

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, OXTED

England & Wales · Charity number 1164439

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2015-11-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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c/o Oxted Community Hall
53 Church Lane
Oxted
Surrey
RH8 9NB

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Activities

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

Activities: St. Mary's Parish Church is working to be the church family meeting place to worship God, and bringing Godslove into Oxted and the wider world. St. Mary's PCC co-operateswith the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church,spiritual, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities ofstewardship for the church buildings.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£199,767	£176,907	-	-
2024-12-31	£128,932	£128,887	-	-
2023-12-31	£186,250	£232,980	-	-
2022-12-31	£195,036	£146,915	-	-
2021-12-31	£167,324	£236,475	-	-
2020-12-31	£123,287	£130,419	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev James Paul Ashton	Chair	2020-01-07
Austin Copp		2020-09-27
CATHARINA STIBE HICKSON		2019-04-07
Caroline Horsford		2023-04-23
Edward Kyte		2023-04-23
Emma Catherine Church		2023-04-23
KATHARINE JANE NOCKLES		2019-04-07
Katy Aspinwall		2020-09-27
Marian Dalton		2023-04-23
Martin Fisher		2020-09-27
NATASHA COPP		2019-04-07
RICHARD MARK ADAMSON		2019-04-07
Rev DAVID COURTNEY WEIGHTMAN		2019-04-07
VALERIE LAWSON ADAMSON MBE		2019-04-07

Accounts



**St. Mary's Church Oxted
Annual Report 2025**

***Knowing Christ
Growing Community, Renewing Heritage***

Charity number: 1164439

This Report contains:

The Annual Report of Church Activities for 2025

The Financial Statement for 2025 (the signed copy is available for inspection)

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

Ministry Team

Rev. James Ashton	Team Rector
Rev. David Weightman	Assistant Priest
Rev. Liz Lane	Assistant Priest
Rev. Judith Brooks	Assistant Priest
Sue Mallinson	Reader
Rev. Ken Robinson	Assistant Priest
Mary Cook	Pastoral Visitor

PCC Members

Rev. James Ashton	Team Rector (Chairman) – <i>from 7 January 2020</i>
Robin Hickson	Churchwarden - 2025
Edward Kyte	Churchwarden – <i>from 2024</i>

Deanery Synod Representatives

Sue Mallinson *	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Catharina Hickson	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Valerie Adamson	
Edward Kyte	

*Sue Mallinson represents St. Peter's Tandridge on Deanery Synod and is on the electoral roll of St. Mary's , also representing Tandridge Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Diocesan Synod Representative

Catharina Hickson

Licensed Readers

Sue Mallinson

Parish Administrator

Natasha Copp

Co-opted members

Robin Hickson	(Churchwarden)
Rev. David Weightman	

Rev. Ken Robinson	
Rev. Judith Brooks	(Clergy)
Marian Dalton	(PCC Secretary)
Rev. Liz Lane	(Clergy)
Katharine Nockles	(Safeguarding Officer)

Ex-officio

Catharina Hickson	(Diocesan Synod)
Valerie Adamson	(Deanery Synod)

Elected Members

Martin Fisher	<i>2020 Treasurer and Vice Chairman</i>
Richard Adamson	(2023 - 2026)
Natasha Copp	(2023 - 2026)
Katy Aspinwall	(2023 - 2026)
Alison Murden	(2023 - 2026)
Emma Church	(2023 - 2026)
Caroline Horsford	(2023 - 2026)
Len Muir	(2023 - 2026)
Norman Maynard	(2024 - 2027)
Adele Forrest	(2024 - 2027)
Michele Fisher	(2025 - 2028)
Stuart Murden	(2025 - 2028)

Standing Committee

Rev. James Ashton
Robin Hickson
Martin Fisher
Rev. David Weightman
Marian Dalton
Edward Kyte

Members of the Standing Committee are agreed at the PCC meeting after the APCM. It conducts the business on behalf of the PCC (as directed by the PCC) in between PCC meetings and also sets the agenda for meetings.

Electoral Roll Officer

Paul Shillito

Treasurer

Martin Fisher

Churches Together in Oxted and District

David Cook

Bank Details

Barclays Bank: 20-76-55

PCC St.Mary's Oxted: 10688967 (General Account Number)
00688746 (Regular Giving Only Account Number)

Introduction from Rev. James Ashton

2025 was a wonderful year for us at St Mary's. We have grown in faith, and welcomed many newcomers with joy. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for; and I warmly commend this annual report to you - please take the time to read it, and see what God is doing in our lives.

Each Sunday we continue to welcome 90-100 people of all ages to our different services, alongside many other opportunities for fellowship, friendship and faith. Thank you to everyone who is part of our church family.

Our church building continues to stand firm, and we are grateful to all those who contribute to its care. The stone, bricks, wood and slate reflect God's permanence in our community. May we continue to treasure this special place, and all it represents.

I am enormously grateful to our clergy team; Revd David, Revd Judith, and Sue our reader, for their commitment and skill in leading worship and events. We are also thankful for Sam Baker, our ordinand, who has explored further experiences and opportunities with us at in our team, and for the support we share with Rev Sue and Rev Mary from St John's, Hurst Green.

Our Parish Office is expertly managed by Natash, and we are greatly blessed to have her in our team. My thanks go out to all who support her through volunteering for events and services. I am deeply grateful to our PCC, who faithfully steward our shared life, and to our Churchwardens, Robin and Ed have been our wardens, and kept us safe, organised and inspired – thank you both!

We thank Martin, our treasurer, for guiding our finances towards greater stability and Katharine, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for her faithful and diligent leadership in this vital area.

Our musical life has flourished this year as we welcomed Ian as our organist and choir leader. The choir has grown, and their leadership in our sung worship is much appreciated.

Our value of '*Growing Community*' is clearly seen in The_Space, where a wider range of initiatives continues to bring people together. 'The Bible Course' was a particular highlight in the Autumn.

We also continue to serve our wider community through visits to St Mary's School, Tandridge Heights Care Home, Ridgeway Manor and Sycamore Court. These opportunities enable us to show God's love in practical ways.

I commend this Annual Report to you. May we continue to pray and work together as a church, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit and following the example of Christ in all we do.

Rev. James Ashton

Team Rector

Churchwardens report

2025 has been another busy and encouraging year in the life of St. Mary's. We have continued to draw people into our community through a wide range of social, pastoral and worship activities, helping the church remain a visible and welcoming presence in Oxted.

Throughout the year, St. Mary's has hosted a number of well-attended events, including Bring and Share meals on International Day, a Seder Supper, trivia quizzes, musical events within the church and a return of our whisky tasting evening. Meeting Place continues to be popular, boosted by Here Here hearing aid servicing for between 20 and 50 people each month. Baby Space remains a valued opportunity for parents of babies to share both stresses and triumphs with their peers. Our small flock of sheep – now reduced to only five including a lamb born in March – continues to keep the churchyard grass down in an environmentally friendly way and remains a source of interest for visitors to Oxted and beyond.

In early 2025 our attentiveness to environmental matters was recognised through the achievement of a Silver Eco Church award from the national A Rocha Eco Church Programme, reflecting the ongoing commitment of the parish to care for God's creation.

Taken together, these activities reflect a church that is well-used, outward-facing and embedded in the life of the community. While patterns of attendance continue to evolve, St. Mary's remains a place where worship, learning, community and welcome are clearly visible to all who come through its doors.

As in any year, 2025 also brought challenges related to our buildings. Required repairs to the tower did not progress during the year, and we still need to raise approximately £100,000 to complete this relatively urgent work. Katy Aspinall is working on grant applications to allow this work to restart in 2026. Work on the porch was completed in early 2025. Jock Muir masterminded repairs to the organ and led fundraising to pay for these works. We also purchased an electric piano, with the cost generously met by a benefactor.

We continue to leave the church open during daylight hours and are pleased to find people regularly looking around the church or using the space for private prayer and contemplation. Unfortunately, over the summer there were three attempts to break into the Vestry, where we lock away our brassware and communion wine. On one occasion the break-in was successful, although the items taken were of minimal value. Repairs have since been made to improve security, and a camera has been installed to monitor the approach to the Vestry outside service hours. We continue to balance the desire to keep the church open and welcoming with the need to protect the building and its contents.

Inspired by Norman Maynard, St Mary's continued to offer educational opportunities! The Bible Course ran over ten weeks in the autumn, followed by a shorter Advent course. This initiative continues into 2026 with a further ten-week course focusing on Paul's letter to the Romans.

In 2025, our Vicar James led the development of Vision 2030. We now have clear targets for actions to be achieved by the ends of 2026, 2028 and 2030 across the themes of "Knowing Christ", "Growing Community" and "Renewing our Heritage". We encourage anyone to look out for ways they can become involved as shared effort will be essential to achieving these goals.

At the 2025 APCM, Austin Copp stepped down from his role as Churchwarden after four years of service. We thank Austin warmly for his leadership, commitment and hard work during that time, and we are grateful for his continued support in a number of areas. We also

note the appointment of Ian Skipper as Director of Music in 2025 and we are thankful for the refreshed leadership he has brought to the choir, as well as for his playing in our services.

Safeguarding remains a priority at St. Marys. We continue to follow diocesan guidance, ensure that appropriate training is kept up to date, and work to maintain a culture in which the church is a safe place for all.

None of the life of the church described above would be possible without the faithful service of a large number of volunteers, many of whom work quietly behind the scenes. From welcoming, to cleaning and flower arranging, to sound, music, refreshments, administration and pastoral support. We are deeply grateful for the time and commitment so freely given.

Finally, we commend the work of our Treasurer, Martin Fisher. Although our recurring income remains lower than our recurring expenditure, this gap has been reducing over the past three years through careful management and the generosity of the congregation. Continued prayer, financial support and active involvement will be essential as we maintain the fabric of the building and pursue the work we believe God is calling St. Marys to do.

We give thanks for God's faithfulness to St. Mary's and trust that, with prayer discernment and shared commitment, the church will continue to serve the people of Oxted for generations to come.

The Churchwardens

TANDRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

Area Dean	Rev Michelle	Assistant Area Dean	Rev James Ashton
Lay Chair	Susan Gibbin		

The Deanery Synod met throughout the year via Zoom, aligning with the Diocesan vision: *Christ-centred and outward-focused*. Meetings provided opportunities to share ideas, resources, and parish initiatives.

Key themes included:

- Engagement with young people and families
- Environmental responsibility through Eco Church initiatives
- Community outreach (e.g. Hear Here, youth work, cafés)
- Spiritual discipleship through courses such as Alpha and Lent groups

Highlights included:

- Deanery picnic on Tandridge Glebe Field (June)
- Black History Month worship event
- Pilgrimage across the Diocese (June)

Parishes shared innovative work including prison ministry, wellbeing gardens, and support for Ukrainian communities.

Safeguarding remained an important consideration as churches expanded outreach.

Sue Mallinson

Deanery Synod Representative

St Mary's Oxted Bellringers

The year of 2025 was very successful for the bellringers. We rang for the majority of Sunday services as well as other special events, including the Church 'Open Day' and provided a demonstration of bell ringing.

On a couple of occasions, we supplemented the ringers at Limpsfield Chart by ringing simultaneously for Sunday services at both St Mary's and St Andrews churches. The year ended with a Ringers Social Gathering in The_Space where ringers, their 'other halves', and some church officers were invited.

The band of ringers is now strong following many years of trying to recruit new ringers. We are most fortunate to have several young ringers who, I hope will continue to ring for many years to come. The band now includes three generations from one family: a very rare occurrence. All new ringers are following an accredited training programme (Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) scheme). All have reached Level 1, most have reached Level 2 and are making good progress towards Level 3. Three young ringers, Dominic, James and Emily received Surrey Bellringers awards for ringing their first quarter peals. They were presented with certificates and gift card by the Association Master at the Ringers Gathering in The_Space: see photograph.

We ended the year with some focussed training sessions with help from the Surrey Association of Bellringers. This has enabled the ringers to significantly improve their ringing ability.

St. Mary's has now got an excellent ringing teaching facility fully equipped with computers which are connected to the bells. This enables individual and group learning to be done without making a noise outside. We have had donated some newer computers and screens which has allowed me to upgrade our system and pass on older but fully functioning equipment to others.

We look forward to an equally successful 2026.

Ian Griffiths

St Mary's School 2025

Confidently me', 'Belonging together', 'Challenged to contribute'

St Mary's School continues to thrive as a cohesive and joyful learning community.

This year marked the retirement of Sarah Lewis which and the appointment of Tim Samuel, whose leadership continues to strengthen partnerships across local schools (St Mary's Primary School, Oxted and Limpsfield Infant School).

Pupils demonstrated growth in confidence, collaboration, and contribution through academic, sporting, and creative activities.

The school continues to work closely with the Diocese and engage in inclusion initiatives such as the Hemisphere project.

Catharina Hickson Foundation Governor

Safeguarding

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church community to make sure we create a safe environment for the activities that we undertake with children and vulnerable adults. A summary of the safeguarding principles adopted by your PCC can be found on the church porch noticeboard and the noticeboard inside church.

I have worked for a number of years with Fay Prater, the PSO from St Peter's, so that together we can consider and support each other with safeguarding planning and any issues. Last year's activity was out of the ordinary for two reasons; we completed a safeguarding audit and continued working on the outcomes of that and secondly there was a hiatus in our safeguarding processes due to a national level data breach at the DBS checking service provider. This impacted a number of our volunteers at St Mary's and information was shared to support those affected. The DBS provider has since been changed.

At any time, if any member of the congregation has a concern, please speak to me, James or David, or Fay the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's. Even if it isn't clear whether there is a safeguarding issue or not, it is **always** better to talk it through at an early stage so that a potential issue can be averted or if our safeguarding arrangements or understanding don't seem to be covering a particular activity or scenario we can respond.

Please contact me by email on safeguardingstmarysoxted@gmail.com or on 07778 539664 (please note that my phone goes straight to voicemail for any unrecognised numbers so do leave a message and I can call you back).

Katharine Nockles

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Flower Arranging

St Mary's has a small team who arrange flowers to beautify our church. Our focus is on creating displays for the key festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest though arrangements are created for other occasions too.

Every arrangement is different and reflects us as individuals; the common theme is that we enjoy creating something that we hope is enjoyed by others and visually enhances our worship. Our most recent activity was the creation of small posies for Mothering Sunday.

We were delighted to be supported by several ladies at the Friday morning Meeting Place and we enjoyed making the posies together. If anyone would like to come and join the team please do contact me on flowers.stmarysoxted@gmail.com.

Katharine Nockles

Flower Team

Fellowship and Social Events

2025 was a busy year with a variety of events being organised between The_Space and the main hall of OCH or in church. These events combined a mix of social and worship, with some specifically for fundraising. 2025 was a particularly successful year, raising more money for church funds, including:

- Burns Night; A whisky tasting evening raising £1,368 for church funds
- The London Welsh Male Voice Choir; Singing to a packed out church giving church funds £2,630
- Shrove Tuesday; An evening of pancakes and prayers held in The_Space
- Martin's singers; courtesy of Emma Church one of the choir members. Money was raised for church funds
- A Christian Seder Supper; Held in The_Space. This was followed by the stripping of the altar in church
- The May Fayre; Raising £2,000
- A Number of Quiz's through the year; With the first coming with a two course buffet supper, raising £793.10, and the second Joint Quiz raising a profit of £241.72 for PCC funds with £120 going into the Heritage Account for tower repairs
- Open days; Including sheep meeting, tower tours and a plans sale raising £76.50 for church funds and guess the name of the bunny raised £24.00
- Holiday at Home at the start of August; With a different activity every day including quizzes, games, art and crafts followed by a light lunch this was popular and brought in several non- church members
- An illustrated talk in aid of Church funds; Supported by the well-known Bob Evans on the villages along the A25 called 'The String of Pearls'
- The celebration of the Patronal Festival; Combined with celebrating Harvest along with a popular open day with a variety of activities and some beautiful flower displays.
- The pupils of St. Mary's School celebrated their harvest with three services in church donating a huge amount of produce, sorted by a small band of volunteers
- The Autumn Fair; giving profit to church funds of £308.80
- The Memorial Service for the departed in November; Attended by 100 people+,
- Stir up Sunday; With Christmas puddings being made
- A classical concert organised by Richard Lane; Featuring violin and piano took place in church, and a profit £544
- Various other concerts; Many raising money for a particular cause including a number of Oxted Sessions evenings run by Dom Damesick. These raised £2,463 for church funds
- During the year occasional sales of plants, cards and gifts have taken place in the Space after the 9.30am service, raising £92.90 for church funds.

These events strengthened community life and contributed significantly to church funds.

More volunteers for hospitality are always welcome.

Valerie Adamson

Missions and Charities

The PCC agreed to support two charities: Release International and the Umoyo Community Project, with each of these charities being given £500.00 from PCC funds along with offers to help them in other ways.

Release International helps Christians in the UK and Ireland to engage actively with their persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, praying with them, helping them and learning lessons of true Christian discipleship with them. In support of this in December a new prayer meeting was started on the 2nd Thursday of the month to pray for the persecuted church. (<https://releaseinternational.org/>)

The Umoyo Community Project supports the people of Njebwa in Malawi who have suffered from the spread of AIDS. The project has supported local AIDS orphans – providing 400 meals a day, built classrooms, toilets, and teacher's houses at the local primary school, and a clinic as well as water bore holes. They have further plans to build more facilities and repair some of the existing ones. (<https://www.umoyocommunityproject.org/>)

In December two wreath making sessions were held in The Space raising nearly £500 which went directly to the Umoyo project.

At £1,120 direct giving to Missions and Charities was less than usual however it was considered that letting charities use The Space free of charge should be considered part of our away giving.

During Christian Aid Week in May, 23 church members along with 3 members from the other Oxted Churches were involved in collecting and/or delivering Christian Aid envelopes. A total of £1,589 was raised. As this money was collected in Christian Aid envelopes and £742 of it was Gift Aided by individuals it did not go through Church Accounts and was sent off directly to Christian Aid.

Valerie Adamson

Publicity

Communication continues through:

- Weekly bulletins
- Email updates
- Social media
- Local magazine contributions

Changes to local media have reduced available space, but outreach continues.

If you would like to write an article for the magazine about a church matter please speak to Valerie Adamson or to our Rev James.

Valerie Adamson

Eco Church

In May 2024 the PCC agreed that the Church should work towards becoming an active Eco Church. It appointed Dr. Catharina Stibe-Hickson as its Eco champion assisted by a small team of volunteers with different skills and experiences covering the different areas of church life. The Eco church scheme equips churches to care for God's creation in a wide variety of ways.

In order to receive an award a church must demonstrate environmental engagement in five areas – 1) worship and teaching, 2) the management of church buildings, 3) the management of church land, 4) community and 5) global engagement and individual life styles.

Even before the idea of becoming an Eco Church had been agreed St. Mary's had been fulfilling some of the requirements. It had been taking part in no mow May, encouraging wildlife such as butterflies and moths. To keep the rest of the grass under control St. Mary's has a flock of hardy sheep who graze the grass all year round in three fenced off areas of the churchyards, looked after by a team of 6 volunteers who feed the sheep daily in winter, keep their water clean and topped up, maintain fences and gates and remove any poisonous weeds. The sheep also add as a great attraction for younger members of the community.

Once the PCC had signed on further efforts were made to become Eco-friendly. More parts of the churchyard were left unmown for 'Let it Bloom in June' and members of Junior Church assisted by their leaders took part in the Churches Count of Nature 2025 when species of plant and nature in the main churchyard were counted. St Mary's also took part in The Great Big Green Week when a series of talks on nature in graveyards was laid on, followed by a simple lunch, all on Church premises.

For many years there has been a group of swifts that return every year to nest in the eaves of the church building and whenever building work is being undertaken the builders are always asked to take the swifts into consideration. Last year to encourage the swifts even more one of our dedicated swift watchers donated two purpose built nesting stations that were installed under the eaves of the Community Hall.

On the theme of taking care of the environment some members have joined the local Friends of the River Eden Ecosystem which flows through our area and they have been trained to undertake monthly water sampling and testing.

Keen to encourage recycling one of the Eco team undertook a survey of all the people and places locally that collect items for re-cycling -ones that would not go into the local Council's kerbside re-cycling bins. A list emerged of over forty organisations or individuals who collect niche items that can be re-cycled and this has been shared with all the church communities of Churches Together in Oxted and District and through the Council to all businesses and has been put up on noticeboards in church premises. In addition recycling bins for paper, glass, cans and cardboard have been placed in Church and in The Space and food recycling bins placed in all areas where food is served.

Responsible use of heating has been considered as a result of which the late afternoon Café service has been moved to The Space to save heating a large church building all day long whilst we have focused on heating the Church building to a comfortable level ready for the morning services.

On a smaller scale table tops in The Space have been upcycled to save replacing them and ferrules put on the chair legs in the Tower Vestry where there are vented central heating channels rather than having to replace the chairs.

More recently an Eco church leaflet has been produced which gives hints on how to live sustainably without causing too much harm to the planet.

As a result of all these efforts an **Eco Silver Award** was awarded to St. Mary's Church in January 2025. The church is now working towards Gold !

Dr. Catharina Stibe-Hickson

Churches together in Oxted and District 2025

The more informal style sought by CTOD member Churches has enabled us to continue Christian sharing as we move forward together. Under the joint leadership of Rev James Ashton and Matthew Griffiths (from the URC) we celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at various local Churches

The World Day of Prayer services were held at St Mary's Oxted and at St John's and had been devised by the women of The Cook Islands with the theme "I made you wonderful". Participants dressed up in suitable Pacific attire.

Our 2025, Lent Groups were centred on the theme of Modern Slavery which was linked to the Stations of the Cross and the suffering of Our Lord on His way to Calvary. This course was well attended by several different local groups. The course booklets were funded by CTOD and Lent course donations were gifted to our Charity St Catherine's Hospice.

The Good Friday walk of Witness took place on Good Friday as usual. Daffodils were handed out to people on the way.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) has continued to meet on Monday mornings at various locations.

It had been decided back in 2024 to run down our bank account and the office of Treasurer. Subsequently our bankers decided to close our account so we have used our residual funds to invest £500 in a second issue of A Celebration in Story and Image – thanks to Nadeem Qureshi – and to donate £150 to local homelessness charities. A small cash balance of £651 remains available for future needs.

David Cook

(CTOD Treasurer) Feb 2026

Visiting and Pastoral

Visiting in the Parish is not of course limited to those on the volunteers list! Our team tries its best to ensure everyone feels supported and loved, and that no-one is forgotten. The Ministry Team and I are happy to be contacted if anyone senses a need or wish for support. We have had a couple of opportunities to enhance our awareness of care giving:

- In August The Oxted Bereavement Support group gave us the opportunity to meet a representative from Marie Curie who informed us of their Help Lines (a new initiative) giving support after diagnosis, helping with symptom management, financial information and bereavement support. (There is now literature giving phone numbers in Church)
- In November a small group of us attended an inspiring talk in Tonbridge by Rob Parsons OBE, founder of the Charity "Care For The Family", a national charity which aims to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties.

"Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world." Teresa of Avila

Mary Cook

St. Mary's Choir

Following the retirement of the long-serving organist, Ian Skipper took on the role of Director of Music.

In May the choir began to meet weekly to rehearse. Friday evenings turned out to be an unpopular choice with Thursday being the new selected day. Regular rehearsal enables us to explore some more complex choral music in our important role of leading worship - as well as our goal of *inspiring* worship - and I hope that both choir and congregation benefit.

Monthly 'Come and Sing' events effectively became obsolete with weekly choir practices. I discovered this at my first one in June which was attended by two people; one of them was me! A campaign to encourage children from St. Mary's Primary School into the choir to join our lone treble, James F, bore no long-term fruit but James remains and his contribution and presence is a lesson to us all.

In October, we introduced a new setting of the Eucharist liturgy – Gloria, Sanctus et al. The *Mass of St. Thomas* was chosen for its recurring section of the Gloria which allows members of the congregation to engage with it from the outset. On the Sunday it was introduced, there was a short teaching session for the congregation before the service started.

I was, of course, hopeful that people would enjoy the music and the opportunity to raise their voice and sing of God's glory at the beginning of the service but I understand that this is something of a Marmite issue at St Mary's so we have arrived at an Anglican compromise and use the setting on alternate Sundays.

We are delighted that Adele, Francesca and Paul have become regular choristers this year. Thanks also to our 'irregulars' who joined us for a splendid carol service. Needless to say we welcome all to the choir. Music-reading is not a requirement; the ability to sing in tune and to love singing is all that is needed. Even with weekly rehearsal, we accept that everyone has busy lives and we are flexible enough to accommodate. Anyone can come along on a Thursday at 7:00 pm to try us out without commitment.

I'm very grateful to the choir for their hard work, support and attendance. Special thanks to Jock who continues to co-ordinate the repairs to the organ with patience and fortitude; also to Mary Cook upon whose wisdom and local knowledge I continually call.

