

Here to love and serve God and all people

The Parish of St. Mary The Blessed Virgin
Spenn Lane, Gomersal



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2023

Independent Examiner
Mr B J Wilcox FCMA
18 Latham Court
Gomersal
BD19 4DE

Incumbent

Bankers
Yorkshire Bank PLC
12 Bradford Road
Cleckheaton
BD19 3RJ



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Parish of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Gomersal

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

in connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention.

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting record in accordance with section 41 of the act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church accounting Regulations 1997 have not been met.

Or

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



B J Wilcox FCMA

3rd February 2024

**PARISH OF ST MARY GOMERSAL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

GENERAL

The 2023 accounts of the PCC of St Mary's Gomersal are presented on a receipts and payments basis. All funds shown are unrestricted unless denoted R in the notes to the accounts.

RECEIPTS

For accounting purposes, receipts are recorded when received.
Cash receipts are recorded weekly as received on Sundays.
Bank credits are recorded monthly as shown on bank statements.
Credits are not considered due until payment is received.

PAYMENTS

For accounting purposes, payments are recorded when cheques are issued or cash payment is made.
Cash payments are recorded weekly as made each Sunday.
Bank debits are recorded monthly as shown on bank statements.
Debts are not considered due until payment is made.

PARISH OF ST MARY
THE BLESSED VIRGIN, GOMERSAL
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

In the year 2023 the accounts show surplus of £1,245

Receipts

The amount received from the covenanting of both gifts and regular giving adds a substantial amount to your income. Giving increased on 2022 by 9% nearly £2,884

Receipts from fund raising efforts increased on 2022. Without the continuous support from everyone involved in money raising efforts Knit and Natter and Keep Fit to name just two. Once again we received £14,090 from the mobile phone mast. This is again to be reviewed in 2024 but hopefully, we still receive payments from them, as this is a significant income stream for the church budget..

Fees income from funerals and weddings decreased by 52% although this is beyond our control.

Interest received on all bank accounts increased on 2022.

The level of fund raising activities increased from 2022 this is mainly due to being able to carry on activities which have continued with the help of volunteers.

In total, receipts increased.

Payments

Expenses and wages have slightly increased on 2022. Church costs overall increased this is mainly due to the increase in gas and electric.

In total payments have increased by 12% as previously stated this is main due to increase gas and electric also repairs.

Outlook

I would once again like to say a very big thank you for the generosity of everyone involved with St Mary's Parish Church, whether it is for the fund raising, donations or the giving. The common fund for 2024 has decreased this year by £4,340 again hopefully as in previous years we can manage to pay at least £25,000 of the £37,483 amount due. Once again 2024 will be a very difficult year hopefully we will get a new priest which will make it a lot easier for everyone. I am sure with your continued support we will come through in the end.

On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank you all for your continued support, commitment and stewardship, which are the main factors behind our continued financial stability.

Joyce Jackson
PCC Honorary Treasurer

RECEIPTS

		2023	NOTES	2022	%
1. DIRECT GIVING					
	Envelopes/Pledged giving	22,936.85		21,099.60	9%
	Open Collections	3,123.29		2,179.27	43%
	Baptisms/Wedds/Funerals	942.02		923.60	2%
	Covenant Recoveries	6,327.25		6,243.25	1%
	Total Direct Giving	33,329.41		30,445.72	9%
	Fete	1,695.44		968.43	0%
	Others	1,441.78		186.59	0%
	Total Efforts	3,137.22		1,155.02	172%
3. OTHER RECEIPTS					
	Fees	2,308.15		4,778.60	-52%
	Special Collection	160.00	R2	0.00	0%
	Refreshments	521.49		306.52	70%
	Childrens Activity	258.35		363.73	-29%
	DCMS vat reclaimed	0.00		0.00	0%
	Fabric a/c interest received	16.33		15.72	4%
	Organ Fund Interest Received	206.74		68.38	202%
	Sum Up Donation	1,690.27		1,542.97	10%
	Childrens Society	460.83		519.63	-11%
	Donations	1,115.45		1,900.72	-41%
	Lottery	617.00	R3	722.00	-15%
	Keep Fit	0.00		50.00	0%
	Mara	17.93	R4	15.58	15%
	Legacy	5,000.00	R5	0.00	0%
	Knit & Natter	300.00	R2	400.00	0%
	Organ Fund	0.00		0.00	0%
	Wolsingham	4,104.00		3,910.00	0%
	Candles	132.69		120.98	10%
	Christian Aid	530.29	R1	62.00	0%
	Flowers	0.00		76.70	0%
	Mobile licence fee	14,090.74		14,090.74	0%
	Refund Bank Charges	0.00		49.58	0%
	Children and Youth Work	0.00		143.00	0%
	Benefact Trust Grant	1,800.00		2,000.00	0%
	Donation Mothers Union	560.75		800.00	0%
	Hire of Hall	450.00		0.00	0%
	Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00	0%
	Inscription	0.00		0.00	0%
	Renewal Repairs	5,860.00		30.00	0%
	Total Other Receipts	40,201.01		31,966.85	26%
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	76,667.64		63,567.59	21%

