighter ones can be managed. (The largest bell weighs as much as 2½ 'mini' cars). Ringing is good fun and supports the church. More ringers would be welcome. The bells were rung for the Platinum Jubilee and also for the Queen's funeral, when they were muffled. They will ring again for the Coronation of Charles III.

Messy church Report by Cate Wickson

Sessions are now held every month on the 4th Sunday, in the afternoon. There are usually 4 activities, one of which is always origami. Parents are becoming more involved with the activities. 36 families are on the role and each receives information about the next meeting. Average attendance is about 40, though the Christmas session hosted 66 people. The average age of the children is between 4 and 5 years old.

At the end of last year, a donation plate was introduced and the money collected covers the cost of the food and drink at tea time.

Planning meetings are held two weeks ahead of each session. Several people regularly bake cakes or biscuits and donate them.

St Mary the Virgin School Report presented by Tom Wickson

Governors' meetings were reported to be good. It is easier to get into the School now that the Covid epidemic is under control. Tom mentioned the wide range of subjects on offer to the children. An unannounced Inspection by Ofsted took place recently. The full report should be available on the school website soon.

Open the Book Report

These sessions started again in September. Years 1 and 2 are grouped together and enjoy the presentations, which happen twice a term at present. More readers/actors would be welcome. The School inspector seemed pleased with the production he saw.

6. Any Other Business

Appointment of Sidespeople.

Charlotte proposed and Meriol seconded the re-appointment of Helen and Jeremy, Lois and David, Val and Bob, Meriol and Jennifer, Christine and Katherine, and Richard and Margaret as sidespeople. The proposal was accepted. All the sidespeople were thanked for their help. Charlotte also thanked the retired clergy, who do so much to help with the smooth running of St Mary's Church. She thanked Mike for the service he gives as sacristan and Carole in her vital role as Parish Secretary.

Churches Together

There was a Walk of Witness this year and continual prayers for the unity of Christians. There will be no Churches Together activities during Lent but monthly lunches for ministers will resume after Easter.

1st Sunday in the Month Services

These stopped during the Covid outbreak and have not started again. The School is still planning the use of their Hall.

Thanking of Helpers

Peter thanked the named and un-named helpers who contribute so much to the life of the Church. Angus was welcomed and thanked for his participation in Church activities. Carole was thanked for carrying out her important role as Parish Secretary with great efficiency.

Philippa was thanked for setting up a new website using 'A Church Near You'.

Sue Bailey thanked the Choir and Organist.

Margaret Porter expressed her appreciation of the move to the VSR for Sunday Services, finding it easier to hear the choir and congregational responses. Mike pointed out that the transport of books, altar items and other equipment needed for the service from the church had been difficult.

The meeting closed and was followed immediately by a meeting of the newly elected PCC.

Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 21 February, 2023

Election of Officers.

The proposal that Mike Sargent continue as Treasurer was put forward by Meriol and seconded by Martyn. The proposal passed unanimously.

Meriol was asked to continue as Secretary until a replacement was found.

Date of the next PCC Meeting: Wednesday, 3 May 2023 at 7.30pm in the VSR.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm with a reading from Acts 2 v.43-47 and The Grace.

Statement of Accounts year ending 31 December 2023

Please see separate booklet

Reports and Information for the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Electoral Roll Report for APCM to be held on 4 April 2024

The number on the Roll as at 31 December 2023 totalled 139.

Names added during 2023

Kathryn Joy, Helen Saxton, Richard Cowell and Margaret Cowell.

Names removed during 2023

Ray & Joan Palmer (moved), Lavinia Skevington (moved), David Grundy (moved) Susan Cooke (RIP), Thomas Brain (RIP), Joyce Rainey (RIP), Steve Young (RIP), Anne May (RIP)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

Administrative Information

Saint Mary the Virgin Church is situated in Queen Street, Gillingham, Dorset. It is part of the Benefice of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o The Rectory, High Street, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4AJ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC, Church Representation Rules 2020) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members that have served since 21 February 2023 until the date this report was approved are: -

Incumbent (Chairman): Vacant, previously Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (ex-officio)
(left October 2023)

Pioneer Priest: Vacant, previously Revd Eve Pegler (ex-officio) (left July 2023)

Benefice Curate half time: Revd Angus Mayhew (ex-officio)

Churchwardens: Mrs Charlotte Armstrong (resigned June 2023)

Mr Martyn Sanger (resigned May 2023)

Mrs Helen Long (elected October 2023)

Mr Tom Wickson (elected October 2023)

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Sarah Snook (to APCM 2026)

Mrs Kate Wickson (to APCM 2026)

Lay Vice Chair: Mr Alan Jeffs (to APCM 2025)

Treasurer: Mr Michael Sargent (to APCM 2025)

Secretary: (Minutes) Miss Miriam Light (co-opted member July 2023)

Elected Members: Mrs Susan Bailey (to APCM 2026)
Mrs Meriol Cottrell (resigned with effect from APCM 2024)
Mr Richard Cowell (to APCM 2025)
Mr Michael Giddings (to APCM 2025)
Dr Teresa Goatham (to APCM 2026)
Miss Jennifer Light (to APCM 2025)
Mr Colin Marsh (resigned May 2023)
Mrs Sarah Sanger (resigned October 2023)
Mr Steve Young (RIP)

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Carole Blackmore

Gillingham Churches Together Representatives: Revd Canon Peter Greenwood – until October but now vacant

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Carol Hall and Mrs Sarah Snook

Aims and Purposes

Every Church of England Church has the same aim: “To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”.

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or act ex officio. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Mary's PCC as trustees have the responsibility of co-operating and working with the incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish of Gillingham, sharing in the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Vicarage School Room in Queen Street, Gillingham.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

St Mary's Church was open for public worship throughout 2023 always in accordance with the guidance given by the Church of England. Sunday attendance averaged 65 with larger congregations at festivals such as Easter and Christmas and other special occasions. The midweek communion service regularly numbers 12.

We marked the coronation of His Majesty King Charles with Holy Communion 'A Celebration of the King's Coronation' on Sunday 7 May. We participated fully in the civic ceremonies held in our town. We celebrated the major festivals including Advent Carol Service, Burning of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, School Leavers Service, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Crib Service, Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

Statistics of Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Confirmations

Baptisms	16
Weddings	1
Funerals at St Mary's	13
Funerals at Crematorium	14
Burial of ashes	6

Regular Services

1 st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday weekly	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday mornings	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday evenings fortnightly	7.15pm	Meditation
Saturday mornings fortnightly	10.30am	Meditation
4 th Sunday	3.30pm	Messy Church

Services were held for all significant festivals.

St Mary's Church is open daily between 10am and 4pm for quiet prayer and reflection.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023

During the year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 the PCC met on six occasions with the Standing Committee meeting occasionally on a casual basis. The PCC continued using the 'Build' committee which looks after finance, housekeeping and buildings. The Christian Action Committee was reformed and the Grow Committee currently operates as part of Messy Church.

The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on 21 February 2023.

We thanked and said goodbye to Revd Eve Pegler in July and Revd Canon Peter Greenwood in October.

In June the Revd. Angus Mayhew was ordained priest at Salisbury Cathedral supported by parishioners from both this benefice and Marnhull (who share his curacy).

During the course of the year our churchwardens Charlotte Armstrong and Martyn Sanger resigned. In October Helen Long and Tom Wickson were elected Churchwardens in their place.

Eden Café, opens twice weekly in the Vicarage School Room, enabling fellowship and service to the local community at the same time as contributing significantly to our fund raising. Recycling continued alongside Eden although there may be some changes to what is collected in 2024 (December minutes).

The meditation group continues to thrive.

Messy Church met on a monthly basis when possible throughout 2023 and new families were regularly welcomed. The church's work with local schools continues through the work of governors, collective worship, and Open the Book.

Our annual stewardship appeal was launched as usual on Passion Sunday and again resulted with individual increases to planned giving. However, with deaths and moves out of the area we have seen a decrease in planned giving and overall income.

The PCC continues to manage the maintenance of the church.

The Key Holder List is regularly updated.

Risk Assessments are routine and various policy documents are available.

FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY

Please see separate booklet

RESERVES POLICY

It is current PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds that equates to three months outgoings in order to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. With finances such as they are and to ensure that these reserves can be maintained into the future the PCC approved the treasurer's suggestion to cancel the Direct Debit for the Diocesan Share by the end of 2023 so that the PCC pays only what our finances allow.

FABRIC REPORT

The fabric of St Mary's continues to cause concern, especially as there are still areas where the rain can be driven in, depending upon the direction of the weather. The repairs to the northwest nave aisle roof carried out by Ellis of Shepton Mallet under the wardenship of our predecessors have been valuable and successful, though the water staining on the paintwork on the northeast section of the tower (facing into the nave) remains unsightly. We are advised to wait two years to allow the stones to dry out fully before repainting.

The church architect we have employed for a number of years has left the practice for which he worked and set up on his own account. The PCC decided it would prefer to remain with the larger organisation and we have appointed Tomas Griffin of b2 Architects of Wedmore to be our architect. He is on the diocesan list of approved architects. This is a Quinquennial Inspection year for St Mary's and at the time of writing May 7th has been pencilled in as the date for Mr Griffin to come and look over the building in detail. On an acquainting visit, we drew his attention to what concerns us, particularly the roofs.

We have received a complaint from a couple who recently moved into St Mary's Court that the bells ring loudly on Sundays and at practice on Mondays and that the clock chimes keep them awake at night. The Ringing Coordinator, Alan Jeffs, has been in touch with Smiths of Derby who maintain the clock. They have quoted a figure of approximately £2,500 plus VAT to install a mechanism to allow the chimes to be turned off at night.

The sound system has been augmented with a Bluetooth device to allow music to be played from mobile phones, iPads, etc. This is used chiefly at funerals. The whole sound system keeps working but is old and fussy in its habits. We have been quoted £11,700 (including VAT) to replace it and at this time of financial stringency we do not feel able to go ahead with such a large investment. We also feel that it would be reasonable to wait until a new rector is appointed and canvas their ideas on the subject.

The Town Council has considered in the recent past rebuilding the churchyard wall nearest Spring Corner and re-doing the churchyard paths and the steps leading towards the Parish Office. They too are feeling the limiting effects of inflation and economic stagnation, so there is no progress to report at this time.

The Vicarage School Room is busier than ever, having taken on a number of bookings from the now closed Methodist Church hall. Perhaps most important of these is the Gillingham Community Cinema. The Methodists very kindly allocated funds from their closing accounts to pay for moving the screen, projector, sound system, etc to the VSR. We hope that this may add to Eden Café as one of our major fund-raising initiatives.

Helen Long and Tom Wickson, Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

We have two synod members, Kate Wickson and Sarah Snook. I was at two of the last three meetings.

In May we met in Shillingstone church for a presentation on Giving and Fundraising by Anna Hardy. As suggested at this meeting, we now have a bank card reader in church. We then had a meeting at Stalbridge primary school where we discussed finances and the new Deanery Plan. We were asked to take this away to consider.

Our most recent meeting was here in St Mary's VSR, on January 16th. We looked at the final, and adopted, Deanery Plan, and considered in groups how we might be able to implement actions to respond to it in our parishes.

It is always very good to meet with people from across the Deanery and discover we all share very similar worries and problems but are all struggling on together.

Kate Wickson, Deanery Synod Representative

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO's) are Sarah Snook and Carol Hall. Some members have completed training and have a DBS. There have been a few safeguarding incidents that have needed to be dealt with over the past year.

PSO Sarah Snook is currently working with the team and Salisbury Safeguarding Team to ensure everyone has a DBS if needed and that they have, or will, undertake the relevant safeguarding training online as soon as possible.

Sarah Snook, Parish Safeguarding Officer

MESSY CHURCH

We have now settled into a successful format that we are all happy with and seems to suit our families. We offer Messy Church monthly, usually on the 4th Sunday of the month, from 3.30pm to approximately 5pm in the VSR.