Thank you to Jock for being the tour de force, and overseeing the work. Ed Dove (the organ repairer), was able to make the organ function for Sunday services.

Ian Skipper (and **Mary Cook**)

St. Mary's PCC

The PCC for St. Mary's bi-monthly.

The PCC meetings are always well attended and any matters regarding the church are up for discussion. There is always a finance update from Martin Fisher and a Safeguarding update from Katharine Nockles. The upkeep of the fabric of the church building is an ongoing concern for PCC. PCC members usually join for a 3 year period and anyone who would like to have a voice in the running of the church is welcome to join.

Marian Dalton
PCC Secretary

Community Groups:

Meeting Place (**Natasha Copp**)

A thriving coffee morning welcoming all.

The Hear Here champions continue to be busy at their clinic on the first Friday of every month, and a number of their visitors enjoy coffee & cake too!

Meeting Place - for coffee, cake and conversation, Friday mornings 9:30-11:30. All welcome.

Wobble (**Natasha Copp**)

Another joyful morning in The_Space is on Tuesdays with Sarah Goldsack running Wobble classes followed by coffee & cake served by Valerie and Sue K. We are now welcoming over 30 guests each week for seated exercise followed by social time over coffee and homemade cake.

Thank you to the Wobble refreshments team and Sarah.

St Mary's Monkeys Playgroup (Penny Kirk)

In April 2026, we look forward to celebrating St Mary's Monkeys playgroup **20-year anniversary** with members of our team, past and present.

Our playgroup is aimed at children from newborn to under five years of age and their carers and we have maintained the price per adult guest since May 2021 with children coming in free...

We are blessed to have a very strong team of 16 lovely volunteers (with all new volunteers welcome). Every member of the team offers something different and we discuss and collaborate on an ongoing basis which means that we continue to develop and improve this jewel in the Oxted crown.

In 2025, we were lucky to have five Duke of Edinburgh's Award students (3 Silver and 2 Bronze) who all baked for playgroup. The standard of baking from Charlie, Eva, Grace, Harvey and Zac was outstanding and our guests were delighted and so grateful. As this was donated, we are able to offer more donations to local charities and we place less reliance on Shelley Miller (who has been supporting this playgroup for nearly two decades with her amazing cakes).

St Mary's Monkeys Playgroup allows families to enjoy an hour and a half of "stay and play" with a wide selection of toys and equipment. Families are also able to make an unlimited number of visits to our kitchen hatch to enjoy a wide selection of homemade cakes and savoury produce, as well as fresh tea and coffee, with fresh fruits, mini breadsticks and biscuits for children.

High guest numbers have resulted in the booking system (set up post Covid, so we could get the doors open as quickly as possible) remaining in place.

We continued to be greatly blessed with Alice Dalziel's wonderfully creative mind and her design of age appropriate varied art and craft creations which we now offer most weeks and which the children thoroughly enjoy.

Fiona Waddon-James reintroduced singing and musical instruments for the families at the end of the session towards the end of 2024 and for many children, this is their favourite part of playgroup. It also makes light work for the helpers at "tidy up" time as we sing along to the children's favourite tunes...one of the little boys insisted that we sing "Jingle Bells" throughout the year!

Thanks once again this year to strong support from St Mary's Church, as well as playgroup parents and carers, we continue with our promise of "families helping families". Sadly, demand for essential toiletries and equipment is higher than ever but the playgroup continued to make charitable donations each and every week we were open across 2025.

During 2025 – we donated in targeted aid, at the lowest prices I could procure, items of toiletries and equipment, with the equivalent monetary value as follows:

Stripey Stork - £2,335.72

Their Voice - £441.00

Hygiene Bank - £180 donation from our Easter raffle and £150 from our Christmas receipts.

We also supported Children's Hospital Pyjamas again, as well as our own playgroup Mummy, Stephanie Howe, who worked tirelessly on the local campaign, with a donation of £268.50 in nightwear.

We continue to collect milk bottle tops to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

As we move into 2026, we have over 150 members of our playgroup social media page, a membership base which I review every quarter. We sometimes have tears when we lose our Monkeys families to the next stage and we miss them but each week we welcome new families to the setting.

HearHere (Catharina Hickson)

HearHere supports those with hearing aids by cleaning, retubing, checking, supplying batteries and advising on Hearing aid use and problem solving for the users and their family members.

In 2025 HearHere had 270 visitors to our clinic cared for by 5 trained volunteers. It ran on the first Friday of the month 10-11am alongside Friday coffee mornings' 'Meeting Place' in The Space, Oxted Community Hall. In the last year many people who we have first met as hearing aid users have become regular Meeting Place friends. Some are also coming to church.

Two yearly retraining of HearHere volunteers was hosted by St Mary's Oxted for East Surrey volunteers. This was led by Siri Joy-George, Audiology Team Leader, and a colleague from Crawley Audiology on 3rd December 2025. Crawley Audiology provide our supplies. All volunteers are DBS checked.

Hearing Champions for St Mary's, Oxted are now Roger Hewitt, Dudley Withers, Hazel Showler and Catharina and Robin Hickson. Many thanks to this lovely team who so willingly share their time, expertise, skills and smiles. From April 2026 we will be joined by Hillary Vale from Tatsfield. Angela Hewitt has become our amazing welcomer and battery distributor. Our clinics are building quickly with 52 people visiting the March 2026 clinic and we have *extended our hours to 9.30-11am to meet local needs*.

Baby Space (Catharina Hickson)

Baby Space continued to run every Thursday morning for parents (with some grandparents) with under one-year olds.

St Mary's run this group to enable parents with little ones to have some time with others in the same position, to enjoy without the cost of a club, to make friends and meet with friends, and be encouraged with hot/cold drinks and cake. The group is especially useful, now that most parents work till late in the pregnancy and return to work within a year, to enable natural support networks to form quickly. Those interested in faith-initiated conversation with the leaders, some now attend church, predominantly our church. The numbers attending varied from the high teens to two babies, as some go back to work and others join with their tiny ones. It is a joy and privilege for those of us running it. We are very grateful to Natasha for co-ordinating volunteers and cake!

St Mary's Soay Sheep 2025

The sheep continue to delight our parishioners and visitors. They are kept to crop the graveyards where we were unable to lawnmow or strim effectively. This year Chocolate, our ewe, gave birth to a lovely, lively lamb at the end of April.

The sheep are predominantly looked after by a team of 5 volunteers: Roger Hewitt, Hazel and Paul Showler, Catharina and Robin Hickson; many others bring them joy in the form of handfuls of longer grass. They mainly look after themselves when they have food and water and live outdoors throughout the year. They are self-shedding so look rather scruffy in later spring. They do need daily feeding through winter when the hedges and grass stop growing – We are very grateful to those who turn out, whatever the weather, to feed them.

The fencing is a constant source of rotten posts that need replacing – the team kindly also do this. The team also collect rubbish, rake up leaves, pull up bracken, nettles, ragwort and foxgloves, and keep the yews and willows cut back. This is time consuming and we are very grateful to the team.

Catharina Hickson

Conclusion

St Mary's continues to flourish as a place of worship, community, and service. This report reflects a year of growth, generosity, and faithful ministry.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

Financial Review

For the year 1 January – 31 December 2025

St. Mary's Financial Review	2025	2024
Surplus on the Unrestricted Fund	£37,874	£4,192

The general (unrestricted) fund achieved a surplus of £37,874 compared to a surplus last year of £4,192. This improvement includes a legacy of £34,000. Allowing for this, there is a surplus of £3,874 compared to a loss last year before legacy of £11,542, which is significantly better than recent trends.

Voluntary giving at £93,175 is up 12.1% on last year, with digital collections up by 22.7%. Gift aid has significantly increased due to increased voluntary giving and a prior year adjustment on general claims following HMRC acceptance that the Church and the Oxted Community Hall are two community buildings.

Huge thanks are due to those 64 members who give regularly by standing order or through Stewardship UK which averages at £67.84 monthly per member [2024: 65 members average £68.64]

Income from fundraising events raised £9,754 compared to £4,015 last year including the British Legion Welsh Choir £2,630, Oxted sessions £2,463, St Mary's May fayre £2,000 and Burns Night £1,368.

Investment income of £5,000 is the ground rent from the Oxted Community Hall. PCC income from weddings, baptisms and funerals was up two-fold at £7,435.

St. Peter's PCC contributed 28.0% [last year 27.9%] to shared administration costs. This is based on the relative Parish Support Fund payment.

The Parish Support Fund payment increased to £67,000, 1.5%, which together with St. Peter's payment of £26,000 ensures that the United Benefice's combined contribution of £93,000 exceeds the requirement for funding a stipendiary minister.

Mission giving was reduced this year to £1,120. The PCC supported two charities that are connected to church members.

The restricted fund. The church building fund increased by £20,704 in the year with an extremely generous individual donation of £25,000. The completion of the porch repairs cost £19,057. Together with a transfer of £5,000 there is £36,892 left in the fund earmarked for the remaining tower works targeted for completion in 2026.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Rector)



Martin Fisher (PCC Treasurer)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Planned giving		52,100	-	52,100	53,536
Collections in church		4,757	-	4,757	4,737
Collections in The_Space		2,364	-	2,364	2,579
Digital collections		6,753	1,000	7,753	6,317
All other giving		1,981	29,045	31,026	14,286
Gift Aid recoverable		25,220	-	25,220	15,056
Voluntary giving		93,175	30,045	123,220	96,511
Legacies		34,000	-	34,000	15,734
Grants	1	-	15,030	15,030	750
Fundraising events		9,754	493	8,247	4,015
Investment income		5,000	-	5,000	5,000
PCC Fees retained		7,435	-	7,435	3,395
Church groups		-	-	-	122
St Peter's PCC		4,835	-	4,835	3,405
Total incoming resources		154,199	45,568	199,767	128,932
Resources expended					
Church activities					
Fundraising costs		1,204	-	1,204	384
Mission giving	2	1,120	-	1,120	2,329
Parish Support Fund	3	67,000	-	67,000	66,000
Salaries, fees, and honoraria	4	15,816	-	15,816	9,972
Clergy expenses		3,868	-	3,868	2,530
		89,008	-	89,008	81,215
Church expenses					
Evangelism, The_Space		5,413	3,000	8,413	7,065
Insurance		4,864	-	4,864	4,751
Maintenance & minor repairs		3,861	509	4,370	2,901
Church running costs		9,863	-	9,863	8,210
Light, heat & water		3,101	-	3,101	2,300
Church groups		215	-	215	233
		27,317	3,509	30,826	25,460
Major expenditure					
Church building repairs		-	18,548	18,548	7,075
Organ repair		-	17,268	17,268	-
Church pew cushions		-	6,120	6,120	-
Depreciation		-	15,137	15,137	15,137
		-	57,073	57,073	22,212
Total Resources Expended		116,325	60,582	176,907	128,887
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		37,874	(15,014)	22,860	45
Transfer between funds	9	(7,873)	7,873	-	-
Net movement in Funds		30,001	(7,141)	22,860	45
Balances brought forward 1 Jan		48,425	486,223	534,648	534,603
Balances carried forward 31 Dec		78,426	479,082	557,508	534,648

The policies and notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	442,190	442,190	457,327
Current assets					
Debtors	6	5,883	-	5,883	7,192
Cash at bank	7	76,032	36,892	112,924	81,894
		81,915	36,892	118,807	89,086
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(3,489)	-	(3,489)	(11,765)
Net current assets		78,426	36,892	115,318	77,321
Total net assets		78,426	479,082	557,508	534,648
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		78,426	-	78,426	48,425
Restricted - Church	9	-	36,892	36,892	16,188
Restricted - Organ	9	-	-	-	12,710
Restricted - Oxted Com Hall	9	-	442,190	442,190	457,325
		78,426	479,082	557,508	534,648

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Rector)



Martin Fisher (Treasurer)

Charity Number: 1164439

Parish Office 53 Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LU

The policies and notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan parish support fund payment is recorded on a monthly basis during the year to which the payments relate. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight-line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight-line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall. The Space formerly occupied by Crossroads was purchased by St Mary's Church in 2022 for £60,000 plus fees of £10,455.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. GRANTS RECEIVED

	2025	2024
Restricted Funds	£	£
Diocese donation to support outreach	2,000	-
Preservation trust/Oxted Parish Council Churchyard grant	80	750
Heritage Trust donation to support church tower	4,860	-
Oxted Rotary Club to support Space	1,000	-
HMRC Listed Places of Worship Scheme (VAT reclaim)	7,090	-
	<u>15,030</u>	<u>750</u>

2. DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

The PCC supported two charities that are connected to church members, Release International and Umoyo Community Project. In addition to donations of £500 each The _ Space was made available for fundraising. The Bishops lent appeal received £100.

3. PARISH SUPPORT FUND

Every year the diocese invites the PCC to review its Parish Support Fund (PSF) payment. This fund is expended on salaries for clergy, bishops and lay staff such as the safeguarding team and advisory staff on church properties. It also covers pension payments and expenditure on maintaining the various rectories and vicarages in the diocese.

The diocese estimates that the cost in 2025 of maintaining a full-time stipendiary minister (including overheads as outlined above) is £89,300 (Cost of Ministry). Although voluntary, failure of the united benefices to meet this target would put at risk future clergy full time provision. Our 'Cost of Ministry' contribution to the PSF is effectively shared with St Peter's Tandridge.

While the PCC sets the annual amount there is a guideline increase expected each year by the diocese. For 2025 an increase of 5.7% was suggested. but the PCC chose an increase of £1,000, 1.52% which was acceptable to the diocese.

4. STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the Parish Administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £9,567 (2024: £7,732) reflecting additional hours worked. St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 28% of these costs together with Parish Office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC. The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and incidental small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £5,838 (2024: £2,240). No other payments were made.

5. FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

Cost or Valuation	Building £	Fittings £	Total £
Oxted Community Hall			
1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	<u>640,000</u>	<u>43,367</u>	<u>683,367</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
1 January 2025	200,800	25,240	226,040
Charge in the year	12,800	2,337	15,137
31 December 2025	<u>213,600</u>	<u>27,577</u>	<u>241,177</u>
Net Book value			
31 December 2025	<u>426,400</u>	<u>15,790</u>	<u>442,190</u>
31 December 2024	<u>439,200</u>	<u>18,127</u>	<u>457,327</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted fund		
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	3,858	3,914
St Peter's Tandridge	1,401	2,236
Other	624	1,042
	5,883	7,192

7. CASH AT BANK

		2025	2024
		£	£
Unrestricted fund		76,032	44,613
Restricted fund -	Organ Fund	-	12,710
Restricted fund -	Church Fund	36,892	24,571
		<u>112,924</u>	<u>66,872</u>

Unrestricted fund cash represents 34 weeks (last year 22 weeks) of ordinary expenditure.

8. CREDITORS

		2025	2024
		£	£
Unrestricted fund	Oxted Community Hall deferred income	1,250	1,250
	Accruals	2,239	2,130
Restricted fund	Church Fund	-	8,385
		<u>3,489</u>	<u>11,765</u>

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Building Fund	Organ Fund	Pew Cushions	Oxted Community Hall	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance 1 Jan 25	16,188	12,710	-	457,325	486,223
Incoming resources	34,761	5,012	2,795	3,000	45,568
Resources expended	(19,057)	(17,268)	(6,120)	(3,000)	(45,445)
Depreciation	-	-	-	(15,137)	(15,137)
From/(To) unrestricted fund	5,000	(454)	3,325	2	7,873
Closing Balance 31 Dec 25	36,892	-	-	442,190	479,082

10. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	22,860	45
Less Building & Equipment	-	(4,846)
Add depreciation	15,137	15,136
Movement in working capital	(6,967)	4,687
Net Cash Flow	31,030	15,022
Cash and short-term deposits as at 1 Jan 25	81,894	66,872
Cash and short-term deposits as at 31 Dec 25	112,924	81,894

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, OXTED.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Julia Taylor

11 March 2026

Minutes from the Annual Vestry Meeting 2025

St. Mary's Church Oxted

Held on Sunday 4th May 2025 in The_Space Oxted Community Hall

Present: The Revd James Ashton chaired the meeting attended by 41 parishioners.

The Meeting opened with a prayer led by Revd James Ashton

2. Apologies for absence:

Richard Adamson, Emma Church, Austin Copp, John Kempton and Xavier Copp

3. Approval of Minutes of 2024 APCM

The minutes of the 2024 APCM were approved by all those present.

Proposed by Martin Fisher and Seconded by Catharina Hickson

4. Election of Churchwardens

Revd. James Ashton informed those present that Austin Copp was standing down from his role as Churchwarden and he thanked Austin for the vital role he has played within the church over the last 4 years.

Robin Hickson has agreed to stand as a Churchwarden.

Proposed by Roger Hewitt and seconded by Joyce Forde-Hill.

James thanked Robin for agreeing to be Churchwarden.

Ed Kyte continues to stand for a second year as Churchwarden.

End of Annual Vestry Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 4th May 2025

Held in The_Space Oxted Community Hall

1. Matters Arising from 2024 minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes taken in 2024 and these were agreed by all those present and duly signed by Revd. James Ashton.

2. Elections

The following people stepped down from the PCC for 2025

Austin Copp (Churchwarden)

Joyce Forde-Hill

Xavier Copp

The following person was duly elected onto the PCC

Stuart Murden

Proposed by Jock Muir

Seconded by Valerie Adamson

Sidespeople/welcomers

Valerie Adamson, Martin Fisher, Catharina Hickson, Stuart Murden, Alison Murden, Austin Copp, Robin Hickson, Ed Kyte, Sue Mallinson, Elizabeth Richards and Paul Showler

Verger – Natasha Copp

The above names were read out to those present and all were duly elected,

Proposed by Stuart Murden

Seconded by Joyce Ford- Hill

3. Team Rector's Comments

The Revd James Ashton said that in addition to his comments in the Annual Report, he would like to reiterate his thanks to everyone who helps in any with church life and in particular Natasha Copp, who in her role as parish administrator, works extremely hard and goes above and beyond merging everything she does with also being also a church member.

JA thanked Katharine Nockles for all her work as safeguarding officer especially in what has been a difficult year in the Church of England. KN has led us through with diligence and care.

JA then went on to talk of the 5 Marks of Mission of the wider church –

Tell, Teach, Tend, Transfer and Treasure and how we can embody these principals in our church and wider community.

JA expressed his thanks to his lovely family and especially his wife Chloe who is always supportive.

- Caryl Donaldson noted thanks to JA at this point for all he and his family do for our church and how grateful everyone is to them.
- Catharina Hickson noted thanks to Xavier Copp for putting up the swift boxes at the front of The Community Hall.

Jock Muir then gave those present an update on the organ repairs assuring everyone that the organ builder had a very good pedigree and because of that a heavy workload and was endeavouring to fit the organ repairs in around his other commitments. It is hoped that work will be completed by the summer.

- John Mallinson also noted thanks to JA for his unique qualities as our Team Rector and expressed his hope that he would be with us for much longer.
- Valerie Admson noted her thanks to Ian Skipper for stepping in as St. Mary's organist.

At this point JA informed those present that Ian Skipper had accepted the role of Musical Director for St. Mary's.

Rod Hudson had come to the end of his time with St. Mary's at the beginning of 2025 and it was hoped that an opportunity would arise to thank him for his 50 years of service.

4.1 Elector Roll Report

Paul Shillito informed everyone present that there were 87 currently on the Electoral Roll.

- JA noted his grateful thanks to PS for his work on the Electoral Roll.
- VA pointed out that anyone taking on a role within the church needed to be on the Electoral Roll.
-

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Martin Fisher opened his comments with his grateful thanks to James and Chloe reiterating what others have said and adding that he has never known such a dedicated and supportive couple in all his time in the church.

MF then went on to note that the deficit has been reduced and we have halved the rate of loss but this hasn't got us in the clear. The 3 year predication is that we will still run out of money and currently it is the legacies that are keeping us in the black. He thanked everyone who gives regularly via standing order and also thanked Robin Hickson who stood in at the last minute as an independent auditor for the church accounts this year. However, having taken on the role of churchwarden this would then rule him out for next year. MF noted his

first priority for giving was always the Parish Support Fund as although this is voluntary it ensures that we still have our clergy.

Questions – When asked how short we were on the cushion fund, MF said we were approximately half way there.

Easy Fundraising take up had received approximately £200. JF-H suggested maybe we need to remind people.

JA thanked MF for all his work as church Treasurer.

Any other business:

PS asked when the church was open and if there was any concern over possible vandalism. JA said he has always been very keen to keep the church open, anything of value has been put away and also that ecclesiastical insurance actually encourages churches to be kept open as this discouraged break-ins which can actually sometimes cause more damage.

The meeting then closed with The Grace

Accounts



St. Mary's Church Oxted

Annual Report 2024

Knowing Christ

Growing Community, Renewing Heritage

Charity number: 1164439

Ministry Team

Rev. James Ashton	Team Rector
Rev. David Weightman	Assistant Priest
Rev. Liz Lane	Assistant Priest
Rev. Judith Brooks	Assistant Priest
Sue Mallinson	Reader
Rev. Ken Robinson	Assistant Priest
Mary Cook	Pastoral Visitor

PCC Members

Ex Officio members

Rev. James Ashton	Team Rector (Chairman) – from 7 January 2020
Austin Copp	Churchwarden – from September 2022
Ed Kyte	Churchwarden – from April 2024

Deanery Synod Representatives

Sue Mallinson *	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Catharina Hickson	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Valerie Adamson	
Edward Kyte	

*Sue Mallinson represents St. Peter's Tandridge on Deanery Synod and is on the electoral roll of St. Mary's , also representing Tandridge Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Diocesan Synod Representative

Catharina Hickson

Licensed Readers

Sue Mallinson

Parish Administrator

Natasha Copp

Co-opted members

Rev. David Weightman

Rev. Ken Robinson

Rev. Judith Brooks (Clergy)

Marian Dalton (PCC Secretary)

Rev. Liz Lane (Clergy)

Katharine Nockles (Safeguarding Officer)

Ex-officio

Catharina Hickson (Diocesan Synod)

Valerie Adamson (Deanery Synod)

Elected Members

Martin Fisher - 2020 Treasurer and Vice Chairman

Richard Adamson (2023 – 2026)

Natasha Copp (2023-2026)

Katy Aspinwall (2023 -2026)

Alison Murden (2023 – 2026)

Emma Church (2023 - 2026)

Caroline Horsford (2023 -2026)

Len Muir (2023 – 2026)

Xavier Copp (2023 – 2026)

Joyce Ford-Hill (2024-2027)

Norman Maynard (2024-2027)

Adele Forrest (2024-2027)

Standing Committee

Rev. James Ashton, Austin Copp, Martin Fisher, Rev. David Weightman, Marian Dalton

Members of the Standing Committee are agreed at the PCC meeting after the APCM. It conducts the business on behalf of the PCC (as directed by the PCC) in between PCC meetings and also sets the agenda for meetings.

Electoral Roll Officer - Paul Shillito

Treasurer - Martin Fisher

Churches Together in Oxted and District - David Cook

Bank Details : Barclays Bank 20-76-55

PCC St.Mary's Oxted General Account: 10688967

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Introduction

2024 was a full year in the life of our church, as we responded in love and hope to the needs of our community, and our world.

Conflicts continued to rage in Ukraine and in Gaza; we endured daily reminders of the harm that humanity can cause. Our church life stands as a beacon of hope in our community, and our world. We stand for peace, and share Jesus's love with all. We continue to follow the strands of our core values: Knowing Christ, Growing Community and Renewing our Heritage.

Our worshipping community has grown in faith and number during 2024; and I am blessed to be part of the loving body of Christ here. Our ministry team continues to flourish, and we are able to reach out in many creative ways. My sincere thanks are due to Revd David, Revd Liz, Revd Judith, Revd Ken, and Sue Mallinson for their ongoing prayerful service in our churches. We have also been joined by Sam Baker, a Church of England trainee vicar, who is on a placement with us until his ordination in June 2026.

Our grateful thanks are due to Natasha in the Parish Office. Natasha is a true servant, and is creative, diligent and supportive in all that she does. Thank you also to our PCC, and church wardens for all they have done through 2024. Their dedicated duty is much appreciated; in all areas of our church life. A special thanks to Katharine Nockles, our Safeguarding Officer, for ensuring that we keep up with this important area.

During 2024 our finances were relatively stable, but the future is not certain. I am extremely grateful to all those who support us by giving regularly; and to those who support our fundraising events. Please continue to do so! I am enormously appreciative to Martin and the treasury team for all that they do to manage our finances. The coming year will also see us look to raise funds to finish the work to the tower.

Thank you to Rod, and our choir for leading our sung worship at our 9.30am service. Thank you also to our Cafe service musicians, who are so generous with their time and skill. They also support our All-Age Worship service, and we have seen this grow in creativity. Thank you also to our wonderful Bellringing team - Ian leads and trains with great skill and dignity. It has been good to see new young bell ringers joining in!

Thank you to our Junior Church volunteers, who enable a group of 10-15 children to meet each week, and grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus. Each one of the team is a true blessing to our church community.