PAYMENTS

		2023		2022	% INCREASE
4. EXPENSES AND WAGES					
	Clergy Expenses	0.00		68.25	-100%
	Wages	1,565.00		1,300.00	20%
	Total Expenses & Wages	1,565.00		1,368.25	14%
5. CHURCH COSTS					
	Heat, Light and Water	16,593.51		9,760.75	70%
	Insurance	5,277.84		4,798.08	10%
	Repairs and Renewals	9,241.57		5,482.97	69%
	Altar Requirements/Worship	836.45		1,089.39	-23%
	Service Fees	948.00		1,884.00	-50%
	Churchyard Upkeep	0.00		13.00	0%
	Total Church Costs	32,897.37		23,028.19	43%
6. ADMINISTRATION					
	Office Expenses	951.98		1,096.71	-13%
	Total Administration	951.98		1,096.71	-13%
7. DIOCESAN COSTS					
	Parish Share (current year)	25,000.00		25,000.00	0%
	Parish Quota (outstanding)	0.00	(7a)	0.00	0%
	Total Diocesan Costs	25,000.00		25,000.00	0%
	Extra Parochial Giving	800.00		1,250.00	0%
	Special Collections	280.00		65.00	0%
	Total Giving	1,080.00		1,315.00	-18%
9. OTHER PAYMENTS					
	Mission & Ministry	0.00		0.00	0%
others	Holy Island	0.00		0.00	0%
	Efforts Expenses	47.00		0.00	0%
	Fete Expenses	0.00		0.00	0%
	100 Club	204.00	R3	120.00	0%
others	Refreshments	14.30		0.00	0%
others	Miscellaneous	0.00		45.00	0%
others	Christian Aid	530.29	R1	62.00	0%
others	Inscriptions	0.00		0.00	0%
	Trans to Fabric a/c	616.33		615.72	0%
others	School Grant	500.00	R5	0.00	0%
others	Susbscriptions	0.00		0.00	0%
	Bank Chgs	0.00		49.58	0%
	Tots Praise	50.00		42.00	0%
others	Childrens Society	466.45		243.61	0%
others	Wolsingham	4,946.00		4,726.00	0%
	Donation	0.00		0.00	0%
	Mara	0.00	R4	0.00	0%
	Roof Repairs	7,347.16		10,113.86	0%
others	Flowers	0.00		57.75	0%
others	Windows	0.00		0.00	0%
	Activity morning	0.00		108.46	0%
	Total Other Payments	14,721.53		16,183.98	-9%
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	76,215.88		67,992.13	12%

ST MARY DEPOSIT/FABRIC AC

B/F FROM 31/12/23	16,327.08
Deposits	600.00
Trans	0.00
Interest	16.33
Balance C/F 31/12/2024	16,943.41

ST MARY ORGAN FUND ACCOUNT

B/F FROM 31/12/23	24,183.63
Deposits	0.00
Trans	1,000.00
Interest	206.74
Balance C/F 31/12/2024	25,390.37