We try to stay in step with the church year but have also looked at creation and Baptism, baptising a doll. The children loved this session.

Anne Heywood is our regular worship leader and uses her wonderful ability to connect with the children most effectively. When she was away one time we used a video of her that Sarah Snook and I spoke to. The children really believed she was there and were very keen to find our lost sheep for her.

We have a wonderful team of helpers, always creative and great with the families. I am very grateful for their willingness and enthusiasm.

We have a pretty regular group of families that come. We usually have approximately 30 to 35 people attending, parents and children. And we all sit down to a lovely tea together to end each session.

I am delighted we can offer Messy Church to families in our community.

Kate Wickson

SMTV SCHOOL REPORT

The school has had to adapt since September to a new regime of Jen Williamson, previously Deputy Head Teacher as Head of School and Matt Barge as Executive Head. This is a compromise in terms of time as Jen teaches a class two days a week and Matt is only in school two days per week. He is also head of 2 other schools. These arrangements are made by Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) of which St Mary's is part.

But despite real challenges with staff absence because of sickness last term standards of work in the classroom remain high and the children's behaviour is very good. The children are taught to respect their Christian values, through prayers and reminders in class, and in worship.

Open the Book sessions are seen as part of the school's worship activity. We are still able to send a team in every week to share Bible stories with the children in years R, 1 and 2. Many thanks to those who volunteer for this very worthwhile and enjoyable task.

Kate Wickson

CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee was reformed during the year, but with only 2 members at present we are limited in what we can do. Mostly this involves money raising activities for charities that the church supports, as well as distributing harvest gifts. Some activities that fall under the remit of this committee are (thankfully) done by other members of the congregation, and so do not currently need our active involvement. We have picked up the Church of England Children's Society activities, and thank Janet Botterill for doing this for the last few years, and her continued support. I am currently bringing the church Traidcraft Stall to an end, but will continue to promote Fairtrade. We hope shortly to review our eco church position - are we doing what we should be (for our current award?) and if there more can we do?

More committee members would be welcome - you do not have to be on the PCC.

Teresa Goatham

BELL RINGERS

We have managed to ring for the Sunday morning Eucharist services throughout the year, and also for the national event of the coronation of King Charles 111, Remembrance Sunday, and the Town Carol Service.

The regular ringing band is small in number, reduced due to long-term sickness; we are often helped by ringers from other towers, and would welcome a few more recruits (young or not so young) willing to learn to ring on our ring of eight bells. Ringing is good exercise for mind and body, is a service to the church, and good fun as well! Practice night is on Monday evenings (excluding bank holidays).

If any member of the congregation would like to see us 'in action' on a Sunday morning or practice night, we are happy to arrange this.

Alan Jeffs, Ringing co-ordinator

IMPACT MAGAZINE

Impact, the parish magazine produced 10 editions this year but regrettably December 2023 was the last issue as no volunteers came forward to act as either editor or advertising administrator.

PARISH OFFICE

Mrs Carole Blackmore looks after the whole benefice dealing with all day to day enquiries, arranging weddings, funerals, baptisms, taking VSR bookings, liaising with all elected parish officers, organising and printing the weekly newsletters, the collating and printing of Impact until publication ceased, and keeping the administration in good order. There is also a pastoral element to her role in the office in listening to and dealing with parishioners queries and supporting the clergy.

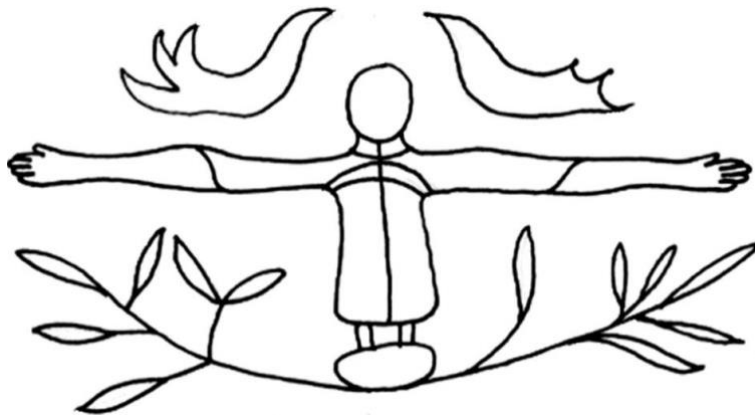
THE VICARAGE SCHOOL ROOM (VSR)

Our church hall has become more and more a community hub. We now have Gillingham Repair Café, country dancing, pilates, the local community cinema, and our community café, Eden café, Friday Breakfast and Board Games Afternoon running from this building. Occasional events include Art and Craft Events, Lent Lunches, various fundraising pop-ups, and it is also popular for hire for children's parties when there is a free slot. A family of Syrian refugees run Syrian Cuisine, their takeaway and restaurant, from these premises on Friday and Saturday evenings. It is the place where St Mary's congregation gather for coffee after Sunday morning Eucharist.

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Statement of Accounts
for the year ending 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1158272

Overview of Finances as of 31 December 2023

As you can see from the 2023 Statement of Accounts the bottom line has gone from bad at the end of 2022 to worse in 2023 with a new deficit of £29,097, reducing our reserves still further. The bottom line arises from greater expenses of which diocesan share, diocesan fees, energy and insurance alone amounting to £114,617 exceeding our real income – (real income excludes transfers from restricted funds).

Likewise, income is reduced with Planned Giving again down as sadly some of our church family have moved on or have departed this life (RIP) and others, due to cost-of-living impact, are reviewing their giving, mostly downwards. The effect is that Planned Giving has reduced by 4.2% against a previous longer-term trend of 3.3%. However, income for this year only, was boosted by claiming an extra £4,822 Gift Aid (the overall total of £19,239 covered the previous 18 months).

Fees relating to funerals and weddings (both received and paid) reduced significantly in 2023 as there was a weddings bonanza in 2022 following delays caused by Covid.

VSR rental again improved and continues to increase as we pick up bookings from what was the Methodist Hall, but this has consequentially increased running costs and complicates cleaning.

Fund Raising has again provided a most welcome income stream of some £6,250 from Eden, Sunday coffee and Repair Café donations and other events such as the welcome Plant Sale. This was however down against budget as the sale of loose goods ceased early in the year. We must congratulate all involved in fundraising because it was indeed a goodly sum that was raised.

Other variances can be seen on examination of the Statement of Accounts.

The deficits of 2022 and 2023 are clearly unsustainable. As things currently stand, with our projected income and including all of our available reserves, we have insufficient funds to pay the 2024 diocesan share in full. With PCC agreement, I have therefore produced a balanced budget for 2024 that will maintain our reserves at their current level into the future. To achieve this, we have cancelled the Direct Debit with Diocese and will use our Diocesan Share contribution as the balancing item which, in 'plain speak', means only paying what our finances allow. This is likely to be just 44% of the £91,544 that diocese have requested for 2024, although it can be adjusted either way depending how our finances develop. The downside of all churches struggling to fully meet their share request is that clergy numbers would likely be affected across the diocese. However, Diocese are changing the way the Share is calculated in 2025 though it is not possible to know quite how that will affect us in the longer term, but it is envisaged that the system will be phased in over 4 years in order to keep the increases for those whose Share will rise to reasonable amounts. Those whose Share will decrease will be pegged at the 2024 share ask for a further 2 years and this will fund the phasing in of the increases. Decreases will be applied in a phased manner in years 3 and 4 of the transition period.

The Fabric Fund remains reasonably healthy with over £35,000 available, which is just as well with a leaking nave roof requiring attention. The Fabric Fund also contributes 50% of the cost of church/VSR insurance which is generally slightly less than its income from investments thus ensuring that the fund is not reduced by this methodology. The Pioneer Fund stands at £34,164 but that is only available for mission related tasks. So, superficially it may appear that there is more money available than the above commentary suggests but all the funds labelled as 'restricted', or 'investment' cannot be used for general purposes.

At this time, it is therefore very appropriate to be thankful for the reserves secured by our forebears without which we would have not met our commitments over the last couple of years.

Mike Sargent - Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO DATE
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Budget	Budget to	Actual	Whole Year	
	2023	31/12/2023	31/12/2023	2022	
	£		£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	55000	55000	49146		51320.4
Collections and other giving	5100	5100	7187.83		5566.35
Tax recovered	15000	15000	19238.75		7959.1
				75572.58	64845.85
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies	2000	2000	3244.37		8500
Donations	4025	4025	3508.49		7483.18
Grants	300	300	793.16		952.4
				7546.02	16935.58
Income from operating activities to further the work of the church					
Impact magazine	2260	2260	1168		2432
Rent from VSR	5200	5200	6500		5191.2
Fundraising	10200	10200	6520.38		9243.81
Fees	13000	13000	10450		23133.29
				24638.38	40000.3
Income from investments					
Bank interest	200	200	1436.57		815.92
Central costs paid by Milton	2450	2450	2294.02		2349.62
Central costs paid by Silton	2450	2450	2327.92		2306.88
Transfers from restricted funds	3200	3200	12301		5459.92
				18359.51	10932.34
Total Receipts	120385	120385		126116.49	132714.07
PAYMENTS					
Grants					
Home charities & misc charges, etc.	200	200	1219.41		1786.01
				1219.41	1786.01
Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Diocesan parish share	88433	88433	88433.4		85857.72
Church running expenses	16300	16300	17068.71		10380.15
VSR running expenses	7150	7150	7667.86		3783.68
Clergy expenses	1000	1000	741.95		929.7
Cost of services	1040	1040	859.21		1002.53
Cost of fundraising	150	150	571.67		168.8
Church capital expenses	3000	3000	7384.71		331.2
VSR capital expenses	1000	1000	2702.38		3666.08
Salaries and honoraria	13760	13760	14013.37		15295.33
Mission and evangelism	1700	1700	908.03		1947.43
				140351.29	123362.62
Church management and administration					
Office costs	4400	4400	4140.13		4462.17
Assigned fees	5700	5700	7092.6		11332
Bank charges	0	0	0		0
				11232.73	15794.17
Transfers to restricted funds	3900	3900	2410		3960
				2410	3960
Total Payments	147733	147733		155213.43	144902.8
Excess - Gross Receipts minus Gross Payments	-27348	-27348		-29096.94	-12188.73
Total opening funds held				70423.29	82612.02
Total closing funds held				41326.35	70423.29
			Checksum	41326.35	
Opening reserved funds available for general use (inc. Legacy Fund)				66517.92	
Closing reserved funds available for general use (inc. Legacy Fund)				37735.51	

Note 1 35410.21 is currently held for singular purposes (includes Misc and Legacy Funds)

GENERAL FUND BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation

DATE: 31/12/2023

LEDGER	C/F from 31.12.22	70423.29
	Plus Receipts YTD	126116.49
	Minus Payments YTD	155213.43
	SO's in bank but outstanding to Ledger	0.00
	Total	41326.35
BANK	Santander current	10824.06
@ 30/09/22	CCLA deposit	30423.17
	Plus cash	393.75
	Flower cash	315.55 Held in Church Safe
	Plus Cheques to be paid in	0.00
	Plus uncleared credits	1160.12
	Minus uncashed cheques	1040.30
	Minus uncleared debits	0.00
		0.00
		0.00
	Gillingham Shaftesbury Show	750.00 Not in Ledger- Non church assets
		0.00
	Total	41326.35