The_Space continues to be a warm, welcoming presence in the wider community. We are pleased to be using it more and more; not a day goes by when someone isn't blessed by an event or gathering there. Thank you to all those who volunteer at different events in The_Space.

We also continue to work in so many other places in the community. We regularly visit St Mary's School, Tandridge Heights Care Home, Ridgeway Manor and Sycamore Court. These opportunities are an excellent way for us to love our community and be involved.

Everything I have mentioned here, and much more besides, would not be possible without the prayerful, joyful and imaginative involvement of many volunteers. Thank you to you all, I am encouraged and inspired to be sharing with you all.

I commend this Annual Report to you, and all that is contained within. May we pray and work together as a church, as we are filled with the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit of God; always putting the example of Jesus before us.

Revd James Ashton – Team Rector

Café Service

2024 saw Cafe make a more permanent move into The_Space, and this gives us a more homely and intimate feel to our gatherings. We worship in song, share news, have a short reflection on the bible or faith, and pray together. We are extremely thankful to all those who attend, and support our Cafe Service. Our musicians, cake bakers, speakers, refreshment team are all enormously appreciated. One exciting addition has been that the weekly Oxted Team youth group meets after Cafe, and many of them join us for the service. We look forward to Cafe continuing to grow in faith and attendance.

James A

Churchwarden's Report

Since the last AGM the Church has enjoyed a period of stability with a full compliment of clergy and it's been great to host Sam Baker as he combines shadowing James with his theological studies. I am grateful that Edward Kyte stood up as fellow churchwarden after a period of sole charge.

Congregation numbers seem resilient and it's lovely to see good numbers of children and parents at junior church.

Our Treasurer will cover the difficult financial situation that we navigate in his update, but we have stepped out in faith for a couple of specific items of expenditure. Namely, the organ refurbishment, our own chairs in The_Space and the pew cushions in the Church. These have been subject to specific fund-raising appeals and grant applications and so we hope not to compound the on-going challenge of re-occurring costs. Our thanks must go to Mr Muir (Jock) for his enthusiastic work in organising and raising funds for the Speechly organ work.

Thanks also to all those who give so generously each week and month and give their time to our regular, as well as special fund raising, events.

With regard to the physical state and condition of the historic church building we have commissioned our Quinquennial inspection and are awaiting the report at the time of writing. The Porch work though delayed has started and should be now complete. We are aware from the last report that the lower section of the tower still needs repointing and there is added time pressure now with the removal of VAT relief in 2027.

We are aware of various grant making bodies but have not yet secured resource to pursue these and would be grateful if any Church member would consider completing and submitting some applications.

I am pleased to report that the buildings remain insured and gas and electrical safety checks are in date as well as fire extinguishers serviced. To note we do not have a serviceable fire alarm, which is not required by our insurers but would give peace of mind to have if a cost-effective solution can be sourced.

The_Space continues to spearhead our community outreach and meeting our Knowing Christ & Growing Community objectives. We host an expanding programme of faith and community events and are very grateful to all those who organise and staff the events and provide the delicious refreshments.

We aim to further improve the acoustics and lighting with targeted grants and appeals, subject to the above request.

Our thanks go to the cleaning parties, both the regular and occasional teams and the gardening teams and others who keep the Church and grounds looking well. New faces would be made very welcome, so please look out for the next opportunity as the fellowship of working alongside other Church members can be a form of worship in itself, or at least the refreshments are heavenly!

Finally, I would like to end on the important but sober topic of Safeguarding. We are all aware from national media of the sins of commission and omission by clergy and trusted others. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled Parish Safeguarding Officer in Katharine Nockles and the PCC has adopted all the Southwark Diocese policies.

The PCC is also supporting Katharine in ensuring that all relevant parties have appropriate DBS checks in place and have completed the extensive training required. To underline the importance of this PCC resolved in Nov 24 that any PCC member with overdue training will need to temporarily step down until this has been completed.

Austin Copp
Church Warden

Churches Together in Oxted and District

John Tolley continued as Chair until November 2024 at which point Rev James Ashton took over the reins. The more informal style sought by CTOD member Churches has resulted in fewer formal meetings but continuing Christian sharing as we move forward together.

In view of our continued healthy financial situation we again decided NOT to ask our member Churches for the usual annual Subscription.

The World Day of Prayer meetings were devised by the women of Palestine with the theme Go and Do Likewise.

Our 2024 Lent Groups were centred on The Gift of Christ York Course which was well received and several different groups met locally.

A highlight of the year was our sponsorship of CTOD A Celebration in Story and Image, a quality colour publication devised by Nadeem Qureshi which contained various personal Christian testimonies.

The Good Friday walk of Witness took place on Good Friday 29th March and was again organised by Rev Helen Cook of St Peter's Limpsfield.

We donated £600 to the Oxted One World Group and £500 towards the Youth Group's costs at St John's Hurst Green

GIFT (Gathering in Faith Together) has continued to meet on Monday mornings at various locations.

David Cook (CTOD Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

St. Mary's PCC meets every two months together with St. Peter's Tandridge. The meeting is divided into two parts with news and items relevant to both churches in the first half and then the two churches divide into their separate groups for more specific items relating to either St. Mary's or St. Peter's. Every meeting includes a finance report, a safeguarding report and a report on the church building. Everyone is encouraged to have their say in the running of the church and discuss any matters concerning church life. The PCC supports the treasurer in his decision making over allocation of funds including the Church's annual donation to the Parish Support Fund. Meetings are well attended and anyone who would like to join the PCC and have more of a say in church life would be very welcome.

Marian Dalton – PCC Secretary

Tandridge Deanery Synod

Meetings aimed to keep in mind a summary, written by Deanery Lay Chair Susan Gibbins, as being:

- A key part of the Church of England engagement and governance structures
- A space to discuss key issues and organise church ministry and mission
- A forum to act as an intermediary between PCCs of each parish and the Synod of the diocese as a whole

Within the vision and mission of the wider Cof E we are challenged to use our Deanery structure to help:

- Promote the growth of the church in our congregation, and our lay and vocational ministries
- Reflect in our leadership the cultural diversity of the Deanery
- Support each other to be transparent, accountable and generous in our contribution to the Wider church
- Challenge and encourage each other in our Mission Action Plans
- Develop opportunities for collaborative working for mission and ministry purposes
- Provide a space for prayer, dialogue and training across church traditions
- Be one of the key communication hubs across the Diocese

It is not about doing this alone, but with other Church partners, schools, chaplaincies, mission agencies, ecumenical partners and the Diocese. The challenge is for our synod to facilitate and help us to be creative, imaginative and strategic and occasionally taking risks as we rise to this challenge.

Lay representatives need vision and passion, for the church to flourish; think and act strategically, go for change, feed back to PCCs and so breathe new life into deaneries

In February 2024 Tandridge Deanery Synod met in Caterham St Lawrence and St Mary the Virgin. The Business meeting learned from the Treasurer, that the Deanery bank account would be transferred to Co-op Bank, for ethical reasons and the start of the financial year would be moved to 1st January to match other deaneries/the Diocese. Six Pilgrimage Walks took place in LENT, across the Diocese, beginning with Reigate to Chaldon, and on to Southwark. Help for churches to develop pioneering/fresh expressions - S'wark Pioneer Development Officer, Revd David Cundill, Cathedral service in March to celebrate women's ministry and 30 years of ordination to the priesthood. Availability of grants for churches' low cost repairs and improvements.

The Synod discussed how to be an effective Deanery Synod member' and how to get our voice to the wider Church. Suggestions were - Start a WhatsApp Group - Synod

members to take action points to their PCC - Use podcast, video instead of detailed documents to read. Communicating informally outside Deanery meetings, leads to action and the need for advice on dealing with different age groups - and getting their point of view.

In July 2024 at St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green. The meeting, the first of the new Triennium, began with the election of a new Lay Chair - April Alexander was standing down - Ed Kyte (from St Mary's) proposed the election of Susan Gibbin, from St John's in Caterham Valley. New Lay members were welcomed to the Synod, as was Revd Alison Way, Team Vicar in Warlingham Team, and Parish Ministry Development Officer for the Croydon Episcopal Area. Deanery Secretary, Janet Harman was also standing down. As yet there were no candidates for election. Tandridge reps were needed for the new Diocesan Synod - 4 Lay and 3 Clergy. Catharina Hickson, only lay candidate, said 'it is about setting the strategy vision of the diocese from the perspective of our local knowledge' - April Alexander said 'Diocesan emphasis is London - they need our Surrey point of view', Kim Wilkins/Sue Mallinson offered as lay reps, and Revds Helen Burnett, and Helen Cook joined Michelle Edmonds.

There was feedback on the recent Lay Conference organised by Archdeacon Moira Astin at St Bede's School. Keynote speaker Elaine Storkey, and many workshops, meant it was a time to learn and talk together. The Refugee Tales (books and walks) were mentioned, organised by the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, as being in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers etc in detention centres near Gatwick Airport - since 1995. Local people felt detainees needed support, visiting and advice.

Also the Country Way Magazine is now only on-line - it covers Christian life and work in rural Britain

In October 2024 at St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green - Parish Place and Presence. Area Dean, Revd Michelle Edmonds, set the context for discussion, from a Clergy Study day on parishes as the starting point and focus of Diocesan vision 'Christ centred – Outward focussed. eg the importance of stability, paying attention, the meaning of Parish as 'outside the house', knowing our context, leading people through prayer, celebrating differences and accepting that no size fits all. In discussion members examined maps of their parish - and neighbours - looking for what was surprising, the main arterial routes, marking places of church activity - or none - to be used in Mission Action Planning with PCCs.

Feedback - We are a church of pilgrimage - so many national paths across our landscape - chance of Rogation walks with other parishes. We need data about populations, what age groups are missing from our church, where are the lonely, the bereaved, and those facing poverty.

Sue Mallinson Deanery Synod Representative

Fellowship/Social

2024 was a busy year with a variety of events being organised. Several of the events were held in The Space while others were held in the main hall of OCH and in church

Some of the social activities were a mixture of social and worship. The first of these was the Shrove Tuesday evening of pancakes and prayers on February 13th held in The Space. This was well attended by a complete cross section of age groups.

To celebrate Maundy Thursday on 28th March - a very well attended Christian Seder Supper was held in The Space.

On April 20th a Trivia Quiz was held with a two course buffet supper. This raised £645.30 which was split equally between church funds and the funds of The Heritage Trust.

The May Fayre was due to be held on 18th May but unfortunately the School field was very soft from previous bouts of rain and the forecast earlier in the week for the day of the Fayre was very bad. This meant that by Tuesday of the week several of the attractions from outside that had been booked cried off and eventually with all the attractions due to take place outside on the School field the decision was taken to cancel the May Fayre. In the thirty years that the Fayre had been running this was the first time that this had happened due to the weather. All was not lost however as a decision had been taken earlier to hold the Raffle and the Silent Auction on line and these carried on until May 19th. Between them they raised £2,532 which was divided equally between the funds of the Friends of the School and Church funds.

From June 10th a Great Big Green Week was held mostly in The Space. Recorded talks were enjoyed on a variety of subjects including swifts, bees and the state of the oceans and they were followed by a light lunch.

There was an open day on June 15th with superb flower displays and a variety of activities such as a bell ringing demonstration, meet the sheep and the ever popular tours up to the top of the tower. A large number of visitors enjoyed the attractions including the cream teas. In addition there was a variety of stalls in The Space which raised £129.50 for church funds.

On June 21st a performance by the Shanty Band was enjoyed in church

From 12th to 16th August Holiday at Home was organised in The Space. With a different activity every day followed by a light lunch this was popular and brought in several non-church members.

The celebration of the Patronal Festival was combined with celebrating Harvest on September 28th along with a popular open day with a variety of activities and some beautiful flower displays. This was followed on Sunday 29th by a Harvest lunch in The Space after the 9.30am service.

The pupils of St. Mary's School celebrated their harvest on 4th October with three services in church. As usual they donated a huge amount of produce which was sorted by a small band of volunteers. About 50 parcels were distributed to local people, and food was sent to the Caterham Food Bank and the Renewed Hope Trust at Redhill -- organisations that help the homeless and families in some sort of need. Toiletries were collected for the Godstone Hygiene Bank.

On October 12th an Autumn Fair was held, using the Meeting Room in OCH as well as the St. Mary's Space giving a profit to church funds of £528.70. It was held at the same time as the RNLI sale and both organisations felt that they benefited from the synchronisation of dates.

On 19th October a popular musical Evening was held in church to raise funds for the works on the church organ. Thanks to Mary Cook and Richard Lane for providing the music.

On 3rd November the annual very popular Memorial Service for the departed was held in church. It was attended by well over 100 people, with once again many of them travelling some distance to attend. After the service many of them enjoyed a tea in Oxted Community Hall.

On 24th November – Stir up Sunday, Christmas puddings were made in the Space and in December three informal Advent lunches were held.

Through the year refreshments have been served after the 9.30am service and before the café service, both in The Space. Also in The Space breakfasts have been held on the first Saturday of the month and community lunches on the first Wednesday of the month

Many of these activities involve the serving and provision of refreshments of some sort. More volunteers to help with this would be much appreciated.

Valerie Adamson

Oxted Churches

For practical reasons the Oxted Churches decided to continue with the practice started in Covid restricted times and not produce joint Easter and Christmas cards. Instead articles were published in the Oxted Local magazine giving some details of services from Holy Week through to Easter and at Christmas along with details of church contacts.

The World Day of Prayer held on the first Friday in March was marked locally by two services – one in the morning at The United Reformed Church in Oxted – this was streamed so that people unable to attend could watch it and one in the evening at St. Peter's, Limpsfield.

Lent groups were held as usual, some in people's homes and some by Zoom and were led and enjoyed by several members of St. Mary's.

On 25th November the usual joint Churches Trivia quiz was held. This was well attended with representatives from the local Oxted churches and also from Hurst Green Evangelical Church. With no card printing costs to pay for, the profit of £595.71 from the evening was divided equally between PCC funds and the St. Mary's Heritage Trust.

Valerie Adamson

Missions and Charities

At £2,329 direct giving to Missions and Charities was less than usual however when the cost of £7,065 for running outreach activities in The Space is taken into account the total rises to £9,394. The direct giving included £1,000 sent to Jigsaw South East which is an organisation that provides support, information and guidance for parents, carers and professionals who are supporting a child or young person who is facing or coping with the death of a loved one. They also organise occasional social events and activities for these young people. Their work covers Surrey and nearby areas.

In addition £400 was sent to Crisis as a result of donations made at various activities such as the Advent lunches and £929 was sent to Beyond Bars – a charity in Albania supported by a fund raising event organised by Robert Cook.

During Christian Aid Week in May, 17 church members along with 3 members from the other Oxted Churches were involved in collecting and/or delivering Christian Aid envelopes. A total of £1,293.91 was raised. As this money was collected in Christian Aid envelopes and £607.91 of it was Gift Aided by individuals it was sent off directly to Christian Aid.

Valerie Adamson

Publicity

This involves both informing church members about events and activities and the wider public.

Church members are kept informed via the weekly news bulletin and occasional separate emails. If you are not on the circulation list please speak to Natasha our Parish Administrator. Leaflets giving details of events are also widely available in church and in The Space and can be taken to distribute to friends and neighbours. Posters advertising events are regularly put up on the outside church notice board.

To keep the wider public informed of church matters and events posts are often put on Facebook and articles are regularly submitted to the Oxted Local magazine. This is circulated free of charge monthly to 6,850 homes in the local area with a further 150 copies being left at train stations. This outreach to the community has resulted in some donations towards specific church funds.

If you would like to write an article for the magazine – a full page can be up to about 600 words, about a church matter please speak to Valerie Adamson or to our Rector James

Valerie Adamson

Safeguarding

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church community to make sure we create a safe environment for the activities that we undertake with children and vulnerable adults. We follow the guidance provided for us by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in 'A Safe Church'. A summary of the safeguarding principles adopted by your PCC can be found on the church porch noticeboard and the noticeboard inside church. These principles were readopted by the PCC in September 2024. I have worked for a number of years with Fay Prater, the PSO from St Peter's, so that together we can consider and support each other with safeguarding planning and any issues. We are also now linked up with the PSOs at St John's so we can further combine our various experience and knowledge. We have been focussing at St Mary's this year on getting training up to date for all those who volunteer in our church starting with the PCC. This is mostly done via an online course but for leaders within our church community the training is delivered by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Fay and I are also making more use of the church database - Churchsuite - to support us in the administrative aspects of safeguarding activity. The reporting year has finished with the completion of the Parish Safeguarding Audit. This is particularly topical given the church safeguarding arrangements nationally have had press focus over the last year. The audit has been helpful in prompting reviews of all that we do and these have included raising awareness of our whistleblowing, complaints and grievance policy. A new informative poster will be placed on noticeboards.

At any time, if any member of the congregation has a concern, please speak to me, James, Liz or David, or Fay the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's. Even if it isn't clear whether there is a safeguarding issue or not, it is always better to talk it through at an early stage so that a potential issue can be averted or if our safeguarding arrangements or understanding don't seem to be covering a particular activity or scenario we can respond. Please contact me by email on safeguardingstmarysoxtd@gmail.com or on 07778 539664 (please note that my phone goes straight to voicemail for any unrecognised numbers so do leave a message and I can call you back).

Katharine Nockles

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Flower Arranging

St Mary's has a small team who arrange flowers to beautify our ancient church. Our focus is on creating displays for the key festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest though arrangements are created for other occasions too. None of us are formally trained. We have all learned by trial and error over the years and we help and support each other. Every arrangement is different and reflects us as individuals; the common theme is that we enjoy creating something that we hope is enjoyed by others and visually enhances our worship. In addition to our arrangements we also make up the annual small posies for Mothering Sunday. We were delighted to be supported by several ladies at the Friday morning Meeting Place and we enjoyed making the posies together. If anyone would like to come and join the team please do contact me on flowers.stmarysoxted@gmail.com.

Katharine Nockles

Flower Team

St. Mary's Oxted Bellringers Report for 2025.

The year of 2024 was very successful for the bellringers. We managed to ring at the majority of Sunday services as well as other special events. The ringers were fully involved with the Church 'Open Day' and provided a demonstration of bell ringing. On a couple of occasions, we supplemented the ringers at Limpsfield Chart by ringing simultaneously for Sunday services at both St. Mary's and St. Andrews churches. The year ended with a Ringers Social Gathering in The_Space where ringers, their 'other halves', and some church officers were invited. The event which included food and quizzes was organised to include all between 8 and 80 years of age and enjoyed by all.

The band of ringers is now strong following many years of trying to recruit new ringers. We are most fortunate to have several young ringers who, I hope will continue to ring for many years to come. The band now includes three generations from one family: a very rare occurrence. All new ringers are following an accredited training programme (Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) scheme). All have reached Level 1, most have reached Level 2 and are making good progress towards Level 3.

St. Mary's has now got an excellent ringing teaching facility fully equipped with computers which are connected to the bells. This enables individual and group learning to be done without making a noise outside. We have had donated some newer computers and screens

which has allowed me to upgrade our system and pass on older but fully functioning equipment to others.

The availability of the computer training system has enabled St. Mary's to host several training sessions for both the Surrey Bellringers, Whiting Society and other organisations. Regular 'Twice a Month' sessions were introduced and have become very popular enabling afternoon and evening practice to be organised. Donations made have been passed on to the Church funds.

We look forward to an equally successful 2025. New or returning ringers are always welcome to join us.

Ian Griffiths

St Mary's Church Choir

We are still without a Music Director, but we have a loyal and committed choir who enjoy singing at morning services (apart from AAW). The choir is also available to sing at weddings and occasional funerals (of church members). Other services such as the annual Memorial Service, Remembrance Day, WDP, and Church festivals are well supported by an augmented choir. Although we still do not have weekly practices, we meet monthly for our parish "Come and Sing" (apart from 3 months during the winter) when we acquaint ourselves with the hymns for the month. This is always well attended.

Rod, our organist celebrated his 80th birthday this year and, (we understand) he has been playing the organ at St Mary's for nearly 50 years!

Plans are afoot to have necessary work done to the organ. We thank Jock for his involvement in this and we hope, (shortly) to have news of the commencement of this work. Thank you to Richard Lane for performing at a concert to raise funds for the organ appeal, and to those who have generously donated, to make the organ work possible.

James, (at the moment our only treble), is working towards his light blue award in the RSCM "Voice For Life" training scheme. He again sang solo for the first verse of Once in Royal David's City at our very well attended Carol Service.

We are most fortunate to still have a robed choir and a functioning organ at St Mary's when so many other churches have lost theirs. Whilst we celebrate our musical heritage let us continue to grow towards achieving the best in new ways of worshipping and of introducing music that will both honour God and enrich our faith.

Mary Cook

Pastoral / Visiting Team

During this past year we have not had any meetings on which I can report. Nevertheless, praying, visiting and listening to those looking for support, still continues. We are available whenever we hear of people wanting that extra time and space, whether at home or in hospital. We are fortunate that The-Space is also now available for conversation. There is always a natural flow of people either leaving or joining the team and we are grateful to Katharine Nockles for keeping the DBS checks up to date. We are also grateful to Ken Robinson and Liz Lane for their prayer ministry after Communion each week.

Mary Cook

Hear Here

Hearhere supports those with hearing aids from the NHS. We are a team of 5 people trained, and retrained every 2 years, by an NHS audiologist. The NHS provides the supplies needed to replace tubes, domes and batteries that we fit and hand out. This is the first year when we have been entrusted with thin tubes. We also give advice to keep users hearing as well as possible. We run alongside Meeting Place on the first Friday of every month from 10-11am. Many of our Hearhere visitors have become regular friends of Meeting Place thanks to the warm welcome from the Meeting Place team- we thank them! It is our privilege to meet and serve around twenty lovely, interesting people of Oxted each month. Why do we exist? To make life easier for people to get advice and supplies (free) to keep their hearing aids in peak condition. Our nearest audiology services are at Crawley hospital and Caterham Dene. Did you know that the plastic tubes on hearing aids go hard as they are used? The harder they get the less sound they carry from the hearing aid to the ear. So please replace them every 6 months.

Catharina Stibe Hickson

Hear Here leader

St Mary's Sheep

The sheep continue to delight old and young alike. They also serve our community by cropping the grass in our churchyards so that people can walk through the area. They do require quite a bit of work to keep them safe and happy. In the winter months they are fed daily, and the water is kept topped up and clean throughout the year by our team of 6 volunteers. The fencing and gates require frequent maintenance. Leaves need raking and some plants are poisonous, so the areas need checking and such plants removing regularly. These are a rare and ancient breed type that are tiny compared to regular sheep so they don't eat growing nettles, thistles or bracken so these are also pulled by hand. Sadly, we

have experienced people leaving gates propped open and even forcing the gates to open, so we have had to put locks on them to ensure that the sheep are kept safely inside. The code to the padlocks can be obtained by those visiting graves- there are signs up with the phone number to ring to get the code. There are also stiles for those who can climb over. If you see people or dogs chasing sheep please ask them to stop or call police as sheep overheat if they are chased readily, they can then die. They don't show their distress. Do join the sheep supporters team.

Catharina Hickson

Eco-church

We received the Silver Award in January 2025!

Thank you everyone for supporting this new venture, capturing all that we already do and starting some new eco projects. Some of our highlights - We have moved Cafe service to The Space for the winter months to save fuel. We have focused heating the Church building to a comfortable level ready for the 8am said service and this is continued on to the main 9.30 Communion or family service. We thank the children for leading our plant and flower survey with Emma and Laura to share with the national survey and understanding England. The area not tended by the sheep is mown around the edges and paths to keep it neat but left to grow in two parts, one for 'No mow May', and one for 'Let it bloom in June'. Andrea has investigated and collated 'Where to Recycle What' over and above the kerbside offer for Oxted and has found a myriad of people and places that offer niche Recycling - this has been shared with all the church communities of Churches Together in Oxted and through the council to all businesses. Many came to share lunch and listen to webinars in BIG Green Week, we were very lucky to meet some rescued baby swifts. Some have joined our Friends of the River Eden Ecosystem, FREE, monthly water sampling and testing team. Natasha and Ann keep us stocked with eco- friendly, responsibly produced foods and products. We have up-cycled tables tops in The Space and put ferrules on chair legs rather than having to replace them. Valerie has written articles to let the broader community know about our work. Thank you all for the things you take the time to be informed about and life changes, even if small, that you do to support Creation.

Catharina Hickson

Eco-team leader for St Mary's, Oxted

Eco-champion for Reigate archdeaconry

Meeting Place

Our Friday morning drop in coffee continues to thrive, with new faces alongside some who have been coming for many years. It is a happy and lively room, offering a warm welcome along with fresh coffee and home-made cakes.

The_Space continues to offer convenience for the team and comfort for our guests.

On the first Friday of every month the Hear Here champions run their drop in clinic, this is a lovely way to welcome more people for coffee, a number of whom then return during the month.