ST MARY'S GOMERSAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023

2022	INCOME	Ref 2023	2022	EXPENDITURE	Note Ref	2023	
E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
	VOLUNTARY GIVING			THE MINISTRY			
22,134	Covenanted Giving	22,432		0 Vicarage/Housing Expenses	0		
6,243	Tax Refund	6,327	68	68 Clergy Expenses of Office	0	0	
(1,034)	Pledged Giving	505		THE CHURCH AND SERVICES			
2,179	Collections-Ordinary	3,123		9,761 Heat, Light & Water	16,594		
924	Collections-Weddings/Fu	942		4,798 Insurance	5,278		
0	Collections-Special App	160		15,597 Repairs & Maintenance	16,589		
597	Collections-Designated	1,009		0 Restoration	0		
1,950	Donations	1,115		0 Cleaning	125		
0	Legacy	5,000					
33,023	30 Renewal Repairs	5,860	46,473	13 Upkeep of Churchyard	0		
	ORDINARY INCOME			1,884 Service Fees	948		
4,779	Fees-Weddings/Funerals/	2,308		1,089 Upkeep of Services	836		
0	Graveyard Income	0		1,300 Organist/Choir/Music Group	1,440		
14,091	Phonemast Income	14,091		0 Sunday School Grant	0		
0	Restoration	0		1,097 Books/Printing/Stationary	952		
18,870	0 Insurance Claims	0	16,399	0 Magazine Printing	0		
	EVENTS/ACTIVITIES GROSS INCOME			40,459	4,920 Sundries	4,996	47,759
722	100 Club	0		THE DIOCESE			
2,000	Grant	1,800		25,000 Parish Share	25,000		
968	Fete	1,695		25,000	0 Parish Quota Outstanding	0	25,000
50	Keep Fit	617		EVENTS/ACTIVITIES COSTS			
364	Childrens Activity	258		0 Fete	0		
307	Refreshments	521		0 Refreshments	14		
800	Mothers Union	561		0 Mothers Union	0		
0	Community Funding	0					
5,398	187 Social Events	1,442	6,894	0 Other Efforts	47		
	SUNDRY INCOME			120	120 100 Club Prizes	204	265
6,194	6,194 Sundry Income	6,677	6,677	GRANTS/SUPPORT COSTS			
	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS			0	St Mary's School-Governors Ac	500	
0	Bank Interest-Current A	0		0	St Mary's School-Bibles	0	
16	Bank Interest-Deposit A	16		108	108 Activity Morning	0	500
84	68 Bank Interest-CAF Ac	207	223	MISSIONARY/CHARITABLE GIVING			
	CLOSURE OF TRUST ACCOUNTS			65	Special Collections	280	
0	Capital Realisation	0		306	Collections-Designated	997	
	Income Accrued	0	0	250	Church Overseas-Mission Aid	300	
				1,000	Home Mission	500	
				1,621	0 Secular Charities/Causes	0	2,077
				1	1 ROUNDING DIFFERENCES	(2)	0.00
63,569	ROUNDING DIFFERENCES		76,666	67,377	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,598	
	TOTAL INCOME				TRANSFER RESTRICTED/DESIGNATED FUNDS		
				0	616 Fabric Fund	616	
				660	44 Other	(793)	(177)
					SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	1,245	1,245
63,569			76,666	63,569			76,666

ST MARY'S GOMERSAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/12/2023

2022		BALANCE SHEET	Note Ref	2023	
£	£				£
		CURRENT ASSETS			
	26,486	Yorks Bank-Current A/c		27,731	
	24,184	Organ Fund		23,390	
	16,327	Deposit No.2 A/c		16,943	
		0 CAF Cash Gold A/c		0	
66,997		0 Cash		0	
		0 Stock-Traidcraft		0	68,064
		0 Debtors to P.C.C.		0	
0		0 Prepayments by P.C.C.		0	0
66,997					68,064
		Less :			
		CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		0 Creditors of P.C.C.		0	
0		0 Receipts in Advance		0	0
66,997		TOTAL NET ASSETS			68,064
		Represented by :			
		ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
0	29,679	P.C.C. (General Fund) B.F.		25,211	
25,211	(4,468)	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		1,245	26,456
		Restricted/Designated Funds			
	105	Kneelers	R	105	
	0	Creche	R	0	
	0	Charitable Giving	R	0	
	1,000	Service Worship	R	1,000	
	24,184	Organ Fund	R	23,390	
	0	Youth Club	D	0	
	0	Community Centre	D	0	
	16,327	Fabric	D	16,943	
41,786	170	P.P.C. Projects	D	170	41,608
66,997					68,064


PARISH OF ST MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN

BUDGET FOR 2024

	YEAR	WEEKLY
PARISH STAFF AND WORKING COSTS (administration, expenses, clergy housing, organist etc.)	3465	67
CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING (heating, lighting, insurance, running cost, repairs, service requirements etc.)	31943	614
PARISH SHARE	37481	721
OUTWARD GIVING Our church's direct giving to mission and Charitable organisation		
FABRIC ACCOUNT	2000	38
ORGAN	1000	19
MISSION OUTREACH	1000	19
TOTAL	76889	1479
TOTAL EXPENDITURE PER WEEK£1479		
Our projected income for 2024		
From the collection plate (cash)	3123	60
From Planned Giving (Envelopes, Banker's standing orders)	22937	441
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aid, Covenants,etc	6327	122
Fundraising	3137	60
From Mobile Phones	14091	271
	49615	954
TOTAL INCOME £954 per week shortfall £525 per week		

The Parish of St. Mary The Blessed Virgin

Spen Lane, Gomersal

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds



Annual Parochial Church meeting

Minutes

For the meeting held 14.5.23

ST. MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN, GOMERSAL.