Difference 0.00

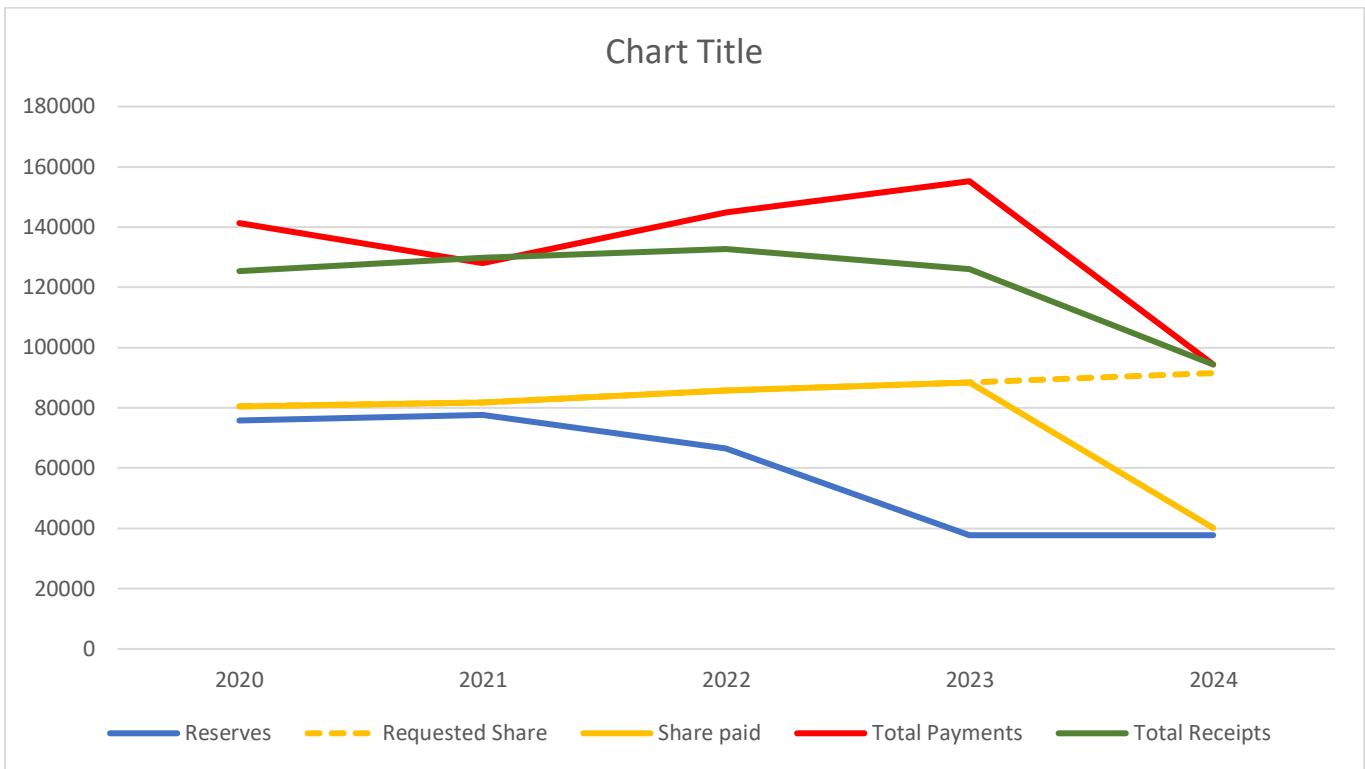
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR 31/12/2023

	GENERAL FUND SANTANDER 97333084 CCLA 634117003D CB3034452	RESTRICTED FUNDS				INVESTMENT FUNDS		
		Fabric Fund CCLA 634117001D CB3034449	Carlton Cross CCLA 634117002D CB3034451	Choir Fund CCLA 634117006D CB3034453	Pioneer Pot CCLA 634117007D CB3034454	Administered by Diocese		
					Nurse Reid CCLA 634117001S CB3034450	Church Trust CCLA 134001358S CB3015378-001	Carlton Cross CCLA 134001343S CB3015372-001	
Monetary assets at 31.12.22	70423.29	41119.63	7289.82	1311.24	31563.80	Bid market valuation		
RECEIPTS						136779.09	3551.71	12665.94
Net receipts	112378.92							
Donations								
Interest	1436.57	1120.62	333.12	41.27	1025.39			
Income from other CCLA investments		4199.89	283.09					
Investment gain/loss								
Transfers in	12301.00	835.00	0.00	0.00	1575.00			
PAYMENTS								
Net payments	152803.43							
Transfers out	2410.00	12167.00	0.00	134.00	0.00			
Monetary assets at last reconciliation	41326.35	35108.14	7906.03	1218.51	34164.19	149760.11	3888.79	13857.05

Checksum 41326.35

GENERAL FUND APPORTIONMENT
@ reconciliation

	£	£
	2023	2022 (Year end)
NON-SPECIFIC (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	37942.92	
Receipts	122488.82	
Payments	154515.6	
Funds YTD	5916.14	37942.92
LEGACY FUND (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	28575	
Receipts	3244.37	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	31819.37	28575
FREE BREAKFAST FRIDAY (DESIGNATED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	851.92	
Receipts	5.6	
Payments	327.23	
Funds YTD	530.29	851.92
BELL RINGERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	2546.5	
Receipts	88.7	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	2635.2	2546.5
BIBLES for SCHOOLS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	96.4	
Receipts	209	
Payments	285.6	
Funds YTD	19.8	96.4
MOTHERS UNION (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	90	
Receipts	0	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	90	90
CHURCH FLOWERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	320.55	
Receipts	80	
Payments	85	
Funds YTD	315.55	320.55
TOTAL	41326.35	70423.29
Of which misc funds (inc Legacy Fund)	35410.21	32480.37
Of which misc funds (NOT inc Legacy Fund)	3590.84	3905.37
Total misc receipts	3627.67	
Total misc payments	697.83	
Ecess receipts over payments	2929.84	



The above graph is intended to highlight how we intend to bring our finances firmly under control.

The Green line indicates our projected income.

The Yellow dotted line shows the Share request allocated to St. Mary's, whereas the solid yellow line indicates what we have budgeted to pay.

The consequence of paying this reduced share is that our total expenditure (red line) drops to match our income resulting in the flatlining of our reserves.

All of the above is, of course, based on projected figures and we will monitor income and expenditure throughout the year and make adjustments to maintain a balanced set of accounts.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Gillingham, Dorset

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2023

Charity no (if any)

1158272

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

John Bartlett

Date:

14.03.24

Name:

JOHN BARTLETT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

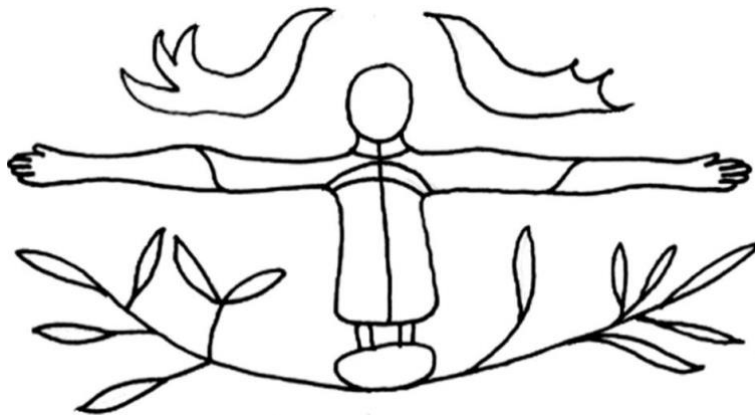
Address:

SHICKOTTS COTTAGE
MILTON ON STOUR, GILLINGHAM
DORSET SP8 5QD

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Statement of Accounts
for the year ending 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1158272

Overview of Finances as of 31 December 2023

As you can see from the 2023 Statement of Accounts the bottom line has gone from bad at the end of 2022 to worse in 2023 with a new deficit of £29,097, reducing our reserves still further. The bottom line arises from greater expenses of which diocesan share, diocesan fees, energy and insurance alone amounting to £114,617 exceeding our real income – (real income excludes transfers from restricted funds).

Likewise, income is reduced with Planned Giving again down as sadly some of our church family have moved on or have departed this life (RIP) and others, due to cost-of-living impact, are reviewing their giving, mostly downwards. The effect is that Planned Giving has reduced by 4.2% against a previous longer-term trend of 3.3%. However, income for this year only, was boosted by claiming an extra £4,822 Gift Aid (the overall total of £19,239 covered the previous 18 months).

Fees relating to funerals and weddings (both received and paid) reduced significantly in 2023 as there was a weddings bonanza in 2022 following delays caused by Covid.

VSR rental again improved and continues to increase as we pick up bookings from what was the Methodist Hall, but this has consequentially increased running costs and complicates cleaning.

Fund Raising has again provided a most welcome income stream of some £6,250 from Eden, Sunday coffee and Repair Café donations and other events such as the welcome Plant Sale. This was however down against budget as the sale of loose goods ceased early in the year. We must congratulate all involved in fundraising because it was indeed a goodly sum that was raised.

Other variances can be seen on examination of the Statement of Accounts.

The deficits of 2022 and 2023 are clearly unsustainable. As things currently stand, with our projected income and including all of our available reserves, we have insufficient funds to pay the 2024 diocesan share in full. With PCC agreement, I have therefore produced a balanced budget for 2024 that will maintain our reserves at their current level into the future. To achieve this, we have cancelled the Direct Debit with Diocese and will use our Diocesan Share contribution as the balancing item which, in 'plain speak', means only paying what our finances allow. This is likely to be just 44% of the £91,544 that diocese have requested for 2024, although it can be adjusted either way depending how our finances develop. The downside of all churches struggling to fully meet their share request is that clergy numbers would likely be affected across the diocese. However, Diocese are changing the way the Share is calculated in 2025 though it is not possible to know quite how that will affect us in the longer term, but it is envisaged that the system will be phased in over 4 years in order to keep the increases for those whose Share will rise to reasonable amounts. Those whose Share will decrease will be pegged at the 2024 share ask for a further 2 years and this will fund the phasing in of the increases. Decreases will be applied in a phased manner in years 3 and 4 of the transition period.

The Fabric Fund remains reasonably healthy with over £35,000 available, which is just as well with a leaking nave roof requiring attention. The Fabric Fund also contributes 50% of the cost of church/VSR insurance which is generally slightly less than its income from investments thus ensuring that the fund is not reduced by this methodology. The Pioneer Fund stands at £34,164 but that is only available for mission related tasks. So, superficially it may appear that there is more money available than the above commentary suggests but all the funds labelled as 'restricted', or 'investment' cannot be used for general purposes.

At this time, it is therefore very appropriate to be thankful for the reserves secured by our forebears without which we would have not met our commitments over the last couple of years.