Meeting Place - for coffee, cake and conversation, Friday mornings 9:30-11:30. All welcome. Thank you to the Meeting Place team.

Natasha Copp

Wobble

Our Tuesday morning seated exercise class, Wobble, with Sarah Goldsack is a joyful time, with uplifting music and movement followed by coffee and homemade cake.

The numbers have continued to grow and we now regularly welcome over 30 visitors each week.

Thank you to Sarah and the Wobble refreshments team - Valerie A and Sue K.

Natasha Copp

Baby_Space

Our Thursday morning group for parents and babies under one continues to welcome local mums and dads and their babies, some as young as just weeks old. Baby_Space is an opportunity for parents to get to know others at the same stage of parenting, friendship and support networks are formed and we are sad to say good bye as babies reach their first birthday (but then we often see them at Monkeys!).

Thank you to the small team of helpers and bakers.

Natasha Copp

St Mary's Primary School, Oxted

St Mary's Primary School is a voluntary aided school with around 630 pupils, situated in central Oxted. It remains in partnership with Limpsfield Infant School; a partnership that has grown and flourished in the past year, demonstrating a real sense of "Belonging Together", one of our key values.

The children continue to share deep experiences through their Worship and there is a strong connection between our school and St Mary's Church. Rev James Ashton regularly comes in to school to lead Collective Worship and the children regularly attend services at the church. Last year, children of all ages were able to experience services in the church, for example services at Easter, an end of year service for the Year 6s, a welcome service for the new Year 3 children, Harvest Festival and a carol concert.

Our school site has continued to go from strength to strength. As well as a new cycle/scooter park, we also completed the wonderful project to refurbish our outdoor pool. The pool is such a fantastic resource, not only for the lucky children at St Mary's but also for the wider community.

We were delighted to receive a fantastic SIAMS report following our inspection in October.

Sadly for us, our Headteacher, Sarah Lewis, announced that she will be taking her (well earned!) retirement in July 2025. However, the Governors were delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Timothy Samuel as the new Executive Headteacher of the Partnership, from September 2025.

Rosie Davies

Governor St. Mary's School

St. Mary's Monkeys Playgroup

Our playgroup is aimed at children under five years of age and thus school holidays are not relevant to many of our users and for many parents and carers, the playgroup is an invaluable asset during school holidays because we also welcome older siblings (many of whom are our past "Monkeys" which is always lovely) and it provides an affordable activity for the whole family.

Playgroup was offered throughout 2024 regardless of school holidays and we were only closed due to external hall hire or due to the lack of guest numbers to make a session viable, over the summer break.

We lost a strong cohort of regular playgroup users to the next stage of their journey in September 2024 but thanks to the time given by our volunteer helpers to hand out fliers in the community, as well as continued advertising on local social media pages, we are seeing a new group of regular guests starting to emerge.

In 2024, we were glad to receive additional support from Duke of Edinburgh Award students, as well as youngsters who were looking for opportunities purely to "give back" to the community. In 2025, we look forward to supporting three Duke of Edinburgh Award students

(2 Silver and 1 Bronze) who are going to help us with playgroup as well as a number of other voluntary opportunities available to them under my wing.

The admission fee for playgroup, we have maintained since May 2021 as £3 per adult guest because we wish to be fully inclusive. There is an additional charge of £2 in place for late bookings due to problems late bookings created for efficiently managing our resources (specifically craft and snacks).

For £3 per adult guest, families are able to enjoy an hour and a half of “stay and play” with a wide selection of toys and equipment. Families are also encouraged to make an unlimited number of visits to our kitchen hatch to enjoy a wide selection of homemade cakes, fresh tea and coffee. We provide a selection of fresh fruits, mini breadsticks and biscuits for children, as well as a selection of gluten free and allergy friendly items.

We continued to be greatly blessed with Alice Dalziel’s wonderfully creative mind and her design of age appropriate varied art and craft creations which we now offer most weeks and which the children thoroughly enjoy.

Towards the end of 2024, thanks to Fiona Waddon-James, we also reintroduced singing and musical instruments for the families at the end of the session. The families are very much enjoying and participating in this activity and it makes light work for the helpers at “tidy up” time as we sing along to the children’s favourite tunes!

Thanks to strong support from St Mary's Church, as well as playgroup parents and carers, the playgroup continued to make a number of generous charitable donations across the year.

During 2024 – we donated in targeted aid, items of toiletries and equipment, with the equivalent monetary value as follows.....

Their Voice - £1,936.12

Stripey Stork - £1,012.39

Hygiene Bank - £105 donation at Easter and £256 from our Christmas raffle (cash gifts)

We also support Great Ormond Street Hospital with our ongoing collection of milk bottle tops.

As we move into 2025, we start the year with over 200 members of our playgroup social media page.

Most importantly, I am grateful for the time given by a strong team of diligent, reliable, professional, friendly volunteers from our community. Without these 12 people, this Oxted jewel in the crown could not continue to run (after 16 years) and none of the above would be made possible.

Penny Kirk

Minutes from the Annual Vestry Meeting of
St. Mary's Church Oxted
Held on Sunday April 21st 2024 in The_Space Oxted Community Hall

Present: The Revd James Ashton chaired the meeting which was attended by 38 parishioners.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Apologies: Sue Mallinson, Liz Lane, Sue and John Kempton, Austin and Natasha Copp

1. Approval of Minutes from the 2023 APCM

The minutes from last year's meeting were approved by those present.

Proposed: Valerie Adamson

Seconded: Angela Hewitt

2. Election of Churchwardens

Austin Copp had agreed to stand for another year as churchwarden .

Proposed: Martin Fisher

Seconded Catharina Hickson

Edward Kyte was elected as churchwarden

Proposed: Marian Dalton

Seconded : Martin Fisher

Revd Ashton welcomed Edward Kyte as churchwarden and said he was delighted to have two churchwardens again. A round of applause was given for Austin Copp in his absence as gratitude for all the work he has done as churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday April 21st 2024

The_Space Oxted Community Hall

1. Elections

Election of Parochial Church Council Members

The following people were elected onto the PCC

Joyce Ford Hill	Proposed by Angela Hewitt	Seconded by Doreen Raymond
Norman Maynard	Proposed by Doreen Raymond	Seconded by Richard Adamson
Adele Forrest	Proposed by Richard Adamson	Seconded by Caroline Horsford

The following people continue to serve on the PCC

Richard Adamson (2023-2026)
Natasha Copp (2023-2026)
Katy Aspinwall (2023-2026)
Alison Murden (2023-2026)
Emma Church (2023-2026)
Caroline Horsford (2023-2026)
Len Muir (2023-2026)
Xavier Copp (2023-2026)

1.2 Sidespeople

The current list of sidespeople was read out. (list attached to minutes)

The list was agreed by all present.

Proposed by Richard Adamson	Seconded by Jock Muir
-----------------------------	-----------------------

2. Rector's Comments

Revd James Ashton said his comments today were just adding to his introduction in the Annual Report and a chance for him to give thanks to everyone who shared in the life and community of St. Mary's Church. He commented that last year he was a vicar living in a rectory and this year, since September of 23, he was a rector living in a rectory but other than the name not a lot had changed. He was very grateful to his growing ministry team, in particular Judith Brooks and Liz Lane who have joined the team as Assistant Priests and the continued support of David Weightman, Ken Robinson, and Sue Mallinson ensured a supportive team who all work together.

JA went on to thank members of the Standing Committee and the wider PCC.

The choir, led by Mary Cook and the organist, Rod, were thanked for their commitment to the church's music. Katharine Nockles and her flower team, the junior church leaders and the cleaners were all acknowledged for their invaluable contributions.

JA said he continued to have a good relationship with St. Mary's School. The current head will be retiring and JA will be on the committee to appoint the new head. He would welcome any questions or comments regarding the appointment.

Thanks were given to all those who support the running of The_Space and the growing number of activities that are held in there.

Natasha Copp who is the church administrator and a gift to the church in many ways for all she does and JA is extremely grateful.

Finally JA thanked his own immediate family and wife Chloe for their continued support and understanding.

Following James' report John Mallinson thanked James for everything that he does for the church and everyone present supported this thanks.

3. Reports

3.1 Electoral Roll report

Paul Shillito, Electoral Roll Officer for St. Mary's, informed those present that there were currently 109 people on the electoral roll, down from 114 people in 2023.

There is a revision of the Electoral Roll every 6 years and the next one for St. Mary's will be in 2025.

JA thanked PS.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Following on from last year's rather gloomy financial report, Martin Fisher was pleased to say that the overall deficit had been reduced from £20,000 last year to just over £11,000 this year. The target would be to reduce this again during the coming year to around £6,000.

MF thanked the 61 members who give regularly to St. Mary's by Standing Order, without whose support the ministry team could not ultimately survive.

MF thanked Ian Chappell for collecting Gift Aid, Anne for managing cash from The_Space and the welcomers who count the cash. Also thanks were given to the finance team for their support, Natasha Copp, Richard Adamson and Valerie Adamson.

MF explained the ongoing difficulty of taking any donations in cash due to the closure of all the local banks but was pleased to report digital giving had risen from £860 last year to over £4,000 this year.

The importance of maintaining our donation to the Parish Support Fund was stressed as this paid for the clergy and their accommodation.

Expenditure has been thoroughly looked at with a view to saving costs and MF said that this year we gave £6,000 to 5 different charities. The PCC accounts were challenging due to restricted and unrestricted funds. However there remains approximately £25,000 in restricted funds which have been allocated to complete repairs to the porch.

MF pointed out that there were 2 bank accounts for St. Mary's. One for regular giving and the second for everything else.

Questions from congregation:

Following a query from Paul Shillito, it was explained by both MF and JA that our contribution to the Parish Support Fund was in accordance with guidance from the Southwark Diocese who set the cost of ministry and training and that with the contribution from St. Peter's Tandridge, we exceeded it slightly. It was no longer based on the perceived wealth of the area, but on the cost of ministry and that St. Mary's with St. Peter's is a net giver. Our ability to pay the contribution was agreed annually by the treasurer and the PCC.

David Cook asked for confirmation that all donations via the cash machine under £30 were gift aided. MF said that donations were but purchases (eg drinks at an event) were not.

Emma Church mentioned donations via Easy Money, but MF said he had not received anything from this site.

Catharina Hickson thanked Martin Fisher and the Finance Team for all their hard work.

All other reports are written in the main Annual Report for 2023.

Any Other Business

Eco Church

As a member of the Diocesan Synod Catharina Hickson was looking into the Eco Church project, which supported ways of making our church and the local area greener. It comprised of a checklist of points for parishes to look at. CH was willing to get this up and running but as it would be too much work for one person it would be ideal to have a small eco group who could take this forward.

Paul Shillito requested that we have a report on the organ. It was confirmed that we did have one done 5 years ago but with the recommended work costing in excess of £18,000 the funds were currently not available to pursue this at this time.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Financial Review

For the year 1st January – 31st December 2024

St. Mary's Financial Review	2024	2023
Surplus(Deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund	£4,192	£ (19,160)

The general (unrestricted) fund achieved a surplus of £4,192 compared to a loss last year of £19,160. This improvement includes two legacies totalling £15,734. Allowing for this there is an underlying loss of £11,542 in line with expectation.

Voluntary giving at £83,112 is up 6.2% on last year, within which digital collections increased by 46.3% and income from St Marys Space increased by 32.0%.

Huge thanks are due to those 65 members (last year 61) who give regularly by standing order or through Stewardship UK which averages at £69 monthly per member.

Income from fundraising events raised £4,015 compared to £3,502 last year including the St Mary's School May Fayre share of £1,266.

Investment income of £5,000 is the ground rent from the Oxted Community Hall. PCC income from weddings, baptisms and funerals was down to £3,395 compared to £5,566 last year.

St Peter's PCC contributed 27.9% [last year 27.8%] to shared administration costs. This is based on the relative Parish Support Fund payments.

The Parish Support Fund payment increased to £66,000, 1.5%, which together with St Peter's payment of £25,500 ensures that the United Benefice's combined contribution of £91,500 exceeds the Southwark Diocese requirement for funding a stipendiary minister.

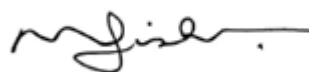
Mission giving was reduced this year to £2,329. However following a discussion at PCC the cost of St Marys_Space £7,065 was felt to be part of our mission giving. The total of £9,394 represents 9.7% [last year 14.3%] of voluntary giving.

The restricted fund contains two major elements. An appeal was launched for church organ repairs and very generously £12,710 was received in the year which means restoration works can commence in early 2025. Church Porch repair work planned for 2024 was completed in March 2025. There is £15,679 in the repair fund to cover the cost of these works.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Rector)



Martin Fisher (PCC Treasurer)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	Notes	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources					
Planned giving		53,536	-	53,536	51,163
Collections in church		4,737	-	4,737	5,278
Collections in St Marys_Space		2,579	-	2,579	1,953
Digital collections		6,317	-	6,317	4,319
All other giving		887	13,399	14,286	4,817
Gift Aid recoverable		15,056	-	15,056	13,974
Voluntary giving		83,112	13,399	96,511	81,504
Legacies		15,734	-	15,734	-
Grants	1	-	750	750	85,725
Fundraising events		3,450	565	4,015	3,502
Investment income		5,000	-	5,000	5,000
PCC Fees		3,395	-	3,395	5,566
Church groups		122	-	122	1,708
St Peter's PCC		3,405	-	3,405	3,245
Total incoming resources		114,218	14,714	128,932	186,250
Resources expended					
Church activities					
Fundraising costs		384	-	384	934
Mission giving	2	1,400	929	2,329	6,000
Parish Support Fund	3	66,000	-	66,000	65,000
Salaries, fees, and honoraria	4	9,972	-	9,972	11,142

Clergy expenses	2,530	-	2,530	4,029
	80,286	929	81,215	87,105
Church expenses				
Evangelism, St Marys_Space	7,065	-	7,065	5,696
Insurance	4,751	-	4,751	4,632
Maintenance & minor repairs	2,335	566	2,901	3,232
Provision of services	2,571	-	2,571	2,665
Church office	5,639	-	5,639	6,786
Light, heat & water	2,300	-	2,300	3,179
Church groups	233	-	233	773
	24,894	566	25,460	26,963
Major expenditure				
Church building repairs	-	7,076	7,076	98,040
St Mary's_Space	-	-	-	5,631
Youth work	-	-	-	589
Depreciation	-	15,136	15,136	14,652
Total Resources expended	105,180	23,707	128,887	232,980
Net (Outgoing)/Income resources	9,038	(8,993)	45	(46,730)
Transfer between funds	9	(4,846)	4,846	-
Net movement in Funds	4,192	(4,147)	45	(46,730)
Balances brought forward 1 Jan	44,233	490,370	534,603	581,333
Balances carried forward 31 Dec	48,425	486,223	534,648	534,603

The policies and notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	457,327	457,327	467,617
Current assets					
Debtors	6	7,192	-	7,192	3,214
Cash at bank	7	44,613	37,281	81,894	66,872
		51,805	37,281	89,086	70,086
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(3,380)	(8,385)	(11,765)	(3,100)
Net current assets		48,425	28,896	77,321	66,986
Total net assets		48,425	486,223	534,648	534,603
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		48,425	-	48,425	44,233
Restricted - Church	9	-	16,188	16,188	22,753
Restricted - Organ	9	-	12,710	12,710	-
Restricted - Oxted Com Hall	9	-	457,325	457,325	467,617

48,425	486,223	534,648	534,603
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Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

James Ashton (Rector)

Martin Fisher (Treasurer)

Charity Number: 1164439

Parish Office 53 Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LU

The policies and notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust) as this is a separate registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan parish support fund payment is recorded on a monthly basis during the year to which the payments relate. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Heritage Trust has partially funded the construction costs of Oxted Community Hall, subject to a proportion of such costs being funded by East Surrey Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Limited (Crossroads), who did hold part of the property on a 99-year lease. During 2007, the Heritage Trust transferred the value of the Community Hall to the PCC. The transfer value represents the estimated cost, less contribution from Crossroads. In 2022 the church acquired the Crossroads space for £60,000.

The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight-line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight-line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust), a registered charity, and Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

The objects of the Heritage Trust are broadly the repair and restoration of St. Mary's Church and its associated grounds and buildings, and construction of any buildings within the curtilage. The Trust funded the costs of Oxted Community Hall and in 2007 it transferred the asset to the PCC at an estimated cost value of £580,000.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the

PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall. The space formally occupied by Crossroads was purchased by St Mary's Church in 2022 for £60,000 plus fees of £10,455.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. GRANTS RECEIVED

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted donations	-	-
Restricted Funds		
Heritage Trust donation to church fund	-	12,000
Heritage Trust donation to St Mary's_Space	-	5,631
Oxted Community Hall donation to St Mary's_Space	-	-
Oxted Parish Council Churchyard grant	750	2,000
Oxted Parish Council Church tower grant	-	10,000
Surrey County Council Church tower grant	-	5,000
Garfield Weston Church tower grant	-	15,000
Marshall Church tower grant	-	20,000
HMRC Listed Places of Worship Scheme (VAT reclaim)	-	16,094
	<u>750</u>	<u>85,725</u>

2. DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

	2024			2023		
	Income	PCC	Donated	Income	PCC	Donated
Jigsaw SE	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Beyond Bars	929	-	929	-	-	-
Crisis UK(Christmas 50% cash)	-	400	400	-	-	-
Other last year	-	-	-	3,267	1,733	5,000
	<u>929</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>2,329</u>	<u>3,267</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>6,000</u>

3. PARISH SUPPORT FUND

Every year the diocese invites the PCC to review its Parish Support Fund (PSF) payment. This fund is expended on salaries for clergy, bishops and lay staff such as the safeguarding team and advisory staff on church properties. It also covers pension payments and expenditure on maintaining the various rectories and vicarages in the diocese.

The diocese estimates that the cost in 2024 of maintaining a full-time stipendiary minister (including overheads as outlined above) is £86,300 (Cost of Ministry). Although voluntary, failure of the united benefices to meet this target would put at risk future clergy full time provision. Our 'Cost of Ministry' contribution to the PSF is effectively shared with St Peter's Tandridge.

While the PCC sets the annual amount there is a guideline increase expected each year by the diocese. For 2024 an increase of 3.3% was suggested. but the PCC chose an increase of £1,000, 1.54% which was acceptable to the diocese.

4. STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the Parish Administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £7,732 (2023: £7,732) during the year. St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 27.9% of these costs together with Parish Office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC.

The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and incidental small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £2,240 (2023: £3,410). No payments were made to any member of the PCC or other related parties apart from the Parish Administrator.

5. FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

	Freehold Building £	Equipment & fittings £	Total £
Cost or Valuation			
Oxted Community Hall 1 January 2024	640,000	38,521	678,521
Additions St Mary's_Space 31 December 2024	-	4,846	4,846
	<u>640,000</u>	<u>43,367</u>	<u>683,367</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
1 January 2024	188,000	22,904	210,904
Charge in the year	12,800	2,336	15,136
31 December 2024	<u>200,800</u>	<u>25,240</u>	<u>226,040</u>
Net Book value			
31 December 2024	<u>439,200</u>	<u>18,127</u>	<u>457,327</u>
31 December 2023	<u>452,800</u>	<u>15,617</u>	<u>467,617</u>

In the year new chairs for St Marys_Space were purchased for £4,846.

6. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted fund		
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	3,914	3,214
St Peter's Tandridge	2,236	-
Other	1,042	-
	<u>7,192</u>	<u>6,821</u>

7. CASH AT BANK

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted fund	44,613	42,269
Restricted fund - Organ Fund	12,710	-
Restricted fund - Church Fund	24,571	24,603
	<u>81,894</u>	<u>66,872</u>

Unrestricted fund cash represents 22 weeks (last year 20 weeks) of ordinary expenditure.

8. CREDITORS

		2024	2023
		£	£
Unrestricted fund	Oxted Community Hall deferred income	1,250	1,250
	Accruals	2,130	-
Restricted fund	Church Fund	8,385	1,850
		<u>11,765</u>	<u>3,100</u>

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Fabric Fund	Organ Fund	Mission Giving	Oxted Community Hall	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance 1 Jan 24	22,755	-	-	467,615	490,370
Incoming resources	1,075	12,710	929	-	14,714
Resources expended	(7,642)	-	(929)	-	(8,571)
Depreciation	-	-	-	(15,136)	(15,136)
From unrestricted fund	-	-	-	4,846	4,846
Closing Balance 31 Dec 24	<u>16,188</u>	<u>12,710</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457,325</u>	<u>486,223</u>

10. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	45	(46,730)
Less Building & Equipment	(4,846)	(8,004)
Add depreciation	15,136	14,652
Movement in working capital	4,687	2,387
Net Cash Flow	<u>15,022</u>	<u>(37,695)</u>
Cash and short-term deposits as at 1 Jan 24	66,872	104,567
Cash and short-term deposits as at 31 Dec 24	<u>81,894</u>	<u>66,872</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, OXTED.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

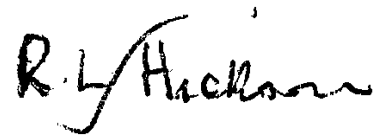
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Hickson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'L'.

Robin Hickson FCA

12 March 2025

Accounts



St. Mary's Church Oxted

Annual Report 2023

Knowing Christ

Growing Community, Renewing Heritage

Charity number: 1164439

PCC Members

Ex Officio members

Rev. James Ashton

Team Rector (Chairman) – from 7 January 2020

Austin Copp

Churchwarden – from September 2022

Deanery Synod Representatives

Sue Mallinson *

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Catharina Hickson

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Valerie Adamson

Edward Kyte

*Sue Mallinson represents St. Peter's Tandridge on Deanery Synod and is on the electoral roll of St. Mary's , also representing Tandridge Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Diocesan Synod Representative

Catharina Hickson

Licensed Readers

Sue Mallinson

Co-opted members

Rev. David Weightman

Rev. Ken Robinson

Marian Dalton PCC Secretary

Liz Lane (Clergy)

Katharine Nockles (Safeguarding Officer)

Catharina Hickson (Diocesan Synod)

Valerie Adamson (Deanery Synod)

Elected Members

Martin Fisher 2020 Treasurer and Vice Chairman

Richard Adamson (2023 – 2026))

Natasha Copp (2023-2026)

Katy Aspinwall (2023 -2026)

Alison Murden (2023 – 2026)

Emma Church (2023 - 2026)

Caroline Horsford (2023 -2026)

Len Muir (2023 – 2026)

Xavier Copp (2023 – 2026)

Standing Committee

Rev. James Ashton, Austin Copp, Martin Fisher, Rev. David Weightman, Marian Dalton

Members of the Standing Committee are agreed at the PCC meeting after the APCM. It conducts the business on behalf of the PCC (as directed by the PCC) in between PCC meetings and also sets the agenda for meetings.

Electoral Roll Officer - Paul Shillito

Treasurer - Martin Fisher

Churches Together in Oxted and District - David Cook

Mission Group

David Cook, Valerie Adamson, Ruth D'Alessandro

The Mission Group (joint with St. Peter's) coordinates the links the churches have with the mission organisations the PCC decides to support. This includes donating money from PCC funds; raising awareness of their work; ensuring there is prayer for the work of the charities within services and other church events and encouraging people to pray at other times, inviting people from the charities to speak at services.

Ministry Team

Rev. James Ashton	Team Rector
Rev. David Weightman	Assistant Priest
Rev. Liz Lane	
Sue Mallinson	Reader
Rev. Ken Robinson	Assistant Priest
Mary Cook	Pastoral Visitor

Bank Details : Barclays Bank 20-76-55

PCC StMARYS OXTED General Account: 10688967
Regular Giving Only Account: 00688746

Introduction

2023 saw joys and challenge throughout the wider world; we welcomed a new King for our nation, there was ongoing concern at the cost of living crisis, our Lionesses were, so nearly, world champions, and there was the start of the ongoing violence and turmoil in Gaza and Israel, and the continuation of the painful conflict in Ukraine. We remember these world events, and continue to pray for all involved. In the season of Easter, we recall the empty cross and tomb. We thank God that we are filled; with his love, hope and joy. We thank God that we are filled with the joy of a shared life and worship. It is a real blessing to be part of the St Mary's community, and I trust you find the same blessing as we journey together.

Our ministry team grew during 2023, and we have been blessed with Rev Liz and Rev Judith, who have joined our ministry team as assistant priests. Their commitment to faithful and creative worship and prayer, enhances our team greatly. I am also extremely grateful to Rev David, Sue Mallinson, and Rev Ken for their partnership in the gospel.

My thanks also to Natasha in the Parish Office, who gives us so much as a church, and keeps everything in order; and so much more besides. We also all owe many thanks to Austin, who has carried the position of Churchwarden with hard work and creative leadership – thank you Austin. Thank you also to members of the PCC, who have met regularly to scrutinise, listen and plan for the future.