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 14th May
2023 FOLLOWING THE PARISH EUCHARIST AT 9:30am**

Present: Paul Wilkinson (chair), Helen Nicholl, Gillian Greaves, Pat Bonham, Vicky Clarke, Linda Mumford, Brenda Swinton, Christine Milsom, Anna Clapham, Jennifer Hoyle, Pat Sheard, Joan Oddy, Ann Wilby, Frances Wilkinson, Sarah Jones, Susie Bell Proctor, Sarah Taylor, Audrey Mills, Sandra Lightowler, Christine Evans, Pam Inward, Maureen Gaunt, Peter Yates, Pauline Yates, Maureen Luckoo, Ann Ramsbottom, John Neville, Joyce Jackson, Jean Holmes

Linda Mumford opened the meeting with a prayer.

VESTRY MEETING

Paul Wilkinson read the minutes from the previous year's (1.5.22) meeting. He also read the minutes of the extraordinary General meeting held on 22.5.22.

Minutes proposed by Linda Mumford and seconded by Brenda Swinton. All in Favour.

Election of churchwardens.

Trees Fewster is unable to stand again as churchwarden this year.

Paul Wilkinson has stood as Churchwarden for 10 years. The PCC has approved for Paul Wilkinson to stand again. For this to happen the 6 year term rule needs to be revoked. This was proposed by Susan Bell-Proctor, seconded by Joyce Jackson and all present were in favour of revoking the 6 term rule to allow Paul Wilkinson to stand again for the position of churchwarden.

Nomination of Paul Wilkinson:

Proposed: Jean Holmes

Seconded: Brenda Swinton

Nomination of Brenda Swinton:

Proposed: Paul Wilkinson

Seconded: Linda Mumford

The acceptance of the nominees to the position of churchwarden was proposed by Jennifer Hoyle and seconded by Frances Wilkinson. All were in favour.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Trees Fewster, Andrew Wardman and Kathleen Dyson</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on the 1st May 2022</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be true and correct.</p> <p>P: Peter Yates</p> <p>S: Maureen Gaunt</p> <p>All in favour.</p>
3	<p>Electoral Roll Report</p> <p>From the last count in April 2022 the present number of people elected to vote on the electoral roll has decreased from 106 to 104.</p> <p>5 members have sadly passed away.</p> <p>3 members have been added.</p> <p>There are 83 female members, 21 male members</p> <p>Proposed by Sarah Jones and seconded by Peter Yates</p>
4	<p>Reports</p> <p>The reports were available to read.</p> <p>Paul Wilkinson informed those present about information in the fabric report, that we in the process of raising the money to be able to do the work in the north wall and that all the preventative maintenance has been carried out.</p> <p>Frances Wilkinson said, in relation to the children's activity morning reports, that the church is great in the way they are able to pull together to be able to do what we do.</p> <p>Frances Wilkinson thanked Joyce Jackson for all the work she has done for the church.</p> <p>The reports were proposed by Maurine Gaunt and seconded by Susie Bell Proctor. All were in favour.</p>
5	<p>Treasurer's Report and Accounts</p> <p>The finance report showed a deficit of £4,068 in 2022. This was mainly due to the inability to hold fund raising events due to the lasting effects of the Covid lockdown.</p> <p>The number of funerals had increased. The cost of energy etc has increased so these payments had increased.</p> <p>Joyce Jackson thanked everyone for their generosity. She also thanked Peter and David for all their help with claiming Gift Aid and every one who has helped her.</p> <p>A grant was applied for to help with the work that is needed for the north wall. £26,000 is needed and only £3,800 has been received.</p> <p>The Finance report was proposed by Linda Mumford and seconded by Sarah Jones. All were in favour.</p>
6	<p>Appointment of Auditor</p> <p>Brian Wilcox agreed to stand again.</p> <p>Proposed by Sarah Jones and Seconded by Susie Bell Proctor.</p>

All were in favour.