Mike Sargent - Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO DATE
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Budget	Budget to	Actual	Whole Year	
	2023	31/12/2023	31/12/2023	2022	
	£		£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	55000	55000	49146		51320.4
Collections and other giving	5100	5100	7187.83		5566.35
Tax recovered	15000	15000	19238.75		7959.1
				75572.58	64845.85
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies	2000	2000	3244.37		8500
Donations	4025	4025	3508.49		7483.18
Grants	300	300	793.16		952.4
				7546.02	16935.58
Income from operating activities to further the work of the church					
Impact magazine	2260	2260	1168		2432
Rent from VSR	5200	5200	6500		5191.2
Fundraising	10200	10200	6520.38		9243.81
Fees	13000	13000	10450		23133.29
				24638.38	40000.3
Income from investments					
Bank interest	200	200	1436.57		815.92
Central costs paid by Milton	2450	2450	2294.02		2349.62
Central costs paid by Silton	2450	2450	2327.92		2306.88
Transfers from restricted funds	3200	3200	12301		5459.92
				18359.51	10932.34
Total Receipts	120385	120385		126116.49	132714.07
PAYMENTS					
Grants					
Home charities & misc charges, etc.	200	200	1219.41		1786.01
				1219.41	1786.01
Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Diocesan parish share	88433	88433	88433.4		85857.72
Church running expenses	16300	16300	17068.71		10380.15
VSR running expenses	7150	7150	7667.86		3783.68
Clergy expenses	1000	1000	741.95		929.7
Cost of services	1040	1040	859.21		1002.53
Cost of fundraising	150	150	571.67		168.8
Church capital expenses	3000	3000	7384.71		331.2
VSR capital expenses	1000	1000	2702.38		3666.08
Salaries and honoraria	13760	13760	14013.37		15295.33
Mission and evangelism	1700	1700	908.03		1947.43
				140351.29	123362.62
Church management and administration					
Office costs	4400	4400	4140.13		4462.17
Assigned fees	5700	5700	7092.6		11332
Bank charges	0	0	0		0
				11232.73	15794.17
Transfers to restricted funds	3900	3900	2410		3960
				2410	3960
Total Payments	147733	147733		155213.43	144902.8
Excess - Gross Receipts minus Gross Payments	-27348	-27348		-29096.94	-12188.73
Total opening funds held				70423.29	82612.02
Total closing funds held				41326.35	70423.29
			Checksum	41326.35	
Opening reserved funds available for general use (inc. Legacy Fund)				66517.92	
Closing reserved funds available for general use (inc. Legacy Fund)				37735.51	

Note 1 35410.21 is currently held for singular purposes (includes Misc and Legacy Funds)

GENERAL FUND BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation

DATE: 31/12/2023

LEDGER	C/F from 31.12.22	70423.29
	Plus Receipts YTD	126116.49
	Minus Payments YTD	155213.43
	SO's in bank but outstanding to Ledger	0.00
	Total	41326.35
BANK	Santander current	10824.06
@ 30/09/22	CCLA deposit	30423.17
	Plus cash	393.75
	Flower cash	315.55 Held in Church Safe
	Plus Cheques to be paid in	0.00
	Plus uncleared credits	1160.12
	Minus uncashed cheques	1040.30
	Minus uncleared debits	0.00
		0.00
		0.00
	Gillingham Shaftesbury Show	750.00 Not in Ledger- Non church assets
		0.00
	Total	41326.35

Difference 0.00

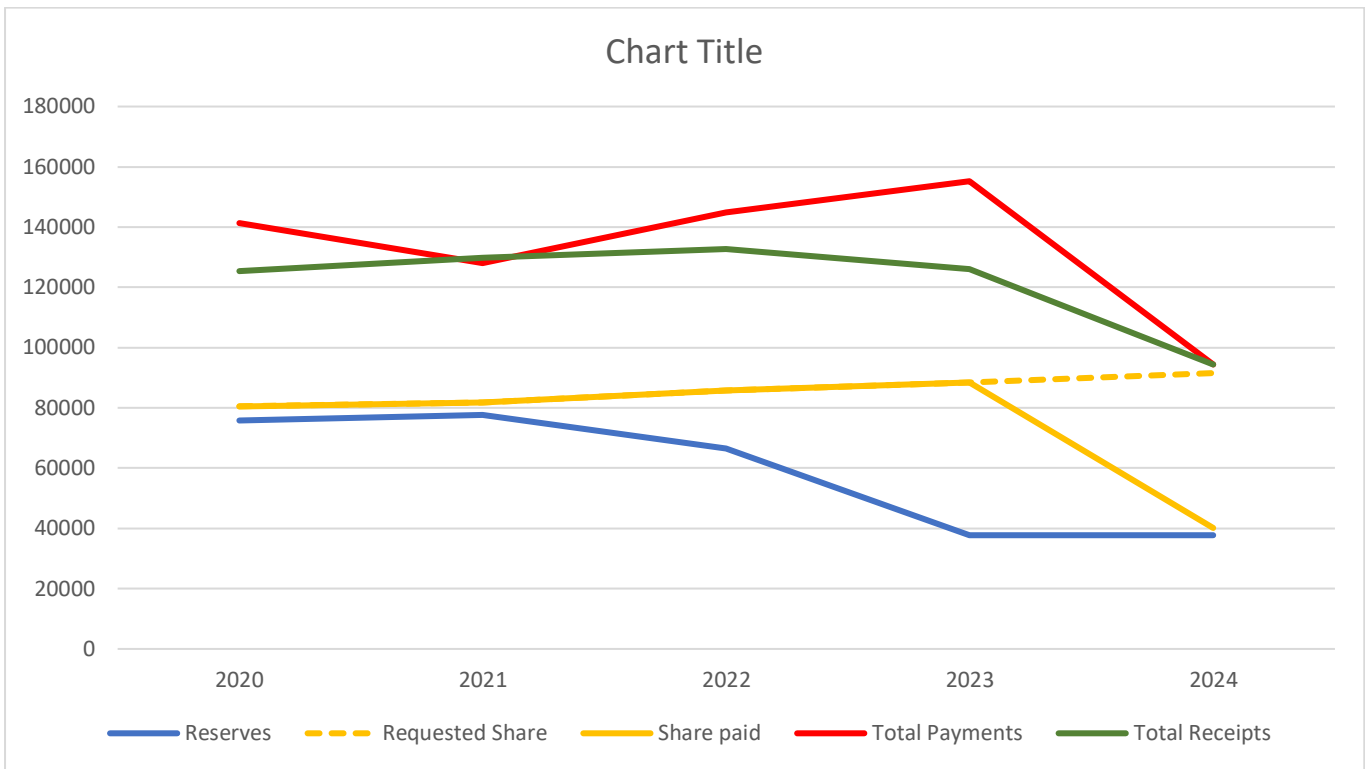
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR 31/12/2023

	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS				INVESTMENT FUNDS		
	SANTANDER 97333084 CCLA 634117003D CB3034452	Fabric Fund CCLA 634117001D CB3034449	Carlton Cross CCLA 634117002D CB3034451	Choir Fund CCLA 634117006D CB3034453	Pioneer Pot CCLA 634117007D CB3034454	Administered by Diocese		
					Nurse Reid CCLA 634117001S CB3034450	Church Trust CCLA 134001358S CB3015378-001	Carlton Cross CCLA 134001343S CB3015372-001	
Monetary assets at 31.12.22	70423.29	41119.63	7289.82	1311.24	31563.80	Bid market valuation		
						136779.09	3551.71	12665.94
RECEIPTS								
Net receipts	112378.92							
Donations								
Interest	1436.57	1120.62	333.12	41.27	1025.39			
Income from other CCLA investments		4199.89	283.09					
Investment gain/loss								
Transfers in	12301.00	835.00	0.00	0.00	1575.00			
PAYMENTS								
Net payments	152803.43							
Transfers out	2410.00	12167.00	0.00	134.00	0.00			
Monetary assets at last reconciliation	41326.35	35108.14	7906.03	1218.51	34164.19	149760.11	3888.79	13857.05

Checksum 41326.35

GENERAL FUND APPORTIONMENT
@ reconciliation

	£	£
	2023	2022 (Year end)
NON-SPECIFIC (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	37942.92	
Receipts	122488.82	
Payments	154515.6	
Funds YTD	5916.14	37942.92
LEGACY FUND (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	28575	
Receipts	3244.37	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	31819.37	28575
FREE BREAKFAST FRIDAY (DESIGNATED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	851.92	
Receipts	5.6	
Payments	327.23	
Funds YTD	530.29	851.92
BELL RINGERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	2546.5	
Receipts	88.7	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	2635.2	2546.5
BIBLES for SCHOOLS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	96.4	
Receipts	209	
Payments	285.6	
Funds YTD	19.8	96.4
MOTHERS UNION (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	90	
Receipts	0	
Payments	0	
Funds YTD	90	90
CHURCH FLOWERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.22	320.55	
Receipts	80	
Payments	85	
Funds YTD	315.55	320.55
TOTAL	41326.35	70423.29
Of which misc funds (inc Legacy Fund)	35410.21	32480.37
Of which misc funds (NOT inc Legacy Fund)	3590.84	3905.37
Total misc receipts	3627.67	
Total misc payments	697.83	
Ecess receipts over payments	2929.84	



The above graph is intended to highlight how we intend to bring our finances firmly under control.

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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Gillingham, Dorset

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2023

Charity no (if any)

1158272

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

14.03.24

Name:

JOHN BARTLETT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

[Blank]

Address:

SHICKOTTS COTTAGE
MILTON ON STOUR, GILLINGHAM
DORSET SP8 5QD

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

Data Protection Notice

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) came into force in May 2018. As with all organisations, whether large businesses or small charities like ourselves, we must conform. We can advise that the only data we hold in confidence on any person within the parish is: -

- contact details that we use solely for communications with yourselves

- planned giving details that you choose to provide and held in total confidence on encrypted, password protected systems shared only with HMRC.

- contact and other details for baptisms, marriages and funerals for contact purposes and as required in law for the registers.

We do NOT share this information with any other outside bodies.

Administrative Information

Saint Mary the Virgin Church is situated in Queen Street, Gillingham, Dorset. It is part of the Benefice of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o The Rectory, High Street, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4AJ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC, Church Representation Rules 2020) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members that have served since 22 February 2022 until the date this report was approved are: -

Incumbent (Chairman): Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (ex-officio)

Pioneer Priest Revd Eve Pegler (ex-officio)

Associate Priest Revd Tim Heaton (ex-officio – seconded to the Shaftesbury Benefice)

Benefice Curate half time Revd Angus Mayhew (June 2022)

Churchwardens: Mrs Charlotte Armstrong and Mr Martyn Sanger (appointed 15 May 2022)

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Susan Bailey (to 2023), Mrs Sarah Snook (to 2023) and Mrs Cate Wickson (to 2023 – elected at May 2021 PCC Meeting)

Secretary: Meriol Cottrell

Treasurer: Mr Michael Sargent

Elected Members:

- Mrs Meriol Cottrell (to APCM 2023)
- Mr Richard Cowell (to APCM 2025)
- Mr Michael Giddings (to APCM 2025)
- Dr Teresa Goatham (to APCM 2023)
- Mrs Anne Kings (resigned July 2022)
- Miss Jennifer Light (to APCM 2025)
- Mrs Helen Long (to APCM 2024)
- Mrs Wendy Horne (resigned September 2022)
- Mr Alan Jeffs (to APCM 2025)
- Mr Colin Marsh (to APCM 2025)
- Mrs Sarah Sanger (co-opted 15 May 2022)
- Steve Young (Co-opted member)

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Carole Blackmore

Gillingham Churches Together Representatives: Revd Peter Greenwood

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Carol Hall

Electoral Roll Report for APCM to be held on 21 February 2023

The number on the Roll as at 31 December 2022 totalled 145.

Names added during 2022: - Martyn Sanger, Sarah Sanger, Anita Leigh and Jane Mitchell

Names removed during 2022 : - Murray Pearson (RIP), Richard Clarke (RIP) and Richard Tracey (RIP),
Freda Jerram (RIP)

Aims and Purposes

Every Church of England Church has the same aim: "To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or act ex officio. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Mary's PCC as trustees have the responsibility of co-operating and working with the incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish of Gillingham, sharing in the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Vicarage School Room in Queen Street, Gillingham.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

St Mary's Church was open for public worship throughout 2022 always in accordance with the guidance given by the Church of England and the Government. Sunday attendance averaged 60 with larger congregations at festivals such as Easter and Christmas and other special occasions. The midweek communion service regularly numbers 12.

We marked the platinum jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth with joy and a civic service in church on the morning of Friday 3rd June. With sorrow we marked Her Majesty's death with a civic commemoration service on the afternoon of Sunday 11th September. We participated fully in the civic ceremonies held in our town.

We celebrated the major festivals including Advent Carol Service, Burning of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, School Leavers Service, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Crib Service, Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

The Bishop of Sherborne, Bishop Karen, lead us in the annual benefice service of confirmation at St Mary's this year on the afternoon of Sunday 18 September with baptism and confirmation of six candidates.

Statistics of Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Confirmations

Baptisms 11

Weddings 13

Funerals at St Mary's 25

Funerals at Crematorium 19

Interments of ashes 10

Regular Services

8.00am 1st Sunday - Holy Communion

Morning Prayer – Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

10.00am Sunday - Parish Communion

Meditation – meets weekly

10.30am Holy Communion - Wednesday

4.30pm Silent Prayer - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Services were held for all significant festivals.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

During the year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 the PCC met on six occasions. The PCC continued using the 'Build' committee which looks after finance, housekeeping and buildings.