Our finances continue to challenge us – we have seen a lot of the tower work completed, although this largely came from outside grants. Our day-to-day finances improved slightly during 2023, and we are grateful to all those who continue to support us financially. Many thanks to Martin for leading the finance team again this year.

Thank you to Rod, our organist, and the choir, who ensure that we are well-served musically. The new 'Come & Sing' evenings have been popular, and very welcome. Thank you also to Mira and her team, who have built our youth work here, and across our team ministry. I am also extremely thankful to our Junior Church team – you are all amazing.

During 2023 The_Space became more utilised in our life, and hosted events, gatherings and meals throughout the year. There are too many highlights to mention, but one brilliant example has been the growth and joy of Baby_Space. It started in Spring 2023, and regularly welcomes between 10 and 20 parents with children under 1; they enjoy the friendship and support received at the group. We trust that The_Space will continue to be a wonderful aspect to our life together.

We also continue to work in so many other places in the community. We regularly visit St Mary's School, Tandridge Heights Care Home, Ridgeway Manor and Sycamore Court. These opportunities are an excellent way for us to love our community and be involved.

I commend this Annual Report to you, and all that is contained within. May we pray and work together as a church, as we are filled with the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit of God; always putting the example of Jesus before us.

James Ashton, Team Rector

Churchwarden's Report

The story for 2023 overall very positive with good congregation numbers and the team clergy back to full compliment. The recent inductions of Judith and Sue are really exciting and provide support to James in his new Team Rector role and to the whole ministry team.

I've frequently heard and agree with many comments on the quality of sermons and services and thank the team for the hard work they put into these and all the other aspects of their ministry.

With regard to the physical state and condition of the church, it is a story of old and new. For the lovely old St Mary's building we have seen the completion of part of the Tower work under David Weightman's expert eye. Although the lower section still needs to be done (and will be the in the not too distant future), the immediate pressure is off. The next phase is some relatively minor works to the crumbling Porch stonework that should be done later this year.

The new St Mary's Space we have been blessed with has been well used from the start. It continues to host an expanding programme of faith and community events. We are very grateful to those who supported the purchase of the Space financially and with time and effort to refurbish. We are also very grateful to those who organise and staff the events held there and provide the delicious refreshments, which are always a tangible demonstration of God's love.

The upkeep of both buildings is considerable and the cost of this will be covered in more detail in our Treasurer's report. We are thankful to those who regularly give to contribute to these costs and would encourage anyone not doing so and if possible allow us to claim Gift Aid on this.

There are grants available for some works and we have been blessed with several already, and would like to seek out more. We would welcome help from any members who feel they could make the time to complete a Grant Application form or two to increase our chances of securing further funds.

More mundanely, I am pleased to report that the buildings are insured and gas and electrical safety checks are valid as well as fire extinguishers serviced.

Our thanks go to the army of volunteer cleaning parties both regular and occasional teams and also the gardening teams and others who keep the church and grounds looking well. Please look out for the next opportunities as the fellowship of working alongside church members can be a form of worship in itself, or at least the refreshments are heavenly!

Austin Copp Churchwarden

GIFT

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) is a lively ecumenical group with members from across CTOD churches. We meet during term time to share in a morning of bible study, group discussion, prayer or a social time. We also have occasional visiting speakers or listen to podcasts with a Christian theme. This summer we enjoyed a visit from Vic Stone who told us about her training for Ministry and its challenges. We also heard from Gillian Dickson of Hurst Green Evangelical Church. She spoke of how God has moved to bring about the rebuilding of the church against many apparent challenges.

Regular items in our programme have included listening to a podcast from 'The Archbishop Interviews', in which Justin Welby discusses life and faith with a well-known person such as Tony Blair or John Cleese. We have also studied 'Meeting Jesus in John's Gospel', bible studies concerning the stories of women such as Martha and Mary Magdalene.

This autumn we hosted a four-part course in The Space, investigating the realities of Modern Slavery. This was run by Chris Elliott and Jennifer Hyde of Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus and was open to all. Each year we also form our own group in the weeks up to Easter to take part in the CTOD Lent Course, which is always thought provoking.

Our final meeting of the year was, as usual, the Christmas Lunch which is held in the home of one of our members and always a fitting Christmas celebration. It is also a chance for purely social fellowship time together. We then take a break for a few weeks, before resuming to plan our next meetings and look forward to another year.

Alison Murden

Parochial Church Council

St. Mary's PCC meets every two months with the agenda being set by the standing committee the week before. All PCC meetings are held jointly with St. Peter's and the meetings are split into two, the first half as a joint meeting and in the second half the two churches divide into their separate groups. The PCC agrees with the treasurer issues regarding finance and how funds should be allocated. In 2023 they agreed St. Mary's donations to the Parish Support Fund and donations to charities. It also agrees how money should be spent on the fabric of the church and recently in particular the renovation of the church tower. At every meeting there is an update on safeguarding and in 2023 the PCC adopted the current safeguarding policy. The Rector always updates the PCC on issues around the clergy team and they discuss how to plan for the big events around Christmas and Easter.

Marian Dalton

Baby Space

Baby Space was launched in April 2023 with the aim of providing parents and caregivers of under 1s with a nurturing environment to connect and build friendships. The_Space was the perfect room to offer a welcoming environment where caregivers could socialise while enjoying tea, coffee, and some lovely homemade cakes!

During the initial weeks, Baby Space attracted between 3 and 5 mothers and their babies. Over time, the attendance numbers have steadily increased, culminating in a record-breaking gathering of 17 parents and their babies.

The success of Baby Space exemplifies the growing need for social support networks for those with young babies. The positive response from the community demonstrates the value of initiatives such as Baby Space in fostering relationships and providing a supportive environment for parents. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who make Baby Space happen, from the set up to cake making, which enables it to run so successfully.

Caroline Horsford

St Mary's Church Choir

We now have 10 regular choir members, recently increased by the admission of James as a very keen and competent treble and Laura has joined the sopranos. On average there are 5/6 singers on any given Sunday at 9.30.

We thank Sheila Bennett for her very loyal and musical service spanning more than 40 years. She has moved away recently and we wish her well. We have several singers from our congregation who join us for weddings, Christmas (including 4 "juniors"), Easter etc. I am most grateful for everyone's support. As St Mary's is also the Parish Church of Oxted, I feel there is an expectation, particularly from visitors, that there is a choir. We have had the privilege of singing, not only at regular services but also at our Remembrance and Memorial services, the Coronation celebration where we joined with St John's, and more recently at James' installation as Team Rector. We had a good team of carol singers at Tandridge Heights and since May 23 we have started meeting in church once a month for a chance to sing hymns and enjoy fellowship. Thank you to Rod, our organist who accompanies us each week.

We are still without a Music Director...please keep looking!.....when the position is filled we may get back to choir practices too.

Mary Cook

Churches Together in Oxted and District 2023

John Tolley has been manfully leading us as Chair and Rev James Ashton has agreed to lead us from our November 2024 AGM. A working group of members from Kings Church, Hurst Green Evangelical Church, URC and St Mary's met to discuss the future direction of CTOD and suggested we work on a less structured basis although no written report was received. In view of our healthy financial situation we decided NOT to ask our member Churches for the usual annual Subscription.

The World Day of Prayer held on the first Friday in March was marked locally by two services:- one in the morning at St. Andrew's on the Chart and one in the evening at St. Peter's, Limpsfield. The services were put together by the Christian women of Taiwan and the committee from the local churches helped to sort out the finer details.

Our 2023 Lent Groups were rather fragmented but about 70 people were involved. One course was "Talking Jesus" which included some interesting videos with examples of sharing our faith with others. Another course was "Walking in the Wilderness". which was more introspective. The ever popular Good Friday Walk of Witness took place on Good Friday 7th April and was organised by Rev Helen Cook of St Peter's Limpsfield

The "Job Club" initiative has continued to help several local people into employment and the Oxted Churches Bereavement support group has been a real benefit to the bereaved.

Our fifth Sunday CTOD services raised £495.95 for the new CTOD Charity the locally inspired Children's Hospital Pyjamas.

David Cook (CTOD Treasurer) Feb 2024

St. Mary's Sheep

The sheep continue to graze part of the old graveyard and the graveyard extension alternately. They seem happy and are very well visited by old and young alike. The other benefit to us as a church is that the grass and other growing greenery are kept down and tidy.

We still have some nettles and ferns which need managing by volunteers. Posts still rot and some need replacing each year. The sheep are a very hardy breed and live outdoors all year round. They need supplementary feeding outside the growing season. Beech hedges are used for extra feed especially in hot dry summers. Other hedge management is arranged by David Cook and Austin Copp.

I am very grateful to the A Team made up of Roger Hewitt, Hazel and Paul Showler, and Robin Hickson.

Catharina Hickson

St. Mary's School

St Mary's school continues to thrive under the leadership of Sarah Lewis and Anna Woodward in the academic year 2022-23. It is a place of friendship, inspiration, fun, learning and development for pupils, staff and hopefully families.

St Mary's is a place that lives to celebrate the small moments and the big things in the life of individuals and classes and the whole school whether they be personal, academic, artistic, sporting or performance.

The community is deliberately mutually supportive, and learning how to be good friends in the good times and the trickier ones is woven into all that is done. This slowly builds self understanding, self worth and self control. Pupils learn to value effort as well as achievement. Learning that it is OK not to know or grasp something new straight away but after quite a bit of practice and effort the reward of success is even greater. Mutual respect and support is developed by daily mindfulness practice and issues resolution using restorative justice.

The joys of knowing God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are available to all, and worship anchors each day and the major events of the year.

The school has many sporting teams that excel in competition, they win and lose with equal grace, which is a great credit to them. At St Mary's the school is blessed with 3 halls and lots of outdoor space including playgrounds, a multi use games area with an astroturf surface, climbing and balancing structures; all of which naturally encourage sporting play and fitness.

Performance is built into the curriculum for all and becomes a learnt skill which is very useful in adult life. Those that want to can join dance, singing and playing music and drama in clubs and build to performances that we all enjoy.

The School visits church to worship and to learn about the building and it's surroundings and we in the church enjoy welcoming them. Our Rector, James also leads worship and prayer in school regularly.

Many of the school staff support the development of teaching and teachers both in our school and around Surrey, leading on many teacher qualifications by mentoring and coaching. This keeps our staff teams reflective and up to date with best practice which in turn benefits our pupils.

Some of my favourite highlights are the festival in the field, the art exhibition and sharing worship and prayer at harvest.

Our pupils, parents and staff remain a joy and the school a jewel that remains bright and varied. It is an honour to visit and support as a governor.

Catharina Hickson, Governor

Hear Here

Hear Here continues to welcome the users of NHS hearing aids, to service them and to pass on advice to those who use them.

We were retrained in autumn 2023 by Crawley audiologist, Faye and the Guilford Hear Here lead Jude Darby.

This service is free to users on a first come first seen basis. We see from two to 15 people per month. We are present on the first Friday of the month with Meeting place.

Meeting place has moved from the OCH meeting room to in Church and now has its home in OCH The_Space which is much more user friendly. I am grateful to Austin and Natasha for arranging for sound baffles on the walls to dampen reflected sound which can be a big problem for those with less than perfect hearing.

I would like to thank our team:- Roger Hewitt, Dudley Withers, Hazel Showler and our most recent recruit Robin Hickson.

**Catharina Hickson,
Hear Here@ St Mary's Oxted, lead.**

Fellowship/Social

2023 was a busy year with a variety of events being organised although sadly the May Fayre was not amongst them. Several of the events were held in The Space which was officially launched by the Archdeacon on April 23rd

Some of the social activities were a mixture of social and worship. The first of these was the Shrove Tuesday evening of pancakes and prayers on February 2nd held in The Space.

From 6th to the 8th of May the church was open to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. It had been beautifully decorated on the Friday and throughout the three days visitors were welcomed in to admire the flowers. On Saturday 6th May the Coronation was screened in church. There was a good crowd to watch the televised service and a toast was given for the King. On Monday 8th May a large variety of activities were laid on in Church including the ever popular tower tours and meet the sheep as well as cream teas and some tasty cakes being available. A large crowd of people enjoyed the day. At the end of it all a well attended barbecue was held in the church grounds.

On June 10th a Trivia Quiz was held with a two course buffet supper. This raised around £650 which was split equally between church funds and the funds of The Heritage Trust

On 1st July a well attended and very enjoyable wine tasting evening was organised in The Space by Richard Lane, raising approximately £500 for church funds.

From 21st to 25th August Holiday at Home was organised in The Space. With a different activity every day followed by a light lunch this was popular.

The Patronal Festival was celebrated on 10th September with a barbecue and cricket match against St. John's, Hurst Green at Master Park with tea in the pavilion, all courtesy of Oxted and Limpsfield Cricket Club. This was the 30th such occasion and for a variety of reasons probably won't be celebrated in this way again.

Harvest time was celebrated towards the end of September. On 23rd September a church open day was held. As usual this was very popular with visitors coming in to admire the beautiful flower displays and to enjoy the various activities that were laid on. An enjoyable Harvest Lunch was held on Sunday 24th September

As usual the pupils of St. Mary's School donated a huge amount of produce when three harvest services were held for them in church. This was sorted by a small band of volunteers. About 50 parcels were distributed to local people, and food was sent to Welcare, Caterham Food Bank and the Renewed Hope Trust at Redhill -- organisations that help the homeless and families in some sort of need. Toiletries were collected by the Godstone Hygiene Bank.

On October 14th an Autumn Fair was held, using the Meeting Room in OCH as well as the St. Mary's Space giving a profit to church funds of around £550.00 It was held at the same time as the RNLI sale and both organisations felt that they benefited from the synchronisation of dates.

On 5th November the annual Memorial Service for the departed was held in church. As usual it was very popular and was attended by well over 100 people, with once again many of them travelling some distance to attend. After the service many of them enjoyed a tea in Oxted Community Hall.

On 26th November –Stir up Sunday, Christmas puddings were made in the Space and in December three informal Advent lunches were held.

Through the year breakfasts have been held in The Space on the first Saturday of the month.

Valerie Adamson

Oxted Churches

For practical reasons the Oxted Churches decided to continue with the practice started in Covid restricted times and not produce joint Easter and Christmas cards. Instead articles were published in the Oxted Local magazine giving some details of services from Holy Week through to Easter and at Christmas along with details of church contacts.

Lent groups were held as usual, some in people's homes and some by Zoom and were led and enjoyed by several members of St. Mary's

On 25th November the usual joint Churches Trivia quiz was held. This was well attended with representatives from the local Oxted churches and also from Hurst Green Evangelical Church. With no card printing costs to pay for the profit of around £325 from the evening was given to the St. Mary's Heritage Trust.

Valerie Adamson

Missions and Charities

The Mission and Charities Committee (including members from both St. Mary's and St. Peter's Tandridge) met on 3rd May to discuss general principles about how much to give to Missions and Charities and which ones to support. It was decided that having supported the same organisations for the previous four years a change should be made and discussion took place with regard to the various categories that should be supported. It was decided that two international organisations should be supported, two National ones and one local. It was agreed that members of the respective congregations should be asked for their suggestions and that the most popular would be considered for support. It was noted that £2,000 had already been sent to Christian Aid in support of the Turkish Earthquake Appeal, most of this coming from donations topped up by Gift Aid, given by members of the congregation.

At July's PCC meeting it was announced that the most popular organisations suggested by St. Mary's members were Mercy Ships, The Christian Blind Mission, (CBM) CSW-- Everyone Free to Believe, Justice and Care and Jigsaw South East. It was agreed that these should be supported. As church finances were running at a loss some of the donations were sent off immediately and some held back. By the end of the year £1,000 had been sent to CBM, Mercy Ships, CSW and Jigsaw South East.

It was agreed that efforts would be made to get speakers from the organisations to address the congregation and that they should be supported in prayer

More details about the selected Missions and Charities are available on the church web-site
Thanks are due to David Cook who served on the committee for the previous four years but retired from it in January 2023.

Valerie Adamson

St. Mary's Oxted Bellringers Report for 2023.

The year of 2023 was very successful for the bellringers. We managed to ring at the majority of Sunday services as well as other special events. The ringers were fully involved with the Church 'Open Day' and provided a demonstration of bell ringing. On a couple of occasions, we supplemented the ringers at Limpsfield Chart by ringing simultaneously for Sunday services at both St. Mary's and St. Andrew's churches. The year ended with a Ringer's Social Gathering in The_Space where ringers, their 'other halves', and some church officers were invited. The event, planned to include all between 8 and 80 years of age was enjoyed by all.

The band of ringers is now strong following many years of trying to recruit new ringers. We are most fortunate to have several young ringers who, I hope will continue to ring for many years to come. All new ringers are following an accredited training programme (Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) scheme). All have reached Level 1 and most Level 2 while making good progress towards Level 3. One band member moved away.

St. Mary's has now got an excellent ringing teaching facility fully equipped with computers which are connected to the bells. This enables individual and group learning to be done without making a noise outside. I am most grateful to have received a few newer computers which has allowed me to upgrade our system and pass on older but fully functioning equipment to others.

The availability of the computer training system has enabled St. Mary's to host several training sessions for both the Surrey Bellringers, Whiting Society and other organisations. Regular 'Twice a Month' sessions were introduced and have become very popular enabling afternoon and evening practices to be organised. Donations have been made which are passed on to the Church funds.

We look forward to an equally successful 2024. New or returning ringers are always welcome to join us.

Ian Griffiths

Safeguarding

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church community to make sure we create a safe environment for the activities that we undertake with children and vulnerable adults. We follow the guidance provided for us by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in 'A Safe Church'. A summary of the safeguarding principles adopted by your PCC can be found on the church porch noticeboard and the noticeboard inside church. These principles were readopted by the PCC in September 2023. I have worked for a number of years with Fay Prater, the PSO from St Peter's, so that together we can consider and support each other with safeguarding planning and any issues. We are also now linking up with the two new PSOs at St John's so we can further combine our various experience and knowledge. We have recruited, or are in the process of recruiting, a number of new volunteers following the process agreed by the PCC a few years ago. This still seems to be working well. We have also been focussing on getting training up to date for all those who volunteer in our church. This is mostly done via an online course but for leaders within our church community the training is delivered by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and a number of us have completed this course over the last year. Fay and I are also making more use of the church database - Churchsuite - to support us in the administrative aspects of safeguarding activity.

At any time, if any member of the congregation has a concern, please speak to me, James, Liz or David, or Fay the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's. Even if it isn't clear whether there is a safeguarding issue or not, it is always better to talk it through at an early stage so that a potential issue can be averted or if our safeguarding arrangements don't seem to be covering a particular activity or scenario we can respond. Please contact me by email on safeguardingstmarysoxted@gmail.com or on 07778 539664 (please note that my phone goes straight to voicemail for any unrecognised numbers so do leave a message and I can call you back).

Katharine Nockles
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Meeting Place

Our Friday morning drop in coffee continues to thrive, with new faces alongside some who have been coming for many years. It is a happy and lively room, offering a warm welcome along with fresh coffee and home-made cakes.

We are very pleased to welcome two new team members - Janet Magnay and Bernice Staples - thank you!

The_Space continues to offer convenience for the team and comfort for our guests.

On the first Friday of every month the Hear Here champions run their drop in clinic, this is a lovely way to welcome more people for coffee, a number of whom then return during the month. We have been visited by the Tech Angels to discuss how they can help support people with their smart phone, tablet and pc use.

Meeting Place - for coffee, cake and conversation, Friday mornings 9:30-11:30. All welcome.

Thank you to the Meeting Place team.

Natasha Copp

Tandridge Deanery Synod

The meetings were all about social concern in society today.

Zoom meeting of 23rd February: addressed by Mark Russell, CEO of The Children's Society: 'Helping children thrive, not just survive'

Chief Executive of The Children's Society since 2019, Mark Russell is an inspirational, engaging and passionate speaker with a good sense of humour and a lovely Irish accent. The Children's Society dates from 1881 when Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher in South London, decided to do something about the effects of poverty on young children. Originally called 'The Society of Waifs and Strays', it has been re-branded over the years. Mark Russell talks about that white anger that life is still just too hard for too many children, after 141 years. The Society's roots are deep inside the Christian faith and deep inside God's heart for children. He sees his work as his vocation, to fight for the children of this country. There are proportionately more children living in poverty in London today than when The Children's Society was formed. That is a disgrace.

The Children's Society's Good Childhood Report, is not just research by academics but the voice of children themselves. This is a worsening situation. *See it at*

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/good-childhood-report-2022>

This research shows there are more unhappy children in Britain than anywhere else in Europe. This is attributed to the pressures of the exam system causing worry about failure and the fact that Britain has the highest levels of poverty. The goal is, by 2030, to overturn the damaging decline in children's wellbeing, which has worsened every year since 2009, setting a path for long lasting growth. Children will be happier than they are now, more hope-filled and more secure. A good strategy is needed, with Christ-centred, outward focused parishes. Mark Russell said he believed in the power of the church to make a difference and change the world for children.

Meeting at St John's Hurst Green on 14th June: addressed by Mervyn Thomas CMG: Founder President of CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

The vision of CSW is a world free from religious persecution, where everyone has the right to practise their religion or belief freely. The specialist team of advocates works in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America to protect and promote everyone's right to freedom of religion or belief. They work to challenge and change laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of this vital right.

Mervyn Thomas founded CSW in 1979 at the age of 27, following the suggestion of an MP friend. He felt God had spoken to him and that this would become his life's work, which it did. At first there was little interest and no understanding of the extent of the problem. The Keston College study in 1979 on prisoners provided useful evidence of the violation of the right to freedom of belief in the countries of Eastern Europe, Asia and around the world. Over time the work expanded to countries beyond Europe and people of other religions and beliefs in addition to Christians. When as Christians we speak up for them, this is missional and what Jesus would do. Proverbs 31: 8 says 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.'

Consider also the story of the Good Samaritan.

2019 saw the publication of a report, requested by Jeremy Hunt, Foreign Secretary, written by the Bishop of Truro (assisted by Mervyn Thomas). The British Government adopted all 22 recommendations, including a Special Envoy for the Freedom of Religion or Belief.

This is Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton; there are 170 MPs on the all-party parliamentary group. 84% of the world's population lives in countries with high or very high restrictions on religious freedom. In Britain there may be discrimination in places, but there is not persecution. Governments should put human rights before trade. India is the worst country for attacks on religious minorities, but little is said about it because we want to trade with them.

We can: PRAY - PROTEST (write to your MP) - PROVIDE (letters) - PROCLAIM (tell people what is happening, speak out, invite a speaker from CSW to your church). See [CSW.org.uk](https://www.csw.org.uk)

Final meeting: a Training Session on Unconscious Bias, led by Revd Canon Wendy Robins. The background to UB is described in this answer to a question at Southwark Diocesan Synod (2021)

In 2017, the Church of England commissioned the development of an in-house UB training programme, to ensure that it was theologically grounded. The underlying assumption is that unconscious bias affects the church's ability to honestly and openly use the gifts of all God's creation for the purpose of the Kingdom.

UB training is only the first step in exploring the way in which we can build a church where all are appreciated and valued, where individuals can utilise their unique strengths and where all can flourish as we work towards a more just and equitable church.

The training is primarily offered by Church of England lay and ordained trainers, who have been trained by the course developers, a highly respected and experienced organisation Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (ENEI). This is to ensure that the trainers fully understand the context of sin, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration

Written by Rt Revd Bishop of Croydon, Rosemarie Mallet, then Archdeacon of Croydon, who was a leader in writing the Anti-Racism Charter for Southwark Diocese (2021)

Our churches' representation on Deanery and Diocesan Synods

Lay Membership of Tandridge Deanery Synod

Members were nominated and elected in 2023 by their church PCCs

Each of our churches has three places - not all were taken

For St Mary's - Valerie Adamson and Ed Kyte

For St Peter's - Sue Mallinson

The three vacancies need to be filled - if you are interested do talk to the present reps.

The Deanery Synod elects 3 lay representatives to Southwark Diocesan Synod

Currently two are from our churches - Sue Mallinson and Catharina Hickson

2024 is election year.

There will be a call for nominees - who do not have to be current members of the Deanery Synod.

If you are interested, please do talk to Sue and Catharina.

Sue Mallinson, Deanery Synod Representative

Flowers

St Mary's has a small team who arrange flowers to beautify our ancient church. Our focus is on creating displays for the key festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest though arrangements are created for other occasions too. None of us are formally trained. We have all learned by trial and error over the years and we help and support each other. Every arrangement is different and reflects us as individuals; the common theme is that we enjoy creating something that we hope is enjoyed by others and visually enhances our worship. In 2023 we particularly enjoyed decorating for the Coronation. Our most recent activity was creating small spring posies for Mothering Sunday. Some of those were done at the Friday Meeting Place where two ladies were delighted to help put them together. Given how much enjoyment was had we plan to expand on that next year.

A few years ago the team was large enough for there to be a rota so that - aside from the more sombre periods of Lent and Advent - there was a pedestal of flowers near the altar throughout the year. It would be lovely to get back to that again if possible so if anyone would like to come and join the team please do contact me on flowers.stmarysoxted@gmail.com.