7

Elections

(a) Parochial Church Councillors

(b) Deanery Synod

(a) Frances Wilkinson

P: Linda Munford

S: Brenda Swinton

Susie Bell Proctor

P: Gillian Greaves

S: Paul Wilkinson

Gillian Greaves

P: Susie Bell Proctor

S: Trees Fewster

Christine Milsom

P: Trees Fewster

S: Gillian Greaves

Helen Nicholl

P: Paul Wilkinson

S: Joyce Jackson

Proposed by Brenda Swinton and seconded by Sarah Taylor. All in favour

(b) Joyce Jackson

P: Jean Holmes

S: Paul Wilkinson

All in favour.

Annual Review

Paul Wilkinson read the annual review for those present. He then added that there had since been a meeting with the Archdeacon and the vacancy has been advertised. The report was proposed by Frances Wilkinson and seconded by Susie Bell Proctor. All were in favour.

PCC report

Paul Wilkinson read the PCC report. He explained that there has been a decrease in communicants. There has also been new safeguarding measures put in within the church.

Any other business

Helen Nicholl thanked Jean Holmes, who has stepped down from the role of vergers, for all the work that she has done over the years as vergers of the church.

Linda Mumford closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting closed at approximately 11:40AM.

The Parish of St. Mary The Blessed Virgin

Spenn Lane, Gomersal



CHURCH REPORTS

For the year ending 31st December 2023

St Mary's Parish Church

Parish Annual Review 2023/24

The year didn't start very well. Rev Karen was off sick during January, which was a confirmation of her health problems, culminating in her taking early retirement at the end of January 2023. Since that date the Church has been without a resident Priest for 15 months and have been relying on Retired Priests to carry out our Sunday Eucharist Service. We are immensely grateful to the Priests who have carried out this role, particularly Rev Ann Pollard who has taken the lion's share of this work and is still here with us. Linda Mumford our Licensed Reader has been a Great Help in supporting the retired Priests and running the various Advent and Easter Church Groups.

We had a new Churchwarden, Brenda Swinton replacing Trees Fewster, and Jean Holmes retired after many excellent years as Verger, being replaced by Susie Bell Proctor.

At the request of the School, Tots Praise fortnightly children's service was moved to St Mary's School Nursery up to the end of July, this was and has been for many years run by Frances Wilkinson with help from a further 8 Church Members.

Stepping Stones Nursery were wanting to get involved again with Tots Praise and hence the Church was again used as the meeting place with up to 30 young children attending. Numbers rose again to just short of 50, when Gummy Bears Nursery started to attend again at the Church.

The average Church Sunday attendance is ~~approx~~ 40, which is the same as last year and whilst we have a few new Communicants, sadly some regular Parishioners have passed away: including Jenifer Dicker, Malcolm Fewster, and our Organist Arwel Price, may they RIP & Rise in Glory.

St Mary's School with parents in attendance have attended the Church covering all their yearly services plus Christmas Concerts, which culminates in the year 6 Leaving Service, for the Children when they move onto High School.

The Church attended the yearly Pilgrimage to Walsingham in October ably led by Linda Mumford our Licensed Reader.

Sarah Taylor our Pastoral Minister has continued her Ministry of visiting Holme House to lead the service and give Home Communion to the residents. We also have 1 other Church Member who takes out home Communion. In addition, Sarah has run 2 Clothes sales raising much needed funds for the Church.

The Church has run the Seasonal Activity Mornings at Easter and Advent, with Summer and Christmas Fairs, and Christingle Nativity in support of the Childrens Society, also the Church raised money for Christian Aid by having a BIG BREKKIE and envelope collection. Finally early 2024, the Church hosted Hammonds Brass Band in a Valentines Concert.

The Church is still used by the Ladies in their Knit & Natter time together on Monday afternoons, and Thursday afternoons are still used by the Keep Fit Group.

We have got no further with the election of a Resident Priest, whom we will share with St Pauls Birkenshaw. The congregation of both our Churches have started a more interactive relationship with each other and are looking forward to this developing in the future.

Paul Wilkinson, Vice Chair. May 2024.

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Gomersal

PCC Annual Report for 2023/24

Background

St Mary's Parish Church Council is responsible for co-operating with the resident Vicar, including the Church Wardens. The Church has been in vacancy since the 1st February 2023. During the remaining months, February thro to 31st December 2023 the PCC have worked with the Archdeacon Bill ~~Burrows~~ & Rural Dean Hugh Baker. The PCC also have maintenance responsibilities for the Church and its Churchyard.