The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on 22 February 2022.

When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth died, a condolence book was made available in St Mary's Church, and the church collaborated fully with the town council in partnership to mark this sad occasion with a civic service, as mentioned above. In the same way we had previously celebrated with joy Her Majesty's platinum jubilee. With the town council on the High Street we proclaimed the accession of His Majesty King Charles III.

Eden Café continued enabling fellowship, service to the local community and engagement with Climate Change and other environmental matters, open twice weekly in the Vicarage Schoolroom, and Terracycle. Recycling continues at the same time. These activities flow from the fifth mark of mission "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The meditation group continued to meet weekly. Messy Church met three times, in September, November and for a Christmas Messy in December. The church's work with local schools continued through the work of governors, collective worship, and Open the Book. The 'Walking in Faith' group continued monthly with Lent walks and with a Good Friday walk between the churches.

Our annual stewardship appeal was launched as usual on Passion Sunday and again resulted with individual increases to planned giving. However, with deaths and moves out of the area we have seen a decrease in planned giving and overall income.

The PCC continues to manage the maintenance of the church.

The PCC adopted 'in-full' the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy and Job Descriptions are held for all roles within the church. These Job Descriptions enable the PCC to review and take action where DBS checks are required. The PCC has adopted a Safeguarding Policy with regard to Domestic Abuse a resolution was passed in 2019 to enable the diocese to be the link with the Charities Commission for serious safeguarding and other serious incidents. Key holder declarations are complete and the Key Holder List regularly updated. Risk Assessments are now routine and various policy documents are under development. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY

As can be seen from the 2022 Statement of Accounts the bottom line is not good with a deficit of £12,188 which obviously means drawing on our reserves. That bottom line is worse than our deficit budget of £8,364 but would have been worse still if it were not for unexpected generous donations and legacies.

Planned Giving was down slightly but, of that, certain sums are given specifically for the Pioneer Pot. What is of more concern is that Planned Giving has reduced on average by 3.3% p.a. since 2017.

Generous though the donations were in 2022 they did not realise the unusual generosity of 2021.

Another big factor in comparison with 2021 is the Gift Aid claimed – in 2021 there was some back dated claims and though we haven't claimed for the last three quarters of 2022, which would have improved our bottom line significantly, it will be of more use in 2023 where an anticipated deficit is likely to be more than £27,000, much of which is out of our control.

Fees relating to funerals and weddings (both received and paid) increased significantly in 2022 as weddings caught up from the delays caused by Covid - this gave a net increase to our accounts of some £8,782. This is unlikely to be repeated in 2023.

VSR rental improved post Covid with a consequential increase in running costs and there were also capital costs for improvements made to both VSR lighting and stable room decor.

Fund Raising has again provided a most welcome income stream of some £9,244 from Eden, Sunday coffee donations and other events such as the welcome Plant Sale.

Other minor variances can be seen on examination of the Statement of Accounts.

For 2023 we have been advised a 3% increase in the Parish Share paid to diocese, a 6.2% increase in church/VSR insurance and a fourfold increase in the cost of energy which, as mentioned above will leave us with a projected deficit likely to be more than £27,000. If 2023 matches our budget predictions, then 51% of our spendable reserves will have disappeared from their opening 2022 value. We also cautiously await what diocese intend with a potential revised Parish Share scheme for 2024 which currently amounts to 77% of annual real income.

The Fabric Fund remains healthy with over £41,000 available, which is just as well as a leaking nave roof requires attention when we can find a contractor willing to attend. The Fabric Fund contributes 50% of the cost of church/VSR insurance which is slightly less than its income from investments thus ensuring that the fund is not reduced by this methodology. The Pioneer Fund is equally healthy at £31,563.

To conclude on a more positive note the church family has responded generously to appeals and our gifts to home charities, mission and evangelism approximates to 5.7% of our giving (or 3.2% of our gross income) with a particular fantastic sum of £1,257 for the Lui Bicycle Advent Appeal. At this time, it is also appropriate to be thankful for the reserves secured by our forebears without which we would have not met our commitments.

Mike Sargent, Hon. Treasurer

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (if possible) that equates to at least two months unrestricted payments in order to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Approved by the PCC on 16th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (PCC Chairman)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2022

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Actual 2022 £	£	Whole Year 2021 £	£
RECEIPTS				
Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving	51320.40		54030.75	
Collections and other giving	5566.35		4418.20	
Tax recovered	7959.10		25402.34	
		64845.85		83851.29
Other voluntary incoming resources				
Legacies	8500.00		1000.00	
Donations	7483.18		17586.69	
Grants	952.40		205.00	
		16935.58		18791.69
Income from operating activities to further the work of the church				
Impact magazine	2432.00		1744.50	
Rent from VSR	5191.20		1830.00	
Fundraising	9243.81		8060.84	
Fees	23133.29		10570.00	
		40000.30		22205.34
Income from investments				
Bank interest	815.92		26.25	
Central costs paid by Milton	2349.62		2372.43	
Central costs paid by Silton	2306.88		2372.43	
Transfers from restricted funds	5459.92		115.50	
		10932.34		4886.61
Total Receipts		132714.07		129734.93
PAYMENTS				
Grants				
Home charities	1786.01		1958.26	
		1786.01		1958.26
Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Diocesan parish share	85857.72		81769.12	
Church running expenses	10380.15		9684.40	
VSR running expenses	3783.68		1689.96	
Clergy expenses	929.70		1579.03	
Cost of services	1002.53		646.56	
Cost of fundraising	168.80		104.50	
Impact magazine	0.00		0.00	
Church capital expenses	331.20		287.55	
VSR capital expenses	3666.08		191.58	
Salaries and honoraria	15295.33		14847.84	
Mission and evangelism	1947.43		439.35	
		123362.62		111239.89
Church management and administration				
Office costs	4462.17		3435.87	
Assigned fees	11332.00		7561.00	
Bank charges	0.00		0.04	
		15794.17		10996.91
Transfers to restricted funds	3960.00		3900.00	
		3960.00		3900.00
Total Payments		144902.80		128095.06
Excess - Receipts minus Payments		-12188.73		1639.87
Total opening funds held		82612.02		80972.15
Total closing funds held		70423.29	Note 1	82612.02
Opening reserved funds available for general use (inc. legacies)		77657.42		
Closing reserved funds available for general use (inc. legacies)		66517.92		

Note 1 32480.37 is currently held for singular purposes (inc. legacies)

GENERAL FUND APPORTIONMENT
@ reconciliation

	£ 2022	£ 2021 (Year end)
NON-SPECIFIC (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	58,582.42	
Receipts	121,932.62	
Transfer to Legacy	1,000.00	
Payments	<u>141,572.12</u>	
Funds YTD	37,942.92	58,582.42
LEGACY FUND (UNRESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	19,075.00	
Transfer from above	1,000.00	
Jane Harris legacy	5,000.00	
Brain Rainey legacy	500.00	
Louise Done Legacy	1,000.00	
Brenda Sanctuary Legacy	2,000.00	
Payments		
Funds YTD	28,575.00	19,075.00
Eden Capital (DESIGNATED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	1,085.82	
Receipts	0.00	
Payments	<u>1,085.82</u>	
Funds YTD	0.00	1,085.82
FREE BREAKFAST FRIDAY (DESIGNATED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	500.00	
Receipts	510.00	
Payments	<u>158.08</u>	
Funds YTD	851.92	500.00
BELL RINGERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	2,745.20	
Receipts	1,346.00	
Payments	<u>1,544.70</u>	
Funds YTD	2,546.50	2,745.20
BIBLES for SCHOOLS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	29.45	
Receipts	245.45	
Payments	178.50	
Funds YTD	96.40	29.45
MEMORY BOX (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	110.00	
Receipts		
Payments	<u>110.00</u>	
Funds YTD	0.00	110.00
MOTHERS UNION (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	90.00	
Receipts		
Payments		
Funds YTD	90.00	90.00
CHURCH FLOWERS (RESTRICTED)		
Funds at 31.12.21	394.13	
Receipts	180.00	
Payments	253.58	
Funds YTD	320.55	394.13
TOTAL	70,423.29	82,612.02
Of which misc funds	32,480.37	24,029.60
Total misc receipts	10,781.45	
Total misc payments	3,330.68	

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR 31 December 2022

	GENERAL FUND SANTANDER 97333084 CCLA 634117003D	RESTRICTED FUNDS				DESIGNATED Building Fund Lloyds 42542568 CLOSED	INVESTMENT FUNDS				
		Fabric Fund CCLA 634117001D	Carlton Cross CCLA 634117002D	Choir Fund CCLA 634117006D	Pioneer Pot CCLA 634117007D		Administered by Diocese				
						Nurse Reid CCLA 634117001S	Church Trust CCLA 134001358S	Church Trust CCLA 134001209F	Carlton Cross CCLA 134001343S		
Monetary assets at 31.12.21	82,612.02		39,517.10	6,820.20	1,343.75	29,007.75	510.00	154,936.89	3,695.10	333.36	14,336.05
RECEIPTS											
Net receipts	126,438.23										
Donations											
Interest	815.92		522.61	92.92	17.15	399.31					
Income from other CCLA investments			4,176.92	376.70							
Investment gain/loss								-18,157.80	-476.75		-1,670.11
Transfers in	5,459.92		510.00	0.00	0.00	3,450.00	0.00		333.36		
PAYMENTS											
Net payments	140,942.80										
Transfers out	3,960.00		3,607.00	0.00	49.66	1,293.26	510.00			333.36	
Monetary assets at last reconciliation	70,423.29	Note 2	41,119.63	7,289.82	1,311.24	31,563.80	0.00	136,779.09	3,551.71	0.00	12,665.94

Note 2 Of which 32,480.37 is held for singular purposes (see Sheet 6)

Checksum 70,423.29

£510 from Lloyds to Fabric Fund

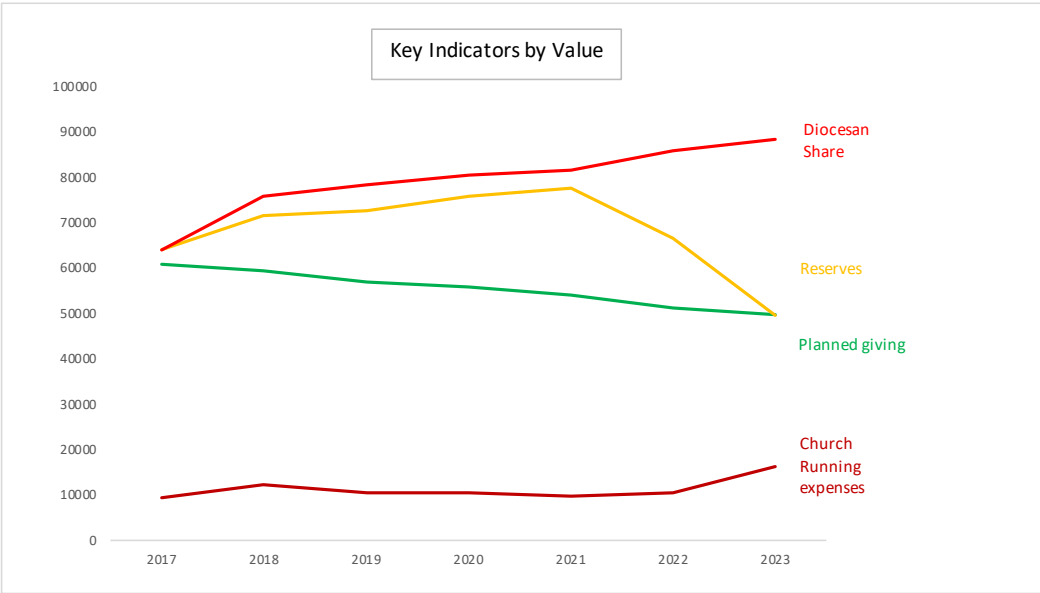
Bid market valuation
Shares transferred by value from 134001209F to 1340011358S