Katharine Nockles

Flower Team

St. Mary's Monkeys

St Mary's Monkeys playgroup was historically closed during school holidays. I have sought to change this reopening post Covid in May 2021. During 2023, our doors were only closed for five Fridays during the full calendar year (four of those closures were due to the hall being hired out to a third party, not due to a lack of helper support/availability).

Our playgroup is aimed at children under five years of age and thus school holidays are not relevant to many of our users and for many parents and carers, the playgroup is an invaluable asset during school holidays because we also welcome older siblings (many of whom are our past "Monkeys" which is always lovely) and it provides an affordable activity for the whole family. The admission fee for playgroup, has been maintained since May 2021 as £3 per adult guest because we wish to be fully inclusive. This means that during the holidays, parents can bring the whole Von Trapp family of children and we still only charge the family £3.

There is an additional charge of £2 now in place for late bookings; this is primarily there to act as a deterrent for families booking at the last minute because our numbers were fluctuating significantly and too often, within the last 24 hours and that created problems for efficiently managing our resources (namely craft and snacks).

We seek to be a fully inclusive playgroup and welcome everyone from the community, regardless of creed or culture and we are also pleased to include children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). I sporadically advertise the playgroup on local Facebook sites, so that new parents and carers can be made aware of the group. We are also advertised on site on the noticeboard and also on the Oxted Community Hall internet site. During 2023, we attracted 107 new members to St Mary's Monkeys playgroup and at the time of writing, we have 379 members of the Facebook page. This figure is down versus 2022 because I now conduct regular maintenance and remove members who are not utilising the playgroup, for additional safeguarding, parents are always welcome to rejoin if they wish.

Safeguarding our playgroup is paramount and this area is led by our professional, Katharine Nockles. All our helpers working alongside the children running our arts and craft table are DBS checked. We updated our risk assessment document in 2021 and all new helpers are required to read and understand this document. We have our own playgroup First Aid kit which is regularly reviewed and this includes an ice pack which is put in the freezer before the start of each session. For the joyous and inevitable vomiting mornings, we also have disposable sick bowls to assist parents/carers in getting home.

Cleaning our mats and toys is key to running a healthy and appealing playgroup. This workload is assigned across our team of volunteers as part of the monthly rota drafted and we try and wash as many toys as we can onsite to avoid additional effort. These tasks are completed in rotation.

Our sessions continue to be capped at 45 adult guests. This is to ensure the enjoyment and safety of all our patrons and to ensure that this runs smoothly and we are not turning parents away at the door, this is why places for playgroup have to be booked and paid for in advance online. We are full most weeks but it is clear from our regular parent/carers guests, if you book in, you get in.

Whilst only a quarter of our volunteer helpers (currently a team of 12) attend St Mary's Church, we have two strong supporters who ARE members of our Church community. Whether Chris Phillips-Jones attends with one or two of his children, he always comes early to help set up and stays until we have finished at clear away. Chris has created the highpoint of playgroup for many of the children....running up and down the hall with him at the end, when you will always find Chris holding the broom! Alice Dalziel has also been a huge blessing to us this year; Alice is the brain power behind our craft table; Alice's imagination and creativity are boundless. I often suggest a theme and Alice will just rustle up the most varied and unique activities which are both age appropriate and she also works hard to protect our budget as well as our environment by using recyclable materials. The children adore their "What shall we make today?" experience and we are very fortunate that Alice gives her time for us in this way. We lost 3 helpers over the course of 2023 due to business and grandparent commitments and we are always looking to boost our small team and welcome new friends (hint, hint!).

We were delighted to welcome Isla Drake to playgroup during 2023, who gave us time both at Easter and throughout the summer holidays, despite her busy GCSE year, not to check a box for “voluntary experience” but simply because she wanted too. Isla was key to us being able to keep playgroup open during the holidays and I hope other youngsters might consider being so generous with their time.

We have continued to purchase a gift for newborns joining us as a “Welcome to Monkeys” which families have very much appreciated receiving and the gift comes with a card signed by the team. The gift remains consistent for all and is a Beatrix Potter ceramic figure from the first letter of the baby’s name. We also set up our “Ratatouille” club this year. Both members of our team and parents and carers volunteered to cook a meal for a ‘Monkeys family’ and the ingredients for the meal itself are funded from our receipts. This is available to any playgroup family, at any time, who might need some extra support for any number of reasons.

Thanks to strong support from St Mary’s Church, as well as playgroup parents and carers, the playgroup continued to make a number of generous monetary contributions during 2023 to various charities.

We made a £200 donation to Children in Need in November 2023; this is the only Friday in the year when we ask families to give a donation for their drinks and snacks.

After the success of our playgroup game, “What’s in the box?” in 2021 and 2022, we ran the game at both Easter and Christmas 2023. The game costs £5 to play and parents/carers win free playgroup sessions. Easter 2023 raised £350 and Christmas 2023 raised £195 for our local Hygiene Bank. I can’t help but feel that the enormous support at Easter 2023 was because the hostess (me!) was sitting in a wheelchair with a broken ankle...I might need to try that again!

At Christmas, we also supported local families falling under the Barnardo’s umbrella with over £150 worth of Christmas shopping. This was in addition to the £200 we spent on babygrows and Pyjamas for charity, Children’s Hospital pyjamas.

Throughout 2023, I have continued to source baby equipment from our local charity shops to direct to local charities, Stripey Stork (based in Reigate) and Their Voice (based in Caterham). This means that for each £1 we donate, we benefit TWO charities. The charity shop who receives the funds AND the local charity who receives the equipment.

We have also bought many gifts for our local charities, items which second-hand are very often not to standard or we would struggle to source. Examples – baby changing mats, baby hooded towels, baby blankets, baby bottles, mattress protectors, bedding, hair clippers, toiletries.

In addition to these gifts, we support Stripey Stork, Their Voice, The Hygiene Bank and Ukraine by receiving pre-loved donations at playgroup and redirecting them to the charities. This helps boost donations of goods received for these charities but also helps parents who can simply bring their donations to playgroup and drop them off, without the struggle of car seats, buggies and finding parking, simply to struggle into a High Street charity shop. We also support Great Ormond Street Hospital with our ongoing collection of milk bottle tops.

In March 2023, we made a donation to The Brains Trust. A donation made primarily to support two of our playgroup families suffering bereavements, in friendship and with love.

We have continued to support Ukraine at playgroup this year, using receipts to buy food, toiletries and nappies and these gifts have been transported to Ukraine via registered charity, British Humanitarian Aid.

Thanks to the long standing success of St Mary's Monkeys playgroup, set up over 15 years ago (a clear testament to the commitment shown by Mary Cook, Natasha Copp, and Shelley Miller who have been on the team since the very beginning), we are able to make these donations to so many different charities, whilst covering our running costs and whilst still providing a small income for St Mary's Church.

I believe that this approach is essential to retain and attract volunteers to our team, who are outside the Church community. Both the playgroup families we support, as well as our team of helpers, are always interested in understanding how our funds are being directed.

I am continually grateful to both James and Natasha for their ongoing support with my direction of funds from playgroup in order to target real need. I also think it is wholly appropriate that whilst we play, laugh, drink tea and eat Shelley's endless supply of cakes, that we extend our hand in friendship and support to those less fortunate because as we all know, the only time we should look down on anyone is when we are helping them up.

Penny Kirk

Junior Church

Junior Church at St Mary's continued to go from strength to strength in 2023. We regularly welcomed children aged from around 2 to 13 years old, as well as some parents. The older children have been encouraged to help as much as possible with the sessions, which has provided them with the confidence to grow in their faith. We have been blessed with an enthusiastic and committed group of leaders and helpers.

At Junior Church we have talked about miracles, acted out stories, had endless craft sessions and regularly discussed how we can see God in all aspects of our lives. We have made the most of our beautiful surroundings by playing games in the churchyard and talking about our local community.

The children have enjoyed reporting back to the congregation on our activities each week, and of course showing off their craft creations!

Rosie Davies

Youth Work

It has been great to see youth come together and feel comfortable to ask questions about faith. We started to meet together with youth in November 22. In the first year we have been meeting every 2 weeks with the youth group at St Johns Evangelist in Hurst Green. In the second year we have been meeting every Sunday and the youth enjoy being together.

We have started to build friendship and learn more about our God and our Creator. Through games we share more about ourselves and learn more from each other. We also create a free environment to share and discuss who God is.

Some of our spiritual discussions in these meetings are:

1. Who God is and who we are and who made us from Psalm 139.
2. We also talked more about friendship and what the Bible says about this. Can we choose friends? Also how to love everyone but we can choose friends that pull us up and help our faith and not people that draw us down .
3. We have been talking more about Beatitudes. We talked about how to be humble and to be close to God. We had a little reflection about being independent and being dependent. How this relates to ones relationship with God .
4. Creator (this was based from Genesis 1:1-5),
5. Just like God (Genesis 1:26-31)
6. Rest 'Genesis :1-4, When we rest we need to remember and enjoy being with God.
7. Are you sure" Genesis 3;1-6 We discussed more about doubt or confusion that we might have sometimes about who God really is.
8. Not my fault" Genesis 3:8-13 We were sharing more on how easy it is for us to find excuses and not tell the truth. It was a good conversation and they felt comfortable sharing their feelings etc....

We have also spent time talking about social media and thinking about how to invest in the inner person rather than putting on an outer show. This has also helped raise awareness about the dangers of social media.

We always try to make our meetings fun and lots of parents have commented on how much their children enjoy being part of the group, and some children have brought their friends and siblings along.

We continue to develop a culture of hospitality, by enjoying healthy (mostly!) snacks and hot chocolate. It is great to see how the young people enjoy helping prepare this, building a sense of ownership.

My desire is to build a safe place where youth can come together and share their friendship and where we all can be stronger in Faith.

Valmira Xhelili



Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting

For St. Mary's Church Oxted

Held on Sunday 23rd April 2023

Present: The Revd James Ashton chaired the meeting attended by 38 parishioners present in the church.

Revd. James Ashton welcomed everyone to the APCM and opened the meeting with a prayer .

1. Approval of Minutes from the 2022 APCM

The minutes from the 2022 meeting were approved and signed by JA.

Proposed by Martin Fisher

Seconded by Andrea Muir

2. Election of Churchwardens

The current Churchwarden Austin Copp was re-elected.

The Revd James Ashton gave thanks to Austin Copp particularly as currently we only have one Churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 23rd April 2023 at St. Mary's Church Oxted

1. Elections

Parochial Church Council

All the current representatives on the PCC were coming to the end of their three year term.

The following were re-elected/elected:

Richard Adamson
Natasha Copp
Katy Aspinwall
Alison Murden
Caroline Horsford
Martin Fisher
Emma Church
Len (Jock) Muir
Xavier Copp

Synod Representatives

The four Deanery Synod representatives came to the end of their three year term.

Re-elected

Valerie Adamson
Sue Mallinson

Elected

Edward Kyte

1.1 Sidespeople (Welcomers)

The current list of Sidespeople is available on Church Suite and was read out to those present.

Approved

Proposed by Sue Mallinson

Seconded by Richard Adamson

2. **Vicar's Comments**

James Ashton said that we gathered today to renew our commitment to our common values and shared priorities. Looking back, 2022 saw us get used to life without the Anderson family who moved to Winchester. We also welcomed the Rev Liz Lane who moved to Oxted with her husband Richard. Alison Murden finished working as our Administrative Assistant and we are thankful for her work. We also lost other significant members of our church as they moved away from the area, but these changes should not dissuade us from finding creative ways to grow together.

The church marked the royal occasions of 2022, the Platinum Jubilee and then sadly the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Through our commitment to Knowing Jesus, the church runs Alpha courses, has regular prayer breakfasts and has a continued presence in local schools.

We continue to Grow Community through events in The_Space, and in the church with, Holiday At Home and Get Involved.

The church's commitment to Renewing our Heritage continues by maintaining the fabric of the building and as well as the ongoing building projects, there are fundraising events and maintenance days for the building and church grounds.

JA thanked all those involved with the choir and music at St. Marys, the Bellringing Team and flower arrangers.

Looking forward - JA felt hopeful for the church but pointed out that in a local community of over 11,000 people only around 500-1,000 were in churches. The Big Help Out needs to go beyond the Coronation weekend, we need to be continually focused on our children and youth and not least there is the ongoing issue of finance. JA also drew everyone's attention to the fact that we only have one churchwarden and this is far from ideal.

3. Reports

3.1 Electoral Roll Report

Paul Shillito reported that there are currently 115 on the Electoral Roll. In 2019 there were 141.

Revd. James Ashton thanked Paul Shillito for his work on the Electoral Roll and PS said he was happy to continue.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Martin Fisher said he was pleased to present the accounts for the year to December 2022 which have been reviewed by the PCC and the church's Independent Examiner. A copy of the Annual Accounts was available to everyone present and had been emailed out to church members. MF drew attention to the ongoing loss in the accounts which he said was unsustainable and the church would run out of cash in three years if nothing changed.

In answer to what could be done, MF said that there was a small finance team meeting every three months to review the accounts. Along with increased photocopier charges, banking charges were of great concern. Therefore MF feels it is essential for the church's donations to go digital especially as local bank branches are being closed. He thanked those who give regularly and generously.

MF went on to introduce the new digital machine at the entrance to the church which replaces the collection plate.

The congregation was informed that it costs £2,250 per week to run the church.

Questions/discussions/Comments from the congregation included:

- The possible use of the new _Space to save on heating in the winter. Austin Copp said he was keeping the heating down as much as possible and James Ashton said he was definitely considering this as an option.
- Standing Orders – Yes these were Gift Aided
- Thanks to MF for choosing a simple to operate machine
- Do we subsidise poorer parishes? Our giving with St.Peter's covers our clergy costs and accommodation and we do give about £20,000 over what we need to to keep our clergy.

- Giving to charities – This may need to go down and it was noted that individuals can give to the charity of their choice themselves.
- Our 5 charities under Missions and Charities have not changed for 4 years, If anyone has any suggestions, please speak to David Cook or Valerie Adamson.

AOB

It was asked who owns the church car park? - It is part of the Community Hall and security cameras are in place which can be viewed by the hall manager and Martin Fisher.

Fundraising Committee - Valerie Adamson is looking for new members.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

Financial Review

For the year 1st January – 31st December 2023

St. Mary's Financial Review	2023	2022
(Deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund	£ (11,155)	£ (20,735)

The general (unrestricted) fund incurred a loss of £11,155 which is an improvement on last year which was an unsustainable level.

The accounts have been reformatted this year to align more closely with the Diocesan standard format.

Voluntary income at £78,237 is up 6.1% on last year with digital collections and income from St Marys_Space more than offsetting a decline in planned giving.

Huge thanks are due to those 61 members who give regularly by standing order or through Stewardship UK which averages at £70 monthly per member.

Income from fundraising events raised £3,502 compared to £1,059 last year excluding the St Mary's School May Fayre share of £3,320.

Investment income of £5,000 is the ground rent from the Oxted Community Hall. PCC income from weddings, baptisms and funerals was £5,566 compared to £3,948 last year.

St Peter's PCC contributes 27.8% [last year 28%] to shared administration costs. This is based on the relative Parish Support Fund payments.

The Parish Support Fund payment remained at £65,000 which together with St Peter's payment of £25,000 ensures that the United Benefice's combined contribution of £90,000 exceeds the Southwark Diocese requirement for funding a stipendiary minister.

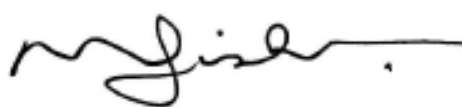
Mission giving was reduced this year to £6,000 which represents 7.4% of income. [The restricted fund financed £3,267 and the general fund £2,733]

The restricted fund showed a planned decline in the year as £98,040 was mainly spent on the church tower. Significant grant money was attracted for this project which is identified in note 1 to the accounts. Note 8 identifies £22,753 remaining in the Church restoration fund a proportion of which will be spent in 2024 on the Church porch.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Rector)



Martin Fisher (PCC Treasurer)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Planned giving		51,163	-	51,163	56,274
Collections in church		5,278	-	5,278	6,702
Collections in The_Space		1,953	-	1,953	-
Digital collections		4,319	-	4,319	861
All other giving		1,550	3,267	4,817	688
Gift Aid recoverable		13,974	-	13,974	12,305
		78,237	3,267	81,504	76,830
Grants	1	-	85,725	85,725	99,584
Fundraising events		3,502	-	3,502	4,379
Investment income		5,000	-	5,000	5,000
PCC Fees		5,566	-	5,566	3,948
Church groups		1,708	-	1,708	-
St Peter's PCC		3,245	-	3,245	5,295
Total incoming resources		97,258	88,992	186,250	195,036
Resources expended					
Church activities					
Fundraising costs		934	-	934	3,003
Mission giving	2	2,733	3,267	6,000	11,431
Parish Support Fund		65,000	-	65,000	65,000
Salaries, fees, and honoraria	3	11,142	-	11,142	14,831
Clergy expenses		4,029	-	4,029	5,336
		83,838	3,267	87,105	99,601
Church expenses					
Evangelism, St Marys_Space		5,308	388	5,696	5,658
Insurance		4,632	-	4,632	5,329
Maintenance & minor repairs		1,232	2,000	3,232	3,733
Provision of services		2,665	-	2,665	6,329
Church office		6,786	-	6,786	2,182
Light, heat & water		3,179	-	3,179	3,845
Church groups		773	-	773	-
		24,575	2,388	26,963	27,076
Major expenditure					
Church building repairs		-	98,040	98,040	1,080
St Mary's_Space		-	5,631	5,631	5,306
Youth work		-	589	589	-
Depreciation		-	14,652	14,652	13,852
Total Resources expended		108,413	124,567	232,980	146,915
Net (Outgoing)/Income resources		(11,155)	(35,575)	(46,730)	48,121
Transfer between funds	8	(8,005)	8,005	-	-
Net movement in Funds		(19,160)	(27,570)	(46,370)	48,121
Balances brought forward 1 January		63,393	517,940	581,333	533,212
Balances carried forward 31 December		44,233	490,370	534,603	581,333

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form part of these account

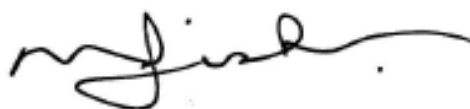
BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
				2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	4	-	467,617	467,617	474,265
Current assets					
Debtors	5	3,214	-	3,214	6,821
Cash at bank	6	42,269	24,603	66,872	104,567
		45,483	24,603	70,086	111,388
Current liabilities					
Creditors	7	(1,250)	(1,850)	(3,100)	(4,320)
Net current assets		44,234	22,753	66,986	107,068
Total net assets		44,233	490,370	534,603	581,333
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		44,233	-	44,233	63,393
Restricted - Church	8	-	22,753	22,753	42,700
Restricted - Youth	8	-	-	-	976
Restricted - Oxted Corn Hall	8	-	467,617	467,617	474,264
		44,233	490,370	534,603	581,333

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Rector)



Martin Fisher (Treasurer)

Charity Number: 1164439

Parish Office 53 Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LU

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form part of these accounts

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust) as this is a separate registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Heritage Trust has partially funded the construction costs of Oxted Community Hall, subject to a proportion of such costs being funded by East Surrey Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Limited (Crossroads), who did hold part of the property on a 99-year lease. During 2007, the Heritage Trust transferred the value of the Community Hall to the PCC. The transfer value represents the estimated cost, less contribution from Crossroads. In 2022 the church acquired the Crossroads space for £60,000.

The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight-line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight-line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC cash reserves are assessed as medium risk and represent 21 weeks of ordinary expenditure. The PCC is aware of this and the need for continued maintenance of the church building, for which the fundraising has been carried out by St Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust.

RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust), a registered charity, and Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

The objects of the Heritage Trust are broadly the repair and restoration of St. Mary's Church and its associated grounds and buildings, and construction of any buildings within the curtilage. The Trust funded the costs of Oxted Community Hall and in 2007 it transferred the asset to the PCC at an estimated cost value of £580,000.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall. The space formally occupied by Crossroads was purchased by St Mary's Church in 2022 for £60,000 plus fees of £10,455.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. GRANTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted donations	-	9,198
Restricted Funds		
Heritage Trust donation to church fund	12,000	30,000
Heritage Trust donation to St Mary's_Space	5,631	52,386
Oxted Community Hall donation to St Mary's_Space	-	7,500
Oxted Parish Council Churchyard grant	2,000	500
Oxted Parish Council Church tower grant	10,000	-
Surrey County Council Church tower grant	5,000	-
Garfield Weston Church tower grant	15,000	-
Marshall Church tower grant	20,000	-
HMRC Listed Places of Worship Scheme (VAT reclaim)	16,094	-
	85,725	99,584

2. DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

	2023			2022		
	Income	PCC	Donated	Income	PCC	Donated
Turkey Disaster Appeal	1,424	576	2,000	-	-	-
Jigsaw SE	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Christian Blind mission	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Mercy Ships	843	157	1,000	-	-	-
Help the persecuted (CSW)	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Last Year	-	-	-	1,307	10,124	11,431
	3,267	2,733	6,000	1,307	10,124	11,431

3. STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the Parish Administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £7,732 (2022: £7,453) during the year. The Administration officer was paid £nil (2022: £4,738). St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 27.8% of these costs together with Parish Office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC.

The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and incidental small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £3,410 (2022: £2,640). No payments were made to any member of the PCC or other related parties apart from the Parish Administrator.

4. FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

Cost or Valuation	Freehold Building £	Equipment & fittings £	Total £
Oxted Community Hall 1 January 2023	640,000	30,517	670,517
Additions St Mary's_Space 31 December 2023	-	8,004	8,004
	640,000	38,521	678,521
Depreciation			
1 January 2023	175,200	21,052	196,252
Charge in the year 31 December 2023	12,800	1,852	14,652
	188,000	22,904	210,904
Net Book value			
31 December 2023	452,000	15,617	467,617
31 December 2022	464,800	9,465	474,265

In 2022 the PCC of St Marys acquired from Crossroads their section of the Oxted Community Hall for £60,000 excluding fees. Total refurbishment (net of grant) amounted to £18,521 [2023: £8,004 and 2022: £10,517.]

5. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrestricted fund		
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	3,214	1,376
St Peter's Tandridge	-	5,295
PCC Fees	-	150
	3,214	6,821

6 CASH AT BANK

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrestricted fund	42,269	60,891
Restricted fund - Youth work	-	976

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

Restricted fund - Church Fund	24,603	42,700
	<u>66,872</u>	<u>104,567</u>

7. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted fund Oxted Community Hall deferred income	1,250	1,250
Accruals	-	3,070
Restricted fund Church Fund	1,850	-
	<u>3,100</u>	<u>4,320</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Fabric Fund £	Youth Fund £	Mission Giving £	Oxted Community Hall £	Total £
Opening balance 1 Jan 23	42,700	976	-	474,264	517,940
Incoming resources	80,094	-	3,267	7,631	88,992
Resources expended	(100,041)	(976)	(3,267)	(5,631)	(109,915)
Depreciation	-	-	-	(14,652)	(14,652)
From unrestricted fund	-	-	-	8,005	8,005
Closing Balance 31 Dec 23	<u>22,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>467,617</u>	<u>490,370</u>

9. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(46,730)	48,120
Less Building & Equipment	(8,004)	(70,516)
Add depreciation	14,652	13,852
Movement in working capital	2,387	(43,498)
Net Cash Flow	<u>(37,695)</u>	<u>(52,042)</u>
Cash and short-term deposits as at 1 January	104,567	156,609
Cash and short-term deposits as at 31 December	<u>66,872</u>	<u>104,567</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, OXTED.**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger Thomas

25 March 2024

Accounts

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted
for the year 1 January - 31 December 2022
Charity Number: 1164439

St. Mary's Financial Review	2022	2021
(Deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund	£ (20,735)	£ (32,319)

The general (unrestricted) fund incurred a loss of £20,735 which, while an improvement on last year, is an unsustainable level. Both 2020 and 2021 were adversely affected by Covid-19, but by 2022 the effects of the pandemic were receding as life returns to normal. If the loss continues at the current rate the Church will run out of funds by 2025, just three years away.

Voluntary income which includes giving by standing order, blue envelopes, cash & digital collections was down by 1.1% to £76,142. An increasing challenge as banks close is the ability to bank cash which from June 2023 must be taken to Barclays in Redhill or Sevenoaks.

In 2023 members of the congregation will be encouraged to pay by standing order or digital payment methods. The blue envelope scheme is gradually being withdrawn, and it is proposed that cash will initially be banked monthly and then quarterly.

Income from fundraising events, including the May Fayre, contributed a much needed £4,379.

Investment income of £5,000 is the ground rent from the Oxted Community Hall. PCC Fee income from weddings, baptisms and funerals was £3,948 compared to £5,084 last year.

St. Peter's PCC contributes 28% [last year 30%] towards the cost of curate accommodation and shared administration costs. This is based on the relative Parish support fund payments.