Membership of the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. elected members serve for 3 years, also Deanery Synod Members serve for 3 years. Wardens and Deanery Synod members serve on the PCC as ex-officio. The Vicar Rev. Karen retired from the position of Vicar on 31st January 2023 due to health grounds, and hence only served as Vicar/PCC Chair during the month of January 2023. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar: The Church has not had a resident Vicar from 31 st January 2023.		Committees:	
Wardens:		Standing Committee: It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. Members, 2023/24: - Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Linda Mumford. The standing committee have not met during 2023/2024	
Mr Paul Wilkinson (served from 2013) ex-officio			
Mrs Brenda Swinton (served from May 2023) ex-officio			
Deanery Synod:	Year Elected		
Mrs Joyce Jackson	May 2023 ex-officio		
Mrs Linda Mumford	May 2021 ex-officio		
Mrs Brenda Swinton	May 2022 ex-officio		
Elected Members	Year Elected		
Jennifer Hoyle	May 2021		
Peter Yates	May 2021		
Jean Holmes	September 2022		
Christine Milson	May 2023		
Bill Greaves	May 2023		
Sue Bell Proctor	May 2023		
John Nicholl	May 2023		
Frances Wilkinson	May 2024		

Parish Statistics:	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Communicants	5900	5077	5004	5532	5296	4830	4606	4700	4057	3994	4219
Confirmations	4	1	2	6	4	0	0	6	0	2	0
Baptisms	10	26	17	23	32	26	21	17	20	16	6
Marriages	4	3	8	3	5	2	1	3	7	2	4
Burials	4	1	2	1	2	0	1	3	4	0	0
Burial of ashes	5	6	8	2	5	2	5	10	8	2	6
Funerals					11	3	7	19	6	4	7
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Communicants	3474	903	1009	1590	1943						
Home Communicants	237	55	0	13	301						
Confirmations	4	0	2	0	1						
Baptisms	8	1	3	6	6						
Marriages	2	0	2	2	0						
Burials	1	1	1	3	0						
Burials of ashes	6	1	3	4	3						
Funerals	5	1	6	8	4						

The PCC have met 6 times during 2023/4. The standing committee have not met. A big thanks to all the members of the PCC for all work done at St Mary's during this period.

2 members has completed their term of office and grateful thanks are given to Jenifer Hoyle and Peter Yates, a big thanks to each person for their time and commitment to the PCC, they are both eligible for re-election.

Additionally, Paul Wilkinson Churchwarden has completed an 11-year term of office and Brenda Swinton Churchwarden has completed a one-year term of office. A special extraordinary Vestry Meeting was held on the 14th of May 2023 to elect the Churchwardens. The six-year rule was revoked at this meeting to allow Paul Wilkinson to stand again due to no other person being available. Mrs Linda Mumford has completed her 3-year term of office on the Deanery Synod and thanks are given to Linda for her work. Linda is eligible for re-election. Brenda Swinton has completed 2 years on the Denery Synod and is standing down, thanks also to Brenda for her time on the Synod.

The following documents have been reviewed, updated where necessary and approved by the PCC: Fire Safety Risk Assessment, Fire Procedures, H&S Policy, Church Inventory.

The total Communicants has continued to rise since the reduction from 2020 when we started to suffer from the Covid Pandemic. The home communicants have risen sharply which is due to Sarah Taylor our new Pastoral Minister, a Huge Thanks Sarah, Well Done.

The church council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016(duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC approved a safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' on 20/9/23. The Safeguarding Dashboard generates an Action plan which is presented to the PCC for discussion and approval. The Safeguarding Officer is committed to informing PCC of any Safeguarding issues should any arise.

During this past year we have been without a resident Priest due to Rev Karen Nicholl's retirement on the 31st of January 2023 due to long term ill health, it was a sad event to lose our resident Priest, and we wish Rev Karen a full recovery.

Paul Wilkinson was elected as PCC Chair at the short meeting to elect officers, held on the 14th of May after the APCM.

Paul Wilkinson, Vice Chair, On behalf of the PCC.
May 2024

Church Fabric Report, 2022/23.

All annual Preventative Maintenance work has been carried out, this includes Boiler Service, Lightning Conductor, Church Clock, Church Internal and Roof Alarms, PAT testing on Electrical Items and 5 the yearly complete Electrical check.

The following documents have been reviewed, updated where necessary and approved by the PCC: Fire Safety Risk Assessment. Fire Procedures, H&S Policy, Church Inventory.

Major Building work has been carried out on the:

North Aisle Roof to improve the water discharge from the roof to the fall pipes, this was completed February 2023 and the necessary Replastering and Painting of the internal North Aisle Wall due to the excessive water overflowing the gutters was completed November 2023.