Gillingham and Shafestbury Show

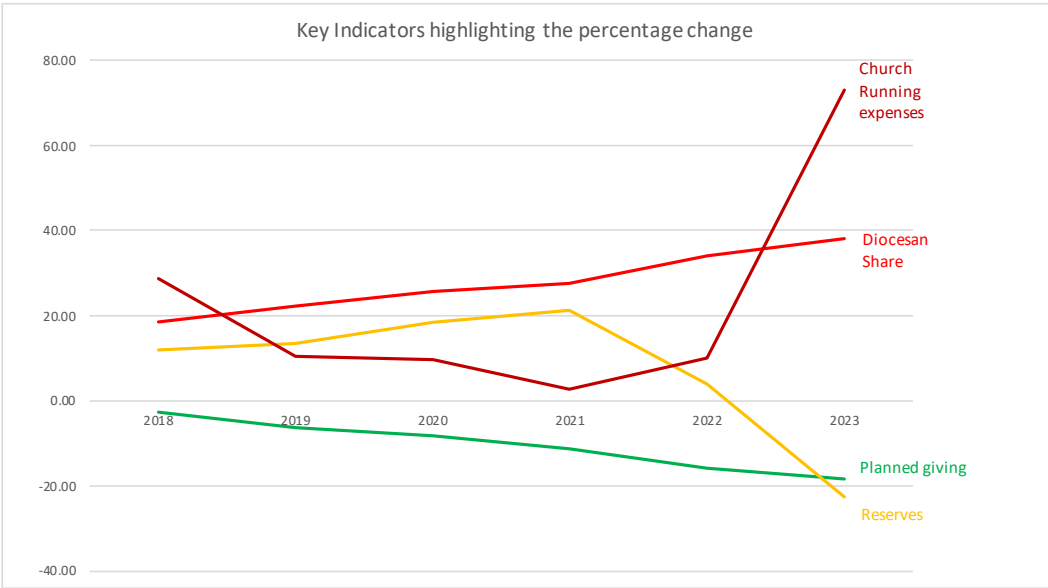
			In hand		
28-Sep	1500	IN	BACS	1500	
13-Oct	500	OUT	22370	1000	DHCT
13-Oct	500	OUT	22371	500	Royal Agricultural benevolent Institution
15-Oct	500	OUT	22372	0	Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Society
					cash
					cash
					cash

LUI Bicycles

21-Nov	20	20	To St Mary's		R377	
27-Nov	170	190	To St Mary's		R386	
30-Nov	10	200	To St Mary's		R389	
05-Dec	170	370	To St Mary's		R399	
09-Dec	5	375	To St Mary's		R406	
11-Dec	150	525	Chq to DBF		TW	
12-Dec	40	565	To St Mary's	+150 rejected chq	R411	
14-Dec	212	777	Chq to DBF		RE	
15-Dec	30	807	Chq to DBF		HL	
15-Dec	110	917	To St Mary's		R418	
16-Dec	20	937	To St Mary's		R418	
18-Dec	30	967	Chq to DBF		FA	
18-Dec	25	992	Chq to DBF		JH	
18-Dec	20	1012	To St Mary's		R420	
20-Dec	150	1162	To St Mary's		R429	
22-Dec	10	1172	To St Mary's		R433	
23-Dec	80	1252	To St Mary's		R437	
25-Dec	5	1257	To St Mary's		R438	
		1257				
		1257				
		1257				
		1257	Gift Aid	126.25		
		1257				
		1257				
		1257	Chq from St Mary's		810	
			Chq direct DBF		447	
			Checksum	1257		1383.25 inc. Gift Aid



These tables indicate the key items affecting our accounts including 2023 projections





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Gillingham, Dorset

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2022

Charity no (if any)

1158272

Set out on pages

1 to 7 of this report and Sections A and B

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ~~accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or~~
- ~~the accounts do not accord with the accounting records~~

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

John McLaren Bartlett

Date:

14.02.2023

Name:

JOHN McLAREN BARTLETT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

SICKETTS COTTAGE
MILTON ON STOUR, GILLINGHAM
DORSET SP8 5QD

FABRIC REPORT

Rain water has been getting in to the nave in the north west corner adjacent to the tower - a builder who will take on the work has now finally been appointed (February 2023). The gutter on the west side of the south porch fell down and is to be repaired. The loose stone on the north porch east corner is also still to be repaired. VSR - The Stable Room has been repainted, thank you very much to the team, and a new floor covering laid. New kitchen lights and taps, and taps in the gentlemen's toilet have also been installed. The storage shed for Little Cherubs is to be replaced in 2023. In conclusion there has been a general difficulty in getting builders to look at what they call "small" jobs. We remain hopeful that this will continue to improve this year.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There were three meetings in 2022, at Marnhull, East Stour and Sturminster. At Marnhull we had a very good review of the situation across the Deanery from Archdeacon Penny Sayer. She was clear in recognising the difficulties of rural ministry and the state we are in.

In the early summer we were at East Stour with a less successful presentation. Tim our new rural Dean, a role he seems to have taken to very well, was very much in charge.

In September our meeting was transformed to a very lovely memorial service for the late Queen, led by Tim and open to all of the Deanery community.

I enjoy the contact with the wider Deanery and hearing how other parishes manage similar problems. It is important we keep in mind this broader perspective.

Kate Wickson, Deanery Synod Representative

IMPACT MAGAZINE

Impact, the parish magazine produced 10 editions this year. With many thanks to those who contribute to the magazine, and especially to David Grundy who edits the magazine, Carole Blackmore who prints and backs us up in many ways with the magazine, Carol Foster who arranges the delivery of the magazine.

PARISH OFFICE

Mrs Carole Blackmore has continued to work tirelessly throughout the year. Looking after the whole benefice she deals with all day to day enquiries, arranging weddings, funerals, baptisms, taking VSR bookings, liaising with all elected parish officers, organising and printing the weekly pew sheets, printing and collating Impact and keeping the administration in good order. We also recognize and are grateful for the pastoral element of her role in the office in listening to and dealing with parishioners queries and supporting the clergy with her good humour and efficiency.

THE VICARAGE SCHOOL ROOM (VSR)

In 2022 the VSR was used and enjoyed by a wide range of groups and activities including Little Cherubs, Syrian Cuisine, Eden cafe, meditation, after Sunday service coffee, Free Breakfast Friday, private party bookings, art group, Mothers' Union, marriage preparation, Messy Church, funeral refreshments, baptism parties, the garden interest group, Action for Children, Christian Aid Lent lunches, Gillingham Carnival Club, Rock 'n' Roll afternoons, the Town Meadow AGM, Spirit-rhythm-and-rock concert, PCC meetings, Build committee meetings, plant sale, Gillingham swimming club, Gillingham Walkers.... What a great resource it is for the church and the community. Well done everyone who looks after it, especially our cleaner and dedicated volunteers

Accounts



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset

'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Agenda for the Annual Meetings
and Annual Reports for 2021

Tuesday 22 February 2022

The Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Accounts for St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham.

Data Protection Notice

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) came into force in May 2018. As with all organisations, whether large businesses or small charities like ourselves, we must conform. We can advise that the only data we hold in confidence on any person within the parish is: -

- *contact details that we use solely for communications with yourselves*
- *planned giving details that you choose to provide and held in total confidence on encrypted, password protected systems shared only with HMRC.*
- *contact and other details for baptisms, marriages and funerals for contact purposes and as required in law for the registers.*

We do NOT share this information with any other outside bodies.

This Report was approved by the PCC via e-mail and signed on its behalf by the Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (PCC Chairman)

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham
‘Open to God, Open to Gillingham’

Agenda for the Annual Meetings to be held on
Tuesday, 22 February 2022, at 7.30pm in the Vicarage School Room

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Close of Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last meeting – Tuesday 20 April 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Address by the Revd Canon Peter Greenwood
4. Elections
- Parochial Church Council Members - (12 places, 8 to be elected in 2022)
5. Appointments
a. Independent Examiner
6. Reports
a. Electoral Roll Report
b. Presentation of the Annual Report
c. Presentation of the Financial Report
d. Fabric Report
e. Presentation of the Inventory
f. Deanery Synod Report
g. Reports of Church Groups
PCC Secretary
Revd Canon P Greenwood
Treasurer
Churchwardens
Churchwardens
7. Any Other Business

First PCC Meeting

1. Appointment of Officers
2. Date of next PCC meeting

Closing Prayer

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham

‘Open to God, Open to Gillingham’

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of Meetings held on Tuesday, 20 April, 2021 at 7.30pm.

This was a Zoom meeting

Present: Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (**Chair**), Revd. Eve Pegler Revd. Tim Heaton, Charlotte Armstrong, Frieda Attwood, Susan Bailey, David and Jane Banham, Pat Brain, Richard Coles, Meriol Cottrell, June Desouches, Teresa Goatham, Carol and Jeffrey Hall, Jean Harding, Linda and Alan Jeffs, Phil Jones, Helen Long, Anne and Colin Marsh, Joan and Ray Palmer, Eileen Piper, Mary and Mike Sargent, Sarah Snook, Allen Walker, Lois and David Wardle, Cate and Tom Wickson.

Apologies were received from Dudley Coates and Karen and Ian Watson.

The Rev Peter Greenwood opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Two nominations for the position of Church Warden had been received Tom Wickson, proposed by Michael Sargent and seconded by Eileen Piper and Charlotte Armstrong, proposed by Jeffrey Hall and seconded by Meriol Cottrell. They were duly elected and serve for one year until the next meeting for churchwardens. They were thanked for their services in the past year. The Meeting closed at 7.40pm. And was followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes had been circulated before the meeting. There were no corrections to be made and their acceptance was passed unanimously.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. Address by the Revd Canon Peter Greenwood

Peter quoted from a letter sent to the parishes from the Diocesan Board of Finance, “Last year we had a simple message for parishes around the payment of Share which was to ‘pay what you can and don’t worry too much about what you can’t.’ This year the message is a little different reflecting a

new reality and a new urgency in our appeal – that if we truly value the Church and believe it has an ongoing, perhaps a reinvigorated and thriving future post Covid, then we must cherish it, serve it and support it.” Peter left us all with this question to consider for ourselves in a broader sense, and not only financially - that if we truly value the Church and believe it has an ongoing, perhaps a reinvigorated and thriving future post Covid, then how are we each going to cherish it, serve it and support it?

4. **Elections**

Helen Long stood for election to the PCC. Proposed by Tom Wickson and seconded by Charlotte Armstrong.

Cate Wickson volunteered to fill the casual vacancy of 2 years for Deanery Synod Representative. Tom Wickson proposed and Mary Sargent seconded. The meeting unanimously agreed both appointments.

5. **Appointments**

a. Independent Examiner

David Duvall died unexpectedly in April, 2021. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. When a new Examiner is found they will be appointed by the PCC.

b. Churches Together in Gillingham: The clergy represent St Mary's at

Churches Together in Gillingham. There is vacancy for lay representation.