Donations to missions and charities increased to £10,124 representing 13.3% of income, exceeding the 10% PCC target.

The Parish Support Fund payment was increased by 3.2% to £65,000 which together with St. Peter's payment of £25,000 ensures that the United Benefice's combined contribution of £90,000 exceeds the Southwark diocese requirement for funding a stipendiary minister.

Our curate having left the Parish in December 2021, meant a significant saving of £17,387 on accommodation. The residual cost is for the Team Ministry curate which is shared expenditure of the four team parishes.

The restricted fund showed a surplus of £68,586 due to delayed repairs to the church tower.

St. Mary's acquired the former Crossroads accommodation within the Oxted Community Hall in July 2022 for £60,000, largely funded by the Heritage Trust. This has been named "St. Mary's The_Space" The shortfall in funding, £10,677 and its refurbishment, is financed by a transfer from the General Fund and allows the church to host exciting outreach and evangelism projects.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Vicar)



Martin Fisher (PCC Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	2021 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income					
Planned giving		56,274	-	56,274	59,104
Collections and recurring donations		6,702	-	6,702	2,806
Digital collections		861	-	861	427
Gift aid recoverable		12,305	-	12,305	14,683
		<u>76,142</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,142</u>	<u>77,020</u>
Donations, legacies, groups, and grants	1	9,198	90,574	99,772	67,917
Special appeals		-	500	500	2,000
Fundraising events		4,379	-	4,379	354
Investment income		5,000	-	5,000	5,024
PCC Fees		3,948	-	3,948	5,084
St Peter's PCC		5,295	-	5,295	9,925
Total incoming resources		103,962	91,074	195,036	167,324
Resources expended					
Church activities:					
Donations to missions & charities	2	10,124	1,307	11,431	8,000
Parish Support Fund		65,000	-	65,000	63,000
Church groups and evangelism projects		2,894	173	3,067	1,429
St Marys The_Space		2,591	-	2,591	-
Provision of services		6,329	-	6,329	6,490
Clergy & ministry team expenses		1,408	-	1,408	1,545
Curate accommodation	3	3,928	-	3,928	21,315
Maintenance and minor repairs		3,233	500	3,733	5,489
Light, heat & water		3,845	-	3,845	1,887
Insurance		5,329	-	5,329	5,018
Fundraising expenditure		3,003	-	3,003	2,153
Admin, communications and governance	4	17,013	-	17,013	18,415
		<u>124,697</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>126,677</u>	<u>134,741</u>
Major expenditure					
Church repairs		-	1,080	1,080	84,995
Fees on purchase of Crossroads Space		-	5,306	5,306	5,139
Depreciation of Oxted Community Hall	5	-	13,852	13,852	11,600
Total Resources expended		124,697	22,218	146,915	236,475
Net (Outgoing)/incoming resources		(20,735)	68,856	48,121	(69,151)
Transfer between funds	9	(15,936)	15,936	-	-
Net movement in Funds		(36,671)	84,792	48,121	(69,151)
Balances brought forward 1 January		100,064	433,148	533,212	602,363
Balances carried forward 31 December		<u>63,393</u>	<u>517,940</u>	<u>581,333</u>	<u>533,212</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	474,265	474,265	417,600
Current assets					
Debtors	6	6,821	-	6,821	13,719
Cash at Solicitors		-	-	-	50,000
Cash at bank	7	60,891	43,676	104,567	106,609
		67,713	43,676	111,388	170,328
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(4,320)	-	(4,320)	(54,716)
Net current assets		63,393	43,676	107,068	115,612
Total net assets		63,393	517,940	581,333	533,212
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		63,393	-	63,393	100,064
Restricted – Church	9	-	42,700	42,700	13,591
Restricted – Youth	9	-	976	976	1,150
Restricted – Charities	9	-	-	-	807
Restricted –Oxted Com Hall	9	-	474,264	474,264	417,600
		63,393	517,940	581,333	533,212

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



James Ashton (Vicar)



Martin Fisher (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust) as this is a separate registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Heritage Trust has partially funded the construction costs of Oxted Community Hall, subject to a proportion of such costs being funded by East Surrey Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Limited (Crossroads), who did hold part of the property on a 99 year lease. During 2007, the Heritage Trust transferred the value of the Community Hall to the PCC. The transfer value represents the estimated cost, less contribution from Crossroads. In 2022 the church acquired the Crossroads space for £60,000. The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC cash reserves are assessed as medium risk and represent 28 weeks of ordinary expenditure. The PCC is aware of this and the need for continued maintenance of the church building, for which the fundraising has been carried out by St Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust.

RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust), a registered charity, and Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

The objects of the Heritage Trust are broadly the repair and restoration of St. Mary's Church and its associated grounds and buildings, and construction of any buildings within the curtilage. The Trust funded the costs of Oxted Community Hall and in 2007 it transferred the asset to the PCC at an estimated cost value of £580,000.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall. The space formally occupied by Crossroads was purchased by St Mary's Church in 2022 for £60,000 plus fees of £10,455.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted donations	9,198	4,776
Restricted Funds		
Heritage Trust donation to church fund	30,000	30,000
Heritage Trust donation to St Mary's The_Space	52,386	-
Oxted Community donation to St Mary's The_Space	7,500	-
Historical England Grant	-	25,000
Church Repair – HMRC VAT refund	-	7,591
Oxted Parish Council Grant for Churchyard	500	500
Other	188	50
	<u>99,772</u>	<u>67,917</u>

2. DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

	2022			2021		
	Collections	PCC	Donated	Collections	PCC	Donated
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mission Africa Jersey	-	1,600	1,600	-	2,000	2,000
The Leprosy Mission	-	1,600	1,600	-	2,000	2,000
Sparks Ministry	807	2,793	3,600	-	-	-
Ukraine Appeal	500	777	1,277	-	-	-
Their Voice	-	1,600	1,600	-	2,000	2,000
Crosslight Advice	-	1,600	1,600	-	2,000	2,000
Other UK	-	154	154	-	-	-
	<u>1,307</u>	<u>10,124</u>	<u>11,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. CURATE ACCOMMODATION

The PCC entered into a lease to provide accommodation for the curate in June 2016 which came to an end in December 2021. The PCC now supports the Team Ministry curate accommodation which is a shared cost between all four Team parishes.

4. STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the Parish Administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £7,453 (2021: £6,966) during the year. The Administration officer was paid £4,738 (2021: £4,212). St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 28% of these costs together with Parish Office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC.

The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and incidental small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £2,640 (2021: £2,480). No payments were made to any member of the PCC or other related parties apart from the Parish Administrator.

5. FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

Cost or Valuation	Freehold Building £	Equipment & fittings £	Total £
Oxted Community Hall			
At 1 January 2022 – Transfer Value	580,000	20,000	600,000
Additions St Mary's_The_Space	60,000	10,517	70,517
At 31 December 2022	640,000	30,517	670,517
Depreciation			
1 January 2022	162,400	20,000	182,400
Charge in the year	12,800	1,052	13,852
31 December 2022	175,200	21,052	196,252
Net Book value			
31 December 2022	464,800	9,465	474,265
31 December 2021	417,600	-	417,600

In 2022 the PCC of St Marys acquired from Crossroads their section of the Oxted Community Hall for £60,000 excluding fees and commenced refurbishment with £10,517.

6. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
<u>Unrestricted fund</u>		
Tax recoverable under gift aid	1,376	2,500
St Peter's, Tandridge	5,295	3,628
PCC Fees	150	-
<u>Restricted fund</u>		
Church repair – HMRC VAT refund	-	7,591
	<u>6,821</u>	<u>13,719</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. CASH AT BANK

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted fund	60,891	91,061
Restricted fund – Youth work	976	1,149
Restricted fund – Charity collection	-	808
Restricted fund – Church Fund	42,700	13,591
	<u>104,567</u>	<u>106,609</u>

8. CREDITORS (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Oxted Community Hall deferred income	1,250	1,250
PCC Fees	-	966
Accruals	3,070	-
Crossroads accrual	-	52,500
	<u>4,320</u>	<u>54,716</u>

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Fabric Fund	Youth	Community Hall	Charities Church yard	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance	13,591	1,150	417,600	807	433,148
Incoming resources	30,189	-	59,885	1,000	91,074
Resources expended	(1,080)	(174)	(5,305)	(1,807)	(8,366)
Depreciation	-	-	(13,852)	-	(13,852)
From unrestricted fund	-	-	15,936	-	15,936
Closing Balance	<u>42,700</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>474,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>517,940</u>

The restricted fund is topped up from the general fund through a transfer when expenses exceed the restricted fund balance.

10 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	48,120	(69,151)
Additions Building & Equipment	(70,516)	-
Add depreciation	13,852	11,600
Movement in working capital	(43,498)	49,303
Net Cash Flow	<u>(52,042)</u>	<u>(8,248)</u>
Cash and short-term deposits as at 1 January	156,609	164,857
Cash and short-term deposits as at 31 December	<u>104,567</u>	<u>156,609</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Oxted

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, OXTED.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Roger Thomas



10 April 2023

Accounts



St. Mary's Church Oxted

Annual Report and Accounts 2021
Registered Charity No. 116439

Knowing Christ
Growing Community, Renewing Heritage

PCC Members

Ex Officio members

Rev. James Ashton
2020

Vicar (Chairman) – from 7 January

Austin Copp
2020

Churchwarden – from September

Vic Stone

Churchwarden – from April 2021

Synod representatives

Sue Mallinson *

Catharina Hickson

Valerie Adamson

Jasmine Copp

Natasha Copp

Katharine Nockles

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Diocesan Synod

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

(Also Parish Safeguarding Officer)

*Sue Mallinson represents St. Peter's Tandridge on Deanery Synod and is on the electoral roll of St. Mary's , also representing Tandridge Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Licensed Readers

Sue Mallinson

Frances Withers (until her retirement in April 2021)

Co-opted members

Rev. David Weightman

Rev. Ken Robinson

Elected Members

Iona Cowland (2018 – 2021)

Jon Stone (2021 - 2024)

Vic Stone (2019 -2022)

Marian Dalton (2019 – 2022)

Andrew Heathfield (2020 – 2023)

Richard Adamson (2020 – 2023)

Colin Rutt (2020 – 2023)

Martin Fisher (2020 – 2023)

Katy Aspinwall (2020 -2023)

Hazel Showler (2020 – 2023)

Treasurer

PCC Secretary

Vice Chairman from 18 November 2020

Standing Committee

Rev. James Ashton, Austin Copp, Vic Stone, Martin Fisher, Iona Cowland,
Rev. David Weightman, Marian Dalton

Members of the Standing Committee are agreed at the PCC meeting after the APCM. It conducts the business on behalf of the PCC (as directed by the PCC) in between PCC meetings and also sets the agenda for meetings.

Electoral Roll Officer - Paul Shillito

Assistant Treasurer - Martin Fisher

Churches Together in Oxted and District - David Cook

Mission Group

David Cook, Valerie Adamson, Ruth D'Alessandro

The Mission Group (joint with St. Peter's) coordinates the links the churches have with the mission organisations the PCC decides to support. This includes donating money from PCC funds; raising awareness of their work; ensuring there is prayer for the work of the charities within services and other church events and encouraging people to pray at other times, inviting people from the charities to speak at services.

Ministry Team

Rev. James Ashton	Vicar
Rev. Mark Anderson	Assistant Curate (until December 2021)
Frances Withers	Reader (until her retirement in April 2021)
Sue Mallinson	Reader
Rev. David Weightman	Assistant Priest
Rev. Ken Robinson	Assistant Priest
Mary Cook	Pastoral Visitor

Introduction to Annual Report

2021 was another interesting year in the life of our church. Our wider community continued to contend with Covid, and many were affected by the pandemic as the year went on. For another year some of our seasonal celebrations had to be transformed and carried out in a slightly different way. The stoicism shown by all staff and volunteers has been a joy to see. We have had to respond to complex needs, often at short notice, and with limited resources. Thank you very much to all who have been part of this remarkable team effort. Speaking as the vicar, there is no way that we would continue to live and grow, without the creative and willing service of so many. THANK YOU all very much.

One of the great joys of 2021 was the way we expanded our life together to use our 'Tree of Hope' area in the churchyard. At Easter, we enjoyed an Easter Trail, during the Summer, we welcomed people to 'St Mary's on Sea' and we held a number of creative events there during the Oxted Adventure. This has been a brilliant witness to all in our community, and has been a vital lesson in how our church exists beyond the walls of our building!

We still have challenges this year with crumbling stonework, and we are trusting that this work will be completed during 2022. Please do pray about this, and support us in other ways if you can.

In April 2021, we celebrated with Frances Withers, as she retired as a reader. She has served in that role for many years with great creativity and distinction. The Diocesan Warden of Readers, Raymond Wheeler attended St Mary's, and spoke warmly of her service to the diocese. We also said farewell to the Anderson family, and we continue to hold Mark, Millie, Zoe and Evie in our thoughts and prayers as they settle into life in Winchester Diocese. Our ministry team remains strong, and we are delighted to work together with the clergy and readers from Hurst Green and Crowhurst too.

A verse that I find enormously encouraging in the bible is 1 Peter 3:15, which says this:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"

May this verse be our guide and strength this year.

With my prayers and thanks for your partnership in the gospel.

James A

Churchwardens' Reports

Becoming a warden in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the 'normal' life of church has been tricky to navigate. The increasing numbers of people returning to services and engaging with events has meant that the spiritual life of our community has been growing again and it has been particularly encouraging to see new families coming to Café Service.

Having the church open more and being able to hold and be involved in various events again has meant that it feels that the Growing Community part of our mission has restarted. Events such as the church Open Day which saw over 100 people visit our church and the various Christmas events and services, particularly the Adventure, saw many new people visiting. During times of increased Covid-19 measures, having the church open at different times in the week for prayer or just for people to come out and have some quiet time meant we had new visitors who had not been before. We have certainly seen God working in our community, giving us more opportunities to serve more people.

Vic Stone

I'm pleased to report that all insurances are current and electrical system as well as PAT appliance testing has been completed. Gas boiler safety check and fire extinguisher services have been carried out and fire alarm has been tested. Our lightning protection inspection failed but remedial works have been scheduled for 21st April. These incurred a little over £1500 in aggregate fees that are essential and on completion of this work I believe the building to be safe and secure.

Whilst no professional roof inspection has been done this year, from my visual inspection I don't identify any serious issues and propose to roll a paid inspection over for a year. Guttering at eave level appears clear but there are some leaking joints that could do with professional work over the summer.

The issues with the fabric and the Church being on the at risk register particularly on the Tower, Porch and East wall end are well known and have the PCCs approval to instruct works, with fundraising in parallel to try and mitigate spiralling inflation.

Austin Copp

Junior Church, 'Munch' and Youth Group

Junior Church

At St Mary's we have Junior Church during term time, on Sunday morning in OCH. We have a brilliant group of volunteer leaders and helpers, who we are enormously grateful to.

Each week there is a hearty group of children of all ages, gathering to worship, play games, read the bible, do crafts, and pray together. It is great fun for all, and the children always learn something new and exciting about Jesus. Please pray that our Junior Church would continue to grow.

We also teamed with St John's to periodically host 'Munch' – a group for early teenagers. This has seen some interesting talks on a variety of topics, and also pizza-making and building of friendships across the team. We look forward to working together more in the future.

James A

Youth

We were so excited to re-launch Youth Group in September 2021. We hosted our first Youth evening since March 2020; with games, snacks, and chats.

Since then, we have seen a steady increase in the number of young people with up to 9 attendees coming together to play the Sock Game, Frustration and Dobble (to name a few!).

It's also been great to welcome some lovely new team members to add to the super-hot-chocolate makers and fantastic game bringers!

After such a long break without any youth offering, it is really encouraging to see this new group thriving- a real answer to prayer. If you or anyone you know is (turning) 14-18 years old, then come along on alternate Thursdays 8-9pm in the meeting room at Oxted Community Hall.

Jasmine Copp

St Mary's primary school in 2021

St Mary' School is for reception to year 6 (aged 4 years turning 5 to 11 years old) children. It is led by our [Christian values](#) **Confidently me, Belonging together, Challenged to contribute**. These enable all Christians, those of other faiths or no faith to flourish equally. Sarah Lewis Headteacher, Anna Woodward Deputy Head, continue to lead and inspire this community.

The Theme of 2021 emerged as **Hope** when Sarah Lewis was exploring how we could 'mark' our school with a celebration to acknowledge the tremendous way that everyone has come together to support and sustain both within the school community and with the wider community during the Covid pandemic. The Hope project also celebrates the coming together of the infants and juniors into one big Primary School and its future. This celebration had been postponed because of Covid. School was anticipating the arrival of Bishop Jonathan to lead the celebration of the Primary school; to bless the new Oasis, an outdoor prayer and worship area, the new building and classrooms.

Worship and workshops on the theme developed to explore what Hope means, what symbols are used and seen. At a more personal level, what had given the children hope through the strange times of hightech learning? Some pupils had been in school, some at home, staff working in teams sometimes onsite with pupils other times preparing, leading and responding to remote learning. The sudden changes back and forth bringing stress for pupils, parents and staff alike – everyone pulled together and presented their best smiles.

The Hope project grew and a very large Marquee appeared on site – open sides let in fresh air, sunshine, terracotta clay and a fabulous potter called Josh from the Watts gallery. He came to show the how to make clay tiles. Videos were made to remind everyone – Covid bubbles remained. When I visited there was a quiet hum of focused excitement as children made their tiles, added their carefully drawn-out designs ready to be dried and fired. Many thanks to our neighbour schools, Oxted, Warlingham and Moorhouse for firing our tiles, we are a big school now which makes for a lot of tiles!

The tiles have been permanently hung in a number of designs around school including a rainbow, a signpost and the word HOPE by two fabulous dads of the school, Glenn Cockerill and John Timlin.

The school did have it's day to celebrate becoming St Mary's primary school with Bishop Jonathan leading and many others invited to the Oasis for an *outdoor* gathering in the Autumn term.

More can be found on the school's website /parents/newsletters/ the Special Edition tells you about the hope project and the Watts gallery, artists Mary Watts who built an chappel of terracotta clay and George Frederick Watts artist whose most famous painting is entitled HOPE. The most exciting though is the pupils and their work and how they tell us what has inspired them – do look at all the lovely photos. The school really value every-one's love, friendship, help and support; and the prayers of those of faith. Every-one has been amazing and continue to be so, Thank you!

Catharina

Stibe Hickson, Governor

TANDRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD 2021 - three Zoom Meetings

25 March 2021

The main speaker was Nicola Thomas, new Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Nicola had joined the Southwark Diocesan Mission Team (led by Revd Jay Colwill) in January from the Home Office where she had been Deputy Director of Refugee Integration and Vulnerability. She came with a wealth of experience of working on refugee issues, including creating the community sponsorship scheme.

A practising Roman Catholic, Nicola wanted to engage in the wider range of areas offered by the Southwark role. She said the Christian Church values communities and individuals uniquely well. It has a reason to do the right thing even when it is unpopular, working with the most vulnerable and excluded. Social and environmental justice, including climate change, are the same thing, and have the greatest impact on poor people. The Eco Church survey scheme (from A Rocha) was something she had not know much about previously. There were questions and sharing of information on initiatives to help refugees, teaching English as a second or additional language and Eco Church, including the challenges we face with our buildings. Our churchyards can be more successful in showing a better side, with their wildlife, butterflies and bees. Southwark is aiming to be an Eco Diocese and holds a regular Eco Church Surgery drop-in Zoom.

Becoming carbon neutral feels like a huge change, but it starts with manageable steps - see recent blog <https://southwark.anglican.org/five-energy-saving-tips-for-churches/>

The environment is a very important issue for our youth in churches and it is the way to reach and keep them. Encourage them and their families to be your

environment activists and share things at church; they are very informed on the subject.

30 June 2021

This was effectively the first meeting of the new 'triennium' of the Deanery Synod albeit a year late. Due to the pandemic many annual meetings to elect the deanery reps were a year delayed. Living in Love and Faith (LLF) was the subject for this meeting.

The Deanery Synod met, significantly on the day the Methodist Church announced the decision to permit same sex couples to get married in church, (with an opt-out for ministers). Three trained 'in house' facilitators, April Alexander (Bletchingley), Revd Ian Whitley (Lingfield & Dormansland) and Revd Helen Burnett (Chaldon) presented to the Synod this Church of England nationwide project in which we are called to participate, as the church discerns how to proceed on matters regarding sexuality and marriage. There is a short introductory video here <https://youtu.be/g7A3wt0jqZM> with other resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith> The materials are designed to be used in small groups, organised in individual parishes or groups of churches, with the possibility of a course run by the Deanery in September (this did not happen). The Diocese is setting up a network of pastoral support.

April Alexander spoke about the long and painful background to LLF from 1967 when homosexual relationships for men became legal. Since then the church has struggled to find a united and consistent voice and lead on the subject, and despite an acknowledgement that many clergy are gay, a 'don't ask, don't tell' culture has persisted. In 2017 a General Synod vote, to 'take note' of a report from the House of Bishops about marriage and same sex relationships, was defeated by the House of Clergy and it was decided to widen the debate to allow everyone in parishes to make their views known. Hence LLF was born. These discussions will be difficult, but we need to have them.

- A course was held in the Oxted Team Ministry early in 2022, when Canon Revd Anna

Eltringham had returned to ministry; she and Revd James Ashton were facilitators.

At the same synod there were elections:

Deanery Lay Chair - April Alexander replacing Sue Mallinson

Deanery Leadership Team - incorporating the work of the Standing Committee

- with responsibility to fulfil the Southwark Diocesan Vision for Mission

Revd Michelle Edmonds - Area Dean

Revd James Ashton Asst Area

Dean

April Alexander Deanery Lay Chair

Janet Harman Deanery Secretary

Barbara Verco Treasurer

Catharina Hickson and Susan Gibbin Lay representatives

Revds Peter O'Connell and Phaedra Pamphilon-Green Clergy representatives

Diocesan Synod

Laity - April Alexander (Bletchingley) Leonie Flowerday (Warlingham All Saints)

Sue Mallinson (Tandridge) Catharina Hickson (Oxted) Eleanor Stoneham (Limpsfield)

Clergy - Michelle Edmonds (Warlingham Team) **Lotwina Farodoye (Oxted Team)**

Helen Cook (Limpsfield)

Later **Helen Ainsworth** from St John's Hurst Green, was elected to General Synod.

20 October 2021

The Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Diocesan Lead on Anti-Racism had lead discussion at Diocesan Synod which unanimously approved the Southwark Anti-Racism Charter (ARC). The Revd Sandra Schloss from St Luke's Peckham, also Camberwell Area Dean, came to present ARC to Tandridge Synod.

The Charter is active and intentional. It says: *'being anti-racist is not the same as simply not being racist, It is not enough as a Diocese not to be racist; instead we must actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice. This isn't an easy task, it takes introspection, as well as continued intentional action and is not a static description of*

ourselves'. The pastoral principles of living well together are similar to those for Living in Love and Faith (LLF). We must acknowledge prejudice, speak into silence, address ignorance, cast out fear, admit hypocrisy and pay attention to power. The Charter is not an overnight fix, but a living document to come back to, based on scripture.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Jesus'

Galatians 3.28

The key principles of Southwark's Anti-Racism Charter are:

- * An explicit theological understanding that God's kingdom is multi-ethnic, and that it is through our baptismal covenant that we recognise the dignity of every human being and our unity in Christ,
- * An intentional focus in our theological studies, liturgy, teaching, prayer, word and work to take strategic and practical solutions to combat racism and inequality
- * A clear strategy for increasing and sustaining diversity in our governance structures at Diocesan and parish level so as to ensure representation and participation of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds at all levels of our organisation.

As well as its three principles, the ARC includes six Diocesan commitments and a 12-point action plan for leadership and development. Southwark is ahead of most other

dioceses. Each diocese is its own separate entity and although the adoption of an ARC is recommended, it can't be mandated.

NOTE: UKME (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) not BAME (Black, Asian Minority Ethnic)

Deanery Arts Festival - proposed for September 2022 will most likely be held in 2023.

A variety of high quality events taking place across the deanery over a month, involving music, drama, comedy, art, flowers etc. Regular parish events could be opened to the Deanery, and there is money available from Deanery funds.

Mallinson

Hear Here

Hear Here – supports those with hearing aids, by cleaning, retubing checking, supplying batteries and advising. Sadly, in response to Covid this was closed by the Guildford diocesan leads. All support was returned to the hospital clinics who would send out supplies on receipt of a return stamp addressed envelope.

Hear here runs on the first Friday of the month with Friday coffee mornings in Oxted Community Hall.

Retraining of the volunteers started in the autumn 2021 in the hope that we would be able to restart serving the community. All volunteers are DBS checked. Hear Here has restarted in 2022.

Hearing Champions for St Mary's and Oxted are now Roger Hewitt, Dudley Withers, Hazel Showler and Catharina Hickson. Many thanks to this lovely team who so willingly share their time expertise, skills and smiles.