3 Elm Trees removed from the Churchyard by the Council due to Dutch Elm Disease, have been replaced with 3 sapling Silver Birch Trees by the Churchwarden, which is along the wall line at the side of the main road.

A new Fibre cable fitted into the Telecommunication equipment on the Church upper floor by Virgin Media.

New work is in the process of starting, by repointing the South Aisle wall from the West side to the South Porch, the CI guttering which covers this section needs resealing to prevent water from leaching through into the wall. The South Aisle West side wall also needs repointing.

As part of this List B building works, the Choir Vestry roof is to be repaired covering the WC area. This is due to start 21st May 2024.

Churchwardens:

Paul Wilkinson, Brenda Swinton May 2024

Safeguarding Report January- December 2022

The Parish continues to use the Church of England Parish Dashboard as a means of keeping approved policies and practices up to date. Details are provided at PCC meetings.

During the year 5 DBS checks have been completed.

New members of PCC have completed 'Safer Awareness', 'Safeguarding Foundations' and 'Domestic Abuse' online training courses.

I completed training on 'Modern Slavery' and this and the work of the 'Clever Initiative' will be shared with PCC in the new year.

All PCC and volunteers have willingly given their time to ensure their training is up to date and deserve special thanks for this. We can be confident that children and vulnerable adults are welcomed safely in our church.

Jennifer Hoyle

April 2024

Electoral Roll report

Electoral Roll Report April 2024

Parish Church of St. Mary's Gomersal

From the last count in April 2023 the present number of people elected to vote on the electoral roll is 101.

2 members have sadly passed away.

1 member has been added.

There are:

81 female members

21 male members

All previous records have been destroyed.

Anna Clapham

Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod report

We attended 2 out of the 3 meetings held in the last year. The spring and winter meeting. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the one in October where the Bishop Smitha of Huddersfield was the guest speaker.

At the meeting in June 2023 the speaker was Janet Edmond who is the Leeds Diocesan Stewardship Officer who is very much involved in the Parish Giving Scheme. The speaker stated that parishes should have a regular Planned Giving Scheme. Donation can be made by direct debit monthly, quarterly, or annually.

We attended the one held at the House of Resurrection at Mirfield early 2024 and the speakers that evening were from the college at Mirfield and St Hild's. They informed us how the numbers of people studying for ordination has decreased and how this is affecting the number of Priests in our area. We were enlightened into how the teaching methods from the 2 colleges were done differently, but the paths of the two did cross on occasions.

Both meetings highlighted how in our Diocese we are short on priests and that the diocese was looking at ways they could fill the empty vacancies.

We continue to have 3 members of the PCC who attend these meetings.

Linda Mumford

Licenced Lay Minister

OTHER REPORTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Gomersal St Mary's School

Relationships between School and Church continue to be strong, the whole School visits Church for religious festivals. Reverend Anne kindly opens with prayer and closes with a blessing and the services are led by the children. Through the Christmas period, all rehearsals are done in Church culminating in their fantastic performances where parents, grandparents and carers attend. The children from Nursery and Reception attend Church every other week for Tots Praise. I attend school for their assemblies whenever I am able which is such a blessing.

Brenda Swinton

Foundation Governor, Church Warden, Lay Pastoral Minister

Children's Activity Mornings 2022

Over this year we have had Advent and Easter activity mornings. It is a Blessing that volunteering is in such good shape at St Mary's. All safeguarding trained and thanks to Jennifer who oversees this for us. Thank you team, for all your commitment, it really is a morning to celebrate, which is rewarding in many ways, as we meet regular and new attendees, additionally sharing fellowship with each other too. Thank you to Susie who volunteered to co-ordinate this year's Easter Activity Morning.

There are also many who volunteer behind the scenes who, print, cut out, prep activities and advertise, either on Facebook page, word of mouth etc. For, Providers of chocolate and items for the much-loved Tombola stall, and especially all your prayers for the children and families who come to enjoy the morning. In our thanks I would also like to include the schools, who advertise, promote and remind their pupils and families of the event.

There continues to be no charge for the event in the hope that no one feels unable to take part in the activities that are based around the true meaning of the season, and everyone feels comfortable, at home and welcome here at St Mary's. For those who wish to donate towards the event there is the opportunity.

Our number of attendees continues to rise after the drop, (due to Covid restrictions) and the atmosphere that greets you is one of interested excitement, soft relative music with background hum of contented chatter, the sharing of skills and experiences from one generation to another.

Activity wise, there continues to be a mixture of new and well loved ideas. The programme is changing and developing at each event.