6. **Reports**

a. Electoral Roll Report. PCC Secretary

In November 2020, Jeremy and Helen Long were added to the Electoral Roll and Roger Desouches' name removed following his death. In January, 2021, Hilary Clarke died and in February David and Daphne Bryan moved to Scotland. On 16 March, 2021, the electoral Roll stood at 148.

b. **Presentation of the Annual Report by Revd. Peter Greenwood.**

The full report was circulated before the meeting.

c. **Presentation of the Financial Report by David Banham.**

The Report had been circulated before the meeting but David pointed out that charitable activities resulting in fund raising for the church had stopped almost overnight due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Recovery Appeal had been generously supported and a legacy from the estate of the late Joan Mintern, together with reduced expenditures, had helped but the financial situation is serious. Sincere thanks were expressed to David and Jane Banham for their work as Treasurers. Tom Wickson, seconded by Alan Jeffs, proposed the acceptance of the Report which passed unanimously. A new Treasurer is urgently needed.

d. **Fabric Report presented by Tom Wickson.**

The Report had been circulated before the meeting. No questions were asked and Tom thanked all those who had been involved with working for and maintaining the Church.

e. **Presentation of the Inventory by Tom Wickson.**

There has been no additions or removals from the Inventory during the year. The Terrier and the Inventory would be signed by the Rector and Churchwardens when next in church.

f. **Deanery Synod Report** included in the annual meeting booklet

g. **Reports of Church Groups**

During Covid most groups and activities were unable to meet. This year reports of all groups were not included in the annual meeting booklet for this reason. The chair gave an opportunity for comments from those present. Jeff Hall reported that Open the Book had organised video shows for the children at Easter and Christmas. Members of the Mothers' Union had attended a Zoom meeting held on Lady's Day, March 25. Helen Long expressed her enjoyment of the Churches Together Lent Group.

7. **Any Other Business**

Tom Wickson gave a vote of thanks to the licensed and retired clergy; Daniel Cummins; the Choir; the Bell Ringers, the cleaners and all the other helpers who keep the church running smoothly, Meriol and Carole Blackmore. A letter of thanks is to be sent, with flowers, to Carole.

The meeting ended at approximately 8.35pm

Statement of Accounts and Financial Statement year ending 31 December 2021

Please see separate booklet

Reports and Information for the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Electoral Roll Report for APCM to be held on 22 February 2022

The number on the Roll as at 31 December 2021 totalled 146.

The number on the Roll as at 22 February 2022 totalled 145.

Names added during 2021

Linley Venters

Names removed during 2021

Hilary Clarke, Margaret Davies, Pam Hillier and Deirdre Light (RIP 2021)

David and Daphne Bryan (moved to Scotland)

Names removed January 2022

Molly Mills (RIP 2022)

Carole Blackmore, Electoral Roll Officer

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

Administrative Information

Saint Mary the Virgin Church is situated in Queen Street, Gillingham, Dorset. It is part of the Benefice of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o The Rectory, High Street, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4AJ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC, Church Representation Rules 2020) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members that have served since 20 April 2021 until the date this report was approved are: -

Incumbent (Chairman):	Revd Canon Peter Greenwood (ex-officio)
Pioneer Priest	Revd Eve Pegler (ex-officio)
Associate Priest	Revd Tim Heaton (ex-officio) (Seconded to the Shafesbury Team from April 2021)
Churchwardens:	Mrs Charlotte Armstrong Mr Tom Wickson
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mrs Sue Bailey (to 2023) Mrs Sarah Snook (to 2023) Mrs Cate Wickson (to 2023 – elected at May 2021 PCC Meeting)
Secretary:	Meriol Cottrell
Treasurer:	Mr Michael Sargent (Appointed Hon. Treasurer May 2021)
Elected Members:	Mrs Helen Long Mrs Wendy Horne Mrs Meriol Cottrell (to APCM 2023) Dr Teresa Goatham (to APCM 2023) Mr David Banham (to APCM 2022) Resigned during 2021 Mrs Jane Banham (to APCM 2022) Resigned during 2021 Mr Alan Jeffs (to APCM 2022) Mr Philip Jones (to APCM 2022) Resigned October 2021
Co-opted member:	Mr Steve Young

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Carole Blackmore

Gillingham Churches Together Representatives: Revd Peter Greenwood & Meriol Cottrell

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Carol Hall

Aims and Purposes

Every Church of England Church has the same aim: "To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or act ex officio. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Mary's PCC as trustees have the responsibility of co-operating and working with the incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish of Gillingham, sharing in the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Vicarage School Room in Queen Street, Gillingham.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

St Mary's Church remained open for public worship throughout 2021 always in accordance with the guidance given by the Church of England and the Government. Sunday attendance grew from approximately 30 in January to 50 at the end of the year with larger congregations at festivals such as Easter and Christmas and other special occasions. The midweek communion began again and numbers at this service vary from 3 to 12.

We celebrated the major festivals including Advent Carol Service, Burning of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, School Leavers Service, Remembrance Day, Christingle, Crib Service, Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

Statistics of Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Confirmations

Baptisms	15
Weddings	1 at St George's, Langham
Funerals at St Mary's	11
Funerals at Crematorium	20
Interments of ashes	11

Regular Services

8.00am	1 st Sunday - Holy Communion Morning Prayer – Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10.00am	Sunday - Parish Communion Meditation – meets weekly
10.30am	Holy Communion - Wednesday
4.30pm	Silent Prayer - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Services were held for all significant festivals. During the pandemic worship has been held when allowed by government and church regulations, often for the whole benefice. This has usually been Holy Communion on a Sunday at 10am, some Wednesdays and some festival or special occasion services.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021

During the year 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 the PCC met either in person or on Zoom on six occasions. The Standing Committee met in between as necessary usually to approve risk assessments related to church opening re Covid-19. The PCC continued using two committees 'Build' which looks after finance, housekeeping and buildings and 'Grow' which looks after the ministry, worship and mission of the church. The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held via Zoom on 20 April 2021.

When Cafes were allowed to open the 'Pop-Up' cafe and Loose Goods shop began again in the Vicarage School Room with the new name Eden. This has continued to offer hospitality, enable fellowship, and seeks to offer a service to the local community to recycle and refill comestibles without unnecessary packaging. It provides a drop off point for Terracycle Recycling. These activities flow from the fifth mark of mission "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth". Lack of bookings in the Vicarage School Room created the space to open more regularly and there are four sessions each week. This has provided a space to make deeper connections both with members of the church and with those from the wider community. This continues to develop with a monthly games afternoon, creative workshops, tea dance and other groups planned.

The méditation group continued to meet weekly. The walking in faith group restarted, covering mostly local walks to avoid car sharing or public transport and joined in with the towns walking festival. During Lent there were 'Do it yourself' walks with a destination given and something to be collected on a Lenten theme for all who participated. Where possible clergy and parishioners continued involvement in the schools, either with online collective worship or in person and representatives of the church continuing to be on the governing board. The Open the Book team were all set to begin in school again when the Omicron variant of Covid19 postponed this and a small team have continued to have an input by reading and videoing stories online at Easter and Christmas.

The informal service on the first Sunday in St Mary' School and Messy Church have not yet restarted due to pressure on space in relation to Covid19 precautions. We have managed to keep in touch with families informally and through the festival services. Free Breakfast Friday started again and has seen a growing number of children and families come together to eat lots of toast and cereal before school. It provides a great space to chat as well as eat!

Our annual stewardship appeal took place on Passion Sunday and we joined in with the Diocesan Generous Giving Campaign in the autumn.

The PCC continues to manage the maintenance of the church. The Fabric Report gives more detail below. The safety checks and maintenance were continued, e.g. lightening conductor, fire extinguishers, gas safety checks.

The PCC reaffirmed 'in-full' the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy

The church continues to hold a Bronze eco award and is hoping to work for silver.

FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY

Please see separate booklet

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (if possible) that equates to at least two months unrestricted payments in order to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is also our policy to make every effort to pay the Parish Share to the Diocese in full.

CLERGY REPORT

“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...” St Paul’s letter to the Philippians 2.1-5

In the clergy report for 2020 and the address at our last APCM in April 2021, we repeated our vision, Open to God and open to Gillingham, and committed ourselves once again to the patience, persistence, endurance, flexibility and kindness that you have exhibited to keep faith during a time of pandemic.

The story for 2021 has been similar. We have not this year been locked down from meeting together for public worship. Yet we continued with the disciplines of face coverings, social distancing and restricted public worship because, in the words of St Paul from his letter to the Philippians, we have regarded others as better than ourselves.

The numbers attending public worship have grown as the situation has improved and public confidence has grown. At the beginning of the year the average number attending public worship on a Sunday morning was about 30; by the end of the year that number had grown to about 50; with many more attending Easter and Christmas services. It was a joy when music and singing were reintroduced to worship. Our thanks go to our organist, Dr Daniel Cummins, and our choir too.

As a clergy team we said au revoir to the Revd Tim Heaton who went to help in the Shaftesbury benefice. It was au revoir and we look forward to welcoming Tim back to the benefice again when the vacancy at Motcombe is filled. (We offer our congratulations to Tim again on his appointment in February this year to the role of Rural Dean of the Blackmore Vale. We are delighted to see his gifts used in this way.)

The ministry of the whole church continued to be curtailed by the pandemic. Yet you persevered to find new ways to welcome and reach out. Fundraising for the church was hit by the loss of bookings in the Vicarage Schoolroom (VSR). You

married these tasks of welcome, reaching out and fundraising by opening the VSR to the Eden loose goods and cafe on four occasions through the week. This has become a lovely place of inclusion, welcome and Christian hospitality in these difficult days.

I would like to thank my clergy colleagues, stipendiary and self-supporting, full time, part time, and retired, and the lay officers of the church. Particularly this year Tom Wickson who steps down after seven years as church warden, and Mike Sargent who volunteered to take on the role of honorary treasurer to the church PCC. Tom has worked very diligently, with good humour and grace as church warden. Happy retirement! There is a vacancy for a new churchwarden... Mike has very ably filled the treasurer gap highlighted last year at our APCM. Thanks to the Revd Tim Heaton for keeping the books ticking over during that gap. Thank you to Mrs Carole Blackmore who so ably runs our church office. Thank you to you all who fill named and unnamed roles in the life of your church.

In conclusion I would refer you to the minute of the report of the clergy address at last year's meeting, and reiterate the question the Diocesan Board of Finance gave us all in April 2021, "if we truly value the Church and believe it has an ongoing, perhaps a reinvigorated and thriving future post Covid, then how are we each going to cherish it, serve it and support it?"

The Reverend Canon Peter Greenwood

FABRIC REPORT

The last year has seen the slow and phased return towards normal church life following the Covid-19 pandemic. Although things are not completely as they were before March 2020, great strides back to the regular pattern of our activities have been made.

At each step, following the guidance offered by the C of E, risks have been assessed and modifications to our work have been kept in place to ensure safe use of the building by all visitors and parishioners – as far as has been possible.

A major difficulty has been getting the contractor who quoted successfully, before the pandemic, for some work resulting from the Quinquennial inspection to fix a date to carry out the jobs. This remains the case at the time of writing and we shall shortly be suggesting to them that such a time has elapsed that we should forget the agreement between us and re-advertise the work. The key job will be the work on the east corner of the north porch, which has some loose masonry which is allowing damp into the area at the top of the stairs to the north parvise.

Meanwhile, we have undertaken some self-help work to tidy up the south porch, which is the main entry point for those coming to services and for visitors. I express thanks to the Revd Allen Walker especially for his help with this job through the summer of 2021.

Following the completion of a condition report on the Saxon Cross fragment which has been kept for many years at the west end of the south aisle of the church, this has gone on loan for a period of five years to the Gillingham Museum, where it may

be seen more clearly and is kept under better environmental conditions. The condition survey – the final requirement of the Faculty under which this work was carried out – was paid for by the History Society. A temporary interpretation board has been placed where the stone used to be, to advise visitors of its whereabouts and tell a little of its long and interesting story. Thanks are due to Dr John Shephard of the Gillingham Local History Society for his work on this whole scheme.

As the pandemic has loosened its grip on us, the Vicarage School Room (church hall) has been used more frequently, and is being converted on Wednesday afternoons, on Thursday and Friday mornings, into Eden Café and Loose Good Shop – with Terracycling facilities. To help make the hall itself, and the Stable Room, more practically useful and welcoming, we decided to complete the replacement of the old strip lights with modern, energy-efficient LEDs. While the contractors were on site, they added some extra electric sockets and replaced the lights in the Parish Office. This work was carried out in January 2022.