Catharina Hickson, Hear Here

lead St Mary's Oxted

Fellowship/Social

Unfortunately due to the continuing effects of the Covid 19 pandemic this was largely a year of cancelled or very modified events and planning for anything became very difficult.

The big fund-raising events such as the April Trivia Quiz, The May Fayre and the Christmas Market were either cancelled or abandoned due to Covid19 restrictions as were some social events such as the Barn Dance, and things like coffee in the Hall, even when services were possible for a limited time.

It was possible to celebrate Harvest Festival however in the first weekend of October. The flower ladies got busy on Friday October 2nd and the church was open on the Saturday for people to come in and look round at the Harvest Flower Festival as well as enjoy tower tours and cream teas . It is good to report

that there was a steady stream of visitors. It was also possible to hold a bring and share Harvest Lunch which was enjoyed by about 40 people.

Unlike in 2020 the Harvest services for the pupils of St. Mary's School were held in church and as usual they donated a huge amount of produce which was sorted by a small band of volunteers. About 50 parcels were distributed to local people, and food was sent to Pastens, Welcare, Caterham Food Bank and the Renewed Hope Trust at Redhill -- organisations that help children with special needs, the homeless and families in some sort of need..

Unlike in 2020 on 7th November it was possible to hold the annual Memorial Service for the departed in church. Despite some reservations it was more popular than ever and was attended by well over 100 people, with once again many of them travelling some distance to attend. After the service many of them enjoyed a tea in Oxted Community Hall.

In December the usual Oxted Adventure returned with some of the events taking place in church or in the churchyard with the addition of some decorated trees being placed in the Churchyard.

Valerie Adamson

Oxted Churches

Due to Covid 19 the usual joint Easter and Christmas cards giving details of services in each of the Oxted churches were not produced. Instead articles were published in the Oxted Local magazine giving some details of services along with details of church contacts.

The World Day of Prayer service held on the first Friday in March was organised jointly by members of St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Limpsfield and was broadcast on YouTube.

Fortunately by November restrictions had eased and it was possible to hold the usual joint Churches Trivia quiz which was well attended. With no printing costs to pay for, the profit from the evening was given to charity - half to the CTOD collection for a water project in Rajasthan and half to the Heritage Trust

Valerie Adamson

Churches Together in Oxted and District 2021

During the year we have had to say goodbye and thank you to two stalwart Committee members – past Chairman Rev Mark Anderson and Communications Secretary Barbara Hester, who have contributed greatly to CTOD. But we have welcomed Tim Maton from Kings Church and Keith Dickson from HG Evangelical Church

We have been greatly affected by Covid but by the autumn of 2021 most of our member churches had more or less returned to normal activities

The Good Friday walk of Witness had to be cancelled for the second time.

Richard Piskorz of All Saints launched the “Job Club” and this was supported by CTOD. A team of people with experience in interview techniques and writing CV’s was assembled to assist local unemployed people to find suitable employment.

Another new initiative was the CTOD agreement to support the Oxted 3 Churches Bereavement drop in scheme, which had been running at the URC and was looking for new support.

Other items discussed were the support of a local food bank organised by Rev Lotwina Farodyne the Curate at St John’s.

The final service at HG Methodist Church in August was well attended and raised a generous donation towards our CTOD Charity

The CTOD Charity was a specific project of the Oxted One World Group for harvesting Monsoon water in Rajasthan, India which suffers from very low rainfall. This has been supported by collections at our joint services over the year

Our Chair, Wendy Hewitt, has led us in our Zoom meetings and AGM as well as devising our Zoom based Lent course for 2021 “Care for God’s Creation”

Both TICTOC (now relaunched as GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) and the Men’s prayer breakfast have continued throughout the year on Zoom as well as face to face meetings

David Cook (CTOD Treasurer)

Missions and Charities

St Mary's are continuing to support five Charities: (for the fourth year)

Their Voice - a local charity supporting victims of human trafficking and modern slavery with whom several Church members have regular personal contact in donating items beneficial to needy young mothers and babies

Crosslight Advice - an independent community focussed charity working to alleviate poverty caused by problem debt - with a vision to restore dignity and hope through financial advice.

A speaker who will tell us about this Charity has been requested.

Spark Ministries - an Albanian based charity to bring the love of God to the nation's children

through kids summer camps and a puppet theatre based in a travelling van.

Rachel Wilson is due to visit on April 3rd to give us an update on her work.

The Leprosy Mission - an international Christian charity bringing relief to leprosy victims in around 30 countries with 141 years of experience.

A speaker from the Leprosy Mission is due to update us on their work on 19th June

Mission Africa which brings Christianity to remote parts of Uganda.

Terry Charlton of Mission Africa is due to visit us on September 25th and has sent us a glowing thankful report on how helpful our support has been.

In 2021 we donated £2,000 to four of the above charities (all except Spark Ministries, where the payment will be made later) and we hope to repeat this in 2022. We also support them in prayer and through visual publicity to help our congregation see "Mission" as part of our discipleship in how we follow Jesus and his command to love others as we love ourselves.

David Cook

Love Your Neighbour

Throughout 2021 the Love Your Neighbour buddy scheme continued to offer valuable support to people across Oxted including shopping, collecting prescriptions & telephone chats.

Although requests for help dropped off throughout 2021, as covid vaccinations rolled out and people set up regular online food & medication deliveries, it is still a live scheme and continues to be part of a forum of support groups throughout Tandridge District.

We have built strong links with Tandridge District Council, Tandridge Voluntary Action, Citizens Advice Bureau and neighbouring communities and are able to register people for foodbank vouchers and signpost individuals to many agencies for specific support, including the Wellbeing team and activities that take place in Oxted each week.

Natasha Copp

Sheep safely graze St Mary's churchyards 2021

We still have Cinnamon and Chocolate our very first two ewes in our flock but sadly Rambo our alpha ram died. You could watch the new leadership being discerned with much headbutting till peace was re-established. The flock continue to move between the area between church and OCH, the Old graveyard and the church yard extension across the lane. Cinnamon lambed first with twins in late April and Chocolate lambed a singleton in early May. Sadly our other Ewe lost her lamb and died – An increasing number of dogs being allowed in off lead, some chase the sheep, some even being allowed into the sheep enclosure which scare and even chase the sheep. This can cause to sheep to die from stress. We will have a new sign saying dogs on lead only.

The sheep are cared for by Roger and Angela Hewitt (secretary), Hazel and Paul Showler and Catharina and Robin Hickson. In the winter they need supplementary feeding come rain or shine and even more when it is windy! Fences need monitoring, posts replacing, leaves and twigs sweeping, holes filling and bracken cutting to start with. If you'd like to help please let us know.

Catharina Hickson

St. Mary's Monkeys Playgroup

St Mary's Monkeys playgroup was closed from January 2021, until we could reopen the doors 21st May 2021, due to the pandemic. The only way to reopen in May 2021, was to introduce a bookings system, as the Covid rules required us to cap the number of adult guests at 30 heads plus helpers. In order to manage this, we set up a private St Mary's Monkeys playgroup Facebook page and a bookings system was introduced. Every week since reopening in May 2021, the playgroup has been fully booked and oversubscribed. At the time of writing, we have 547 members of the Facebook page, new guests join us weekly. Thanks to strong support from St Mary's Church, as well as playgroup parents and carers, the playgroup made a number of generous monetary contributions during 2021 to various charities, as well as increasing revenue for St Mary's Church. This included a £200 donation to support Afghanistan refugees, actioned after the playgroup opened throughout August 2021. The team is working exceptionally hard to keep the playgroup open now during the school holidays (historically the playgroup has only opened during school term time). In the Autumn 2021, breastfeeding support was introduced and we now have two breastfeeding peer supporters who attend on a rota basis. Since May 2021, additional toys have been introduced (mainly either donated or good quality items purchased from local charity shops) and the regular cleaning of books and toys has been improved. We have also donated a considerable number of toys and books to local charities where we were holding an excessive number. The selection of food on offer has been broadened and we now offer a wider range of fruit each week to give children (and families) a chance to "try before they buy" - reducing food waste and costs to families. We are working hard to better accommodate children, parents and carers with food allergies so that we continue to be, as inclusive as possible. We have also introduced both a food caddy bin and all recyclable rubbish is removed at the end of the session so that we can operate as environmentally responsibly as possible. An Arts and Crafts table has been introduced and runs most weeks which is themed and the children very much enjoy these activities. Sadly, the St Mary's Monkeys playgroup Christmas party had to be cancelled due to Covid, after a lot of hard work had already been completed in advance but all the planning, buying and wrapping has not been wasted and we look forward to a terrific celebration in 2022 with our stock held from 2021

Penny Kirk

Love St Mary's

During 2021 our creative team have continued to make beautiful useful items in the comfort of their own homes. We always appreciate new makers and new ideas for crafts and hope to be able to get together in person in 2022.

Love St Mary's hosted three stalls during 2021: in July at the Love Oxted Mini-Artisan Market; at St Mary's Open Day in October; and at St Mary's School Christmas Fair in December. We raised £540 in total towards St Mary's Oxted Heritage Fund.

Catherine Hough

Meeting Place 2021

After over a year of absence due to the Covid Pandemic, Meeting Place restarted outdoors in August rather than inside. Although this created a lot of extra work- carrying tables, chairs and refreshments outdoors (and returning them inside afterwards)- all who attended said they felt much safer in the fresh air. Fortunately, we were blessed with mostly very good weather through September. This also had the advantage of attracting passers by who would not otherwise have known we were 'open for business.'

Our regulars returned gradually and were glad of the company, though some were not happy to be indoors when the weather turned inclement. The Meeting Room in the OCH has limited room to spread out, so those who were more vulnerable stayed away.

We were glad to accept the help of two new volunteers- Sue Knight and Jean Marjason- onto the team, helping to spread the load, especially as illness has meant asking people to swap duties.

Meeting Place for coffee, cake and conversation, Friday mornings 9:30-11:30. All welcome.

Catherine Hough

Oxted Ringers Report for 2021.

2021 started with no ringing due to the Covid pandemic. By the early summer when lockdown restrictions were being eased, builders moved in to the tower to undertake repairs to the louvres and clock faces. Frustratingly the contractors 'elf and safety' rules prevented access to our tower and therefore there was still no ringing. On completion of the building work the ringers took the opportunity to paint the bell frame.

Ringing commenced in September for Sunday services and practice nights. The regular Surrey Association "Listen and Strike" practice sessions also restarted. We recruited two new young ringers at the end of the year. In December an ART Module 1 bell handling refresher training course was hosted for the Surrey Association.

During the year we rang, with the help of nearby ringers, for all weddings and funerals. We also tolled a bell in April in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Then Omicron arrived and all ringing stopped again (although the ringers did manage to decorate a churchyard Christmas tree with a bell ringing theme)!

2022 shows signs of a dim light at the end of a very long tunnel. We are optimistic that we will be ringing again within the next few weeks and recommence training our new recruits.

One quarter peal was rung.

Ian Griffiths

Visiting Team

Many from St Mary's have been involved with the "Helping Hands" scheme during the last year. A huge thank you to Natasha Copp and her team who continue to keep an eye on many in the church and wider community....it has not only encouraged St Mary's volunteers to bake, pray, make phone calls or send a card of encouragement, but has involved other volunteers too. This is something we hope can continue.

During the year there have been so many funerals where mourners have not been able to attend. We hope that, somehow, we can soon find safe ways of helping the clergy to support the bereaved, the lonely and the vulnerable.

Mary Cook

St. Marys Choir

We have continued to sing (safely...max 6 voices) at 9.30am services most weeks, and some members have been able to record hymns and worship songs for the Oxted Team YouTube services. The content of these services have shown great creativity, overcoming technical difficulties and learning to feel confident in recording! Thank you to all who have helped to make these possible. Those who have watched have found them encouraging and deeply spiritual.

Unfortunately the Carol Service had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a resurgence of the pandemic. We pray that we may soon come together as a choir as restrictions lessen and then we must turn to finding a choir director and resuming practices.

Mary Cook

Home Groups

St. Mary's has two, sometimes three, home groups which meet regularly.

Our home group meets in our home on most Wednesday evenings at 8pm until 9.30. Or, when it has been safer to do so, we have met during the day in the garden

We number between 3 and 9 people and usually look at the readings set for the following Sunday, relating them to our daily lives. It's an opportunity for mutually supporting each other in our faith journeys.

We finish with a time of prayer and sometimes sung worship.
Coffee tea and cakes are the order of the day

David and Mary Cook

Our home group has six members and meets every other Wednesday evening at 8pm for about an hour. We met virtually during the pandemic and are planning to continue with this for the time being with occasional face to face social meetings. We meet for bible study, based on the previous Sunday café service readings, and prayer and mutual support.

Paul Lickiss

Parochial Church Council

St. Mary's PCC meet every two months with the agenda being set by the standing committee the week before. St. Mary's and St. Peter's meet together for the first half and then the two churches split into their separate groups. During 2021 meetings were mainly on Zoom but occasionally in person when deemed safe. The PCC agree how much should be donated to charities, the Parish Support Fund and funding of projects to the fabric of the church. PCC meetings include updates on the financial situation, any safeguarding issues, discussions on how to manage services during the pandemic and the ongoing issues with the fabric of the church buildings. PCC meetings are always well attended.

Marian Dalton

Safeguarding

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church community to make sure we create a safe environment for the activities that we undertake with children and vulnerable adults. We follow the guidance provided for us by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in 'A Safe Church'. A summary of the safeguarding principles adopted by your PCC can be found on the church porch noticeboard and the noticeboard inside church. These principles were readopted by the PCC in September 2021. I have worked for a number of years with Fay Prater, the PSO from St Peter's, so that together we can consider and support each other with safeguarding planning and any issues. During 2021 it was great to see church activities gradually resume. We have recruited, or are in the process of recruiting, a number of new volunteers following the process agreed by the PCC a few years ago. This still seems to be working well. More recently the PCC were reminded by the House of Bishops of the duty of care we have for safeguarding and the consequences of not doing so. Following on from this we are focussing on retraining for safeguarding awareness.

At any time, if any member of the congregation has a concern, please speak to me, James or David, or Fay the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's. Even if it isn't clear whether there is a safeguarding issue or not, it is always better to talk it through at an early stage so that a potential issue can be averted or if our safeguarding arrangements aren't covering a particular activity or scenario we can respond. Please contact me by email on safeguardingstmarysoxted@gmail.com or on 07778 539664 (please note that my phone goes straight to voicemail for any unrecognised numbers so do leave a message and I can call you back).

Katharine Nockles

Safeguarding Officer

Flowers

St Mary's has a small team who arrange flowers to beautify our ancient church. Our focus is on creating displays for the key festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest though arrangements are created for other occasions too. None of us are formally trained. We have all learned by trial and error over the years and we help and support each other. Every arrangement is different and reflects us as individuals; the common theme is that we enjoy creating something that we hope is enjoyed by others and visually enhances our worship. A few years ago the team was large enough for there to be a rota so that - aside from the more sombre periods of Lent and Advent - there was a pedestal of flowers near the

altar throughout the year. It would be lovely to get back to that again if possible so if anyone would like to come and join the team please do contact me on flowers.stmarysoxted@gmail.com.

Katharine Nockles

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

for the year ended 31 December 2021

St. Mary's Financial Review

	2021	2020
(Decrease) in reserves	£ (69,151)	£ (18,732)
(Deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund	£	£ (24,335)

(32,319)

**(Deficit)/Surplus on the Restricted Fund
before depreciation**

**£ £17,203
(25,232)**

The unrestricted deficit position is worse than the previous year, as COVID-19 continues to impact giving. As a result, the decrease in giving along with minor increases in expenses, as restrictions lifted, resulted in a larger deficit.

St Peter's PCC contributed 30% of the parish office expenses and the curate accommodation.

The Parish Support Fund paid to Southwark Diocese at £63,000 was not uplifted due to the unknown impact of COVID-19 at the time the pledge was made, however, it has been uplifted in 2022.

Total resources expended were up £4,323 on the previous year primarily as a result of restrictions being lifted and church life starting to return to normal. Curate accommodation was a significant cost as St Mary's continued to support the Curate and his family during their extended Curatorship in line with the Diocesan approach. In addition, we supported the Curate attached to the team ministry, which explains the increase in this cost.

The restricted deficit position before depreciation includes £ (84,995) of major church expenditure, which is partially funded by income from the Heritage Trust £30,000, Historic England Grant £25,000 and £7,591 recovery of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. It also includes Crossroads legal fees of £ (5,139).

The Oxted Parish Council grant of £500 was used to support churchyard expenditure.

There was a net cash outflow of £ (8,248) in the year with a closing cash balance of £156,609, which includes £50,000 held for the Crossroads acquisition. It is important to note that available cash reserves represent just over 3 years' worth of losses at the current rate.

Looking ahead, the continued decrease in giving, has meant that the original £100,000 which was made available to fund major projects, is being revised and fundraising efforts, along with grant applications will need to be made to aid and support any future planned projects. Thank you again to everyone who has supported and continues to support St Mary's through this difficult and challenging time.

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

James Ashton (Rector)

Austin Copp (Churchwarden)

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	<i>Note</i>	£	£	2021	2020
				£	£
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income					
Planned giving		59,531	-	59,531	71,888
Gift aid recoverable		14,683	-	14,683	14,021
Collections and donations		2,450	356	2,806	4,432
		76,664	356	77,020	90,341
Donations legacies and grants	11	3,717	63,141	66,858	13,722
Special Appeals		-	2,000	2,000	322
				145,87	104,38
		80,381	65,497	8	5
Fundraising Events		354	-	354	43
Investment Income		5,024	-	5,024	5,475
PCC Fees		5,084	-	5,084	2,926
St Peters PCC		9,925	-	9,925	10,458
Other		1,059	-	1,059	-
Total incoming resources		101,827	65,497	167,324	123,287
Resources expended					
Church activities:					
Donations to missions & charities	5	8,000	-	8,000	9,600
Parish Support Fund		63,000	-	63,000	63,000
Church groups and evangelism projects		1,334	95	1,429	-
Provision of services		6,490	-	6,490	4,445
Clergy & ministry team expenses		1,545	-	1,545	2,051
Curate accommodation	12	21,315	-	21,315	19,252
Maintenance and minor repairs		4,989	500	5,489	4,853
Light, Heat & Water		1,887	-	1,887	2,580
Insurance		5,018	-	5,018	4,949
Fundraising expenditure		2,153	-	2,153	-
Admin, communication and governance		18,415	-	18,415	19,689
				134,74	130,41
		134,146	595	1	9
Major expenditure					
Church repairs		-	84,995	84,995	-
Crossroads		-	5,139	5,139	-
Churchyard		-	-	-	-
Depreciation of Oxted Community Hall	6	-	11,600	11,600	11,600
Total Resources expended		134,146	102,329	236,475	142,019
Net (Outgoing)/incoming resources		(32,319)	(36,832)	(69,151)	(18,732)
Transfer between funds	10	(21,808)	21,808	-	-

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Net movement in Funds	(54,127)	(15,024)	(69,151)	(18,732)
Balances brought forward 1 January	154,191	448,172	602,363	621,096
Balances carried forward 31 December	<u>100,064</u>	<u>433,148</u>	<u>533,212</u>	<u>602,364</u>

The notes on pages 24 to 25 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2021	2020
				£	£
Tangible fixed assets					
	6	-	417,600	417,600	429,200
Current assets					
Debtors	7	13,719	-	13,719	12,820
Short term deposits		-	-	-	55,416
Cash at Solicitors		50,000	-	50,000	-
Cash at bank	8	91,061	15,548	106,609	109,441
		154,780	15,548	170,328	177,677
Current liabilities					
Creditors	9	(54,716)	-	(54,716)	(4,513)
Net current assets		100,064	15,548	115,612	173,164
Total net assets		100,064	433,148	533,212	602,364
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		100,064	-	100,064	154,193
Restricted – Church	10	-	15,548	15,548	18,971
Restricted –Oxted Community Hall	10	-	417,600	417,600	429,200
		100,064	433,148	533,212	602,364

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

James Ashton (Rector)

Iona Cowland (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The notes on pages 24 to 25 form part of these accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust) as this is a separate registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Heritage Trust has partially funded the construction costs of Oxted Community Hall, subject to a proportion of such costs being funded by East Surrey Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Limited (Crossroads), who hold part of the property on a 99 year lease. During 2007, the Heritage Trust transferred the value of the Community Hall to the PCC. The transfer value represents the estimated cost, less contribution from Crossroads. The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

2 RESERVES POLICY

The PCC cash reserves are assessed as low risk and represent 49 weeks of ordinary expenditure.

The PCC is aware of this and the need for continued maintenance of the church building, for which the fundraising has been carried out by St Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust.

3 RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust), a registered charity, and Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

The objects of the Heritage Trust are broadly the repair and restoration of St. Mary's church and its associated grounds and buildings, and construction of any buildings within the curtilage. The Trust funded the costs of Oxted Community Hall and in 2007 transferred the asset to the PCC at an estimated cost value of £580,000.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall.

4 STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the parish administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £6,966 (2020: £6,966) during the year. The administration officer, was paid £4,212 (2020: £4,304). St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 30% of these costs together with parish office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC. The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £2,480 (2020: £2,400).

No payments were made to any member of the PCC (apart from the parish administrator, the office administrator, small vergers fees and expense re-imbursements), persons connected to them or to any other related parties.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

5 DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

	2021			2020		
	Collectio ns £	PCC £	Donat ed £	Collectio ns £	PCC £	Donat ed £
Overseas						
Mission Africa Jersey	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
The Leprosy Mission	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Sparks Ministry	-	-	-	-	1,900	1,900
Christian Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	4,000	4,000	-	5,700	5,700
National & Diocesan						
Their Voice	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Crosslight Advice	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Poppy Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	4,000	4,000	-	3,800	3,800
Local						
CTOD	-	-	-	-	100	100
	-	-	-	-	100	100
	-	8,000	8,000	-	9,600	9,600

6 FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

	Freehol d Buildin g £	Equipme nt & fittings £	Total £
Oxted Community Hall			
At 1 January 2021 - Transfer Value (estimated cost)	580,000	20,000	580,000

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Additions	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021			580,00
	580,000	20,000	0
Depreciation at 1 January 2021			150,80
	150,800	20,000	0
Charge for the year	11,600	-	11,600
At 31 December 2021			162,40
	162,400	20,000	0
Net book value at 31 December 2021			417,60
	417,600	-	0
Net book value at 31 December 2020			429,20
	429,200	-	0

7 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - Tax recoverable	2,500	7,500
Unrestricted Fund - St. Peter's, Tandridge	3,628	5,320
Restricted Fund - Church Repair - HMRC VAT refund	7,591	-
	<u>13,71</u>	<u></u>
	9	12,820

8 CASH AT BANK

	2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted fund - Youth work	1,149	1,243
Restricted fund - Church repair - HLF	-	596
Restricted fund - Charity collection	808	402
Restricted fund - Church Fabric Fund	13,591	16,730
Unrestricted fund	91,061	90,470
	<u>106,60</u>	<u>109,44</u>
	9	1

9 CREDITORS (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Oxted Community Hall income received in advance	1,250	1,250
PCC Fees	966	3,263
Crossroads accrual	52,500	-
	<u>54,716</u>	<u>4,513</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Repair	Church Fabric Fund	Youth	Communit y Hall	Charities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance	596	16,730	1,243	429,200	402	448,171
Depreciation	-	-	-	(11,600)	-	(11,600)
Incoming resources	63,091	2,000			406	65,497
Resources expended	(85,495)	(5,139)	(94)			(90,728)
From unrestricted fund	21,808					21,808
Closing Balance	-	13,591	1,149	417,600	808	433,148

The restricted fund is topped up from the general fund through a transfer when expenses exceed the restricted fund balance.

11 DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted donations	3,717	1,611
Legacy / Other	50	11,605
Restricted Fund - Heritage Trust donation	30,000	-
Restricted Fund - Historical England Grant	25,000	-
Restricted Fund - Church Repair – HMRC VAT refund	7,591	106
Restricted Fund – Oxted Parish Council Grant	500	400
	<u>66,858</u>	<u>13,722</u>

12 CURATE ACCOMMODATION

The PCC had entered into a lease to provide accommodation for the Curate who was appointed in June 2016. No special appeal was made for the lease rental and as such is not restricted expenditure. St Peter's share of this cost is 30%. The Curatorship was extended beyond the original timeframe of 3 years and the PCC agreed to continue to fund the rental for the Curate in line with the Diocese. In addition to the Curate rental, curate accommodation includes a shared curate cost between all four parishes.

13 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(69,151)	(18,732)
Add depreciation	11,600	11,600
Movement in working capital	49,303	2,201
Net Cash Flow	(8,248)	(4,931)
Cash and short term deposits as at 1 January 2020	164,857	169,788
Cash and short term deposits as at 31 December 2021	<u>156,609</u>	<u>164,857</u>

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted for the year ended 31st December 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OXTED, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages X to X.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Roger Thomas

April 2022