We would welcome new thoughts, ideas and also volunteers, so please let us know if you would like to know more about it, or join us at Advent, you would be very welcome, how much or how little you want to take up, is entirely up to you. Don't let online, safeguarding training put you off. Soon done and lasts 3 years.

Frances Wilkinson

Tots Praise

Tots Praise remains a popular and well loved pre-school church service which runs school term time on a fortnightly basis. Following the covid years, recovery was excellent until September 2023 when the much needed repairs to the Church North wall began, meaning two of our services had to be cancelled and a third session due to inability of the nurseries to attend, meaning only 2 of the five planned sessions could take place this term. It was however wonderful for the team to be part of the services that took place.

The new year was also under threat of cancellations, myself and Paul had to take some time out. However, thanks to pre-planned sessions and the dedication and enthusiasm of the Tots Praise team the services went ahead

under the temporary lead of Susie with full support from the team. A big thank you to everyone.

During this period our friends from Gummy Bears were welcomed back to St Mary's and attendance numbers increased to over 50 children again, which stretches resources to the limit.

The children remain at home in "their" church, they recognize us at times when we are out and about, their bright and happy faces are a joy to see, they pass on to others their experiences of visits to St Mary's, they are becoming confident in: singing, prayer, taking part in story time and love the craft activities, which enable them to retell the story they have heard during the service to others. They also love, and say thank you for our time and friendship with each other, and for BISCUITS.

Don't ever under estimate their young years, they can see simply how it is and ask very difficult, pertinent questions. Keeps us on our toes.

Frances Wilkinson

Tots Praise lead.

Mother's Union

MU report to the APCM - year ended December 2023

Our buoyant MU group is now 21 in number, and we hold regular monthly activity, with very good attendance at most of our meetings. Many of our events have now become annual events, raising funds for the MU and also church funds too. Our annual MU lunch was again well attended in March with 16 diners, most of whom were MU members. The external catering provided a delicious three course meal with coffee and mints to finish. September saw another full house for our Annual Afternoon Tea, with two sittings, catering for 80 covers in total. A lot of hard work for a small number of MU members.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to arrange a visit to the Community of the Resurrection this year, but plans are already in place for a visit in the next year (later this month).

The MU committee who continue to run the branch as a team, work hard to fill our monthly meeting slots with entertaining speakers, or activity to keep our branch vibrant and interesting. We had a coach trip to the east coast this year with lunch as part of the visit. This was a new activity and one we hope to replicate in the next years calendar.

We are all aware that we are part of the wider MU movement, and as such take part in the "Wave of Prayer" each January, as part of the Leeds Diocesan movement. This is a time for prayer when we meet in church and think about MU branches in far off lands. We are allocated a time slot and this continues the "wave" throughout the diocese. Additionally, many of our members attend the quarterly MU meetings in the wider episcopal area of Huddersfield. A useful time to meet other members and hear more of the world wide Christian movement we are a part of.

We have as a branch built a closer relationship with Julia Tum our Area President, following her talks to the branch over the last two years. Julia gave a fascinating interactive talk to our branch on the Luddites this year, all about their activities in our local area. Members were asked to participate in a role play to really get a feel for the desperate lives lived by the Luddites and their families in and around this parish. A well attended event which then led on to several of our members joining other MU members from the Huddersfield Episcopal area in a 5 mile walk along half of the "Luddite Trail". A real integration of fellowship in our local branches.

In a change to our usual speakers, last year we were educated and entertained by a local speaker - Geoff Broadhead, who raises funds for "Guide Dogs for the Blind". Geoff gives his time free of charge and a collection is made for his charity. The total raised for this very worthy cause amounted to £126. Our last speaker of 2023, gave another fascinating talk on living and working in India. Phillipa Kaye a recent author on this subject as a previous charity worker for the local charity Focus4hope, raised £26 by contributions from our members.

Gill Greaves, GOMERSAL MU Branch Secretary, May 2024

The Children's Society

The people of St Mary's Parish have once again been generous with their donations to the Children's Society during 2023.

The total for the Children's Society Collection Boxes for 2023 is £182.90 which will go towards valuable work of the Children's Society. The amount from Christingle Services this year is £223.31 the amount from Christingle candles totalled £59.41 we did not have as many events as normal hopefully next year we can raise more.

The total from collection boxes is slightly higher than 2022 hopefully next year will see more giving Thank you once again for all your donations.

The Children's Society does an enormous amount for children who desperately need help and whose lives are in danger of being irreparable damaged. It is by generous donations such as these from St Mary's that this kind of help can continue.

Thank you again from

Joyce Jackson