While the maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's is an on-going responsibility, I feel that we can look forward to the future with confidence.

Tom Wickson (Churchwarden)

BLACKMORE VALE DEANERY

To be tabled at the meeting.

PARISH OFFICE

Mrs Carole Blackmore has continued to work tirelessly throughout the year. She is completely amazing! Looking after the administration of the whole benefice we also recognize and are grateful for the pastoral element of her role in the office in listening to and dealing with parishioners queries and supporting the clergy with her good humour and efficiency.

The Vicarage School Room (VSR)

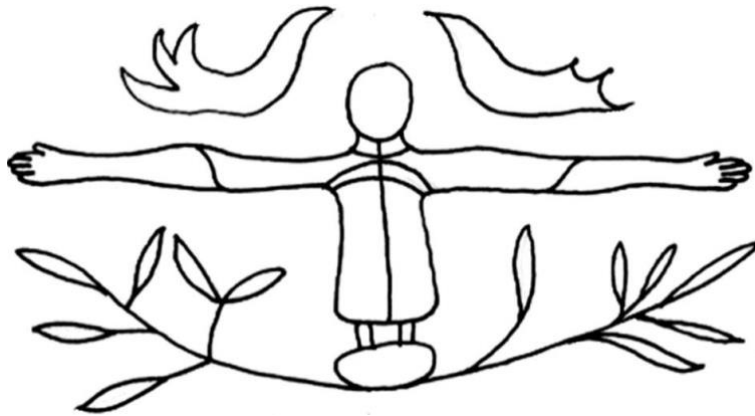
The lockdowns and pandemic restrictions has limited the bookings in the VSR during the year. Groups that could be accommodated according to the safety advice given have gradually begin to meet and bookings began to increase during the latter end of the year.

Thanks to Trish Down our cleaner, who has continued to keep the church and the VSR clean throughout the year.

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Gillingham, Dorset



'Open to God, Open to Gillingham'

Statement of Accounts
for the year ending 31st December 2021

Registered Charity Number 1158272

Overview of Finances as of 31st December 2021

Another year where Covid has taken a financial hit on our church and many a charity. Saint Mary the Virgin Church, Gillingham also had to contend with the loss of their Treasurers at the end of 2020 with the Revd. Tim Heaton stepping into the breach to keep finances on an even keel and to add his financial skills to our accounting procedures. Tim handed over to me at the end of May. So many thanks to their previous efforts.

At the outset finances, to me, looked precarious with a potential deficit of some £18,000. As part of the Generous Giving Campaign promoted by diocese an appeal was made in church and a letter sent to everybody on the Electoral Roll. Seven people responded by increasing their standing orders amounting to an increase of annual giving of £1,320. A few donations were also received roughly equivalent to the given example of an annual cost of a cup of coffee per person per week. However, we were also blessed with £1,000 legacy and, out of the blue, two most generous donations amounting to £10,000. This together with our Stewardship Recorder bringing forward our Gift Aid claims as far as is possible (a once only option netting approximately £9,500 extra for 2021) allowed us to end the year with a surplus of £1,639.87 as opposed to that dreaded deficit mentioned above.

Despite the pandemic, fundraising held up surprisingly well through an initial and very successful Plant Sale and subsequently through significant donations from the Pioneering Project driven by the Revd. Eve Pegler of the Eden Café/Eco Shop which is beginning to look a permanent feature. The latter is a way to enjoy good company and easy for everybody to support our finances which, if it continues as now, is estimated to bring in over £11,000 in 2022 - so why not drop in for coffee and cake and consider buying some of the loose goods, a greetings card or a recycled book or jigsaw.

However, make no mistake, a long-term financial plan is very much required. We are fortunate that our predecessors left us with strong reserves but, if we continue as we are now, those reserves will be depleted by 2025. Without those significant unexpected donations, we are living beyond our means!

The Diocese tell us that the average giving per person across the diocese is £10 per week; for us it is £5.94 per week – we respond well to appeals but we also need to keep our own ship afloat? We also hear much in the press of the misunderstanding of the Parish Share – it is NOT simply a large gift for diocese to do with as they like; it pays for clergy stipends, pensions, housing and support. Of the total diocesan income (which is more than Parish Share) 88% comes back to the parishes in kind. Is it any wonder that if parishes do not pay their Share that some diocese cut clergy numbers! To put that into context the current share requires a payment to diocese of approximately £454 p.a. per person counted as a church member (or, put another way, £8.74 per person per week just to pay the share) – we may not all be able to give that much but are you giving what you can?

Despite this gloomy summary, the PCC will undertake long term planning to ensure we have a stable financial environment to take us forward to 2030 and beyond.

Mike Sargent
Hon Treasurer, Saint Mary the Virgin Church PCC
17th January 2022

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GILLINGHAM							
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2021							
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT				Whole Year		Whole Year	
				2021		2020	
				£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Incoming resources from donors							
	Planned giving			54030.75		56012	
	Collections and other giving			4418.20		1817	
	Income tax recovered			25402.34		16311	
					83851.29		74140
Other voluntary incoming resources							
	Legacies			1000.00		19075	
	Donations			17586.69		5774	
	Grants			205.00		445	
					18791.69		25294
Income from operating activities to further the work of the church							
	Impact magazine			1744.50		906	
	Rent from VSR			1830.00		3518	
	Fundraising			8060.84		8061	
	Fees			10570.00		3026	
					22205.34		15511
Income from investments							
	Bank interest			26.25			67
Central costs paid by Milton				2372.43			2456
Central costs paid by Silton				2372.43			2498
Transfers from restricted funds				115.50			5446
					4886.61		
Total Receipts					129734.93		125412
PAYMENTS							
Grants							
	Overseas mission and relief agencies					0	
	Home charities			1958.26		1193	
					1958.26		1193
Activities directly relating to the work of the church							
	Diocesan parish share			81769.12		80536	
	Church running expenses			9684.40		10331	
	VSR running expenses			1689.96		3760	
	Clergy expenses			1579.03		1358	
	Cost of services			646.56		0	
	Cost of fundraising			104.50		93	
	Impact magazine			0.00		330	
	Church capital expenses			287.55		1258	
	VSR capital expenses			191.58		311	
	Salaries and honoraria			14847.84		9742	
	Mission and evangelism			439.35		572	
					111239.89		108291
Church management and administration							
	Office costs			3435.87		3403	
	Supplies to Milton			0.00		2370	
	Supplies to Silton			0.00		2337	
	Assigned fees			7561.00		0	
	Bank charges			0.04			
					10996.91		8110
Transfers to restricted funds				3900.00			23639
					3900.00		
Total Payments					128095.06		141233
Excess - Receipts minus Payments					1639.87		-15821
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.20					80972.15	Note 1	72587
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.21					82612.02	Note 2	56767.01
Note 1				Adjusted from 56,767.01 to include 100% of the general deposit account (70,017.55) 56,767.01+57 (2020 error) + cash for singular purposes = 56824.01 + 24148.14 = 80,972.15 @ 31/12/2020			
Note 2				24029.60 is currently held for singular purposes @ 31/12/2021			
Note 4				Corrected for rounding			

GENERAL FUND APPORTIONMENT			£	£
			2021	2020
NON-SPECIFIC (UNRESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	56824.01	Note 1	
	Receipts	128896.23		
	Payments	127137.82		
	Funds YTD		58582.42	56824.01
JOAN MINTERN LEGACY (UNRESTRICTED))				
	Funds at 31.12.20	19075.00		
	Receipts			
	Payments			
YTD	Funds at 31.12.21		19075.00	19075.00
Eden Capital (DESIGNATED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	1033.00		
	Receipts	200.00		
	Payments	147.18		
	Funds YTD		1085.82	1033.00
FREE BREAKFAST FRIDAY (DESIGNATED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	500.00		
	Receipts			
	Payments			
	Funds YTD		500.00	500.00
BELL RINGERS (RESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	2828.00		
	Receipts	63.00		
	Payments	145.80		
	Funds YTD		2745.20	2828.00
BIBLES for SCHOOLS RESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	0.00		
	Receipts	468.80		
	Payments	439.35		
	Funds YTD		29.45	0.00
MEMORY BOX (RESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	110.00		
	Receipts			
	Payments			
YTD	Funds at 31.12.21		110.00	110.00
MOTHERS UNION (RESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	90.00		
	Receipts			
	Payments			
YTD	Funds at 31.12.21		90.00	90.00
CHURCH FLOWERS (RESTRICTED)				
	Funds at 31.12.20	512.14		
	Receipts	106.90		
	Payments	224.91		
	Funds YTD		394.13	512.14
				Note 3
TOTAL			82612.02	80972.15
Of which misc funds			24029.60	24148.14
Total misc receipts			838.70	
Total misc payments			957.24	
Note 3	512.14 was held in cash on 31.12.20 but not included in the 2020 accounts			

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS (with CCLA)			DESIGNATED	INVESTMENT FUNDS (with CCLA)				ALL FUNDS
	SANTANDER 97333084 CCLA 634117003D	Fabric Fund CCLA 634117001D	Carlton Cross CCLA 634117002D	Choir Fund CCLA 634117006D	Pioneer Pot CCLA 634117007D	Building Fund Lloyd's 42542568	Nurse Reid CCLA 634117001S	Church Trust CCLA 134001358S	Church Trust CCLA 134001209F	Carlton Cross CCLA 134001343S
Monetary assets at 31.12.20	80,972.15	35,572.92	6,452.48	1,343.05	25,094.29	500.00	135,459.39	3,231.00	357.00	12,534.00
RECEIPTS										
Donations						10.00				
Interest/Dividends	4.87	4,059.68	367.72	0.70	13.46					
Investment gain/loss		0.00	0.00	0.00	3,900.00	0.00				
Transfers in	115.50									
PAYMENTS										
Transfers out	3,900.00									
Monetary assets at 31 Dec 2021	Note 2 82,612.02	Note 2 39,517.10	6,820.20	1,343.75	29,007.75	510.00	154,936.89	3,700.06	334.12	14,355.30

Investment values represent mid-market value

Note 2 Of which 24,029.60 is held in the General Fund for singular purposes

GRANTS	via PCC	Direct	Totals
Childrens Society	571.95	1000.00	1571.95
Tearfund	130.00	1120.00	1250.00
Tradecraft	50.00		50.00
Bibles 4 Schools	439.35		439.35
Harvest Food bank	250.00		250.00
Ride n Stride	340.00	70.00	410.00
RBL	256.40		256.40
Totals	2037.70	2190.00	4227.70

Gillingham And Shaftesbury Show Church Tent						
Receipts			Payments			Chq no.
01/09/2021	Handed in	1998.95	Ordinands Fund	18/11/2021	200.00	022348
18/11/2021	Donation	1.05	DHCT	18/11/2021	450.00	022349
			Dorset Wildlife Trust	18/11/2021	450.00	022400
			Dorset Womens Refuge	18/11/2021	450.00	022401
			Farming Community Network	18/11/2021	450.00	022402
	Total receipts	2000.00	Total Payments		2000.00	
	Cash in hand	0				
Held on behalf of Blackmore Vale Deanery (North) for safe keeping in St. Mary's Bank account but NOT included in St. Mary's Accounting Ledger						

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's,
Gillingham, Dorset

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1158272

Set out on pages

1 to 8 including sections A and B of this report

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me
cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in
order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

3 February 2022

Name:

Jeffrey Mark NASH

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Retired business owner

Address:

44, Shreen Way

GILLINGHAM

Dorset SP8 4EL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Gillingham, Dorset

On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 **Charity no (if any)** 1158272

Set out on pages 1 to 8 including sections A and B of this report

Responsibilities and basis of report I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  **Date:** 3 February 2022

Name: Jeffrey Mark NASH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Retired business owner

Address: 44, Shreen Way
GILLINGHAM
Dorset SP8 4EL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A